

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Hope Scholarship Declared Constitutional by West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals

CHARLESTON – The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia has ruled in a three-to-two vote that the Hope Scholarship is constitutional, according to West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, WOWK News 13 reported Oct. 6.

West Virginia State Treasurer Riley Moore said, “This is a win for West Virginia families.”

This is a developing story that broke at press time. More about the ruling and the Hope Scholarship will be in next week’s edition of The Catholic Spirit.

Special Collection for Hurricane Ian Relief to be Held Oct. 29-30

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

Throughout the region, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in conjunction with other agencies, are already hard at work providing humanitarian aid. Items like food, water, sanitation assistance and clean-up services are already being

See “Collection” on Page 2



Pro-Life Rosary Chains form across Diocese on Respect Life Sunday

John Sherwood Photo

Love both mom and baby was the message Catherine Dye and her two daughters Cecelia, left, and Rachel shared with their community during the Pro-Life Rosary Chain in Charles Town on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 2. The prayer chain was organized by their parish, St. James the Greater in Charles Town. Faithful across the diocese shared the Pro-Life message with their communities as well on Respect Life Sunday.

Inside: Bishop Brennan’s Letter on Respect for the Lives of Mothers and Children, Page 3

Jason Evert Speaks to Catholic Youth and Families in Three West Virginia Cities, Page 7

Pope Tells Putin: Stop the War

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With “rivers of blood and tears” still flowing in Ukraine and with the increasing threat of the use of nuclear weapons, Pope Francis begged Russian President Vladimir Putin: “Stop this spiral of violence and death.”

With the situation being “so serious, devastating and threatening,” the pope did not offer his customary commentary on the day’s Gospel reading before reciting the Angelus prayer Oct. 2. Instead, he focused on the war and the “terrible and inconceivable wound” it is inflicting on humanity. While constantly calling for peace and offering prayers for the victims since the war began in late February, the pope drew attention in his talk to “the serious situation that has arisen in recent days with further actions contrary to the principles of international law,” a clear reference to Putin’s announcement Sept. 30 that Russia was annexing four occupied territories in Ukraine.

Collection...

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provided and the agencies will remain in the area to support repair and rebuild efforts in communities.

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

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

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

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

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

The decision, the pope told people in St. Peter’s Square, “increases the risk of nuclear escalation to the point of fears of uncontrollable and catastrophic consequences worldwide.”

“My appeal is addressed first of all to the president of the Russian Federation, begging him to stop this spiral of violence and death, also for the sake of his people,” the pope said. But “saddened by the immense suffering of the Ukrainian people as a result of the aggression suffered,” Pope Francis also appealed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy “to be open” to any “serious peace proposals.”

The pope also asked world leaders “to do everything in their power to put an end to the ongoing war, without allowing themselves to be drawn into dangerous escalations, and to promote and support initiatives for dialogue.” While remembering Ukraine’s “thousands of victims,” including children, the destruction and the displacement of millions of people, Pope Francis also spoke of specifics.

“Some actions can never be justified. Never!” the pope said.

“It’s distressing that the world is learning the geography of Ukraine through names like Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, Izium, Zaporizhzhia and other towns that have become places of suffering and indescribable fear,” the pope said, referring to cities previously occupied by Russian troops and where mass graves were found once the areas were lib-

erated. “And what about the fact that humanity is once again faced with the atomic threat?” the pope asked. “It is absurd.”

“How much blood still must flow before we understand that war is never a solution, only destruction?” the pope asked thousands of people gathered in the square for the midday prayer. “In the name of God and in the name of the sense of humanity that dwells in every heart,” he said, “I renew my call for an immediate ceasefire.”

Pope Francis prayed for a negotiated settlement of the conflict, one that is “not imposed by force, but agreed, just and stable.”

A just solution, he said, must be “based on respect for the sacred value of human life, as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country, and the rights of minorities and legitimate concerns.”

Notice from The Tribunal

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston hereby formally cites Mr. Mark Rivard as the respondent in the contention of marital nullity (Case 4055-2021 Wisnosky-Rivard) introduced by his former spouse before this Tribunal. Mr. Rivard should contact the Tribunal at (304) 233-0880 as soon as possible. Any member of the faithful who knows the whereabouts of Mr. Rivard is kindly asked to advise him of this matter.

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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 Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, 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: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

Letter on Respect for the Lives of Mothers and Children

September 30, 2022

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as you likely know, the West Virginia legislature recently passed a bill regulating the practice of abortion in the State and the Governor signed it into law. The new law offers much greater protection to preborn human beings than was formerly afforded in West Virginia. It treats women who seek an abortion with commendable restraint while holding medical practitioners accountable for their actions, should they violate the law.

As Governor Justice said, neither those who support abortion nor those who oppose it got everything they wanted from the new law. Some on one side wanted no restrictions or very few on abortion and no consequences for those who practice the procedure. Some on the other side did not want the exceptions allowed by the law for cases of rape, incest and a serious threat to the mother's life. While acknowledging the genuine hardship of women in such situations, they saw a greater injustice in taking the life away from a baby conceived in those circumstances or caught in a tragic crisis the child could not avoid.

All in all, however, the new law makes life in the womb much safer for preborn children in West Virginia. We must remember that God Himself gave us the commandment, "You shall not kill," and that Jesus has taught us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, which is irrelevant if we stand by and let the smallest, most vulnerable human beings be killed. I applaud the national Knights of Columbus and our local Knights Councils for providing sonogram machines to pregnancy centers. Seeing their tiny child alive, many women have changed their mind about getting an abortion.

Be clear about this: abortion is a gruesome matter. While there are a number of ways in which a preborn child is killed, two are most common: either a painful surgical procedure, in which the child is dismembered within the womb, or a similarly painful, chemically induced expulsion of the preborn child from the mother's womb. What humane person, especially a God-fearing one, could approve of such a brutal act? My personal experience counseling women who have had abortions has also taught me how scarred their abortions often leave them, once they recognize that they have done the most unnatural thing for a woman to do: allow her child to be killed. We should spare women that trauma.

My brothers and sisters, our Church is both pro-child and pro-woman. As the prolife movement long ago realized, seeking only to limit or eliminate abortions is not enough. We must also provide support to mothers before and after they give birth and to their families. Pregnancy centers around the nation have been doing that for decades, often helped by volunteers and money from Catholic parishes. The American bishops' program, "Walking with Moms in Need," will strengthen the connection between Catholic parishes and local pregnancy centers. Stay alert for more information about this initiative.

We must work as well to ensure that hospitals in our State provide quality prenatal and postpartum care, especially to those women who lack health insurance and other financial resources. Having checked with the administrators of Catholic hospitals in West Virginia, I can assure you that, as a matter of faith and respect for the dignity of the person, they will not turn away women who lack health insurance but need quality prenatal and postpartum care.

An inspiring example of what we can do together comes from St. Joseph's Parish in Martinsburg. Assisted by other Catholic parishes and other churches in the Eastern Panhandle, St. Joseph's is renovating a former convent to provide a place for pregnant women to live who have nowhere else to go. "Mary's Refuge" will be able to accommodate nine pregnant women, who can live there for up to a year while they work and receive counseling on healthy lifestyle choices and how to raise a child. Could not such a project go forward in other parts of our State?

The State, too, has a role to play. Our legislature and Governor have created a law that will shield many preborn children from an untimely and atrocious death, but the State can and should do more. Especially now, with large budget surpluses, but even in difficult times, the State should prioritize funding programs directed toward helping young families pay for quality childcare when both parents or a child's only parent must work outside the home. Paid maternity leave would help mothers in postpartum recovery and give them time to bond with their newborn children. Giving more support to adoption services, promoting adoption and reducing financial obstacles in the adoption process would benefit adopted children and their new family. More must be done to support women subjected to domestic violence, which often harms their children as well. Government cannot do everything, but these are some of the things it could do.

Pope St. John Paul II often spoke of "building a culture of life." That is the larger goal to which we Catholics must be committed. Building that culture includes all of the positive steps that the Church, other private groups and our governments can take to uphold the right to life and promote the welfare of families. But building a culture that respects all human life also means resisting evil, the "culture of death" that has gained a strong foothold in our country.

We see the culture of death at work now in attempts to discredit and damage pregnancy centers. We see it in attacks on Catholic churches that have occurred across the nation and in the vilification of Catholic Supreme Court justices for supposedly imposing their religion on the country by overthrowing the Roe-Casey abortion regime. We see it in programs advanced by major corporations that will provide funds for their pregnant employees to travel to states that make abortion readily available. We must defend and support pregnancy centers, speak out against attacks on churches, Catholic groups and individuals and others who support both child and mother, and challenge big companies who facilitate abortions but are less generous in supporting their pregnant employees who want to give birth to their children. In the latter case, look up on the internet the names of those corporations. Do they deserve our patronage? We have to resist evil as well as do good.

These are tumultuous times. We cannot be certain of what may come from our efforts to build a culture of life. We can only entrust ourselves and our cause to the Lord and do our best. St. Teresa of Kolkata said that God has called us not to be successful but to be faithful. Yet we must trust that, in seeking to be faithful to the God who has given us life, we will be able to stem some of the evil that threatens human beings and accomplish some substantial good for them. St. Paul said, "Bear one another's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" [Galatians 6:2]. Let us bear the burden of standing up for life and promoting the good of our brothers and sisters, the little ones and the bigger ones. As a contemporary song says, "Go make a difference. You can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world." Let us not shrink from the struggle but engage in it with confidence in the God who has made the ultimate difference in the world by sending His Son as our Savior. United to him, we can make a difference in today's world for women, children and families. May God bless and guide us.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

One Bread, One Body

The Eucharist and Community



Throughout this Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, each print edition of *The Catholic Spirit* (published on the First Friday of each month) will feature a guest article on the Eucharist.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

By Father John H. Finnell and friends

Bicycle wheels have always fascinated me as rather miraculous architecture. Such very thin spokes, all connected to a single hub and rim, share the weight of the bike and rider evenly and enable smooth performance of duty. No spoke on its own could carry that weight, nor even 75% if them, but all together they can fulfill their mission! Those spokes barely touch one another as they converge on the hub. It is the hub that enables those thin pieces of metal to work together and produce the desired result of a strong, but lightweight, free-spinning wheel.

Bicycle wheels also speak to me about the true nature of a Christian community. The spokes are like members of the Church, the outer rim is the practical application of the mission of the Church, but that is possible only because the hub is Jesus Christ himself. While friendship and cooperation (whether casual or “deep”) do have value unto themselves, in a Christian community they become the result of our relationship with Christ.

During my 44 years of presbyteral ministry, I have observed, in many parishes, that our liturgy and sacraments are what draw us together, give us a common vision and motivate us to engage in our common mission. The Eucharist, in particular, challenges and inspires us to reach out to one another – often in connections that would probably not have happened outside of Church. As we allow the Holy Spirit to call us into particular forms of prayer, education, service and action to pursue peace, justice and care for creation, we find ourselves alongside others who are involved for the same reason. We are often surprised to discover common bonds with total strangers, bonds which enrich and deepen our own faith commitments.

My own family has a particularly interesting example of this phenomenon. My parents, Rita and Ambrose, both happened to be living in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C., around the year 1940. Not knowing one another at all (he from Massachusetts and she from Vermont), they had both grown into the habit of at-

tending daily Mass at Holy Trinity Church. Rita was working and owned a car, while Ambrose was a poor student who “hoofed it” wherever he went. Having seen him several times at Mass, one day Rita, on her way to Mass, stopped and offered Ambrose a ride. That kindled a romance which eventually led to marriage and children! She would never have offered a ride to a strange man, but he wasn’t a total stranger – he was her brother in Christ!

My own love and reverence for the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist has led me to ministries in Massachusetts, Michigan, Maryland and West Virginia. I entered each new parish alone, not knowing ahead of time that each position would bind me to new and wonderful connections with fellow Christians, teach me new insights and skills and enable me to participate in many fruitful ministries and projects.

Again and again, I am reminded that Eucharist is not a special kind of thing, but rather a dynamic, living, relationship with Jesus Christ. When riding with friends in a car on a long trip, I notice how sometimes there is animated conversation and other times peaceful silence. We are the same people, in the same relationship, but we express different modes of relationship at different times and places. Thus it is with the disciples of Jesus who gather together at his table of Word and Sacrament and then go forth with a rich va-

riety of graces, relationships and ministries.

When I was growing up in the 1950s I was introduced to the Eucharist as a moment of privileged relationship with Jesus that called me to return to my pew quickly after receiving Communion, kneel and cover my face with my hands and, as much as possible, shut out the rest of the world from my consciousness. Many other folks have shared their similar training. With the fresh air of the Second Vatican Council, we were invited to view the rest of the world with the eyes and heart of Jesus. Several people have shared how moving it is to carefully observe all others who are receiving Communion precisely because we realize that through Christ we are spiritually connected to them all – including those who may be total strangers, and even including those whom we may not like very much!

This experience of being bound together in one’s local community through the Eucharist also nudges many Catholics who shared their thoughts with me to be aware of their similar relationship with everyone in the world who is receiving Communion in their own local parishes! Awareness of the universal Church is a reason for all of us to participate in regional and diocesan-wide liturgies when possible. Such experiences pull us out of our own little corner, encourage us by the reality of a wider community of faith, and open doors to our generous service of those in need. All of this spurs us on to invite the whole world to join us in this great mystery (evangelization).

Back at home, in our own parishes, a simple, common greeting and response, rolls off our lips easily and frequently during Mass: “The Lord be with you!”... “And with your spirit!” We are not being wished good fortune, perfect health, happy families, excellent academic grades, success in sports,

lovely homes or desirable jobs – but rather something better and more lasting than all of those things: the indwelling of the creator of the universe, the attunement of our souls to the ultimate truth of existence! The God who does abide with us and within us is our profound spiritual connection to all of God’s creatures, just like the hub and spokes of a bicycle wheel.

In these years of Eucharistic Renewal, we can all reflect on these questions:

Whom have we met through our Eucharistic sharing?

What good works have we shared with our Eucharistic companions (Latin: cum=with, pan=bread)?

What signs of Jesus with us and within us have we witnessed and experienced?



Courtesy Photo

Father John H. Finnell says, “Bicycle wheels speak to me about the true nature of a Christian community. The spokes are like members of the Church, the outer rim is the practical application of the mission of the Church, but that is possible only because the hub is Jesus Christ himself.”



Calling all Middle and High School students!

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Please register through The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

For more information, please call the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 304-233-0880, extension 374. Parents are encouraged to attend as well.




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USCCB Pro-Life Chairman Calls for 'Radical Solidarity' with Pregnant Women

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee called for a "radical solidarity" with pregnant women to protect and support them and their unborn child.

"In the post-Roe world, we must act in radical solidarity with the pregnant woman and her child, as we work and pray for the day when abortion is unthinkable," said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The archbishop made the remarks in a statement released late Oct. 4 to mark the 100 days since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in its *Dobbs* ruling.

Mothers should "be protected and supported," he said, "and we all have a responsibility to stand with mothers in need and provide the material and emotional support necessary to allow mothers, children and families to live in dignity."

Archbishop Lori also issued the statement to reiterate Catholic teaching on life as a response to recent public comments from people in public life "who distort the Catholic Church's teaching," said a USCCB news release.

"The Catholic Church recognizes that all people, born and unborn, have been created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore have inherent dignity, and the right to life," Archbishop Lori said. "When a woman is carrying a child, both mother and child are valued and should be protected, and the life of one should not be set against the life of another."

He added, "The goal is always to save life, never to intentionally destroy life. The church seeks the protection of all unborn children, this includes the innocent child conceived in rape or incest."

Neither Archbishop Lori nor the news release named any specific public officials' comments on abortion and the Catholic Church, but in remarks Sept. 22, President Joe Biden claimed that a bill sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., to ban abortion after 15 weeks nationwide is more strict than what the church says about abortion.

Speaking at a Democratic National Committee fundraiser in New York, Biden said Graham and others are "talking about how they're gonna, you know, make sure that Roe is forever gone and *Dobbs* becomes a

national law."

He said the senator's bill has "no exceptions." "I happen to be a practicing Roman Catholic, my church doesn't even make that argument," Biden said.

However, the "Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children from Late-Term Abortions Act," as the bill is called, does include exceptions for rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. The measure also has been introduced in the House.

"Whereas the church always seeks the protection of all unborn children, it is licit to support legislation that falls short of this goal, if it advances protections and limits harm," said Archbishop Lori said in his statement.

He quoted Section 73 of St. John Paul II's 1995 encyclical on the value and inviolability of human life, "Evangelium Vitae": "This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects."

"The USCCB supports legislation that seeks to limit the harm of abortion, including some legislation that includes exceptions," Archbishop Lori said. "We will continue to pray and work for the day when all human life is welcomed in love and protected by law."

The Supreme Court's June 24 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* came in a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks. The case was *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

The court affirmed the law 6-3 and also voted 5-4 to overturn the 1973 *Roe* ruling, which legalized abortion nationwide, and 1992's *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruling, which affirmed *Roe*. The ruling returned the issue of abortion to the states.

In a Sept. 21 statement he issued for October as Respect Life Month, Archbishop Lori said the court's reversal of *Roe* "is, without question, an answer to prayer," but in a post-*Roe* world, "Catholics must now work together for another, even deeper paradigm shift."

"We must move beyond a paradigm shift in the law in order to help the people of our nation better see who we can be as a nation by truly understanding what we owe to one another as members of the same human family," he said.

"To build a world in which all are welcome," he said, Catholics "must heed" the words of St. Teresa of Kolkata "and remember 'that we belong to one another.'"

Cardinals Cupich and Dolan urge HHS to 'Reconsider Misguided Mandate' on Transgender Procedures

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic hospitals and their workers "must not be coerced by the government to violate their consciences" by being forced to perform "gender transition procedures" against their religious beliefs, said two U.S. cardinals writing in *America* magazine.

In a Sept. 26 article in the national weekly Jesuit publication based in New York, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago and Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York addressed a proposed revision called to the Affordable Health Care law drafted by the civil rights office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The HHS proposal, or "proposed rule" as it is called, would apply to implementation of an ACA provision, Section 1557, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex — including pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity — in covered health programs or activities.

This provision "rightly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in health care. We wholeheartedly support all efforts to ensure that everyone, without exception, receives the best health care that is their due," Cardinals Cupich and Dolan wrote.

"Catholic hospitals do not discriminate against anyone and to do so would be offensive to the embracing and expansive healing ministry of Jesus Christ," they said, noting that one of every seven Americans in need of hospital care will receive it in a Catholic facility.

"All people who come to us" are treated with dignity, "no matter their age, sex, racial or ethnic background or

religion. It is also true for people who identify as transgender. They will receive the same treatment as any other patient," the prelates said.

"However, if health care facilities are to be places where the twin pillars of faith and science stand together, then these facilities and their workers must not be coerced by the government to violate their consciences," they said.

Besides forcing health care workers to perform gender transition procedures, the revisions would require health insurance plans to cover the costs of such procedures.

The HHS proposal will likely apply to all health care providers, clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, group health insurers and third-party administrators of self-funded plans.

The full proposal, published under the heading "Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities," can be found on the Federal Register's website at <https://bit.ly/3d0wwkJ>. The site includes a link to submit comments and provides other ways to submit comments.

It was published Aug. 4 by the Federal Register, opening a 60-day period for public comment. The last day for submissions was Oct. 3.

"Under this new proposed rule, it would be considered discrimination for a health care facility or worker to object to performing gender transition procedures, regardless of whether that objection is a matter of sincerely held religious belief or clinical judgment," Cardinals Cupich and Dolan said. "This is government coercion that intrudes on the religious freedom of faith-based health care facilities."

They urged HHS "to reconsider its
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Bishop Brennan Leads Discussion on the Eucharist in Bridgeport

By Colleen Rowan

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Mark Brennan led a discussion on the National Eucharistic Revival at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport Oct. 4 which featured a video commentary by Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago. The discussion was the culmination of a series of talks on the Eucharist presented by the parish. The event was live-streamed for those who could not attend.

In introducing the video of Cardinal Cupich's talk at the 25th Eucharistic Congress in the Archdiocese of Atlanta on the feast of Corpus Christi June 16, Bishop Brennan said, "He gave a wonderful talk. I thought, this is a good way to conclude the series of talks and conversations you've been having in this Eucharistic Revival..."

Following the video presentation, the bishop continued with his discussion.

"My hope is that people will be reinvigorated in their faith in Christ, that he really does fulfill his promise to be with us through the Eucharist. It is him we receive. And on the basis of receiving him, we can be transformed. We are supposed to be transformed to do good things in the world. That is my hope," Bishop Brennan said in answering a question from a member of the congregation on his expectations of the revival and plans the diocese has for the year.

The bishop explained that this is the first year of the three-year initiative of the U.S. Bishops with the focus at the diocesan level. The diocese's plans for the year, the bishop said, include gatherings, especially in the spring ... "to gather people from different parishes together to ex-



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan leads a discussion on the Eucharist at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport Oct. 4.

perience some enlightenment about the Eucharist and to celebrate the Eucharist."

In addition to The Catholic Spirit, FaithInWV and the diocese's website and social media are showcasing information on gatherings, prayerful opportunities, educational materials, and more throughout the year. The bishop said that next year's focus is on the parish level and the following year on the national level.

"We want our people to receive the benefit of

the Eucharist," the bishop said, "and draw more people in to be in touch with the Lord in that way so that they could be changed as the bread and wine are changed and do good things in the world. We're not a Catholic club. We are a movement proclaiming Jesus as Lord and savior and trying to do good things in his name."

To watch the presentation and Cardinal Cupich's video presentation and for more information about the Eucharistic Revival, visit the diocese's website at www.dwc.org.

Book Studies Available to Help the Faithful on the Eucharistic Revival Journey

By Joyce Bibey

During this diocesan year of the Eucharistic Revival in our country the faithful are called to enter into a closer relationship with God and evangelize as we renew our focus on Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

The word "evangelize" alone can be intimidating, especially when we admit we have a lot to learn ourselves. With that in mind the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis Director Daniel Maul and his staff have developed a series of easy-to-follow book studies on publications that will empower and bring us closer to Jesus in the Eucharist.

"This is an exciting time for the church," Maul said. "It is a time to feed our souls and grow individually, as well as a Catholic community."

The book studies can be led by anyone in the parish that is eager to learn. The guides are set up to walk you and your group through summaries, quotes, questions, and discussion prompts, Maul said. The first three in the series are available now through Maul's office. The books include: "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church" by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); "God is Near Us, The Eucharist the Heart of Life" by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI); and "Eucharist"

by Bishop Robert Barron.

This collection of books, beginning with the USCCB's book that gives us a strong foundation for the journey, will help us discover our own devotion and dependency on God and the Eucharist as the heart of life.

"We are all busy and wear many hats, but our faith and spiritual growth is something we shouldn't just keep in a box and pull out whenever it's convenient for us," he said. "Our office is here to help bring our faith into our lives so fully that it is second nature for us to share our love of God and the gift of the Holy Eucharist with our loved ones and community through our actions and our words."

Entering into a focus on the Eucharist as a small group and church family also invites the Holy Spirit into your hearts as Jesus taught us and is repeated in Matthew 18:20— "For where two or more of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

"These book studies can be life giving exercises for our parishes small and large," Maul said. "We all get overwhelmed with our daily routines and never-ending list of to-dos. Our time is precious, but taking on spiritual formation with others—no matter their age, background, demographic—makes catechesis easier, inviting, and more engaging."

If you have a book you would like to have

Maul's office review for a book study, contact him at dmaul@dwc.org or (304)233-0880 ext. 376.

An advertisement for book studies. At the top left is the "EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL 2022-2025" logo. Below it are three book covers: "God is Near Us", "The Eucharist", and "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church". To the right are three small images: a monstrance, a priest, and a group of people. The text reads: "SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES". Below that, it says: "The first 3 easy to follow guides in a series are ready for the faithful to begin with their parish family." and "To get started contact: dmaul@dwc.org or call: (304)233-0880 ext. 376". At the bottom, it says "DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON" and "www.dwc.org" with social media icons.

Jason Evert Speaks to Catholic Youth and Families in Three West Virginia Cities

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Renowned national Catholic speaker and author Jason Evert tackled many issues young people and families are facing these days in his late September speaking tour in West Virginia. He began the three-city tour in Wheeling Sept. 26 at St. Michael Parish presenting the Purified Event for young people 13 and older and their families. The first evening of the two-night retreat included Evert's presentation on chastity for teens and parents where he discussed the world's view of sexuality and what the church teaches.

The next morning, Evert presented a talk on "Love or Lust" to students in grades seven through 12 at Madonna High School in Weirton, a school he knows well as he did an internship there years ago while he attended Franciscan University of Steubenville. At Franciscan, Evert earned a master's degree in theology, and undergraduate degrees in counseling and theology. He and his wife Crystallina then started the Chastity Project for teens and young adults. To date, they have reached more than two million people on six continents. He is the best-selling author of 10 books and is a frequent guest on radio programs. His television appearances include Fox News, the BBC, MSNBC, and EWTN.

After his visit to Madonna, Evert was back in Wheeling presenting a talk to students at Central Catholic High School that afternoon.

To the faithful who filled St. Michael Church for his discussion on



Colleen Rowan Photo

Young people look on as Jason Evert presents his talk "Theology of Your Body" at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

the second night of the retreat later that evening, Evert shared his presentation "Theology of Your Body." In this talk, he discussed the meaning of sex, gender, and the human body.

"We, as men and women, have been given a task to rediscover the meaning of our bodies," he said in his talk. "And to me, this is the most important form of evangelization right now—simply to be as God has created us to be as men and as women."

Evert also discussed gender dysphoria and walking with those who

are experiencing this. He discussed the harmful effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones on teens, and a "relentless assault" on masculinity and femininity in the last 50 years.

At the end of his second night at St. Michael's, Evert headed to Morgantown where he presented "Dating 101" to a packed hall at St. John University Parish for young parishioners and Mountaineer Catholic students (the parish's campus ministry for Catholic students attending West Virginia University).

The talks Evert shared in West

Virginia along with additional issues of discussion by Evert and his wife are available on chastity.com through CDs and DVDs. The site also offers a place for Catholics to find answers on issues such as dating, marriage and family, and pornography, among other topics. The site provides young people, parents, and families guidance on different issues through many different resources. A listing of the Everts' books, audiobooks, and more are also available for purchase on the site.

Cardinals...

Cont'd from Page 5
misguided mandate."

"Such a mandate threatens the conscience rights of all health care providers and workers who have discerned that participating in, or facilitating, gender transition procedures is contrary to their own beliefs," they added.

The cardinals said that "people of many faiths, or of no faith yet with deep personal convictions, may find these procedures profoundly troubling, and their constitutional rights deserve to be respected."

"In a society that protects the free exercise of religion, religious health care providers cannot be expected to violate the teachings of their religion as a condition of continuing their care, and religious health care workers cannot be expected to violate their consciences as a condition of employment," they said.

Cardinals Cupich and Dolan asked the question: "Does objecting to performing gender transition procedures — but welcoming patients who identify as transgender — constitute dis-

crimination?"

"Of course not," they said. "The focus of such an objection is completely on the procedure, not the patient."

"Prohibiting the removal of a healthy, functioning organ is not discrimination, provided that the same determination would be made for anyone of any sex or gender, which is true at Catholic hospitals," they continued.

The cardinals confirmed what other critics of the HHS proposal said when they first became aware of it back in July, that it would not include federal conscience protection for those in health care who object to performing these procedures.

"The proposed regulation does not codify the rights of faith-based providers to decline procedures based on conscience, as other federal laws do," the prelates said. "Rather, it holds that HHS reserves the right to decide whether, despite those existing conscience protections, it can force faith-based providers to violate their beliefs."

"Considering that the government is currently fighting court rulings that held that it

violated religious freedom laws the last time it tried to impose a mandate like this, it is reasonable to lack confidence in the department's commitment to construing these laws to provide appropriately robust conscience protections," they said.

One such court ruling was handed down Aug. 26 by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

In a unanimous decision, the court blocked an HHS transgender mandate in a case that dates back to the Obama administration.

The ruling came in the case *Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra*. The lawsuit was first filed in 2016 by Franciscan Alliance, a Catholic health care network, and a group of nearly 19,000 health care professionals.

That year the Obama administration began implementing a mandate requiring doctors to perform gender transition procedures on any patient, including children, and required private insurance companies — except plans run by Medicare and Medicaid — and many employers to cover gender reassignment therapy or face severe penalties and legal action.

Martinsburg's St. Joseph School Enthroned to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary

By Colleen Rowan

MARTINSBURG—On Sept. 21, Father Thomas Gallagher enthroned St. Joseph School in Martinsburg to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, “making Jesus the king of our school family and dedicating it to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary,” school officials said.

Father Gallagher, who is pastor of the school and of St. Joseph Parish, joined Bishop Mark Brennan the day before for Mass celebrated for the students. During the Mass, the bishop blessed two images of Jesus and Mary donated by the Legion of Mary Praesidium (Our Lady of Good Help) for the dedication.

School officials said the gold-framed artworks will be displayed in the school.

Enthroning the school to Jesus and Mary implores their protection from danger on many levels, Father Gallagher said.

“Not only are we constantly looking to keep our school environment safe from physical danger, whether it be a fire or intruder, we also take seriously the fact that we face spiritual dangers, sin and temptation,” Father Gallagher said. “St. Peter says in his first letter, ‘Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roar-

ing lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith...’ (1 Peter 5: 8-9). Enthroning our school, our families, and our hearts to Jesus and Mary, helps protect us from spiritual dangers from whom the powers of the enemy fly.”

Father Gallagher expressed his gratitude to Principal Maria Byrd, whose idea it was to have the school enthroned. She is president of the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Good Help, St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

“It is a very important part of our works that we enthrone the families/homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” Byrd said. “In this manner, we make Jesus, the King of our hearts and families. I thought it would be a wonderful devotion for teachers and students to do the same, as we are one family, the St. Joseph School family.”

Father Gallagher added, “To build on our theme of #sjsfamilystrong, we thought there was no better way to foster our family life than to entrust our family to Jesus and Mary,” Father Gallagher said. “It was a great joy for me to hear the children pray together committing themselves to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart. There is no doubt in my mind that St. Joseph,



Courtesy Photo
Father Thomas Gallagher and Bishop Mark Brennan hold the images of Jesus and Mary donated by the Legion of Mary Praesidium (Our Lady of Good Help).

our patron, would be pleased about the enthronement. His silence always leads us to Jesus through Mary.

“Additionally, we are grateful to Bishop Brennan for blessing the images of the Sacred Heart and the

Immaculate Heart when he visited our school on the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows,” Father Gallagher said. He also thanked Music Director Brian Kaltenbaugh for helping to facilitate the enthronement.

Princeton Knights of Columbus Present Gifts to Parish and Pastor



Courtesy Photo

Princeton's Knights of Columbus Council members are pictured with Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.F., pastor of Sacred Heart parishes in Princeton and Bluefield. Father Devasya is wearing the KOC chasuble, which was a gift to him from the council. The Knights also supported the parish youth with a Free Little Catholic Library project. The new library is shown above on parish grounds.

You are Invited to a Music Workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Parish music directors and all involved in parish music ministry are invited to attend one of two workshops featuring a reading session of new music appropriate for the celebration of the Eucharist



Saturday, October 15, 2022: 10:00am-12noon

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
(1114 Virginia St. E., Charleston) or

Sunday, October 16, 2022: 2:00-4:00pm

St. Francis de Sales Parish (1 Guthrie Drive, Morgantown)

The workshop is free, but you must register by October 12 to attend.

Please go to:

<https://dwc.org/music-workshop/>

or call 304-230-1558 to reserve your spot.

Tom Octave, Diocesan Director of Sacred Music for the Diocese of Greensburg, will be the guest presenter for these sessions.



Participants will be led through a packet of free music featuring unison and two/three-part pieces from various



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West Virginia Wesleyan, Notre Dame High School Formalize Creative & Performing Arts Partnership

“West Virginia Wesleyan College is thrilled to partner with Notre Dame High School... The quality of all Notre Dame High School students is well known to us, and we applaud the teachers there for their focus on the whole student, for providing a thoughtfully rigorous environment, and for doing so in such a holistic manner.”

—Dr. James Moore, interim president of West Virginia Wesleyan College

BUCKHANNON—West Virginia Wesleyan College and Notre Dame High School have signed a formal agreement to begin a creative and performing arts partnership between the institutions.

Under the agreement executed Sept. 28, WVWC will employ an instructor to teach in the Performing Arts Conservatory at Notre Dame High School. 2022 WVWC graduate Pippa McGinley will facilitate Notre Dame’s “Shamrocks” Show Choir program and assist students in preparation for musical theater and thespian performances and competitions.

West Virginia Wesleyan College will also provide performance space for up to three NDHS productions in the Virginia Thomas Law Center for the Performing Arts yearly. Notre Dame students will be eligible for unique scholarship opportunities through WVWC and will interact regularly with Wesleyan faculty and staff members to learn more about the arts, college application processes, and

financial aid.

There will be more opportunities for the two entities to partner in the future with hopeful projects including dual credit and college credit courses, performances with West Virginia Wesleyan ensembles, and arts camps and intensives held on the residential campus.

Dr. James Moore, interim President, said, “West Virginia Wesleyan College is thrilled to partner with Notre Dame High School to further the cause of their already amazing Performing Art Conservatory. The quality of all Notre Dame High School students is well known to us, and we applaud the teachers there for their focus on the whole student, for providing a thoughtfully rigorous environment, and for doing so in such a holistic manner. We truly believe that this is the first step of many for our two institutions. The sky is the limit.”

Kelly Light, principal at Notre Dame High School, said, “Notre Dame High School is thrilled to forge a



Courtesy Photo

Dr. James Moore, interim president of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, and Kelly Light, principal at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, formalize an agreement to begin a creative and performing arts partnership between the institutions.

partnership with West Virginia Wesleyan College. We are incredibly excited to work with such a prestigious institution, not only for the growth of our Performing Arts Conservatory (PAC) program, but also for the potential opportunities for all Notre Dame students. As institutions with shared Christian values and an emphasis on academic rigor, we believe WVWC is a great fit for our college-bound students and look forward to working with WVWC to show them all the college has to

offer.”

West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC) is a private, four-year residential liberal arts college in Buckhannon. A tradition of excellence for more than 130 years, West Virginia Wesleyan is home to 14 Fulbright Scholars. The Princeton Review ranked Wesleyan one of its 2023 Best Colleges in the Southeastern Region of the United States. U.S. News & World Report’s 2022-2023 Best College Rankings designated Wesleyan seventh in Best Value – Regional Uni-

versities (South). WVWC offers students more than 40 majors and 40 minors; graduate programs in athletic training, business administration, creative writing, and nursing; 22 NCAA Division II athletic programs; multiple performing arts groups; and more than 70 organizations. Founded in 1890, the College is closely affiliated with the United Methodist Church and abides by the Wesley doctrine that emphasizes service to others. For more information, visit wvwc.edu.

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At Novena, Deacon Lim Encourages All to Reach out to Those Who do not Believe

By Colleen Rowan

In his homily for the fifth evening of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 3, Deacon Paul Lim encouraged all to reach out to those who do not believe.

“As faithful members of the church, especially in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival, this is where much of our attention should go as well, to the nonbelievers,” said Deacon Lim, who serves as vice president of Mission Integration, Administration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. “It’s tempting to keep this novena and this Eucharistic Revival about us, those who already know Jesus in the Eucharist. Of course, as devoted Catholics, we should always go deeper in our Eucharistic devotion. We need to allow ourselves to grow and be conformed to him who we receive at Mass.”

He reminded all that the Eucharist is not just for the faithful or the devout but it is also for those who should be. ... “The Eucharist is the source in the summit of Christian life.”

He encouraged all to bring the faith to those who do not believe.

The theme of this year’s novena is “The Holy Eucharist” and is a great prayerful opportunity during the Eucharistic Revival. All are invited to attend the novena every Monday at 7 p.m. with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily by guest clergy, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague. The sixth evening of the novena is Oct. 10 with Father Chester Pabin of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio.



Colleen Rowan Photo
Deacon Paul Lim blesses the faithful at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 3.

The remaining Mondays of the novena are: Oct. 17 with Father Sateesh Nari-setti, HGN, J.C.L.; Oct. 24 with Father Jude Perera, TOR; and Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan.

Now is the
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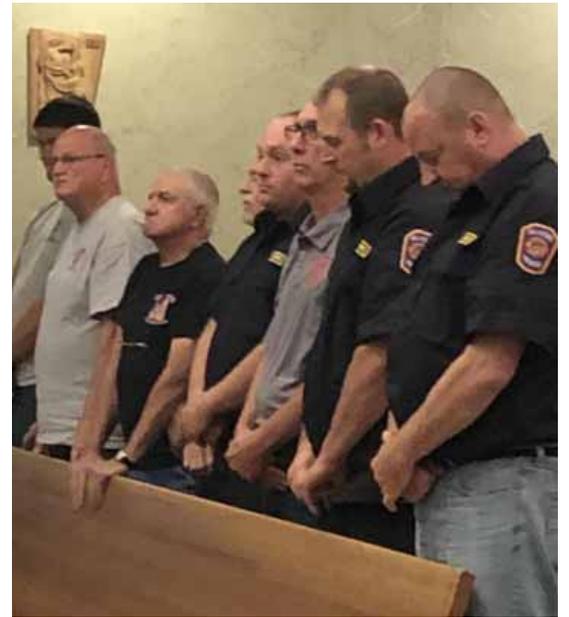
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Blue Mass Celebrated in Follansbee for Police, Firefighters, EMTs, the Military and Healthcare Workers



Courtesy Photos

A Blue Mass was celebrated St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee Sept. 29 to honor and pray for area police, firefighters, EMTs, the military and healthcare workers. Clockwise from top left: Father Jude Perera, TOR, administrator of the parish (left) celebrates the Mass with Father Daniel Maria concelebrating; first responders are pictured at the Mass; and a sign of support hangs outside of the church.

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Volunteers: Integral to Our Work

Our Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (CCNC) in Wheeling held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon over the summer.

“The volunteers are the heart and soul of our services,” said Jodi Fogel, CCWVa Volunteer manager. “Without our dedicated volunteers, our staff would not be able to offer the breadth of services we provide.”

The luncheon allowed the Catholic Charities West Virginia staff to serve and honor individuals who consistently give of themselves in service of others.

The Neighborhood Center serves roughly 4,400 home-delivered meals six days per week and around 12,000 in-house hot meals six days per week. Meals are cooked, packed, and delivered mostly by volunteers.

The Neighborhood Center also has volunteers who assist with keeping the center clean, rotating inventory in the food pantry, and keeping the shelves stocked and clean.

The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center needs more volunteers.

“If it has been weighing on your heart to better serve your community, give us a call. We have many opportunities,” said Fogle.

Jodi Fogle can be reached at (304) 232-7157, ext. 2003.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:45

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

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



Courtesy Photo

Individuals gather for a volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling.



Courtesy Photo

Catholic Charities staff prepare lunch to thank volunteers for their service.

Sister Rita Marie von Berg Celebrates 100th Birthday



Courtesy Photo

Sister Rita Marie von Berg, CSJ, is pictured with one of her dogs.

Sister Rita Marie von Berg, CSJ, celebrates her 100th birthday Aug. 27. She was born in South Wheeling to Peter Paul and Anastasia von Berg. She entered religious life (Congregation of Sisters of Saint Joseph) in 1939 and is celebrating 81 years of religious life. She is a graduate of Wheeling Hospital School of Nursing, received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from The Catholic University in Washington, and a master’s in counseling and guidance from Ohio University in Athens. She was highly active in the health field providing leadership as a nurse educator at St. Mary’s in Clarksburg and director of nursing at St. Francis School of Nursing in Charleston. She provided leadership as director of the School of Nursing at Wheeling Hospital and then became the CEO of Wheeling Hospital. From 1964 to 1991, she continued to lead at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Parkersburg as the CEO and chairman of the board of directors. From 1989 thru 1993, she was a valued member of the Sisters of St Joseph Leadership Team. She currently resides in Torch, Ohio, and continues to contribute her talents to St. Ambrose Parish and the Mid-Ohio Valley.

As an animal enthusiast Sister Rita raised Goats which provided milk to many families with children that required a special diet and milk. She was active in the Clown Club and delighted in raising the spirits of children and the sick. She is an enthusiastic West Virginia sports fan and has attended many football games both at home and away. Currently she has three dogs, two cats, and two fish which keeps her active and amused with their antics.

On her 100th birthday, she said: “I thank God every day for the graces and blessings he has bestowed on me and the gifts of body and soul he has given me.” Her favorite motto is “Live, Love, Laugh.” “I believe in my heart that I live life to the fullest, I love God and all he has created with a passion, and I laugh a lot. In whatever years I have left, with God’s help, they will be lived in the spirit of gentleness, peace, and joy.”

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Month of the Rosary

By Joyce Bibey

Take time for yourself to pray the rosary. Consider it a time well earned – a moment to concentrate on your prayers, joy, sorrow, pain, and thanksgiving. As you recite the Our Fathers, Hail Marys, Glory Bes, and the Fatima Prayer – know that Mary is praying with you and for you. When you steal away time to reverently reflect on the lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, call upon the Blessed Mother to intercede for you to her son Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Picture yourself holding Mary's hand as you hold each bead. That image is exactly what St. Teresa of Calcutta (Kolkata) lovingly and habitually did as she invited Mary Queen of Peace into her reverent prayer.

Let the rosary become your comforting devotion, a calming meditation. Don't think of it as a spiritual chore. Welcome it as well-deserved time to set aside for yourself or with your loved ones. This gift of prayer is directly from our Blessed Mother.

Satan will try to influence your thoughts, so you believe you are too busy or that it's too difficult. Think of it in the opposite way, it is a gift from Mary to you. She gave us the rosary through St. Dominic de Guzman.

Just do it. Let the rosary bring you peace, comfort, grace, and hope. Listen to audio or video versions during your travels, your coffee break, a walk, etc.

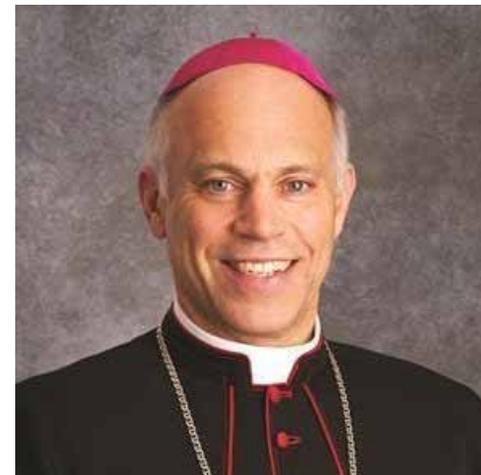
Resources online are endless. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has a rosary guide available at: <https://faithinwv.org/the-rosary> and a healing rosary with video/audio for survivors of abuse at: <https://dwc.org/pray-the-rosary>. Bishop Robert Barron has a series of videos about the rosary and the reciting of the rosary – one for each the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries of the rosary. They are available at <https://wordonfire.org/rosary>.

Oct. 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Victory

The Church recognizes October the Month of the Holy Rosary, because of the 16th Century Marian devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary. Pope Pius V wholeheartedly gave credit to the Virgin Mary for the Oct. 7, 1571, victory for the Church and Christians of Spain and Venice over Turks, who waged war on all Christianity. The day of the battle at sea was the same day the Rosary Confraternity of Rome gathered to recite the rosary for the Blessed Virgin to intercede and go to Jesus to protect and empower the Christians at battle. Pope Pius V declared the day the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. A year later, his successor, Pope Gregory III, changed the name of the feast to Our Lady of the Rosary to emphasize the power of our Blessed Mother's intercession.

Archbishop Cordileone to Receive Award at CDU's 39th Anniversary Gala

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On Nov. 17 at the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C., Catholic Distance University will honor Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco with the Founders Award in celebration of his faithfulness to church teachings. A noted speaker, Archbishop Cordileone will deliver an address one will not want to miss. Very Rev. Joseph R. Gibino, vicar of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Brooklyn, will serve as master of ceremonies.



Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

Tickets can be purchased online, and all are invited to attend. The annual fundraiser celebrates CDU's mission, accomplishments, and graduates, and offers an opportunity to thank the many donors who support the university's work for the church.

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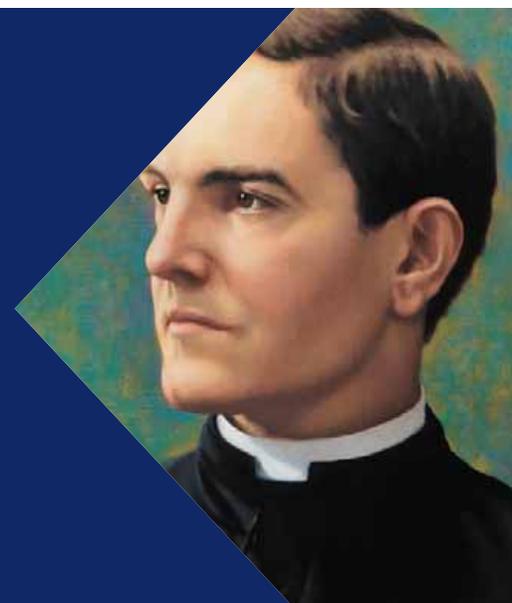
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Detén la guerra, el papa le dice a Putin

Por **Cindy Wooden,**
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Con "ríos de sangre y lágrimas" todavía fluyendo en Ucrania y con la creciente amenaza del uso de armas nucleares, el papa Francisco le rogó al presidente ruso Vladimir Putin: "Detén esta espiral de violencia y muerte".

Dado que la situación es "tan grave, devastadora, y amenazante", el papa no ofreció su comentario habitual sobre la lectura del Evangelio del día antes de recitar la oración del Ángelus el 2 de octubre. En cambio, se centró en la guerra y la "herida terrible e inconcebible" que amenaza la humanidad.

Mientras hacía un llamado constante a la paz y rezaba por las víctimas desde que comenzó la guerra a fines de febrero, el Santo Padre llamó la atención en su discurso sobre "la grave situación que se ha presentado en los últimos días con nuevas acciones contrarias a los principios del derecho internacional", una clara referencia al anuncio de Putin el 30 de septiembre de que Rusia anexaría cuatro territorios ocupados en Ucrania.

La decisión, dijo el Sumo Pontífice a la gente reunida en la Plaza de San Pedro, "aumenta el riesgo de una escalada nuclear, hasta el punto de que hacen temer consecuencias incontrollables y catastróficas a nivel mundial".

"Mi llamado se dirige en primer lugar al presidente de la Federación Rusa, rogándole que detenga esta espiral de violencia y muerte, también por el bien de su pueblo", expresó el papa.

Pero "triste por el inmenso sufrimiento del pueblo ucraniano como resultado de la agresión sufrida", el papa Francisco también apeló al presidente ucraniano Volodymyr Zelenskyy "a estar abierto" a cualquier "propuesta seria de paz".

El papa también pidió a los líderes mundiales "que hagan todo lo que esté a su alcance para poner fin a la guerra en curso, sin dejarse arrastrar por peligrosas escaladas, y que promuevan y apoyen iniciativas para el diálogo".

Mientras recordaba las "miles de víctimas" de Ucrania, incluyendo los niños, la destrucción, y el desplazamiento de millones de personas, el papa Francisco

también habló específicamente.

"Algunas acciones nunca pueden justificarse. ¡Nunca!" declaró el papa.

"Es angustiante que el mundo esté aprendiendo la geografía de Ucrania a través de nombres como Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, Izium, Zaporizhzhia, y otros pueblos que se han convertido en lugares de sufrimiento y miedo indescriptible", manifestó el Santo Padre, refiriéndose a las ciudades previamente ocupadas por tropas rusas y

dónde se encontraron fosas comunes una vez liberadas las áreas.

"¿Y qué pasa con el hecho de que la humanidad se enfrenta una vez más a la amenaza atómica?" preguntó el papa. "Es absurdo".

"¿Cuánta sangre aún debe ser derramada antes de que entendamos que la guerra nunca es una solución, solo destrucción?" el papa preguntó a las miles de personas reunidas en la plaza para la oración del mediodía.

"En nombre de Dios y en

nombre del sentido de humanidad que habita en cada corazón", dijo, "renuevo mi llamado a un alto al fuego inmediato".

El papa Francisco oró por una solución negociada del conflicto, que "no sea impuesta por la fuerza, sino acordada, justa, y estable".

Una solución justa, dijo, debe estar "basada en el respeto al valor sagrado de la vida humana, así como a la soberanía e integridad territorial de cada país, y los derechos de las minorías y preocupaciones legítimas".

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

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

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

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

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

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, October 9: SS. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 16: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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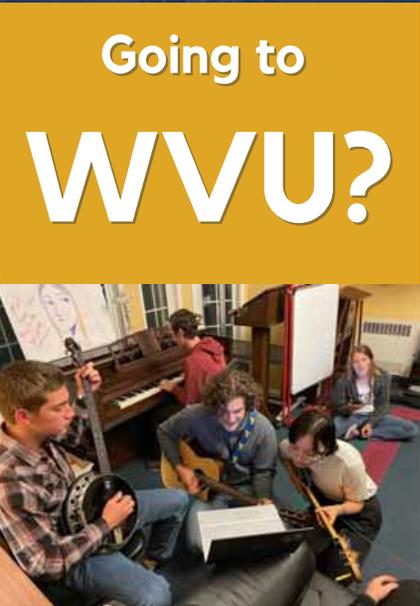
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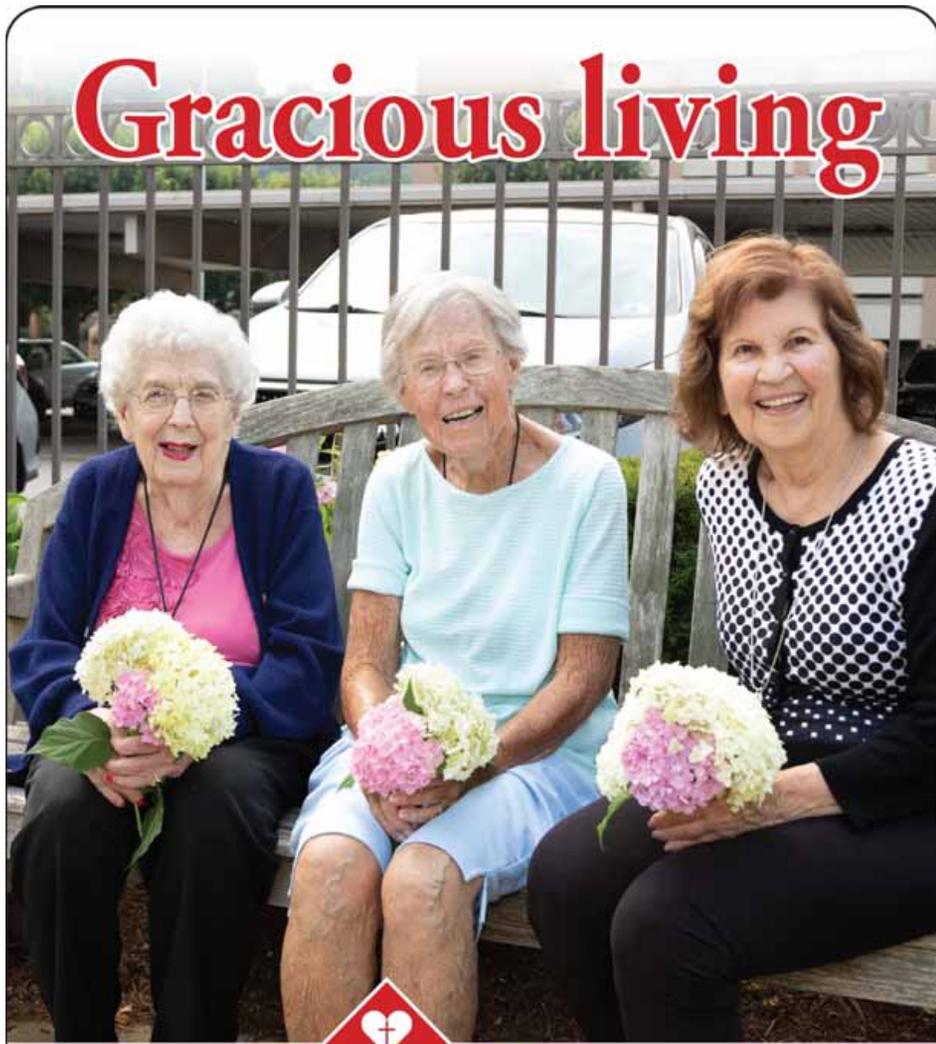
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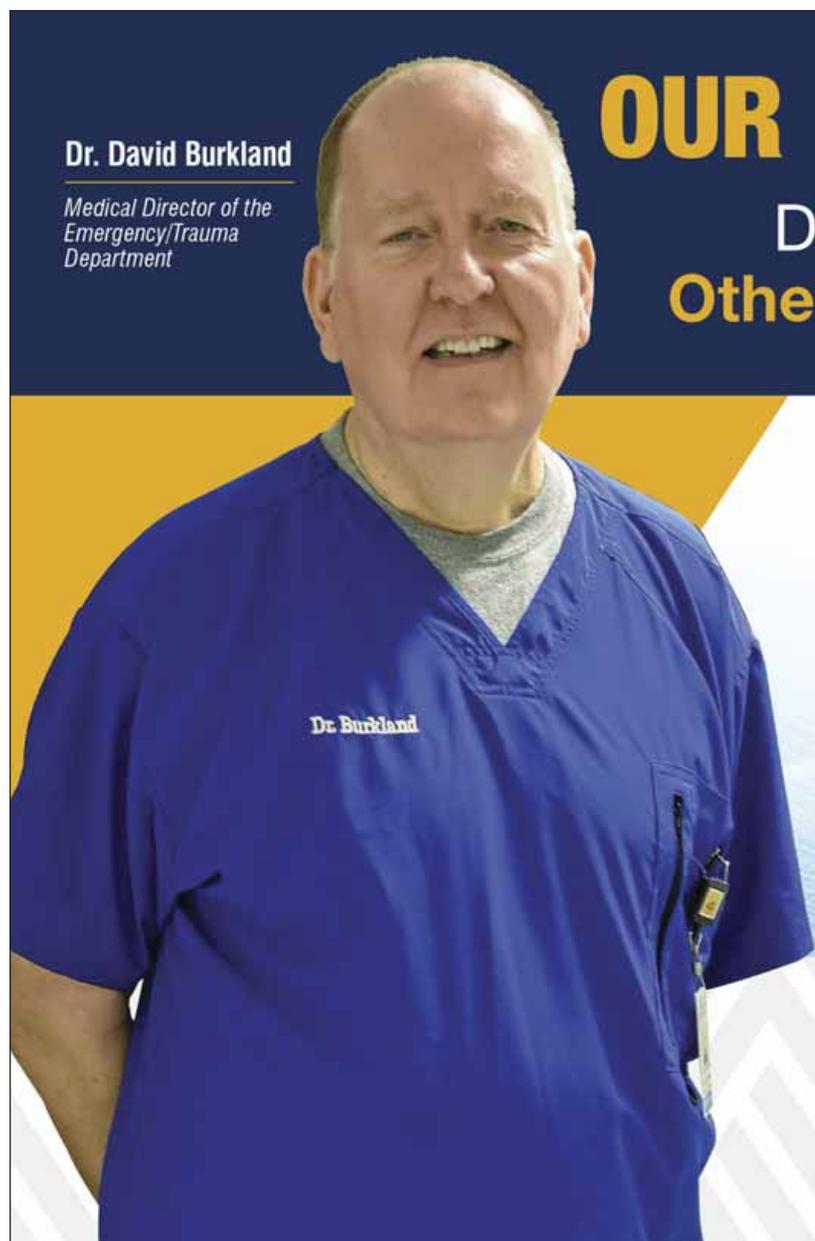
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