

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

October is Respect Life Month & Month of the Rosary

WASHINGTON—“Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, gives us the fullness of life,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Va., and chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in his statement inviting Catholics to commemorate Respect

Life Month with “a revival of prayer and action.”

In October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is designated as Respect Life Sunday. October is also the Month of the Rosary.

“{Jesus} calls each of us to respect that gift of life in every human person. While we live in a society that often rejects those who are weak, fragile, or vulnerable, they are the most in need of our care and protection,” he continued. “Through the graces of this revival,

See “Life” on Page 2

Western North Carolina Devastated by Flooding from Hurricane Helene

By **Kate Quiñones, CNA**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Msgr. Patrick Winslow, the vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina — an area heavily impacted by the recent Hurricane Helene — said in an interview with “EWTN News Nightly” on Oct. 1 that the storm’s impact has been “extremely difficult” throughout the state.

Special Collection for Hurricane Relief to be Held in Wheeling-Charleston Parishes Oct. 26-27, See Page 3

Hurricane Helene passed through multiple southeastern states during its trek through the U.S. last week. The storm killed more than 160 people, with hundreds more reported missing.

The Category 4 storm further left millions of people stranded without electricity and hundreds of thousands in flooded areas. The power outages are still affecting hundreds of thousands of people in North and South Carolina and Georgia as of the morning of Oct. 2.

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OSV News photo/Marco Bello, Reuters
A drone view Sept. 29 shows devastation in Asheville, N.C., following the passing of Tropical Storm Helene. The storm made landfall at 11:10 p.m. (Eastern time) Sept. 27 in Florida’s Big Bend as a Category 4 hurricane and was downgraded to a tropical storm the next morning.

Inside: No One Has ‘Exclusive Right’ to God’s Voice, Pope Says at Synod Opening, Page 5



Obituary—Deacon Truman Lipscomb

With solemn reverence, we commemorate Deacon Truman Lipscomb of Salem, West Virginia, born in Bristol, West Virginia, whose life came to an end on September 30, 2024 at the age of 81, leaving behind cherished memories.



He was predeceased by: his parents, Truman J. Lipscomb and Elizabeth Williamson Lipscomb; his great grandchild Braylynn Malcomb; and his sisters, Thelma Delaney (Ralph) and Jean Neilson.

He is survived by: his wife Patricia Louise Yaegle Lipscomb; his children, Truman Patrick Lipscomb (Debra) of Salem, John Lipscomb (Ramonda) of Waynesburg, Pa., Mary McCartney (Steve) of Buckhannon, Debra Nusssear (David) of College Grove, Tenn., Lisa Lipscomb of Morgantown and Linda Thompson (Michael) of Beach Park, Ill.; his grandchildren, Jettie Lipscomb Malcomb, Jennifer Louise Stevison (Matt), Haley Dugan (Ben), Brenna Elizabeth Lipscomb, Abigail True Lipscomb, Scott Ardith Boggs, Zachary Boggs, Jordan Elizabeth Nusssear, Camden Nusssear, Eric McCartney (Brittany), Austin McCartney (Sydney) and Abigail McCartney; his

great grandchildren, Layla Malcomb, Julianna McCartney and Hudson McCartney; and his brother-in-law William Nielsen. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Deacon Lipscomb was ordained a permanent deacon on May 30, 1981, at St. Margaret Mary Parish in

Parkersburg by Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell of Pittsburgh. Deacon Lipscomb was assigned as a permanent deacon to Sacred Heart Mission in Salem from May 13, 1981, to Oct. 1, 1995; and St. Edward the Confessor Mission in Terra Alta, St. Zita Mission in Masontown, and St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood from Oct. 1, 1995, to Sept. 1, 2008.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, October 4, at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (53 Sacred Heart Ln, Salem, WV 26426). A graveside service will be held on Friday, October 4, at 2 p.m. at the Floral Hills Memorial Gardens (457 Zachs Run Rd, Mt Clare, WV 26408).

Memorial donations can be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 53 Sacred Heart Lane, Salem, WV 26426.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

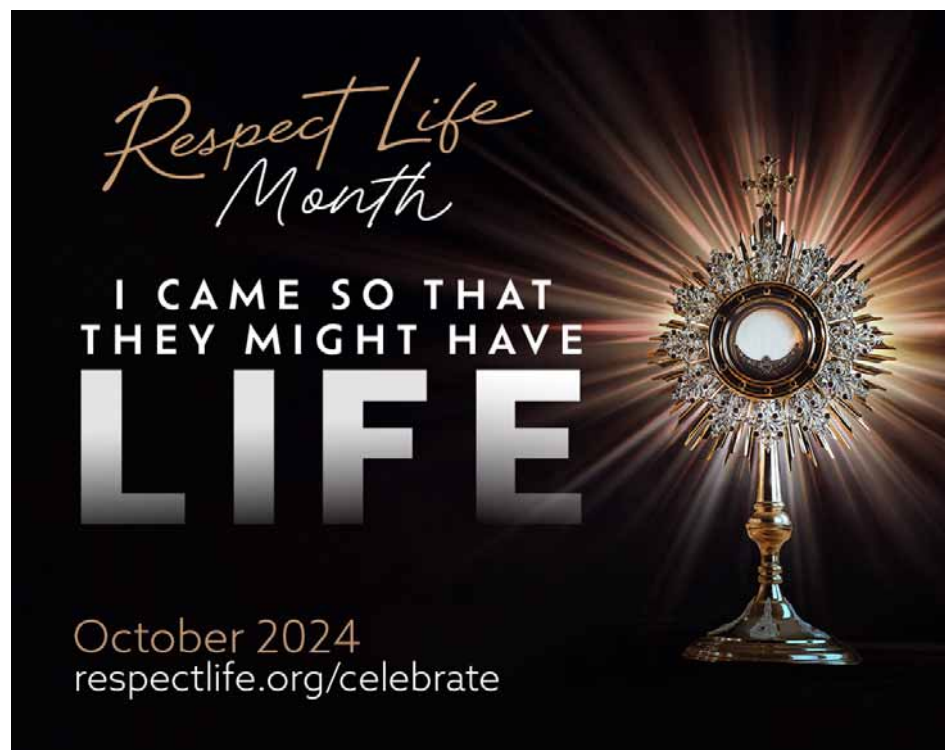
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly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

Life...

Cont'd from Page 1

may we witness, work, and vote so that all children in the womb will be protected in law and welcomed in love, and that all mothers and families will be strengthened by our support and accompaniment."

Since 1973, the Catholic Church in the United States has observed October as "Respect Life Month." Bishop Burbidge called on Catholics to renew their commitment to the legal protection of human life, to support policies and service ministries that assist mothers, and to extend compassion to those suffering from participation in abortion.



The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org)

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and

Advent

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 22

Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20



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

thecatholicspiritwv.org
dwc.org

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
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Hurricane Helene Relief Fund Special Collection to be Held in Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Oct. 26-27

In late September, Hurricane Helene slammed the coast of Florida and ravaged portions of the southeast with strong winds and flooding rains. Hundreds of lives have been lost and millions of families lost their homes and everything in them. Entire towns have been destroyed.

Bishop Brennan has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of October 26-27, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with

“Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations can also be made securely online by visiting dwc.org and clicking “Disaster Relief.”

Proceeds from this collection will support the long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA’s Hurri-

cane Helene Relief Fund. The fund assists organization on the ground in the immediate aftermath to support individuals and families who have lost nearly everything. Every dollar contributed will be used to provide essential services like shelter, food, and medical care to
See “Collection” on Page 4

Hurricane...

Cont’d from Page 1

“For us, the impacted area includes 44 churches,” Msgr. Winslow told “EWTN News Nightly” anchor Tracy Sabol. The area includes “more than half the counties that constitute western North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte — and that’s an enormous amount of territory.”

Many of the affected areas were far inland. The city of Asheville was hit particularly hard, as were hundreds of smaller communities. Local authorities reported at least 40 deaths in Buncombe County, where Asheville is located.

Msgr. Winslow said communication has made it “extremely difficult” to process the impact, “in large part because we’ve had such limited and sketchy contact with people, because the communication lines have been out, with cell towers down, with roads being blocked, [and] with bridges being out.”

Since the storm passed on Friday, Msgr. Winslow said they have been able to make more contact with people and get more resources out.

“We’ve been communicating ever since the storm passed us in the hours of noon, 1 o’clock on Friday, making some contact with some people who have been reflecting on how tragic and how difficult circumstances are,” he said.

“From that moment on, we’ve been mobilizing, getting our resources out to those people who need basic things: diapers, baby food, water, things of that nature.”

When asked about how he approaches the emotional and spiritual side of this tragedy with the faithful, he said: “It’s a heartache.”

“It’s a heartache, especially when people who are

at a distance have their loved ones, their friends, and they can’t reach them, they can’t make contact with them. That’s extremely difficult,” he said. “Then you have the people that are there who’ve lost loved ones already. That’s very disorienting, and it’s hard to make sense of.”

Msgr. Winslow noted that there are also many people who are missing.

“We have a number of people where we have their identities, but we don’t know exactly what they are, and so we’re not sure if they’re safe or if they’re in harm’s way or if the worst has happened,” he said. “And so this is just an extremely difficult position to be in.”

The priest said he is not without faith.

“As I reflect upon it from a spiritual perspective, my first thought is, in the midst of all this tragedy and difficulty, how through ordinary events of life, on a regular day, the most important things that matter always seem to hide in plain sight,” he said.

“But as we confront these challenges, this darkness, these difficulties, how the things that matter the most start to come out of the shadows: loving our neighbor, relying on God, asking God for his grace and his help, just recognizing how frail we all are.”

“And those things, I think, are inspiring our communities, inspiring the faithful of western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte,” Msgr. Winslow continued. “We’re beginning to make some real inroads and bringing resources to bear, and we begin to see how the strength of faith is able to really give people that hope that they need.”

When asked about the response of the public so far, Msgr. Winslow said it has been “tremendous.”

“They’re actually calling our offices, wanting to know how they can give,” he said. “We’re going to be having a special second collection this upcoming Sunday at Masses. We have our websites which are available, our Catholic Charities of Di-

ocese of Charlotte website, which you can also get there through our charlottediocese.org website.”

North Carolina Catholics, including Catholic Charities and the local diocese, have been mobilizing

to bring together aid. Emergency relief supplies running from bottled water to formula to flashlights are being collected at the Charlotte Diocesan Pastoral Center for delivery to neighboring areas affected by the disaster.

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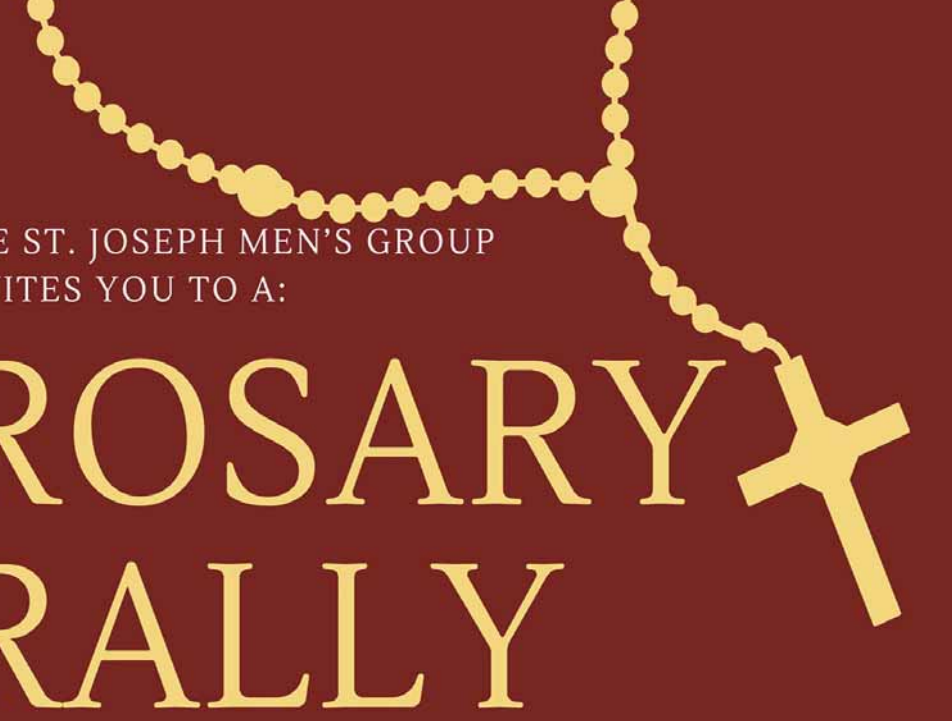
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Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Annual Interfaith Prayer Service on Mental Illness Will be Held Oct. 22 in Wheeling

WHEELING—St. Michael Parish will again join NAMI Greater Wheeling in hosting an interfaith service to pray for individuals and families living with mental illness. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at St. Michael Church, 1225 National Road, in Wheeling's Edgewood neighborhood.

This year's speaker will be Reese Richmond. Reese is 2024 WV End the Stigma Queen. She is a 17-year-old from Wheeling who attends Cameron High School and will graduate in 2026.

Reese is involved with the Drug Free Club; Future Business Leaders of America; and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She is a historic rendezvous reenactor and a Mounds Art Club volunteer. In her role as 2024 WV End the Stigma Queen, Reese is an advocate for mental health awareness and excited to be the guest speaker for the Mental Illness Awareness Week Candlelight Vigil.

The annual prayer service has been part of the St. Michael Parish stewardship activities for

more than 20 years. Chad Carter, St. Michael's Liturgical Music director and organist, will again provide the music.

Everyone who attends the vigil at St. Michael Church will have the opportunity to light a prayer candle in honor of a friend or loved one with mental illness. For information, call Wendy Hinerman, St. Michael Parish business manager, at (304) 242-1560, or Julie Gomez, executive director of NAMI Greater Wheeling, at (304) 238-8277.

Mid-Ohio Valley Rosary Rally in Parkersburg Set for Oct. 12

PARKERSBURG—Knights of Columbus councils in the Mid-Ohio Valley announce the 10th Annual Mid-Ohio Valley Rosary Rally, which will be held at Parkersburg City Park bandshell on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 11 a.m., rain or shine.

In the event of foul weather, the rally will be moved to the adjacent sheltered horseshoe pit.

Anyone interested in helping or for additional information, contact Jim Udell at (304) 483-1438.

Collection...

Cont'd from Page 3 those affected.

Please remember in prayer all those whose lives have been changed in the wake of these disasters. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.





Disaster Relief Special Collection Oct. 26-27

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA'S HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FUND






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The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops's teaching document on political engagement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," provides guidance to Catholic voters during a presidential election year. (OSV News/Courtesy USCCB)

Visit www.usccb.org; under "Issues & Actions" click "Topics" then click "Faithful Citizenship". The full document can be found by scrolling down to "Learn More" and clicking "English PDF".







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No One Has 'Exclusive Right' to God's Voice, Pope Says at Synod Opening



CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Pope Francis rides the popemobile through St. Peter's Square after celebrating Mass for the opening of the Synod of Bishops on synodality at the Vatican Oct. 2.

By Justin McLellan, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the Synod of Bishops must engage in genuine dialogue with those holding differing views, avoid pushing personal agendas and remain open to changing their minds about what is best for the church, Pope Francis said.

"We must free ourselves from everything that prevents the charity of the Spirit from creating harmony in diversity in us and among us," he said in his homily at the synod's opening Mass. "Those who arrogantly claim to have the exclusive right to hear the voice of the Lord cannot hear it."

The pope was joined by the 368 members of the Synod of Bishops for the Mass in St. Peter's Square Oct. 2. The synod's 16 fraternal delegates — representatives from other Christian communities, who are participating in the assembly without voting privileges — were the first to process into the square, followed by laypeople and religious who make up the 96 non-bishop voting members of the synod, or just over a quarter of the as-

sembly. The Vatican reported that 77 cardinals attended the Mass.

Pope Francis urged synod participants to be careful "not to see our contributions as points to defend at all costs or agendas to be imposed," but rather to see their personal contribution to the synod proceedings "as a gift to be shared, ready even to sacrifice our own point of view in order to give life to something new, all according to God's plan."

Otherwise, he warned, "we will end up locking ourselves into dialogues among the deaf, where participants seek to advance their own causes or agendas without listening to others and, above all, without listening to the voice of the Lord."

The 87-year-old pope presided over the Mass but remained seated throughout the liturgy. Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, relator general of the synod, was the main celebrant at the altar, joined by Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the synod, and Bishop Luis Marín de San Martín, undersecretary of the synod.

The day after Israeli troops crossed the border into Lebanon and Iran fired

ballistic missiles at Israel — seen as significant escalations of the conflict in the Middle East — Pope Francis in his homily called on all people to observe a day of prayer and fasting for peace Oct. 7, marking one year since Hamas' attack on Israel that sparked the ongoing conflict.

The pope also announced he will lead the recitation of the rosary for peace at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major Oct. 6, and he invited synod members to join him.

"Brothers and sisters, we again take up this synodal journey with a gaze fixed on the world, because the Christian community is always at the service of humanity to announce to all the joy of the Gospel," he said. "It is needed above all in this dramatic hour of history when the winds of war and flames of violence continue to destroy entire peoples and nations."

In his homily, Pope Francis said that the synod is not a "parliamentary assembly," but an effort to understand the history, dreams and hopes of "our brothers and sisters scattered around the world inspired by our same faith, moved by the same desire



CNS photo/courtesy Synod of Bishops

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



CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Participants in the assembly of the Synod of Bishops gather in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican to pray before the gathering's opening session Oct. 2.

for holiness."

He called on synod members to receive the contributions of the people of God collected throughout the synodal process, which began in October 2021, "with respect and attention, in prayer and in the light of the Word of God" in order to "reach the destination the Lord desires for us."

"The more we realize that we are surrounded by friends who love, respect and appreciate us, friends who want to listen to what we have to say, the more we will feel free to express ourselves spontaneously and openly," the pope said.

Developing such an attitude, he said, is not just a

"technique" for facilitating dialogue and group communication dynamics, but is central to the church's vocation as "a welcoming place of gathering."

Though he acknowledged the need to be "great" in spirit, heart and outlook "because the issues that we must deal with are great and delicate, and the situations are broad and universal," the pope also said that "the only way to be worthy of the task entrusted to us is to make ourselves small and to receive one another humbly."

"Let us walk together, let us listen to the Lord, let us be led by the blowing of the Spirit," he said.

Vicar for Clergy becomes U.S. Citizen



Courtesy photo

Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E. (right), became a U.S. citizen Sept. 27. With him following the swearing in ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia in Charleston is Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. In addition to serving as the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Father Devasya is also pastor of Sacred Heart parishes in Bluefield and Princeton.

Wheeling University Welcomes a New Chaplain/Director of Campus Ministry

WHEELING — Father David R. Griffin has joined the Wheeling University community as the new chaplain and director of Campus Ministry.

Father Griffin, a Benedictine priest/monk from the St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa., will oversee the Campus Ministry program and serve the students' spiritual needs at the university.

"Wheeling University, founded as a Catholic Institution of higher learning, has a strong tradition of faith and service rooted in the Gospel. I am excited to join the Wheeling community, inviting all students to share their talents and gifts, to grow in their Faith and to contribute to the mission of the university through campus ministry," Father Griffin said. "My goal is to encourage greater participation in our liturgies, scripture studies and outreach programs, enlisting student input and leadership. The enthusiasm and pride of the student body is contagious."

Father Griffin spent 23 years of service at Penn State University, where he not only worked in campus ministry, but served as rector of the community. During his time there, he founded Mission Mexico, a Catholic mission trip where students would serve the needs of a Catholic orphanage in that country. From 2002 to 2019, hundreds of Penn State students participated in this mission trip.



Father David R. Griffin, OSB

A graduate of St. Vincent's with a bachelor's degree in history, Father Griffin also holds a Master of Divinity degree from St. Vincent Seminary. He did additional graduate studies at Loyola University and Providence College. He made his Solemn profession of vows in 1975 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1976. Following his ordination, Father Griffin was assigned to the faculty of Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Ga. During his tenure at the

school, he served in various roles, including Headmaster, a position he held from 1986-1994. Father Griffin returned to St. Vincent College in 1994 where he served as director of Campus Ministry, a residence hall director and assistant varsity soccer coach. He also served on the College's Board of Directors from 1986-1994.

Father Paul Taylor, president of St. Vincent College, re-appointed Father Griffin to the College's Board of Directors earlier this year.

Wheeling University President, Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D., said, "Father David is a wonderful addition to the Wheeling University family. In the short time he has been on campus, Father David has made an impact in the lives of our students. He is teaching a First Year Experience class and offering counsel to those in need. Father is an avid sports fan and can be found in the stands cheering on our Cardinal sports teams."



Your Brother Deacons Wish You a Happy 20th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate

Ordained by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt on October 2, 2004



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Deacon John Sarraga

Deceased

Deacon John F. Ceslovník
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Deacon Gary Lane
Deacon Michael R. Pretera, Jr.



Bridging the Gap in Paden City

Mater Dolorosa Parishioners Make Sure No One Goes Hungry in Their Community

By Colleen Rowan

PADEN CITY—When Dollar General closed its doors in Paden City, Joanna Casto worried that those most in need in her community might go without. The closure, although temporary, caused a food desert as the town was left without a grocery store. The next closest one is in New Martinsville, 5 miles away. While that may not seem like a problem for most people, many less fortunate residents of Paden City have no transportation.

“I thought, we have to do something,” said Casto, a 25-year member of Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City. “We need to bridge the gap.”

And so, she did.

Casto applied for a grant from the River Valley Health Fund and was awarded \$5,500 to help fight food insecurity in the town. In September, she and volunteers used these funds to start a First Thursday Grocery Distribution program, where those in need can come to the church and receive a bag of groceries.

“The first one, we distributed 25 bags of groceries with roughly 10 maybe 12 items in each bag,” Casto recalled. “We also distributed a pound of ground beef to everybody. This week, I anticipate that we will be distributing more than that as word gets around.”

As the program is being held on the first Thursday of each month, Casto was preparing for the Oct. 3 distribution when she spoke to *The Catholic Spirit* about the effort.

“Tomorrow,” she said. “I’m going to buy probably 20 half gallons of



Courtesy photo

Volunteers prepare meals to go at a recent Third Thursday Lunch Program at Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City. The program serves about 250 meals to those in need each month.

milk and loaves of bread.”

These are among the items she must get on her own. Other provisions she orders from Sam’s Club, which delivers to the church.

Casto said the effort is being made possible with the help of volunteers from her parish and support from the parish cluster, which includes Mater Dolorosa, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, and the Missions of Holy Rosary in Sistersville and St. Joseph in Proctor.

The effort is inspiring others in the community to help, namely a couple from the local Methodist Church. “They took donations from their congregation,” Casto said, “which was very helpful.”

One of the volunteers helping in

the program is Judy Yeager, who has been a member of Mater Dolorosa for more than 25 years. When asked what the closure of a store like Dollar General does to a small town like Paden City, she said it’s just devastating.

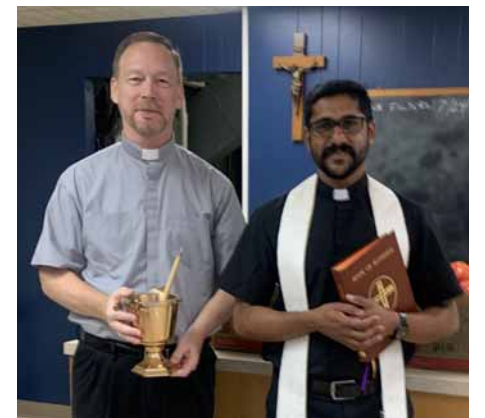
“It’s devastating to the people that live here and we worry about how we’re going to help them,” Yeager said. “It’s hard to believe in this day and age that there are that many people that are in dire need.”

Yeager added that the majority of people who come to the grocery distribution walk, bringing with them wagons to fill. And they are so grateful, Casto said, adding that many have told her they would not have food without this program.

The First Thursday Grocery Distribution is an extension of Mater Dolorosa’s Third Thursday Lunch Program, which the parish has been conducting since 2018. Through that effort, the parish serves about 250 meals to go per month. About 12 to 15 volunteers from the parish and from the parish cluster prepare and package the meals for those in need and deliver to shut-ins. The program also provides groceries, personal hygiene products, winter coats and blankets, and other needed items. This program is also grant funded, but parishioners also donate many of the items.

It was through this program that Casto got to know so many of the people in need in the community. So, when Dollar General closed, she knew that many of them are without transportation and would not be able to get to the food pantries or grocery stores in New Martinsville.

“That made me aware that this is going to be a hardship on people to just access groceries,” she said.



Courtesy photo

Father Joseph Abraham, VC, administrator of Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, right, and Deacon Bill Klug, permanent deacon at the parish, gave a blessing at a recent Third Thursday Lunch Program at the church.

Casto said she is extremely grateful for the support both programs receive—most notably from the parish cluster’s former pastor, Msgr. Kevin Quirk, for the Third Thursday Lunch Program, and current administrator of the cluster, Father Joseph Abraham, VC, for that program and the newly established First Thursday Grocery Distribution.

“Monsignor was very supportive, and Father Joseph is also very supportive and encourages us. He (Father Joseph) came down last month and helped bag the groceries,” she said. “It’s not possible to sustain something like this without support from the top and without these wonderful, wonderful volunteers.”

Reflecting on these efforts, Casto said, “We are a small community, and we need to help each other; and we do.”

Anyone who would like to donate to support these efforts can call Casto at (304) 771-8474.



Colleen Rowan photo

Joanna Casto shows food provisions for the First Thursday Grocery Distribution Program held Oct. 3 at Mater Dolorosa Church in Paden City.

Catholic Charities Opens Emergency Shelter in Morgantown

MORGANTOWN — Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) has officially opened Grace Shelter, an overnight emergency shelter for adults experiencing homelessness in Morgantown. The shelter, located within Hazel's House of Hope on Scott Avenue, will now be operated by CCWVa after transitioning from Bartlett Housing Solutions.

"This new emergency shelter reflects our mission to serve the most vulnerable among us. In opening these doors, we offer not just shelter, but hope, compassion, and dignity to those in need," said Mark Phillips, CCWVa chief executive officer.

Grace Shelter provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals experiencing homelessness. The facility is open 24 hours a day and offers 28 beds, with separate dormitories for men and women, as well as access to various on-site amenities through Hazel's House of Hope—a collaborative network of nonprofit organizations.

"Catholic Charities brings a lot of credibility to Hazel's House," said Lyn Dotson, board member of Morgantown Community Resources, which operates Hazel's House of Hope.

"When we were looking for someone to take over shelter operations, Catholic Charities was a natural choice with their spotless reputation, and their experience with shelters and the homeless population," said Dotson.

Several other CCWVa programs are housed within Hazel's House of Hope, including the agency's Child Care Resource Center, WV Birth to Three, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services, and Emergency Financial Assistance program.

CCWVa operates Grace Shelter with a commitment to person-centered, trauma-informed care, ensuring that all individuals receive respectful and empathetic treatment. Funding for the first year of the shelter was provided by the City of Morgantown and by Monongalia County.

"Our goal is to find housing for individuals as quickly as possible," said Dr. Jessica Thompson, CCWVa Grace shelter director. "In the meantime, we provide them with a safe space and the services they need to get back on their feet."

CCWVa will host an open house at Grace Shelter on Oct. 17 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Members of the commu-



Courtesy photo

Catholic Charities Grace Shelter is located within Hazel's House of Hope, a hub of social service organizations in Morgantown.

nity are invited to tour the facility (located at 20 Scott Ave.) and learn more about Catholic Charities' programs

and services.

For more information, visit ccwva.org.

You can be strong no matter what you are going through'

WESTON—Audrey Westfall, a seventh grader at St. Patrick School in Weston, and her fellow students collected toys and other donations for WVU Children's Hospital. She delivered the collection Sept. 24.

Audrey has bravely battled leukemia and, as of July, completed her final round of chemotherapy. She got to ring the bell at WVU Children's Hospital in celebration of completing her treatment.

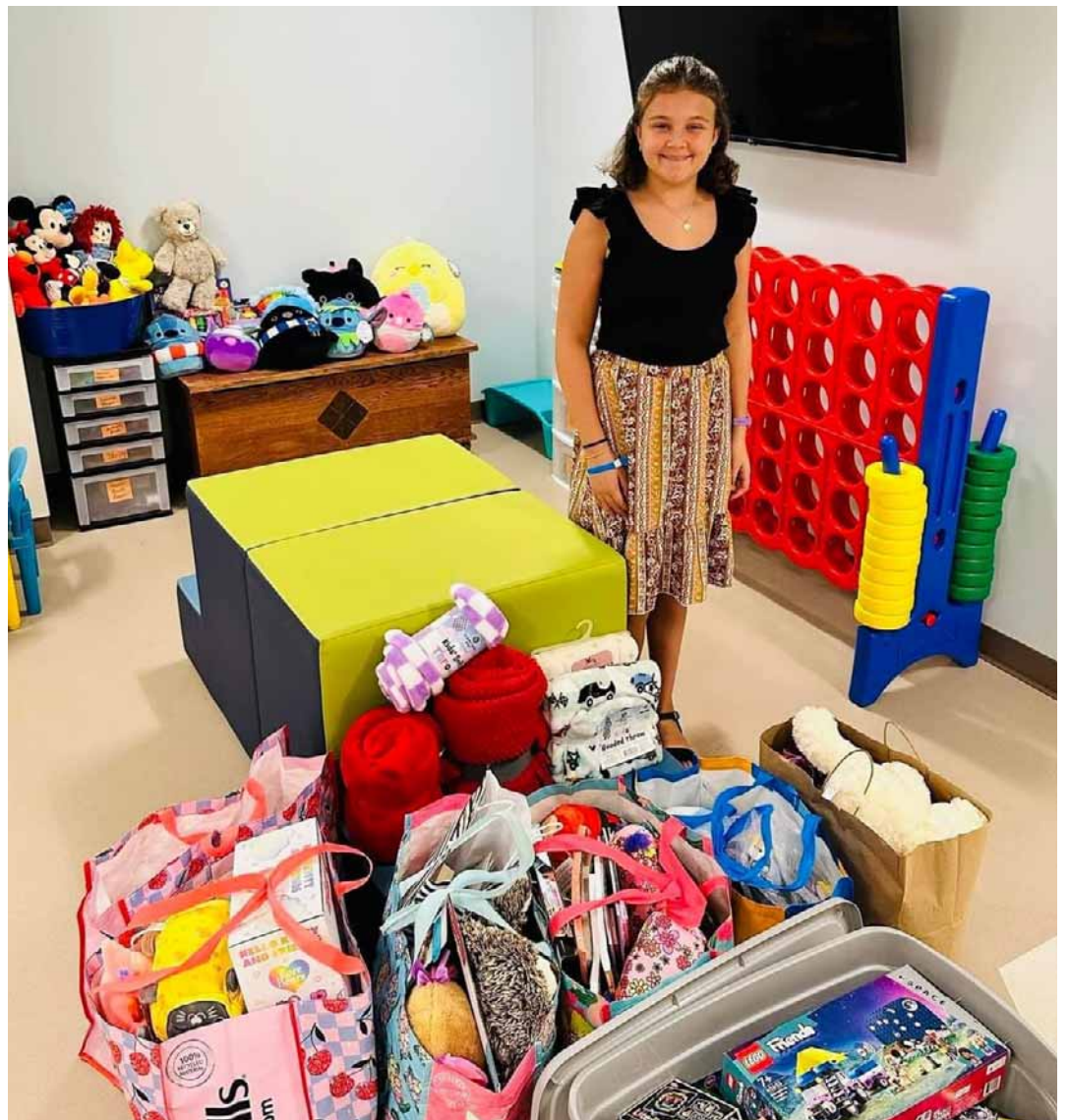
Audrey also delivered an inspiring speech to the children currently fighting childhood cancer, sharing her journey and offering words of hope. In her own words, "You can be strong no matter what you are going through. Don't worry, be happy."

"Audrey's courage and compassion truly reflect Christ's love, as she gives of herself in service to others, even while facing her own trials," St. Patrick School officials said.

"Like Christ, Audrey has shown us how to persevere with faith and share hope with those who need it most," they said. "Thank you to Audrey for her Christ-like example and to all our St. Patrick students/families who contributed to today's donations!"

Audrey Westfall, a seventh grader at St. Patrick School in Weston, is shown with donations she and fellow students collected for WVU Children's Hospital.

Courtesy photo



The Eucharist, Its Benefits for Individuals and for the Church

By Bishop Mark E. Brennan

(This story originally ran in the July 19, 2024, digital edition of *The Catholic Spirit*)

I. Practical Value of the Eucharist: Introduction

In my first article, I wrote about the Scriptural and ancient Christian testimony to Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and some theological reflections on the Sacrament. In this article I address the practical value of the Eucharist in our lives and why the Second Vatican Council proclaimed that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life," (*Lumen Gentium*, Constitution on the Church, 11), wherein "is contained the entire spiritual wealth of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch, our living Bread who gives life to people through his flesh" (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, On the Ministry and Life of Priests, 5).

Let me illustrate the practical value for us in the Eucharist by a few examples.

A woman in my first parish was deserted by her husband and left with five children to raise. She said it was her participation in Mass and frequent reception of the Eucharist that helped her deal with the challenges and not lose hope.

A professor at Penn State had been a prisoner because of his Christian activities in formerly Communist Czechoslovakia. He and some other Catholic prisoners, during a recreation period, would sit at a table and pretend to play cards while a priest at the table, also a prisoner, quietly celebrated Mass using bits of bread saved from meals and a tiny flask of wine provided by a sympathetic guard. He said the Eucharist sustained him until he was finally released.

In my last parish, a pantry feeds hundreds of families non-perishable food every week. Some volunteers go to daily Mass. Their reception of Christ in the Eucharist provides them spiritual energy to feed the hungry families that come to the pantry. That is true of some of our parishes in West Virginia, too.

II. Eucharist as Pilgrims' sacrament

The Eucharist builds on the analogy of eating and drinking to keep the body alive, so it is spiritual food and drink for the journey of faith. Jesus said: *Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world* [John 6:49-51]. The Hebrews were on a journey to the Promised Land. We Chris-



Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan processes with the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Eucharistic procession through downtown Wheeling June 24 for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

tians are on a pilgrimage of faith to the blessed life of heaven. We need the Lord as food and drink to give us strength for our pilgrimage, lest we fall by the wayside and give up because of the hardships and opposition we inevitably encounter.

III. Individual Benefits of Eucharist

1. If we receive Christ in the Eucharist with faith not only in his True Presence but in his enduring love for us, our lesser or venial sins are wiped away. In approaching the Lord with such devotion, our attraction to sin is weakened because we are being drawn closer to the source of goodness. The rust falls away, the scratches are rubbed out. For serious or mortal sins, the Catholic teaching is that one must seek the Sacrament of Penance, because serious sin breaks our relationship with God. Christ instituted Penance as the way to restore us to God's grace. But venial sins do not destroy that relationship, even though they weaken it. The Eucharist is divine medicine to strengthen and restore full health to our spirits.

2. Another personal benefit of the Eucharist is an increase of grace, enabling us to engage in

works of charity, justice and peace. Some young men who went to college with me decided they wanted to help an economically depressed city revitalize itself, so they went there and started doing community organizing. They met with a lot of opposition because the local people resented these outsiders coming in and telling them what was good for them. Eventually the outsiders gave up and left. None was very religious. They relied on their own strength but in the end it failed them.

In contrast, I knew a Catholic man who was appointed the director of an office in a federal agency. When he arrived he found that it was dysfunctional: the employees did not get along, resented one another and tried to make others look bad. As a consequence, their work suffered. The new director began meeting with them individually, listened to their concerns, dealt with the ones he could and found ways to reward good work. The atmosphere in the office began to improve, as did the office's performance. Despite the obstacles he encountered, the director persevered. What gave him strength was Christ, whom he worshipped and received regularly in the Eucharist. The grace of the sacrament helps people do good.

3. There is a further benefit for the individual believer: the Eucharist is a pledge of eternal life. Through it we participate in the life of the risen Lord. St. Paul, referring to Baptism, says: *We were buried with [Christ] through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life* [Romans 6:4]. The *newness of life* that begins in us in Baptism is nourished by the holy Eucharist and will culminate in the fullness of that new life in eternity.

A woman I visited in the hospital years ago went to Mass on Sundays and loved to receive the Lord in Holy Communion. In the course of our conversation, she said, "The Lord has been so good to me. I love him so. I'm ready to meet him whenever he calls me." She looked good enough to me to be discharged but her family told me she died two hours after our conversation. This woman who loved the Lord in the Eucharist sensed him calling her to himself and she yearned to be with him. Quoting Jesus once more: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day* [John 6:54]. The Eucharist draws us to the risen Lord. It anticipates our participation in the eternal banquet.

IV. Ecclesial benefits of the Eucharist

The individual Christian always belongs to the great Church of Christ. The Eucharist not only benefits the individual but the Church

See "Eucharist" on Page 10

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Eucharist...

Cont'd from Page 9

as a whole. In fact, it is said that "The Eucharist makes the Church;" it does so because Christ is truly present in the Eucharist and he is the founder of the Church. We walk by faith in him and not by sight, but we walk together, just as his disciples walked with him around Galilee and Judea. I will briefly describe some of the ecclesial benefits of the Eucharist.

1. The Eucharist expresses and builds up our unity in faith and love. I saw a striking example of this Eucharistic unity last October when I celebrated Mass in a girls' boarding school, the Villa de las Niñas, outside Mexico City. Over three thousand girls of high school age, from poor families, often with only one parent, sometimes with none, took part with great enthusiasm in the Mass. In talking with some of them and seeing the activities they engaged in – it was a Sunday, so they had time to play sports and gather in groups to talk – I could sense their unity and common purpose. The religious sisters who serve as house mothers told me that the girls care for one another and work well together. In that place I saw the unity in faith and love that the Eucharist can both express and build up.

The Catholic understanding of participation in the Eucharist is that it should reflect a fully shared faith and a commitment to charity by those who receive it. In his last discourse in John's Gospel, the Lord said of his disciples: *I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for them but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me* [John 17:19-21]. The truth revealed by God in Christ, all of it, should be held by those receiving the Lord in Holy Communion as well as love, for both truth and love build up the Church's unity.

It is a scandal that genuine differences of faith and liturgical practice keep us from fulfilling the Lord's prayer for our unity in faith and love. It weakens our witness to the one Sav-

ior of the world and keeps some people away from us. We cannot overcome disunity by bargaining away or compromising on sincerely held beliefs, but we should pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to an understanding of the truth, in which Christ has consecrated us, that is deeper than what our limited vision has so far seen. Our mutual love and common witness to justice and peace also help us on the path to full unity.

2. The Eucharist energizes the Church to proclaim the Gospel. I saw this in the country of Togo in West Africa last year. An American priest, who arrived there eighteen years ago, preached the Gospel, baptized those who came to faith and now the Togolese are bringing their friends and neighbors to the Lord. Having celebrated Mass with them, I can attest that their joyful faith and love for Christ in the Eucharist make them effective evangelizers.

3. The Eucharist gives strength for service. St. Augustine said, "Become what you eat." The Eucharist is Christ's self-giving to us; he gives us power to give of ourselves to others. It amazes me when I think of the many good works engaged in by the Christian churches. Our Catholic Church operates more than 25% of all health care facilities in the world; we have thousands of schools; pantries and soup kitchens in many parishes; ministries to the imprisoned and other people on the margins. Not to mention our many spiritual services of prayer, worship and counseling, which strengthen the souls of the faithful.

I doubt that we would persevere in doing all these things if the Lord Jesus were not at work in us. And it is he whom we receive in the Eucharist. This is why the Second Vatican Council said that the liturgy, in which the Eucharist is celebrated, "is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the source from which all its power flows" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10). Jesus builds us up for service.

V. Conclusion

I choose to end this talk with an image. In my last parish, St. Martin of


Tours in Gaithersburg, Maryland, the pantry was located in a building formerly used by the parish school. In the back of that building, we remodeled a storeroom to make it a Eucharistic Adoration chapel. Because we Catholics believe that Christ's presence remains in the sacrament until consumed, we keep the consecrated bread in tabernacles so we can bring Holy Communion to the sick, the homebound and prisoners. But

Jesus in the tabernacle can be adored as the Eucharistic Lord. So, in the same building, bread from the oven is distributed to the hungry and Christ, the Bread of Life, is adored by his disciples, some of whom serve at the Pantry. St. James wrote: *Faith without works is dead* (2: 26). In that one building a living faith produces good fruit. Christ is truly present both sacramentally and in his disciples' charity.



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A Changing Moment...

By Mary Malamisura of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield (*Mary shares an experience at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July.*)

I was leaning on a road divider, when I felt a tap on my shoulder and looked around to see a young man standing on the opposite side of the divider. He asked: "Do you have something in your life that you need us to pray for?" I looked around in amazement, wondering how he could know how heavy my heart felt at that moment. Realizing what a gift this was, I said "yes, I do. The morning, I left home to come here, I had a biopsy, and not knowing the result, I fear that it will change my life drastically." He said he was a missionary, serving a youth group from Texas, and asked a young teenager, who

was standing nearby, if she would like to pray for me. She shyly pulled away, saying she did not have the words. I reached out for the young woman and held her hand as the young missionary said a beautiful prayer that God take away my fear, and that I simply trust in Him, and His love for me. As I thanked them, I reached in my pocket for a pin, I had brought with me to give to someone I thought might need that message and handed it to the shy girl. The words, "Enjoy Being on a Journey" encircled a heart with a cross in the middle. She seemed elated to receive it, and I was moved to ask her if she wanted to know the story behind the words, and she eagerly came closer.

I told her that when my son was 20 years old, he drowned in a kayaking accident. I become numb with grief and could not make any sense of the world around me. We went to his college dorm and there we noticed two words on his door. Enjoy Being. As I stared at those two words, I realized that it was exactly as he had lived his life: finding Joy. He found gratitude in every day, even those that did not turn out the way he had planned. I felt something turn inside of me, in my heart, and I realized that I had not once said, "thank you to God for the incredible soul he had given my family to love for those 20 years". Enjoy Being became a reminder to find gratitude, even in the bleakest of moments.

When I looked at her again, she was crying as she stared at the pin. I told her to remember to simply find gratitude, no matter the circumstances that she finds her life encountering. I gave her several more pins and told her to pass them on to others, who might need that message. She embraced me, saying "I will pray for you, too".

As I turned back to my group, I noticed a remarkable peace that had enveloped my heart. That nagging fear had disappeared.

As we departed, joining the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, our eyes locked, and she nodded as she touched the pin she had attached to her shirt, knowing that each of us would continue praying for the other.

Editor's note: Mary is a Eucharistic Mission-



Photo illustration by Joyce Bibey



Courtesy photo

At the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, are (from left): Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E., pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield and Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton; Bishop Mark Brennan; and Mary Malamisura, a member of Sacred Heart in Bluefield.

ary - one of approximately 270 faithful from our West Virginia parishes, missions, schools, campus ministries, and organizations that took part in the National Eucharistic Congress, where all present began the Walk with One initiative - a commitment our U.S. Bishops pray all 70 million Catholics nationwide take seriously.

#FaithInWV#NationalEucharisticCongress#WalkwithOne

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Rosary Pilgrimage in Nation's Capital Unites Thousands of Catholics in Love for Mary

By **Katie Yoder, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Thousands of pilgrims from across the country gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 28 to honor Mary, the Mother of God, and her gift of the rosary.

"I am entirely yours, Mary, I am entirely yours," the crowd sang in Latin as the second annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage opened with a procession of a statue of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. "All that I have, Mother of Christ, all that I have is yours."

More than 3,000 people registered for the free, daylong pilgrimage celebrating the rosary hosted by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph and their local charters of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, a spiritual association dedicated to the rosary. Dominican friars and sisters dotted a diverse crowd of men and women, young and old, individuals and families of different cultures and backgrounds.

The event at the basilica, the largest Roman Catholic church in North America, included preaching, adoration, confession, book signings, a recitation of the rosary, enrollment in the confraternity, Mass and an evening concert with the Hillbilly Thomists, a bluegrass band of Dominican friars.

"Our two goals for the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage are that people are led closer to Jesus Christ — and there is no one better at doing that and no one who desires that more than the Blessed Virgin Mary," Dominican Father John Paul Kern, executive director of the Dominican Friars Foundation and director of the Rosary Shrine of St. Jude in Washington, told OSV News. "Secondly, that ... we come to share in St. Dominic's zeal for the salvation of souls."

Founded by St. Dominic de Guzmán in 1216, the Dominican order, also known as the Order of Preachers, has a special relationship with the rosary: According to tradition, Mary appeared to St. Dominic, entrusting the rosary's promotion to him.

The rosary pilgrimage, the culmination of a nine-month novena said ahead of the event, drew people from near and far.

Sarah Garrett, 28, drove from Chester County in Pennsylvania with her husband, 3-year-old son and 1-year-old twin daughters to participate in the pilgrimage.

"We were just confirmed in March, so we haven't done any pilgrimages yet," she told OSV News. "We wanted to get together with everyone and be a part of all of the beautiful things that are taking place here today. ... We wanted to expose our children to more people who are involved with the church."

She and her husband pray the rosary daily, she said. They involve their young children as much as possible: Her son does his best to pray along while their daughters, she said, say "Amen" at the end.

For the pilgrimage, the basilica itself transformed into a kind of rosary, with its chapels dedicated to different mysteries of the rosary, each housing a scene from the life of Jesus and Mary.

Dominican Father James Sullivan, prior at St. Dominic's Priory in Washington and the principal preacher of the event, focused on the Annunciation, the first joyful mystery of the rosary, when God becomes man in Mary's womb. At that moment, God not only gives us his son but also the



OSV News photo/Jeffrey Bruno
A young woman prays as people gather for the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Sept. 28. Thousands of pilgrims from across the country gathered at the shrine to honor Mary, the Mother of God, and her gift of the rosary.

mother of his son, he said.

"The Annunciation is a gift to us of both Jesus and Mary and both of them together weave the prayers of the rosary," Father Sullivan said.

In an email ahead of the event, Father Sullivan told OSV News that the rosary will bind pilgrims together "no matter where we go after today."

"It's easy sometimes just to listen to all the negative news and to think that's all there is to say," he said. "Our making this Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage ... reminds us of the beauty and the power of being united in prayer."

At the basilica, he recognized Mary as "the compass on our pilgrimage to heaven."

"She leads the way to Jesus, to heaven, to our eternal happiness, Godward," he told the crowd.

The pilgrims listening from the pews included Dennis and Mary Francis Musk, who drove more than 10 hours through the rain to arrive from New Hope, Kentucky. It was their first time attending the pilgrimage. They introduced themselves as lay Dominicans.

"That's the main reason we came," Mary Francis, 77, said, "but I always love to come to this basilica. ... It's beautiful, it's just peaceful, it gives you a really good atmosphere to pray."

Dennis, 71, said that they have always honored Mary, specifically in the rosary. Involved in pro-life work since 1975, he said that they have been praying the rosary outside of abortion clinics since the '70s, after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, which previously legalized abortion nationwide. The court overturned the 1973 decision in its *Dobbs* ruling in 2022, returning the issue of abortion to the legislature.

Other pilgrims shared their relationship with Mary and said that they first encountered Mary through Jesus. Megan Clancy, 21, grew up in Lexington, South Carolina, and now serves as student president of GW Catholics, affiliated with the Newman Center at George Washington University in Washington. The philosophy major said she heard about the pilgrimage from the Dominican priests who sometimes celebrate Mass at the Newman Center.

Mary, she said, transformed her life. While Clancy grew up in the Catholic Church, she entered college unsure of her faith.

"I was pretty lukewarm, didn't know what I thought about things, didn't know Our Lady. Nobody had ever told me that Mary was my mom," she remembered.

That changed when, one day, she heard a podcast by Father Mike Schmitz — perhaps best known for hosting the "Bible in a Year" and "Catechism in a Year" podcasts — where he talked about the seven last words or sayings of Jesus.

"He was like, 'And Jesus gives his mom to you,'" she remembered him saying of Mary. "That just blew my heart into a million pieces, because that is a particular hole in my life."

She said that she had always felt like she never really had a mother.

"My biological mom, there's a whole set of wounds there," she said. "The Lord has blessed me with so many lovely women who act as mothers to me and has kind of filled that hole in a really abundant and overflowing way, which I was so grateful for, but it was like, I never actually had a mom."

Then, she said, she discovered that she had Mary.

"Most people, they ask Mary to bring them to her son, Jesus, right?" she said. "But for me, I was learning how to have a relationship with a mother at all."

She asked Jesus: "Bring me to your mom, teach me to be your mother's daughter."

"And it's just been such a constant in my spiritual life for the past couple of years as I've grown in my faith," she said. "She just continues to guide me and is always looking out for me."

Father Kern, who is a convert to Catholicism, said that Jesus also led him to Mary.

"The rosary had a strong role more in my growth in the faith after I made the initial leap," he said. "It was through Jesus Christ in the Eucharist that I realized if he is there, that's where I must be."

But among the many gifts of entering the church, he said, "was Jesus also saying, 'Great, you came here for love of me. I'm also going to share my mother with you, and she's going to help you draw even closer to me.'"

(Katie Yoder writes for OSV News from the Washington area.)

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

Sunday, October 6: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown; 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane; 11 a.m.

Sunday, October 27: All Saints, Bridgeport; 10 a.m.

Saturday, November 9: St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont; 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 16: Sacred Heart, Williamson; 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19: St. Anthony, Follansbee; 6 p.m.

White Sulphur Springs Parish to Host Chant Workshop and Concert with Dr. Rosemary Heredos

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS — The St. Charles Concert Series continues this fall with Dr. Rosemary Heredos, who will present a workshop and concert on Gregorian Chant. Both the workshop on Oct. 22 and the concert on Oct. 23 are free and open to the public.

Soprano and scholar Heredos is a specialist in Early Music with a particular emphasis in Gregorian chant.



Dr. Rosemary Heredos

She holds bachelor's degrees in music and English literature from Kent State University, and a Master of Arts in Ritual Chant and Song from the University of Limerick, where she studied the Irish sean-nós style with Ní Riain, and medieval chant and song with Catherine Sergent. Heredos recently completed a doctorate in Historical Performance Practice from Case Western Reserve University, where she studied voice with Ellen Hargis. She regularly sings with Cantoral, an all-female chant ensemble based in Limerick, Ireland, and Trobár medieval ensemble based in Cleveland. A church musician since her youth, Heredos has cantored at Catholic churches around the world, and is currently the coordinator of Liturgical Music at St. Anselm Church in Chesterland, Ohio. Additionally, she teaches in the Ethnomusicology department at Kent State. Heredos is also lecturer in Sacred Music and Voice at St. Meinrad Archabbey, where she regularly teaches chant workshops and voice lessons.

The workshop, entitled Chant, Liturgy & Prayer, will be held Oct. 22 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Anyone interested can attend either or both parts of the workshop. Refreshments will be served during the break.

A concert of Chant and Traditional Irish singing will be presented on Wednesday, Oct. 23 beginning at 7 p.m. Appearing with Heredos will be Leah Trent, harpist.

Both events will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church located across from the Greenbrier Clinic at 40798 Midland Trail E in White Sulphur Springs. For more information, call the church office at (304) 536-1813.

Sacred Heart Mission in Salem Receives OCP Parish Grant to Enhance Liturgy and Music

By Colleen Rowan

SALEM — Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) has announced Sacred Heart Mission in Salem as a recipient of a \$1,000 OCP Parish Grant.

OCP Publisher Wade Wisler wrote in a letter to Bishop Mark Brennan on behalf of Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland, Oregon, and the OCP Board of Directors: "It is our sincere hope that this grant will help Sacred Heart Mission meet the needs they so clearly presented in their grant application, as well as support their efforts to enhance their community's liturgy and music."

Sacred Heart was chosen for the award out of hundreds of applications from parishes large and small across the U.S., he said in the letter.

"Every application was of remarkable merit and each parish's needs were worthy of assistance, making the selection process quite difficult," Wisler said. "We take great satisfaction in knowing that so many parishes are committed to fulfilling the needs of

their communities."

The community of Sacred Heart is happy to be named a grant recipient and has plans for the funds.

"This grant has been a great blessing and privilege to receive for a small mission like Sacred Heart," said Father Akila Rodrigo, TOR, pastor. "It will help purchase missalettes and sheet music for our Masses."

Father Rodrigo is also pastor of St. Ann Parish in Shinnston, St. James the Apostle Parish in Clarksburg, and Salem University in Salem.

OCP is committed to providing the very best resources, music and service to Catholic parishes and worshipers all over the world, the organization states on its website. It also says the OCP Parish Grants Program is a unique program of direct financial grants authorized by the OCP Board of Directors to provide assistance to parishes and campus ministries seeking to enhance the worship experience of their community.

Although some minor restrictions apply, this is a yearly program with varying award amounts. "We invite any parish that was not awarded a grant in the previous year to apply in the coming year," Wisler said.

The website states that recipients of a Parish Grant must use the money for liturgical and/or musical purposes. Grants are commonly used for: Improving multicultural ministries with additional training and purchasing of bilingual worship materials; providing online, digital or electronic resources; upkeep, repair and replacement of musical instruments, equipment and facilities; purchasing music, hymnals and other worship materials; and attending or hosting musical or liturgical conferences or workshops.

Applications for the OCP Parish Grants Program may be submitted online at ocp.org/parish-grants in early 2025. More information about the grants can be found there as well.

Clarksburg Sisters Honored as Parade Marshals



Courtesy photo

Seated on the back of a yellow Corvette are beloved Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJI, (left) and Sister Beritha Mashu, SJI, who were honored by the Clarksburg community Aug. 31 as the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival Honorary Parade Marshals. They are both Sisters of the Child Jesus of Zimbabwe and have served at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg for the last 20 years. This summer, Sister Beritha celebrated her 50th anniversary of religious life and Sister Maria, who is the director of Religious Education at the parish, celebrated her 28th anniversary. Driving the car is Dr. Zac Henry and riding along in the front seat is Kasen Henry. Cheering them on are Father Casey Mahone, pastor of Immaculate Conception (left) and Msgr. Paul Hudock, who leads Hispanic Ministry at Immaculate Conception and St. Mary Parish in Star City.



El obispo Brennan se reúne con la comunidad hispana

Foto cortesía de Jaime Romero

Después de celebrar una Misa en español en la Parroquia de la Epifanía del Señor en Moorefield, el 29 de Septiembre, el Reverendísimo Obispo Mark Brennan se reúne con los fieles de la Comunidad Hispana de la zona. De pie junto al Obispo se encuentra el Padre José Manuel Escalante, Vicario Parroquial de la Parroquia, quien está desarrollando el Ministerio Hispano en Moorefield, Petersburg y Franklin. Después de la Santa Misa celebró una recepción con deliciosos platos típicos.

Mes respetemos la vida

Cada octubre la Iglesia en Estados Unidos celebra el Mes Respetemos la Vida, y el primer domingo de octubre se observa como el Domingo Respetemos la Vida. Los católicos, estamos llamados a atesorar, defender y proteger a los más indefensos, desde el principio de la vida hasta su final, y en todas las etapas intermedias. Durante el mes de octubre, la Iglesia nos pide que reflexionemos más profundamente sobre la dignidad de cada vida humana. (respectlife.org/celebrar)



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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números 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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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.wvdhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions.

Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area.

Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holidays as needed.

Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Director of Music Ministries Needed

The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart located in Charleston, West Virginia is looking for a pastoral musician. Responsibilities include overseeing the selection of music for liturgies, substituting for our organist, directing the choir, cantoring when necessary, preparing worship aids and expanding our current music program. Candidates should have a BA degree or higher in a music field, or other field, if musically trained, excellent organ/keyboard/choral conducting skills and vocal technique and be familiar with music notation software.

A practicing Catholic is preferred but not required; candidates must be of the Christian faith with willingness to learn about and genuinely support others in their Catholic faith. Conversant with a variety of liturgical styles including contemporary, classical, and traditional. Must demonstrate a commitment to use a blended approach to liturgical music that encourages the assembly to sing. Working hours are flexible and include weekends and some evenings. Complete job description available upon request. Please send résumés to: Bernadette McMasters Kime, Office of Worship and Sacraments, PO. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email bkime@dwc.org Résumé submissions will be accepted until the position is filled.



Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
7:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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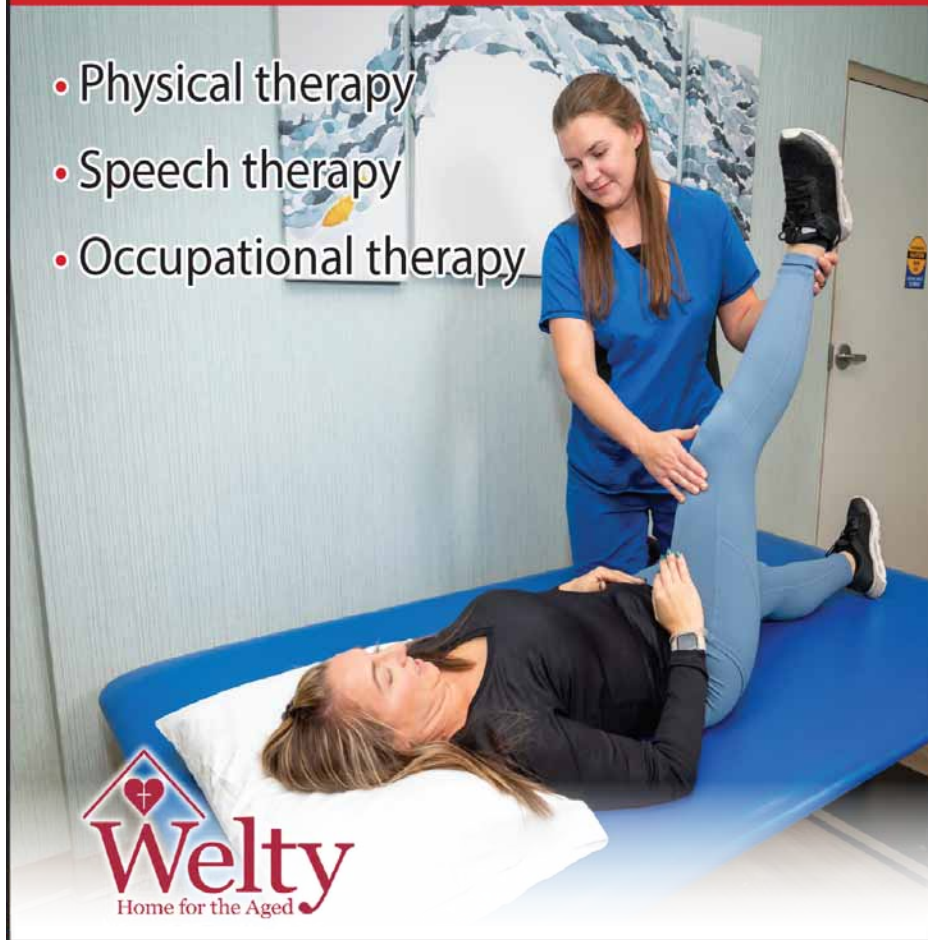
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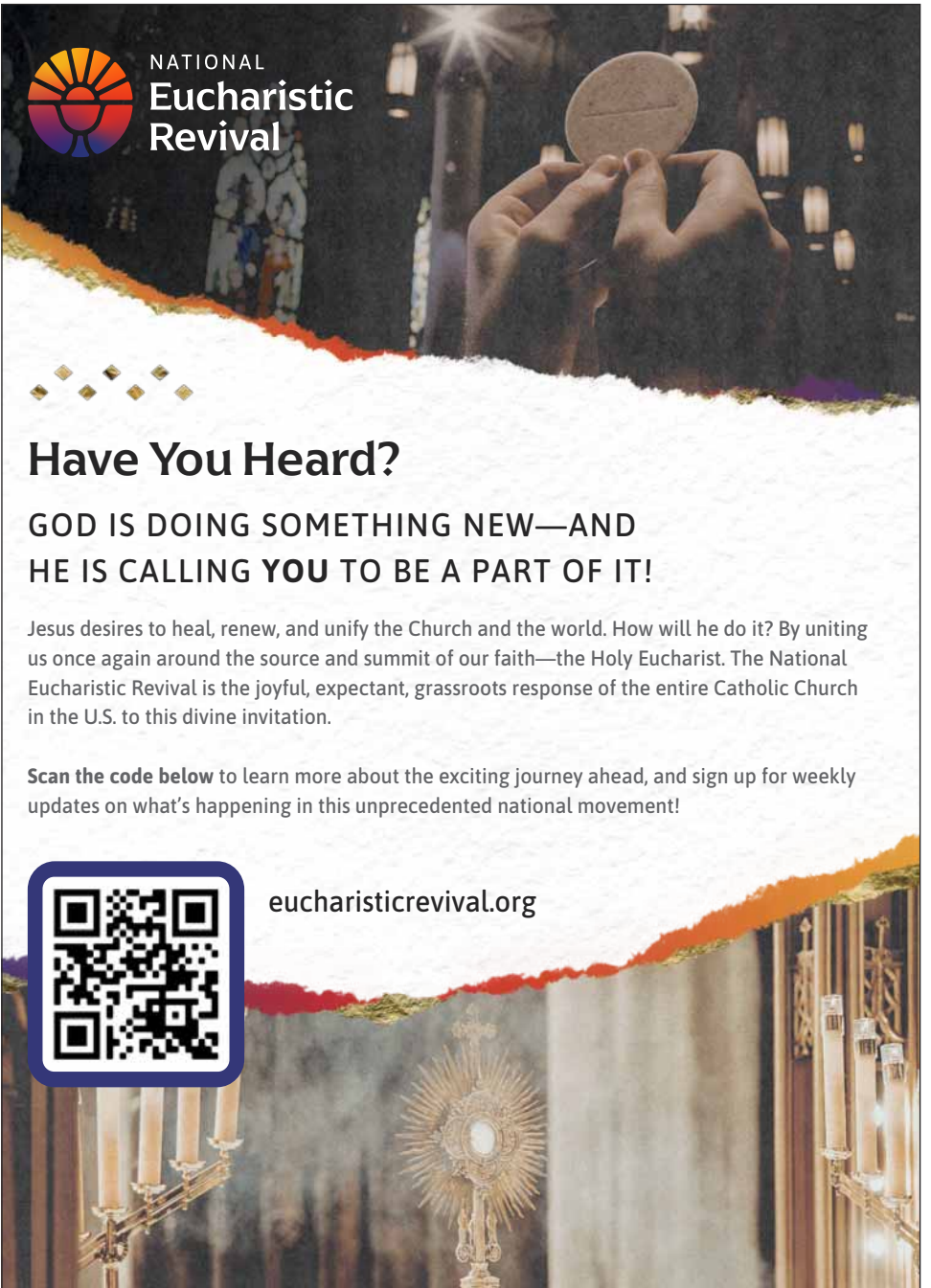
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