



# Fire Devastates Harrisville’s Christ Our Hope Church



Courtesy Photo

Christ Our Hope Church in Harrisville is left devastated by an Oct. 2 fire.

**By Colleen Rowan**

**HARRISVILLE**—Christ Our Hope Church in Harrisville was devastated by an early morning fire Oct. 2. Parish officials said the sanctuary did not burn, but suffered extensive water damage, and that most of the building was destroyed.

“I ask those in the community and the faithful throughout the

state to join us in prayer for the Catholic community of Christ Our Hope Parish,” Bishop Mark E. Brennan said in a statement after hearing about the fire. That afternoon, the bishop visited the site and offered help from the diocese’s personnel.

Responding to the fire were area volunteer fire departments.

Georgette Healy, administrator

of the church’s Facebook page, shared the news of the fire on the page Oct. 2.

“I viewed the devastation today, and the sanctuary is more or less intact, but doubtful that it is salvageable,” she said in the post. “Some of the items may be cleaned up, such as the pews, chalices, crucifix, stations (one is slightly broken).”

The rest of the building was destroyed, including the three-bedroom apartment, kitchen with appliances, large common room, tables, and chairs, said Healy, who is also music director at the church.

In a message to members of Christ Our Hope, Healy said: “We have been inundated with sympathy, prayers, and good wishes...”

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# Church's Inability to Put Victims First is 'Moment of Shame,' Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — The Catholic Church's inability to make victims of abuse their top concern is a cause for intense shame, Pope Francis said. In the wake of a major report investigating the extent of sexual aggression and abuse against minors in the church in France, the pope said, "I wish to express to the victims my sadness, my grief, for the traumas they have endured, and also my shame."

This deep sense of shame, "our shame, my shame," he said, was for "the too lengthy inability of the church to put (victims) at the center of its concerns." The pope made his remarks at his general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, in the presence of a group of bishops and a cardinal from France who had been in Rome for their "ad limina" visit. Just before the audience, the pope and four of the bishops gathered privately for a moment of silent prayer for victims.

After delivering his main catechesis, the pope highlighted a recent report published by an independent body commissioned by the French bishops' conference. According to the four-year investigation, an estimated 216,000 children were abused by priests since 1950, and more than 100,000 others were abused by lay employees of church institutions. The

pope commented on the "considerable number" of known victims revealed in the report.

Assuring victims of his prayers, the pope asked everyone to pray with him: "To you, Lord, the glory; to us, the shame. This is the moment of shame."

He encouraged the country's bishops and superiors general of religious orders "to continue to do their utmost so that similar tragedies are not repeated." Pope Francis also expressed his closeness to the priests in France, assuring them of his "paternal support before this ordeal, which is arduous but beneficial."

He invited the nation's Catholics to take on their responsibility for guaranteeing that "the church be a safe home for everyone."

Meanwhile, the president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, U.S. Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, welcomed the publication of the final report of the "Independent Commission on Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church in France" ([www.ciase.fr/](http://www.ciase.fr/)). The report "is an indictment of the failures of leadership in the church and those holding responsibility for the care and protection of the faithful," the cardinal said in a written statement Oct. 6.

"This history of unchecked abuse extending over the course of generations challenges our comprehension

of how innocent persons could have suffered so terribly and their voices been ignored for so long," he wrote.

Working with government officials and law enforcement, he said, the church "must not fail in the commitment to seek healing and justice for the survivors." The cardinal welcomed and encouraged the implementation of new measures outlined by church leaders in France earlier this year, and said they show how the "cruel indifference" that survivors experienced in the church "can be turned into care and protection."

"The church in France has taken the necessary first steps for dealing with the scourge of sexual abuse by commissioning this report," Cardinal O'Malley said. "We must all adhere to Pope Francis' directive, 'there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors or vulnerable adults.'"

On behalf of the papal commission, he wrote, "I express our profound sorrow and humbly ask forgiveness on the part of all those harmed by these crimes and reprehensible violations of human dignity."

"This report is yet another clarion call to the church throughout the world to hold the safeguarding and protection of children and vulnerable adults as our highest priority," he said.

Matteo Bruni, director of the Vati-

can press office, told reporters Oct. 5 that Pope Francis was praying for the tens of thousands of victims of clerical sexual abuse in France and urged the Catholic Church in the country to "undertake a path of redemption."

Pope Francis learned "with sorrow" of the contents of the report and his "thoughts go first of all to the victims, with great sorrow for their wounds and gratitude for their courage in reporting" their abuse, Bruni said in response to reporters' inquiries in the wake of the report's release. The pope also prayed that the Catholic Church in France, "in the awareness of this appalling reality" of the suffering of vulnerable children, would trace out a path of repentance and reform. "With his prayer, the pope entrusts to the Lord the people of God in France, particularly the victims, that he may give them comfort and consolation, and with justice may the miracle of healing come," Bruni said.

The report, released Oct. 5, was written by an investigating commission led by Jean-Marc Sauvé, a senior civil servant. Before the report was published, he told reporters the inquiry found evidence of between 2,900 and 3,200 abusive priests out of a total of about 115,000 who had served in France since 1950.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.

## To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/Epararchies 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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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Diocesan Web site: [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)

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# Fire...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

She also relayed that after discussing the situation with some parishioners, Father Shinto Mathew, administrator, announced that beginning Oct. 10, Christ Our Hope's 11 a.m. Sunday Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro.

"He asks us to put our hope in Christ," Healy said in her message.

The morning of the fire, Father Mathew, who is also administrator of St. Joseph's and St. John Parish in St. Marys, received a phone call just after 3 a.m. from parishioner Joe Garrett who told him that Christ Our Hope Church was on fire.

Father Mathew called a parishioner of St. John's who traveled with him to Harrisville. They arrived at Christ Our Hope at approximately 3:45 a.m.

"Once we were able to park and get close to the church, my first thought was the tabernacle and the Blessed Sacrament inside," Father Mathew said. "I immediately asked Joe to find out if anyone could get into the sanctuary to get it. Joe was able to get a fireman to go into the church sanctuary to retrieve the entire tabernacle. Thanks be to God."

After the fire was extinguished, the scene in daylight hours later that morning was grim.

"The damage was devastating and just unbelievable," Father Mathew said. "Truly a very sad day."

The fire marshal informed him that he was able to get security footage from the Walgreen's across the street which showed the minute-by-minute events of the fire.

"The fire marshal said that by the footage it looks like it was an electrical fire which started in the roof above the area of the confessional," Father Mathew said. "From there it consumed the sacristy and the social hall along with the kitchen."

An investigation of the cause of the fire is ongoing.

There is also extensive damage to the church office and apartment area because of the roof collapsing, Father Mathew said.

"The amazing thing was that the sanctuary seemed untouched by the fire," he said. "The heat melted lights and the smoke blackened the walls and items on the altar, and the water damaged the pews and books in the pews, but other than that, the roof stood tall there and protected our beautiful crucifix, our statues of Mary and Joseph, and even our Stations of the Cross were not burned up. There was damage to some of the stations, but compared to the rest of the building, they were saved."

"God is truly a great God," Father Mathew continued. "He always has things in his hands. He prepares, where we do not see or understand."



Firefighters work to extinguish the flames that engulf Christ Our Hope Church in Harrisville Oct. 2.

Courtesy Photo



A monstrance donated by the Hilvers family was recovered after the fire Oct. 2 at Christ Our Hope Church in Harrisville.

Courtesy Photo

In September, St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro was prepared for visitors on a pilgrimage for the Year of St. Joseph. Father Mathew said parishioners worked hard to get the church in great shape and in working order, so it is ready to accommodate the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass.

"When the chapel was closed in the 80s, some of the parishioners began to attend Christ Our Hope... Now those parishioners are in a sense coming back home," Father Mathew said. "Members of Christ Our Hope are so thankful that they

have this beautiful chapel that they can call home for the time being until the fate of Christ Our Hope Church is determined."

Father Mathew expressed his gratitude to all who have sent kind words and prayers to the Catholic community during this difficult time. "We truly see what family is when devastations hit," he said. "So many have come together to help wherever and however they can."

Many of them have been at Christ Our Hope Church every day trying to save items that have been found. Father Mathew said one of the items found was a monstrance in one of closets. It was covered

with a cloth, untouched by the fire. "This is a cherished item that was donated by the Hilvers family and will now be used again at St. Joseph Chapel," Father Mathew said.

Christ Our Hope Church was dedicated Nov. 1, 1980, to serve the Catholic community of Ritchie County. It is a mission church of St. John's and is part of the cluster that includes St. John's and St. Joseph Chapel.

Diocesan officials said they will await the results of the investigation currently underway by the state fire marshal, who will determine the cause of the fire, before determining future plans for the church.



The sanctuary at Christ Our Hope Church in Harrisville is pictured at right following the Oct. 2 fire. Courtesy Photo

# Diocese Anticipates Opening Synod Mass at Basilica Co-Cathedral

By Colleen Rowan

Bishop Mark E. Brennan will declare the world synod in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to be officially open at his celebration of Mass Oct. 17 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. that day and will gather West Virginia's Catholic faithful and those leading the synod in prayer "to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out."

**"What better way to open the synod than with a liturgical celebration of the Holy Eucharist!"**

—Bernadette McMasters Kime, director of the Office of Worship and Sacraments

The theme of the synod, chosen by Pope Francis, is: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." The synod will solemnly open with Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 10. The bishop of every diocese will then open the process in his diocese Oct. 17.

The Mass in Charleston will be a joyous occasion in the life of the church in West Virginia, said Bernadette McMasters Kime, director of the Office of Worship and Sacraments who also serves on the diocese's Synod Committee.



Martina Hart Photo

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston



CNS Photo/courtesy Synod of Bishops

This is the official logo for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

"Pope Francis has called for every diocese in the world to gather in prayer for a successful synod process," Kime said. "In other words, we are not alone. Bishop Brennan will call upon the Holy Spirit to be with us and guide us as we take this journey. We will also be asking intercession from Mary, the Mother of the Church to be with us. ... What better way to open the synod than with a liturgical celebration of the Holy Eucharist!"

During the Mass, those gathered at the basilica co-cathedral will pray that the synodal process may lead all ever deeper into the communion of the church, foster participation in it, and equip all to go out on mission. They will pray that the journey in the coming months will be based on listening together to the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist in the communion of the people of God.

Following Bishop Brennan's homily, an individual will come to the front of the church and

introduce members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. They will then come forward one by one and place a candle near the image of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector of the basilica co-cathedral, is ready to welcome the Catholic faithful to Charleston for this historic day.

"It is an honor and a joy that Bishop Brennan opens of the world synod for our diocese at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart," Father Higgs said. "Bishop Brennan has begun this process of listening to the voices of the faithful in reestablishing our Diocesan Pastoral Council. I look forward to the world synod in our diocese which calls for greater participation of the faithful in bringing communion and mission."

The Mass will be livestreamed on the diocese's website at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) and Facebook Page.

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# All Invited to Rosary Congress in Fairmont

By Colleen Rowan

“Come join us for any or all of this beautiful day!” Father Jojan Joseph, CST, said as he invited all to the 12-hour long Rosary Congress Oct. 15 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont. Father Joseph is pastor of the parish.

“Join us to celebrate and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of our parish,” officials of the parish said. “The month of October is traditionally dedicated to honor Mother Mary. One of the most powerful ways we do this is through praying the rosary. ...we will gather to honor Mother Mary in a beautiful way.”

Immaculate Conception’s rosary congress will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. followed by Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will continue throughout the day with the rosary being prayed aloud by two volunteers at the start of each hour until the closing Mass at 7:30 p.m.

The parish also announced an added element of its rosary congress to coincide with the Year of St. Joseph and the Year of Families.

“This day we will consecrate all families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and

will pray through her intercession for the end of pandemic and peace in our families and in the world,” parish officials said.

National rosary congresses gather the Catholic faithful to pray for life; reparation for sins; and for peace in cities, the nation, and world. Immaculate Conception is the third parish in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to participate. St. Francis de Sales Parish in Bleckley will hold a daylong rosary congress Oct. 13. Plans are to pray the rosary at the beginning of each hour of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament that day, beginning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at approximately 9 a.m. until the 6:30 p.m. Mass that evening. Those not able to be present at St. Francis de Sales Church for one of the rosaries that day are encouraged to join in the effort by praying the rosary on their own at some point during the day, parish officials said.

St. John University Parish in Morgantown held a rosary congress Oct. 6, praying for the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

The rosary congresses are being held at churches throughout the world in observance of October, the Month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month.

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*Dear Friends in Christ,*

I am honored to serve as your Bishop and am proud of the number of families we served, the ministries we provided, and the progress we made together this past year. We truly united with Christ and shared His gifts with our brothers and sisters in need.

We served the vulnerable through Catholic Charities, encouraged our Seminarians and Deacons in formation preparing for priesthood, provided local families with health programs to care for their children, and supported second graders on their journey to become closer to Jesus in preparation for their sacrament of First Communion.

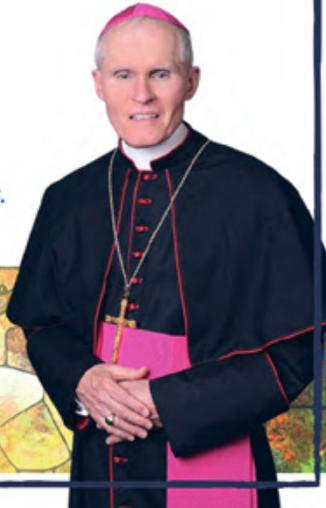
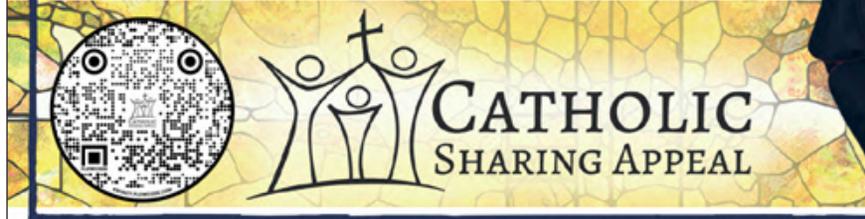
Gifts made to the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) enliven our shared ministries. Through the CSA, we can strengthen families, enrich parish life, and expand our charitable outreach efforts throughout West Virginia. We made much progress last year, but unfortunately, couldn't reach everyone. It's my hope we still can.

Today, I come to you with an open heart and ask you to prayerfully consider supporting the CSA this year. You can visit [dwc.org/csa](http://dwc.org/csa) to make a secure gift online. Your generosity will make an immediate impact at your parish, and in our communities now, and in the year to come. If you have already made a gift to the CSA, I thank you for your generosity.

Together, we can serve as a light for all to see and share His gifts with our brothers and sisters in need. May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
**+Mark E. Brennan**  
 Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

*P.S. I will be remembering you in my prayers. Please share your prayer intentions with me at [dwc.org/csaprayerintentions](http://dwc.org/csaprayerintentions).*


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# Pope, Faith Leaders Urge Nations at Climate Summit to Care for Creation

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — High-level representatives of the world's religions came together with Pope Francis at the Vatican to show their joint commitment to caring for the Earth and to appeal to world leaders to deepen their commitments to mitigating climate change.

To the strains of Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" and surrounded by potted greenery and the colorful frescoes of the Hall of Benedictions, nearly 40 faith leaders signed a joint appeal that Pope Francis then blessed and gave to Alok Sharma, president-designate of COP26, and to Luigi Di Maio, Italy's foreign affairs minister.

"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden: We must not leave a desert to our children," said the written appeal, signed Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.

The appeal urged world leaders, who will meet at the 26th U.N. Climate Change Conference of Parties — COP26 — in Glasgow Nov. 1-12, "to take speedy, responsible and shared action to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship."

Participants included top scientists and major religious leaders including: Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, England; Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, representing Patriarch Kirill of Moscow; Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Al-Azhar; Rabbi

Noam Marans of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations; and top representatives of other Christian denominations, Sunni and Shi'a Muslim communities, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism.

The appeal called on nations to: increase their levels of commitment and international cooperation; meet net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible as part of efforts to mitigate rising global average temperatures; step up climate action at home and financially assist more vulnerable countries in adapting to and addressing climate change; increase their transition to cleaner energy and sustainable land use practices; and promote environmentally friendly food systems and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The religious leaders also pledged that they themselves would promote ecological education; advocate for a "change of heart" in their own communities concerning caring for all of creation; encourage sustainable lifestyles; take part in public debates on environmental issues; and support "greening" their institutions, properties and investments.

They symbolically marked their personal commitment by pouring a cup of soil onto a potted olive tree that will be planted in the Vatican Gardens.

The representatives took to

the floor with a brief speech, commentary or declaration, with many detailing what their faith tradition teaches about the moral imperative of caring for humanity's common home. At the end of the ceremony, recorded messages and appeals were played from those religious leaders that could not attend the event due to pandemic restrictions.

Saying he wanted to leave more time to hear from everyone, Pope Francis chose to skip reading his speech aloud since everyone had a written copy.

In the full text, the pope said COP26 "represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations."

He proposed "three concepts" to guide their joint efforts: "openness to interdependence and sharing; the dynamism of love; and the call to respect."

"Recognizing that the world is interconnected means not only realizing the harmful effects of our actions, but also identifying behaviors and solutions to be adopted, in an attitude of openness to interdependence" and sharing the

responsibility and ways to care for others and the environment, he wrote.

Religious and spiritual traditions can help promote love, which "creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and toward others," especially the poor, he wrote.

Faith traditions, he said, can help break down "barriers of selfishness," counter today's "throwaway culture" and combat the "seeds of conflict: greed, indifference, ignorance, fear, injustice, insecurity and violence," which harm people and the planet.

"We can face this challenge" with personal examples, action and education, the pope wrote.

Finally, the pope wrote, there must be respect for creation, respect for others, "for ourselves and for the creator, but also mutual respect between faith and science."

Respect, he wrote, is "an empathetic and active experience of desiring to know others and to enter into dialogue with them, in order to walk together on a common journey."

The meeting, "Faith and Science: Toward COP26," was organized by the embassies of the United Kingdom and Italy

to the Holy See, together with the Vatican. The U.K. and Italy were co-chairing the summit in Glasgow, where parties from 197 nations are meant to find agreement on how to tackle the threat of climate change.

The appeal of religious leaders and scientists came after months of dialogue and agreement that there is a common moral duty to tackle climate change.

The COP26 co-chairs wanted to include the voices of religious leaders given the moral and ethical imperative of environmental protection, but also because of their global reach and authority as they represent an estimated 84% of the world's population who identify with a faith.

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# New Rule Allowing Title X Funds for Abortion Called 'Offensive' to Millions

By Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — The Biden administration's decision to allow Title X family planning funds go to health facilities that perform and promote abortion "is offensive to tens of millions of Americans," said the president of National Right to Life.

"The vast majority of Americans believe that using taxpayer funds to pay for abortion is wrong," Carol Tobias said in a statement.

Her comments came in a statement released late Oct. 4 in response to the Biden administration's announcement that it had officially reversed the Trump-era "Protect Life Rule" enforcing Title X's ban on taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide elective abortions.

Title X, enacted by the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, covers reproductive health care services for low-income patients such as wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, contraceptives, and testing and treatment

for sexually transmitted infections.

Section 1008 of the law states that "none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning."

In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented its rule to enforce Section 1008, and the rule was upheld by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Feb 24, 2020.

On Jan. 28, eight days after he was inaugurated, President Joe Biden announced he would rescind the Trump-era rule.

He stated this in his "Presidential Memorandum to Protect and Expand Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care," which also included his actions to rescind the "Mexico City policy," which blocked U.S. funding for nongovernmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortion as a form of family planning in other nations.

Biden, a Catholic who supports legal abortion, said

the "Protect Life Rule" placed "onerous requirements on abortion providers."

On April 15, the Department of Health and Human Services published the administration's proposed rule in the Federal Register, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

The Title X provision enforced by President Donald Trump "draws a bright line between abortion and family planning," the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said in April 16 statement.

The Biden administration's proposed rule to rescind this "is terrible policy," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, the chairman. "It would reintegrate abortion into what is supposed to be a pre-pregnancy family planning program."

"In spite of explicit prohibitions in federal law and clear congressional intent that abortion may not be a part of this program, it has repeatedly been coopted

**See "Funds" on Page 13**

## Catholic Activists Speak out against Execution of Missouri Man

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Following the Oct. 5 execution of Ernest Johnson at a state prison in Bonne Terre, Missouri, Catholic opponents of the death penalty emphasized that this didn't have to happen.

"Ernest Johnson should not have been executed. He was intellectually disabled and categorically ineligible for the death penalty. Ernest was a human being. He committed a terrible crime and was deeply remorseful. This was not justice," tweeted Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, who is a longtime death penalty opponent.

"Our work to end the death penalty, a system that targets some of our most vulnerable members of society, continues," tweeted Catholics Mobilizing Against the Death Penalty, after Johnson was executed at 6:11 p.m. local time by lethal injection.

An Oct. 6 statement from Missouri's Catholic bishops, issued by the state's Catholic conference, said they were disappointed with the state's decision to move forward with Johnson's execution.

"Ernest Lee Johnson's crimes were heinous and deserve to be punished, yet as Missouri has shown itself to be a pro-life state, we should stop using the death penalty as a means of dealing with violent crimes," the bishops said.

They also offered condolences and prayers for the families of Johnson's victims.

Catholics Mobilizing Against the Death Penalty group asked for prayers for Johnson and his victims on social media. Days before, they had urged people to contact the Missouri gover-

nor opposing the execution.

Before the execution took place, the group pointed out that Missouri's governor and the U.S. Supreme Court did not "intend to stop this state-sanctioned killing from moving forward."

In an Oct. 4 statement, Missouri Republican Gov. Mike Parson said Johnson would be executed the following day. "The state is prepared to deliver justice and carry out the lawful sentence Mr. Johnson received in accordance with the Missouri Supreme Court's order," he said.

The Supreme Court, on the evening of Oct. 5, further cleared the way for Johnson's execution, by denying a request to stop it.

At the time of his execution, Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty were joined by faith leaders at a vigil near the prison. They also had demonstrated earlier that day in St. Louis.

Johnson, 61, was convicted of first-degree murder in 1995 and sentenced to death for killing three employees of a Columbia, Missouri, convenience store.

Pope Francis joined calls for clemency for Johnson, expressed in a Sept. 27 letter from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, nuncio to the United States, to the Missouri governor.

The nuncio's letter, sent on behalf of Pope Francis, urged Parson to respect Johnson's humanity and the sacredness of all human life, stressing that it was not based on facts and circumstances of Johnson's crimes or of his "doubtful intellectual capacity."

Missouri's bishops also had called for clemency for Johnson in September and reiterated this message

Oct. 6 saying: "The death penalty degrades us as a society."

"When someone is executed, the opportunity for them to undergo a conversion and repent prior to their final judgment may be lost. That important time for grace to work in a person's heart is taken away," they added.

The statement — signed by Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis and Bishops W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph and Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau — urged addressing crimes without resorting to the death penalty, stressing that "even those who commit the most offensive acts do not lose their human dignity before God."

Johnson's lawyer and advocates for his clemency had argued that his execution would be unconstitutional because a 2008 operation on a brain tumor left him with a diminished intellectual capacity. Surgeons had to remove roughly one-fifth of his brain tissue.

In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that executing intellectually disabled people is a violation of the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Commenting on this on social media, Sister Prejean called Johnson's execution "unconstitutional under all existing legal precedents. He has the mental capacity of a 9-year-old child and is missing 20% of his brain mass. The Supreme Court's failure to do anything to stop this is a moral failing of the highest order."

She also noted that there is "no fixing a system that could allow this to happen. The only answer is complete abolition of the death penalty."

Currently, 27 states still use capital punishment. Missouri is one of four states to resume executions a year after they had been paused during the pandemic.

In Johnson's last statement, released by the Missouri Correctional Department, he said he was sorry and had remorse for what he did. He said he loved his family and friends and was thankful for his lawyer and for the people who prayed for him.

"I love the Lord with all my heart and soul," he said, adding that he had asked God to forgive him.

Over the years, there had been several court challenges about Johnson's intellectual abilities. This past August, the state Supreme Court ruled that Johnson's ability to give details of his crime showed he was able "to plan, strategize and problem solve — contrary to a finding of substantial subaverage intelligence."

Bob Holden, the former Democratic governor of Missouri, wrote in an Oct. 3 opinion piece in The Kansas City Star that he had supported the death penalty when he was in office from 2001 to 2005 but said there are unique situations that call for clemency that would still involve life in prison with no parole.

"The scheduled Oct. 5 execution of Ernest Johnson, I believe, is one such instance," he wrote, citing the paper trail of evaluations indicating that Johnson was mentally disabled.

"None of this excuses what Johnson did," he wrote. "But if our state is to be guided by the rule of law, we must temper our understandable anger with reason and compassion for the most vulnerable among us, including Ernest Johnson."

# Pro-Life Message Taken to the Streets on Respect Life Sunday



John Sherwood Photo

On Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 3, parishioners of Eastern Panhandle parishes form a life chain in Charles Town calling for an end to abortion.

## Diocese to Hold Virtual Prayer Service/Gathering for Musicians

**WEST VIRGINIA**—On Oct. 24 from 3-4:30 p.m., the diocese will be hosting a virtual Prayer Service/Gathering for musicians throughout the diocese.

The gathering will be held via ZOOM. Once interested persons register on the diocese’s website at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), they will be sent a special ZOOM link. The link will be available on the site soon. The event is free of charge, and it was designed to be a time of prayer and spiritual reflection.

The idea came because the diocese realizes that musicians have been playing a major role

in sustaining the spiritual well-being of the parish during these uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The title of the gathering is “Prayer in Time of pandemic: Healing, Hope and Remembrance”.

“We want to gather musicians from throughout the diocese to pray together, sing together, reflect together, and share their faith together,” said Bernadette McMasters Kime, director of the Office of Worship and Sacraments.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan will offer a welcome message and members of the Diocesan Music

Commission will be offering some musical pieces right from their home churches where they

minister.

For more information, contact Kime at [bkime@dwc.org](mailto:bkime@dwc.org).

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# Bishop Brennan Celebrates Mass of the Holy Spirit with Wheeling University Community



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark E. Brennan celebrates the Mass of the Holy Spirit with members of the Wheeling University community Oct. 1.

**B**ishop Mark E. Brennan joined the students, faculty, staff and Jesuit priests at Wheeling University to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

This annual Mass, which is a tradition at Jesuit and Catholic institutions, is a time for the community to gather to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation, and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit for the new academic year.

Bishop Brennan told the 200-plus members of the Wheeling University community gathered in Troy Theater that he was excited to celebrate the Mass as a community once again. Last year, due to COVID-19, only a limited number of participants were allowed inside the Chapel of Mary and Joseph, with the Mass being streamed for students to watch in various locations around the campus.

During his homily, the bishop encouraged those gathered to prac-

tice communion with God and with one another.

"Wherever you are in your journey, trust that God is calling you to communion with himself and with others," Bishop Brennan said. "Remember that when you mess up, you've got a savior who forgives, shows mercy and strength."

Joining Bishop Brennan on the altar for the Mass of the Holy Spirit were Wheeling University's Jesuit community – Father Hadi Sasmita, S.J.; Father James Conroy, S.J.; and Father Richard McCouch, S.J. Also present were diocesan clergy Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G.; Father Cyprian Osuegbu; and Rev. Mr. Douglas Breiding.

University President Ginny R. Favede said, "We are grateful to Bishop Brennan for leading our community in prayer once again this year. The Mass is our opportunity to ask the Holy Spirit to bless the university community, to be

able to see the presence of God in the world and to call on the Holy Spirit to guide us through our efforts during the year. It was won-

derful for our campus to pray as a community with Bishop Brennan, and rededicate ourselves to Wheeling University's mission."

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# Charleston Knights of Columbus Pledge to Pack 100,000 Meals for Cross Catholic Outreach

By Colleen Rowan

**CHARLESTON**—The St. Michael the Archangel Council #12630 Knights of Columbus in Charleston is sponsoring a food packing event for Cross Catholic Outreach to help bring food to children suffering hunger in Guatemala. The event will be held Oct. 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Early Learning Center Pavilion on Leon Sullivan Way in Charleston.

Members of the council announced recently that based on their fundraising so far, they are increasing their goal to raising \$33,000 and packing 100,000 meals for the organization. The nutrition, rich meals will be transported to Guatemala. Approximately 10 percent of the meals will be given to the hungry of West Virginia.

"We are receiving support from Knights councils across West Virginia and people who want to do

their part to help world hunger," council members said. "The support has been both financial and promises to help with labor. Some of the jobs involve measuring, packing and sealing the staple food included in the meal. Other less active jobs include assembling the vitamin pack that accompanies each packaged meal.

Terry Waters, manager of special initiatives for Cross Catholic Outreach, commended the knights for their commitment to help people in need.

"This food packing event is a wonderful demonstration of the West Virginia Knights of Columbus and their families putting their faith into action!" Waters said. "While many of the meals will be sent to nourish hungry children in Guatemala, a significant percentage of these will remain in West Virginia to feed local residents, as well. At Cross Catholic Outreach, we are blessed to have the knights

from West Virginia and knights from across the entire United States working alongside each other this year to create 1 million meals to fight hunger! That is a remarkable and inspiring challenge, but the knights continually live their faith through their service to others in our parishes and communities. When Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus over 100 years ago, he established 'charity' as the first principle of the order. And today we are a witness once again to his inspiring vision, when we see knights serving alongside one another to feed the poor and nourish the soul."

Sandi Pino, senior director of Cross Catholic Outreach's Parish and Community Services Department, echoed Waters sentiments and has been honored to witness the engagement, generosity and compassion of the West Virginia Knights of Columbus.

"These faithful Catholic men and their families exemplify Christ through obedience and sacrifice," Pino said. "They bring Cross Catholic's mission statement to life as they mobilize their councils to transform lives materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ. The knights are an answer to prayer and a true beacon of hope for impoverished families in Guatemala who continue to struggle and suffer from food insecurity. The life-saving meals packed in this event represent more than just food; they embody the very nature of the knights' commitment to charity, unity and fraternity. Cross Catholic Outreach is proud to serve alongside them."

Members of Council #12630 said that social distancing and masking guidelines will be observed for the food packing event. The gymnasium at the Early

Learning Center is a large enough venue for social distancing, they said.

The council is still in need of people to help pack the food. All who wish to help are welcome. Those interested can fill out the back side of the flyer that has been passed out after Masses at the basilica co-cathedral and return the form to the collection basket or mail to K of C 12630, P.O. Box 11578, Charleston,

Volunteers may also register electronically by scanning the QR code or electronic logo on the front of the flyer. Volunteers will have the choice to work the early shift, the late shift or stay until the job is done.

Members of Council #12630 said the idea for the food packing started with a West Virginia Knight from Kingwood named Ned Sawyers and has been adopted as an official activity by Cross Catholic. "Over its short life of several years it has become popular with several having been held in West Virginia. People who have attended have left with a new inspiration, feeling that had a part in making a difference in world hunger," Council #12630 members said.

Knights also need money to buy the bulk food. Thanks to the generosity of a number of people they have raised a little less than half the amount and secured a challenge from an anonymous donor to match donations up to a total of \$5,000.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our community to increase our donations," council members said.

Checks must be made payable to K of C 12630 with Food Packing Challenge in the memo line. Contributions may be placed in the collection basket or sent to the above address.



## Blessing of Best Friends

Father Tijo George, MCBS, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington and St. Stephen Parish in Ona, blesses a boy's best friend on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Parishes around the diocese held blessings of pets that day as well. Courtesy Photo

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# Catholic Charities West Virginia to Honor Pallottine Missionary Sisters

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is proud to announce the recipient of the agency's 2021 Charity in Action Award: the Pallottine Missionary Sisters.

"It is with much appreciation and gratitude Catholic Charities celebrates the Pallottine Missionary Sisters as our Charity in Action Award recipient. God calls us to be bold and to share His love unconditionally with all who cross our paths," said Beth Zarate, president and chief executive officer of CCWVa. "Our honorees embrace their Gospel call to serve."

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters came to America in 1912, inspired by the motto of their founder, St. Vincent Pallotti: "The love of Christ impels us."

After studying English in New York, the Sisters came to West Virginia to serve at the request of the bishop of Wheeling. Their first community was in Richwood where they opened a parish school and, a year later, established Sacred Heart Hospital. In 1921, they moved to Buckhannon, opening St. Joseph's Hospital and teaching at the local parish. The sisters also established St. Vincent Pallotti Hospital in Morgantown before coming to Huntington in 1924 to open St. Mary's Hospital (now St. Mary's Medical Center).

Their values of compassion, hospitality, reverence, interdependence, stewardship and trust are evident in all they do. The Pallottine Missionary Sisters have served, and continue to serve, as hospital, school, and parish administrators and teachers, with their values guiding their work. Their ministries include health clinics, hospitals,



Pallottine Missionary Sisters are pictured.

Courtesy Photo

schools, retreat centers, and foundations.

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters leadership and management of St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington and St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon led to an unrivaled reputation for excellence in healthcare in a compassionate and caring manner with a committed

focus on the dignity of each individual patient and staff member.

Additionally, the Pallottine Missionary Sisters' creation of two health conversion foundations, the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington and the Pallottine Foundation of Buckhannon, demonstrate the Sisters' continuing commit-

ment to health and wellness in communities across the state of West Virginia.

"At Catholic Charities, we are on a mission of love to end poverty, one family at a time," Zarate said. "We are blessed and inspired by many partners who walk this journey with us, and we're honored to recognize the Pallottine

Missionary Sisters for their extraordinary work."

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters will be honored at the CCWVa Charity in Action Awards Luncheon on Oct. 22.

Out of concern for the safety of all during COVID-19, tickets are limited, and the event will be livestreamed.

# Morgantown Magnificat to Feature Servant Song Ministries Co-Founder

**MORGANTOWN**—Morgantown Magnificat is back! Join in the Magnificat Visitation and Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, Oct. 23, at St. John University Parish Hall in Morgantown (New Magnificat location).

“Our speaker is Donna Koller, co-founder of Servant Song Ministries Retreat House and Spirituality Center,” organization officials said. “Donna will share her story of how the Holy Spirit called her to a healing ministry journey that’s lasted a lifetime.”

Must register by Oct. 20 at [Magnificat-ministry.net](http://Magnificat-ministry.net) (click on Chapters, States, Morgantown Chapter of WV,) registration is \$15. A coffee and muffin breakfast will be served.

No tickets sold at the door. For questions, e-mail Pat Higginbotham at [phiggi87@comcast.net](mailto:phiggi87@comcast.net).

# West Virginia Institute for Spirituality Offering Zoom Series

**CHARLESTON**—The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality invites all to “Living in the Sunlight of the Spirit: The Spirituality of the 12 Steps.” This is via Zoom for spiritual directors to enrich their professional development. Presenters are: Eileen Chwalibog and Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, Ph.D.

The program will be given Oct. 15 from 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. through Oct. 16 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. This program will lead through a basic understanding of addiction, the spiritual solution offered by AA, an explanation of each of the 12 Steps of the recovery process and discussion of how spiritual directors can support directees in the recovery process and those who may need to be.

Donations are \$100. If interested, please e-mail WVIS at [wvisreg@gmail.com](mailto:wvisreg@gmail.com) or call the office at (304) 345-0926. Registration can be completed online at: <http://wvis.org/upcoming-programs/>

## Confirmation Schedule Fall 2021, Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, October 24, 2021: St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 30, 2021: St. Patrick Parish, Mannington, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 7, 2021: Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021: Combined Confirmation: Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, Elizabeth; at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20, 2021: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5:00 p.m.

# Rosary to be Prayed before 10 a.m. Sunday Masses at Basilica in October

**CHARLESTON**—October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. To commemorate and celebrate this, the rosary will be prayed before each of the 10 a.m. Sunday Masses at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston in October. The rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m.

“Please come to pray the rosary as a congregation as we honor Mary during the month of October,” parish officials said.

# Metro Valley Gabriel Project’s Annual Food Products Sale underway

**CHARLESTON**—Advance ordering is now underway for the Metro Valley Gabriel Project’s Annual Food Products Sale. “We are still offering your usual favorites plus four new items,” said Gabriel project officials. “There are a few slight cost increases, but otherwise bargain prices!”

Online orders can be made at [metrovalley@gabrielwv.org](http://metrovalley@gabrielwv.org). All advance orders are due no later than Oct. 22.

## Funds..

Cont’d from Page 7

by abortion supporters as a funding stream for organizations, programs and facilities that directly promote and provide abortions,” the archbishop said.

He called on Biden “to suspend this proposed rule and leave the Title X program as it was intended and authorized to be — a program entirely separate from abortion.”

In announcing the rule reversal, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said Oct. 4: “Today more than ever, we are making clear that access to quality family planning care includes accurate information and referrals — based on a patient’s needs and direction.”

Tobias said in her statement that “far from uniting this nation, the Biden administration has done everything it can to divide it by facilitating abortion on demand.”

A day after Biden announced his intention to reverse the Trump-era Title X rule, Archbishop Naumann noted in a Jan. 29 statement that in addition to “explicitly prohibiting taxpayer funding for abortion,” the original authors of Title X “further emphasized this intent by stating that ‘the funds authorized under this legislation (shall) be used only to support preventive family planning services, population research, infertility services, and other related medical, informational and educational activities.’”

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SCAN AND COMPLETE THE FORM TO LEARN MORE!

# Summit Looks at How St. Joseph Can Play Bigger Role in Lives of Catholics

By Kurt Jensen, Catholic News Service

One of the first things anyone learns about St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ, is that there's very little information out there on the man himself.

He's mentioned briefly in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and is believed by some biblical historians to have been quite a bit older than the Virgin Mary, and to have died before Jesus began his public ministry. And that's about it.

For New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, one of the participants in the online St. Joseph Summit, held Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, "he's a quiet, effective, humble man and he doesn't want a lot of attention."

Scott Hahn, a professor of biblical theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, calls Joseph "a father in the shadows."

Even Marian Father Donald Caloway, whose book "Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father" sparked the summit, acknowledged that for many, Joseph "is in the corner of those Christmas cards."

But he considers Joseph a strong model of humility and service and the best example "of what it means to be a father, to be a man."

The summit — held as part of the Year of St. Joseph observance declared by Pope Francis that ends Dec. 8 — drew between 30,000 and 40,000 attendees in the United States and about 10 other countries. The summit had 64 speakers and 72 hours of content.

It included live prayer events over the Oct. 2-3 weekend, and drew about 7,000 households for those, according to organizers.

Joseph was named patron of the universal church 150 years ago.

Today he's held up as an example of sacrificial fatherhood and purity and as an intercessor in healing and fighting the world's evils.

Deacon Steve Greco, who serves at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Irvine, California, in the Orange Diocese, is the founder of the summit.

In an interview with Catholic News Service, he called Joseph "a powerful tool when we realize we're at war."

Deacon Greco said he'd found "that there was a great lack of knowledge — people commenting that they knew next to nothing about St. Joseph. The need in the church is so great to have a spiritual father."

"St. Joseph is the terror of demons, because he models for me and you the efficacy of authentic discipleship," said Kathleen Beckman, a California-based Catholic evangelist.

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, a longtime radio and TV host, saw Joseph as a shining example "because the culture is kind of demeaning to men." Fatherhood, he observed, "is not just biological. Our fatherhood comes through the very heart of God's love."

Norbertine Father Claude Williams saw in St. Joseph "a very, very good model and patron, as we grow stronger in love, and also merciful."

But the idea of striving for purity, he conceded, "can be frightening. The idea that we might lose happiness in a particular way can be scary."

"We, as men, need to lead the family ... especially in prayer," said Ray Grijalba, who hosts "The Joy of the Faith" on YouTube. "Our kids are only going to become saints if they see us strive for holiness and

loving God."

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly encouraged summit participants "to live like St. Joseph."

"I freely admit, that's no easy task. But it's also true that there's no more necessary task," he said. "The world in which we live desperately needs men and women who are just and righteous — like St. Joseph."

"This starts with prayer. It continues with obedience. And it requires courage, in all things, to do what God is asking of us."

St. Joseph did this, Kelly said. "He prayed. He obeyed. He embodied creative courage. St. Joseph's role in salvation history was pivotal, yet clearly, his role is far from over. He speaks to our time. We should listen. He models the virtues our time demands. We should make them our own."

He told summit participants that "there isn't a moment to waste. Not with the scope and scale of the challenges before us."

"As we face the future, and the difficulties that await, let us ask for St. Joseph's intercession," he said. "Let us emulate his example of

prayer, obedience and bold, creative courage. And in doing so, let us become men and women who are just and righteous, and who do God's will, as best we can."

Deacon Greco, as the founder and president of Spirit Filled Hearts Ministry, told CNS that his organization "is not exactly a household name, but God chose us to do this."

He said that "both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph have played a role in giving me courage," as his daughter has suffered from cancer and he has sought their intercession.

But he believes the "greatest healing is spiritual healing."

"In today's world, we need all the spiritual armor we can get," including against demonic forces, he added.

With the success of this summit, Deacon Greco said he's considering another online event focused on the Holy Family. "The whole idea is, Jesus wants us to give him our entire life."

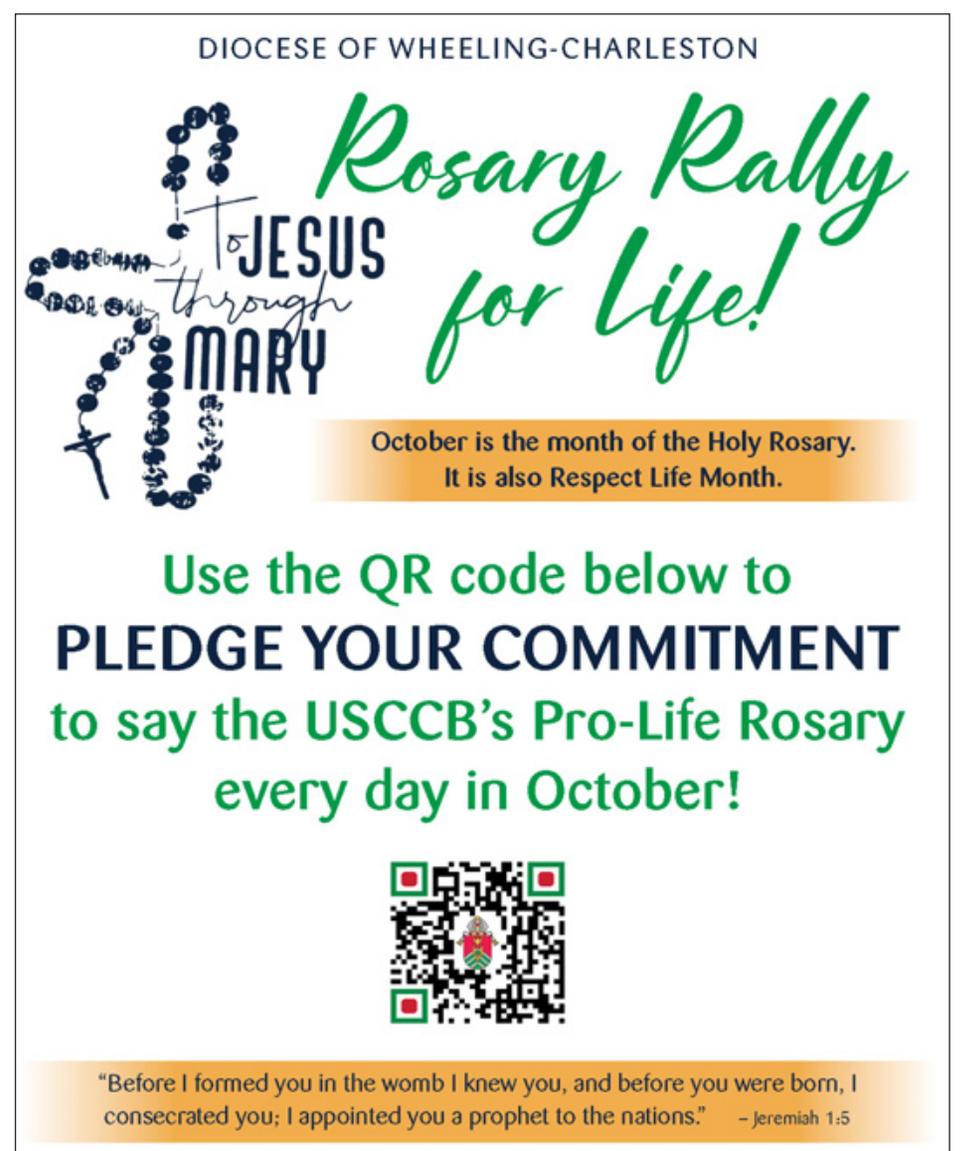
More information about the St. Joseph Summit can be found at <https://www.spiritfilledevents.com>.



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every day in October!



"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." — Jeremiah 1:5

# La diócesis anticipa la misa de apertura del Sínodo en la concatedral de la Basílica

Por Colleen Rowan

El obispo Mark E. Brennan declarará oficialmente abierto el sínodo mundial en la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston en su celebración de la Misa el 17 de octubre en la Basílica de la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón en Charleston. La misa se celebrará a las 10 a.m. de ese día y reunirá a los fieles católicos de West Virginia y a los que dirigen el sínodo en oración "para discernir la voluntad de Dios y llevarla a cabo con valentía".

El tema del sínodo, elegido por el Papa Francisco, es: "Por una Iglesia sinodal: Comunión, Participación y Misión". El sínodo se abrirá solemnemente con la misa celebrada por el Papa Francisco en la Basílica de San Pedro el 10 de octubre. El obispo de cada diócesis abrirá el proceso en su diócesis el 17 de octubre.

La misa en Charleston será una ocasión alegre en la vida de la iglesia en West Virginia, dijo Bernadette McMasters Kime, directora de la Oficina de Adoración y Sacramentos, quien también forma parte del Comité del Sínodo de la diócesis.

"El Papa Francisco ha pedido a todas las diócesis del mundo que se reúnan en oración por un proceso exitoso del sínodo", dijo Kime. "En otras palabras, no estamos solos. El obispo Brennan llamará al Espíritu Santo para que esté con nosotros y nos guíe mientras emprendemos este viaje. También pediremos la intercesión de María, la Madre de la Iglesia, para que esté con nosotros. ... ¡Qué mejor manera de abrir el sínodo que con una celebración litúrgica de la Sagrada Eucaristía!"

Durante la Misa, los reunidos en la co-catedral de la basílica rezarán para que el proceso sinodal lleve a todos cada vez más a la comunión de la Iglesia, fomente la participación en ella y prepare a todos para salir en misión. Rezarán para que el camino de los próximos meses se base en la escucha conjunta de la Palabra de Dios y la celebración de la Eucaristía en la comunión del pueblo de Dios.

Después de la homilía del obispo Brennan,



Foto cortesía del Sínodo de los Obispos

Este es el logo oficial de la XVI Asamblea General Ordinaria del Sínodo de los Obispos.

una persona pasará al frente de la iglesia y presentará a los miembros del Consejo Pastoral Diocesano. Luego se acercarán uno por uno y colocarán una vela cerca de la imagen de María, Madre de la Iglesia.

Muy Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector de la co-catedral de la basílica, está listo para recibir a los fieles católicos en Charleston para este día histórico.

"Es un honor y una alegría que el obispo Brennan inaugure el sínodo mundial para nues-

tra diócesis en la Basílica de la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón", dijo el Padre Higgs. "El obispo Brennan ha comenzado este proceso de escuchar las voces de los fieles para restablecer nuestro Consejo Pastoral Diocesano. Espero el sínodo mundial en nuestra diócesis, que exige una mayor participación de los fieles para llevar la comunión y la misión".

La Misa se transmitirá en vivo en el sitio web de la diócesis en [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) y en la página de Facebook.

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

**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 eclesiales 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 Se-

guro 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](http://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](http://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.

# Drive-Through Pediatric Flu Shot Clinics at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital

**WHEELING**—WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital is offering Saturday drive-through flu shot clinics for pediatric patients from Sept. 25 throughout October. This is the second year the clinics have been in operation.

Pediatrician Matthew Morris, M.D., said, "The pediatricians here at Wheeling Hospital are pleased to again be able to offer this convenient and important service to our families. It was very successful last flu season and we hope to have the opportunity to protect even more patients through vaccination this year."

"Children play a pivotal role in the transmission of influenza to others in their household. They can also get seriously ill from influenza without a vaccination. We strongly encourage everyone 6 months and older to get their flu vaccine this fall."

Also participating in the clinics are

David Mosman, M.D., Claire Paxton, M.D., Laura Blosser, M.D., Loren Kaiser, M.D., Mary Hammond, M.D., and Brian Vaske, D.O.

The clinics are for patients who already are up to date on their well visits and shots and do not need to come to their pediatrician's office for the flu shots. It will allow for social distancing and offer convenience for parents and caregivers.

Hours for the clinics, to be held under the portico behind the hospital, will be 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If needed, November dates will be added.

It is recommended that patients be pre-registered for the shots with their doctor's office, but "walk-ups" will be accommodated as long as they are patients of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital pediatricians. At the clinics, the patients will be signed in, and parents/caregivers will sign consent forms.

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