November is the Month of the Holy Souls and of the Faithful Departed

A memorial to the Sisters of St. Joseph, a statue of the Sacred Heart, stands amid the many headstones at the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling. November is the Month of the Holy Souls and of the Faithful Departed. It is a time to visit the graves of loved ones, pray for them, and pray for the souls in purgatory. All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation, is Sunday, Nov. 1. All Souls Day, a day to honor the dead, is Nov. 2. See Page 2 of this issue for a story on the Vatican extending time to obtain full indulgences for souls in purgatory.

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National Vocations Awareness Week, Nov. 1-7, Pages 8-9
Vatican Extends Time to Obtain Full Indulgences for Souls in Purgatory

By Carol Glatz  Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Plenary or full indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November for souls of the faithful in purgatory can now be gained throughout the entire month of November, the Vatican said.

Also, those who are ill or homebound and would not be able to physically visit a church or cemetery in the prescribed timeframe still will be able to receive a plenary indulgence when meeting certain conditions, the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican tribunal that deals with matters of conscience, said in a notice released Oct. 23.

The tribunal also asked that priests be particularly generous throughout November in forgiving sin; going to confession as soon as possible; receiving the Eucharist as soon as possible; praying for the pope’s intentions; and being united spiritually with all the faithful.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state, in his message for the Nov. 1 feast of All Saints, said the Church says, “All who die in God’s grace are assured of eternal life.”

Traditionally, the faithful could receive a plenary indulgence each day from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8 when they visited a cemetery to pray for the departed and fulfilled certain conditions, and, in particular, when they went to a church or an oratory to pray Nov. 2, All Souls’ Day.

Bishops’ conferences in countries where large numbers of faithful traditionally go to confession, attend Mass and visit cemeteries during the week had asked how the faithful could be accommodated given COVID-19 restrictions or in the case that a member of the faithful was ill, in isolation or in quarantine, the cardinal said.

The Vatican decided to extend the time one can receive a full indulgence to include the whole month of November, he said. Typically, only a partial indulgence is granted after the first week of November.

The full indulgence traditionally offered Nov. 2 for those who visit a church or an oratory and recite the Our Father and the Creed can also be gained any day in November, he added.

Those who cannot leave their homes or reside for “serious reasons,” which includes government restrictions during a pandemic, he said, also can receive a plenary indulgence after reciting specific prayers for the deceased or reflecting on a Gospel reading designated for Masses of the dead before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, or by performing a work of mercy.

In all cases, one also must fulfill the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences, which demonstrate resolve to turn away from sin and convert to God. Those conditions include: having a spirit detached from sin; going to confession as soon as possible; receiving the Eucharist as soon as possible; praying for the pope’s intentions; and being united spiritually with all the faithful.

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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparhies in 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, click “Diocese,” then “Offices,” then “Office of Safe Environment.”

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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 of the bishop in violation and you may also call the reports@bishopabuse.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 designates at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Sr. Ellen Dunn, O.P., ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.233.1854. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. 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 Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under “Accountability”, then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children
Dear Brothers in Christ,

You may or may not have heard of the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic men’s organization in the world. Let me tell you why I became a Knight and why I encourage you to consider becoming one.

The Knights of Columbus are not just another “club.” They are Catholic men committed to living out their faith in practice. They engage in numerous good works as the fruit of their faith, works such as support for seminarians, prolife activities, help to Catholic schools, and aid to the handicapped.

My father joined Msgr. Lackey Council at St. Joseph’s, Martinsburg, WV, in the 1980’s and later helped found Our Lady of Guadalupe Council at St. John Neumann Church, Gaithersburg, MD, in the 1990’s. When he needed treatments for cancer, my brother and I brought him to the hospital, but on some days neither of us was free to go. Who brought him? His brother Knights. I realized that their commitment to fraternity, unity and charity was not mere words; they lived it.

I became a Knight in Washington, DC, and convinced some men of my parish to join, too, as a way to develop their spirituality and Catholic identity. Once transferred to Gaithersburg, MD, I oversaw the formation of a new Council in my parish, St. Martin of Tours, and happily served as its chaplain.

We men need to band together and work with one another to serve God and our neighbor. President John Kennedy reminded us: “On earth God’s work must truly be our own.” The Knights of Columbus are an excellent way to be formed as brothers in Christ and to do God’s work on earth.

Knights must be practicing Catholics at least eighteen years of age. I urge you to consider becoming a Knight of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus have made it easy to join by going on-line at KOFC.org and click on JOIN US or contact any of the 3 individuals listed below for more information.

Paul Niedbalski, State Deputy, 304-545-5100; ginooffice@aol.com
Harry Helmick, Membership Chair, 304-295-7097; helmickhp@yahoo.com
Sam Gross, On-line Membership Chair, 304-545-4329; hawkeye221@aol.com

May the Lord bless you as you live your faith!

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

October 30, 2020
The Life of Father Michael McGivney

Oct. 31 Beatification Will be Livestreamed at kofc.org

By Joyce Bibey

When a baby is born, many faithful naturally say, “Thank you, God, for this miracle.”

For a couple in Tennessee, when they hold their youngest son, they have no doubt they are embracing an authentic miracle. Rome confirmed it.

After Father Michael McGivney was declared a Venerable Servant of God in 2008, hundreds of letters were received by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council in Hartford, Connecticut, declaring they believe their illnesses were cured because of Father McGivney. In addition, many congregants of St. Mary’s in New Haven shared with their pastor Father Joseph Allen, that they too were blessed with a miracle after praying Father McGivney would intercede.

However, the Church must laboriously investigate to determine if an event is actually medically unexplainable, instantaneous, and truly divine intervention.

In March 2015, Pope Francis declared the healing of the unborn child of Dan and Michelle Schackle was indeed a miracle of Venerable Father Michael McGivney.

In 2014, the Schachles, a devoted Catholic couple, were excited to find out she was pregnant with a baby boy. The couple went to the doctor for a follow-up ultrasound and discovered the child would be born with Down syndrome. Loving and strong in their faith, the couple considered it a blessing for their family to welcome a child with Downs.

However, their world was shaken after their next routine visit to the doctor. This time the scan revealed the baby to be retaining fluid, a fatal condition called fetal hydrops. The Schachles were told there were only two options—terminate the pregnancy or let the child die on his own and have a still birth. Without hesitating they knew they would keep the baby until it died in the womb naturally, abortion was not an option at all. Once they were on their feet, and with the help of the bishop of Hartford, McGivney was able to enter St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained in 1877, and celebrated his first Mass at his home parish, Immaculate Conception Church in Waterbury with his mother and family present. The hardships he experienced in his youth did not make him bitter or angry, but instead made him an empathetic and strong-minded priest.

He was assigned to the newly erected St. Mary’s Church, the first Catholic church, in New Haven. From the start the church was unwanted by the community. The New York Times featured an article calling it the “Monstrosity on Hillhouse Avenue,” because it was located in the most affluent neighborhood among the mansions of New Haven. Residents berated the Catholic church, and their “undesirables – the poor and disease-ridden Irish Catholics” it would bring to the area.

This didn’t intimidate McGivney. He didn’t stay confined to his rectory or church. He went out into the protestant and Catholic communities, becoming a living example of the commandments “love God and love your neighbor.”

He organized baseball games and youth outings. He made the church the center of activity for families. He visited prisons and sat with prisoners, sharing the Word of God, mercy, and the importance of responsibility. His priority was to evangelize, bring people into the church, and strengthen the faith of his parishioners.

During this era, if a woman was widowed and did not have financial means to care for her family the state would take her children and place them institutions. This ripped at his heart.

The Irish priest could not sit idle. In fall of 1881, aware of the numbers of his parish and shared his idea of a catholic men’s group. A group for charity, unity, and fraternity focused on keeping families Catholic and together, while also serving the community. The organization would also provide insurance to Catholic families and financial support for widows. On May 15, 1882 the official charter was signed, naming them the Knight of Columbus. McGivney knew Columbus would be Catholic and selected him as their namesake, believing the name would help bridge the division between Irish immigrants and other nationalities living in Connecticut.


To find out more about Father McGivney and to watch the Beatification (due to be live at 11am, Oct. 31st from Hartford visit kofc.org.

Moving McGivney Miracle

By Joyce Bibey

It was the story of a man, who asks for a miracle for his son,” Dan Schackle said in many interviews since. “The lord said, ‘Go forth your son will live.’”

When Dan Schackle heard those words, “the brokenness in my heart was lifted,” he said.

Michelle Schackle said, she was overwhelmed at that moment. “I physically felt like a veil was lifted,” she said. Had a miracle just occurred in the womb? Just days after returning home, Michelle was scheduled for a routine ultrasound. It revealed exactly what they prayed for – the hydrops was gone!

On May 15, 2015, Michelle Schackle was 31 weeks into her pregnancy, Michael McGivney Schackle was born during an emergency c-section.

Two months premature, he weighed less than 4 pounds, but “Michael was perfect just the way he was,” Michelle Schackle said.

The Schackle’s story is blessed with God’s winks. Michael was born on the anniversary of the Knights of Columbus’ Supreme Council charter signing of May 15, 1882. Father Michael McGivney was the eldest of 13 children. Michael McGivney Schackle is the youngest of 13 children. Dan Schackle’s birthday day is Aug. 12th, so was Father McGivney’s. The documentation — Father Michael McGivney, An American Blessed — can be viewed at fathermcgivney.org. It includes a moving interview with the Schackle family. To read more about the Knights of Columbus go to their website at KofC.org. The Diocese of Nashville presents a story about Mikey Schackle on their website.
Pope Announces New Cardinals, Including U.S. Archbishop Gregory

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis announced he will create 13 new cardinals Nov. 28, including Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Washington.

The pope made the announcement at the end of his Angelus address Oct. 25, telling the crowd in St. Peter’s Square the names of the nine cardinals under the age of 80, who will be eligible to vote in a conclave, and the names of four elderly churchmen whose red hats are a sign of esteem and honor.

In addition to Cardinal-designate Gregory, who will be the first African American cardinal from the United States, the pope chose as cardinal electors two officials of the Roman Curia and bishops from Italy, Rwanda, the Philippines, Chile and Brunei.

Speaking soon after the announcement with the Catholic Standard, Washington’s archdiocesan newspaper, Cardinal-designate Gregory said he was “deeply humbled” and he knows that “I am reaping a harvest that millions of African American Catholics and people of color have planted. I am deeply grateful for the faith that they have lived so generously, so zealously and with such great devotion.”

Another U.S. citizen is among the new cardinals; retired Italian Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, 80, a former nuncio and a member of the Scalabrinian missionaries, holds dual citizenship. He completed his studies for the priesthood in the United States and taught there for years. He also was director of pastoral care at the U.S. bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services from 1983 to 1987 when he was named secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

Once the consistory is held in late November, there will be 128 cardinals under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave. Pope Francis will have created just over 57% of them. Sixteen of the cardinals created by St. John Paul II will still be under 80 as will 39 of the cardinals created by Pope Benedict XVI; Pope Francis will have created 73 of the electors.

U.S. Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, retired archbishop of Washington, will celebrate his 80th birthday Nov. 12, before the consistory. Italian Cardinal Angelo Becciu, whom the pope dismissed as prefect of the congregation for saints in late September, is 72 but renounced the rights of a cardinal, including the right to enter a conclave to elect a new pope.

Italians will continue to have an outsized portion of the electors, rising to 22 of the 128; the United States will stay at nine voters with Cardinal-designate Gregory taking Cardinal Wuerl’s place.

The Vatican press office said specifics will be announced later about how the consistory and the usual related activities will unfold given COVID-19 restrictions on travel and gatherings. According to canon law, cardinals are created by the pope’s decree, which is “published in the presence of the College of Cardinals.” Church law does not specify how many members of the college must be present nor does it insist that the new cardinal be present, although traditionally the consistory includes a public profession of faith by the new cardinals.

Here is the full list of the new cardinals, in the order named by the pope:

— Maltese Bishop Mario Grech, 63, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops.

— Italian Bishop Marcello Semeraro, 72, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

— Archbishop Antoine Kambanda of Kigali, Rwanda, who will turn 62 Nov. 10.

— Archbishop Gregory, 72.

— Archbishop Jose F. Advincula of Capiz, Philippines, 68.

— Archbishop Celestino Aos Braco of Santiago, Chile, 75.

— Bishop Cornelius Sim, apostolic vicar of Brunei, 69.

— Italian Archbishop Paolo Lojudice of Siena, 56.

— Franciscan Father Mauro Gambetti, custos of the Sacred Convent of Assisi in Assisi, who was to celebrate his 55th birthday Oct. 27.

— Retired Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel of San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, 80.

— Retired Italian Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, a former nuncio, 80.

— Italian Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, 86.

— Italian Father Enrico Feroci, 80, former director of Rome’s Caritas.
Senate Confirms Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A di-vide split vote, in a 52-48 vote, confirmed Amy Coney Barrett as a justice for the Supreme Court the evening of Oct. 26 and soon afterward she was sworn in by Justice Clarence Thomas at a White House ceremony.

“The oath that I’ve solemnly taken tonight, means at its core that I will do my job without any fear or favor and that I will do so independ-ently of both the political branches and of my own preferences. I love the Constitution and the democratic rep-ublic that it establishes and I will de-vote myself to preserving it,” Barrett said after the outdoor ceremony.

The 48-year old, who has been on the Chicago-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit since 2017, said it was a privilege to be asked to serve on the Supreme Court. She said she was “truly honored and humb-led” to be stepping into this role, which is a lifetime appointment.

Barrett is now the 115th justice for the court, replacing Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died Sept. 18. She is the sixth Catholic justice on the current bench.

The move completed the constitu-tional oath to Barrett, who was to take the judicial oath in a private cer-eemony at the Supreme Court Oct. 27.

Reaction to the confirmation was swift and just as divided as it has been since she was first announced as Pres-ident Donald Trump’s nominee just weeks before the presidential elec tion. Congressional Democrats took to Twitter to criticize the Senate for acting so swiftly on this vote but not passing a COVID-19 relief package.

The Associated Press reported that no other Supreme Court justice has been confirmed on a recorded vote with no support from the minority party in at least 150 years, according to information provided by the Sen ate Historical Office.

During her nomination hearings before the Senate Judiciary Commit tee, Barrett did not give direct answ ers on how she would vote on top issues but assured the senators that she would follow the rule of the law.

“My policy preferences are irrele vant,” she said, Oct. 13 when asked if she had intended to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, and she reiter ated this same view when asked about abortion and same-sex mar riage.

On the opening day of the hear ings, Republican senators adamantly emphasized that Barrett’s Catholic faith should not be a factor in ques tioning. And although it did not be-come a topic of questioning, it was mentioned even in opening remarks by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina.

He asked if Barrett would be able to set aside her religious beliefs to fairly decide legal cases, which she said she could.

“I can. I have done that in my time on the 7th Circuit,” she said. “If I stay on the 7th Circuit, I’ll continue to do that. If I’m confirmed to the Supreme Court, I will do that.”

Barrett is now the first Notre Dame Law School graduate on the Supreme Court and the only sitting justice with a law degree not from Harvard or Yale. She graduated summa cum laude in 1997 and also met her husband, Jesse, there. The Barrett family lives in Indiana.

The oldest child of the couple’s seven children is a current student at the University of Notre Dame. Amy Coney Barrett began working at the law school in 2002 as a law professor focused on federal courts, constitu tional law and statutory interpreta tion.

“One on behalf of the University of Notre Dame, I congratulate Amy Coney Barrett on her confirmation today by the United States Senate as a justice of the United States Supreme Court,” said Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, university president, in an Oct. 26 statement.

G. Marcus Cole, the Joseph A. Matson dean at Notre Dame Law School, said the school is “im menely proud of our alumna, col league and friend,” adding that for more than two decades the school has experienced Barrett’s “brilliant scholarship, her devoted teaching and her thoughtful, open-minded approach to legal questions.”

He also praised Barrett’s “exempl ary kindness and generosity to ward everyone she encounters” and said that while the school com munity would miss her presence they would “look forward to witnessing these qualities as she serves on our nation’s highest court.”

During the Senate Judiciary hear ing, an open letter to Barrett signed by 100 Notre Dame professors was published online urging her to put a “halt” to the nomination process until after election. The letter empha sized this would allow “voters to have a choice” in the next judge on the na tion’s high court.

An editorial published online Oct. 21 by National Catholic Reporter, an independent Catholic newspaper based in Kansas City, Missouri, simi larly urged the senate to reject Bar rett’s nomination.

“We at NCR do not like the prospect of five of the six conservative justices being Catholic and worry what that says about our church. In America, however, there are no religious tests for office and no senator should oppose Barrett on account of her religion.” It went on to say it was Barrett’s “bad faith in discussing the law that warrants disqualifying her.”

After the Senate vote, some Cath olic bishops congratulated Barrett on Twitter.

Bishop J. Strickland of Tyler, Texas, said in an Oct. 26 tweet: “Thanks be to God that Amy Coney Barrett was approved as our newest Supreme Court Justice. Let us pray that she serves always guided by the truth God has revealed to His people.”

Similarly, Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tennessee, tweeted his congratulations and added: “Note to the Democrats, Justice Ginsburg was against packing the SC!” He was refer ring to a plan by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that has recently been touted by progressive Democrats to increase the number of justices on the court.

New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond issued a more personal statement, pointing out that Barrett is from Metairie, Louisiana, and that her parents: Deacon Michael Coney and his wife, Linda, are members of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Me tarie.

“One of our own, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as an associate jus tice of the Supreme Court,” he said.

“We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead her and guide her in her service to our country.”

CNS Photo/Tom Brenner, Reuters
Judge Amy Coney Barrett holds her hand on the Bible as she is sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas at the White House in Washington Oct. 26.
Weirton Parish to Hold Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration ‘To Pray For Our Country’

Last Hour, Benediction will be Livestreamed on Facebook

By Colleen Rowan

WEIRTON—St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton is inviting the faithful to stop by the church and spend some time in prayer with Jesus. The parish is holding Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration “To Pray For Our Country” just before the election.

All are invited to stop by the church and to pray. The last hour of adoration and benediction will be livestreamed on the parish’s Facebook page.

The forty hours begins at 4 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, in the church, and adoration will end with communal prayer from 7-8 p.m. on election night, Nov. 3.

Leading the 40 hours will be Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor of the parish. Father Schuelkens shared that through the inspired scriptures of St. Paul, God encourages the church to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5).

“Forty hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament prior to the election is a way in which our parish and all who participate will engage in imploring the Lord’s intercession to ensure that his grace will be upon our nation, and those who are voting.”

All of the faithful, he continued, are fundamentally called to be vessels of grace.

“When we pray for people, we feed souls,” he said. “Let us pray for the nation and its people that our souls may be fed with the grace of God and that his presence will guide us in, and through, and beyond the election.”

To watch the livestream of the last hour of adoration and benediction, visit St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Weirton, West Virginia, on Facebook at 7 p.m. Nov. 3.

For voters, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offer the document Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility. On the USCCB website, the bishops say: “Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility is our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents our guidance for the Catholic faithful in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy.”

To read the document, visit usccb.org.
West Virginia’s Clergy and Religious Have Found Tremendous Joy in Their Vocations

By Colleen Rowan

Even after all of the drama that we’ve been through in our diocese, I have never once regretted being a priest of Jesus Christ,” Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, said. “I love the priesthood. I can’t imagine my life as anything other than a priest.”

Father Crenwelge shared these words with the congregation gathered for Sunday morning Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, fittingly just a few weeks before National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov. 1-7). This is the annual weekend celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

Father Crenwelge is also pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown and director of Campus Ministry at West Virginia University. He told the congregation that morning that he and his priest, Msgr. Paul Hudock, has traded parishes for the weekend and that Msgr. Hudock was celebrating Masses for WVU students.

Continuing his remarks, Father Crenwelge said that priesthood is acting in the person of Christ, and bringing the sacraments to the people. Priests, he said, are with people at the happiest and saddest times of their lives—weddings, baptisms; and then in sickness, and funerals.

“I can’t imagine not being a priest,” said Father Crenwelge, who was ordained in 2016 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

There are be so many things in this life that one can do, but if it’s true that God wants more of one’s life, Father Crenwelge said, that person will never be satisfied. Everyone, he said, should discern their vocation in life, which means asking God what he wants them to be.

“And if he gives us an inclination toward something that we are afraid to do, we must say yes. Because, if we live out the way God created us to live, if we be who God created us to be,” Father Crenwelge said, “you will be the most satisfied in this life.”

He encouraged those gathered in the church that morning who are young, not married, or those who have not found a vocation yet, to really discern God’s call in their lives.

“I often describe my diaconate as somewhat of a ministry of interruptions as I am never sure what I will face from one day to the next,” he said. “As a deacon, it has given me a wonderful opportunity to step outside myself to serve others. I am humbled to be an intimate part of people’s most important moments in life, both happy and sad. This has given me a new perspective for how to live my life for God and as an example to others.”

This summer, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston announced the addition of three new seminarians, bringing the total to five. The diocese also announced the addition of three new seminarists for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on May 7, 2016, with 11 other men. Deacon Evans serves at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley.

During National Vocation Awareness Week, The Catholic Spirit will publish the diocese’s annual tribute to the clergy and religious celebrating jubilee anniversaries. Among those to be featured is Congregation of St. Joseph Sister Gabriella Wagner who is celebrating 85 years of religious life. She entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 1935 and served in the ministry of education in Catholic schools in Clarksburg, Fairmont, Greensville, Huntington, Moundsville, Thomas, Weston, and Wheeling. Read more about Sister Gabriella and the other women religious and clergy celebrating this year in the Nov. 6 issue of The Catholic Spirit.

Celebrating their 75th anniversaries are Sister Mary Florence Burke, CSJ, and Sister M. Annette Czarnkovich, SAC. Celebrating their 70th anniversaries are Sister Anna Marie Cole, CSJ; Sister Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ; Sister Eve Marie Schlag, CSJ. Celebrating their 60th anniversaries are Sister Ellen Dunn, OP; Sister Mary Rebecca Fidler, RSM; Sister Barbara Kupchak, CSJ; Sister Francesca Lowis, SAC; and Sister Margarette O’Brien, CSJ. Celebrating her 55th anniversary is Sister Frances Kirtley, OSF.

Celebrating 50 years of priesthood are Father Patsy Laquinta, and Father James McCaffery, SM. And, finally, celebrating their 25th anniversaries are Father John McDonough and Deacon Thomas Trunzo.

Father Crenwelge plans to visit and speak at some of the diocese’s Catholic schools during Vocation Awareness Week.

National Vocation Awareness Week Will be Held Nov. 1-7

National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated this year from Nov. 1-7, is an annual weekend celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education. It is also a time for the faithful to renew prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

The U.S. bishops ask the faithful to: “Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God’s gift of vocation.”

National Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which fell on January 13 in 2013. Beginning in 2014, the observance was moved to the first full week of November.

For more about this special week, visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website: usccb.org.
Priests Will Share Stories of Their Vocations and Home Countries at Wheeling Gathering

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Six priests of the diocese will share stories of the faith and vocations in their home countries and in countries they have lived through the Vocations Awareness Week gathering “Asia Is My Birthplace… Church Is My Universal Home.”

The gathering is being presented by and will be held at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling Nov. 4 beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m. Talks will begin at 6:30 p.m. The gathering is open to the public as long as the maximum capacity of the church can accommodate with social distancing. Face masks and other safety protocols will be imposed. The parish will also livestream both the Mass and the talks through St. Michael Parish’s Facebook Page.

“I am glad that this plan of gathering our Asian brothers and those who lived in Asia will have an opportunity and give them a chance to inspire or ignite the culture of vocation in our diocese,” said Father Carlos Melocoton, pastor of St. Michael’s. “For people to see how beautiful the vocation of priesthood that we have to leave our country and family to serve God and neighbor is worth living. To overcome the challenges and moments of loneliness and yet continue to love and give smile to the people we serve.”

Talks will be given by Father Arthur Bufogle, Jr., on Japan and the Philippines; Father Melocoton on the Philippines; Father Jeeson Stephan, on Vietnam; Father I. Hadi Sasmita, SJ, on Indonesia; Father That Son Ngoc Nguyen on Philippines where he taught trigonometry to Father Melocoton and classmates. He was there during the end of Marcos Martial Law era and the post People Power Revolution. Father Bufogle is pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Marlinton, St. Mark the Evangelist Mission in Bartow, and St. Bernard Chapel in Snowshoe.

Father That Son will give attendees a perspective of the endurance of Christian Vietnamese and their testimony of faithfulness in Jesus Christ and the work of ministry. He is pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Moundsville and St. Martin of Tours Chapel in Cameron.

Father Sasmita will offer attendees a perspective on Catholicism in Indonesia. He will share the story of his vocation to priesthood and joining the Society of Jesus. His ministry now is at Wheeling University.

Father Stephan is also a religious priest doing his doctoral program on the Johannine Gospel at Duquesne University. He will share what inspired him to join his religious community, the obstacles and challenges, and how Christianity relates to Hinduism, and religion in India. Father Stephan is a priest at New Immaculate Conception Parish in New Cumberland and Sacred Heart Parish in Chester.

Father Joseph worked in South Korea, and was converted to Catholicism there. South Korea, Father Melocoton said, is one of the fastest growing Catholic countries in Asia. Father Wiley is associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling.

Hearing vocation stories is moving and inspiring, Father Melocoton said, and he hopes the gathering at his parish will help promote vocations. “Looking at our current priests statistics, Asians have been in a front line helping our problem of the shortage of priests,” he said. “If this event could inspire many of our parishioners to help pray and work for vocations that would be very helpful for the current shortage of vocations we are experiencing these days.”
Knights of Columbus Aim to Help Heal Wounds of Fatherhood Lost to Abortion

By Colleen Rowan

To heal the wounds of fatherhood lost to abortion, the Knights of Columbus councils of Wheeling and Moundsville helped to bring a traveling icon fostering devotion to St. Joseph to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The Father’s Day Icon was blessed by Bishop Mark Brennan during the Mass he celebrated at Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling on Sept. 19. Since then, the icon has been traveling to homes of the faithful who house it for one week praying the accompanying novena prayers each day.

The devotion asks for the intercession of St. Joseph for his assistance and protection for healing for those fathers who have been wounded by the loss of a child through abortion.

The icon depicts St. Joseph, looking with great kindness and with the genuine heart of a father, as intercessor for lost fatherhood and restoration of the fathers with their aborted children.

Knights of Columbus councils involved in the project are Carroll Council #504, Corpus Christi Council #12830, and Our Lady of Peace Council #12195 of Wheeling; and Moundsville Council #1907. Carroll Council Grand Knight Art Bertol said the Knights of Columbus members provided funds and support to launch this initiative of Jesus Preborn Ministry in collaboration with the Foundation of Jesus The Divine Mercy.

Bernadette (Schreyer) Conklin from Preborn Jesus Ministry has been the driving force for this project, Bertol said. She also was on hand for the bishop’s blessing of the icon.

“Knowing that the Knights of Columbus has always been committed to the sanctity of life, it is our hope that through this Father’s Day Icon traveling to many homes for veneration, we can pray with great confidence for healing,” Conklin said in a letter to Bertol about the icon coming to Wheeling. She said that Father Donald Calloway sums up the organization’s desire to include St. Joseph in this pro-life work in his new book with a profound quote from Blessed Wm. Joseph Chaminade: “To GIVE life to someone is the greatest of all gifts. To SAVE a life is the next.”

Bertol said the Knights of Columbus were happy to support this effort for a number of reasons.

“The icon is pro-life, a key focus and commitment of all Knights of Columbus,” he said. “The icon emphasizes the family unit—especially fatherhood. St. Joseph is recognized in the icon for his importance to the holy family and in turn the importance of fatherhood to our families.”

The Father’s Day Icon was created by artist James Sulkowski of Houston, Pa.
Maintaining Recovery during COVID-19

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect West Virginians, individuals who are in recovery from substance use disorder are having a disproportionately difficult time. Disruption of community support group meetings, loss of work, illness and other factors can stress a person’s ability to maintain recovery.

“Life is hard and there are so many challenges and obstacles,” said Keythan Heater, a resident of Huntington. “Having to do it sober is so much harder.”

In March of 2020, Heater enrolled in a Computer Essentials course at Catholic Charities West Virginia’s (CCWVa) adult learning center in Huntington. At the time, he was residing in a sober living house.

“We know that education and meaningful employment are so important for recovery,” said Bill Hagy, CCWVa Western Regional Director. “During the pandemic, we’ve had to pivot to virtual classes and appointments at times, but we have never stopped providing services.”

In Huntington, CCWVa provides adult education as well as wraparound case management services to help individuals achieve their goals by identifying their strengths and finding ways to overcome obstacles.

For Heater, these obstacles included lost income, as he was laid off from his restaurant job due to COVID-19. He also struggled with stable housing, transportation, and resources to continue his studies.

CCWVa Recovery Retention Case Manager Sherri Sloan worked closely with Heater to overcome these barriers.

“During this entire time I stayed sober and did not relapse even though I wanted to, at times, because of the stress that life was dealing me,” said Heater. “It was unbearable, yet Sherri was there each step of the journey.”

With the help of CCWVa and the Jobs and Hope West Virginia program, Heater was able to secure housing, a car, a computer, and a lucrative job through GrubHub.

“Without them I honestly don’t believe that I could’ve ventured so far in accomplishing what I have,” said Heater. “I am proof that Catholic Charities and Jobs and Hope stand behind their mission.”

Heater continues to maintain his sobriety and is thriving as an independent delivery driver while continuing to work toward his long-term goals. To read more about his story, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

Keythan Heater attributes much of his success to the support he has received from Catholic Charities West Virginia.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, 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.
El Vaticano extiende el tiempo para obtener indulgencias completas para las almas del Purgatorio

Por Carol Glatz Católica, Servicio de Noticias

La iglesia enseña que la oración, particularmente la Misa, y los sacrificios pueden ofrecerse en nombre de las almas en el purgatorio. La fiesta de Todos los Santos se diferencia de la fiesta de Todos los Santos del 1 de noviembre precisamente porque ofrece oraciones por la paz eterna y el descanso celestial de todos aquellos que murieron en estado de gracia, pero no totalmente purificados.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica dice: “Todos los que mueren en la gracia y la amistad de Dios, pero aún imperfectamente purificados, tienen ciertamente asegurada su salvación eterna; pero después de la muerte se someten a purificación para alcanzar la santidad necesaria para entrar en el gozo del cielo”.

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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa del abuso infantil al 800.352. 6513. Puede informar anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.


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 iniquidades adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en “Rendición de cuentas”, luego “Informe mala conducta” o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponde y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa está protegida.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don’t ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We’ll protect you, and take good care of you.