Residents of Wheeling, the Northern Panhandle, and the West Virginia-Pennsylvania-Ohio tristate region will benefit from a new, comprehensive, regional cancer center that the WVU Health System and the WVU Cancer Institute plan to build on the site of the former Ohio Valley Medical Center in Center Wheeling. The project, made possible by a partnership among the Health System, the City of Wheeling, and the Ohio County Commission, will take up to five years to complete and is subject to certain government approvals.

"Our mission is to ensure people have convenient access to our network of care, especially cancer care, and the specialists and subspecialists who are the backbone of that network," Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the West Virginia University Health System, said. "This project will enhance that access while also serving as a major catalyst for further economic growth and development in the City of Wheeling."

An artist’s rendering of the new cancer center

With the second highest cancer mortality rate in the United States, West Virginia’s most common cancer diagnoses are female breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung and bronchus cancer, and colon and rectum cancer. The WVU Cancer Institute typically diagnoses approximately 1,200 cancer cases annually.

Enlarge the Tent: Synod Document Sees Desire for Greater Inclusion

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Around the world, listening sessions for the Synod of Bishops gave many participants a sense of finally being listened to, but they also raised questions about how to promote greater inclusion in the Catholic Church while staying true to church teaching.

Two of the issues raised most often in reports sent to the Vatican were the need to respect and value the contributions women make to the church and the need to face "the impact of a lack of trust and credibility resulting from the abuse crisis," according to the working document for the synod’s continental stage.

Titled “Enlarge the Space of Your Tent” — the Lord’s command to the people of Israel in the Book of Isaiah — the document said, “This is how many reports envision the church: an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out, and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity.”

The document released Oct. 27 is the result of a group reflection on the syntheses of synod discussions submitted by 112 of the world’s 114 bishops’ conference, all 15 Eastern churches, 17 of the 23 dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the men’s and women’s international unions of superiors general, dozens of Catholic associations and more than 1,000 individuals, it said.
Catholic Conference of W. Va. Discusses Amendment 3 on the Ballot in the Upcoming Election

West Virginia voters will consider Amendment 3 when they go to the polls next month. Amendment 3 was proposed as Section 47 of Article VI of the West Virginia Constitution. Currently §47 states that “no charter of incorporation shall be granted to any church or religious denomination” and Amendment 3 would change the language to read as follows: “Provisions may be made by general laws for the incorporation of churches or religious denominations.”

Section 47 of the West Virginia constitution was born of the Virginia constitution where it was once likely a well-intentioned effort to keep the legislature from deciding which churches deserved corporate forms and which were to be left out. However, since the days of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison incorporation has evolved from a specific grant of privileges bestowed by the legislature to a ministerial act available to anyone who can complete a short form and pay the $100 filing fee.

Section 47’s sister section in the Virginia constitution was struck down as unconstitutional by the Federal trial court in 2001, leaving Section 47 of our constitution as the only remaining constitutional prohibition on religious incorporation in the United States. Like that section in the Virginia constitution, Section 47 of the West Virginia Constitution, if enforced, denies religious organizations the protections of the law available to all other non-profit organizations, solely because of their religious character.

In a free society, people of faith should be free to gather, organize, and share their faith and to avail themselves of the equal protection of the law in so doing. This is not a radical statement and Amendment 3 is not a radical amendment.

Synod... Cont’d from Page 1

At the same time, the document intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every re

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To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse... The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopsouse.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, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopsouse.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 report suspected sexual child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services’ 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 appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by persons of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 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 Rev. Dennis DeLero, ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the EthicsPoint platform at 888.333.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with National Global Ethics Point (www.ethicspoint.com) 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.ethicspoint.com, and then click “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.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparhies 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 to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese’s Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Minors, and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click “Diocese,” then “Offices,” then “Office of Safe Environment.”
Center...
Cont’d from Page 1

each year in the Wheeling region. “The needs are legendary,” Han- nah Hazard-Jenkins, M.D., surgical oncologist and director of the WVU Cancer Institute, said. “This new center will become a critical part of the WVU Cancer Institute’s integrated network of cancer care across the state and region and will be connected to a broader team of cancer specialists and subspecial- ists for consultations and expert opinions.”

With cancer-specific tumor boards, the WVU Cancer Institute takes a multi-disciplinary team approach to each cancer case that a team of experts reviews. Although still very early in the planning stages, the center will likely offer medical oncology, radiation oncology, and mammography services; a melanoma center; a specialty phar- macy; telemedicine capabilities; multi-disciplinary tumor boards; and academic research facilities.

“This new center will be a gamechanger for the region and the city of Wheeling both in terms of the delivery of cancer care and eco- nomic development,” Douglass E. Harrison, president and CEO of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, said. “I would like to thank the leadership of WVU Medicine, the WVU Health System, and WVU Medicine on this project. This is a great example of what can occur when entities in the community share vision and commit- ment.”

Members of Wheeling City Council are thankful for the part- nership of the three entities. “The closure of OVMC was a travesty for our community and, since then, the City has worked tire- lessly to bring healthcare back to our area. Thankfully, the City has been able to partner with other local and regional leaders in reshap- ing our healthcare for the better- ment of our residents with the cre- ation of a cutting-edge regional cancer center. The construction of a brand-new, state-of-the-art regional cancer center by Wheeling Hospital and the WVU Health Sys- tem at the shuttered OVMC prop- erty is a home run for not only the residents of Wheeling but the entire Ohio Valley,” Ward 4 Councilor Jerry Sklavounakis said.

“Executing the Letter of Intent is the first step in the process of revi- talizing Center Wheeling and pro- viding much needed cancer treat- ment for our neighbors, friends, and family. This project is a signifi- cant endeavor that cannot happen without the effort, vision, and col- laboration of various entities. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Ohio County Commission, the city manager and fellow members of Council, and the WVU Health System for undertaking this exceptional project.”

Ward 6 Councilor Dave Palmer said, “I am ecstatic with WVU Med- icine for their continued invest- ment in the City of Wheeling. While it saddens me to say goodbye to the ‘OV’ as we knew it, this will be the dawn of a new era for Center Wheeling. A facility of this kind will improve our healthcare in this area, so our citizens will not have to travel to other regions to get the care they need. I couldn’t be more grateful to our city staff and county commissioners for their help in making this project a reality.”

For more information on WVU Medicine, visit WVUMedicine.org. For more information on the WVU Cancer Institute, visit WVU Medicine.org/Cancer.

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WHEELING HOSPITAL
Bishops Urge Congress to be in ‘Radical Solidarity’ with Mothers, Children

By Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Calling upon Congress for “radical solidarity” with mothers and babies — both born and unborn — four bishops advanced an ambitious legislative and policy agenda that prioritizes the well-being of families in a letter to lawmakers.

The measures proposed by the chairmen of four U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees detail a “vision for an authentically life-affirming society.”

Dated Oct. 26, the letter explained that following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in June that reversed the court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion, there is an opportunity to “redouble efforts toward a culture of life that respects and supports the dignity of every person at every stage.”

Describing the court’s decision as “extraordinary,” the bishops said that the work to support families must be widened.

“We are praying and working for changes in hearts and minds, circumstances and policy, that will help everyone to treasure each and every fellow human being in a society oriented to supporting children and their parents,” the letter said.

“Moreover, we hope for the day when abortion is unthinkable because society has successfully reckoned with the challenges of raising children in the modern world and has decided to make the full flourishing of children and their families the highest goal, without anyone being excluded,” it said.

The letter was sent to all members of Congress by Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; and Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of the Committee on Migration.

Specifically, the bishops outlined 15 measures that they said they have long supported. They include passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, extending the child tax credit, support for pregnancy resource centers, and ending marriage penalties in tax policy and social programs.

Other provisions the bishops urged Congress to act upon relate to paid family leave, child care and prekindergarten programs, nutrition, education, maternal and child health, housing, domestic violence and family relationships, adoption support, environmental policies to ensure the health of women and children, and lifting limits on the eligibility of immigrant and mixed-status families in accessing government programs.

“There are serious cultural, social, economic and spiritual challenges that face women, families and children today. These challenges that concern the common good,” the bishops wrote.

They emphasized that children should not grow up in poverty and that parents should be able to take time away from work to care for them. They also said affordable health care for moms and children is necessary and that workplace policies should respect pregnant and nursing mothers.

The bishops are calling for affordable and high quality day care as well as an end to childhood hunger and homelessness and to toxic chemicals causing defects or cancer. They also said immigrant families need to be “treated in accord with their inviolable dignity.”

“All of these goals require the cooperation of all and the exclusion of none,” they added.

The letter said these goals cannot be achieved by individual efforts and will require collaborative work on the part of government leaders.

The bishops urged members of Congress “to find bipartisan solutions and ensure that these and other similar legislative proposals are given high priority.”

“We hope with a particular concern that we all can agree on coming to the aid of pregnant and single parenting women in need, so that they will have the support, comfort, and hope that they require to build their lives for the better and realize their aspirations,” the bishops wrote.
By Colleen Rowan
CHARLESTON—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s PACE (Pastoral Administration and Collaborative Education) Conference gathered more than 120 staff from parishes and Catholic schools around the state with chancery personnel “to gain valuable insights, collaboration, education, and ideas to take back to their communities,” diocesan officials said.

The conference was held Oct. 19-20 at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston where participants attended presentations on topics ranging from the Eucharist to the Synod and to payroll to human resources and to the benefits of the Catholic Sharing Appeal and much more.

PACE is organized each year by Chad Carter, chancellor of the diocese.

Bishop Mark Brennan also attended the conference, spent time with participants, and celebrated Mass at the center’s chapel. He also joined with attendees for Reflections on the Eucharist in Word and Song which was also held in the chapel.

Representatives from parishes and Catholic schools from all over the state attended PACE with the largest contingent from the parish cluster of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, Holy Rosary Mission in Sistersville, and St. Joseph Mission in Proctor with their pastor, Msgr. Kevin Quirk, J.C.D.

Attending her first PACE Conference was Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministries for the diocese, who began in the position in August. She presented “A Call to Walking with Moms in Need” in which she shared in depth information on the Walking with Moms in Need nationwide effort of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Inspired by St. John Paul’s call to assess our efforts in building a culture of life,” the PACE breakout session listing notes of the program. “The intention is to increase the church’s outreach to pregnant and parenting women in need. Parishes will engage in a yearlong process to assess, expand, and communicate resources, hope, and love to vulnerable pregnant women and families in need.”

Barton also shared that, as a new employee of the diocese, she appreciated the conference and all it had to offer. At the same time, PACE afforded her the opportunity to introduce the Walking with Moms in Need program that is among the initiatives that are a priority of not only her office but also of Bishop Brennan and the diocese.

“The feedback and support from those in attendance was not only appreciated but very helpful,” she said.

Barton added: “The conference also gave me time to meet and network with fellow staff and diocesan staff at large. I would not be honest if I did not mention the fun, food and fellowship. Thank you for all the effort that went into that beautiful weekend. See you next year!”

A new offering at the conference this year was “One-on-One Help with your Website” by Diocesan Website Developer Nick Gulisek. He conducted personalized sessions on making updates to websites, editing text, adding pictures, uploading files, posting news, and more.
At Novena, Father Perera Encourages Faithful to Turn to the Holy Spirit

By Colleen Rowan

“Have you ever heard birds sing?” Father Jude Perera, TOR, asked the faithful gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. “You may hear the chirping song of birds early in the morning. And have you ever thought, why do the birds sing?”

Father Perera, who was presider and homilist for the eighth night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague Oct. 24, said the birds have a song to sing.

“That is why every bird is singing every morning,” he said. “Different birds have different songs, different tunes but still they all have a song to sing. That is why they were singing. My brothers and sisters, when it comes to the gospel today (John 20:19-31), the apostles were given a song to sing but they did not know how to begin to sing. That is where they were stuck. They were afraid, and Jesus had to come towards them to begin the song. But they didn’t have the first note to begin. That is why Jesus said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Father Perera, who serves as administrator of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee, wanted to focus the faithful’s attention on the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Spirit.

A crisis in the church today is the lack of turning to the Holy Spirit, he said. “Nobody wants to wait and see, wait and pray like the apostles. That is where the power of the Holy Spirit was given from above. Because there is no other way we can produce the Holy Spirit. It is given from above. It is totally a pure gift. ... We are like the apostles, afraid and cannot begin our song to sing.”

Today, he said, there are so many beautiful words, so many beautiful homilies, so many beautiful thoughts and reflections; but what is lacking in the faithful is putting it all into action.

“Without inspiration, without the power of the spirit we cannot do that,” Father Perera stressed. “That is where we all get stuck. That is where you’ll need to be aware and ask for the power of the spirit.”

Father Perera, who is of the Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular, TOR, (Province of Our Lady of Lanka, Sri Lanka) then shared a story of his homeland. In 1658, the Dutch came to Sri Lanka. They were Calvinists and confiscated all the Catholic churches. They banished the priests and the missionaries and Catholics were under severe persecution, he said. A missionary priest from India, Father Joseph Vaz, came to Sri Lanka and, because of his skin color, he was not recognized by the Dutch as a missionary, Father Perera said.

“He went around the whole island,” Father Perera said. “For the whole island, there was only one priest for more than eight years. And he rekindled the faith.”

Father Vaz celebrated Mass on Christmas Eve in Father Perera’s hometown pointing out that no church was dedicated to the name of the infant Jesus.

“He added that it was “so beautiful” that he was invited to preside over the novena at the cathedral. He ended his homily saying: “We all need, like that missionary (Father Vaz), an action in faith. For that, we need the power of the spirit. For that, we need to wait and pray like the apostles did. My dear brothers and sisters, I want you to do the same with the Eucharistic Lord, with Our Lady, with all the apostles. We all need the power to put into practice what we hear.”

The Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral will culminate on Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan as the presider and homilist. The novena begins at 7 p.m. and includes Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague. The theme of the novena is “The Holy Eucharist” and is a great prayerful opportunity during the National Eucharistic Revival. All are invited to attend.
At St. Peter the Fisherman Church in Fairmont, students in grades five through eight at Fairmont Catholic Grade School pray the rosary for victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida and for peace in the world.

Fairmont Catholic Students Pray the Rosary for Hurricane Victims

WEST VIRGINIA—In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, which devastated areas across Florida and other parts of the southeastern U.S., recovery and cleanup efforts continue. Many lives have been lost and thousands of homes, businesses, and Church properties have been damaged or destroyed.

Throughout the region, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in conjunction with other agencies, are already hard at work providing humanitarian aid. Items like food, water, sanitation assistance and clean-up services are already being provided and the agencies will remain in the area to support repair and rebuild efforts in communities.

To support the efforts of these organizations, Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of Oct. 29-30. Bishop Brennan appreciates your generosity this past summer to those affected by the severe storms and flooding in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. But he feels impelled once again to ask you to do what you can to help our fellow Americans suffering from Hurricane Ian in Florida.

All funds collected in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will become part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund which provides for the pastoral and reconstruction needs of Catholic Churches in the region as well as the efforts of CCUSA and CRS.

Checks can be made out to your respective parish with “Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.

Please remember in prayer all those who have lost their lives in the wake of Hurricane Ian, as well as all those who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.

(This story originally ran on Page 1 of the Oct. 7 issue of The Catholic Spirit.)

Special Collection for Hurricane Ian Relief at Masses This Weekend, Oct. 29-30
Study of Priests Shows Distrust of Bishops, Fear of False Abuse Accusations

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A study of U.S. priests released Oct. 19 details clerics’ “crisis of trust” toward their bishops as well as fear that if they were falsely accused of abuse, prelates would immediately throw them “under the bus” and not help them clear their name.

The study “Well-being, Trust and Policy in a Time of Crisis” by The Catholic Project, written by Brandon Vaidyanathan, Christopher Jacobi and Chelsea Rae Kelly, of The Catholic University of America, paints a portrait of a majority of priests who feel abandoned by the men they are supposed to trust at the helm of their dioceses.

And while the study says priests overwhelmingly support measures to combat sex abuse and enhance child safety, the majority, 82%, also said they regularly fear being falsely accused. Were that to happen, they feel they would face a “de facto policy” of guilty until proven innocent.

The study, unveiled at The Catholic University of America in Washington, documents the environment between priests and their bishops in light of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” instituted in 2002 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Commonly referred to as the Dallas Charter, it sets in place policy about how to proceed when allegations of sexual abuse of children by clergy or church personnel come to light.

“But many priests feel that the policies introduced since the Dallas Charter have depersonalized their relationship with their bishops; they see bishops as CEOs, bureaucrats and tactics guardians of diocesan finances than as fathers and brothers,” the study points out and quotes a diocesan priest saying: “Our archbishop is a remote figure. Not at all personable. Not approachable. He appears to be a busy CEO and religious functionary.”

The document reveals that 40% of the priests who responded said they see the zero-tolerance policy as “too harsh” or “harsher than necessary,” adding that it’s too easy to lodge false claims of abuse against them. They feel bishops would not support a priest in the period necessary to prove his innocence.

“There’s this sense ... that the bishops are against a priest who’s been accused, rather than doing what the bishop must do but still supporting the priest,” said one of the 100 priests that researchers interviewed in-depth.

“Most priests agree with the church’s response to the abuse crisis, but also fear that their bishops wouldn’t have their backs if they were falsely accused,” said Vaidyanathan, one of the study’s authors.

Of the 10,000 diocesan and religious priests surveyed, just 24% said they had confidence in U.S. bishops in general. Instead, priests in the study said they predominantly see the prelates as social climbers, careerists and administrators who barely know priests in their diocese by name.

“I don’t really trust most of the bishops, to be honest with you. I’ll show them all a great amount of respect. And if I was in their diocese, I would really serve them and try,” a priest told researchers.

“But just looking across the United States and looking across a lot of bishops ... I would say I have an overall negative opinion of bishops in the United States.

“They’re really not leaders or they’re just kind of chameleons ... looking to climb up the ladder.”

The study says 131 bishops also participated in the study, which analyzed attitudes about priests’ well-being, trust and the policy related to the sex abuse crisis.

“In response to the study, the USCCB’s Public Affairs Office released a statement by Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, New Jersey, chairman of the organization’s Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

“I am grateful for the insight provided by this study which will assist the bishops in our ministry to our priests. While not surprised, I am heartened that the results report priests have such a high level of vocational fulfillment and that they remain positive about their priestly ministry,” Bishop Checchio said in the Oct. 19 statement.

“The bishop referred to a figure in the document that showed that 77% of the priests in the study could be categorized as “flourishing” — saying they felt fulfilled and had a sense of meaning and purpose — and 4% reporting that they were thinking of leaving the priesthood.

“Our priests are generous and committed,” Bishop Checchio continued. “While acknowledging that circumstances will vary from diocese to diocese, the findings of this study are overall valuable in that they remind us of the importance of always being attentive to the care of our priests with the ever-growing stressors they experience in ministry, while we strive to address any issues that have damaged the unique relationship we enjoy.”

The study says that the “erosion of trust between a priest and his bishop” affects the level of well-being of a priest, and those with more trust fare better than others.

It also points out a great disparity of perception between the two groups, with bishops overwhelmingly seeing their role as more supportive of clerics. The majority of bishops surveyed said that they felt their role was akin to a brother, a father, a shepherd, a co-worker, when it came to dealing with priests.

Priests said strengthening relationships with bishops, having more social interaction with them, have the prelates know their names, communication, transparency about processes, as well as accountability on prelates’ part would help alleviate the existing erosion of trust.

“The hope is that if we were to do the same survey five years from now, things would look different,” Stephen White, of The Catholic Project, said in a statement released before the presentation.

“Priests are happy in their vocations, but we also want them to feel less anxious and more supported. I know the bishops want that too. Hopefully this data can help in that regard,” he said.

Priests in the study also said they felt like cogs in the wheel, seen by bishops as liabilities. Some of the attitudes varied between diocesan priests and those who belong to a religious community, with those who were part of a religious order reporting more support.

The study also said that “at least some” of the mistrust comes from the way priests see “the application of policies created in the wake of the abuse crisis,” even as some bishops helped cover up abusing or were accused of being abusers themselves.

“Perhaps some bishops see themselves through rose-colored glasses,” a summary of the study said.

“Or perhaps priests, in a beleaguered and prolonged state of stress and uncertainty, unfairly characterize their bishops through a lens of cynicism and fear. Or perhaps there is some truth to both perspectives.”

CNS Photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

Priests are seen during a special Mass for vocations at Cure of Ars Church in Merrick, N.Y., Aug. 4, the feast of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests.
Cardinal Gregory Stresses Need for Believers to Fight Against Racism

By Richard Szczepanowski, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics, and all people of faith, must engage in the “critically important work” of fighting injustice, racism and other societal ills that prevent people from living in peace, Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory said in an Oct. 13 address at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

In his lecture — as the inaugural speaker in the Jesuit-run university’s “Faith Leaders for Racial Justice” series — the cardinal pointed out that while the Catholic Church “has been at the forefront of racial reconciliation and racial justice for many years ... we have not overcome all obstacles of injustice even within the church herself.”

He also said it is “fitting that we, as a church, discuss the important topic of racism within the context of our faith” and stressed that to overcome the sin of racism, parishes and ministries must be places of genuine hospitality and welcome.

The cardinal said the faithful “are called to model Christ in our society in every way we can,” and can be guided to do so by following Catholic social teaching, which he called “an incredibly valuable part of our faith.”

He lamented what he called “a unique and tense time in our history,” adding: “We are bombarded with the negative heaviness of it all as it becomes painfully clear that we are not caring for our neighbor ... We see these things happening all around us and know that we cannot sit by and just let them continue.”

He also criticized what he called a “breakdown in civility and respect (that) is threatening our unity and hampering our ability to address the myriad of issues we are facing — such as institutional racism, police brutality, gun violence and respect for the dignity of every human life, especially the most vulnerable.”

“Our ability to communicate and speak honestly with one another to engage in meaningful and healthy conversation is diminishing, and it is costing us our well-being,” he said. “As people of faith and faith leaders, it is our responsibility to address ... all inequalities we see — as we pray, work and always promote peace in a world full of hostility and conflict.”

Cardinal Gregory urged the faithful to familiarize themselves with Pope Francis’ encyclical letter, “Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship,” issued in 2020 as a call for the world to reject racism and war and strive toward global fraternity and solidarity.

He also suggested a careful review of the U.S. bishops’ pastoral letter, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love,” against racism. He stressed that racism can be defeated if believers “experience ongoing conversion to live the Gospel message and work for justice. When our brothers and sisters are treated unjustly because of their country of origin or subjected to structural racism due to the color of their skin or discriminated against because of a disability or anything else — we are called to proclaim the Gospel message,” he said.

“We are on a journey as a human family, and I have great hope that we will experience racial reconciliation in our ongoing conversion through honest and respectful dialogue,” he added. “With this and our rededicated commitment to progress, led by our devotion to prayer and active work to end racism and division, we will get there.”

(Szczepanowski is managing editor of the Catholic Standard, archdiocesan newspaper of Washington.)
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How to leverage your Online giving program, to increase donations through multiple communication channels and parishioner engagement.
When: November 8, 2022 at 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting:
Register Here

Engaging More Parishioners Through ParishSOFT Giving (Agenda: Creating events, forms, engagement)
How to leverage your Online giving program, to increase donations through multiple communication channels and parishioner engagement.
When: November 10, 2022 at 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting:
Register Here

Online Giving Webinar for Parishes NOT currently utilizing ParishSOFT Giving

Engaging More Parishioners Through ParishSOFT’s Online Giving Program (Agenda: Demonstration of Online Giving)
Choosing ParishSOFT as your online giving partner, to increase donations and parishioner engagement.
When: November 8, 2022 at 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting:
Register Here

Engaging More Parishioners Through ParishSOFT’s Online Giving Program (Agenda: Demonstration of Online Giving)
Choosing ParishSOFT as your online giving partner, to increase donations and parishioner engagement.
When: November 10, 2022 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting:
Register Now

For more information contact your presenter Mandi Hollins, at 832-282-9421
or email at mandi.hollins@ministrybrands.com.
Join Us For An Evening With Bishop Brennan!

November 8, 2022

Mass - 5pm
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Dinner to Follow Mass

All Young Adults Welcome!
A Day in the Life of Catholic Charities West Virginia

By Beth Zarate, CCWVa President and Chief Executive Officer

Catholic Charities West Virginia works across the state to provide caring, compassionate services to vulnerable West Virginians. Every day is an opportunity to change lives.

We invite you to experience A Day in the Life of Catholic Charities West Virginia:

7:00 a.m. – Betty reports to the homeless shelter in Wheeling to begin meal prep for the day
7:30 a.m. – An in-home care provider arrives at the house of an elderly senior in Charleston to provide a hot breakfast
8:00 a.m. – Nick and Jessica and their three children welcome volunteers to their home in Greenbrier County to repair damages sustained from recent flooding
8:30 a.m. – Brittany works with Heather, a single mother approved for child care assistance in Ohio County, so she can return to school to better her life for her children
9:00 a.m. – A case manager helps Asha with rent money and a new car battery so she has transportation to look for a job
9:30 a.m. – Jane shares with a new day care provider the benefits of the Child Care Food Program and how to introduce healthy food choices to the children she cares for
10:00 a.m. – Keith brainstorms with the IT team the purchase of 15 laptops for clients
10:30 a.m. – Chad celebrates with Debra, an adult learner in Huntington who passed her Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) exam to pursue a career in nursing
11:00 a.m. – Renée helps a new refugee family in Morgantown begin an English as a Second Language course
11:30 a.m. – Danielle and the finance team meet to review monthly financials
12:00 p.m. – Jeanne finishes up a community meeting in Romney to discern gaps in services and to solve challenges around lack of child care
12:30 p.m. – Beth and Sara have lunch with a donor to discuss our new Hospital Transition program
1:00 p.m. – Chris meets with his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach team to discuss how inflation is affecting families
1:30 p.m. – Wendy celebrates with a new mom as they review her child’s progress upon receiving Birth to Three services for speech issues
2:00 p.m. – The board of directors meet to review agency materials and discuss strategic goals
2:30 p.m. – John and the Advancement team meet to discuss the events calendar
3:00 p.m. – Matt and his team provide a food distribution at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Princeton
3:30 p.m. – Mark works with our attorney on new lease for Hazel’s House of Hope in Morgantown
4:00 p.m. – Jeremy returns from a mobile food pantry distribution in Roane County
4:30 p.m. – Tina helps a family with clothes in Webster Springs
5:00 p.m. – Bill works with the Knights of Columbus to coordinate their donation of a refrigeration unit

It takes all of us, working together, to ensure all people can access the services they need to be happy, healthy and reach their full potential. We appreciate all our supporters and partners who walk this journey with us.

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

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

Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield thanks the Knights of Columbus Council 1404 of Bluefield “for the fantastic job they did trimming and cleaning up the church grounds. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated. We just wanted to make sure you know how much you are valued and appreciated,” the parish posted on its Facebook page. The council members who helped are pictured above.
This retreat includes Immaculée’s witness of the power of prayer, miracles of the Rosary, and inspirational music. No one will leave this retreat the same as when they came.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2022
SAINT ALEXIS CHURCH
WEXFORD, PA

Scan the QR code for more information and to register or visit https://tinyurl.com/immaculee-retreat

Pets Receive a Blessing

Father Justin Golna, J.C.L., administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg, blesses parishioners’ pets on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4). Parishes and Catholic schools of the diocese held blessings of pets as well.
Encuesta de sacerdotes en EE.UU. muestra desconfianza en obispos

Por Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Una encuesta de 10,000 sacerdotes de EE. UU. publicada el 19 de octubre del 2022 detalla la “crisis de confianza” de los clérigos hacia sus obispos, así como el temor de que si fueran acusados falsamente de abuso, los prelados no los ayudarían.

El estudio “Bienestar, confianza y política en tiempos de crisis” del Catholic Project, escrito por Brandon Vaidyanathan, Christopher Jacoby y Chelsea Rae Kelly de la Universidad Católica de América, pinta un retrato de una mayoría de sacerdotes que se sienten abandonados por los hombres en los que se supone que deben confiar al frente de sus parroquias.

Y aunque el estudio dice que los sacerdotes apoyan abrumadoramente las medidas para combatir el abuso sexual y mejorar la seguridad de los niños, la mayoría, el 82 %, también dijo que regularmente temen ser acusados falsamente. Si eso sucediera, sienten que se enfrentarían a una “política de facto” de culpabilidad hasta que se pruebe su inocencia.

La encuesta, presentada en la Universidad Católica de América en Washington, documenta el entorno entre los sacerdotes y sus obispos a la luz de la “Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes” instituida en 2002 por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU.

Comúnmente conocida como la Carta de Dallas, establece una política sobre cómo proceder cuando salen a la luz denuncias de abuso sexual de niños por parte del clero o el personal de la iglesia, y los sacerdotes sienten que las políticas introducidas desde la Carta de Dallas han despersonalizado su relación con sus obispos; ven a los obispos más como directores eje de percepción entre los dos grupos. La investigación general negativa de los obispos en la rueda, vistos por los obispos como padres o hermanos, señala el estudio y cita a un sacerdote diocesano que dijo: “Nuestro arzobispo es una figura lejana. Parece más un dirigente que una figura de confianza en su obispo les va mejor que a los demás.”

La espera es que si hicieramos la misma encuesta dentro de cinco años, las cosas se verían diferentes”, dijo Stephen White, de The Catholic Project en un comunicado emitido antes de la presentación.

“Estoy agradecido por la información que proporcione este estudio que ayudará a nuestros obispos en nuestro ministerio con nuestros sacerdotes. Si bien no me sorprende, me alienta a que los resultados informen de los sacerdotes, luego Deseo garantizar que los sacerdotes sepan que sus obispos les ayudarán a ellos. Ojalá estos datos puedan ayudar en ese sentido”, dijo.

Los sacerdotes en el estudio también dijeron que se sientan como encajan en la rueda, vistos por los obispos como cargas. Algunas de las actitudes variaron entre los sacerdotes diocesanos y los que pertenecen a una comunidad religiosa.


Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para informar a quien sienta que su papel era similar al de un hermano, un padre, un pariente o un amigo. También se puede informar al personal de la Diocesis.

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El estudio también dijo que “al menos parte” de la desconfianza proviene de la forma en que los sacerdotes ven “la aplicación de políticas creadas a raíz de la crisis de abuso”, incluso cuando algunos obispos ayudaron a encubrir abusos o fueron designados para tratar con los sacerdotes acusados de ser abusadores ellos mismos.

Quizás algunos obispos se ven a sí mismos a través de lentes color de rosa”, dijo un resumen del estudio. “O tal vez se sienten que el nivel de apoyo a un sacerdote, y a los que tienen menos confianza en su obispo les va mejor que a los demás.

Tomado de un comunicado antes de la presentación, el estudio también dijo que “al menos parte” de la desconfianza proviene de la forma en que los sacerdotes ven “la aplicación de políticas creadas a raíz de la crisis de abuso”, incluso cuando algunos obispos ayudaron a encubrir abusos o fueron designados para tratar con los sacerdotes acusados de ser abusadores ellos mismos.

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También señala una gran disparidad de percepción entre los dos grupos.

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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, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de los Estados Unidos (www.childwelfare.gov) para la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar las autoridades eclesiásticas: comunícense con la comunidad local, los sacerdotes, la congregación o la Diocesis. La mayoría de los obispos encuestados dijo que sentían que su papel era similar al de un hermano, un padre, un pariente o un amigo. También se puede informar al personal de la Diocesis.

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YOU Can Help Pastors, Campus Ministers, & Catholic Educators
bring young people together in an environment where they may come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ and His Church.

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304.242.1093 www.weltyhome.org

Christmas Cello and Piano
Recital
Ashley Driscoll Cello
Robin Bohn Piano

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule
Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, October 30: Holy Rosary, Buckhannon, 9 a.m.
Sunday, November 6: All Saints, Bridgeport, 10 a.m.

Donate today at DWC.ORG/CSA