October 31, 2025 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Vol. 55, No. 43

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Catholic Leaders Focus on Need for Just Wages, Clean Air and Water in Appalachia

By Kimberley Heatherington, OSV News

(OSV News) — America's Appalachian region is a mountainous land of contrasts — a stunning and rugged terrain stretching through 423 counties and 13 states from southern New York to northern Mississippi, home to abundant natural resources and populated by proud and resilient people.

But it's also an area fighting a poverty rate of 14.3% daily, the effects of decades of industrial decline, environmental threats, a lack of infrastructure and deaths from opioid overdoses 72% higher than non-Appalachian counties.

On Oct. 25, 150 leaders from across Appalachia gathered at the Diocese of Pittsburgh Pastoral Center for a daylong "faith and labor" dialogue designed to grapple with a range of questions concerning the region's fate.

Held under a hopeful theme, "A Healthy Future for This Land," the event was convened by three Catholic bishops — Bishop Mark A. Eckman and retired Bishop David A. Zubik, both of Pittsburgh, and Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling - Charleston, West Virginia — to mark the twin anniversaries of the 1975 pastoral letter "This Land is Home to Me" and Pope Francis' 2015 environmental encyclical "Laudato Si'."

OSV News photo/Union Energy

Bishop Mark E. Brennan speaks as leaders from across Appalachia gather Oct. 25 at the Diocese of Pittsburgh Pastoral Center for a daylong "faith and labor" dialogue designed to grapple with a range of questions concerning the region's fate.

"The question that faces you and I today in a very particular way is this," said Bishop Zubik as he opened the proceedings. "How do we lift up, and care for creation, and care for the workers in Appalachia?"

"This Land is Home to Me" was a groundbreaking pastoral letter written by 25 Catholic bishops from across Appalachia. It explores the then-critical problems of the region and the broader society — all of which remain relevant, especially economic exploitation and environmental degradation. It encourages a faith response rooted in both listening and solidarity.

"When we take a look at what's happened over the course of the last 50 years," noted Bishop Zubik, "there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done."

Data released this June by the Appalachian Regional Commission indicates rates of labor force

See "Focus" on Page 3

Inside:

Catholic Charities W.Va. Launches 'Here For Good' Campaign to Support Neighbors in Need across the Mountain State, Page 4

Obituary—Father Thomas William Dagle

Father Thomas William Dagle died on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, at the age of 69. He was born Aug. 15, 1956, in Los Angeles to the late Harold and Florence Dagle.

He received a bachelor's degree in psychology and business administration from Fairmont State College in 1983 and a Master of Divinity from St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., in 2002.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, W. Va., on June 1, 2002. He served at the following West Virginia churches: As associate pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling (2002-2003), Immaculate Conception Parish (2003), and St. Brendan Parish in Elkins, St. Patrick Parish in Coalton, Resurrection Mission in Belington, and St. John Bosco Chapel in Huttonsville (2003-2005); as administrator of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ronceverte (2005-2007) and then as pastor (2007-2010); as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Hinton, St. Mary of the Greenbrier Mission in Alderson, and Sacred Heart Mission in Rainelle (2012-2010); and St. Ann Parish in Shinnston (2012-2018).

Father Dagle liked sports and was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. His hobby was meteorology.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother John Dagle.

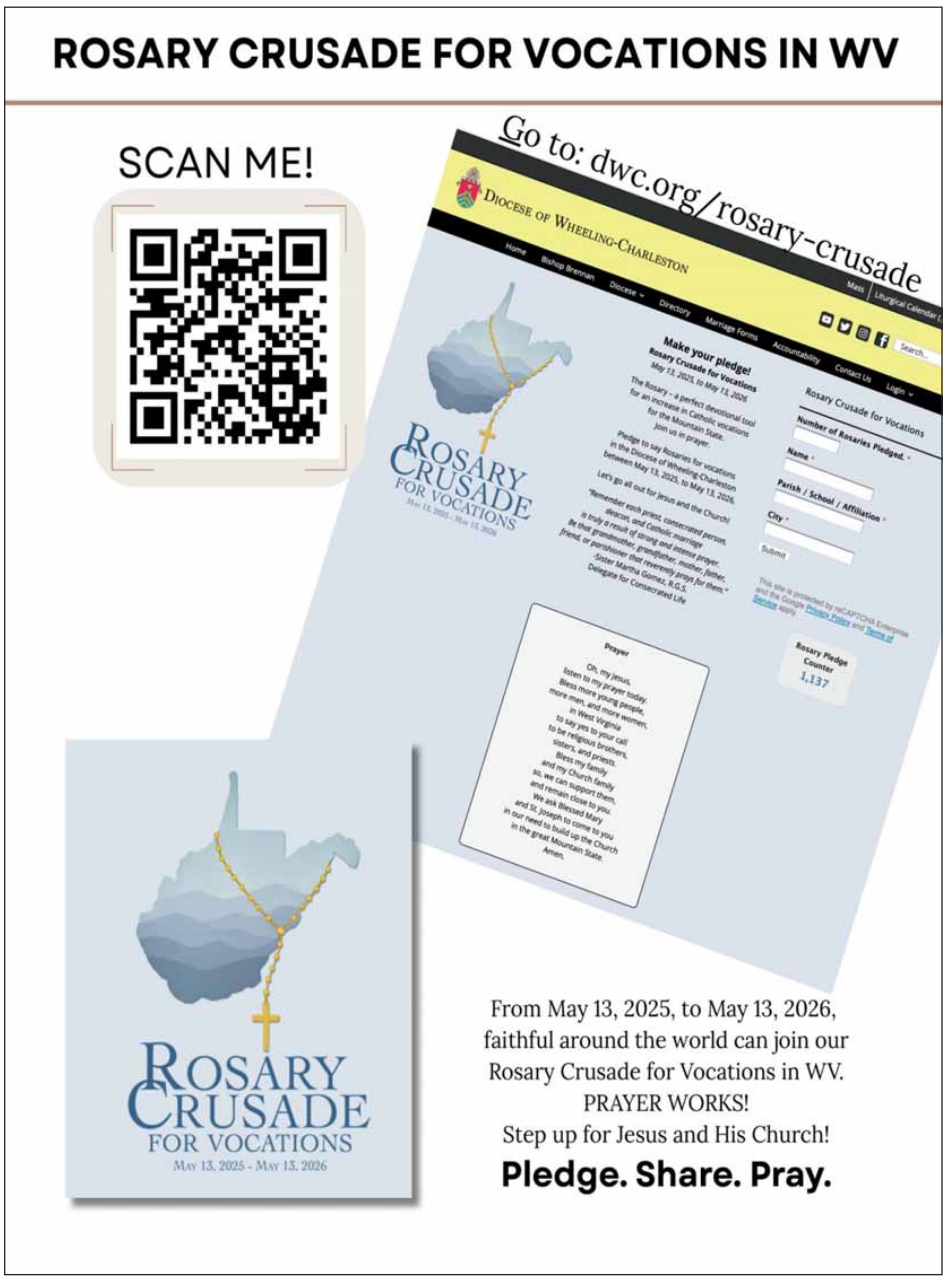
He is survived by his sisters Kathleen Summers of Bremen, Ind., and Eileen Strater of West Lafayette, Ind.; his brother Michael Dagle of Indiana, Pa.; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

On Thursday, Oct. 30, the reception of the body with be at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 3 p.m. where visitation will be held from 3-5:30 p.m. A vigil service will immediately follow.

On Friday, Oct. 31, visitation will be at the cathedral from 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m., followed by the Funeral Mass at noon celebrated by Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Fairmont, W. Va. at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Nov. 1.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Heart Association in Father Dagle's name.



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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

The Catholic Spirit

October 31, 2025
Vol. 55, No. 43

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444

thecatholicspiritwv.org
dwc.org

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan .....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association,National Press Photographers Association, Inc.

Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are $25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2025 Print Issues and Dates: Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19

Holy Rosary Church Brings America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally to Buckhannon

Courtesy photo

On Oct. 11, the parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon met at the Upshur County Court House Plaza for the 2025 America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally. The rally began with an opening prayer led by Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, pastor, and the America Needs Fatima program was presented by Brenda Albright and Mary Smith. Smith led the five decades of the rosary with the assistance of parishioners Ann Conolly and Sarah Liems. The rally was attended by 30 Holy Rosary parishioners. Plans for participating in the Oct. 10, 2026, Public Rosary Rally are already in progress. Parishioners are pictured with the beautiful banner, provided by America Needs Fatima.

Focus ...

Cont'd from Page 1

participation and home ownership continue to improve in Appalachia. That said, population growth lags; post-secondary educational attainment remains behind the national average; and a greater share of residents live in poverty.

Bishop Brennan emphasized that stubborn inequities persist in the Appalachian economy.

"This region of our country — the backbone of the Appalachian mountains — is rich in natural resources, and in the intelligence and talent of its people. But the profit — of developing those resources, using them — goes to powerful corporations, and their owners. And what is the problem?" he asked. "The fruits of labor — the work that people do, think the ordinary people — are not fairly distributed."

Upon arriving in West Virginia in 2019, Bishop Brennan was shocked to see the effects of strip mining, also known as mountaintop removal. The highly destructive mining method uses explosives to blast away the tops of mountains in pursuit of coal, in the process crushing entire mountainsides.

EarthJustice — a nonprofit public interest environmental law organization with offices across the U.S. — noted, "In the past few decades, over 2,000 miles of streams and headwaters that provide drinking water for millions of Americans have been permanently buried and destroyed. An area the size of Delaware has been flattened."

Bishop Brennan wondered, "Are we going to transform the Mountain State into the flatlands of Eastern Kansas?"

Continuing, he stressed the dignity of workers and the power of collective action.

In his 1981 encyclical "Laborem Exercens" ("Through Work"), St. John Paul II "insists on the priority of labor over capital, of the human person over the product that person makes," explained Bishop Brennan. "The Industrial Revolution — and many aspects of our American and world economy today — put human beings below the profit of the few."

He then asked his audience what could be done to foster a more just economy, and a more humane world.

"One thing," Bishop Brennan suggested, "is solidarity with the workers around the world — and here, unions are important. One thing we need to do, I think — that the unions need to do — is to raise our voices. We need to raise our voices and start boycotts, of slave labor in China and underpaid workers in other parts of the world."

"Also," he added, "we can call large corporations to account for the huge salary gap, between ordinary workers and the managers, and owners on the other hand."

The objective of such actions, Bishop Brennan underlined, is human flourishing.

"The goal here — this is something the American Catholic bishops have been advocating for well over a century — (is) a family wage, one worker in the family. One earns enough to sustain the family," he said.

"Religious groups and civic organizations can apply pressure — again, boycotts — on corporations and products. The goal is not to hurt," affirmed Bishop Brennan. "It is to call attention to the hurt that is being done by them."

"John Paul II said, 'Unions are a mouthpiece for social justice.' Not against others — not a matter of class warfare — but the goal is that the human person not just have more, but be more. The development of the person," concluded Bishop Brennan, "is ultimately the goal of work."

Attendees also heard from:

— Angela Ferritto, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and co-founder of the Union Energy organization advocating for clean energy.

— Sister Helen Skormisley, a member of the leadership team of the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling who responded to the forced fracking of their land.

— Molly Linehan-Belcher, chair of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia and chair of the event.

— Tom Breiding, who performed Americana music and storytelling.

— Brad Davis, a Methodist pastor and co-founder of From Below: Rising Together for Coalfield Justice, which organizes against water pollution in southern West Virginia.

Appalachian Catholics, clergy, religious sisters, diocesan staff and labor leaders all focused on protecting the environment and supporting workers in an era of transitioning to clean energy.

The delegates were sponsored by dioceses or invited by planning committee members. During their Pittsburgh stay, many toured murals on labor and social justice painted in the 1930s and '40s, and also listened to a West Virginia labor singer at St. Nicholas Church, just outside Pittsburgh.

Bishop Eckman said he believes the United States has the ability to balance both a safe work environment and a safe place for workers to live.

"We certainly in this country — of all countries in the world — have the resources to be able to have a safe environment where we work, and a safe environment for the people who live in that area," he said.

"There's no reason," he continued, "why we can't develop better techniques and better methods to keep our air clean and our water clean. It's one day at a time — but if we respect the life that we see in one another, we are respecting the image and the likeness of the God who created us."

(Kimberley Heatherington is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Virginia.)

Catholic Charities West Virginia Launches 'Here For Good' Campaign to Support Neighbors in Need across the Mountain State

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is proud to announce the launch of its "Here for Good" fundraising campaign, a year-end initiative aimed at providing essential support to individuals and families facing hunger, homelessness, and financial hardship across all 55 counties of West Virginia.

The "Here for Good" campaign invites individuals, families, and organizations to join in a collective effort to make a lasting impact in their communities. Through the campaign's online platform, supporters can donate directly, create personalized fundraising pages, and share their commitment to being "Here for Good" with their networks.

Campaign Highlights:

Accessible Giving: Supporters can contribute securely online through the campaign's platform, making it easy to donate from anywhere.

Peer-to-Peer Fundraising: Individuals are encouraged to create their own fundraising pages, share their personal stories, and rally their communities to support the cause.

Community Impact: Funds raised will directly support CCWVa's programs that provide food assistance, emergency financial aid, housing support, and disaster relief services to West Virginians in need.

"Every day, our neighbors face challenges that can feel overwhelming, from empty pantries to uncertain housing. The 'Here for Good' campaign is our opportunity to come together as a community, share God's love in action, and ensure that no West Virginian faces hardship alone. With every donation and every story shared, we are proving that hope, compassion, and care are always here," stated Katie Hinerman Klug, Chief Mission Officer, Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Join us in making a tangible difference this giving season. Visit https://Here4WV.givesmart.com to donate, start your own fundraising page, or share why you're Here for Good. Every gift fuels programs that feed families, keep homes warm, and provide critical support to our neighbors in need. Together, we can ensure that good is always here.

See the ad on the next page for more information.

Toni Wiesberg Honored with Charity in Action Award in Martinsburg

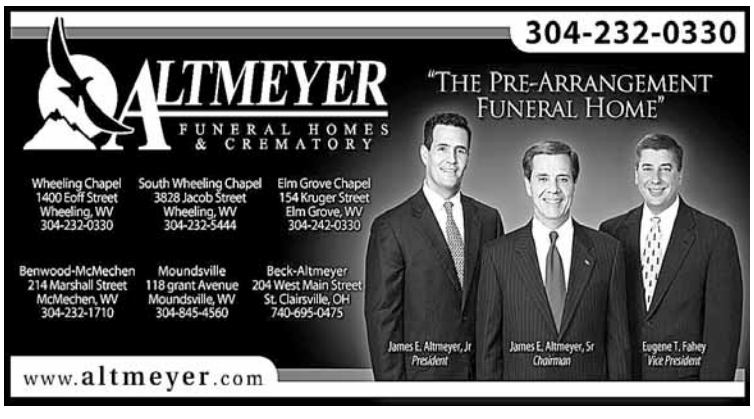
MARTINSBURG — Toni Wiesberg was a recipient of the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) 2025 Charity in Action Award in Martinsburg. She was honored at the Charity in Action Award Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn in Martinsburg Oct. 22.

Toni is the founder of Faith Feeding Freedom, a nonprofit serving the homeless and hungry in Martinsburg. In 2018, while searching for her best friend's missing granddaughter, Toni was inspired by a woman feeding people experiencing homelessness. She began volunteering and soon felt called to bring this mission to Martinsburg.

Since founding Faith Feeding Freedom on Nov. 30, 2018, Toni and her volunteers have served over 75 people every week, providing meals, clothing, hygiene items, and winter essentials, along with fellowship and prayer.

Under her leadership, the organization has helped reunite families, secure housing, assist with treatment, and provide medications, all while remaining entirely volunteer-run.

Toni Wiesberg holds her Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) 2025 Charity in Action Award in Martinsburg.
Courtesy photo

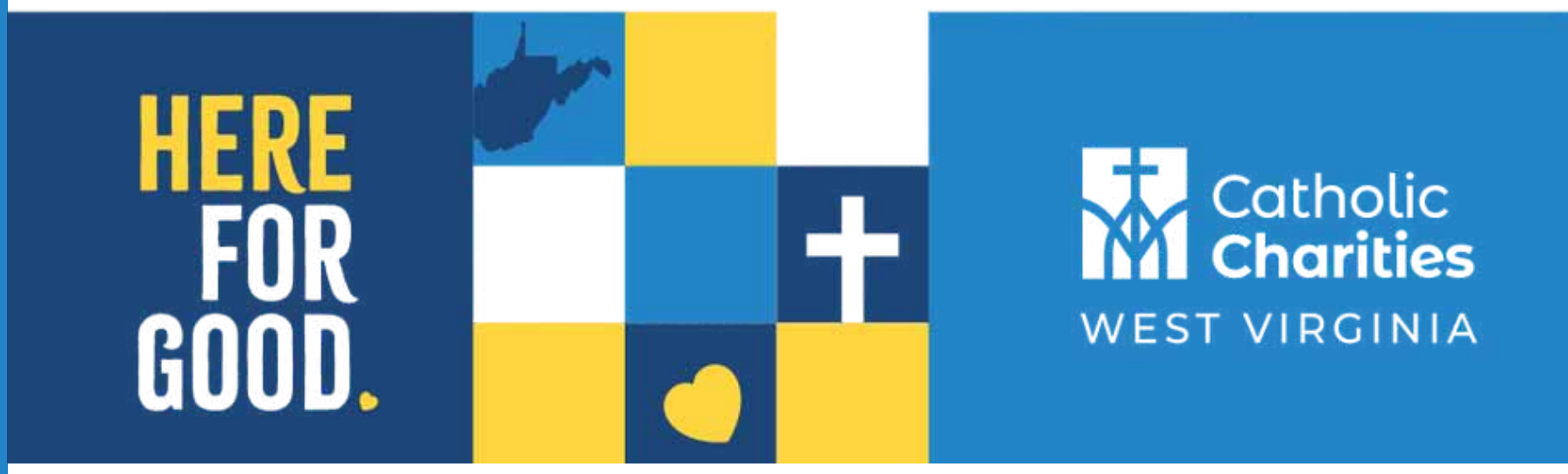


Catholic Charities West Virginia Invites You to Join Us in Our End-of-Year Campaign: A Season of Hope, Generosity, and Community, Where You Make a Difference.

Through every season of change, you have been there for your community. Because of your generosity, families have had food on their tables, lights in their homes, and hope in their hearts. You have trusted us, year after year, to meet West Virginians in their most difficult moments. Together, we have proven that we are **Here For Good.** But today, the need is greater than ever. **One in six of our neighbors is hungry.** Nearly half of Mountain State families **struggle to meet their basic needs.** In these moments of hardship, your compassion shines like a light in the darkness.

When eviction looms, **Catholic Charities is there.**
When the electricity is about to be shut off, **we are there.**
When disasters strike, **we are there.**
And with your support, **we will always be there.**

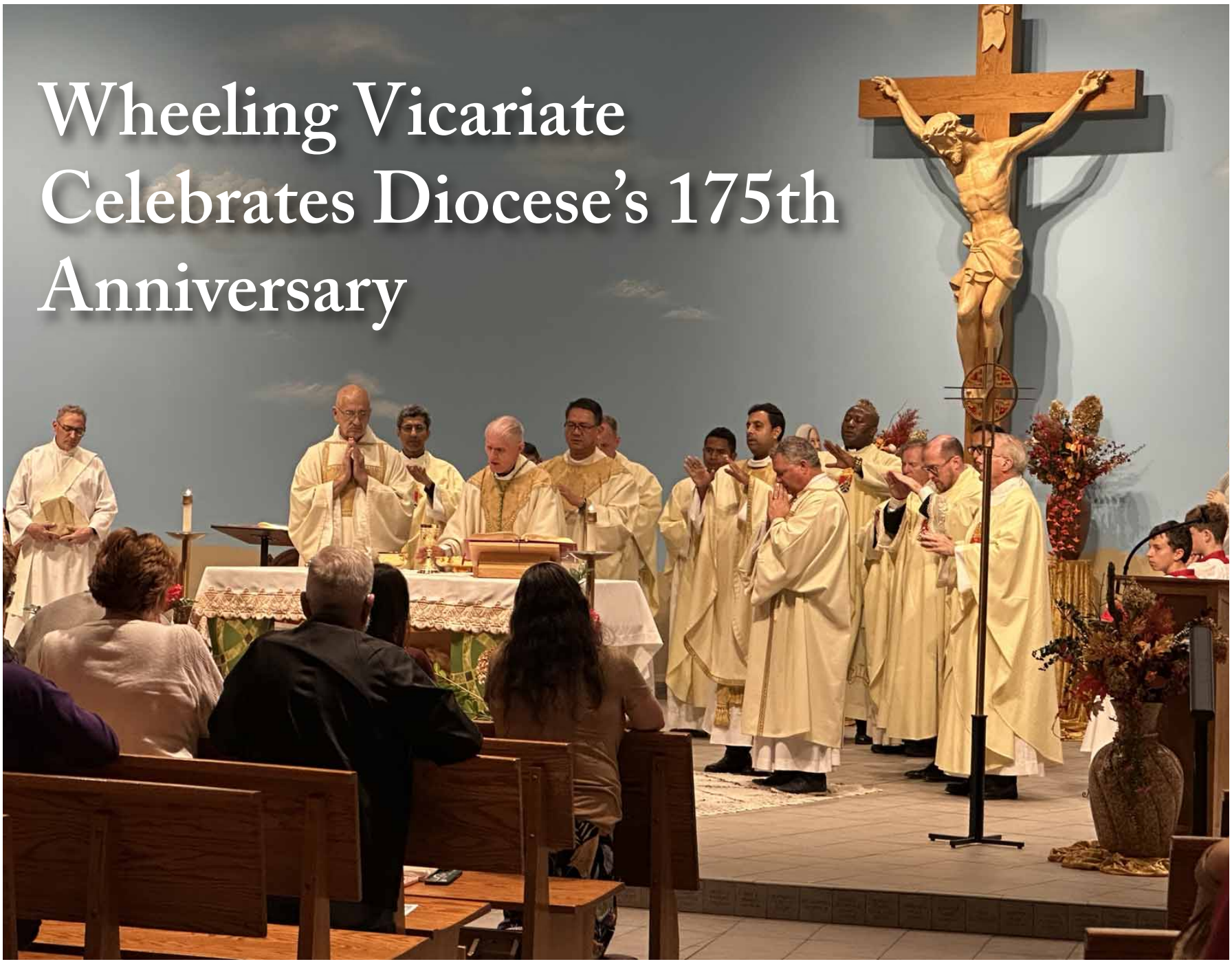
This giving season, you can help carry that light into the new year. With you by our side, we are and always will be Here For Good.



Join in Our Mission to Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Scan to donate or visit
Here4WV.givesmart.com

Wheeling Vicariate Celebrates Diocese's 175th Anniversary



Christine Holmes photos

Catholic faithful of the Wheeling Vicariate gathered for Mass at St. Paul Church in Weirton Oct. 28 for the celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the diocese. Bishop Mark Brennan was the celebrant with priests from throughout the vicariate concelebrating and deacons assisting. "Thank you to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for choosing St. Paul Church to host this Mass, Bishop Brennan for the inspirational homily, Father Sebastian for your continued guidance, and all the priests and deacons who made this Mass so special," parish officials posted to Facebook. "Thank you also to our music director, Carrie, musicians, and the adult and school choir for the beautiful music. A special thank you to the St. Paul School staff and parishioner volunteers for all their hard work making the reception so wonderful." Moments from the Mass are shown.

ST. PAUL CENTER

PARISH EVENT

Scott Hahn in Wheeling, WV

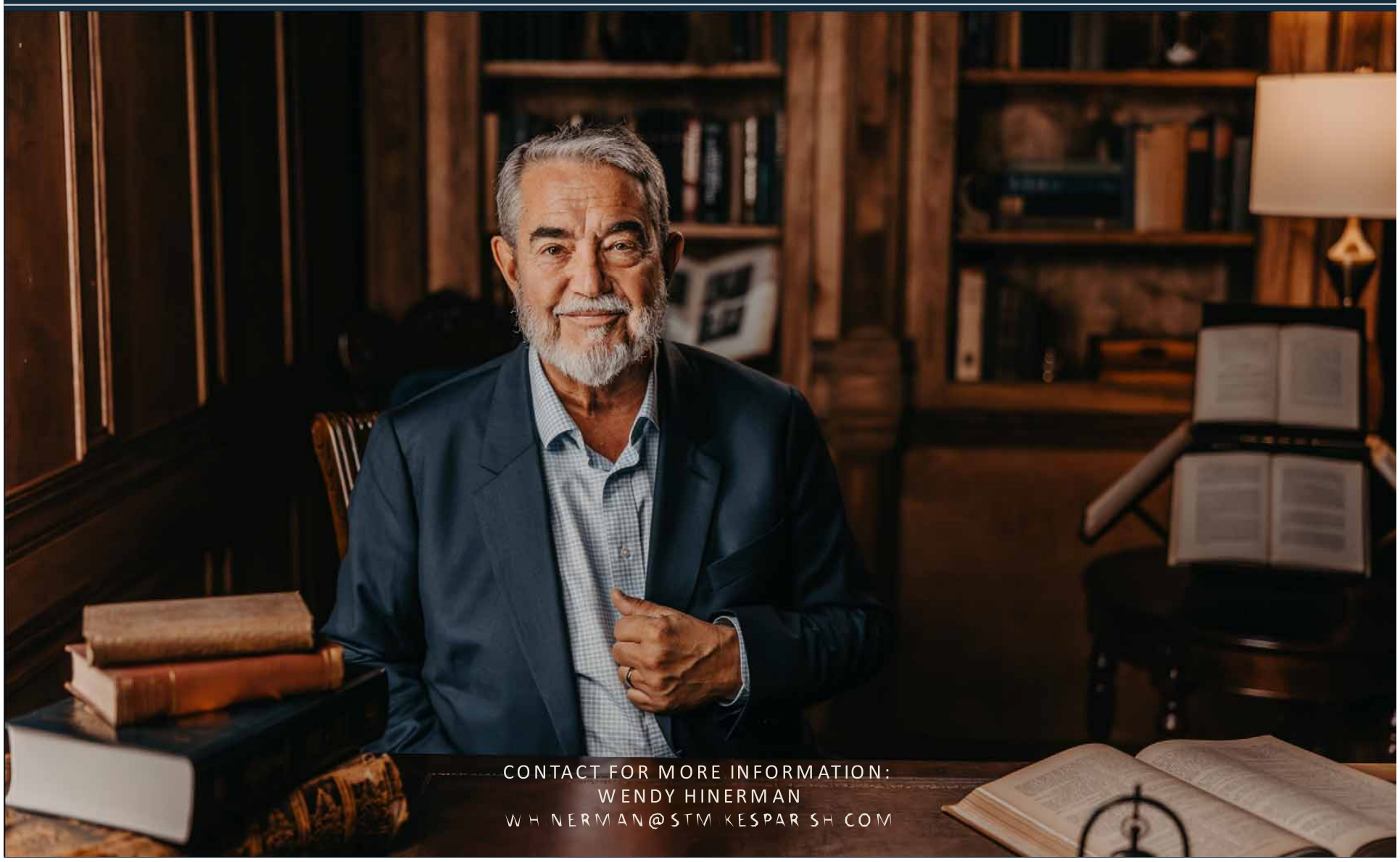
The Catholic Church: Family of God, Body of Christ

Study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today's most respected scholars.

St. Michael Parish

1225 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Thursday November 13
7:00 PM



CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WENDY HINERMAN
WHINERMAN@STMICHAELSPARISH.COM

REMAINING CHRISTIAN IN A CULTURE OF DEATH

FR. CALVIN ROBINSON

FROM THE UK TO THE US

Calvin Robinson is an Anglo-Catholic priest currently serving as Rector of St Paul's Church of Grand Rapids. A former television personality with GB News in England, Fr Robinson has appeared on a wide variety of programs including Megan Kelly, Eric Metaxas, Tucker Carlson, and Turning Point UK and USA. Many commentators describe him as the most cancelled man in the Western world today. The constant onslaught of British and American cancel culture has never prevented him from speaking Christian truths at all times, often challenging the prevailing spirit of compromise in our churches today.

NOVEMBER 14

- **6:00 PM**
- **CLINGMAN CENTER**
- **218 US-219**

LEWISBURG, WV

Sponsored by:

- **WV for Life**
- **St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church**
- **St. Paul Anglican Mission**

LIMITED SEATING, FOR RESERVATIONS, TEXT OR CALL (304) 405-6081.

A Synodal Church Evangelizes Better, Works Together for Justice, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The pursuit of synodality should strengthen the Catholic Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel and help all Catholics learn to collaborate to make the world a better place, Pope Leo XIV said.

"As Pope Francis reminded us on numerous occasions," the pope said, the purpose of synodality "is to help the church fulfill its primary role in the world, which is to be missionary, to announce the Gospel, to give witness to the person of Jesus Christ in every part of the world, to the ends of the earth."

That witness includes speaking up for justice, caring for the planet and promoting peace, Pope Leo said during a meeting late Oct. 24 with participants in the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies.

"The church has a voice, and we need to be courageous in raising our voice to change the world, to make it a better place," he told the pilgrims, who included about 150 representatives from the United States with 15 U.S. bishops.

During the evening meeting, the pope listened to seven regionals reports on the implementation of the 2021-2024 Synod of Bishops on synodality and answered a question from each regional representative. Pope Leo took notes during the presentations, and his responses appeared to be unscripted.

Two questions drew strong applause from participants, a reaction Pope Leo noted in his responses. The first applauded question was about changing the minds of "bishops and priests who are concerned that synodality may diminish their authority as pastors"; and the second was whether the pope believed "equality between men and women in the church can become a lived reality in the future."

Canadian Bishop Alain Faubert of Valleyfield, Quebec, gave the North American report, which ended with the question about getting all bishops and priests onboard.

Pope Leo said there is a need "to invite the priests, particularly, even more so than the bishops, I think, to somehow open their hearts and take part in these processes. Oftentimes, the resistances come out of fear and the lack of knowledge."

The synodal process of listening to one another without immediately judging or defending one's position has practical applications, he said.

Apparently referring to the breakdown of U.S.-Canada talks about trade and tariffs, the pope noted that the two countries "are experiencing even great difficulties. Two countries that were once considered the closest allies, at times, become separated from one another, and it's another proof, another expression, of why synodality — listening and dialogue — are so important, and how they have concrete applications in our daily lives."

People committed to synodality in the church need to be patient, though, he said. "We have to understand that we do not all run at the same speed, and sometimes we have to be patient with one another, rather than a few people running ahead and leaving a lot behind, which could cause even a break in an ecclesial experience."

Presenting the European report, Klara-Antonia Csiszar, a professor of theology in Linz, Austria, told Pope Leo that "the question of women remains an important issue throughout Europe. In many local churches in the West, impatience for greater female participation is an open reality, while elsewhere, debates on the diaconate or on women's leadership encounter resistance, skepticism or fear."

Responding, the pope began by telling the delegates that sometime in the 1970s he remembers asking his mother if she wanted to be equal to men. "And she said, 'No, because we are already better.' And she was not joking."

"Leaving aside the most difficult themes that are being studied by study groups," particularly the question of ordaining women to the diaconate, Pope Leo said he believed the lack of equality for women in the church is due mainly to "cultural obstacles."

"I mean women could play a key role in the church, but there are priests and bishops who hesitate," he said. "There are cultures in the church where women still suffer because of inequality. In some cultures, women are considered as second-class citizens and in reality, do not enjoy the same rights as men."

A challenge for the church, Pope Leo said, is to "understand how we can promote respect for the rights of everyone, men and women. How can we promote a culture in which these things become not only possible, but they become a reality, a culture in which there is co-participation of all the members of society, each according to their vocation, so everyone can play a role, can have a role of responsibility in the church."

The church, he said, must find ways to "to transform cultures according to the values of the Gospel. Unfortunately, often the way which we live out our faith is influenced more by our culture than by Gospel values."

Food service Equipment, Supplies, Disposables, Janitorial and more
national equipment co.
1 Fourteenth Street,
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-233-2270
Stop in or call us today!

Now is the time to Talk!
Kepner FUNERAL HOMES CREMATORY
304.232.5110 | KepnerFuneral.com
James B. Kepner President | Melissa Hill COIC

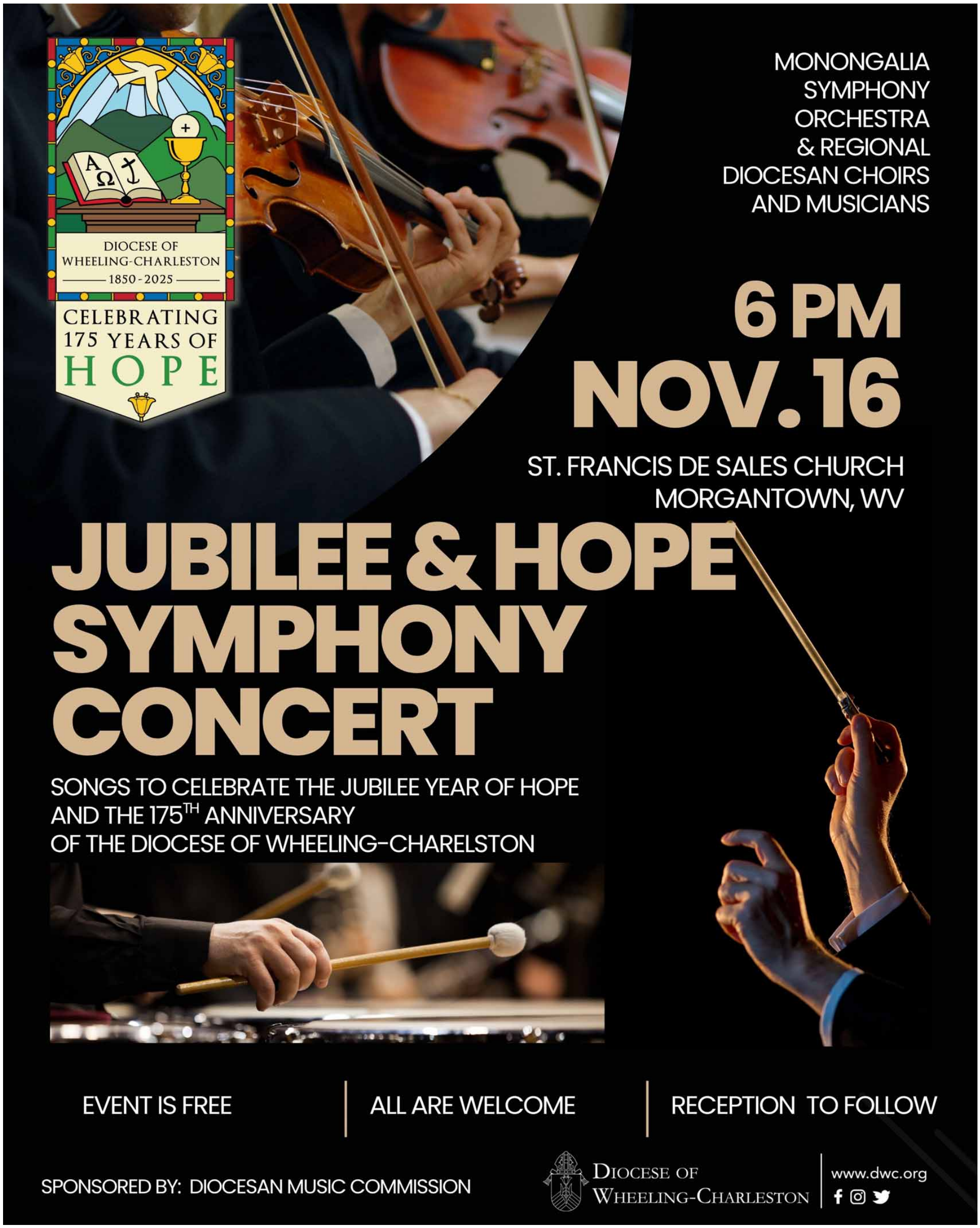
JOHNSON BOILER WORKS, INC
53 Marshall St.
Benwood, WV 26031
(304) 232-3070
Steam Boiler Repairs

Jarvis-Williams Funeral Homes
Weldon P. Williams, FD & LIC
"Boots" Jarvis, Co-Owner & Sec
1224 S. Bridge Street, New Martinsville, WV (304) 455-3456
309 N 4th Avenue, Paden City, WV (304) 337-2311

Duplaga's TOP NOTCH
LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC
Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls
Supply Yard
Chris Duplaga ,Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com
WE DELIVER
office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

Panhandle CLEANING & RESTORATION
800.504.7054
Wheeling • Morgantown • Charleston
Pittsburgh • Sarasota
PanhandleCR.com
FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER
"CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY THE MOUNTAINEERS® CALL"

COLEMAN'S FISH MKT.
Established 1914
Centre Wheeling Market House
304-232-8510
111 Years


DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON
1850-2025
CELEBRATING
175 YEARS OF
HOPE
MONONGALIA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
& REGIONAL
DIOCESAN CHOIRS
AND MUSICIANS
6 PM
NOV. 16
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH
MORGANTOWN, WV
JUBILEE & HOPE
SYMPHONY
CONCERT
SONGS TO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE
AND THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARELSTON
EVENT IS FREE
ALL ARE WELCOME
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
SPONSORED BY: DIOCESAN MUSIC COMMISSION
DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON
www.dwc.org

Church Must Support Concrete Pro-Family Policies, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A society cannot pretend to be pro-family if it does not adopt policies that allow parents and children to spend time together rather than always being worried about work, Pope Leo XIV said.

"In a society that often exalts productivity and speed at the expense of relationships, it becomes urgent to restore time and space to the love that is learned within the family, where the first experiences of trust, gift and forgiveness are woven — forming the very fabric of social life," he said Oct. 24.

Pope Leo made the comments during a meeting with faculty, staff, students and alumni of the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences.

Praising the intuition of St. John Paul II for launching the graduate school and Pope Francis for insisting its curriculum be multidisciplinary, Pope Leo asked for particular attention to drawing from and strengthening reflections on the role of the family in Catholic social teaching.

The institute, he said, is called to contribute to "the ongoing renewal of dialogue between family life, the world of work and social justice — addressing issues of pressing relevance such as peace, the care of life and health, integral human development, youth employment, economic sustainability and equal opportunities between men and women, all of which influence the decision to marry and to bring children into the world."

The church and its ministers cannot be "content merely to speak about the truth" concerning marriage and family life, Pope Leo said, but it must "promote concrete and coordinated actions in support of the family," including through government policies.

"In fact, the quality of a country's social and political life is measured above all by how it enables families to live well — to have time for themselves and to cultivate the bonds that unite them," the pope said.

In "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis' 2016 post-synodal exhortation on marriage, love and family life, Pope Leo said, the late pope wrote with tenderness to pregnant women, "urging them to cherish the joy of bringing a new life into the world."

"His words express a simple yet profound truth: human life is a gift and must always be welcomed with respect, care and gratitude," Pope Leo said. "Therefore, in the face of so many mothers who experience pregnancy in conditions of loneliness or marginalization, I feel the duty to remind everyone that both the civil and ecclesial communities must remain constantly committed to restoring full dignity to motherhood."

The pope also spoke about what he called "the growing tendency in many parts of the world to undervalue or even reject marriage."

The church's first response, he said, must be "to be attentive to the action of God's grace in the heart of every man and woman. Even when young people make choices that do not correspond to the ways proposed by the church according to the teaching of Jesus, the Lord continues to knock at the door of their hearts, preparing them to receive a new inner call."

The church's pastoral workers must recognize that "our time is marked not only by tensions and ideologies that confuse hearts, but also by a growing quest for spirituality, truth and justice — especially among the young," he said. "To welcome and care for this longing is one of the most beautiful and urgent tasks before us all."

Cardinal Burke Celebrates Traditional Latin Mass in St. Peter's Basilica

By Cindy Wooden , Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the presence of hundreds of priests and with lay faithful packed into the pews and standing along the walls, U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke celebrated the traditional Latin Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica.

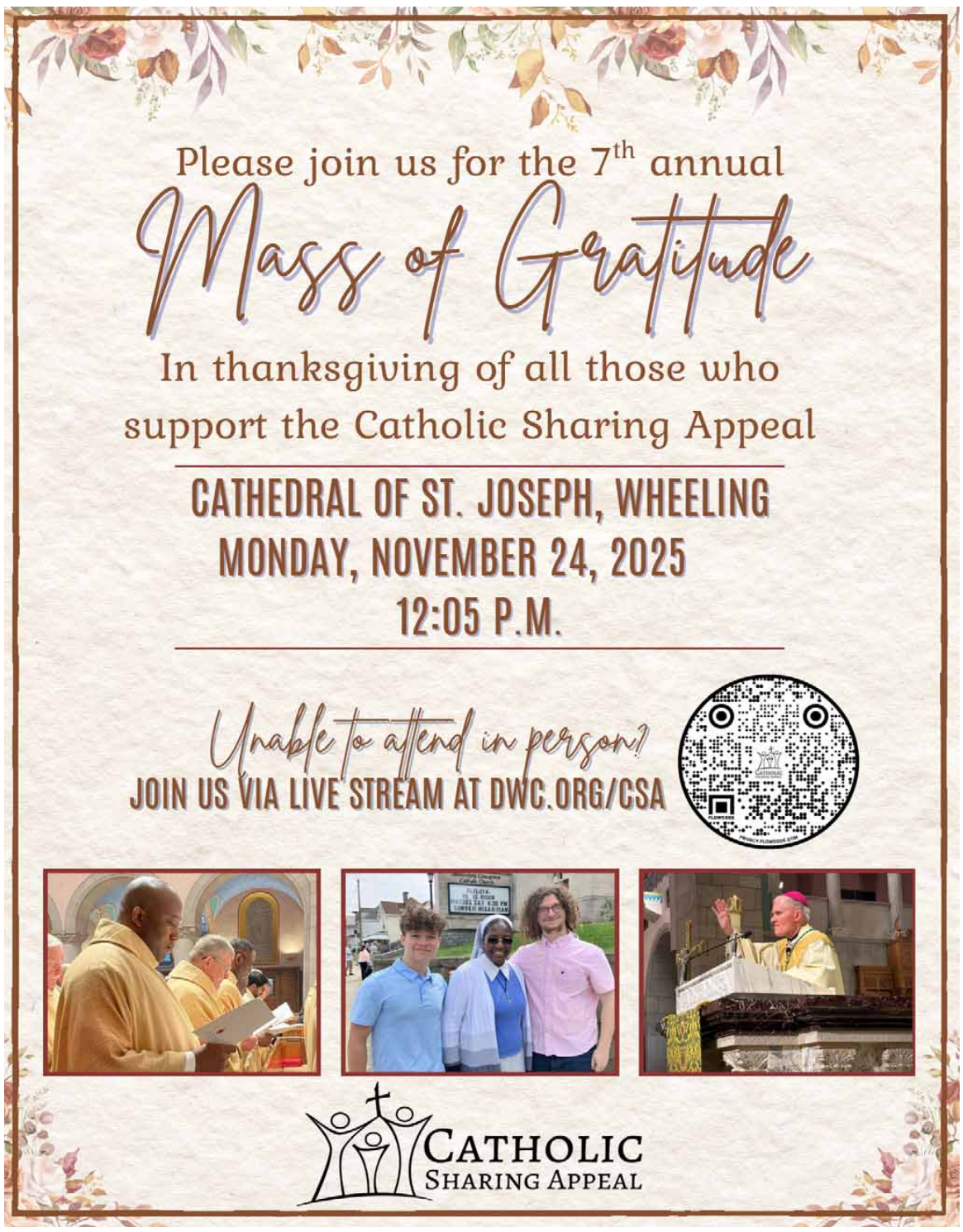
The Vatican said Pope Leo XIV had authorized the cardinal to celebrate the pre-Vatican II liturgy Oct. 25 with people attending the annual Ad Petri Sedem "Summorum Pontificum" Pilgrimage to Rome.

"Summorum Pontificum" was Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 document that expanded access to the old liturgy, giving priests discretion over whether to celebrate it and asserting that the faithful had a right to ask for it.

But citing concerns about church unity and about a lack of acceptance of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis issued "Traditionis Custodes" ("Guardians of the Tradition") in 2021, which significantly limited celebrations of the traditional Latin Mass using the 1962 Roman Missal.

Still, the Ad Petri Sedem "Summorum Pontificum" pilgrimages in October 2021 and 2022 — after "Traditionis Custodes" — were allowed to have the old Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis gave the permission, according to Andrea Tornielli, editorial director at the Dicastery for Communication.

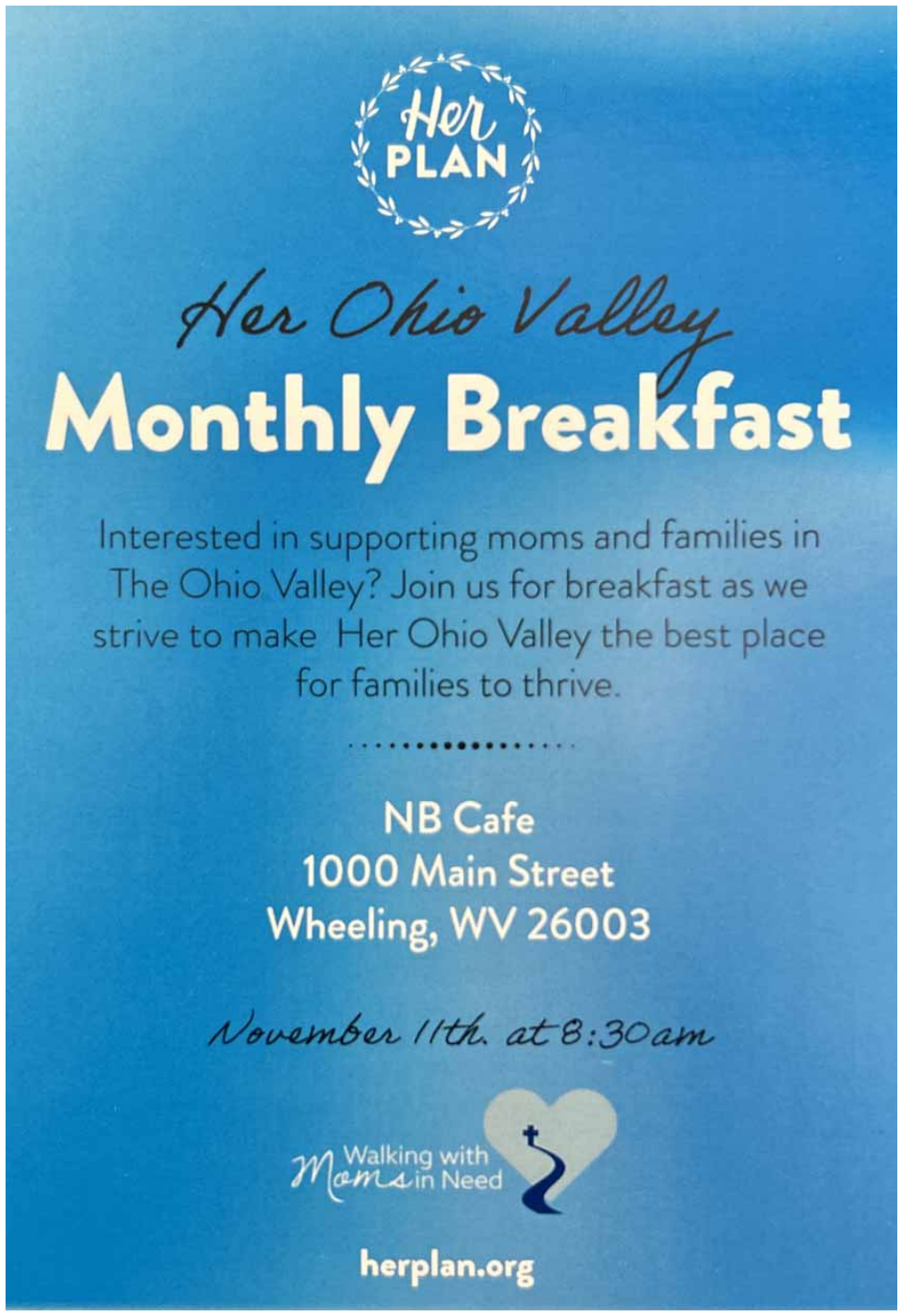
When the 2025 pilgrimage Mass was announced, Joseph Shaw, president of Una Voce International, a federation of groups of Catholics attached to the pre-Vatican II liturgy, said, "We are grateful to Pope Leo for his pastoral response to the request for a Traditional Mass in St. Peter's. This celebration symbolizes the unity with the Holy Father so desired by Catholics attached to the ancient rite of Mass."



Archbishop Broglio Urges Funding of Lifesaving Programs and an End to Federal Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON—In the midst of the ongoing federal government shutdown, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a plea for lawmakers and the Administration to work in a bipartisan way to ensure funding of lifesaving programs and an end to the government shutdown. Archbishop Broglio cited the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a government program that aids needy families, as an example of an impacted program.

"As this government shutdown continues, the U.S. bishops are deeply alarmed that essential programs that support the common good, such as SNAP, may be interrupted. This would be catastrophic for families and individuals who rely on SNAP to put food on the table and places the burdens of this shutdown most heavily on the poor and vulnerable of our nation, who are the least able to move forward. This consequence is unjust and unacceptable. The U.S. bishops have consistently advocated for public policies that support those in need. I urgently plead with lawmakers and the Administration to work in a bipartisan way to ensure that these lifesaving programs are funded, and to pass a government funding bill to end the government shutdown as quickly as possible."



Senators, Pro-Life Group Press Trump Administration for Information about Abortion Pill Approval

By Kate Scanlon

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — A national pro-life organization and two Republican senators said Oct. 29 that they would push the Trump administration for more information regarding the Food and Drug Administration's recent approval of a new generic form of mifepristone — a pill commonly, but not exclusively, used for early abortion.

In September, the FDA notified Evita Solutions that its generic version of mifepristone was approved, despite previous suggestions from FDA and Department of Health and Human Services officials that mifepristone would undergo a review. The approval of the drug sparked outcry from pro-life advocates, including Sens. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Bill Cassidy, R-La.

On a press call with those senators on Oct. 29, Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, which works to elect pro-life candidates to public office, said, "How did this administration, how did the FDA act when it was encountering a request for a generic new drug?"

"What they did was they approved a new generic abortion drug, then that abortion drug now makes the (abortion) pill far more available, far more accessible and far cheaper," she said. "This is something that we should be outraged at, and we are."

Dannenfelser argued any action that further expands the use of the drugs commonly used for abortion is "irresponsible."

"I think the lack of response from the FDA, I can say this, from the FDA and from the HHS secretary, is just disrespectful to the American people, and to the women of America, and certainly disregards the lives of unborn children whom this administration purports to advance their cause," she said.

Hawley and Cassidy both expressed concern about the FDA's approval of the drug and said they had not yet received confirmation of a review of mifepristone pledged by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and FDA Commissioner Dr. Martin Makary was underway — or would even take place at all, despite official inquiries.

"Both the secretary and the FDA commissioner pledged to me during their confirmation hearings — and have subsequently reiterated to others — that they will perform such a study," Hawley said on the call. "Secretary Kennedy said as recently as this past month that the study was underway. I do not have an update, however, as I've not received one, of where the study is."

"And what concerns me is that in the midst of this supposed study being performed, the FDA went and approved a new generic of the very drug that's supposed to be being studied," Hawley continued. "So this is, I think, deeply, deeply concerning."

In comments posted on X earlier this month amid criticism from pro-life advocates over the drug's approval, Kennedy said he and Makary in September sent a letter to state attorneys general "pledging to review all the evidence — including real-world outcomes — on the safety of this drug. Recent studies already point to serious risks when mifepristone is used without proper medical oversight."

Kennedy claimed the FDA "only approved a second generic mifepristone tablet because federal law requires approval when an application proves the generic is identical to the brand-name drug."

The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, sometimes called the Hatch-Waxman Act, streamlined the approval process for generic drugs but still requires them to undergo a review to ensure they are "bioequivalent" to their name-brand counterparts and meet the FDA's safety standards.

Cassidy, however, took aim at that argument on the press call, detailing the objections he made to the FDA about it.

"I was upset, I called them up," he said. "'Why are you doing this?' 'Well, we're required to by law.' 'Hang on, like the Biden administration didn't do it and you did?'"

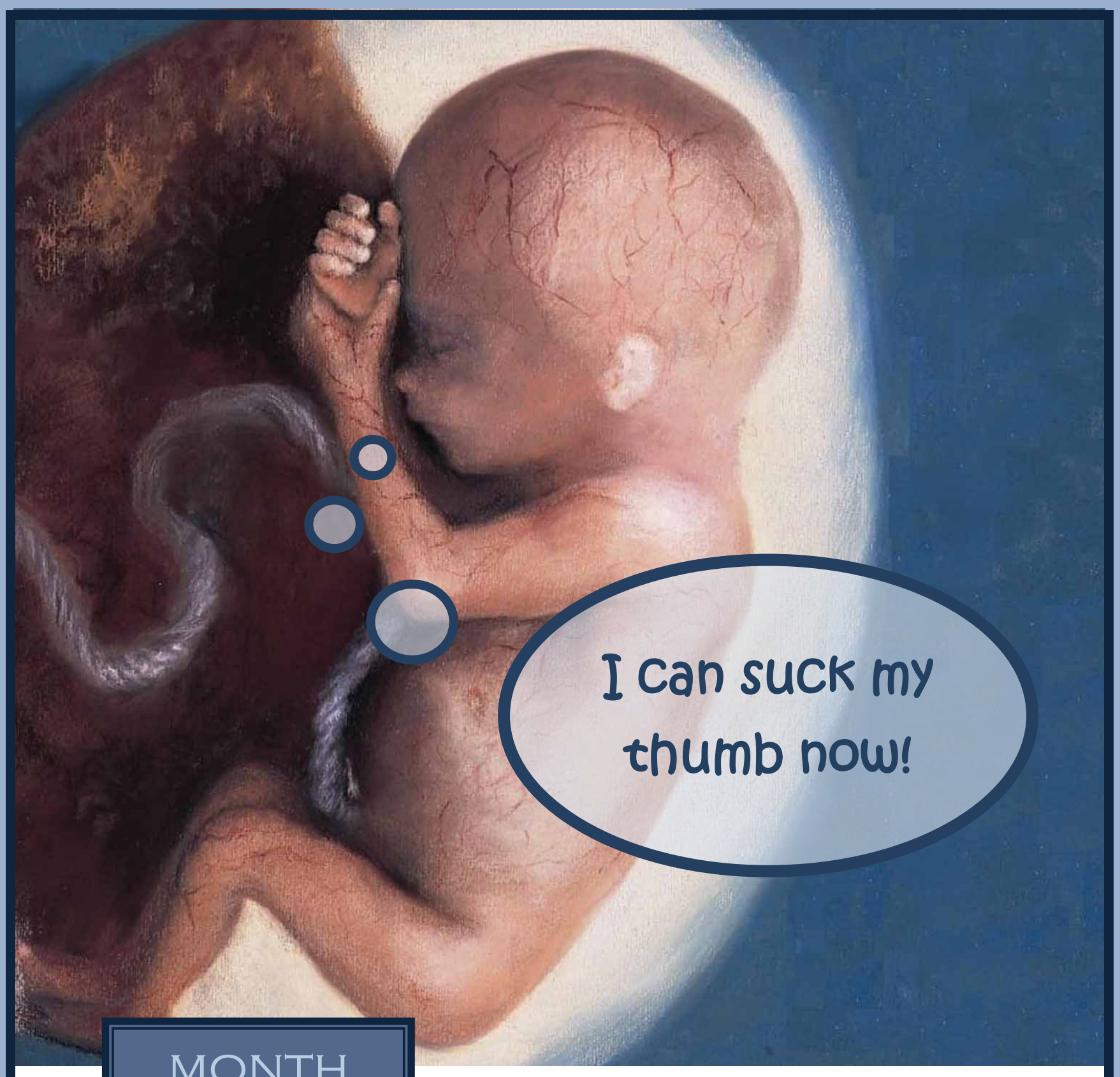
Cassidy acknowledged that the ongoing government shutdown may delay a response from health officials, but said he planned to further question FDA officials about the approval.

"But (the) fact is, I thought it was unwarranted, and I let my displeasure be known," he said. "That said, it's going to be hard to reel back."

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and as such, opposes direct abortion.

Approved by the FDA for early abortion in 2000, mifepristone — the first of two drugs used in a medication-based abortion — gained the moniker "the abortion pill." However, the same drug combination has become used sometimes in recent years for miscarriage care, where an unborn child has already passed, a situation that Catholic teaching would hold as morally licit use.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



MONTH

3

The baby can now squint, swallow and move his tongue. He sleeps and awakens. Fingernails and toenails form and he now has his own unique set of fingerprints. Sensitive to touch, he will tightly grasp an object placed in the palm of his hand. He breathes amniotic fluid to help develop and strengthen the respiratory system, but he gets the oxygen he needs through the umbilical cord. Early this month – week 9 – he began to suck his thumb.

Information on the developing baby was taken from: *Life before Birth* by Marjorie A. England, © 1996, Mosby-Wolfe, Times Mirror Int'l. Pub., Ltd., London, and *Abortion: Questions and Answers*, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wilke, © 1985, Hayes Publishing Company, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.

©L.Brenegan 2001-04

Ouija Boards 'Dangerous, Dangerous' Tools of Evil That Deny God's Love, Say Catholic Experts

By Gina Christian

(OSV News) — Thinking of having a little "fun" on Halloween by grabbing a Ouija board and ringing up Aunt Edna in the afterlife?

Think again, Catholic experts told OSV News.

"Dangerous, dangerous, dangerous," said Dominican Father Basil Cole, professor emeritus of moral, spiritual and dogmatic theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington.

An Oct. 25, 2023, article in the New York Post provided a how-to guide for using a Ouija board, which purports to allow spirits to communicate by spelling out messages with a sliding pointer. First manufactured in the U.S. in 1890 amid surging popular interest in spiritualism, the Ouija board has long been marketed as a toy — yet it's actually a tool for Satan, said Father Cole.

"Ouija boards and things like that are probably the primary way that people open up the entry point for the demonic into their lives," said Father Vincent Lampert, exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The occult also is big business: From 2018 to 2023, industry revenue for psychic services rose 1.5% to $2.3 billion, according to market research firm IBISWorld.

The mainstreaming of magic has even prompted the U.K.-based University of Exeter to begin offering a master of arts degree in magic and occult science. The university also features an interdisciplinary Center for Magic and Esotericism.

Consulting a Ouija board is "obviously an act of superstition," and the Ouija board is "in fact a portal, an opening to receiving diabolical distortions — false ideas that somehow this board can tell you what the future is or tell you something about yourself," Father Cole told OSV News.

The so-called "messages" from the board — which some users merely regard as their own subconscious thoughts — prime participants to being "open to receiving more dark inspirations from the evil one," said Father Cole.

That process takes place "slowly, not immediately," and "these portals are (therefore) introductions to further incursions of the evil one," he said.

Father Lampert said while many "turn to a Ouija board because they think it's kind of harmless … they don't really understand what they're putting themselves up against."

The real-life case of possession that inspired William Peter Blatty's 1971 book (and 1973 film) "The Exorcist" began with the use of a Ouija board, noted Father Lampert, adding that such items can lead to a "person's life … (spiraling) downward and out of control" as "the devil shows his true face."

Along with Ouija boards, tarot cards, fortune tellers and horoscopes also are "problems," Father Cole warned.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "all forms of divination" — seeking to know the future through supernatural means — are to be rejected.

That includes "recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future, (and) consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums," the catechism states in No. 2116.

All such practices "conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers," it continues. "They contradict the honor, respect and loving fear that we owe to God alone."

While the human desire for clarity about the future is understandable, divination tools are the wrong method, said Father Cole.

"There's nothing wrong with wanting to know God's will," he said. "I want to know God's will, of course, but he's not going to tell me about a lot of things. He will let me discover it. Conversation with God is one thing. Conversation with the evil one is another thing."

"When people turn to the world of the occult, they're basically saying that God is deficient, God is not enough," Father Lampert said. "So I have to turn elsewhere for the answers that I'm looking for."

Even devotion to the saints can mask a wrong spiritual motive, cautioned Father Cole.

"You can make a devotion to the saints replace a relationship with God — 'I don't trust in God anymore, but I do trust in St. Jude. He always gives me what I want.' … I've met people like that, praying to St. Jude and ignoring Mass," said Father Cole.

But with "true devotion to the saints, you always realize they're under the Lord Jesus and they want you to do the Lord's will," he said.

For those who have dabbled in the occult, there is hope, said Father Lampert.

"When we confess our sins, we place them in the hands of God, and then the devil can no longer use that against us," he said. "So if somebody has played with a Ouija board, own it, take it to confession, give it over to God and then experience the freedom that God wants all of his children to have."

Ouija boards and other occult items should be "destroyed so that (they don't) fall in anyone else's hands," Father Lampert said. "The best thing to do is to kind of sprinkle it with holy water … (and) burn it. If people don't feel comfortable doing that themselves, then they should go and take it to the local parish priest who then can dispose of it."

God is "always ready to extend his divine mercy" to those who have sinned in any way, including through occult practices, said Father Lampert.

"I like to tell people that what's unique about Christianity is that it's not about our search for God, but it's about God's search for us," he said.

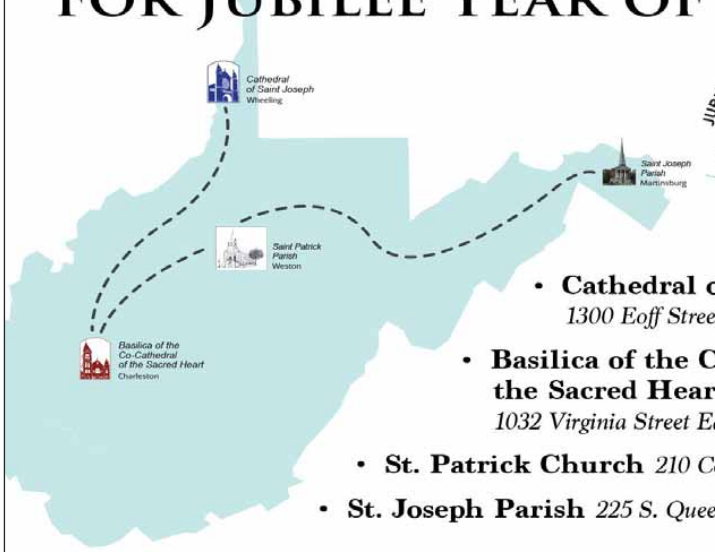
(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.)

project rachel
Peace starts here

If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God's healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.

For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
WV PILGRIMAGE SITES
FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



- **Cathedral of St. Joseph** *1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling*
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** *1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston*
- **St. Patrick Church** *210 Center Avenue, Weston*
- **St. Joseph Parish** *225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg*

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** *(at site)*: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

El presidente de la USCCB insta a los fieles a rezar y apoyar a las víctimas del huracán Melissa

WASHINGTON (OSV News)— Mientras el huracán Melissa continuaba su devastador recorrido por el Caribe, el arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB por sus siglas en inglés), instó a los católicos a rezar y apoyar a las personas y comunidades afectadas por uno de los huracanes más fuertes del Atlántico jamás registrados.

En la región del Caribe, "las familias se enfrentan a un grave riesgo de inundaciones, deslizamientos de tierra, desplazamientos y daños en las infraestructuras, con pocos recursos para responder", debido a la tormenta más fuerte que ha azotado el planeta este año, afirmó el arzobispo en un comunicado publicado a última hora del 29 de octubre. "Nuestros hermanos y hermanas de pequeñas naciones insulares como Jamaica, Cuba y Haití son los más vulnerables al impacto de tormentas tan fuertes, a menudo intensificadas por el calentamiento climático".

El huracán Melissa ha dejado decenas de muertos y ha causado una destrucción generalizada en Jamaica, Cuba y Haití. Con vientos de entre 175 y 185 millas por hora, tocó tierra en el suroeste de Jamaica, cerca de New Hope, alrededor de la 1 p.m. ET del 28 de octubre, antes de dirigirse hacia Cuba, donde tocó tierra en la madrugada del 29 de octubre como tormenta de categoría 3.

"Después de azotar Cuba", este huracán puso "su mirada" en las Bahamas y las Bermudas, informó The Weather Channel.

"La Iglesia acompaña, con oración y acción, a todas las personas que sufren", dijo el arzobispo Broglio, quien dirige de la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares de Estados Unidos. "Insto a los católicos y a todas las personas de buena voluntad a que se unan a mí en oración por la seguridad y protección de todos, especialmente de los socorristas, en estas zonas devastadas".

"Mostremos nuestra solidaridad", añadió, "apoyando los esfuerzos de las organizaciones que ya están sobre el terreno, como Cáritas Haití, Cáritas Cuba y Cáritas Antillas, así como Catholic Relief Services, que están prestando servicios esenciales y directos y acompañando a los necesitados".

Catholic Relief Services, la agencia de ayuda y desarrollo en el extranjero de la Iglesia católica de EE.UU., está aceptando donaciones para ayudar a las víctimas del huracán a través de su sitio web: https://www.crs.org/es/dona/huracan-melissa.

En el Vaticano, tras su discurso principal en la audiencia general del 29 de octubre, el Papa León XIV aseguró a las víctimas de la tormenta su "cercanía" y sus oraciones.

"Hay miles de personas desplazadas, y se han dañado casas, infraestructuras y varios hospitales", dijo. "Les aseguro a todos mi cercanía, rezando por quienes han perdido la vida, por quienes están huyendo y por aquellas poblaciones que, a la espera de la evolución de la tormenta, están viviendo horas de ansiedad y preocupación".

"Animo a las autoridades civiles a hacer todo lo posible y agradezco a las comunidades cristianas, junto con las organizaciones de voluntariado, la ayuda que están prestando", añadió el Santo Padre.

La Iglesia debe apoyar políticas concretas a favor de la familia, afirma el Papa León

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Una sociedad no puede pretender ser favorable a la familia si no adopta políticas que permitan a los padres y a los hijos pasar tiempo juntos en lugar de estar siempre preocupados por el trabajo, afirmó el Papa León XIV.

"En una sociedad que a menudo exalta la productividad y la velocidad a costa de las relaciones, urge devolver tiempo y espacio al amor que se aprende en la familia, donde nacen las primeras experiencias de confianza, de don y de perdón que tejen el entramado de la vida social", afirmó el 24 de octubre.

El Papa Leo hizo estas declaraciones durante una reunión con profesores, personal, estudiantes y antiguos alumnos del Pontificio Instituto Teológico Juan Pablo II para las Ciencias del Matrimonio y de la Familia.

Elogiando la intuición de San Juan Pablo II por poner en marcha la escuela de posgrado y al Papa Francisco por insistir en que su plan de estudios fuera multidisciplinar, el Papa Leo pidió que se prestara especial atención a extraer y reforzar las reflexiones sobre el papel de la familia en la doctrina social católica.

El instituto, dijo, está llamado a contribuir a "la renovación continua del diálogo entre la vida familiar, el mundo del trabajo y la justicia social, abordando cuestiones de urgente relevancia como la paz, el cuidado de la vida y la salud, el desarrollo humano integral, el empleo juvenil, la sostenibilidad económica y la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres. Todos estos factores influyen directamente en la decisión de casarse y de tener hijos".

La Iglesia y sus ministros no pueden "conformarse con hablar de la verdad" sobre el matrimonio y la vida familiar, dijo el Papa León, sino que deben "promover acciones concretas y coordinadas en apoyo de la familia", incluso a través de políticas gubernamentales.

"La calidad de la vida social y política de un país se mide, en gran parte, por la manera en que permite a las familias vivir bien, disponer de tiempo para sí mismas y fortalecer los vínculos que las unen", afirmó el Papa.

En "Amoris Laetitia" ("La alegría del amor"), la exhortación postsinodal del Papa Francisco de 2016 sobre el matrimonio, el amor y la vida familiar, el difunto Papa escribió con ternura a las mujeres embarazadas, instándolas a "custodiar la alegría de traer al mundo una nueva vida".

"Sus palabras expresan una verdad sencilla pero profunda: La vida humana es un don y debe ser siempre acogida con respeto, cuidado y gratitud", dijo el Papa León. Por lo tanto, ante tantas madres que viven el embarazo y la maternidad "en condiciones de soledad o marginación, siento el deber de recordar a todos que tanto la comunidad civil como la eclesial deben comprometerse con constancia para devolver a la maternidad su plena dignidad".

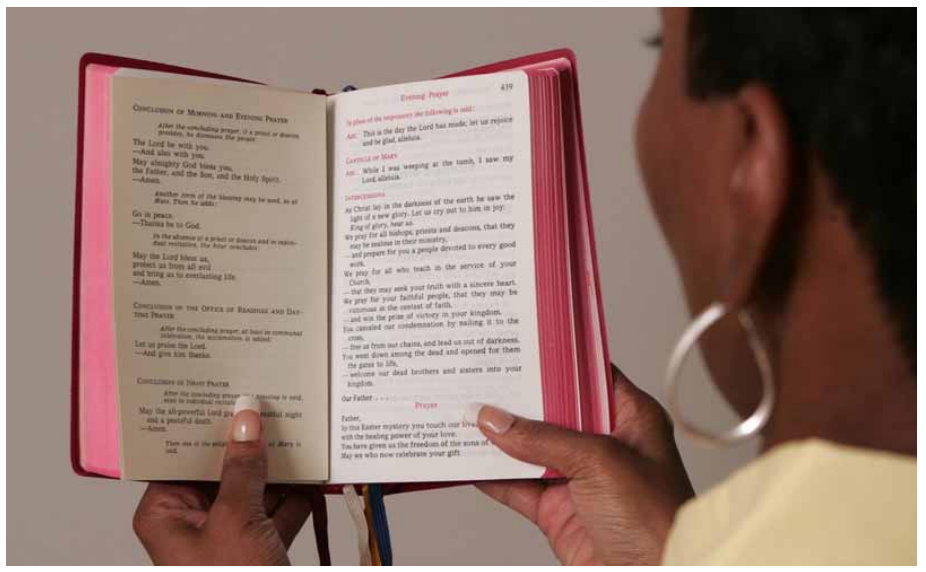
El Papa también se refirió a lo que denominó "la creciente tendencia en muchas partes del mundo a no valorar o incluso rechazar el matrimonio".

La primera respuesta de la Iglesia, dijo, es "ser atentos a la acción de la gracia de Dios en el corazón de cada hombre y de cada mujer. Aun cuando los jóvenes tomen caminos que no coinciden con los propuestos por la Iglesia, el Señor sigue tocando a la puerta de sus corazones, preparándolos para recibir un nuevo llamado interior".

Los trabajadores pastorales de la Iglesia deben reconocer que "nuestra época está marcada no solo por tensiones e ideologías que confunden los corazones, sino también por una creciente búsqueda de espiritualidad, verdad y justicia, especialmente entre los jóvenes", afirmó. "Acoger y cuidar este anhelo es una de las tareas más hermosas y urgentes que tenemos ante nosotros".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores: La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

‘A Gift From God’: Parishes Encouraged to Start Liturgy of Hours Ahead of New Edition



OSV News/illustration Bob Roller
A woman is seen in an illustration praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

By Katie Yoder, OSV News

(OSV News) — Father Matthew S. Ernest still remembers when he oversaw evening prayer celebrated by Pope Francis at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City in 2015.

“It was a beautiful event, and we were very grateful to welcome the Holy Father,” Father Ernest, director of the Office of Liturgy for the Archdiocese of New York, said of the liturgy, which is part of an ancient prayer called the Liturgy of the Hours.

Ahead of a new English edition of the Liturgy of the Hours for the Latin Church, Father Ernest and other liturgical experts are encouraging parishes and other Catholic communities to embrace this prayer, which is said at different points throughout the day. They spoke with OSV News and shared practical tips for parishes to introduce the Liturgy of the Hours to their congregations. In particular, they advised communities to start small and integrate the prayer into their already established schedules.

Their comments came after they addressed the national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, an organization established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops dedicated to liturgical formation, held Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Baltimore.

The Liturgy of the Hours, or the Divine Office, is the daily prayer of the church and sanctifies the day with prayer. This liturgical prayer also takes different set forms within the Latin and 23 Eastern Catholic churches that together make the Catholic Church, and each form has prayers that vary in accordance with each particular church’s calendar.

The standard Liturgy of the Hours in the Roman Rite of the Latin Church is divided into five “hours” or parts prayed at different times each day: the office of readings; morning prayer or lauds; daytime prayer; evening prayer or vespers; and night prayer or compline. These five parts, which draw from Scripture, particularly the Psalms, usually take less than 20 minutes to pray.

“It acknowledges that every hour that we have is a gift,” Carolyn Pirtle, program director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy in the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, said of the Liturgy of the Hours. “It’s a gift from God, and it’s a gift that’s meant to be offered in praise and thanksgiving back to God.”

Many of these experts emphasized that, while priests and other religious are required to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the laity are encouraged to pray it too, particularly the two principal hours of morning and evening prayer.

“The Liturgy of the Hours is intended to become the prayer of the whole People of God,” the Catechism of the Catholic Church confirms before citing “Sacrosanctum Concilium,” the Second Vatican Council’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. “The laity, too, are encouraged to recite the divine office, either with the priests, or among themselves, or even individually.”

Pope St. Paul VI also expressed the wish that the Liturgy of the Hours, after its revision following Vatican II, would become “the prayer of the whole people of God,” and also recommended that it be prayed in parishes and by individuals at home in union with the church throughout the world.

Father Ernest, who also serves as academic dean, professor and director of liturgy at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, New York, added that Christ’s command to “pray always” is given to all Christians. He called the Liturgy of the Hours an opportunity for parishes to embrace that call.

— With Liturgy of the Hours, it’s one step at a time

Parishes interested in introducing the Liturgy of the Hours should start with small, simple steps, these experts recommended.

Churches can begin by praying parts of the Liturgy of the Hours, Father Ernest said. He referenced Vatican II’s instructions for pastors to introduce parts of the Liturgy of the Hours, such as Sunday vespers.

“I recognize that sometimes Mass schedules can make this hard, because many of our parishes have Sunday evening Masses,” he said. “But even if a parish were to organize a monthly Sunday evening prayer that was well celebrated with music and incense and light, that can be a profound beginning.”

He also suggested parishes introduce evening prayer during special occasions, such as a church’s patronal feast day. He added that he has encouraged pastors in his archdiocese to consider concluding times of Eucharistic exposition with evening prayer.

As director of music and liturgy at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Bay Shore, New York, Christopher Ferraro likewise encouraged parishes to incorporate the Liturgy of the Hours into their regular schedules. Among other things, he suggested praying the Liturgy of the Hours before or after parish meetings.

“Try to connect it to something you’re already doing,” he said. “This way the people can get used to doing it, and they may see the benefits of it … and then maybe you might expand that as you go.”

— Divine Office’s special link to the Mass

At the University of Notre Dame, Pirtle encouraged Catholic communities, including universities, to especially connect the Liturgy of the Hours with the Mass, also known as the Divine Liturgy in many Eastern Catholic churches.

“It’s meant to be viewed as a way to keep the graces of the Mass overflowing throughout the hours of the day,” she said of the Liturgy of the Hours. “So linking the Liturgy of the Hours to the celebration of the Mass in this kind of setting is a great way to introduce people to it and to kind of build in a fidelity to this practice.”

The University of Notre Dame practices the tradition of evening prayer at its Basilica of the Sacred Heart every Sunday, she said, crediting its Office of Campus Ministry. Before the pandemic, the university’s Center for Liturgy also hosted a monthly vespers service. Today, they work to educate ecclesial leaders about the hours.

Like other experts, she recommended that Catholic communities find a rhythm that works for them.

“I think the opportunity is to look at your routine and look at the things you offer as they currently exist, and determine whether there are moments within the current existing routine that could be further punctuated by the Liturgy of the Hours,” she said.

— Music in the Liturgy of the Hours

For those interested in the music of the Liturgy of the Hours, Steven R. Janco, director of liturgy and music with the Dominican Sisters of Racine, Wisconsin, shared his recommendations.

“In terms of music and an order of service with which to start, I suggest that folks take a look at the hymnal or worship resource in their pews (if they have one),” Janco said in emailed comments. “Most of these provide an outline for evening prayer or a simpler version that uses fewer elements” as well as a selection of psalm settings and metrical versions of the two prominent canticles in the Liturgy of the Hours that can be sung to familiar hymn tunes.

He also pointed to the USCCB’s document “Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship,” as a resource.

“If a parish has little or no experience with community celebration of this prayer form, the parish needs to introduce it in a gradual and accessible way that helps people feel ‘competent’ from the get-go, highlights key elements, and gradually deepens the community’s appreciation of the hours with time and repetition,” he said.

In anticipation of the newly translated English edition, these experts encouraged parishes not to be afraid to start the Liturgy of the Hours.

“This is a great opportunity to catechize folks and to get them excited about the church’s prayer,” Ferraro at St. Patrick’s said. “I’m hoping that parishes can take advantage of this time of transition to get people to pray the hours.”

(Katie Yoder is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Maryland.)

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Fall 2025 Bishop Mark Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, Nov. 15: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18: St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6: St. Anthony Parish, Follansbee, 4 p.m.

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

We Also Specialize n Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Do it Best **Lou W. Nau, Inc.**

69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311

louwnau.doitbest.com

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

Men today need a band of brothers – other Catholic men to share in that call, who walk together on the journey towards something better.

You are invited to put your faith in action

kofc.org/joinus

Knights of Columbus

The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

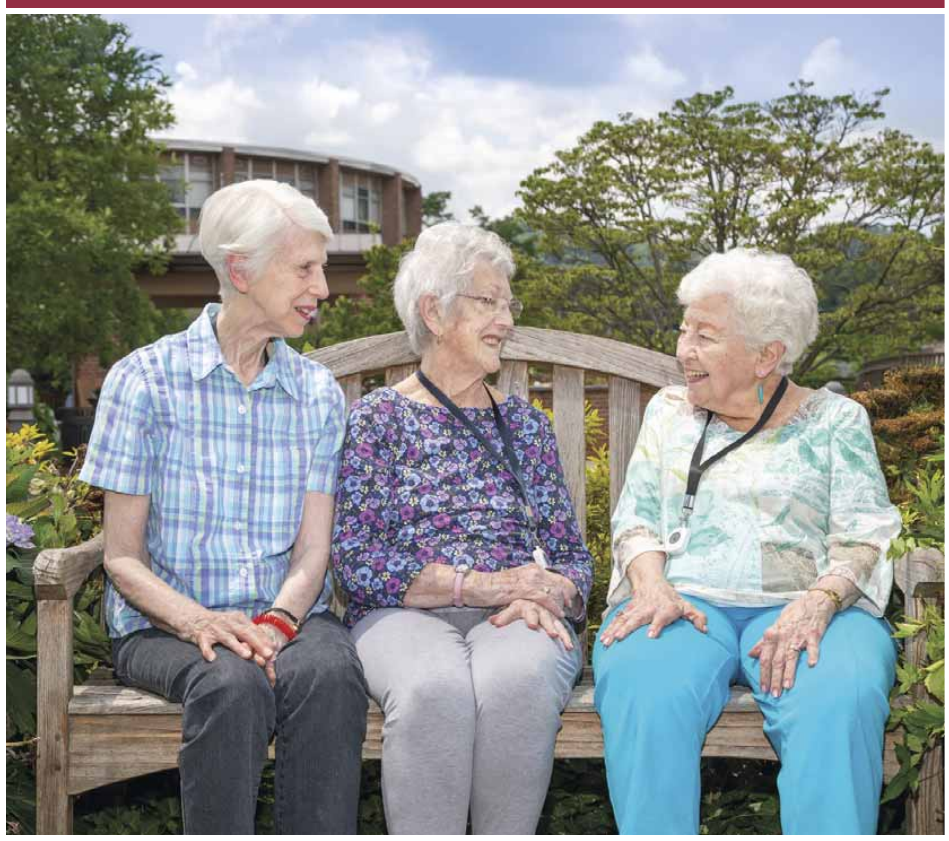
Become a Knight.

Click here

Mansuetto Roofing & Sheet Metal

N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors
Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community
Since 1945
Three Generations of Family Management
116 Wood Street
Martins Ferry OH 43935
740-633-7320

The Welty Home Difference: Assisted Living At Its Best



Welty Home for the Aged www.WeltyHome.org • (304) 242-5233

Daily Living with Fr. Chapin

Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13 Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

Knights of Columbus®

Carroll Council 504
OF WHEELING, W.VA.

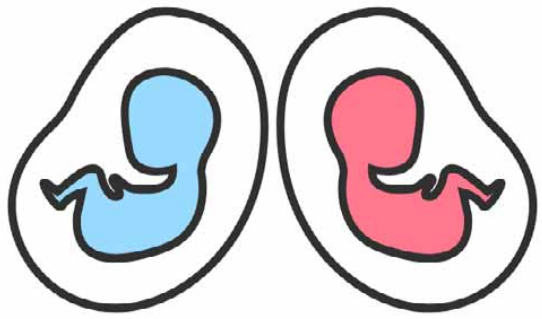
Since 1900, West Virginia's first Knights of Columbus Council — Carroll Council 504 — has been committed to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Guided by these Principles, we will continue to serve the parishioners of St. Michael, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Alphonsus, and the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and the Wheeling community today and tomorrow.

To learn more and to join us,
click here

Join Saint Agnes in Charleston for the

MARCH FOR LIFE



January 23, 2026

Bus Leaves: 5:00am
Bus Returns: ~10:30pm
Cost: $140
Scholarships Available

Sign Up

Questions?
dre.stagneswv@gmail.com

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM

David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology

Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology

Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

Learn more at: My**WVU**Heart.com
Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVU Heart & Vascular Institute