



A Statement from Bishop Brennan on the Israel/Hamas War

October 17, 2023

Catholic Just War Theory applied to Israeli-Hamas Conflict

The Catholic Church has a long history of reflecting on the justification, conditions and conduct of war. Let's look at the conflict between Hamas and Israel in the light of traditional Catholic just war theory (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 2309).

When a country is attacked, a defensive war is justified. War should only be undertaken because of lasting and grave harm. It should be the last resort, other means of ending conflict being impractical or ineffective. There must be serious prospects of success and the use of arms should not produce harm and disorder worse than the evil to be eliminated.

Considering Hamas, it is conducting an aggressive war, despite

its claims to the contrary. The attacks launched earlier this month were not the last resort to address legitimate Palestinian grievances. While the Middle East is a cauldron of resentments and hatreds, gains such as the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and the Oslo Agreements show that, with good will and international support, progress can be made.

The main obstacle to peace is Hamas' hatred of Jews and its desire to destroy Israel. Instead of seeking to negotiate with Israeli authorities, Hamas has launched attacks that have caused irreparable harm by killing many hundreds of Israelis with no real possibility of succeeding in destroying Israel. Hamas' practice of hiding its fighters among non-combatants, including women and children, is

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Fairmont Catholic's Annual Rosary Prayer Walk Unites Community in Prayer to the Blessed Mother



Courtesy Photos

Fairmont Catholic School administration, teachers, students and their families, staff, clergy, religious, and area parishioners take their annual Rosary Prayer Walk through the community Oct. 3.

By Colleen Rowan

Fairmont Catholic School celebrated the Month of the Rosary with its annual Rosary Prayer Walk through the community Oct. 3. Administration,

teachers, students and their families, staff, clergy, area parishioners and religious processed together through the community praying for the intercession of Our Lady.

"The Rosary Walk gives our

school the opportunity to focus on prayer in our community," said Principal Diane Burnside, who joined in the walk. "It brings us closer to God as we journey through surrounding areas of our

school and community."

The group began praying the rosary at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont and walked to the Marion County Library, the

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cowardly and reprehensible. By attacking Israel and stirring it to a vigorous counterattack, Hamas has brought on worse evils that it seeks to eliminate.

On the Israeli side, it has a right to defend its people and to neutralize Hamas' ability to strike again. The harm caused to its people is grave; families cannot replace those murdered by the terrorists. One can argue that recent Israeli governments should have been more open to dealing constructively with the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, but Hamas has shown that it is an unwilling partner for dialogue.

Israel will successfully defend its own territory from Hamas and will rebuild its defenses against future attacks. It is less clear that it can completely eliminate Hamas from Gaza. The danger for Israel is that a blockade on food, water, medicine and electricity and a full-scale ground war in Gaza will cause such loss of life that Israel will lose the international sympathy it now enjoys, even from its usual critics, and future prospects for peace will be severely undermined. Israel's strategy should focus on swift action towards its stated goals followed by cooperation with the international community and humanitarian organizations who seek to help innocent Palestinians, particularly those injured and displaced.

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

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

Those of us who cherish Israel and want Jews to flourish in their historic homeland can and must pray to the God who is over us all, that peace based on justice may someday and somehow be achieved in the Holy Land.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

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

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

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

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444
Fax: (304) 233-8551
Web site:
www.thecatholicspiritwv.org
Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
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Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
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Rosary Appeal Being Celebrated

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Rosary appeal may not have hit the one million mark it was aiming for, but the progress made – a quarter of a million – is being celebrated.

"So many voices, reciting the rhythmic pattern of the rosary; concentrating on the joys, sorrows, glories, and light of Christ's life; while holding close the intention of increasing strong Catholic vocations in West Virginia – that is definitely a great blessing," said Joyce Bibey, of the diocese's office of communications, who teamed up to promote the rosaries for vocations mission with Sister Martha Gomez, delegate for Consecrated Life in the diocese.

Perfection would have been one million, but coordinators Sister Gomez and Bibey are choosing to sing praises for the impressive

250,753 rosaries from the 1,037 individuals that entered their pledge during the 54 days.

"It warms my heart to know even the smallest voices, like my two-year-old great nephew Leo, joined in our prayerful chorus to God through Mary with our intention," Sister Gomez said, referring to her family in Mexico who happily united with WV in prayer. "We sow the seed of praying the rosary for our little ones in our hearts, homes, church, and schools."

Praying for vocations should be instinctive for us Sister Gomez said. "Vocations are born in prayer (marriage, holy orders, single life, and religious/consecrated life), and only through prayer can we persevere and bear fruit."

So, yes, the diocese is celebrating what did happen, Sister Gomez

and Bibey agreed.

"We can be totally honest sharing that when the deadline grew closer, and we saw we were not going to hit the one million goal, we were obviously disappointed, but we quickly refocused and talked about what we were most grateful," Bibey said. "Groups young and old have been getting together to make rosaries. Students in our Catholic schools are leading rosaries with their peers. Our Chancery staff gathered every week to pray together and share Marian art, wearables, and special stories. Our parishes and schools are hosting rosary rallies and processions. Campus ministries in our high schools and WV colleges emphasized conversations and activities to get their students more aware of Catholic vocations. Our seminarians sent messages that they felt

energized by appeal, and we heard from family, colleagues, and friends from all over the country, Mexico, and as far away as India and the Philippines eager to help us here in WV."

Not trying or just complaining would have been a failure, she said.

"Can you imagine how Mary must feel hearing these sweet souls, and how eager she is to take these prayers to Jesus," Sister Gomez said. "So many people prayed their first rosary during our appeal, and it was for us here in West Virginia. So many others are hopefully now making the rosary a habitual prayer. Hearts and minds are in the right place, when they pray, meditate, and concentrate on the rosary."

The rosary resources from the campaign will continue to be available at <https://faithinwv.org>.



Courtesy Photos

In the above three photos, Fairmont Catholic School administration, teachers, students and their families, staff, clergy, religious, and area parishioners participate in the annual Rosary Prayer Walk through the community.

Rosary...

Cont'd from Page 1

Marion County Court House, to Veteran's Square and to the Fairmont City Building, where their prayer ended. Burnside said students were joined by their families, parishioners, and friends.

"Many business employees will walk outside to show their support during our prayer walk," she added.

In addition to celebrating the October observance of the Month of the Rosary, the school's Rosary Prayer Walk was also for the diocese's One Million Rosaries for Vocations in West Virginia.

"It is important for our students to participate

in One Million Rosaries to show our support for vocations and unite our school in prayer, which allows us to encounter Mary and bring us closer to God," Burnside said.

Throughout the rest of this month Catholic schools and parishes around the diocese are holding gatherings to pray the rosary as well.

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Diocese's First Life Expo Brings Together 21 Organizations Dedicated to Helping Pregnant Women and Mothers in Need

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston held its first ever Life Expo in Wheeling Oct. 5 featuring 21 organizations that provide help to women during pregnancy and beyond.

Aptly held at the beginning of Respect Life Month, the expo was presented by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Social Ministry and held at the St. Michael Parish Angelus Center.

The aim was to connect organizations and the faithful in efforts to support women who choose life, said Social Ministry Director Kathleen Barton. Her hope is to have additional Life Expos around the state.

"It was incredibly encouraging to be in a room with so many life-affirming organizations across all sorts of categories of care regardless of what need a pregnant or parenting mother may have," said Kayla Kessinger, West Virginia coordinator for Her PLAN (Her Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network). The organization facilitates collaboration between as-

sistance providers and their communities to empower women and families through comprehensive medical, social, and material support. The West Virginia chapter is located in Beckley.

Kessinger continued to note the many offerings at the expo. "Whether it is food and security, support for childcare, mentorship," Kessinger said, "there's so many organizations who showed up today to show that they are here to stand for women, and it was incredibly encouraging for me."

Attending the expo were parish leaders, church and community outreach groups, groups that support women in unplanned pregnancies, social workers, and school and community counselors who were able to learn about the organizations and the services they provide. They were also able to see how these organizations could help start or enhance already established parish-based ministries to pregnant women and mothers in need.

"It was very well put together," Faith Meyer, pres-

ident of the Northern Panhandle Chapter of West Virginians for Life (WVFL), said of the expo. She added that it allowed her to share more information about WVFL.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Byron Calhoun, professor and vice-chair in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Charleston Area Medical Center. He is directly involved in resident and medical student education. He is licensed in several states and continues to actively practice maternal-fetal medicine, perform diagnostic obstetrical ultrasound, participate in prenatal diagnosis counseling, and provide education to residents and medical students.

In addition to organizing the event, Barton also gave a presentation on Walking With Moms in Need, a U.S. bishops' program through which Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. The program helps them discover how they can help pregnant women and women



Colleen Rowan Photo

Kathleen Barton, director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, right, and A.J. Emery, office coordinator for Social Ministry, man the Walking with Moms in Need information table at the Life Expo in Wheeling Oct. 5.

who already have children facing difficult circumstances.

The following organizations and groups also had information tables at the expo and a number of representatives served as speakers throughout the day: Wellspring/Haven/After Care; Creighton FertilityCare & NaProTECHNOLOGY; Catholic Charities West Virginia; St. Vin-

cent de Paul Society; West Virginia Pregnancy Center Coalition; St. Michael's Pro Life; YWCA; Wheeling Health Right; Crittenton Services; Mary's Refuge Maternity Home; WVU Wheeling Hospital; Mother Jones House/House of Hagar; OV YoungLives; West Virginia WIC (Women, Infants, and Children); and WV Adult Education.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Faith Meyer, president of the Northern Panhandle Chapter of West Virginians for Life, stands at her information table at the Life Expo.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Kayla Kessinger, West Virginia coordinator for Her PLAN (Her Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network), left, talks to Kate Marshall of Mother Jones House/House of Hagar in Wheeling at the Life Expo.

‘Eucharist: Gift, Mystery, and Reality’

Novena to the Most Blessed Infant Jesus of Prague Continues at Cathedral Offering Prayerful Opportunity in Eucharistic Revival

By Colleen Rowan

“Remember that Jesus is truly present in the Tabernacle 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 364 days a year, for you!” These were the words of Father Martin Smay, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy Mission in Parsons, in his homily on the third night of the 12th annual Novena to the Most Blessed Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. The theme of the novena is “The Eucharist: Gift, Mystery, and Reality” — offering a great spiritual opportunity in this Parish Year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

The novena is held every Monday at 7 p.m. through Nov. 6.

“Each week consists of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily given by a guest priest, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague,” cathedral parish officials said. “Everyone is invited to attend this beautiful devotion. God has been astonishingly generous in blessing those who have been devoted to His Infant Son.”

The first two presiders of the novena were Father Sateesh Narisetti, associate rector of the cathedral, and Father Carlos Melocoton, pastor



Colleen Rowan Photo

Faithful are pictured during adoration at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral Oct. 9.

of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. Other presiders were Deacon Doug Breiding, permanent deacon at the cathedral; Father Joseph Augustine, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Wheeling; and Father Chester Pabin of the Diocese of Steubenville.

The presiders for the remaining nights are: Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission In-

tegration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, Oct. 23; Father Justin Golna, administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg, Oct. 30; and Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid of Pittsburgh, who will be the presider on the last night of the novena, Nov. 6. Bishop Mark Brennan is unable to be present due to scheduling conflicts.

Basilica’s Music Director Wants All to ‘Experience the Shock Value of the Holy Eucharist’ at Gathering This Evening, Oct. 20

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON — Mark Haas, director of Music at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, wants all to “experience the ‘shock value’ of the Holy Eucharist.”

For the Parish Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, he is presenting Charleston-area Catholics the chance to experience a unique overview of the church’s teaching on the Holy Eucharist through music and visuals. And there is still time to plan to attend his gathering “The Eucharist in Song” this evening (Oct. 20) at 7 p.m. at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

The material is presented in an engaging way through music and visuals, Mark said.

“We will track the Holy Eucharist from the Garden of Eden to Calvary; using music and visuals to help us. As a (major!) bonus, I will be joined by my very talented and beautiful wife, Renae Haas!”

Mark pointed to John 6:61: after teaching the Jews, disciples, and apostles about the Eucharist, Jesus asks them, “Does this shock you?”

The reality of the Eucharist is shocking, Mark said. “It has been hiding in plain sight from the beginning, in the Garden of Eden,” he continued. “Let’s come together and shock one another.”

Mark first presented this talk in 2019 two weeks after Pew Research Center reported that just one-third of Catholics believed in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. “I wanted to

fire up myself, and my community about the reality of the Holy Eucharist,” he said. “I also wanted to present the topic in the best way that I can: music.”

If anyone is looking to rejuvenate their faith in the Holy Eucharist, Mark extends his most sincere invitation: “Come and see Our Lord in the Eucharist!”

There is still time also to plan to attend an ad-

ditional prayerful gathering on the Eucharist the next day, Oct. 21, at the basilica co-cathedral which will host “How to Live and Be a Eucharistic People” from 9 a.m. to noon in the Sacred Heart Gathering Space. Donuts and coffee begin at 8:30 a.m.

This day of reflection is being sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Evangeliza-

tion and Catechesis and will offer Catholics time to gather with each other and spend some time with

See “Eucharist” on Page 6



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Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move

World Mission Sunday is Oct. 22

Oct. 22 is World Mission Sunday, when we are called to personally encounter with Jesus Christ alive in the Church, and to offer, through this Eucharistic celebration, our prayers, and our generous financial support to The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) — a worldwide network since 1922, including the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

A special collection will be taken in our parishes for this global effort to spread the message of Christ to the world, especially in countries where Christianity is denied, forgotten, or persecuted. The pontifical societies care for and support new churches until they can be self-sufficient, just as those in the U.S., which was considered a mission territory until 1908.

The theme for World Mission Sunday 2023 was chosen by Pope Francis and based on the gospel story of the road to Emmaus.

“For this year’s World Mission Sunday, I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): ‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move’. Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, their eyes were opened as they recognized him and, ultimately, their feet set out on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelization in today’s world.”

Through this special collection in our parishes around the world, we show our love and mercy — Catholic Social Teaching in action.

Eucharist...

Cont'd from Page 5

Jesus Christ. “It is an opportunity to learn about the nature and purpose of the Eucharistic Revival, a time to reflect on what God is trying to do with and through our church, with and through Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist,” said Daniel Maul, director of Evangelization and Catechesis, who is leading the gathering.


The program includes two main presentations, Maul said, as well as time for silent, personal reflection on specific questions.

“An opportunity to share our thoughts and beliefs in small groups of the attendees, then a facilitated, large-group discussion amongst the entire

group, and some prayer time, as well,” he said.


The gathering will help answer the question, “How are we doing at being and living the Eucharist?” Maul said.

“That question doesn’t even make sense to many of us,” he said. “How can I be and live the Eucharist? But we are called — summoned actually — to be the Body of Christ, together, for the sake of the world. We are to be that self-emptying, loving, sacrificial presence of Jesus Christ to and for others. That’s living the Eucharist — becoming whom we eat. How’re we doing with that? We need both God and each other to become the Eucharist — to be Jesus’ flesh, for the life of the world. Won’t you join us in this holy endeavor?”



The Eucharist
in Song

MARK HAAS, SPEAKER
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October 26-28, 2023

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

6:00 PM | OPENING MASS
Followed by Exposition / Adoration

9:00 PM | NIGHT PRAYER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:00 AM | MORNING PRAYER

11:15 AM | CONFESSIONS

12:05 PM | MASS

12:45 PM | CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

6:00 PM | SUNG EVENING PRAYER
Deacon Paul Lim, Celebrant and Homilist

9:00 PM | NIGHT PRAYER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

8:00 AM | MORNING PRAYER

9:00 AM | MASS

9:30 AM | ROSARY

5:00 PM | CONFESSIONS

6:00 PM | CLOSING MASS
Bishop Mark Brennan, Celebrant and Homilist

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition.

All faithful throughout the Wheeling area are encouraged to participate in this beautiful devotion which begins on **Thursday, October 26 at 6:00 PM**. Adoration will continue all night and day through **Saturday, October 28 at 6:00 PM**.

At least two people are needed for every hour that the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.

**PLEASE REGISTER
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Wheeling, West Virginia





Beckley Vicariate-40 Hours Devotion

The 40 Hours Devotion dates to 1527 when it was introduced by St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria in the Italian cities of Milan and Vicenza and was later spread by St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Society of Jesus. Originally conceived as 40 hours of continuous prayer before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, either in one parish or in several parishes in successive periods of Eucharistic Adoration, the devotion has taken different forms over the years.

*As part of our observance of the **Parish Year of the Eucharistic Revival**, the parishes of the Beckley Vicariate will be hosting 40 Hours Devotion during the month of November, beginning with an opening Mass of Exposition on Friday, November 3 at 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, and concluding with a Mass of Reposition on Monday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley. **Please join us as you are able as together we witness to our faith in Our Lord's presence in the Eucharist!***

Schedule of Devotions

Fri., Nov. 3	Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield	4:00 Mass of Exposition; 5:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
Tue., Nov. 7	St. John Parish, Summersville	3:00-8:00 p.m. Adoration
Wed., Nov. 8	St. Peter Parish, Welch	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Adoration
Thu., Nov. 9	St. John Neumann Parish, Marlinton	6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
Fri., Nov. 10	Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton	4:00 p.m. Mass; 5:00-7:00 Adoration
Sat., Nov. 11	Holy Family Parish, Richwood	1:00-4:00 p.m. Adoration
Sun., Nov. 12	Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Adoration
Tue., Nov. 14	St. Mark Mission, Bartow	6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
Wed., Nov. 15	St. Patrick Parish, Hinton	3:00 p.m. Mass; 4:00-7:00 Adoration
Thu., Nov. 16	SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Oak Hill	1:00-6:00 p.m. Adoration; 6:00 Mass
Fri., Nov. 17	St. Peter Parish, Welch	9:00-11:00 a.m. Adoration
Sat., Nov. 18	St. Charles Borromeo Parish, White Sulphur Springs	1:00-4:00 p.m. Adoration; 4:00 Mass
Sun., Nov. 19	St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ronceverte	11:00 a.m. Mass; 12:00-3:00 p.m Adoration
Mon., Nov. 20	St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Adoration; 6:00 p.m. Mass of Reposition

Christ Stands Before You

“You have shown Yourself to me face to face, O Christ. I encounter You in Your Sacraments.” —St. Ambrose

By Adam Marquart, founder of the Confraternity of St. Nicholas in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

You have often heard the words at Mass “Take This all of you and eat of it, for This is My Body.” And likewise, you have heard “Drink This all of you, for This is My Blood.” And you see the priest lift up what looks like a small piece of bread and chalice of wine. But it is Christ Who stands before you.

The Communion Host looks so thin and pale and fragile. The Chalice could easily fall over and spill. The crucifix above the altar reveals a pale, thin, and fragile body broken for you and the remission of sins. The Cross shows a Body emptied of its Blood, shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. It is now no longer bread and wine that rest silently on the altar. Christ stands before you.

What else could the priest and people say but “Lord, I am not worthy, that you should enter under my roof, but only say the Word, and my soul shall be healed?” What excuse or justification or explanation could we propose but “Lord, I am not worthy.” We, who have doubted Him as did the Pharisees, who have abandoned Him as did His Apostles, who have betrayed Him as did Peter, who have accused Him rather than ourselves, who have scourged, crowned with thorns, and crucified Him with our sins. What else could you say when it is Christ Who stands before you?

One by one, you watch and wait as others go to meet their Maker, not in death, but in His own precious Body and life-giving Blood. What do they say to Him? What does He say to them in this en-

counter? Do you hear Him say “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest?” Perhaps He says, “learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.” You hear the choir sing “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” You remember the parable of the prodigal son where “while he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.” Are you ready to embrace the Christ Who stands before you?

And what do you say to Him when you stand before Him? Seeing Him clearly, do you say “I do believe, help my unbelief?” Or, hearing Him ask you, “What would you have Me do,” do you respond “that I may see.” Or “if I but touch the hem of your garment, I believe you can heal me.” What wounds do you offer Him to heal? What might you ask, what might you say when Christ stands before you?

As you embrace Him in the Eucharist, do you understand how easy is His yoke and how light is His burden? Do you hear Him saying “come, good and faithful servant, and enter into your reward?” As He encounters Himself in your soul, He says “deep calls unto deep.” The Apostle writes “the Kingdom of God is within you,” but not just the Kingdom, but the King Himself is in you. Christ lives and breathes in your body and soul.

As you return to your place, do you remember to thank Him as the one leper did? Thank Him Who has given you everything. The One Who gave you life, Who knew you before He formed you in the womb, Who guides your steps, Who gave

you your parents to honor and love, Who gave you your family and friends to live the community of His love, Who gave you faith, hope, and love, Who gave you every prayer said by or for you, Who gave you every kind word or deed, Who gave you every good gift, Who gave you every talent, Who gave you every suffering, Who gave you every pain, Who gave you every penance, Who gave your heart every wound of love. He now gives you Himself. Christ is the Giver and the Gift Himself. And Christ is in you. And you are in Christ.

The Mass is ended, you leave the church, but you do not go alone. Christ is in you and with you. Do not forget He is there. As St. Teresa of Avila said, “He has no Body now

but yours.” In all thoughts, words, or deeds, may Christ be with you. May all others encounter you not as you alone, but may they meet Christ in you. And may He give you the eyes to see, after receiving Him so many times, that in your father, mother, brother, sister, friend, and every soul you encounter, it is Christ Who stands before you.


(Adam Marquart is the founder of the Confraternity of St. Nicholas in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Members seek St. Nicholas’ intercession for the protection of all youth from sexual abuse, human trafficking, pornography, and scandal. They will do so by prayer, fasting and good works. For more information, visit dwc.org/confraternity-of-st-nicholas/ on the diocese’s website).





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Franciscan University Musician Releases Pro-Life Music Video for Down Syndrome Awareness Month

John Paul Von Arx's Song about Brother with Down Syndrome Spreads Hopeful, Pro-Life Message

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio — John Paul Von Arx '17, coordinator of worship at Franciscan University of Steubenville, recently released a music video for his original song "He's Different" to raise awareness of people with Down Syndrome and show the beauty of life.

"Far too often, there is a stigma surrounding people with special needs," Von Arx said. Through both the song and music video, he wants to "bring hope to parents expecting a baby with Down Syndrome and express solidarity with families of people with special needs."

"He's Different" is written about Von Arx's youngest brother, Sam, who has Down Syndrome. It tells the story of how the two brothers are different—and how Sam views life with joy and simplicity and loves people unconditionally. This difference should be celebrated said Von Arx.

"My brother Sam is the most peaceful, free person I know. I am thankful he is different from me, and I am so grateful I get to share his story," he said. "In doing so, I hope to share other families' stories of having



John Paul Von Arx is pictured with his youngest brother, Sam, who has Down Syndrome.

Courtesy Photo

loved ones with special needs."

The music video's October release coincides with both Down Syndrome Awareness Month and Respect Life Month, bringing awareness to the importance of upholding the dignity of all human life.

In addition to serving as coordinator of worship at Franciscan Uni-

versity, Von Arx is a country artist and a worship leader for the Steubenville Youth Conferences and Steubenville Parish Missions, as well as for other parish and diocesan events across the country.

The "He's Different" music video can be viewed at johnpaulvonarx.com/hes-different.



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Upper Ohio Valley Catholic Schools Celebrate ‘Caring for Our Community Day’

Eight Catholic schools in the Upper Ohio Valley are united in the mission to serve others. Catholic schools have always focused on serving the local community and those in need near and far. Various service projects are in place to motivate the school community, get the students involved in service, and even help those in the valley in need. Tuesday, Oct. 10, was the annual “Caring for Our Community Day.”

St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling partnered with the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center. They collected canned goods and other nonperishable items to donate to build their pantry for the holidays and winter.

Corpus Christi School in Warwood did a school-wide community clean-up. The whole student body, pre-school through eighth grade, and staff headed to Garden Park and the Heritage Walking Trail to clean up litter.

Our Lady of Peace School in Mt. Olivet created cards for their community. Cards will be distributed to veterans, Continuous Care and Good Shepherd. They also have collected over 2,000 cans that will go toward Catholic Charities.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Elm Grove partnered with Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center as well. They have participated in a school-wide canned food



Courtesy Photo
Students from St. Paul Catholic School, Madonna High School, and St. Joseph the Worker Grade School—all in Weirton—made cards and wrote notes of encouragement for patients in Weirton Medical Center’s Breast Care Center. Students delivered the cards to the hospital. Some of the students from the schools are pictured above.

drive and will donate over 1,400 items to the center for those in need.

Central Catholic High School in Wheeling incorporated “Caring for our Community Day” into their Homecoming week. The week-long Homecoming (HOCO) Week activities included a service project led by Student Council officers and Homecoming

Week King and Queen candidates. Students happily participated in raising money and collecting supplies for children receiving cancer treatments at Ruby Infusion Center at the WVU Pediatrics Center. Special items on the list included snacks, books, drinks, toys, and other items that can be used by staff to keep the minds of

patients busy while undergoing treatment for cancer. CCHS partnered with Logan’s Legacy. A \$2 dress down day gave students the privilege of dressing down in Spirit Gear while staying focused on the service project and families at Ruby Infusion Center.

St. Paul Catholic School, Madonna High School, and St. Joseph the Worker

Grade School—all in Weirton—made cards and wrote notes of encouragement for patients in the Weirton Medical Center (WMC) Breast Care Center. Students then delivered the cards to the hospital.

Sponsors of the “Caring for Our Community Day” are the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Shirts N More.

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Synod Reveals How Parish Perpetual Adoration Chapels Set Hearts on Fire

By **Gina Christian**

PHILADELPHIA (OSV News) — As the Synod on Synodality continues, the global gathering is providing an opportunity for Catholic leaders to share ideas and initiatives — some of which dovetail with the aims of the National Eucharistic Revival underway in the United States.

At an Oct. 12 press briefing for the Synod on Synodality at the Vatican, Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya of Bamenda, Cameroon, said in his archdiocese that “perpetual adoration is going on in all the parishes” as part of a “Year of the Eucharist” celebration.

“Because we declared the Year of the Eucharist, every parish is building a chapel of perpetual adoration,” Archbishop Fuanya said. “It is incredible ... how much time the young people spend before the Blessed Sacrament.”

He noted these perpetual adoration chapels “where the young people go to adore Jesus” provide “an incredible experience” for them, not just in his diocese but in others all over the world.

Catholics in the U.S. told OSV News they agreed — such chapels at their own parishes have been nothing short of life-changing.

In July, St. Joseph Church in New York’s Greenwich Village opened Manhattan’s first-ever perpetual adoration chapel, which was blessed and dedicated by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan.

Dominican Father Jonah Teller, St. Joseph’s parochial vicar, said the initial response has been “great,” with “hundreds of people (signing) up to become adorers” at the chapel.

Even close to midnight, Father Teller often sees “two or three or four people there.”

“It’s such a joy to know that there are people from all over the city who have ... a beautiful, quiet, peaceful place that they can step in at any moment,” said Father Teller.

Eucharistic adoration provides a space for authentic intimacy with Jesus, when “great deposits of grace” received from the sacraments are “kneaded into us,” he said. “We’re called to be not colleagues with God, but friends with God. And so that involves spending time with him and letting him work on us.”

Kate Scherer Dominguez, who lives in Rochester, New York, said Eucharistic adoration has had a profound effect on her life.

“I’ve been changed internally, which has changed my life, my marriage and my parenting,” the 32-year-old Catholic wife and mother said.

When a new perpetual adoration chapel opened in July at her Peace of Christ Parish, Dominguez “signed up for a weekly holy hour right away,” even bringing her kids.

“Now that the school year has started, I just bring my baby,” she said. “The graces that will pour forth from Jesus through this perpetual adoration chapel into the lives of people in Rochester will be beautiful. Lives will be changed from regular time with our Lord. Mine was.”

“You go in there and sit with Jesus, and he changes your heart,” said MaryKatherine Bushey, who helped to start a perpetual adoration chapel at St. Mary Parish in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania in 1997. “I know the things that I’ve gone through, which have been some very tough times — I could not have done it without that time with him.”

Bushey admitted the overnight holy hours she has regularly kept over the years have sometimes been challenging.

“I do not get excited when the alarm goes off at 1:20 a.m.,” she said. “But when I go into that chapel in the quiet of the night, with just (Jesus) ... it’s peaceful.”

Bushey, who coordinates her parish’s adoration schedule, said one fellow night-adorer told her she had initially thought she was “doing this good thing for Jesus,” but realized after her first holy hour “it was he who was doing the favor for me.”

At St. William Parish in Philadelphia, parishioners urged parochial administrator Father Francesco Maria D’Amico to reopen their longtime perpetual adoration chapel, which had been closed for three years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition, the witness of Blessed Carlo Acutis — whose life was marked by a profound devotion to the Eucharist — helped to drive the reopening, said Father D’Amico.

“Given the fact that the world is a post-Christendom one ... adoration is part of a process than can help people become evangelizers,” said Father D’Amico, who recently coordinated a U.S. speaking tour for Antonia Acutis, mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, who is leading the National Eucharistic Revival — a three-year effort by the U.S. bishops to rekindle devotion to the Eucharist — told OSV News “the silence of adoration” enables an even “deeper catechesis and experience of the Mass,” which in turn inspires a desire to spend more time in adoration.

Referencing a number of recent comments by Pope Francis, Bishop Cozzens said

that adoration “creates this fire in us for mission,” just as the two disciples who encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus experienced.

“When we’re with the Lord, our hearts begin to burn,” said Bishop Cozzens. “I can say it’s certainly my experience that if you catechize young people, if you invite them to go to confession and then you put them in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, then powerful encounters happen, life-changing encounters. And once they experience that peace and that presence that comes from being with him, they want to be with him even more.”

Along with invigorating faith among youth and young adults, Eucharistic adoration can “bring missionary fire to the whole parish,” said Bishop

Cozzens.


Eucharistic adoration can also lead those estranged from the Catholic Church back to the faith, he noted.

“For some people, adoration is a non-threatening thing,” Bishop Cozzens said. While some may not feel ready to go to Communion, they realized “I can come and sit in silence and be in his presence; and speak heart to heart with him and let him work on my heart.”

He said “that can be a very healing place for people.”



“The closer we get to God, the more we share what he loves; and what he loves is other people,” said Father Teller. “And that will impel us out to serve our brothers and sisters as well.”

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.)



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Synodality Must Serve Evangelization, Archbishop Says at Synod Mass

By Justin McLellan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The whole point of synodality is to serve the Catholic Church’s mission of evangelization, an archbishop told participants in the assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

“As we talk about what processes, structures and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal church, we need to make sure that these do in fact assist the mission of bringing the good news to those who are in need of salvation,” Lithuanian Archbishop Gintaras Grušas of Vilnius said in his homily during a Mass with synod participants Oct. 18.

The Mass, celebrated at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter’s Basilica, opened the fourth and final module of synod assembly, which is centered on “participation, governance and authority” and intended to respond to the question, “What processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?”

“Synodality, including its structures and meetings, must be at the service of the church’s mission of evangelization and not become an end in itself,” Archbishop Grušas said.

Celebrating the Mass on the feast of St. Luke, the archbishop, who is president of the Council of European Bishops’ Conferences, said that in St. Luke’s Gospel the evangelist “often highlights the role of women in the life of the church and in announcing the good news.”

“St. Luke is the Marian evangelist par excellence,” the archbishop said,

but he also highlighted the examples of “the Samaritan woman at the well who announced the Messiah, Mary Magdalene, the first to announce the message of the Resurrection, as well as the various women throughout the Acts of the Apostles who assisted the growth of the early church.”

“If Luke were documenting the synod, thanks be to God, he would find many of the themes that he favored at the forefront of our own deliberations in these days,” he said.

Archbishop Grušas noted that both in St. Luke’s Gospel and in the Acts of the Apostle, the evangelist “clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is the protagonist in the life and growth of the church,” repeating a quote from Pope Francis which has become a refrain among synod participants.

The participants trickled into St. Peter’s Basilica before the Mass while a Rome seminary choir sang hymns. Moments of silence during the Mass were occasionally breached by the sound of cheers from Pope Francis’ general audience taking place in St. Peter’s Square.

Although only 20% of synod members are not cardinals or bishops, Archbishop Grušas insisted that “in the announcement of the kingdom, the equality of all the baptized comes to the forefront.”

“All are called to this, not just ordained ministers,” he said. “It is important that all the baptized hear this call, this vocation, and respond to it, committing their lives, words and actions to Jesus’ mission.”



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Levi and Molly encountered a challenging situation, both having lost their jobs and lacking a place to live when their daughter, Katrina, was born.

“Dealing with all of this while welcoming a baby was exceptionally demanding,” Levi recalled.

Instead of choosing a homeless shelter, where they would have to share space with numerous others and potentially expose their newborn to viruses, the family opted to stay in a hotel.

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) intervened to support Levi and his family through its case management program, which aids individuals and families in pursuing their goals. Through this program, skilled staff meet with individuals to overcome barriers and determine actionable steps and available community resources, extending financial assistance when needed.

“Case management is a way we can walk alongside our clients in their journeys and support them in achieving their goals,” said Diana Bell, CCWVa assistant chief program officer. “It’s the beacon of hope that helps them transform longing into reality. Levi and Molly’s journey reminds us that, in times of challenge, the right support can empower dreams, even when life takes unexpected turns.”

CCWVa provided Levi and his family not only with the security deposit and first month’s rent, but also with kitchen utensils, blankets, and other household essentials. They were finally able to bathe their baby in a bathtub, a welcome change from using the hotel sink.

“I am immensely thankful that CCWVa helped us by covering the

deposit,” Levi expressed. “I thank God for them. They instilled hope in me to persevere.”

Levi, Molly, and Katrina are thriving in their new home. Molly has been able to return to work, while Levi takes care of their daughter during the day.

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Sínodo revela cómo capillas parroquiales de adoración perpetua avivan los corazones

Por Gina Christian, OSV News
 FILADELFIA (OSV News) -- Mientras continúa el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad, esta reunión global brinda una oportunidad para que los líderes católicos compartan ideas e iniciativas, algunas de las cuales coinciden con los objetivos del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional que se está llevando a cabo en Estados Unidos.

En una conferencia de prensa del 12 de octubre para el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad en el Vaticano, el arzobispo Andrew Nkea Fuanya de Bamenda, Camerún, manifestó que en su arquidiócesis "la adoración perpetua se lleva a cabo en todas las parroquias" como parte de la celebración del "Año de la Eucaristía".

"Debido a que declaramos el Año de la Eucaristía, cada parroquia está construyendo una capilla de adoración perpetua", reveló el arzobispo Fuanya. "Es increíble... cuánto tiempo pasan los jóvenes ante el Santísimo Sacramento".

Señaló que estas capillas de adoración perpetua "donde los jóvenes van a adorar a Jesús" les brindan "una experiencia increíble", no sólo en su diócesis sino en otras en todo el mundo.

Los católicos en Estados Unidos dijeron a OSV News que estaban de acuerdo: este tipo de capillas en sus propias parroquias han cambiado vidas.

En julio, la Iglesia St. Joseph en Greenwich Village de Nueva York inauguró la primera capilla de adoración perpetua de Manhattan, que fue bendecida y dedicada por el cardenal Timothy M. Dolan.

El padre dominico Jonah Teller, quien es vicario de la parroquia de St. Joseph, dijo que la respuesta inicial ha sido "excelente", con "cientos de personas (anotándose) para convertirse en adoradores" en la capilla.

Incluso cerca de la medianoche, el

padre Teller ve a menudo "dos, tres, o cuatro personas allí".

"Es una gran alegría saber que hay personas de toda la ciudad que tienen... un lugar hermoso, tranquilo, y pacífico al que pueden entrar en cualquier momento", expresó el padre Teller.

La adoración eucarística proporciona un espacio para una auténtica intimidad con Jesús, donde "grandes depósitos de gracia" recibidos de los sacramentos son "trabajados en nosotros", dijo. "Estamos llamados a no ser colegas de Dios, sino amigos de Dios. Y eso implica pasar tiempo con Él y dejar que trabaje en nosotros".

Kate Scherer Domínguez, que vive en Rochester, Nueva York, dijo que la adoración eucarística ha tenido un impacto profundo en su vida.

"He cambiado internamente, lo que ha cambiado mi vida, mi matrimonio, y mi maternidad", señaló esta esposa y madre católica de 32 años.

Cuando en julio se inauguró una nueva capilla de adoración perpetua en su parroquia Paz de Cristo, Domínguez "se inscribió de inmediato para una hora santa semanal", e incluso llevó a sus hijos con ella.

"Ahora que ha comenzado el año escolar, sólo traigo a mi bebé", dijo. "Las gracias que Jesús derramará a través de esta capilla de adoración perpetua en las vidas de las personas en Rochester serán hermosas. Las vidas cambiarán al pasar tiempo habitual con nuestro Señor. La mía cambió".

"Entras y te sientas con Jesús, y él cambia tu corazón", acotó MaryKatherine Bushey, quien ayudó a iniciar una capilla de adoración perpetua en la parroquia de St. Mary en Schwenksville, Pensilvania, en 1997. "Sé las cosas por las que he pasado, que han sido momentos muy difíciles; no podría haberlo hecho sin ese tiempo con él".

Bushey admitió que las horas santas

nocturnas que ha mantenido regularmente a lo largo de los años a veces han sido un desafío.

"No me entusiasma escuchar la alarma a la 1:20 a.m.", manifestó. "Pero cuando entro en esa capilla en el silencio de la noche, solo con (Jesús)... hay paz".

Bushey, quien coordina el programa de adoración de su parroquia, dijo que un compañero adorador nocturno le dijo que inicialmente había pensado que estaba "haciendo algo bueno para Jesús", pero se dio cuenta después de su primera hora santa que "era (Jesús) quien me estaba haciendo el favor a mí".

En la parroquia de St. William en Filadelfia, los feligreses instaron al administrador parroquial, el padre Francesco Maria D'Amico, reabrir su antigua capilla de adoración perpetua, que había estado cerrada durante tres años debido a las restricciones de COVID-19.

Además, el testimonio del beato Carlo Acutis, cuya vida estuvo marcada por una profunda devoción a la Eucaristía, ayudó a impulsar la reapertura, dijo el padre D'Amico.

"Dado el hecho de que el mundo es post-cristiandad... la adoración es parte de un proceso que puede ayudar a las personas a convertirse en evangelizadores", dijo el padre D'Amico, quien recientemente coordinó una gira de conferencias por Estados Unidos para Antonia Acutis, madre del beato Carlos Acutis.

El obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota, que dirige el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional (un esfuerzo de tres años de los obispos estadounidenses para reavivar la devoción a la Eucaristía), dijo a OSV News que "el silencio de la adoración" permite una experiencia aún "más profunda" de catequesis y de la Misa, lo

que a su vez inspira el deseo de pasar más tiempo en adoración.

Haciendo referencia a una serie de comentarios recientes del Papa Francisco, el obispo Cozzens dijo que la adoración "crea en nosotros este fuego para la misión", tal como lo experimentaron los dos discípulos que encontraron a Cristo en el camino a Emaús.

"Cuando estamos con el Señor, nuestros corazones comienzan a arder", expresó el obispo Cozzens. "Puedo decir ciertamente, según mi experiencia, que si catequizas a los jóvenes, si los invitas a confesarse, y luego los pones frente a Jesús Sacramentado, entonces se producen encuentros poderosos, encuentros que cambian la vida. Y una vez que experimentan esa paz y esa presencia que proviene de estar con él, quieren estar con él aún más".

Además de revitalizar la fe entre los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes, la adoración eucarística puede "traer fuego misionero a toda la parroquia", señaló el obispo Cozzens.

La adoración eucarística también puede llevar a quienes están alejados de la Iglesia Católica a regresar a la fe, acotó.

"Para algunas personas, la adoración no es algo amenazador", dijo el obispo Cozzens. Si bien es posible que algunos no se sientan listos para recibir la Comunión, se dan cuenta de que "puedo venir y sentarme en silencio y estar en su presencia; hablar con él de corazón a corazón y dejar que él obre en mi corazón".

Dijo que "ese puede ser un lugar de sanación para la gente".

"Cuanto más nos acercamos a Dios, más compartimos lo que él ama; y lo que él ama son los demás", dijo el padre Teller. "Y eso nos impulsará a servir también a nuestros hermanos y hermanas".

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades 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: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

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

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

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

Studies on the Eucharist Series Coming to New Cumberland Parish

NEW CUMBERLAND—For the Eucharistic Revival, Immaculate Conception Parish in New Cumberland will begin a series of studies of the Eucharist on the following Thursdays: Oct. 26, Nov. 9, and Nov. 30, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Immaculate Conception’s parish hall. All parishioners are invited to pray, learn, and become revitalized in Jesus.

“There is no preparation or homework and each session is independent of the others. So if you have to miss one, it will be okay,” parish officials said.

Those interested are asked to sign up in the Gathering Space so the parish can determine the number of participants to have the necessary handouts available. Parish officials also announced, “Jesus and the Eucharist Study” is coming soon.

St. Margaret Mary’s Widows Ministry Extending Invitation to Neighboring Parkersburg-Area Parishes

PARKERSBURG—St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg has a ministry that aims to comfort and connect widows of the parish community. The widows of St. Margaret Mary’s would like to cordially invite all widows from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg and St. Monica Mission in Lubeck to meet for a Dutch-treat luncheon at Colombo’s Restaurant at 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 22.

“This is a lovely group of women who gather for food, fellowship and support,” organizers said. “Please come join us.”

To assure adequate seating, please contact organizers, so they can reserve enough space. They are also happy to answer questions about this ministry: Judy Higgs (304)-210-2783 jyanhiggs@aol.com; Rhonda Butcher (304) 482-4597 (call or text).

Sacred Heart Parish Thanks Bluefield State University Fraternity for Donations to Food Pantry



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity from Bluefield State University are pictured after dropping off donations to the food pantry at Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield. The parish thanked the fraternity for its support in helping those in need in the community.



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