

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

## Pope Announces a Second Session for Synod of Bishops Assembly

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying he did not want to rush the process of discerning how the Holy Spirit is calling the church to grow in “synodality,” Pope Francis announced that the next assembly of the Synod of Bishops would take place in two sessions.

The synod assembly, with mostly bishops as voting members, will meet Oct. 4-29, 2023, as previously announced, the pope said, but the assembly will have a second session in October 2024 as well.

Pope Francis made the announcement Oct. 16 at the end of his Angelus address. He had met Oct. 14 with the synod leadership.

The pope and local bishops kicked off the listening and discernment process for the “synod on synodality” in October 2021, and by November the synod secretariat is expected to release a working document for continental assemblies.

With 112 of the 114 bishops’ conference in the world having sent in a synthesis of what emerged in the listening sessions in their countries, Pope Francis said that “the fruits of the synodal process underway are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush.”

“To have a more relaxed period of discernment,” the pope announced, “I have established that this synodal assembly will take place in two sessions” rather than the one originally planned.

“I trust that this decision will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the church and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the Sunday Angelus prayer.

The website of the synod secretariat describes synodality as a style seen in the church’s life and mission that reflects its  
**See “Synod” on Page 2**



## Seminarians Welcome Bishop Brennan

Photo Courtesy of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary

At Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., are (from left) Father Brian Crenwelge, Vocation director for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; seminarians Michael Tupta and Bryan Tedesch; Bishop Mark Brennan; seminarians John Soplinski, Dominic Re, and Nathan Schmidt; and Msgr. Andrew R. Baker, S.T.D., rector of the seminary.

By Colleen Rowan

**B**ishop Mark Brennan joined Father Brian Crenwelge, director of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Vocation Office, in visiting the diocesan seminarians. “To see how they are doing and meet with their formation staff,” Father Crenwelge said.

They began by visiting seminarians Paul De-

rico and Dylan O’Sullivan at St. John Paul II College Seminary in Washington, D.C., and then seminarians Dominic Re, Nathan Schmidt, John Soplinski, Bryan Tedesch, and Michael Tupta at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

“Bishop Brennan offered Mass for each of the  
**See “Seminarians” on Page 2**

# Synod...

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nature as "the people of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel."

While it does not imply everyone has a vote on issues facing the church, it does mean that all the members of the church — ordained or lay — have a responsibility to contribute to the church's mission and to pray, offer suggestions and join in discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit.

A statement from the synod secretariat Oct. 16 said Pope Francis' decision to add a second assembly "stems from the desire that the theme of a 'synodal church,' because of its breadth and importance, might be the subject of prolonged discernment not only by the members of the synodal as-

sembly, but by the whole church."

Although it did not feature the same widespread, grassroots listening sessions, the deliberations of the Synod of Bishops on challenges and joys facing families also met in two sessions. First, Pope Francis convoked in 2014 an "extraordinary general assembly" on "the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization." Then, using the 2014 gathering's final report as an outline, the ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops met in 2015 to look at "the vocation and mission of the family in the

church and contemporary world."

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, then secretary-general of the synod, wrote to bishops' conferences at the time explaining that, "the two synodal assemblies, sharing the same topic of the family, become part of a single synodal process, which includes not only the two celebrative phases but also the intervening time between synods, a time to reflect on the reaction to the first synod and to make a thorough theological examination of the church's pastoral activity in light of the succeeding one."

# Seminarians...

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seminary communities," Father Crenwelge said. They will finish their visits at the Pontifical College, Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, in November to visit seminarians Donvito Cortese and Timothy Kawash.

Father Crenwelge said he and the bishop make the visits to the seminaries every semester.

### 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](http://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](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

### To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:

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

### To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

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

### To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:

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

### Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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# ‘Walking with Moms in Need’ Helps Expectant, New Moms ‘Where They’re At’

**By Kurt Jensen, Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Dioceses and parish volunteers who have embraced the “Walking with Moms in Need” initiative are still in the early stages of assessing its effectiveness.

Statistics — counting the numbers who have been helped — are an inconclusive means of measuring how well the initiative is working. But anecdotes so far give an encouraging picture.

This initiative of the U.S. bishops aims to connect pregnant women and their families with parishes and to a growing network of resources with the help of volunteers.

The rollout of the program was slowed because it was launched March 25, 2020, just as the pandemic began to take hold, but it is underway.

“It’s not an abortion alternative,” Cindy Ketcherside, a coordinator at St. Theresa Parish in Phoenix, observed in an interview with Catholic News Service. She calls the women “abortion vulnerable,” but “what we’ve found are more working moms who already have children.”

Seldom do the women have to be dissuaded from an abortion. By the time “Walking with Moms in Need” is involved, that decision usually has already been made not to have an abortion.

Promoting the initiative is typically as simple as posters on parish bulletin boards and brochures. But those in need, going by anecdotal evidence, come to the program from all directions, and even through private conversations following Mass.

The common thread in the parish-level stories: There’s no such thing as a stereotype of the women who are helped.

Kathleen Wilson, coordinator of Respect Life for the Archdiocese of Detroit, likes to tell the story of the single mother with triplets. Forced to move back in with her mother because of the financial strain, she turned to the initiative for clothing,

medical and nutrition needs.

“It shows you that we’re accompanying them even in very challenging circumstances.”

Another was a 17-year-old girl. Wilson praised the

parish’s “lack of (harsh) judgment” so it was able to “embrace these young parents. There’s been this continuation of supporting this young life as a parish family.”

The key question to ask,

she said, is “How do we meet that person where they are?”

Parishes are encouraged to find the skills within their ranks, and Wilson knows of one that included a lactation specialist who

was happy to add her expertise.

Megan Morris, director of the Life Center of Santa Ana, California, calls that loving the mother “where she’s at.”

**See “Moms” on Page 4**

## Start Walking with Moms in Need TODAY!

If a woman with an unexpected or challenging pregnancy turned to you, would you know what help is available? Could a mom struggling to care for her young kids turn to your neighborhood Catholic church and find local assistance?

Through *Walking with Moms in Need*, Catholics can help vulnerable women find support in welcoming and caring for their children.

It is a free, complete, step-by-step process that anyone can lead! With the help of others at your parish, you can make a difference in your community.

### What is it?

*Walking with Moms in Need* offers a simple process for Catholics and their parishes to:

- ◆ Find out what help is available to local women who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances;
- ◆ Identify what types of support are missing;
- ◆ Determine how their church can be part of strengthening the local support network for moms in need.

### FREE, Ready-to-Go Materials at Your Fingertips

Everything you need to implement *Walking with Moms in Need* in your parish is available for immediate download in both English and Spanish.

Get all the tools you need, such as pre-written emails and announcements, tips for running a meeting, and suggestions for how to build a parish support network.

Visit [walkingwithmoms.com](http://walkingwithmoms.com)



**walkingwithmoms.com**

## Moms...

### Cont'd from Page 3

"Our hope is not only saving the unborn baby, but bringing the mother and baby home to Christ and a community of support," she said.

There are training sessions for volunteers. Each mother is assigned a companion to accompany them on the stressful trek of applying to state agencies who provide nutrition and housing assistance.

Among the worries, "formula is a big one," Ketcherside said. Other help includes finding access to parenting classes and vouchers for Section 8 subsidized housing.

Sometimes the contact starts with a phone call, said Denise Malone, the Respect Life coordinator at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Parish in Anthem, Arizona.

"I heard from a grandmother. Her very young daughter had had a baby out of wedlock. So the mom and the baby were living with the grandparents," Malone told CNS.

And the request was a little different from food, shelter and clothing. "They wanted the mother to financially support the child. They asked for help in finding at-home day care. Money wasn't an issue. And they wanted the mom to enroll in classes. So that was successful."

The key to training volunteers: "Active listening is a really, really big thing, and being able to understand the mom and where they're coming from. You can't make assumptions."

Another common element, Malone has found, is "fear. They're all in a position where they're fearful they can't raise the child that they're pregnant with. It is going to be a heck of a lot better to know that the mother will have their baby and we will protect them."

"They're overwhelmed," Ketcherside agreed. "They don't know where to go."

In July, pro-life leaders in Baltimore for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference noted that supporting women in choosing life is a

top priority for them especially in the wake of the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Whole Women's Health* decision June 24.

The ruling overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion nationwide, and returned the abortion issue to the

states.

Since *Dobbs*, interest in "Walking with Moms in Need" seems to have increased somewhat. For example, in the 10 days following the ruling, the Archdiocese of Detroit's "Walking with Moms in Need" webpage received

nearly 1,600 unique page views.

In 2021, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the initiative "directly confronts the false, yet popular, narrative that the

Catholic Church merely condemns abortion, without providing the resources or support women need in raising their children."

More about "Walking with Moms in Need" can be found online at [walkingwithmoms.com](http://walkingwithmoms.com) and in the ads on this page and Page 3.



## Easy-to-Use Website

All resources and materials for *Walking with Moms in Need* can be found on the website, which has easy-to-navigate menus and pages.

Sign up to receive regular email updates, access webinars, download educational materials, and more!

[www.WalkingWithMoms.com](http://www.WalkingWithMoms.com)

## Fully Adaptable Timelines

Sample timelines provide ideas for when and how to complete the process. However, they're just suggestions, and you can adjust as needed to move at a pace that works best for you.



## Support from Your Diocese

In addition to answering general questions, diocesan staff can often help address specific parish needs, assist in reviewing diocesan resources, and support you in finding creative solutions to better serve moms in need. (You can find your local diocesan Respect Life director listed at [usccb.org/prolife/diocesan-pro-life-offices](http://usccb.org/prolife/diocesan-pro-life-offices).)

For more information on *Walking with Moms in Need*, including answers to the most frequently asked questions, visit [WalkingWithMoms.com](http://WalkingWithMoms.com).



[www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com)

# Eucharistic Revival Youth Rally Set for Oct. 29

By Joyce Bibey

**HUTTONSVILLE**—The West Virginia Catholic Youth Rally for the Eucharistic Revival will be held on Oct. 29 on the grounds of Camp Carlo in Huttonsville.

Middle and high school students are invited to an inspiring day of prayer, community, and empowering catechesis centering on a relationship with Jesus Christ and His true presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Led by NET Ministries missionary group, attendees will hear the Gospel message, participate in hands on activities and games, and be guided through reflection on encountering the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ.

The keynote speaker for the day will be Fr. Patrick Briscoe, O.P., one of the National Eucharistic Preachers for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Father Briscoe is a Dom-



**Father Patrick Briscoe, O.P.**

inican Friar, the editor of Aleteia Catholic news website, host of the Godsplaining podcast, co-author of Saint Dominic's Way of Life: A Path to Knowing and Loving God, and author of My Daily Visitor.

NET Ministries will share Blessed Carlo's story and his think-

ing, "Jesus is my great friend, and the Eucharist is my highway to heaven."

The Catholic conference center's grounds were named Camp Carlo in honor of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teenager on the road to sainthood. Blessed Carlo was a seemingly average teen. He loved playing sports, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. He was considered a computer expert in his early teens. He also had a great devotion to Christ and the Church. His faith was described as "pure and certain."

**A glimpse of the schedule:**

11 a.m. Meet and greet  
11:20 a.m. Opening: Welcome by NET Ministries and talk about the "True Presence"  
11:40 a.m. Games and activities  
Noon Testimony – Be open to what God wants you to receive  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:15 p.m. Songs of praise by NET

Ministries

1:30 p.m. Testimony by NET Ministries and Keynote by Fr. Patrick Briscoe, O.P.

2:10 p.m. Transition to a meaningful Eucharistic Adoration

2:30 p.m. Adoration

3:30 p.m. Snacks and social

3:50 p.m. Large Group Game/Gospel-Based Activity

4:30 p.m. Transition to Mass

4:45 p.m. Mass with celebrant Bishop Mark Brennan

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Closing Talk

7 p.m. Depart

Parents/Guardians are welcome to stay and participate in a special morning session, Adoration, and Mass. Accommodations can be made available for parent and child(s). Contact Daniel Maul the director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at [dmaul@dwc.org](mailto:dmaul@dwc.org) for more information.



## Calling all Middle and High School students!

Come and gather in the name of the Lord with other young people to celebrate our belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist at the **Diocesan Youth Eucharistic Revival.**



Please register through The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston.

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

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

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

Parents are encouraged to attend as well.

# ‘The Eucharist is a Sacrament of Love,’ Father Narisetti Says at Novena



Colleen Rowan Photos

Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, celebrates the seventh night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral Oct. 17.

## By Colleen Rowan

On the seventh night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 17, Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., said, “The Eucharist is a sacrament of love.”

“Today, we all gather here as one family to reflect and to meditate and to know more and more about Jesus,” said Father Narisetti, who serves as vice rector of the cathedral. “We are invited to be actively involved, not passively, in the Eucharist. We are called to nourish others. The Lord challenges us to nourish others, like he did today in the gospel” (Luke 24:13-35).

Jesus met the apostles on the way to Emmaus, Father Narisetti said, but they did not recognize him until he was breaking bread.

“Scripture says that their eyes were opened, and they were saying, ‘Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’ So, we also need to open our eyes to the needs of others. As we are nourished with the spiritual food here, we need to nourish others with our thoughts, with our love, with our humility, and with our sacrifices.”

The Eucharist is the heart and summit of the church’s life, Father Narisetti said. He continued, saying that the Eucharist has three characteristics: love, humility, and service.

“Therefore,” he said, “this teaches us that the Eucharist is the center of Christian life, that every Christian must become the person of love, the person of humility, and the person of service. Today, let us reflect upon our life: How am I living in this world? Are we living as the persons of love, humility, and service?”

“The Eucharist is a sacrament of love,” Father Narisetti said. “Christ teaches us this: ‘No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’ (John 15:13). And who did it? Jesus laid down his life for us. For the sake of hu-

manity. To redeem everyone.”

The best symbol of love is not the heart ... it is the crucifix. And abortion, he said, is the exact opposite of love.

“Love says, I sacrifice myself for the good of the other person. Abortion says, I sacrifice the other person for the good of myself,” Father Narisetti said. “In the Eucharist we see the meaning of love and receive the power to live.”

Love is stronger than death, Father Narisetti said, more powerful than even hell. Jesus, he said, offered an example of perfect humility and service that all are called to imitate when he washed the feet of his apostles. He taught them and us that his body and blood are given to enable us to love as he loved, Father Narisetti said, and the Eucharist transforms us into true servants who are called to humility.

“Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. This is our belief and faith,” Father Narisetti said. “And we, as Christians, have to teach this to the non-believers. We need to go forward in our lives to make known to the people about this beautiful aspect of the Eucharist. This is what we learn from this year of the National Eucharistic Revival.”

He then shared that his grandfather, in his old age, would chant the bible. Upon hearing him, people in the neighborhood who were of different religions would listen to his chanting and ask him, “What are you singing? What is the meaning of this particular verse?”

He shared with them the different stories of the bible, of Jesus coming into the world. How he died upon the cross and rose from the dead to save us all.

Father Narisetti said, “One day I asked, ‘Grandpa, why are you teaching the holy bible to the people who are non-believers?’ The answer he gave me was, ‘It is not enough that I know about Christ. I need to teach it to the

other person who does not know it.’”

Upon hearing his grandfather’s answer, Father Narisetti said, “I opened my eyes. I also need to preach to other people. That’s when I made the decision to become a priest.”

“My friends,” he continued, “spread the word of love. Spread the word of humility. Spread the word of service. These three characteristics are in the Eucharist. The person who has tasted the real taste of the Eucharist will never leave the church. For the person who leaves the church, he does not have true faith in Jesus. Let us reflect for a while about our own lives: Am I becoming the person of love? The

**See “Eucharist” on Page 7**

# Rosary Rally Participants Pray for Peace



Courtesy Photo

This was the eighth year the Knights of Columbus hosted a community wide rosary rally in Parkersburg Oct. 15. This year, more than 100 attended from the Mid Ohio Valley. Pictured above: Sebastian Lasko, a junior at Parkersburg Catholic High School and a parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg, leads the third decade of the rosary, praying for peace.

## Eucharist...

Cont'd from Page 6

person of humility? The person of service? Am I nourishing others with these qualities that we benefit from in the Eucharist?"

The novena is a great prayerful opportunity during the National Eucharistic Revival. The theme of the novena is "The Holy Eucharist." All are invited to attend the novena every Monday at 7 p.m. with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily by guest clergy, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague. The eighth evening of the novena is Oct. 24 with Father Jude Perera, TOR. The novena will end Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan as homilist.

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## Have You Heard?

**GOD IS DOING SOMETHING  
NEW—AND HE IS CALLING  
YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!**

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

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

[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)



## Morgantown Magnificat Prayer Breakfast Will Feature Colleen Criste

**MORGANTOWN**—Morgantown Magnificat will host an Inspirational Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. John University Parish Hall in Morgantown.

The featured speaker is Colleen Criste, director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry at St. John's. She is also a Pentecost Today USA council member. Criste will share her story of how she rejected her Catholic faith from middle school through college only to return to her faith after a "profound and transformative moment." The event will be from 9:15 - 11:45 a.m. (doors open 8:45 a.m.). A Continental breakfast will be served.

Register by Oct. 29 at [Magnificat-ministry.net](http://Magnificat-ministry.net) (click on Chapters, States, Morgantown Chapter of WV.) Tickets are \$20 per person, \$12 for students.

Questions? E-mail Claire Mey at [CLRPL09@gmail.com](mailto:CLRPL09@gmail.com), or call Mary Paul at (304) 319-2747.

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

## Sacred Heart Early Learning Center to Mark Its 10th Anniversary

**CHARLESTON**—On Oct. 29, the Sacred Heart Early Learning Center marks its 10th anniversary. "The staff and I are honored to be in the field of early childcare education, knowing the first 1,000 days are the most formative in the life development of a child," said Director Andrea Bias and the staff at the center. "We are proud to celebrate 10 years of providing high quality early childcare and education to hundreds of children and their families in the valley. Thank you to all."

The quality of time spent with

caregivers forms the foundation of a child's social-emotional, language, cognitive, and physical development, the center's website states. At the Sacred Heart Early Learning Center, care teachers provide a safe, clean, and predictable learning environment in which children can explore their world, build relationships, and have experiences that will help the child to build a positive self-concept.

The center provides care for infants to toddlers age 2. For more information, contact (304) 346-5491.

## Clarksburg Parish Nurses' Health Fair Returns

**CLARKSBURG**—The Parish Nurse Ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg is excited to be sponsoring the Health Fair again. Set for Saturday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish center, the 2022 Health Fair has 18 vendors committed covering a variety of health and wellness topics. Highlights include: Free vision screening; free hearing screening; free oral cancer dental screening; and flu, pneumonia and Covid 19 vaccines (if you have Insurance or Medicaid, please bring cards with you). Yoga and Tai Chi demonstrations will also be presented.

## Advanced Directives Talk to be Held at Holy Rosary in Buckhannon

**BUCKHANNON**—"As a pro-life people, we can protect the end of natural life with as much compassion as the start of life. Join us for a free educational talk on how to handle Elder Law Issues with hope, prayer, and preparation," officials at Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon said in announcing a talk on Advanced Directives.

Led by Abigail Benjamin, the talk will be held Oct. 23 at 10:15 a.m. in the parish's Marist Hall. All are invited.

"We will discuss health care issues beginning with Advanced Directives, wills, trusts, and family legacy documents," organizers of the event said. "We will be able to draft personalized documents like a Living Will after the talk. Church members can receive a free personal appointment to draft Health Care Power of Attorneys and a simple will by an attorney."

Benjamin is a mother of seven, church member, and attorney for over 20 years. She practices real estate law in Buckhannon. Coffee and donuts will be available.

## Catholic Daughters Raise More Than \$4,500 for St. Joseph School, Martinsburg



Courtesy Photo

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 392 of Martinsburg hosted a bingo event to benefit St. Joseph School in Martinsburg on Sept. 11 at St. Leo Parish in Inwood. A \$4,596 check was presented Oct. 14 during the school's assembly by Judy Risdon, chairwoman of the bingo for the Catholic Daughters. Shown during the presentation are, from left, Principal Maria Byrd, Risdon, and Father Thomas Gallagher, pastor of the school and St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg.

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# Catholic Collaboration in Action



Courtesy Photo

West Virginia Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Chairman Will Dempsey (right) presents Catholic Charities West Virginia Western Region Director Bill Hagy with a disaster relief check for \$1,500 in addition to 20, \$100 gift cards to directly assist those recently affected by natural disasters.

**WEST VIRGINIA**—Preparedness before a disaster strikes is always the foundational premise for all individuals and organizations; this includes the Knights of Columbus.

Councils are motivated to approach any emergency situation through proper planning and education.

“Emergencies affect communities; communities are made up of families and individuals,” the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council said. “Our goal is to always anticipate, prepare, communicate and provide our sisters and brothers in need. That

being said, no one can predict where or when a disaster will occur. When it does, the Knights of Columbus are always ready to respond.”

During the summer of 2022, flooding caused damage to dozens of homes in the West Virginia counties of Fayette and Kanawha; residents had to be both rescued and evacuated. As a result of the flooding, the Knights of Columbus collaborated with Catholic Charities West Virginia to support the ongoing rebuilding efforts currently underway in both counties.

## Charleston Knights to Hold Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity

**CHARLESTON**—St. Michael the Archangel Council of the Knights of Columbus in Charleston will hold an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity Oct. 23 following the noon Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

The ceremony should start at about 1:15 p.m. and last about 35 minutes. This ceremony is primarily for Knights that have recently joined and wish to become full members but is also open to family members of Knights and any parishioner who wants to know more about the main principles of the Knights of Columbus.





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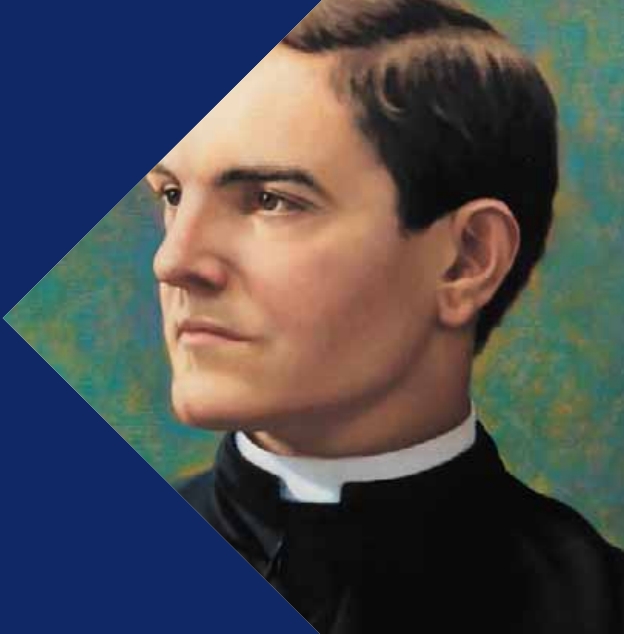
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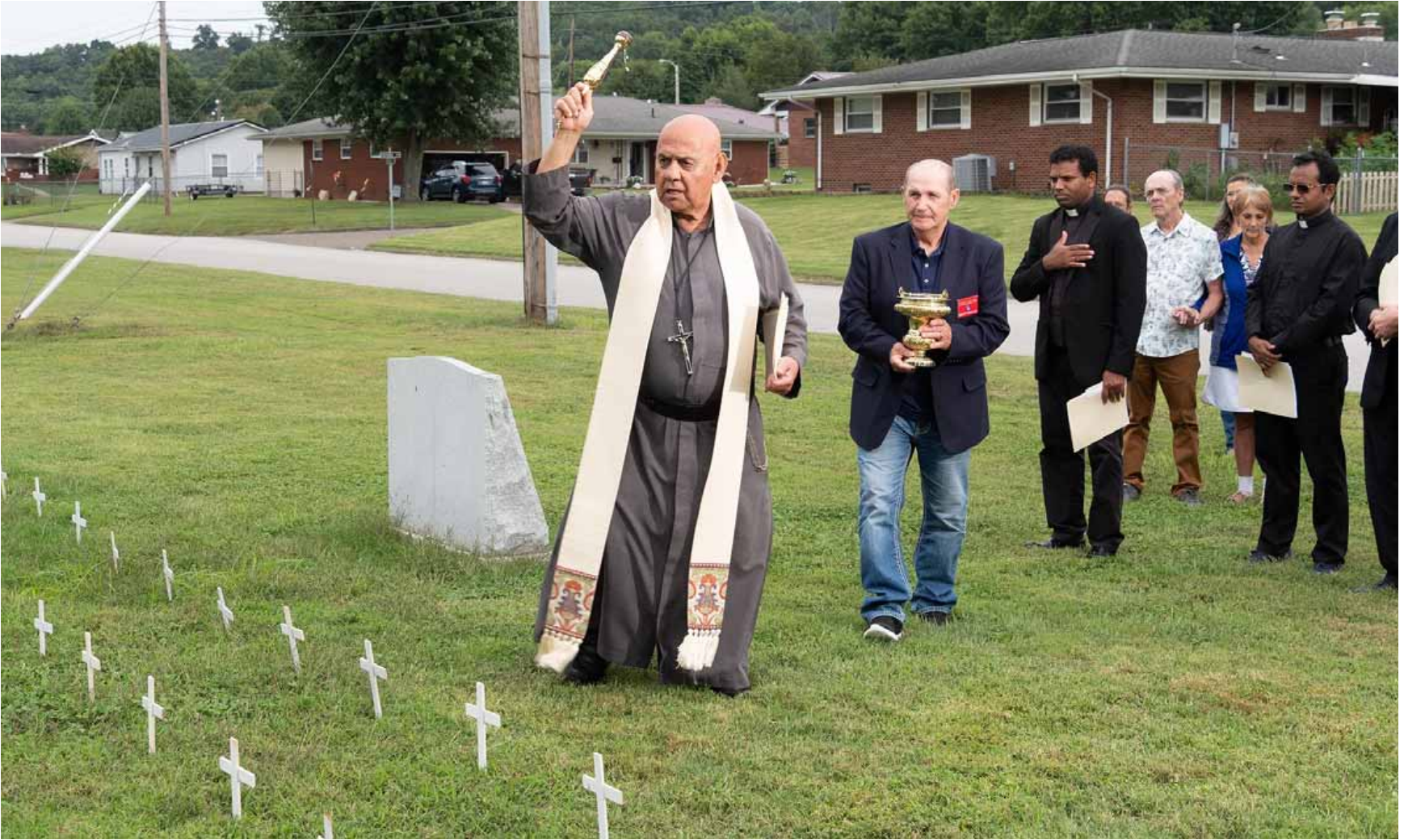
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# Children Lost to Abortion Remembered at Ravenswood Prayer Service



A prayer service on the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children gathered Catholics and people of other denominations at St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood Sept. 10.

Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, HGN, pastor of St. Matthew's, led those gathered in prayer. He read scripture and spoke about the sanctity of life. The service ended outside of the church at the memorial to the unborn with a song and prayer. Father George Nedeff, SOLT, gave the final blessing and blessed the more than 1,600 crosses on the church grounds placed in remembrance of aborted children. The Knights of Columbus made and placed the crosses prior to the service.

Joining in the service were Father Charles Anemelu, chaplain to the hospitals of the greater Charleston area and priest in residence at St. Anthony Parish in Charleston; Father Shinto Mathew, administrator of St. John Parish in St. Marys and St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro; and Father Ronald Prechtel, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Spencer and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission in Elizabeth. Also joining in the service was Pastor Chris Skeens from Ravenswood Freewill Baptist Church.



Courtesy Photos

Above: Father George Nedeff, SOLT, blesses the more than 1,600 crosses at St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood in remembrance of aborted children. Right: St. Matthew's parishioners light candles before the prayer service.

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# Catholic Charities West Virginia Celebrates Charity in Action

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is proud to announce the recipients of its 2022 Charity in Action Award: Michela Dorsett, Positive Spin and WVU Center for Community Engagement.

"We are excited to celebrate our inaugural Charity in Action Awards Luncheon in Morgantown," said Beth Zarate, president and chief executive officer of CCWVa. "God calls us to be bold and to share his love unconditionally with all who cross our paths. Our honorees embrace their Gospel call to serve."



## Michela Dorsett

Michela Dorsett is a student at West Virginia University. She is an active member of the St. John University Parish Mountaineer Catholic Newman Club, where she serves as a social concerns leader.

"I believe Michela's love for our Lord is embodied through her love and living out of the church's social teachings in a concrete way," said Father Brian Crenwelge, who nominated Michela for the award.

"Her daily presence around the Newman Center and Mass shows her strong foundation in her Catholic faith," said Father Crenwelge. "Yet, her actions around and outside the Newman Center show her putting her faith into action."

Michela has led a number of projects, including: helping at Sarah's

Table; putting together Blessing Bags; doing water bottle handouts on High Street; coordinating trash pick-ups; and getting other service organizations to table at the Catholic Conference SEEK.



## Positive Spin

Positive Spin was founded in 2005 to educate, encourage and empower people to maintain and ride bikes anywhere, anytime, for any reason.

The volunteer-run organization receives donated bikes, and provides a community bike shop where people learn to build, maintain, and embrace the fun of bicycles. Anyone can earn a bike, and the organization has given away thousands of refurbished bikes over the years.

CCWVa Refugee Outreach Worker Renée Corbett nominated Positive Spin and its president, Jonathan Rosenbaum, for the Charity in Action Award.

"I originally connected with Jonathan in March 2022 when I was in the processing of resettling a Syrian family in Morgantown," said Corbett. "The family had four kids, and we thought that bicycles might help the children feel more independent and comfortable in their community."

"Jonathan and Positive Spin have worked hard to find and repair bicycles that meet the needs of each of our clients," said Corbett. "Most refugee resettlement clients don't know how to drive a car when they arrive in the United States, leading them to feel isolated. Access to a bicycle has allowed clients to feel more independent and self-sufficient."

Rosenbaum's passion for bikes and the positive benefits bikes bring to peoples' lives is evident in all he does.



## WVU Center for Community Engagement

The WVU Center for Community Engagement (CCE) aims to leverage university knowledge and resources to support effective partnerships with communities that enhance discovery through community-engaged teaching, scholarship, and action.

The center focuses on supporting faculty, staff, and students in working with external partners on meeting reciprocal and mutually beneficial needs and advancing WVU's land grant mission.

"The WVU Center for Community Engagement has worked with Catholic Charities for over 15 years in various ways to further both of our missions," said John Catone, CCWVa chief advancement officer and nominator of the WVU Center for Community Engagement.

The WVU Center for Community Engagement values civic engagement as a diverse experience committed to providing WVU students the opportunity and guidance in becoming civically engaged citizens, scholars, and leaders through interdisciplinary events; including but not limited to service learning, research, volunteerism and partnerships.

Charity in Action awards will be presented at CCWVa's Charity in Action Awards Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 21 at the Erickson Alumni Center.

"Catholic Charities is excited to expand our services in Monongalia

County and our reach to struggling individuals and families," said Zarate. "We are honored to work alongside our honorees, as well as the many non-profit organizations at Hazel's House of Hope, to provide compassionate services to everyone who seeks help."

To learn more, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

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# Academy for Life President Defends Appointment of Economist

**By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Convinced that poverty, inequality and economic systems are killing millions of people each year and threatening the dignity of many more people, Pope Francis appointed an economist to the Pontifical Academy for Life.

But the nomination of Mariana Mazzucato, a professor of the economics of innovation and public value at University College London, raised concern in some quarters because of her retweets or positive comments on tweets in June criticizing the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and affirm that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

Mazzucato's nomination, as well as the nomination of six other new members, was announced by the Vatican Oct. 15.

In the wake of the criticism, Archbishop Vincenzo

Paglia, president of the academy, told Catholic News Service Oct. 20 that all the members, including Mazzucato, "have at heart the value of human life in their area of expertise."

"They are not all Catholics and do not profess all the tenets of the Catholic faith," the archbishop said. "And we know there are differences on the level of ethics, but they defend life in its entirety."

A statement from the academy Oct. 19 said, "The Pontifical Academy for Life is a body of study and research. So, debate and dialogue take place among people from different backgrounds." However, it added, when a document is prepared for publication by the academy it is first reviewed by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In addition, the statement noted, after academicians recommend new members and before they are appointed by the pope, they are vetted through

consultation with the apostolic nuncio and the bishops' conference of the countries where they live and work.

"This happened in this case as well and there were no problems," the statement said.

The statutes of the academy say members are appointed "on the basis of their academic qualifications, proven professional integrity, professional expertise and faithful service in the defense and promotion of the right to life of every human person."

"The academy is definitely against abortion. Absolutely," Archbishop Paglia told CNS.

He and the academy also are "against euthanasia, against assisted suicide,

against social inequalities, against the death penalty, against arming children, against violence, against every coercive power and against all forms of totalitarianism."

"The choice of Mazzucato came from the recommendations of several academicians to address attacks on life that come from inequality," the archbishop said, pointing out that according to Save the Children, some 2 million children die of malnutrition each year.

"Obviously, the Pontifical Academy for Life cannot ignore this tragic situation," he said.

Asked about his opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court decision, Archbishop Paglia said, "any decision that

favors the protection of life is absolutely a good thing."

At the same time, he said, while the Catholic Church is opposed to abortion, it recognizes that in some situations people of goodwill can support laws and public policy designed to reduce recourse to abortion while allowing the procedure in some cases.

While Mazzucato's comments on Twitter criticized the court's ruling, he said, "our vetting showed that in her scientific work she has never taken a position against life. You cannot judge the deepest convictions of a person by four tweets."

Her tweets may have been "pro-choice," he said, but they were not "pro-abortion."

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# 'Can't Not Do It,' Says Sister Prejean of her Fight to End Death Penalty

By Carol Zimmermann Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph, shows no signs of slowing down in her long-standing fight to end the death penalty.

At 83, she is writing her fourth book while directing her advocacy organization, Ministry Against the Death Penalty, in New Orleans.

She spends a fair amount of time on the road as she continues to give talks, especially on college campuses, about the injustices she sees with capital punishment. She also continues to minister to both death-row inmates and murder victims' families.

She has accompanied six men to their executions.

When asked by Catholic News Service in a Sept. 30 interview where she gets her energy, her responses all revolved around the work she does.

For starters, she said she is energized by those she ministers to on death row — currently a Louisiana inmate in his 60s, Manuel Ortiz. The Salvadoran has been on death row for close to 30 years and continues to claim innocence for the sentence he received for hiring someone to murder his wife. Sister Helen said Ortiz is a prayerful man with a great devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"How does he get up every morning in that cell 30 years now? How does anybody do that?" Sister Helen asked. She said she comes away more enlivened from every visit with him and is also overwhelmed by what he goes through — "knowing you're innocent, knowing the lies they told about you in trial."

His case, along with the 690 people currently on death row in this country, remind her "we've got our work cut out for us," she said in her understated way. Her Louisiana drawl almost belies the urgency of the work she sees ahead.

Her passion for both the innocent and the guilty on death row — who all have God-given dignity, she points out — has been her driving force ever since she witnessed her first execution in 1984: the electrocution of Patrick Sonnier, a 34-year-old man found guilty of killing two teenagers.

Sister Helen first came to know Sonnier as a pen pal, when she volunteered to write to someone on death row. From that correspondence she later became Sonnier's spiritual adviser.

She has often referred to her decision to write to

someone on death row as a move of "Sneaky Jesus," saying Jesus sneaks up and draws you into doing something that seems small but in the end becomes life changing.

Because Sonnier wanted Sister Helen to be with him and to pray for him at his execution, Sister Helen agreed. But really, nothing could have prepared her for what she witnessed.

"What I saw set my soul on fire, a fire that burns in me still," she wrote in her memoir, "River of Fire."

After leaving the prison, in the middle of the night, she said she threw up in the parking lot. But from that day forward, she knew that she had to do something about what she had seen.

As she put it: "Our faith awakens and we speak." "I knew very few people were going to get this opportunity ever to be in (the execution chamber). I'm the witness," she said, adding that she began to speak with whoever would listen.

At first, she encountered a lot of criticism with people shouting things at her like: "What do you know? What's your authority? The Catholic Church upholds a right of the state to take life!"

She didn't back down though. "You just stay in there because you know what your eyes have seen, you know what your heart has felt, you know what the Gospel of Jesus says about loving your enemy and forgiving."

So she has stayed in there, and continues to do so, for nearly four decades. Starting with parish talks and then moving on to writing "Dead Man Walking" and speaking to St. John Paul II and Pope Francis about death penalty wrongs.

"Have to do it. Can't not do it," she said of her personal crusade.

The woman religious who grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, entered the convent at 18 and spent years teaching in Catholic schools, has not held back in recounting details of what she has seen in state prisons in prisoners' final moments.

In 1997, she told St. John Paul that she has walked behind a man on his way to be executed, with legs shackled, hands cuffed to a belt and surrounded by guards who whispered to her: "Please pray as I make this walk that God holds up my legs."

"Where is the dignity in taking a human being and rendering them completely defenseless and killing them?" she said she asked the pope. "How do we respect the inviolable dignity even of the guilty? Can you help our church? Can you help us?"

And he did help, she said, in a 1999 visit to St. Louis where he described the death penalty as both cruel and unnecessary and said: "Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."

His 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" (The Gospel of Life), the pope spoke against the death penalty but he included the caveat that it could be used if absolutely necessary to defend society. Sister Helen said that phrase made her heart drop because she knew those words would be used by anyone who wanted to sentence someone to death.

She likened St. John Paul's discussion of the death penalty to taking the issue to the net, then Pope Francis pushed it over the net in 2018. That was when he announced the revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to include a description of the death penalty as "an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" and saying it was inadmissible in all cases.

There's no doubt Sister Helen was pretty happy that day. But by no means did she just take a break afterward.

She knows there is still plenty of support in the U.S. for capital punishment, even as some states are abolishing it, and that Catholics are not much different from the general public in their death penalty views.

A 2021 poll by Pew Research shows that 60% of U.S. adults favor the death penalty for people convicted of murder, including 27% who strongly favor it. It also showed Catholics falling into that same bracket with 58% of them generally supportive of capital punishment, with 27% strongly favoring it.

When asked how to reach people in the pews, Sister Helen said they need to learn about the death penalty in Catholic schools and parish adult education program.

She says she is hardly alone in her advocacy but part of a broader movement. She likens it to "a pot that begins to boil and these little bubbles start at the bottom and they start rising up. Well, I was one of those little bubbles."

And even now, the work doesn't get old for her. "There's a great life when you feel you're fulfilling your purpose," she said, adding that she is glad to be awake to today's social injustices even though she said it took 40 years to happen.

"It's a great grace to be awake and then to be engaged in soul-sized stuff," she said. "Bring it on."



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# 'Forgive Me, Father': Vatican Seminar Looks at Why People Avoid Confession

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Every year, for more than three decades, the Vatican tribunal dealing with matters of conscience has offered a course to help priests in their "ministry of mercy" as confessors.

The huge number of participants, from 500 to 800 ordained and soon-to-be ordained men, who attend the course sponsored by the Apostolic Penitentiary each year attests to the importance and need for adequate formation concerning the sacrament of reconciliation, particularly when confession, as well as "the sense of sin," is in crisis, Pope Francis told participants in 2019.

It is a crisis on both sides of the confessional screen.

Priests need better formation so that those seeking God's forgiveness truly experience "a real encounter with salvation in which the Lord's embrace can be perceived in all its strength, capable of changing, converting, healing and forgiving," the pope had said.

And the laity need to understand better the importance and joy of confession, according to the Apostolic Penitentiary, which decided to respond by offering a special seminar specifically for laypeople. The seminar was held in Rome and online Oct. 13-14.

Of the more than half-dozen talks covering the usual biblical, theological and spiritual aspects of the sacrament, the most practical presentation was given by Msgr. Krzysztof Nykiel, regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

He gave a Top 10 rundown of the most common "good" reasons people give for not going to confession, followed by a faith-based response to each objection.

Highlights from the monsignor's list of "I don't go to confession because ..." are summarized here:

1. "... I speak directly to God." Speaking with God is "excellent," he said, and it should be done throughout the day with prayer to know God's will. While "it is not impossible to obtain forgiveness" from God this way, "we would never be sure."

Only God can forgive sins, he said. So, before the birth of Christ

and a life lived without him, humanity could only "hope" to have their sins forgiven. "With Christ, this mercy has descended onto earth and is accessible" to everyone, and only through confession with a priest can one be certain of receiving that forgiveness.

2. "... I don't like talking about my personal life" with another person. A priest is not just any other person but is one upon whom God has conferred his power to forgive on earth, Msgr. Nykiel said.

Verbalizing and owning up to one's sins can be difficult or frightening, he said, but "we feel truly loved when everything about us is loved, not just the good or nice things we display" or when the lies and partial truths are believed. When people present their true selves completely to God, they let themselves be loved fully and completely by God.

3. "... The priest may be a worse sinner than me." It is true that priests are not God, and it is "certainly easier and more uplifting to confess to a holy priest, like St. John Vianney and St. Padre Pio," he said.

But "the moral condition of the priest at the moment of absolution is wholly irrelevant to the validity of absolution," because the one absolving the sin is God through the priest, he said. A parallel argument, he added, would be to refuse medical care from a doctor whose own health status is unknown.

4. "... I don't know what to say." This excuse is "the most prevalent," but also the easiest to overcome, Msgr. Nykiel said. Just tell the priest, "I want to confess, but I don't know what to say. Can you help me?"

Learning how to do "a good examination of conscience is helpful," he said, but what really counts is a sincere desire "to think about the truth of one's life before God."

5. "... I'll be embarrassed." Feeling ashamed for one's sins "is already the first healthy sign" of a conscience that has not grown numb or blind to evil, he said. It also should be seen as part of contrition and a form of penance that can strengthen the desire for conversion.

6. "... I always say the same things." While it may be good



CNS Photo/Bob Roller

A priest hears confession from a World Youth Day pilgrim in 2016 at Park Jordana in Krakow, Poland.

there are no new sins to add to the list, confession is exactly what is needed, he said, to humbly plead with God for his mercy to fight and win the daily battle against one's vices.

7. "... I'm not committing serious sins." One may not be guilty of committing theft or murder, but there are still eight other commandments to keep, Msgr. Nykiel said. Believing only serious crimes count as sin can also be a kind of "self-justification" and DIY redemption.

The unworthiness one feels before God "is always directly proportional to one's closeness to him," which is why the greatest saints always felt like the greatest sinners. "If we don't feel like we are sinners, then we still are not saints."

8. "... I didn't like it the last time I went." Confessors might be distracted, unprepared, too "rigorous because he wanted to send me straight to hell" or too lax because "he wanted to almost canonize me despite my serious sins," the monsignor said.

People can always seek out a different confessor, he said. But people also may be expecting more than the sacrament is meant for: to

wipe away sin and experience God's healing through forgiveness, he said. It is not meant to fix one's problems or make feelings of guilt disappear.

Msgr. Nykiel concluded that every objection comes from the same root: "a resistance to love."

"The sacrament of reconciliation is too important and too essential to give up for any reason," he said. "Divine mercy is always waiting for us. Let us not run away like capricious children, making up excuses not even we believe."

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# Wheeling Serra Welcomed Six New Members This Summer



Courtesy Photo

Six new members were inducted into the Wheeling Serra Club at the Aug. 27 Serra Club Priest Picnic. Bishop Mark Brennan, center, congratulated the new members: Rich Brosh, Rico Ruiz, Elsie Reyes, Jacob Manning, Art Bertol, and Mary Carter (pictured from left).

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# Papa anuncia segunda sesión para asamblea del Sínodo de Obispos

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)**—Al decir que no quería acelerar el proceso de discernir cómo el Espíritu Santo está llamando a la iglesia a crecer en "sinodalidad", el papa Francisco anunció que la próxima asamblea del Sínodo de los Obispos se llevaría a cabo en dos sesiones.

La asamblea del sínodo -- que tiene una mayoría de obispos como miembros votantes -- se reunirá del 4 al 29 de octubre de 2023, como se había anunciado previamente, expresó el Santo Padre. Sin embargo, la asamblea también tendrá una segunda sesión en octubre de 2024.

El papa Francisco hizo el anuncio el 16 de octubre al final de su discurso del Ángelus; él se había reunido con el liderazgo del sínodo el 14 de octubre.

El papa y los obispos locales iniciaron el proceso de escucha y discernimiento para el "Sínodo sobre la sinodalidad" en octubre de 2021, y se espera que para noviembre la secretaría del sínodo publique un documento de trabajo para las asambleas continentales.

Después de que 112 de las 114 conferencias episcopales en el mundo enviaran una síntesis de lo que surgió en las sesiones de escucha en sus países, el Sumo Pontífice man-

ifestó que "los frutos del proceso sinodal en curso son muchos, pero para que lleguen a su madurez plena, es necesario no apresurarse".

"Para tener un período de discernimiento más relajado", anunció el papa, "he establecido que esta asamblea sinodal se llevará a cabo en dos sesiones" en lugar de la prevista originalmente.

"Confío en que esta decisión promueva la comprensión de la sinodalidad como una dimensión constitutiva de la iglesia y ayude a todos a vivirla como camino de hermanos y hermanas que proclaman la alegría del Evangelio", dijo el papa Francisco a miles de personas reunidas en la Plaza de San Pedro para el rezo del Ángelus dominical.

El sitio web de la secretaría del sínodo describe la sinodalidad como un estilo visto en la vida y misión de la iglesia que refleja su naturaleza como "el pueblo de Dios caminando juntos y reunidos en asamblea, convocados por Jesús, el Señor, en el poder del Espíritu Santo para proclamar el Evangelio".

Si bien no implica que todos tengan voto sobre los problemas que enfrenta la iglesia, sí significa que todos los miembros de la iglesia, ordenados o laicos, tienen la responsabilidad de contribuir a la misión de la iglesia y orar,

ofrecer sugerencias, y participar en discernir la voz del Espíritu Santo.

Un comunicado de la secretaría del sínodo del 16 de octubre dijo que la decisión del papa Francisco de agregar una segunda asamblea "proviene del deseo de que el tema de una 'iglesia sinodal', por su amplitud e importancia, pueda ser objeto de un discernimiento prolongado no solo por los miembros de la asamblea sinodal, sino por toda la iglesia".

Aunque no contó con las mismas sesiones de escucha generalizadas y de base, las de-

liberaciones del Sínodo de los Obispos sobre los desafíos y alegrías que enfrentan las familias también se reunieron en dos sesiones. Primeramente, el papa Francisco convocó en 2014 una "asamblea general extraordinaria" sobre "los desafíos pastorales de la familia en el contexto de la evangelización". Luego, utilizando el informe final de la reunión de 2014 como esquema, la asamblea general ordinaria del Sínodo de los Obispos se reunió en 2015 para analizar "la vocación y la misión de la familia en la iglesia y el mundo contemporáneo".

El cardenal Lorenzo Baldisseri, entonces secretario general del sínodo, escribió a las conferencias episcopales en ese momento explicando que "las dos asambleas sinodales, compartiendo el mismo tema de la familia, se vuelven parte de un solo proceso sinodal, que incluye no solo la dos fases celebrativas, pero también el tiempo intermedio entre los sínodos, un tiempo para reflexionar sobre la reacción al primer sínodo y para hacer un examen teológico completo de la actividad pastoral de la iglesia a la luz del siguiente".



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

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

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

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

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

# DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

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

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

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

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

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6:30 WOWK 13	Huntington - Charleston
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8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
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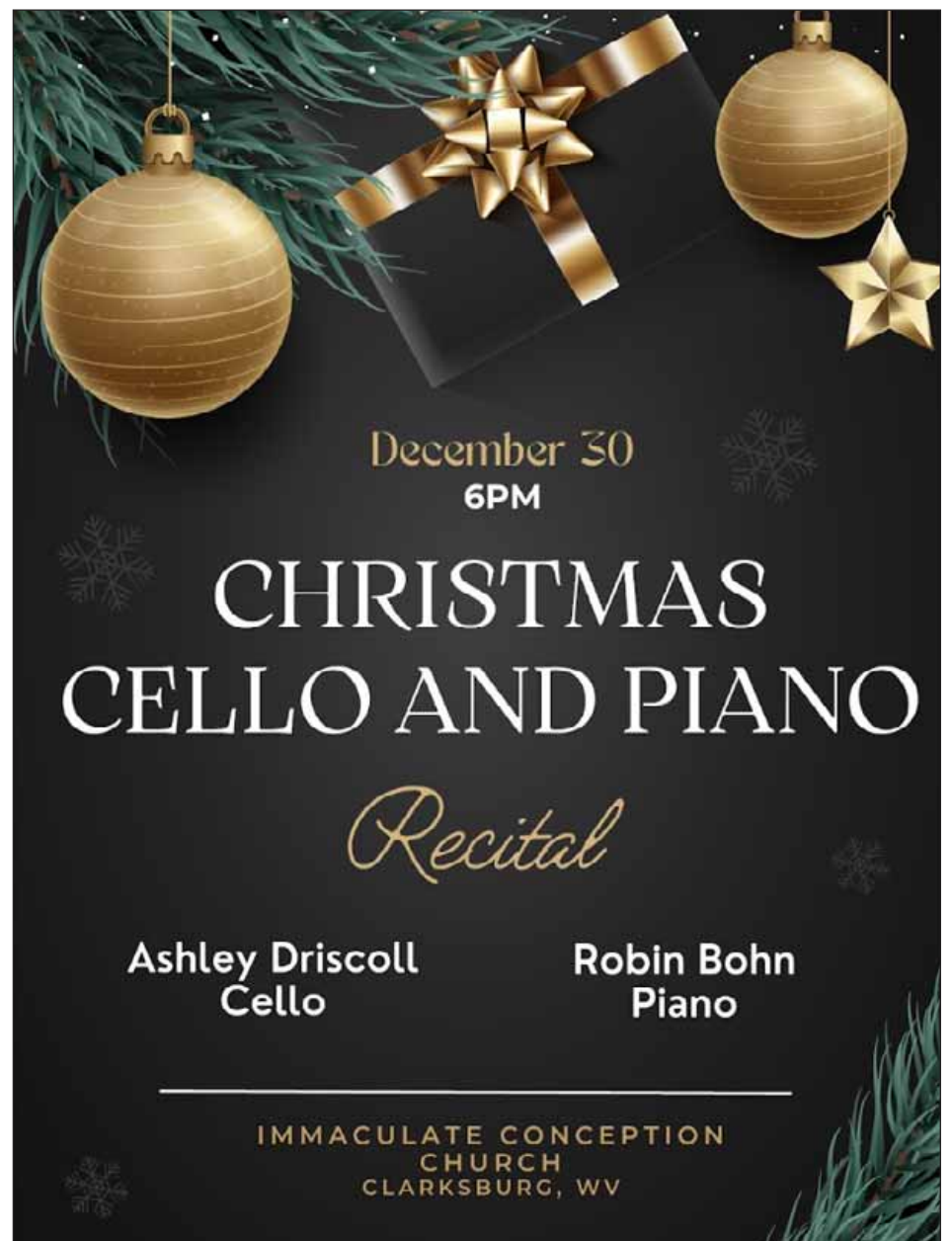
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