THE CATHOLIC Spirit

U.S. Bishops, Lawmakers Offer Prayers for Pope Leo after Cancer Diagnosis

By OSV News

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Following the Holy See's Oct. 13 announcement that Pope Leo XIV was diagnosed with lung cancer and had the lower lobe of his right lung removed, Church and civic leaders expressed their hope and prayers for his full recovery.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the faithful to pray for Pope Leo in a post on X.

"Doctors at Gemelli Hospital removed a cancerous tumor from Pope Leo XIV's right lung, according to the Holy See Press Office," the post said. "The surgery was successful, with no complications, and the Holy Father has returned to his hospital room. We ask the faithful to continue praying for Pope Leo's recovery and for the doctors and staff caring for him. We also hold in prayer all who are living with cancer, their families, and those who care for them."

The following day, the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops sent a letter to Pope Leo, assuring him of the prayers of the bishops and faithful of Canada, entrusting him to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

Individual bishops and dioceses in the U.S. also urged prayer.

"I join with the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and indeed those of all faiths from around the world in prayer for the health of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV," said Bishop Evelio Menjívar in an Oct. 13 statement. "We are thankful that his condition was discovered at an early stage and that his surgery was successful. We will continue to pray that he makes a full recovery. May God, the Divine Physician, keep him in His care and guide the minds and bodies of all

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A woman prays with a rosary and a card portraying Pope Leo XIV Oct. 14, 2026, where Pope Leo XIV had surgery the previous evening to remove a lung nodule. The Vatican confirmed after the surgery that Pope Leo has lung cancer.
OSV News photo/Yara Nardi, Reuters

Click here for video

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Notice from the Tribunal

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston hereby formally cites Mr. James Papineau as the respondent in the contention of marital nullity (Case 4068-2026 Edmonds-Papineau) introduced by his former spouse before this Tribunal. Mr. Papineau should contact the Tribunal at (304) 233-0880 as soon as possible. Any member of the faithful who knows the whereabouts of Mr. Papineau is kindly asked to advise him of this matter.

Pope ...

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those who will care for our Holy Father."

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, Pope Leo's hometown, said in an Oct. 13 statement that while the cancer diagnosis was not the news they hoped to hear, "we are heartened by the skill and optimism of his physicians and the countless prayers" being offered for the pope.

"I ask that people of good will everywhere, but particularly here, in Pope Leo's hometown join me in asking the Lord to return this son of Chicago to wellness," the cardinal said. "He has much more good work to do, many more wise words to preach and many more ways to inspire others."

"Bless Pope Leo XIV with strength and peace as he faces this illness and unite him ever more closely with your Son," said the Archdiocese of New York in an X post asking for prayers for the restoration of the pope's health.

In a separate post, Archbishop Ronald A. Hicks of New York thanked God that the pope's surgery was "by all accounts, successful" and added that he joined faithful from the archdiocese, country and the world "in keeping the Holy Father in our prayer."

"Friends, please join me in praying for healing for our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer," Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, wrote on X.

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis asked "all people of good will to join us in prayer for Pope Leo XIV and those who are caring for him."

Bishop Mark A. Eckman of Pittsburgh said in a statement he joins Catholics in that diocese "and around the world in lifting up our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, in prayer following the news of his surgery and lung cancer diagnosis."

"We are grateful to hear that the surgery was successful, and we pray that the Holy Father will experience a full and peaceful recovery," Bishop Eckman said. "Pope Leo has reminded us of the importance of faith, hope, and caring for one another. Now, as he faces this personal health challenge, we have an opportunity to surround him with the same love and prayerful support that he so generously offers to the Church and the world."

Civic leaders express support, pray for Pope Leo

President Donald Trump offered Pope Leo XIV his "best wishes" and "love" in a short interview with reporters Oct. 14

Speaking to reporters on the tarmac just before boarding Air Force One following a midterm rally in Bullhead City, Arizona, Trump said, "I wanna see Pope Leo get well. I hear the prognosis for that type of a

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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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV.EthicsPoint 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://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training : The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

The Catholic Spirit
October 16, 2026
Vol. 56, No. 43
Office: 1322 Eoff St.
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Member: Catholic Press Association

Published every Friday by e-mail & printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to each registered Catholics free of charge. Donations to help offset production costs are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are $25 annually. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit.

Submission Guidelines: news releases are articles (limited to 12,000 words) and photos are welcome. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. At right are the names of the remaining issues and the publishing dates for the year. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday and delivered by e-mail free to subscribers. View issues and subscribe at thecatholicspiritwv.org.

Remaining 2026 Print Dates:
Advent, Nov. 20
Christmas, Dec. 18

Pope's Recovery on Track, Clergy Praise His Resolve

OSV News photo/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters

Pope Leo XIV is greeted by his personal physician, Luigi Carbone, as the pontiff arrives at Rome's Gemelli Hospital Oct. 13 ahead of his surgery that afternoon to remove a lung nodule. The Vatican confirmed that evening that Pope Leo has lung cancer.

By Josephine Peterson

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Leo XIV is recovering as expected after undergoing surgery for lung cancer, the Vatican said Oct. 14, as U.S. Catholic leaders and longtime friends of the pope expressed concern for his health but confidence that his illness would not deter him from carrying out his mission.

Pope Leo underwent surgery Oct. 13 at Rome's Gemelli hospital to remove the lower lobe of his right lung after medical tests detected a suspicious growth that was later confirmed to be cancerous. The removed tissue was diagnosed as adenocarcinoma, a type of cancer that develops in specialized glandular cells.

His first night in the hospital passed peacefully, and doctors conducted blood tests and a chest X-ray as scheduled on his first day of recovery, according to Vatican communiques released Oct. 14.

"The results confirm a normal post-operative course: the values are within the expected range for the type of procedure performed," the Vatican said in an afternoon announcement relaying the doctors' findings.

The pope also began respiratory therapy, walked around his hospital room and ate, the Vatican said.

Augustinian Father John Lydon, a longtime friend of Pope Leo, told Catholic News Service Oct. 14 that he was concerned for the pope's health but had confidence in his doctors and was praying that chemotherapy would not be necessary.

Father Lydon, who served as a missionary in Peru for 10 years alongside the pope, was in Rome for Villanova University's International Sustainability Conference as director of the university's Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration.

He said the diagnosis would not change the convictions that guide Pope Leo's leadership, particularly his commitment to the poor and to synodality, a process of listening and dialogue within the Church.

"I think all those things are kind of part of who he is, and I don't think any medical issue changes that," Father Lydon said Oct. 14. "We're hopeful that the medical thing will just quickly be pushed aside, but concerned, obviously."

Augustinian Father Peter Donohue, president of Villanova University, also told CNS during the conference that he did not expect Pope Leo's medical condition to diminish his determination to pursue his priorities.

"Knowing what he's like, I don't think they'll stop him," Father Donohue said.

Recalling Pope Leo's years as prior general of the Augustinian order, Father Donohue described a leader who remained composed even when confronting disagreements or difficult decisions.

He said the pope was not afraid to speak out when he believed something was wrong and needed to be corrected, but he never appeared rattled.

"I don't think this is going to affect the way he does things," Father Donohue said. "He's got a great physical strength in terms of the man he is, but he also

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Pope ...

Cont'd from Page 2

problem — it's cancer, it's big stuff anytime you have cancer — but the prognosis seems to be good. I've watched, and we just wanna wish him our love and our best wishes."

Vice President JD Vance, who is Catholic, wrote in a post on X the following day, "Our family continues to pray for the good health and full recovery of Pope Leo XIV. May God grant him strength as he works to get better. I hope he knows that millions of American Christians are thinking about him."

Vance also noted that Louis Prevost, the pope's brother, is also suffering from cancer, and said, "May God keep both of these brothers healthy for years to come."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote in a post on X, "Jeanette and I are united in prayer for (Pope Leo)'s health following his recent diagnosis."

"May the Lord give him strength and the Holy Spirit guide the medical professionals taking care of the Holy Father," Rubio said.

Rep. Riley Moore, R-W.Va., who is Catholic, wrote in a post on X, "Saint Teresa of Avila reminds us that 'those who were nearest to Christ our Lord were those who had the greatest trials.'"

"This is no doubt true of (Pope Leo)," he said. "Please join Mina and me in praying for the Holy Father as he begins this battle to defeat cancer."

In Canada, Prime Minister Mark Carney, a Catholic, wished the pope "a full and swift recovery following his successful surgery."

"His Holiness is a source of hope and inspiration for billions around the world," Carney wrote on X. "His message of unity and compassion reminds us of the strength we can offer one another in moments of uncertainty."

Rep. Jonathan L. Jackson, D-Ill., who represents a Chicago-area district.

"Pope Leo XIV is one of our own, a Chicago kid who carried the values of our neighborhoods all the way onto the world stage, and today our whole city is wishing him strength and a full recovery," Jackson said in a post on X. "Let his diagnosis also be a reminder to talk with your doctor about lung cancer screening, because catching it early saves lives. Chicago is with you."

(This is an OSV News staff report.)

Recovery ...

Cont'd from Page 3

has a great spiritual strength," he said. "He will manage it."

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Pope Leo has offered an example of faith and courage in the face of illness.

"He shows himself as a man of great faith and putting himself in the hands of God in a very simple and profound way," he told CNS Oct. 14.

"As members of our own families face illnesses, sometimes we don't know, what can we do, but there's a sense that it's in God's hands, and I think that's the example the Holy Father gives us," he said.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told CNS Oct. 14 that he was "as surprised as anyone else" to learn of Pope Leo's diagnosis and need for surgery.

He called on Catholics to pray for the pope and to remember that "God is with us and God has a plan," urging them "just not to lose hope, not to doubt God's providence and his plan," because he called Pope Leo to the pontificate.

The diagnosis and removal of a section of his lung have also raised questions about the pope's upcoming apostolic journey to South America, scheduled for Nov. 6-17, with stops in Uruguay, Argentina and Peru.

The Vatican has not announced any changes to the trip, which remains on the pope's official schedule.

Father Donohue said many people in Peru, where Pope Leo spent much of his ministry as a missionary, priest and bishop, are eagerly awaiting his return. He said he believed the pope would be reluctant to disappoint them by canceling the visit.

"I will assure you if they say it's okay, he's going to be on that plane," Father Donohue told CNS.

The pope's cancer diagnosis and treatment come as another member of his family is undergoing treatment for the disease.

Deborah Prevost, the wife of the pope's oldest brother Louis Prevost, told CBS News Oct. 13 that her husband has multiple myeloma, a cancer affecting plasma cells, a type of white blood cell.

She said her husband was first diagnosed in 2017 and underwent treatment in 2019, including a stem cell transplant and participation in a clinical trial, which kept the cancer at a "very low level." However, he "fell out of remission" three months ago, she said, and is undergoing treatment again.

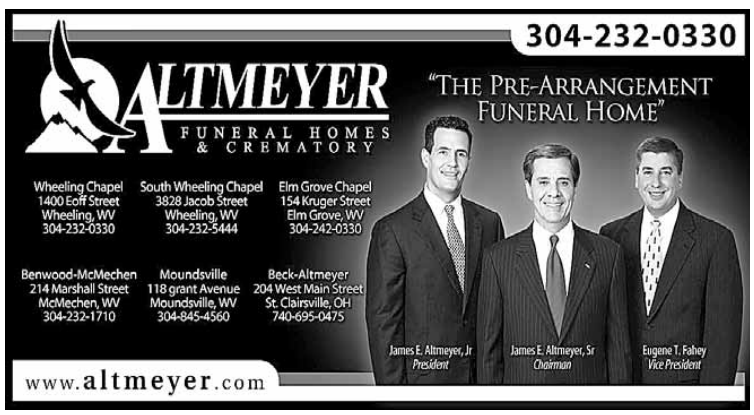
The pope's parents also had histories of cancer. His mother, Mildred, died in 1990 at age 78 after being diagnosed with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy. His father, Louis, died in 1997 of colon cancer and heart disease.

According to a medical report released by the Vatican late Oct. 13, the pope's surgery lasted approximately 90 minutes, although he was in the operating room for about three hours. The procedure included waiting for histological test results. The operation was successful, with no complications.

Using a small video camera called a thoracoscope, surgeons removed the entire lower lobe of the pope's right lung to ensure the removal of the tumor and surrounding tissue. The histological examination confirmed the earlier preoperative suspicion of lung cancer.

Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, reiterated to reporters Oct. 14 that the pope was still expected to remain in the hospital for a week. The prefecture of the papal household canceled his public audiences and events through Oct. 20.

Among the events the pope was unable to attend was the closing Mass Oct. 14 for a weeklong Vatican meeting marking the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," on marriage and family life.



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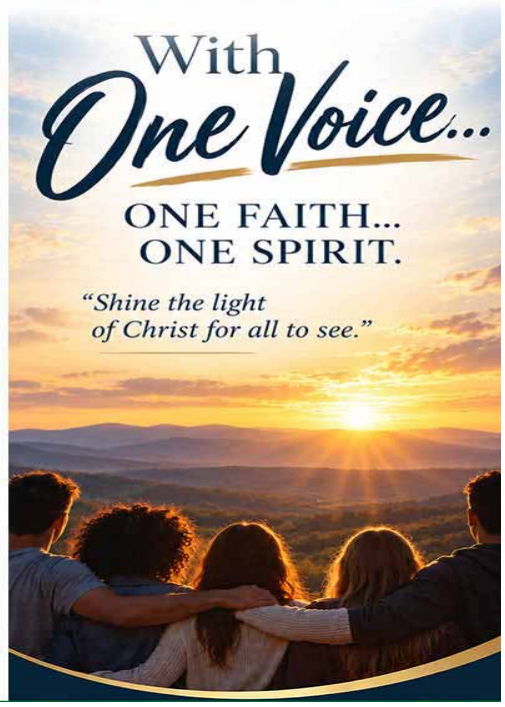


Trump Calls Off Hegseth Plan to Livestream Execution Denounced by Catholic Leaders

By Kate Scanlon

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — President Donald Trump on Oct. 15 called off Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's plans to livestream the execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan by firing squad in December.

The plan was met with widespread condemnation, including from U.S. bishops.

In a post on his social media website, Truth Social, Trump said Hasan, a former U.S. Army psychiatrist, "is a very bad and evil man," pointing to his conviction for killing 13 people and injuring 32 others in a mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009.

"With all of that being said, I think streaming the execution for all to see might have been a strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with Terrorists and SCUM like Hasan but, many very good and well meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device," Trump said. "He will die, as scheduled, by firing squad, but this event will not be streamed."

Trump added that the execution "may be viewed in person by the immediate families of the victims, if they so choose. They deserve to witness JUSTICE! Thank you for your attention to this matter."

Shortly after Trump approved the execution of Hasan by firing squad, Hegseth said Oct. 8 in an interview with the pro-Trump TV outlet Real America's Voice News that the execution would take place at Fort Hood on Dec. 3, and that it would be made public.

"We'll make sure that people are able to watch it, that it's public," said Hegseth. He later confirmed on social media that meant livestreaming the execution.

The announcement prompted widespread backlash, including from Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who denounced the plan as "a barbaric promotion of a culture of death" that "must be reconsidered." Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA also called for the plan to be reconsidered, and obliged any Catholics to request recusal from the firing squad as they would from any action that contradicts the teachings of their faith.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, the state where Ft. Hood is located, also condemned the plan.

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, said in an Oct. 15 statement, "I appreciate that President Trump has heard the fierce opposition — from faith and political leaders — to the proposed idea of a livestreamed military execution. Two things can be true at the same time: The Administration's moving away from publicly streaming a firing squad execution is a step in the right direction, and any execution is a failure."

Vaillancourt Murphy argued the execution itself should not go forward.

"We don't need to expose our correctional staff, military personnel, or anyone else to the trauma of executions," she continued. "We know that the death penalty doesn't deter crime or make our communities safer. It drains vast public resources that could be used to help victims of crime and prevent more violence."

A new poll released Oct. 15 by The Washington Post, ABC News and Ipsos found the overwhelming majority of Americans opposed Hegseth's plan to livestream the execution.

While a narrow 53% majority of Americans said they support executing Hasan by firing squad, with 42% opposed, the poll found 80% of Americans said the execution should not be livestreamed to the public.

Although there were differences in opposition across partisan groups, it also found that majorities in each group said they opposed livestreaming Hasan's execution, including 91% of Democrats, 83% of independents and 64% of Republicans.

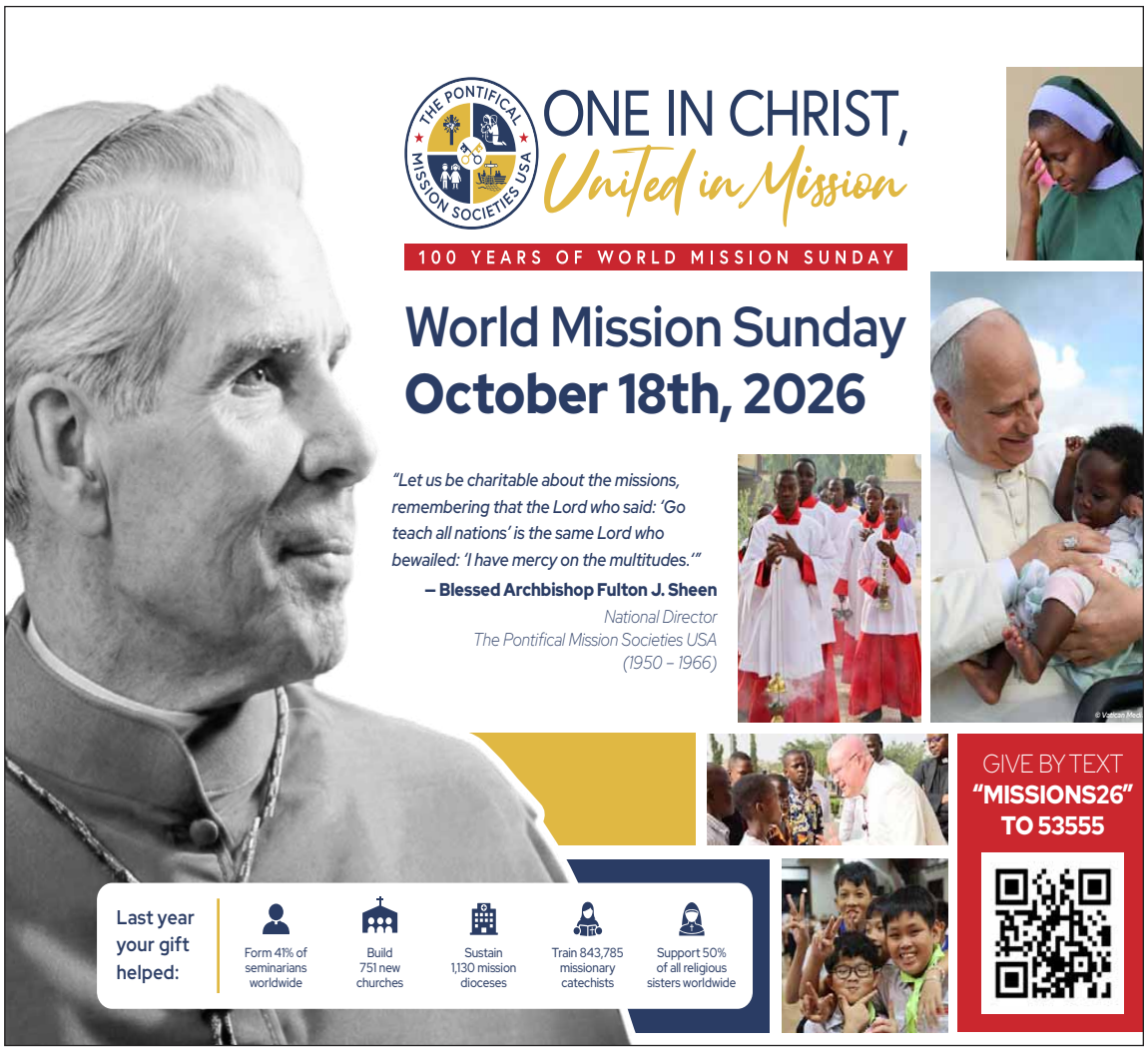
A 55% majority of self-described MAGA (Make America Great Again) Republicans, roughly 6 in 10 of Republicans overall, said Hasan's execution should not be livestreamed. However, a majority of MAGA men (57%) supported livestreaming the execution, while a majority of MAGA women (69%) opposed it. Among non-MAGA Republicans, 79% said they were opposed to the livestream.

The Catholic Church's official magisterium opposes the use of capital punishment as a violation of the inherent sanctity of human life, and advocates for the abolition of the practice worldwide.

Pope Francis revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 2018 to clarify the Church's teaching that capital punishment is morally "inadmissible" in the modern world "because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person."

The teaching was reiterated by Pope Leo XIV in an Oct. 10 X post for the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



U.S. Bishops' President Urges Catholics 'To Put Their Faith before Politics' in November Elections

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement Oct. 14 reminding the faithful that "For citizens in a representative democracy such as our own, participation in public life — including voting — is both a right and a responsibility."

"In a time of deep political division, the temptation is to be discouraged and to not participate in the election process. But discouragement is not a Christian virtue," Archbishop Coakley of Oklahoma City said.

The midterm elections will determine the balance of power in Congress, as well as governors' mansions and state legislatures across the country.

Archbishop Coakley said that as Catholics exercise their civic duty, "it is important to ensure that citizens not face unnecessary delays or complications in registering or exercising their right to vote."

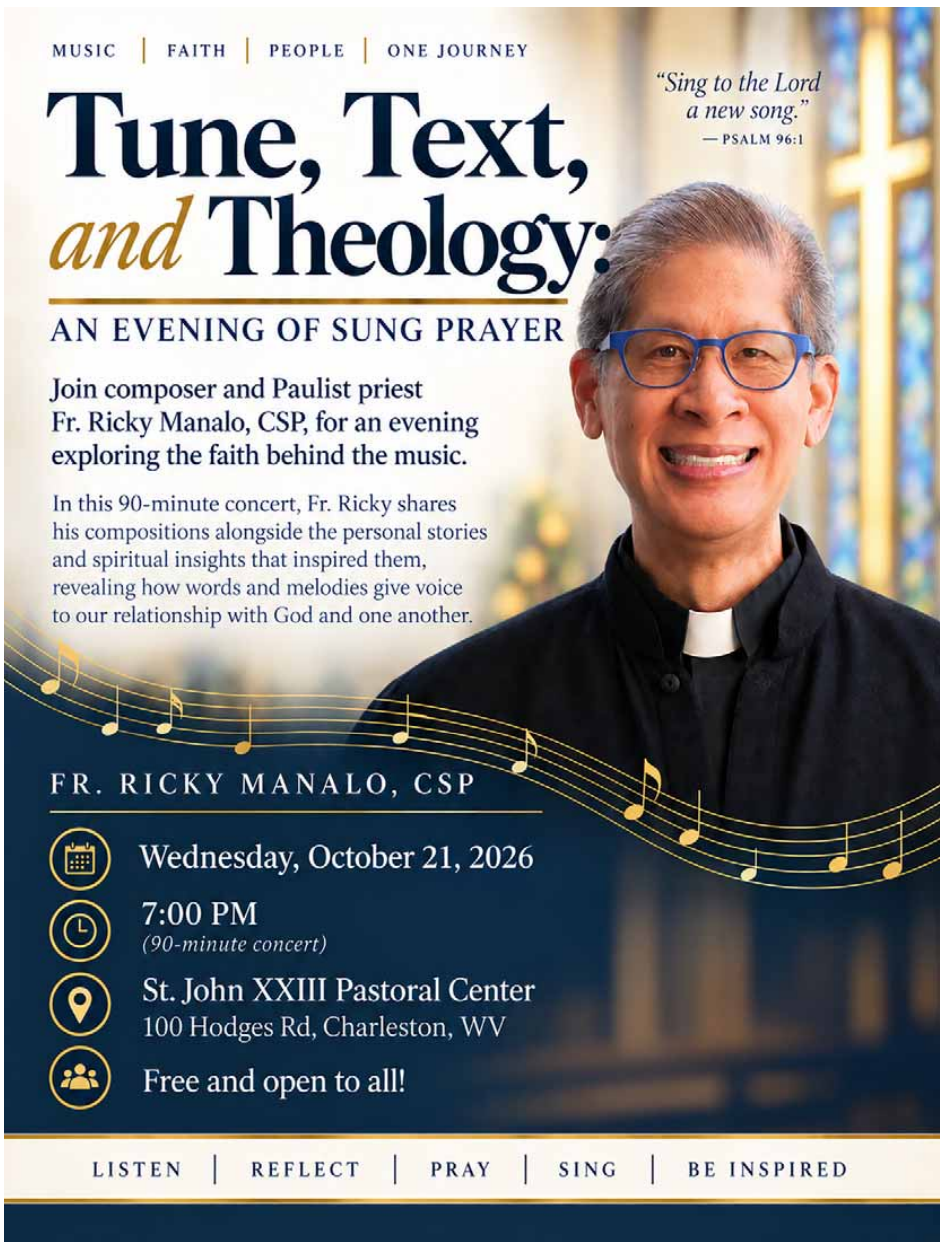
"Together, we can contribute to the common good of our nation as faithful citizens by supporting free and fair elections," he said.

He also asked Catholics "to put their faith before politics."

"The Church's contribution to the public life of a nation is not a political or partisan program; rather, it reflects our commitment to the dignity of every person, who is created in the image and likeness of God," he said. "One of the great dangers of our moment is the belief that any criticism of 'our party' somehow strengthens our opponents. A well-formed conscience does not operate on those terms."

"Therefore, I encourage all to judge candidates and elected officials by their actions, not merely their promises, and how those actions promote the common good," he continued. "We must reject rhetoric that appeals to fear, resentment, or division, and listen instead, to the Gospel call to love God and all our neighbors."

"May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, bless our nation as we turn once more to elections, that we might respect the dignity of each person and promote the common good of all," he said.



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Catholic, Evangelical Leaders Issue Joint Call for Compassionate Immigration Reform

By Kate Scanlon

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Catholic and evangelical leaders issued an ecumenical statement Oct. 13 as part of a joint effort to call for compassionate immigration reform.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, and Rev. Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, are the co-chairs of the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue on Immigration. Their joint statement, "A Call for Christian Compassion and Wisdom in the Immigration Debate," marks the first such statement on immigration in U.S. history to be jointly issued by senior leaders of their respective traditions, they said.

The pair said that although they have "doctrinal differences," they are "united in our conviction that God calls us to stand both with our fellow Americans who are experiencing economic and cultural anxieties and with our immigrant neighbors who are facing existential challenges."

The statement articulated shared principles that every human being is "created with dignity, bearing God's image," and that government "is responsible for protecting its citizens and providing for the common good, including the establishment and enforcement of reasonable immigration policies."

Those policies should include targeted, humane border enforcement, clear legal pathways to citizenship and efforts to prevent the separation of families, they said.

They also highlighted risks to religious liberty presented by certain immigration enforcement efforts.

Catholic and other faith leaders have pointed to recent cases where religious liberty challenges have intersected with immigration issues, such as a recent lawsuit from the Archdiocese of St. Louis against the federal government over a policy it said prohibits priests from distributing holy Communion and hearing the confessions of people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"We especially commit to upholding the right to religious liberty," the statement said. "This right extends to all people, of all faiths and none, no matter their immigration status. It is implicated in a particular way for those in detention, for whom we as Christians are specifically compelled by Christ to offer our pastoral care (Matthew 25:31–46). We are resolute in our commitment to working with the relevant authorities to ensure access to religious and pastoral services for all in detention, that each person may have the opportunity for spiritual counsel and active participation in the sacraments."

Faith leaders have also raised alarm about the need to prevent immigration enforcement actions at places seen as sensitive locations, including houses of worship, schools and hospitals.

In a joint statement issued through the USCCB, Bishop Cahill — currently bishop of Victoria, Texas, but was recently appointed the next bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois — and Rev. Kim said, "What is unique about this statement is not the content, which is grounded in centuries of Christian teaching and tradition that we have already affirmed separately, but the clear unity that exists between us in this moment."

"As pastors devoted to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we share a responsibility to articulate our convictions, even when it comes to subject matter as challenging as immigration. In doing so together, we seek to embrace our common heritage as both Christians and Americans," they said. They added that through Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue on Immigration, "we have found a strong sense of fraternity and common purpose. It is from this sincere and patriotic perspective, and with deep concern for those affected by current immigration policies, that we offer this statement with both conviction and hope."

A joint report issued last year by the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and World Relief, found that more than 10 million Christians living in the U.S. would be vulnerable to deportation under Trump administration policies implemented in 2025. A majority of them were Catholic followed by a sizable number of evangelicals.

The joint statement from Bishop Cahill and Rev. Kim noted the report's findings.

"Roughly one in 12 believers in this country either faces the loss of legal status or shares a home with someone who does," they said. "Their fear is our fear; their tears are ours to wipe."

Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington. Follow her on X @kgscanlon.

A link to the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue on Immigration statement can be found here: https://www.usccb.org/ecdistatement

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2026
Bishop Evelio Menjívar, Celebrant

Sunday, August 30	St. Agnes, Shepherdstown - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 27	Holy Rosary, Buckhannon - 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, October 15	St. Anthony, Fairmont/Holy Spirit, Monongah (at Monongah) - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 24	St. Thomas, Gassaway - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 25	Ascension, Hurricane - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 25	Blessed Sacrament, South Charleston - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3	All Saints, Bridgeport - 6:00 p.m.

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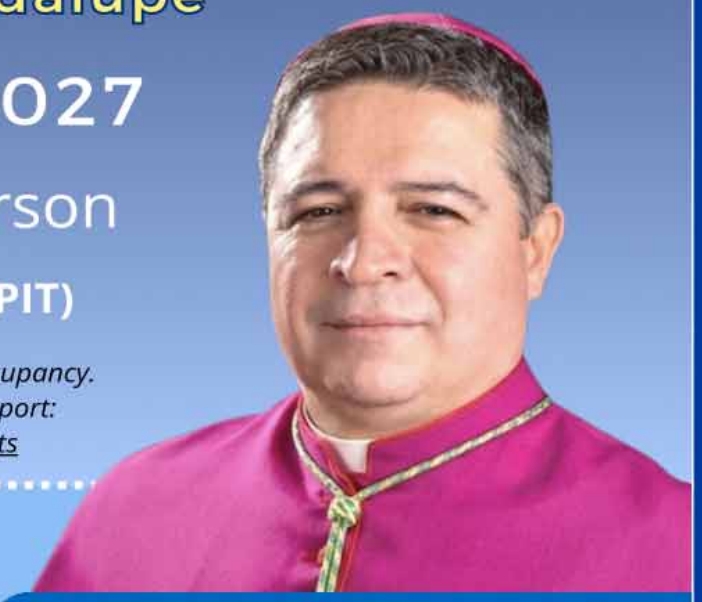

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Clarksburg's Hispanic Community Honors Our Lady of Guadalupe

Click here for video

Bishop Evelio Menjívar joins members of Immaculate Conception Parish in a procession of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Clarksburg Oct. 11.

By Pam Queen

Bishop Evelio Menjívar spent much of his more than two-hour drive from Hardy County in the Eastern Panhandle to Clarksburg Sunday, Oct. 11, in prayer.

He said he was looking at the beauty around him and praying seemed appropriate.

"I started to pray for a spiritual awakening in all of us. A kind of revival," he told the congregation gathered for the 11 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. "We have to open our hearts to the beauty of God among us. God loves us. He invites us every day but especially today. He wants to share His

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Community ...

Cont'd from Page 9

own life with you. We are being fed with the very body and blood of Christ."

Bishop Menjívar was at Immaculate Conception to celebrate an Hispanic Mass and then participate in Fiesta Hispana at Jackson Station in the heart of Clarksburg.

The third annual festival celebrates and honors Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is organized by Conexion Hispana West Virginia, a statewide organization based in Clarksburg that strives to uplift and empower the Hispanic community throughout the state by preserving and promoting the cultural heritage, providing essential resources, and fostering education, economic growth and social empowerment.

Msgr. Paul Hudock, who celebrates Hispanic Masses at St. Mary Parish in Morgantown and Immaculate Conception in Clarksburg, said this is the second year the Harrison County church has participated in the festival. He said it made sense because Immaculate Conception has one of the largest Hispanic communities in the county.

"The Hispanic population is a minority in West Virginia," Msgr. Hudock said. "But, it is a growing minority."

He said if 90 Hispanic people attend any given Mass, 30 of them will be children. He said that is not the ratio of congregants of other nationalities.

"Clarksburg is blessed with 20-30 children in St. Mary's Grade School and Notre Dame High School," Msgr. Hudock said. "It is exciting to see the first generation get a Catholic education. This ethnic diversity brings another level of devotion."

In closing his homily, Bishop Menjívar asked those present at Mass to live that devotion daily.

"Be true disciples of Jesus and children of God and recognize it

See "Community" on Page 11

Pam Queen photo

Bishop Evelio Menjívar administers Holy Communion during Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg Oct. 11.

Community ...

Cont'd from Page 10

in everybody," he said. "Practice justice. Practice fairness. May Our Lady of Gaudalupe, mother and protector of all, watch over us, especially the little ones going through tough times. May God bless us and may we continue growing in our faith."

Approximately 200 congregants – both Hispanic and non-Hispanic – attended the Mass and about half of those joined the procession from the church to Jackson Square. Four men carried on their shoulders an image of Our Lady of Gaudalupe the seven-tenths of a mile as the bishop, Msgr. Hudock, altar servers, members of Knights of Columbus and others prayed the rosary on the walk along city streets. Some decades were said in Spanish and others in English so all could participate.

Pam Queen photos

At left, a young girl reads at Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg Oct. 11. At right, Msgr. Paul Hudock speaks at Fiesta Hispana at Jackson Station in Clarksburg Oct. 11.

Once at Jackson Square, the bishop was introduced and prayed over the festival, which included authentic cultural food and entertainment.

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Upcoming Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities for the End of the Year 2026

Catechesis is central to evangelization and mission in the Church. Whether you are active as a catechist, minister, lay leader or are an adult interested in deepening your faith, the courses and seminars offered by the University of Dayton's VLCFF through the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will build your understanding of the Catholic faith and Tradition. Courses are offered in person, online and hybrid. Below is the hybrid course being offered beginning Oct. 26. All courses offered are free, but registration is required. Courses are underwritten by the diocese 's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, which pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course facilitator is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

The diocese offers Catechetical Certification and recognizes VLCFF courses for various levels of certification. Certain courses are especially designed for volunteer catechists, Catholic school religion teachers, members of OCIA teams and all those who would be enriched by formal training in this field. For further information regarding the VLCFF certification programs please contact Dr. Stoicoiu or Ms. Shirley Carter at scarter@dwc.org. There are 6 required courses for level one certification including the Images of Jesus class below. This class is open to ALL adults interested in deepening their faith and growing in their understanding of the theology and Tradition of the Church.

Sacraments

Five Week Course, begins the week of Oct 26th. This course is part of the Certificate in Catechesis series. The Church is most deeply Church when it gathers together for liturgy. Indeed, Jesus is himself, Sacrament, a visible sign of the invisible God. In this introductory overview of the theology of the sacraments, the public liturgical prayer of the Church, we will discuss each of the sacraments within the context of their role in the lives of the faithful: sacraments of initiation, healing and reconciliation, and service to community. This course is open to everyone. It is part of the Certificate in Catechesis and will be especially helpful for catechists, members of OCIA teams, and all those interested in deepening their faith. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings on Zoom at 7 p.m. beginning on Oct 28th. To register or for further information please contact Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), A Process Not a Program

Five Week Course, begins the week of Oct 26th. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly the RCIA) is the process through which people are prepared, baptized and received as full members of the Catholic Church. We will explore the renewed vision of the 2024 translation and the pastoral considerations to implement it in our local communities. Included in our study will be:

- Recognizing and understanding the overall OCIA process and the pastoral principles needed to successfully implement it.
- Understanding who belongs in the OCIA and the appropriate formation paths for different participants.
- Understanding and differentiating the pastoral practices suitable for the Period of Evangelization & Pre-Catechumenate from catechetical practices appropriate in the Catechumenate.
- Exploring preparation for and celebration of the rites of Purification and Enlightenment, Sacraments of Initiation and identify strategies for carrying out Mystagogy.
- Understanding more deeply the roles of ministers and the community in the initiation and ongoing support of new members

This course is open to everyone. It will be especially helpful to OCIA team leaders and members, sponsors, and catechists. The class meets on Zoom at 7 p.m. on Mondays beginning on Oct 26th. To register or for further information please contact Stoicoiu rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

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Wheeling University RN to FNP Named Most Affordable in the United States

WHEELING – The Wheeling University RN to FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner) program has been ranked the most affordable online degree program in the nation by RNtoMSN.org.

"Prospective RN to FNP students have much to consider when researching nursing schools, and cost is often the deciding factor for working nurses", according to Bethany Straus, communications coordinator for RNtoMSN.org. "To simplify their search, we manually researched tuition and fees at every school offering these online programs in the country."

According to the research, Wheeling University offers the most affordable online RN to FNP program in 2026-2027, with a price of $34,540 for its online RN to BSN/MSN-FNP. Each of the RN to FNP online programs ranked had a price cap of $50,000, with only nine programs nationally meeting the ranking service criteria. All of the programs listed in the ranking are CCNE- or ACEN-accredited.

Jill Emery, MSN, chair of Nursing at Wheeling University, said, "We are committed to delivering an exceptional nursing education while making the path to becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner more accessible. Our mission is to empower the next generation of nurse practitioners through academic excellence, affordability, and a commitment to transforming patient care."

"This recognition highlights our dedication to aligning premier academic quality with the practical and financial realities faced by working healthcare professionals," said Dr. Ryan Lovell, Wheeling's chief academic officer.

Students who enroll in Wheeling University's RN to FNP program will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Gradates will possess the necessary skills to influence the change process and enhance the quality of healthcare for patients.

Designed for working professionals, Wheeling University's 100 percent online curriculum accommodates the registered nurse who desires to remain employed, with clinical placements completed in their local communities.

Bishop Menjívar Visiting Catholic Schools

Courtesy photo

Bishop Evelio Menjívar visited Weirton's St. Joseph the Worker Grade School and Madonna High School Oct. 8. He began the day celebrating Mass for students at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton. He is pictured above with students during a visit to a classroom at the grade school that day. Bishop Menjívar will be visiting all of the diocese's Catholic schools. Joining him on the visits is Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic schools.

From Devastation to Divine Calling

Connie Lenneman to Speak at Morgantown Magnificat Breakfast

MORGANTOWN— Magnificat, a ministry dedicated to encouraging and strengthening faith among Catholic women, has announced its upcoming Fall Inspirational Prayer Breakfast. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 24, at St. John's University Parish Hall, located at 1481 University Avenue. Doors open at 8:45 a.m., and the program will run from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m.

The featured speaker is Connie Lenneman, a professional pastoral counselor and the founder of Way Maker Christian Counseling, in North Canton Ohio. Lenneman will share an intimate and powerful personal testimony detailing how God shepherded her through a sequence of profound life trials—including the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, her father's imprisonment and release, and the pain of divorce. Her address will highlight how these challenges ultimately shaped her unique spiritual calling to help others heal through faith-based counseling.

Sponsored by the Morgantown Chapter of Magnificat, the event offers a relaxed, welcoming environment for women to gather in community, share in fellowship, and enjoy a buffet breakfast. While specifically designed to uplift Catholic women, the breakfast is open to any woman seeking to deepen her spiritual life or find encouragement during difficult times.

Registration and Ticket Information:

Tickets are $25 per person and $13 for students. Advance registration is required, and the deadline to reserve a seat is Saturday, Oct. 17.

Registration can be completed on the organization's website: https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/morgantownwvmagnificat, navigate to the "Home" tab, and select the registration option on the right side of the page.

For mail-in Registration: Print the official form directly from the event page at Webpage-event-Reservation-Form.pdf (magnificat-ministry.net). Completed forms and payment should be mailed to: Morgantown Magnificat, c/o 12 Whites Run Court, Morgantown, WV 26508.

For questions or late registration availability after the Oct. 17 deadline, please contact Mary Paul at 304-319-2747.

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Obispos y legisladores de EEUU rezan por el Papa León tras su diagnóstico de cáncer

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Tras el anuncio de la Santa Sede del 13 de octubre de que al Papa León XIV le habían diagnosticado cáncer de pulmón y le habían extirpado el lóbulo inferior del pulmón derecho, líderes eclesiásticos y civiles de Estados Unidos expresaron su esperanza y sus oraciones por su completa recuperación.

La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos instó a los fieles a rezar por el Papa León en una publicación en X.

"Los médicos del Hospital Gemelli extirparon un tumor canceroso del pulmón derecho del Papa León XIV, según la Oficina de Prensa de la Santa Sede", decía la publicación. "La cirugía fue un éxito, sin complicaciones, y el Santo Padre ha regresado a su habitación del hospital. Invitamos a los fieles a que continúen orando por la recuperación del Papa León y por los médicos y el personal que lo atienden. Tengamos también presentes en nuestras oraciones a todas las personas que viven con cáncer, a sus familias y a quienes las cuidan".

Varios obispos y diócesis de EE.UU. también instaron a la oración.

"Bendice al Papa León XIV con fortaleza y paz mientras enfrenta esta enfermedad y únelo cada vez más estrechamente a tu Hijo", dijo la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York en una publicación en X en la que pedía oraciones por el restablecimiento de la salud del Papa.

En otra publicación, el arzobispo Ronald A. Hicks de Nueva York agradeció a Dios que la cirugía del Papa fuera "según todas las fuentes, un éxito" y agregó que se unía a los fieles de la arquidiócesis, del país y del mundo "para mantener al Santo Padre en nuestras oraciones".

"Amigos, por favor únanse a mí para orar por la sanación de nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa León XIV, a quien le han diagnosticado cáncer de pulmón", escribió en X el obispo Robert E. Barron, de Winona-Rochester, Minnesota.

El arzobispo Mitchell T. Rozanski, de St. Louis, pidió a "todas las personas de buena voluntad que se unan a nosotros en oración por el Papa León XIV y por quienes lo atienden".

El obispo Mark A. Eckman, de Pittsburgh, dijo en un comunicado que se une a los católicos de esa diócesis "y de todo el mundo para elevar al Santo Padre, el Papa León XIV, en oración tras la noticia de su cirugía y su diagnóstico de cáncer de pulmón".

"Estamos agradecidos de saber que la cirugía fue un éxito, y oramos para que el Santo Padre tenga una recuperación completa y tranquila", dijo el obispo Eckman. "El Papa León nos ha recordado la importancia de la fe, la esperanza y el cuidado mutuo. Ahora, mientras enfrenta este desafío de salud personal, tenemos la oportunidad de rodearlo con el mismo amor y apoyo en oración que él tan generosamente ofrece a la Iglesia y al mundo".

Algunos funcionarios y legisladores estadounidenses también se pronunciaron al respecto, entre ellos el diputado Jonathan L. Jackson, demócrata por Illinois, quien representa a un distrito del área de Chicago.

"El Papa León XIV es uno de los nuestros, un chico de Chicago que llevó los valores de nuestros barrios hasta el escenario mundial, y hoy toda nuestra ciudad le desea fortaleza y una recuperación completa", dijo Jackson en una publicación en X. "Que su diagnóstico sirva también como un recordatorio para que hablen con su médico sobre las pruebas de detección del cáncer de pulmón, porque detectarlo a tiempo salva vidas. Chicago está contigo".

El secretario de Estado Marco Rubio escribió en una publicación en X: "Jeanette y yo nos unimos en oración por la salud del (Papa León) tras su reciente diagnóstico".

"Que el Señor le dé fuerzas y que el Espíritu Santo guíe a los profesionales médicos que atienden al Santo Padre", dijo Rubio.

El diputado Riley Moore, republicano por West Virginia, quien es católico, escribió en una publicación en X: "Santa Teresa de Ávila nos recuerda que los que estaban más cerca de Cristo nuestro Señor eran los que tenían las mayores pruebas".

"Sin duda, esto es cierto en el caso del (Papa León)", dijo. "Por favor, únanse a Mina y a mí para orar por el Santo Padre ahora que comienza esta batalla para vencer al cáncer".

El Papa, de 71 años, reveló tras el rezo del Ángelus del 11 de octubre que los médicos le habían detectado "un nódulo localizado en el pulmón". Dijo que el nódulo fue "detectado todavía en una fase muy temprana" durante algunos exámenes médicos recientes.

"Los médicos consideran oportuno intervenir. Por eso, siguiendo sus consejos, he decidido operarme para removerlo", dijo el Papa León.

El Papa llegó al Hospital Gemelli de Roma alrededor de la 1 p.m. (hora de Roma) el 13 de octubre, y se sometió a la cirugía esa misma tarde.

"La intervención ha concluido con éxito, en el plazo y de la forma previstos, y el Santo Padre ha regresado a su habitación", informó la Oficina de Prensa de la Santa Sede en un comunicado emitido poco antes de las 8 p.m.

Poco antes de las 10 p.m., un comunicado conjunto del Dr. Stefano Margaritora, cirujano torácico jefe del Hospital Gemelli de Roma, y del Dr. Luigi Carbone reveló que "el examen histológico in situ ha confirmado el diagnóstico de adenocarcinoma pulmonar, tal y como se sospechaba a partir de los exámenes preoperatorios".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores: La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

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Please place your order for CRS Rice Bowl materials for the 2027 Lenten season. Your order will be delivered in January. You may also place an order by calling 1-800-222-0025. Materials are available in both English and Spanish.

More information about Operation Rice Bowl: https://www.crsricebowl.org/about-us

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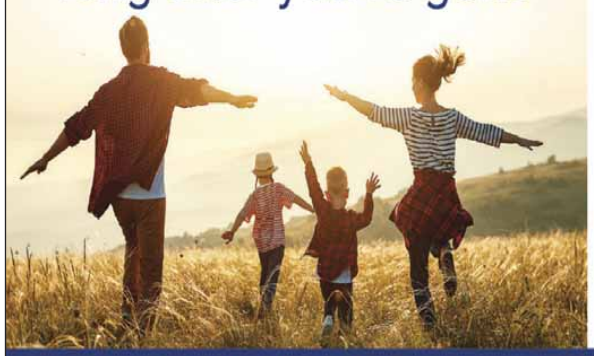

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