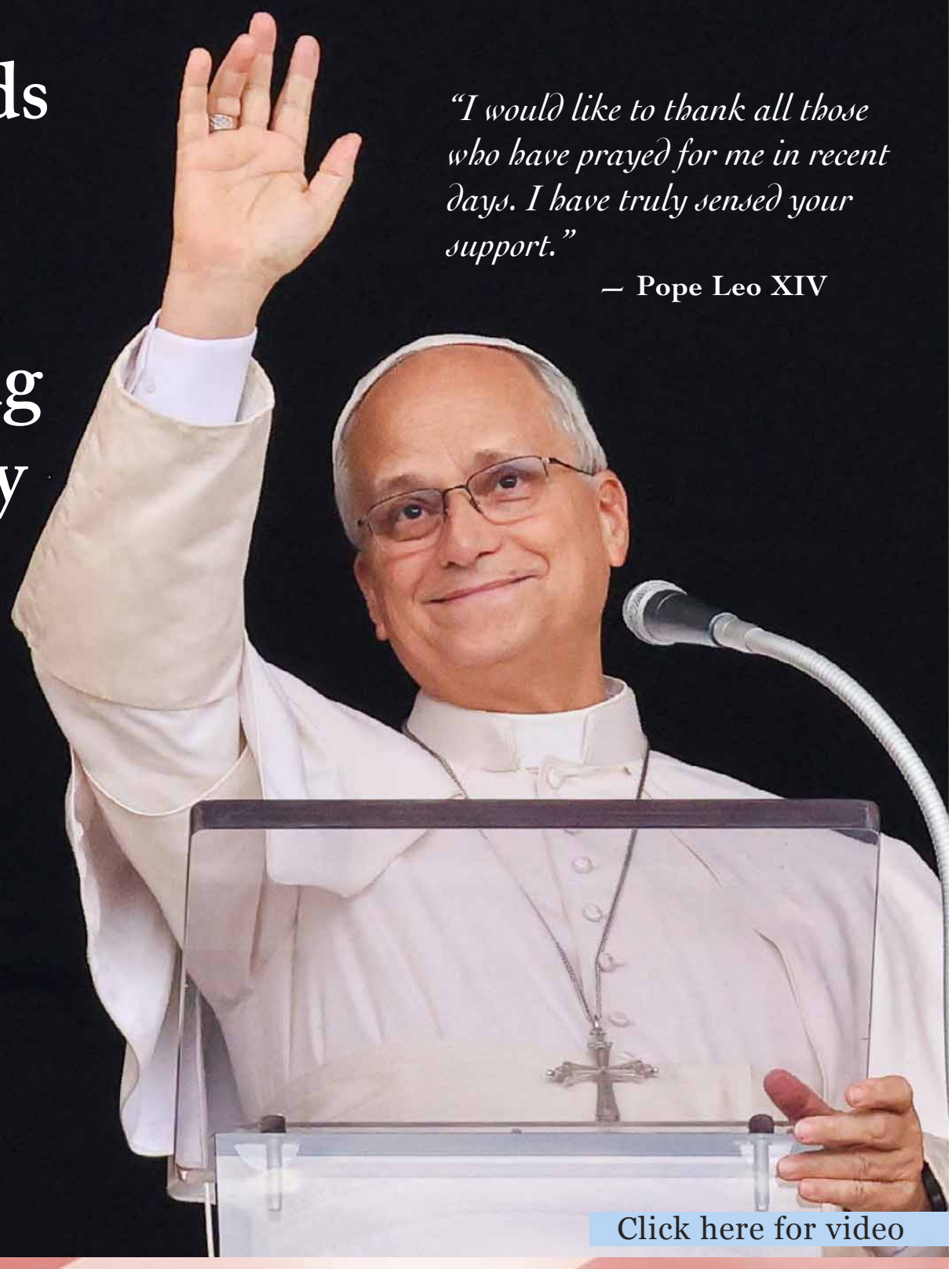
THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Pope Leo Needs 'No Further Treatment' Following Lung Cancer Surgery

"I would like to thank all those who have prayed for me in recent days. I have truly sensed your support."

— Pope Leo XIV



By Gina Christian

(OSV News) — Doctors have confirmed Pope Leo XIV needs "no further treatment" following his Oct. 13 surgery for lung cancer.

In an Oct. 21 message, the Holy See Press Office announced that Drs. Luigi Carbone and Stefano Margaritora said "the final histological examinations and molecular biology tests on the material removed" during the surgery confirmed the tumor was a "localized lung adenocarcinoma."

The doctors said that "subsequent oncological evaluation confirmed that no further treatment is necessary."

"This is really good news," Dr. Nirmal Veeramachaneni, professor of cardiothoracic surgery at St. Louis University School of Medicine, told OSV News moments after the Vatican released the papal health update.

Although not part of the pope's care team, Veeramachaneni — an oncology expert who also serves as medical director for lung cancer screening at SSM Health — said that based on his experience and the Holy See statement, Pope Leo's prognosis seemed to be "excellent."

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Click here for video

FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Page 10

Vatican's Doctrine Office Publishes 'Venite Ad Me' on Passing on the Faith Amid 'Epochal Change'

By Courtney Mares

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — The Vatican's doctrine office published a new a document Oct. 22 on how to pass on the Christian faith in a time of "epochal change" marked by a "crisis in the intergenerational transmission of the Christian faith."

The document, titled "Venite ad Me," meaning "Come to Me" in Latin, was issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and signed by its prefect Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández.

"Venite ad Me" was written in response to a request first made by the late Pope Francis toward the end of his life and was approved for publication by Pope Leo XIV during an Aug. 21 audience with Cardinal Fernandez and Msgr. Armando Matteo, the secretary for the dicastery's doctrinal section.

The more than 25,000-word document is divided into eight chapters. It discusses "the crisis in the transmission of faith" amid cultural changes, the breakdown of the family, and new digital technologies, underlining the need to communicate the "kerygma," or the essential proclamation of salvation offered by Christ's death on the cross and resurrection.

While the impetus for the document came from his predecessor, the text also engages with ideas from Pope Leo's first encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas" on artificial intelligence.

The document explores the need for the Church to focus on evangelizing adults and catechizing children and teenagers in response to how in many parts of the world "ever fewer parents are fulfilling their responsibility to introduce their children to the living

See "Faith" on Page 3

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Evelio Menjívar has made public the following appointments:

Father Andrew M. Switzer is appointed pastor of St. Agnes Parish and St. Agnes Chapel in Shepherdstown with residence at the parish rectory, effective November 11, 2026. This appointment is in addition to his appointment as Delegate for Ecumenism and Social Justice and Liaison to the Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

Father Arul Anthony is appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Charleston and Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Elkview with residence at the parish rectory in Charleston, effective November 11, 2026.

In consultation with Very Rev. Christu Raju Pachigolla, H.G.N., provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Society of the Heralds of Good News in India, **Father Kotaiah (Thomas) Dharelli, H.G.N.,** is appointed chaplain of the Hospitals of the Greater Charleston Area with continued residence at St. Anthony Parish Rectory in Charleston, effective November 11, 2026.

Deacon Thomas J. McFadden is appointed chaplain of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 1, Wheeling, for the current year, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling and Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission in Triadelphia.

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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule 2026

2026 Print Dates:
Month of the Rosary, Oct. 9
Advent, Nov. 20
Christmas, Dec. 18

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

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV.EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

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Pope ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Now, said Veeramachaneni, the pope will simply need "long-term radiographic follow-up to look for recurrence."

Typically, he said, that entails a regular CT (computed tomography) scan, which uses multiple X-ray images to create a 3D composite of bones, organs and tissue.

He estimated the scanning intervals to range from "every six months" to "once a year for several years."

Based on his own clinical and research experience, Veeramachaneni said the Vatican's news was "actually what I was expecting" and "the most likely scenario."

Veeramachaneni said that "the fact that they (Pope Leo's medical team) proceeded straight to surgery told me a lot."

"If they were concerned about the imaging, or if they thought this was a more advanced state of the disease, modern care would have meant chemotherapy up front," he said.

The Vatican has not disclosed whether Pope Leo received any presurgical, or "neoadjuvant," cancer treatment before entering Rome's Gemelli Hospital Oct. 13 and undergoing a 90-minute video-assisted surgery that same day.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said Oct. 14 that prior to surgery, Pope Leo had undergone several diagnostic procedures — a robotic bronchoscopy with biopsy, a chest CT scan with contrast and a PET scan — which indicated the need for the operation.

The pope announced after leading the Oct. 11 Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square that doctors had found a "small, localized nodule" in his lung and had recommended intervention.

Following the video-assisted surgery — which saw the removal of the lower lobe of the pope's right lung — Carbone, the pope's personal physician, and Margaritora, chief thoracic surgeon at Gemelli, "confirmed the diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma, as suspected by the preoperative tests."

Veeramachaneni noted that cancer was at an "early stage."

Chemotherapy would normally be advised "if this tumor was greater than four centimeters in size or the lymph nodes were involved," he said.

"As part of a standard oncological examination, the surgeon would have either sampled or dissected out the lymph nodes that hug the central airway, as well as taking out the lymph nodes in the lobe itself," he said.

Adenocarcinomas are cancers that begin in the glands lining the body's organs, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

Lung adenocarcinoma is "the most common subtype of lung cancer," and "falls under the non-small cell category," said Dr. Stephen Liu, associate professor of medicine, director of thoracic oncology and director of developmental therapeutics at Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Almost 9 out of 10 lung cancers are of the non-small cell type, growing more slowly than its small cell counterpart, which typically attacks the airways and spreads rapidly, according to the National Foundation for Cancer Research.

Liu added that lung adenocarcinoma is also "the most common" type of lung cancer "in people without a strong smoking history."

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

Page 1 photo: Pope Leo XIV gestures as he leads the Angelus in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 18 after being released from the hospital the previous day.
OSV News photo/Matteo Pernaselci, Vatican Media

Faith ...

Cont'd from Page 2

light of the Gospel message."

The text also touches on the role of the liturgy, beauty and personal witness in passing on the faith and contains a number of personal testimonies ranging from a Colombian man who recounts escaping drug addiction and gang life through a Christian rehabilitation program to a Belgian who says he was struck by a prayer he came across on TikTok.

Described as "a set of considerations," rather than a doctrinal note, the document asserts it was written to stimulate reflection in the Church and pastoral commitment regarding the transmission of the faith.

"The text examines a variety of points of view without, however, claiming to settle the matter, which remains open to further analysis and development. This means that these Considerations are not marked, as are other documents of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, by terminological precision and systematic treatment, but instead allow a more discursive style, as is especially evident in the section on personal testimonies mentioned above," the text states in its introduction.

According to Vatican News, many bishops' conferences contributed to the document, including by submitting the testimonies included in its final chapter.

The document identifies a "crisis in the intergenerational transmission of the Christian faith," explaining that the family is the "first and most essential place for the transmission of the faith," but adds that this transmission of the faith within families "has been interrupted in many parts of the world."

"Venite ad Me" identifies the liturgy as a place where believers are formed from within and calls on pastors to "highlight the richness of the Catholic liturgical heritage."

"The liturgy is living memory and tradition, generating and shaping Christians capable of bearing witness to the salvation they have encountered: by participating in liturgical prayer, one enters, in fact, into a history, into a shared memory that spans the centuries," it says.

Noting that beauty can draw people to the faith, the text recommends that "special attention should be given to music," not merely as "an aesthetic embellishment of celebrations but a missionary tool that works through attraction, making the glory of the Risen One perceptible especially where words struggle to reach."

The document also highlights the role of the homily and discussed volunteer work as an opportunity to draw closer to the life of the Church. It includes a paragraph stressing the "need to expand opportunities for women to participate in the leadership of ecclesial processes," noting that the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has "studied this topic extensively and submitted its conclusions to the Holy Father through the Secretariat of the Synod."

The document will serve as a starting point for thought by the International Theological Commission, who the text says will devote part of its work over the next five years to the cultural forms of transmitting the faith. Pope Leo appointed 24 new members to the International Theological Commission earlier in the week, just three days before "Venite ad Me" was published.

(Courtney Mares is Vatican editor for OSV News.)

Knights' Donation Helps Support Seminarians

Colleen Rowan photo

Brian Gordon, state deputy of the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council, presents a $15,000 check in support of the diocese's seminarians to Bishop Evelio Menjívar. With them are Father John Soplinski, director of Vocations (left), and Tom Burke, state secretary of the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council.

Join in a Candlelight Rosary Procession Praying for Our Church, World, and Families

WHEELING—Join faithful from throughout the area in a Candlelight Rosary Procession praying for our Church, world, and families on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

The procession will begin at St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market Street, Wheeling and end with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling. Shuttle buses will also be available to transport people back to their cars following the procession.

Parking and Transportation Options: 1. Park at the Cathedral starting at 6 p.m. and take the shuttle bus to St. Alphonsus for the start of the rosary. The last shuttle leaves the Cathedral at 6:45 p.m. 2. Park at St. Alphonsus and take a shuttle from the Cathedral back to St. Alphonsus after the rosary.

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Deacon and Wife to Host Prayerful Gathering for Those Who Have Suffered a Miscarriage

WHEELING—Deacon Tom McFadden and his wife Michele will be hosting a gathering for individuals who have suffered a miscarriage on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 2-4 p.m. in the Caveney Room of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Wheeling. This will be on the main floor of the Parish Center.

"The gathering will be a time of prayer, sharing and consolation," said Deacon McFadden, who serves as permanent deacon at St. Vincent's and Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission in Triadelphia. He and Michele have been involved with bereavement ministry for years.

For further information and to attend, please call Deacon McFadden at (304) 830-2024.

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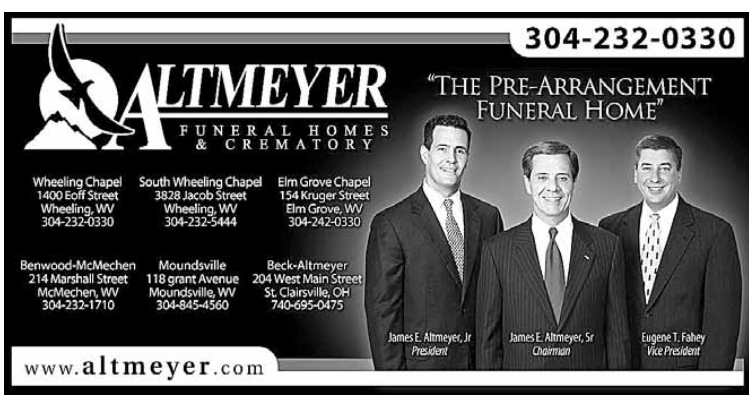
‘Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for Us!’

Courtesy photo

“Today we gathered as a parish family for our Rosary Rally, coming together in prayer and entrusting our parish, families, and community to the loving care of Our Blessed Mother,” Our Lady of Peace Parish in Wheeling posted on Facebook. “Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this a beautiful time of faith, prayer, and fellowship. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!”



St. Joseph Sophomore Takes Second in Catholic Daughters National Education Contest

The artful presentation of her parents' hands earned a Saint Joseph School (Martinsburg) sophomore national recognition in the Catholic Daughters National Education Contest.

Maya Byers captured the black-and-white image titled "Lifting up the Lowly" one afternoon on the porch of her home. She dirtied the hand of her mother, April, and had her father, Michael, hold it in a way that Maya wanted to represent a helpful hand caring for someone in need.

She said the photo taken on her phone was deliberately devoid of color "to show that helping others should be a black-and-white decision of 'yes.'"

The 15-year-old Martinsburg resident entered the contest in the 2025-26 academic year as part of a school art assignment, opting to send in a photograph because, "I love to look and view the real world God made."

The other presentation options for entries from students in grades six to 12 were essay, poetry, art, computer art and music on the theme of "The Least of These" based on Matthew 25:40. Students in grades four and five were invited to enter essays, poetry, art and computer art, while adults could submit poetry, art and photography.

Maya's photograph placed first at the local and state levels and was awarded second place at the national level among students in grades nine through 12, earning her a red ribbon, certificate and a check.

She said she takes pictures "when I see something that really stands out in God's creation."

When she's not in class or seeking inspirational scenes to photograph, she plays piano and hones her figure-skating skills.

Courtesy photo

Maya Byers holds her award-winning photo, "Lifting up the Lowly."

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Feast Day Draws Pets Big & Small to Parkersburg Parish for a Blessing

On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4.), Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.E., blesses pets of all sizes at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg.

Courtesy photo

French Bishops Condemn 'Unacceptable Violence' as Riots Sweep Nation

OSV News photo/Abdul Saboor, Reuters

A person is shown during riots in Paris Oct. 18.

By Caroline De Sury

(OSV News) — France's bishops condemned "unacceptable violence" that "gripped" the country over the Oct. 17-18 weekend, saying the scenes of rioting "plunged the country into shock, fear, and despair, raising numerous questions about the root causes of this crisis," the bishops wrote in their Oct. 19 statement.

"We urge everyone not to be drawn into the spiral of this deadly violence: our country deserves better," the bishops wrote, expressing their outrage at law enforcement officers being attacked and injured, shops looted, public property damaged, and buildings representing state institutions vandalized.

"We wish to express our support and solidarity with all those who have suffered injuries, as well as with the many shopkeepers who have been victims of this vandalism," the bishops said.

Other Church leaders and commentators joined the bishops in their appeals for peaceful solution to the crisis, urging that it's time for citizens to become peacemakers and reject growing division, with Pope Leo XIV's recent apostolic visit to the country remembered as a signpost to follow.

Violence that destroyed historic buildings

Initially called to protest the rising cost of living, the Oct. 17 demonstrations came amid a high school student protest movement that had evolved into a wider urban uprising since late September. Joined by far-left activists and masked rioters, some demonstrators clashed with police, leaving hundreds of officers injured, and carried out attacks on schools and other public property.

Rioters smashed storefronts to loot shops, with desperate owners trying to protect their property, and set cars on fire in numerous cities across France.

City halls and public buildings were attacked, severely damaged or completely destroyed. Limoges City Hall, a historic 19th-century building in central France, was almost entirely ravaged by a spectacular fire.

Cardinal Aveline: France deserves better

The president of the bishops' conference, Cardinal Jean-Marc Aveline of Marseille, also condemned "unacceptable violence" in his Oct. 18 statement.

"Let us not get caught up in the spiral of this violence," Cardinal Aveline said. "Our city and our country deserve better than this. Together with all believers, let us pray for an end to these disturbances and for peace to return."

Cardinal Aveline, who witnessed the violence in Marseille, France's second-largest city, wrote that "our city, like many others in France, has been the victim of unacceptable violence."

"On the sidelines of planned demonstrations, shops were looted, churches were broken into, the town hall was invaded and vandalized, a police station was ransacked, and members of the security forces were attacked," he said.

"Along with the entire Church of Marseille, I wish to express my support and solidarity with those who were injured and with the shopkeepers who were victims of this vandalism," Cardinal Aveline said.

Archbishop of Lyon points to a 'society in crisis'

Archbishop Olivier de Germay deplored the destruction that took place in Lyon, another major city, of which he is the archbishop.

"The violence that occurred in Lyon on Oct. 17 goes far beyond the scope of a protest in which legitimate grievances can be expressed," he wrote on X on Oct. 18. "The city was the scene of clashes, hatred, destruction, and looting — all of which are unacceptable. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the shop owners, law enforcement, and all those who were victims of these excesses, including those who wanted to demonstrate peacefully."

For Archbishop de Germay, the urgent need now is to act as "peacemakers."

"I am well aware that this violence is a sign of a society in crisis," he stated. "But I want to reiterate emphatically that it is a dead end and can only lead to further injustices and divisions. It is not by pitting one group against another, but by working together, that we will be able to meet the challenges facing our society."

Reactions of deep dismay were evident throughout France on Oct. 18, with commentators expressing the "shame" of seeing the country so disfigured by looters and rioters bent on compulsive destruction. "What is happening to us?" wrote Jérôme Chapuis, editor-in-chief of the Catholic daily La Croix. "The outburst of violence on that fateful October 17 is disheartening, disturbing, and a source of shame for us."

Chapuis pointed out to "the architects of chaos, influencers, or political parties engaged in the race toward extremes," as those responsible

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Riots ...

Cont'd from Page 8

for the damages as much as violent rioters themselves. He also called for accountability as Paris and other major cities witnessed post-warzone scenes on the morning of Oct. 19.

Voices of those tired of unrest highlight pope's message to lawmakers

From the arrogance of protesters, Chapuis wrote, rose another form of anger in France, not even a month after a much successful papal visit in the country.

"It is the peaceful anger of men and women of good will who, in the diversity of their opinions and the ways they engage in political action, contemplate the ruins."

"Faced with the image of the burned-out Limoges City Hall, the recent echo of a speech comes to mind," Chapuis said, referring to the words of Pope Leo XIV at the Élysée Palace, the seat of the French presidency, on the day of his arrival in France on Sept. 25.

"Liberty, equality and fraternity are not simply words emblazoned on the front of your public buildings; they refer to universal ethical imperatives that also find in the Gospel message an inexhaustible source of inspiration and fulfillment," the pope said that day, addressing President Emmanuel Macron and the officials present.

For Chapuis, the papal words "would do well to be heard again by all those who cherish civil peace — those who know its value and its fragility."

President Macron: how the French could do this to France

In Paris, where entire streets had been ravaged, the violence was still ongoing on the evening of Oct. 18 as President Macron addressed the nation on television.

"Watching these images, we all asked ourselves how the French could do this to France," President Macron said. "How could they have come to this? Nothing justifies it; nothing explains it." He referred to the many shop owners who had to "defend their stores themselves against criminals," attributing responsibility for this "unbridled violence" to "troublemakers from far-left fringe groups joined by numerous criminals."

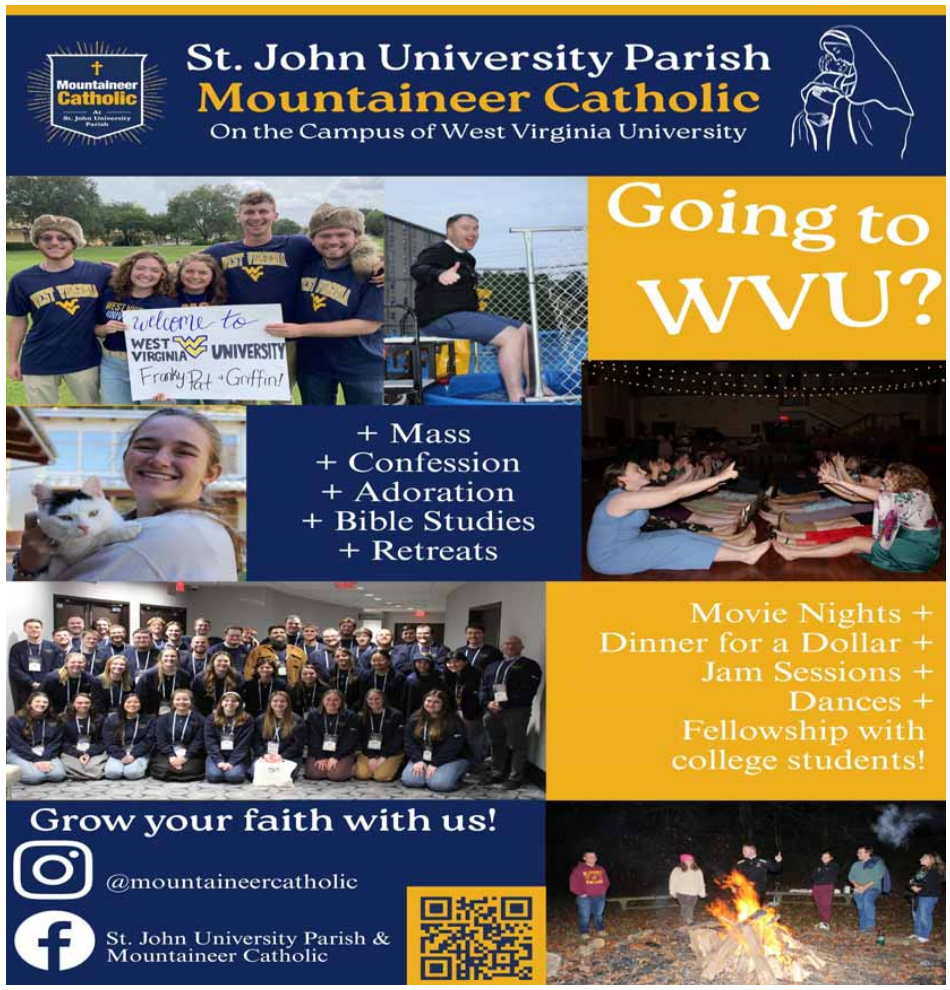
Macron concluded his address by referring to the upcoming presidential elections, which will take place in April and May 2027.

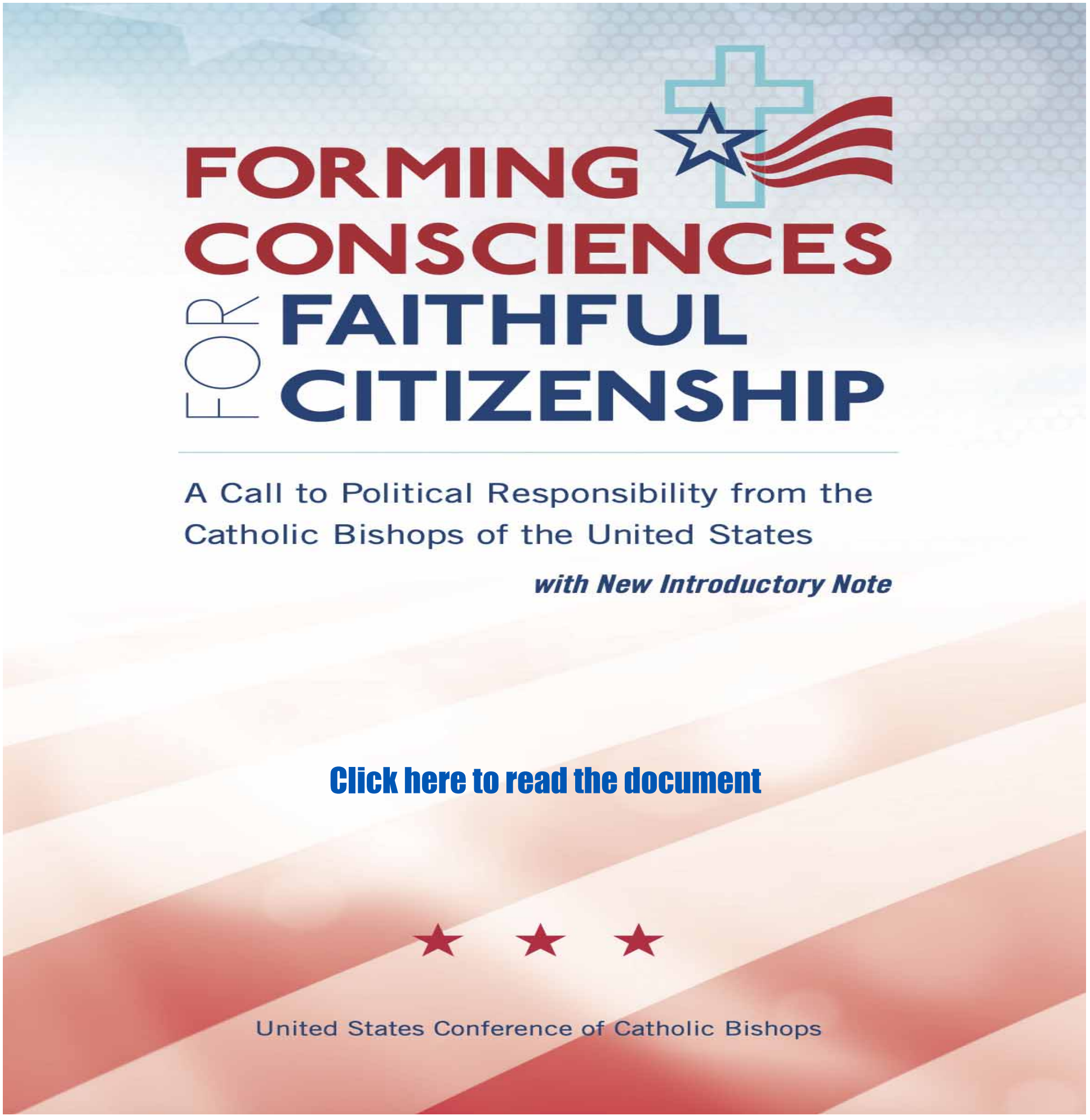
"All those who are telling you today that the urgent need is to take to the streets, to protest, to create disorder have only one goal: to undermine the Republic and hijack the debate," he lamented.

"Debates must take place in public meetings. They must take place with the political parties, not in the streets through violence," Macron continued. "They must take place in newspapers, on television programs, and at peaceful gatherings, where people speak and explain themselves with respect — never amid chaos and destruction. Our country deserves a great presidential election in six months."

"With all believers," he said, "we pray that these disturbances will cease, that legitimate demands will be heard and addressed, and that, through dialogue and respect for justice, peace may return."

(Caroline de Sury writes for OSV News from Paris.)

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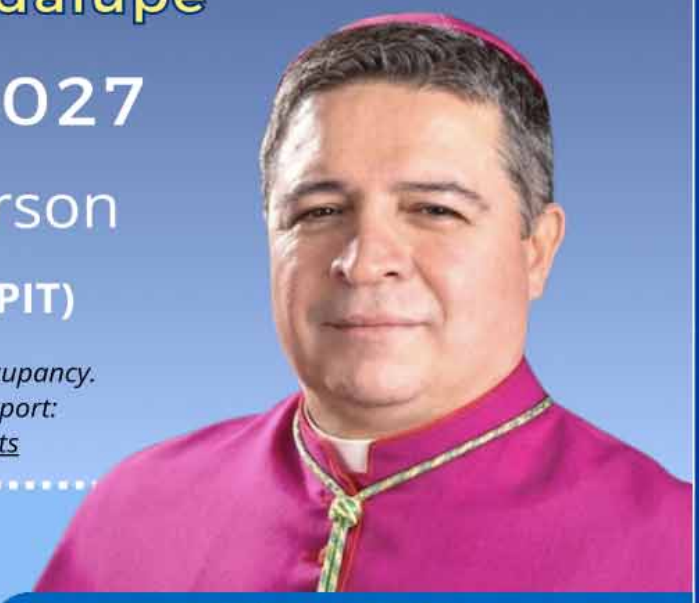

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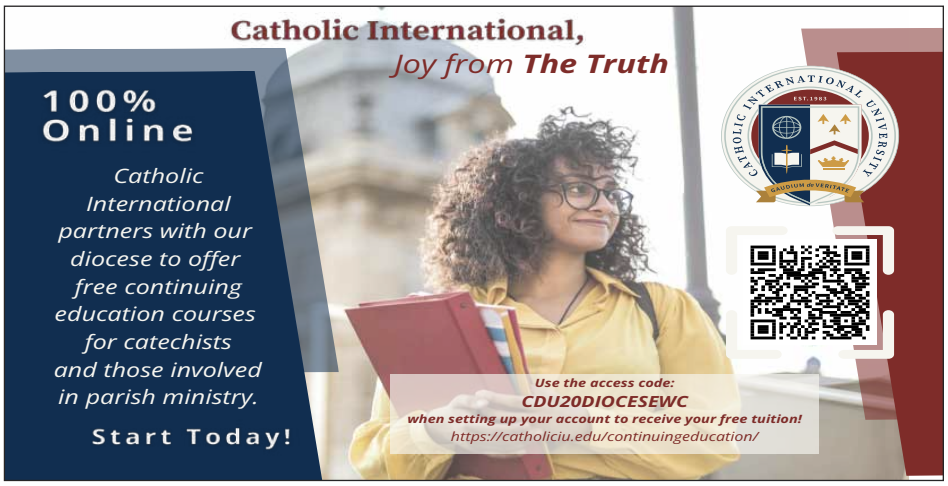
Aspiring Scientist Serves as Honorary County Commissioner

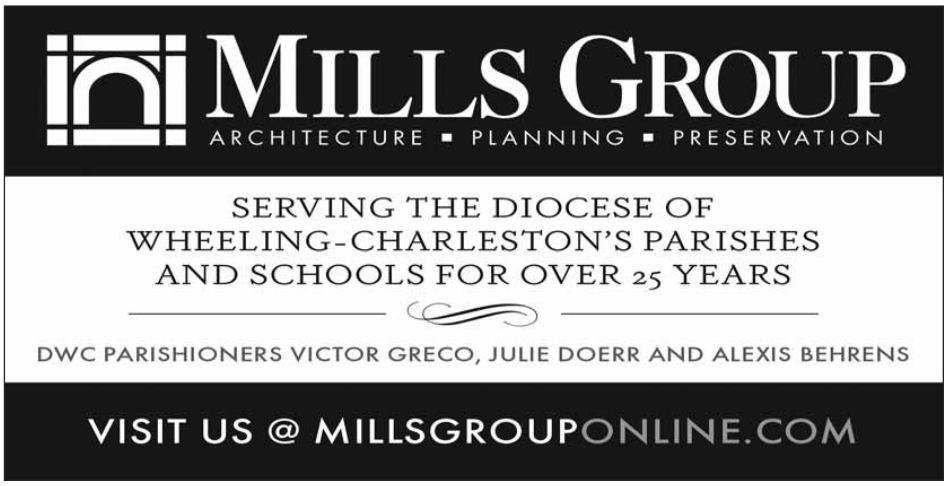
Courtesy photo

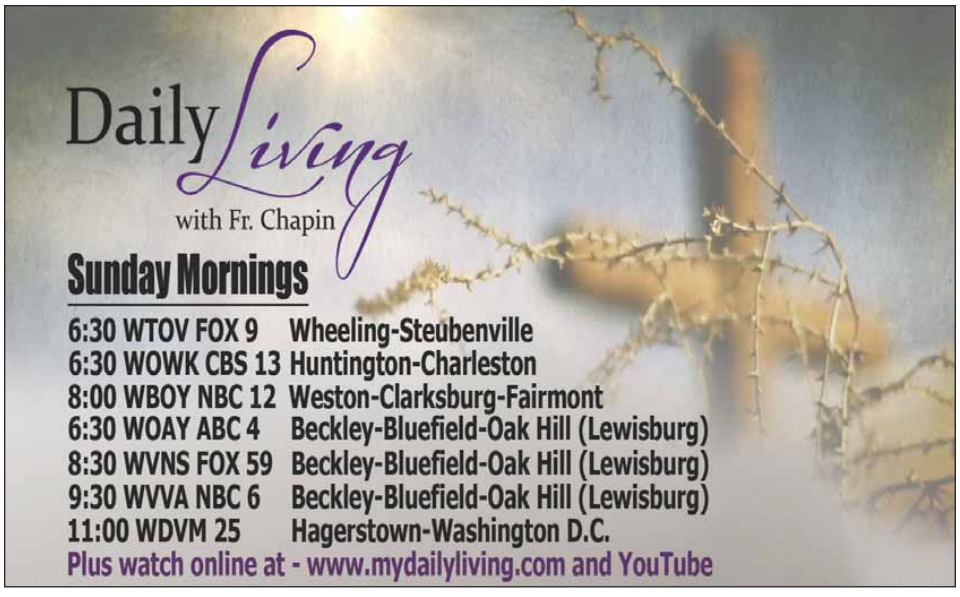
Rhea Rawat, an eighth-grader at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, served as an honorary Berkeley County commissioner on Oct. 15. Pictured with her, clockwise from left, are Commissioners Jim Whitacre and H.D. Boyd, President Eddie Gochenour, Vice President Steve Catlett and Commissioner John Hardy.

MARTINSBURG — An aspiring scientist from St. Joseph School served Oct. 15 as an honorary Berkeley County commissioner.

Rhea Rawat, a Martinsburg eighth-grader who enjoys many sports, particularly volleyball, told the commissioners and others who attended their meeting that she isn't sure which scientific field she wants to work in, but "maybe I want to help with health issues and poverty." She is eyeing University of Oxford in England for her post-secondary education.







Central Catholic High School Community Gathers in Prayer at Annual Rosary Rally

Students, staff, parents and friends of Central Catholic High School in Wheeling gather in the Cathedral of St. Joseph's courtyard for the annual Rosary Rally Oct. 18. The event kicked off Homecoming week at the school. ***Courtesy photos***

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

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

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Chaplains & Deacons

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Tentative service Dates

- Lakin Correctional Center December 2nd 1:00-2:00pm
- Mt. Olive Correctional Complex Dec. 7th 1:00-2:00pm
- Northern Regional Correctional Dec. 11th 5:00-6:00pm
- Huttonsville Correctional Dec. 14th 12:30-1:30pm
- Parkersburg Correctional Dec. 16th 1:00-2:00pm

Service details will be provided in the coming weeks.
All volunteers must be cleared to enter facilitites.
If interested, contact us and we will start the process.

Contact information: Kay Sanders msanders@dwc.org
or Sr. Dolores Keyser dkeyser@dwc.org

Join us this Christmas. No matter where we are in life's journey, Christmas remids us that we are never forgotten and never beyond God's love!

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Office of Prison Ministry

El Papa León no necesita 'ningún tratamiento adicional' tras su cirugía pulmonar

Por Gina Christian

(OSV News) — Los médicos han confirmado que el Papa León XIV no necesita "ningún tratamiento adicional" tras la cirugía a la que se sometió el 13 de octubre por cáncer de pulmón.

En un comunicado del 21 de octubre, la Oficina de Prensa de la Santa Sede anunció que los doctores Luigi Carbone y Stefano Margaritora indicaron que los resultados de "los exámenes histológicos y de los estudios de biología molecular realizados sobre el material extraído" durante la intervención quirúrgica confirmaron que el tumor era "un adenocarcinoma pulmonar y que la enfermedad estaba localizada".

Los médicos señalaron que "una evaluación oncológica posterior ha confirmado que no es necesario ningún tratamiento adicional".

"Esta es una muy buena noticia", declaró el Dr. Nirmal Veeramachaneni, profesor de cirugía cardiotorácica en la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de St. Louis, a OSV News momentos después de que el Vaticano diera a conocer el comunicado sobre el estado de salud del pontífice.

Aunque no forma parte del equipo médico del Papa León, Veeramachaneni --un experto en oncología que también se desempeña como director médico del programa de detección de cáncer de pulmón en SSM Health-- señaló que, basándose en su experiencia y en el comunicado de la Santa Sede, el pronóstico del Papa León parecía ser excelente.

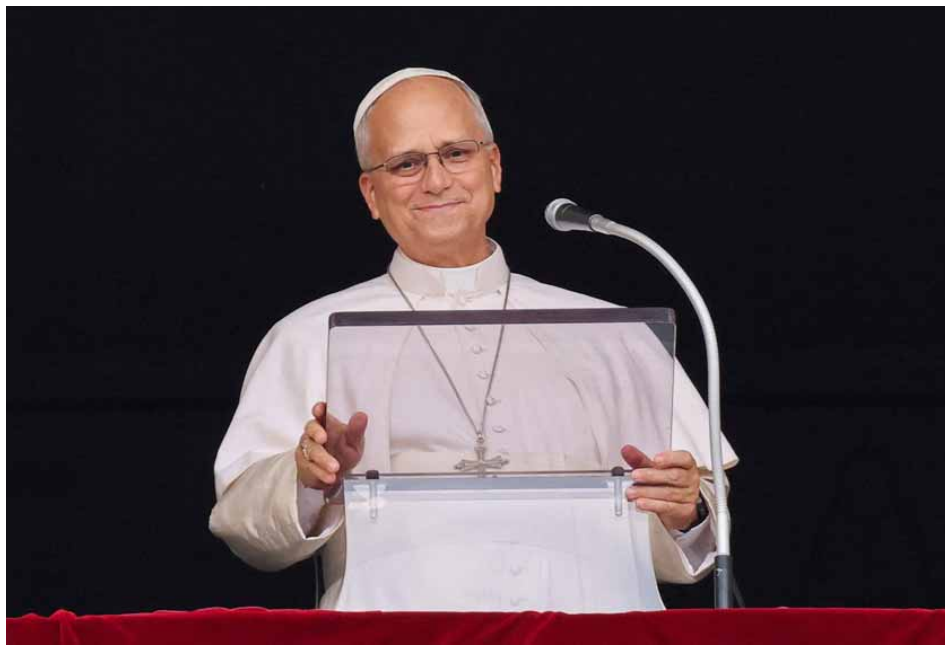

Foto OSV News/Yara Nardi, Reuters

El Papa León XIV dirige la oración del Ángelus desde una ventana del Palacio Apostólico, tras recibir el alta hospitalaria después de una intervención quirúrgica por cáncer de pulmón, en el Vaticano, el 18 de octubre de 2026.

Ahora, dijo Veeramachaneni, el Papa simplemente necesitará "un seguimiento radiográfico a largo plazo para detectar una posible recurrencia".

Por lo general, explicó, eso implica una tomografía computarizada periódica, que utiliza múltiples imágenes de rayos X para crear una representación tridimensional de los huesos, órganos y tejidos.

Estimó que los intervalos entre los exámenes oscilarían entre "cada seis meses" y "una vez al año durante varios años".

Basándose en su propia experiencia clínica y de investigación, Veeramachaneni dijo que la noticia del Vaticano era "en realidad lo que esperaba" y "el escenario más probable".

Veeramachaneni señaló que "el hecho de que ellos (el equipo médico del Papa León) procedieran directamente a la cirugía me dijo mucho".

"Si les preocupaban los resultados de las imágenes, o si pensaban que se trataba de un estado más avanzado de la enfermedad, la atención médica moderna habría implicado comenzar con quimioterapia de inmediato", dijo.

El Vaticano no ha revelado si el Papa León recibió algún tratamiento contra el cáncer previo a la cirugía, conocido como terapia neoadyuvante, antes de ingresar al Hospital Gemelli de Roma el 13 de octubre y someterse ese mismo día a una cirugía asistida por video de 90 minutos.

El portavoz del Vaticano, Matteo Bruni, dijo el 14 de octubre que, antes de la cirugía, el Papa León se había sometido a varios procedimientos de diagnóstico --una broncoscopia robótica con biopsia, una tomografía computarizada (TC) de tórax con contraste y una tomografía por emisión de positrones (PET)-- que indicaron la necesidad de la operación.

El Papa anunció, después de dirigir la oración del Ángelus del 11 de octubre en la Plaza de San Pedro, que los médicos habían encontrado un nódulo localizado en su pulmón y le habían recomendado una intervención quirúrgica.

Tras la cirugía asistida por video --en la que se extirpó el lóbulo inferior del pulmón derecho del Papa-, Carbone, el médico personal del Papa, y Margaritora, jefe del equipo de cirugía torácica del Gemelli, dijeron que el examen histológico había "confirmado el diagnóstico de adenocarcinoma pulmonar, tal y como se sospechaba a partir de los exámenes preoperatorios".

Veeramachaneni señaló que todo indicaba que el cáncer se encontraba en una "etapa temprana".

Normalmente se recomendaría

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quimioterapia "si el tumor midiera más de cuatro centímetros o si los ganglios linfáticos estuvieran afectados", dijo.

"Como parte de un examen oncológico estándar, el cirujano habría tomado una muestra o extirpado los ganglios linfáticos que rodean la vía aérea central, además de extirpar los ganglios linfáticos del propio lóbulo" pulmonar, explicó.

Los adenocarcinomas son cánceres que se originan en las glándulas que recubren los órganos del cuerpo, según la Clínica Cleveland.

El adenocarcinoma de pulmón es "el subtipo más común de cáncer de pulmón" y "pertenece a la categoría de cáncer de pulmón de células no pequeñas", afirmó el Dr. Stephen Liu, profesor asociado de medicina, director de oncología torácica y director de terapias en desarrollo en el Centro Oncológico Integral Lombardi de la Universidad de Georgetown.

Casi 9 de cada 10 cánceres de pulmón son del tipo de células no pequeñas, que crecen más lentamente que su contraparte de células pequeñas, que suele originarse cerca de las vías respiratorias y se disemina rápidamente, según la Fundación Nacional para la Investigación del Cáncer.

Liu agregó que el adenocarcinoma de pulmón es también "el tipo más común" de cáncer de pulmón "en personas sin un historial significativo de tabaquismo".

(Gina Christian es reportera multimedia de OSV News.)

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