

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

We Can't Let People Forget 9/11, Says Retired FDNY Captain



CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pa. Above, people in Jersey City, N.J., look at The Tribute in Light installation from Liberty State Park on the anniversary last year.

By Christina Lee Knauss, Catholic News Service

MURRELLS INLET, S.C. (CNS) — When the last days of August roll around every year, that's when the memories start to return to Thomas Damore.

No matter the weather, no matter what he's

doing, they come back. Even though 20 years have passed and the retired captain of the New York Fire Department now lives hundreds of miles from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

In his mind, he goes back to a day when fire, smoke, debris and death rained from a blindingly clear blue sky over New York City and back

to the 50 days he spent climbing over piles of twisted metal where fires still burned, pushing aside piles of concrete and other debris, searching, always searching for anything left of thousands of people who perished in an instant at ground zero.

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Vatican Releases Guidance for Dioceses to Begin Synodal Path

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican has issued the preparatory document and a “handbook” for dioceses as part of the global church’s preparation for the 2023 assembly of the Synod of Bishops, discussing the theme, “For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission.”

“Pope Francis invites the entire church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: ‘It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the church of the third millennium,’” the new document said.

As such, the preparatory document and its questions are “at the service of the synodal journey, especially as a tool to facilitate the first phase of listening to and consulting the people of God in the particular churches in the hope of helping to set in motion the ideas, energy and creativity of all those who will take part in the journey, and to make it easier to share the fruits of their efforts,” it said.

“The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission,” the preparatory document said.

The handbook or “vademecum” offers guidelines for bishops and those helping facilitate the synodal process locally on how they can best listen to and consult with Catholics and the wider community, particularly those on the margins of society, as well as Christians and non-Christians.

The materials were released Sept. 7 at a news conference at the Vatican and online in English and Spanish at the synod’s official website: synod.va/en.html and synod.va/es.html.

Pope Francis is scheduled to formally open the synod process at the Vatican Oct. 9-10, and the bishop of every diocese should open the process in his diocese Oct. 17. The diocesan phase runs until April.

The materials present a number of questions to help prompt reflection, input and ideas from as many people as possible.

The questions fall under 10 general themes, and people can address what is most pertinent to their situation and “share with honesty and openness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect together on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing through what they share with one another,” the document said.

Some suggested questions include: “To whom does our particular church ‘need to listen to’” and “how are the laity, especially young people and women, listened to? How do we integrate the contribution of consecrated men and women? What space is there for the voice of minorities, the discarded, and the excluded? Do we identify prejudices and stereotypes that hinder our listening? How do we listen to the social and cultural context in which we live?”

However, the basic and most fundamental question guiding the whole process is: “How does this ‘journeying together,’ which takes place today on different levels — from the local level to the universal one — allow the church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal church?” the document said.

Speaking at the Sept. 7 news conference, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, and others explained the main objectives and characteristics of a synodal process, which is “a spiritual process” that requires listening to the Holy Spirit as well as to each other.

“The synod will succeed or fail to See “Path” on Page 3

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father John A. Rice is appointed designated pastor of Parkersburg Catholic High School for a term of three years, effective September 14, 2021. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg and St. Monica Mission in Lubeck.

Father Binu Emmanuel, CST, is appointed chaplain to Fairmont State University, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as administrator of St. Patrick Parish in Mannington and St. Peter Parish in Farmington.

Father Cody C. Ford has been granted a three-month sabbatical beginning on September 1, 2021, and ending on December 1, 2021.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families’ Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under “Accountability,” then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444
Fax: (304) 233-8551

Web site: www.thecatholicspiritwv.org
Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
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Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan

Freelance Writers:

Martina Hart, John Sherwood,



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USCCB Launches Initiative to Address Polarization in U.S. Society

By Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Polarization across society has prompted the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to launch an initiative that looks to bring people together to serve the common good.

Called “Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics,” the initiative is designed to “move forward the kind of conversations that we need to be having to overcome our divisions,” said Jill Rauh, director of education and outreach in the USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, which is coordinating the effort.

The USCCB introduced the initiative Sept. 7. The effort draws heavily from the teachings of Pope Francis, particularly his call in the third encyclical of his papacy, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship.”

“We are in a situation where both in society and the church we are experiencing a lot of division and polarization,” Rauh told Catholic News Service. “In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis specifically is calling Catholics and all people of goodwill to build a better kind of politics, one at the service of the common good.”

The Civilize It initiative is meant not just for

political leaders, but for all people, Rauh added.

A special webpage for the initiative, CivilizeIt.org, has links to a tool kit with resources to help parishes, small groups and individuals address polarization of any kind.

“Pope Francis is very clear in ‘Fratelli Tutti’ and the bishops have been clear in ‘Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship’ that we are called to engage in the public sphere and to do so year-round, to be working together and to try to identify ways to work for the common good,” Rauh said.

“Forming Consciences” is the bishops’ quadrennial document on election participation.

Other USCCB offices also are promoting the initiative, Rauh said. In addition, leaders in at least 45 dioceses are planning to incorporate the initiative in diocesan programs and more are expected to also take part.

Tool kit resources range from a Prayer for Civility that draws from the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi to a reflection titled “Loving our Neighbor through Dialogue.” Other materials include a study guide and parish bulletin inserts.

Website visitors are invited to sign a pledge saying they will rely on “charity, clarity and creativity” to promote understanding and dialogue

over division.

Signers pledge to affirm each person’s dignity, even when they disagree with someone and respectfully listen to others “to understand experiences different from my own.”

The pledge also invites signers to engage in “critical examination to ensure that my perspectives are rooted in truth, that my sources of information are unbiased and that I not open myself to manipulation by partisan interests.”

Other actions listed with the pledge include becoming a “bridgebuilder who participates in constructive dialogue based in shared values” and to see differences in perspectives as “opportunities for creative tension which can yield solutions for the common good.”

The initiative builds on a program with a similar name introduced by the Department of Justice Peace and Human Development for the 2020 election cycle. That effort sought to remind people that civility in political discussions, not rancor, is a virtue.

The idea for “Civilize It” originated in the Social Action Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 2016. Its success in Ohio caught the attention of the USCCB, which decided that the model, with a few tweaks, could be introduced nationwide in 2019.

Path...

Cont’d from Page 2

the extent to which we rely on the Holy Spirit,” the cardinal said.

The cardinal urged reporters to offer “correct communication” of what the synod and synodality are about, including not painting it as “a parliament” or as different sides playing against each other “in which the one who has more strength influences or subjugates the other.”

When asked about the possibility of allowing women to vote in a Synod of Bishops, Cardinal Grech said he felt troubled by so much focus being on “the vote,” saying “it is not the vote that matters.”

What matters is the larger process that involves the entire people of God coming together to find common ground, which is not easy, he said. “So perhaps we have to insist more on how we can dialogue, converse, discern together in order to possibly reach this harmony,” find consensus and not depend so much on the votes cast during the later phase of a synod.

Xaviere Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, one of two undersecretaries

to the Synod of Bishops, will be the first woman with a right to vote at a meeting of the Synod of Bishops. In March, when she was appointed, Cardinal Grech said permitting her to vote in a synod was “a major milestone” and was something that should not be limited to just this one institution or just to voting rights.

Myriam Wijlens, a canon lawyer and Synod of Bishops consultant, told reporters that women need to “present themselves” and speak up “courageously” during this consultation phase. It will also be important to listen to what women from non-Western cultures are saying, she added.

The handbook said even though dioceses will be asked to spend six months doing extensive outreach and consultation with as many people as possible, the synodal process “is not a mechanical data-gathering exercise or a series of meetings and debates.”—†

“Synodal listening is oriented toward discernment,” in which people listen to each other, to their faith tradition and to “the signs of the times in order to discern what God is saying to all of us,” it said.



CNS Photo/courtesy Synod of Bishops

This is the official logo for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Originally scheduled for 2022, the synod will take place in October 2023 to allow for broader consultation at the diocesan, national and regional levels.

Widespread participation is an important part of the diocesan process, the document said, with no one being excluded. “We must personally reach out to the peripheries, to those who have left the church, those who rarely or never practice their faith, those who experience poverty or marginalization, refugees, the excluded, the voiceless, etc.”

This will require creativity, especially in parts of the world where restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19 are still in place, it added.

All the feedback that is generated throughout the listening process should be gathered into a “synthesis” after each gathering, followed by a “synthesis” to be written for each diocese and

ultimately for each bishops’ conference.

Bishops’ conferences and the synods of the Eastern Churches will provide a synthesis of all the local feedback to the Synod of Bishops, and all of that material will be the basis for the writing of two working documents. Bishops and auditors will then gather with Pope Francis at the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023 to speak and listen to one another on the basis of the process that began at the local level.

The handbook said the synthesis “does not only report common trends and points of convergence, but also highlights those points that strike a chord, inspire an original point of view, or open a new horizon. The synthesis should pay special attention to the voices of those who are not often heard and integrate what we could call the ‘minority report,’” it said.

Bishops have an important role throughout the synodal process as “pastors, teachers and priests of sacred worship,” the handbook said. “Their charism of discernment calls them to be authentic guardians, interpreters, and witnesses to the faith of the church.”

St. Michael's in Wheeling to Hold Patriotic Rosary and Prayer Service on 20th Anniversary of 9/11

WHEELING—St. Michael Parish will hold a 20th Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11 with a Patriotic Rosary and Prayer Service. The gathering will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at noon at the church. The patriotic rosary and prayer will begin at noon. From 12:30 – 3 p.m.

will be quiet prayer in the church. At 3 p.m., the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed.

“Please come join us in prayer as we pray for our country, those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, and those they left behind,” parish officials said. “All are welcome.”

Interfaith Service of Remembrance to be Held in Wheeling Sept. 11

WHEELING—Father Paul Hudock, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, will join Rabbi Joshua Lief and Wheeling city officials to lead a prayerful interfaith Service of Remembrance honoring lives lost and a world shaken 20 years ago during the terrorist attacks in America on Sept. 11, 2001.

In a post on the diocese's Facebook page, the faithful were urged to make a prayerful reflection as events are planned across the state and nation: “For all victims of violence and terrorism around the world, and for their families, that they may find comfort and peace; and for the safety of our service members, civil servants, and all who live with war and violence, we pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.”

Join us for the celebration of a
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Father Dennis Schuelkens, Celebrant

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Luncheon reception
immediately following mass.

9/11 ...

Cont'd from Page 1

“Most of the year I don’t think too much about it, but beginning at the end of August, I can’t help but think back to that time,” Damore recalled recently.

“I can still hear the machines that were working to dig out all the debris. I can still smell the burning debris and when we were getting close to a body, you would get the smell of decay. I conjure that up too. Sometimes it doesn’t seem like it was 20 years ago. Sometimes it seems like a thousand.”

Damore is a parishioner at St. Michael Church in Murrells Inlet, about 15 miles south of Myrtle Beach, where he enjoys a game of golf, or a walk on the beach with his wife Veronica.

Although his life has completely changed from what it was 20 years ago, he will never forget where he was on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Back then, Damore was part of Engine Company 48 in the Bronx. He was off duty that morning and didn’t realize what had happened miles away in lower Manhattan until a fellow firefighter called him with the news and quipped, “I’ll bet you’re glad you’re not working today.”

But Damore immediately knew he had to get to the scene.

He and six other men from his engine company joined about 30 other firefighters who got their equipment, commandeered a city bus and headed for lower Manhattan. Both towers had fallen by the time they got there around 11 a.m.

“At the time, it was total pandemonium with people running every which way,” Damore said. He said they reported to a fire chief in charge and got the assignment to do search and rescue. He said he directed his men to look anywhere they could for any sign of life, which they did for the next eight hours.”

They explored every open space, every void in the smoldering wreckage where it might be possible for survivors to be but found no one.

From that day forward, Damore split his time between regular shifts at his Bronx station and working at ground zero. He didn’t get home to his family in Queens until eight days after the terrorist attack. Hope of finding survivors dwindled quickly after 9/11 and Damore and his fellow workers realized they were part of a long-haul recovery operation.

“Even when we did have a recovery, it was rarely a complete body,” Damore said. “Sometimes it was just a hand, a foot, a finger or toe. I tried to get my men to realize any recovery we made was going to be significant to the families. When we did find somebody, it became almost a joyous occasion because we knew that someone was going to be able to get some closure.”

Whenever someone was found, all work at the site would stop, he said. The person was placed in a stretcher, covered with an American flag, and carried to a waiting ambulance.

Damore said faith helped sustain the workers during their grim tasks. Fire department chaplains were constantly present and he and others frequently walked to a nearby church where volunteers offered food and there was a daily noon Mass.

He worked his shifts at ground zero until Feb. 6, 2002. On his last day there, his team recovered the remains of the son of his former battalion chief which he said was “a fitting emotional end for my time down there.” Once that service ended, Damore went back to full-time work in the Bronx for a few more months and then retired in December 2002. He moved with his family to South Carolina in 2006.

Damore takes part in annual 9/11 memorial ceremonies at St. Michael Church and brings along the battered fire helmet he wore while working at ground zero.

Since both of his daughters were born after 2001, Damore said he knew how important it was to pass on the story of what happened that day to younger generations. He said telling the story is even more important 20 years on, and he stresses the importance of remembering how good overcame the evil that brought on 9/11.

That good, he said, was evident in the support he and his fellow first responders saw from their fellow New Yorkers — and from people around the country — as the nation came together in grief.

He said he still spends a lot of time in prayer for the firefighters he knew who died on 9/11, for all the other souls lost that day and for the ground zero workers who are sick because of the toxic debris they were exposed to day after day.

“I didn’t get sick; I’m one of the lucky ones,” he said.

“Because of all the people we lost on 9/11 and those who have died since, we can’t let people forget what happened. We still have people to this day who try to claim it was all a hoax, so we have to keep teaching the history. We simply can’t let people forget.”

Father Devasya Installed as Vicar Forane of the Beckley Vicariate



Courtney Longworth Photo

After installing Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.F., as vicar forane of the Beckley Vicariate Aug. 28, Bishop Mark E. Brennan joins in applause from parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, where Father Devasya is pastor. Father Devasya is also pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, and many of the parishioners were present for the installation in Bluefield. Also pictured is Deacon Don Hammond.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan celebrated the Mass for the installation of Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya as vicar forane of the Beckley Vicariate Aug. 28 at Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, where Father Devasya is pastor. He is also pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, and many parishioners were present for the Mass.

Also celebrating was Father Bill Petro. Deacon Don Hammond served as deacon.

During the installation, Bishop Brennan prayed over Father Devasya to have strength and wisdom from God.

"I would like to extend our profound gratitude to Bishop Mark Brennan for traveling to Bluefield. I am humbled by this appointment and thank you for the opportunity to serve our people as vicar," Father Devasya said. "I ask each of you to pray for me and for your continued encouragement and support."

He also thanked all who served at the installation, those on the vi-

cariate and diocesan parish councils, and those who came for the Mass.

Pastoral Associate Julia Harrison expressed, "Already familiar with the many priests, Father Sebastian is hoping to help our vicariate to push forward on a positive path and that many blessings will be on the horizon as he coordinates the apostolic efforts of the clergy, religious, and lay faithful. The Mass was a real testament to [his] ability to minister to Sacred Heart Bluefield and Princeton."

Families of the parishes were also eager to see Bishop Brennan. In attendance was longtime parishioner Ron Ciccolini and his wife Sherry.

"He was very gracious and hospitable. He spent time with us getting to know our priests, parishioners, and the facilities. It was a good morale booster to us all in these times of the pandemic. His homily was an excellent teaching not only for the confirmation stu-

dents but for all of us," Ciccolini said of Bishop Brennan.

He had a Catholic upbringing from kindergarten through eighth grades, and his college and graduate school years were also at Catholic institutions.

"Involvement and services to my church and God was always

forefront in my life – instilled in me by God, the nuns, priests, and my parents. All this kept me a well-balanced person, I believe, throughout the years," he commented.

His reflections attest to how many devout Catholics feel. Many families want to pass on the faith to their children, grandchildren, and all those they meet. They pray Our Lady's rosary and also the Litany of St. Joseph before the beginning of Mass.

The diocese has distributed a Pastoral Needs Survey, and one of the priorities of the bishop is to encourage Catholics who have been away from the church to return.

Gina Boggess, a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and her husband Timm attend Sacred Heart in Princeton. As the Faith Formation coordinator, she shared, "I see a big need for more volunteers who are willing to take the lead and in developing and leading ministries. You can only really grow by doing. What I have learned over the years is that God calls us, and if we respond with a 'yes,' he will provide all the graces necessary to do our ministries well. So say 'yes.' Be courageous and trust that God will lead you in whatever way he is calling you."

She added, "There are families that have been part of this parish for generations, and the ties between the people are long and deep. The people genuinely care for one another and are always reaching out to one another in times of happiness and sadness."

A reception followed at Fincastle in Bluefield, Va.

Serving on the Beckley Vicariate Parish councils are Boggess and Kirt Suehs in Princeton and Ciccolini and Deborah Garton in Bluefield. Serving with Boggess on the Diocesan Pastoral Council are Jim Copolo and Deborah Whalen.

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West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council Scholarship Recipient Announced

WEIRTON—Krista Velegol was awarded the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council college scholarship.

Velegol is a Madonna High School graduate and will be attending West Virginia University this fall. The scholarship is \$750 per year for a four-year term as Velegol earns her bachelor's degree.

Applicants must be a son or daughter of a Knights of Columbus member in good standing and applications can be found at wvkofo.org or from high school guidance counselors.

The Weirton Knights of Columbus Council #3734 is proud of Velegol and her family for receiving this statewide award. In recognition of her accomplishments, Council #3734 had the honor of treating the Velegol family to dinner at the Garden Grill Steakhouse in Weirton.

"It was an enjoyable evening and we are all so proud of Krista and wish her success in all of her endeavors," council officials said.



Courtesy Photo

Krista Velegol, recipient of the W.Va. Knights of Columbus State Council college scholarship, is pictured sixth from left. With her are: Juliana Velegol (sister), Darla Velegol (mother), David Velegol Sr. (grandfather and member of Weirton Knights of Columbus Council #3734), Carolyn Velegol (grandmother), Larry De Rosa (member of Council #3734), Doug Velegol (father and member of Council #3734), and Kevin Davis (grand knight of Council #3734).



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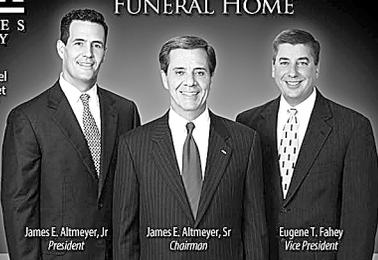
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Former Buckhannon Parishioner Offers Ways for W.Va. Faithful to Help Afghan Refugees

Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon announced in its latest bulletin that former parishioner Brian Lundell and his wife Icle are helping Afghan refugees at Fort Lee, which has been identified as one of the first stops Afghan refugees make as they arrive in the U.S.

Parish officials said that Icle has volunteered to help out with the supply of basic and essential needs as Afghans are warmly welcomed before they set out to their new permanent locations. There are many ways the faithful can help. Donations can be mailed to: Operation Allies Refuge, Building 9100, C Ave Fort Lee, VA 23801.

There is also a list of needs which "is as dynamic as the situation," parish officials said. As of Aug. 29, the greatest requests are for: Phone chargers to check on family members that haven't arrived yet. Needed are Galaxy, iPhone, and Samsung and type C chargers. Toiletries: Travel shampoo/conditioner, including baby shampoo, deodorant, nail clippers, powdered baby formula (newborn and 1 year+), lotion, hand sanitizer, mouth wash (travel size). Clothing for babies, sizes newborn to 24

months (gently used or new); clothing for women and girls—shirts for women, size small/medium (preferably light material with 3/4 to long sleeve); long skirts, size small/medium (women); modest dresses below the knees, size small/medium (women); closed-toe shoes (women), sizes 7-8; socks, sizes 7-8 (women); new sports bras and leggings for women or girls (These are the quickest depleted items of clothing right now). Clothing for men and boys—pants, size 34 and below (men); shorts, size 34 and below (men); shirts, belts, size 34 and below; closed-toe shoes, sizes 7-8 (men); socks, sizes 7-8 (men).

No fall/winter clothing is needed at this time. Conservative clothing only, no mini skirts, no beer or inappropriate logos, etc.

Toys are needed such as decks of cards (adults like them); small things the kids can do in rooms such as puzzles, small nerf style balls, sticker books board books, non-messy crafts like bead bracelets, etc. Please No crayons/markers/paints, flash cards (they have plenty). Non-messy crafts (like bead bracelets, etc).

"Thank you for your help," parish officials said.

'Seasons of Hope' Bereavement Program to Continue in Clarksburg

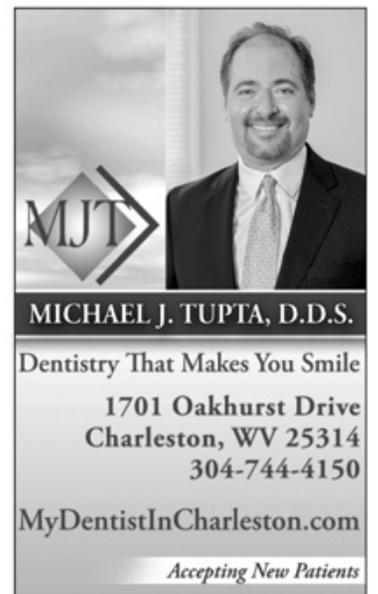
CLARKSBURG—The Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry has announced the continuation of its bereavement program "Seasons of Hope."

The program will resume on Saturday, Sept. 18, and will be held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the parish center. This is a six-week session.

"Our Lord assured us that those who mourn are blessed and that they shall be comforted. 'Seasons of Hope' can help us to cope with a loss that we have experienced in our lives," event organizers said. "This can include the loss of a loved one, a job, divorce, etc. 'Seasons of Hope' offers the bereaved an opportunity to come together and share in God's love with the support of the faith community."

Judy Labdik, a licensed social worker who has facilitated the program before, will be helping. Call Theresa White at (304) 669-6063 or Mary Jo Flaherty at (304) 6224147 to register.

"We look forward to welcoming back previous members and meeting new members," organizers said. "This will be a small group so if you are interested, please call early."



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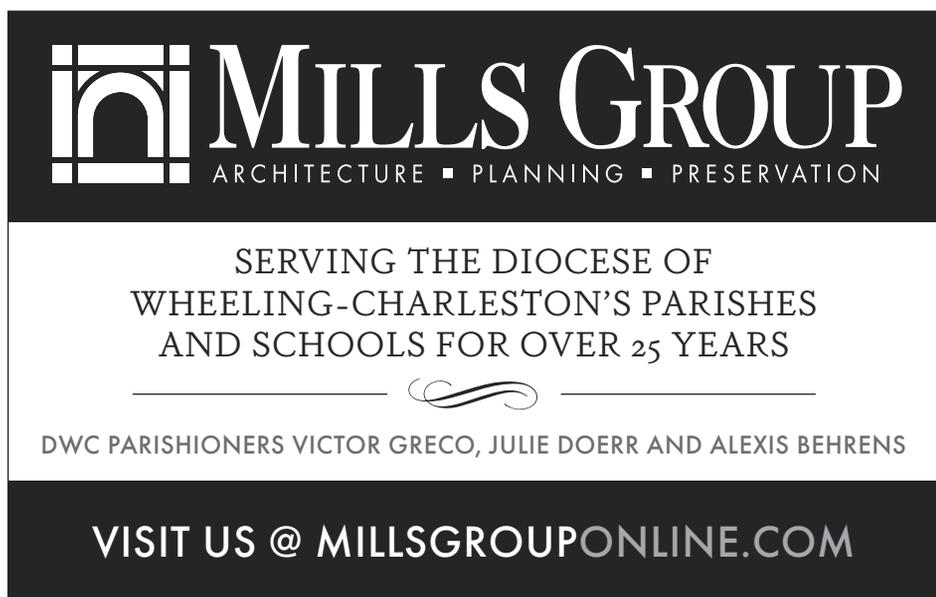
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Lisa Cotter
madetomagnify.com

Fr. Joe Freedy
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Van will ask a series of tough questions to help you think about how ready you are for whatever may come next, such as:

- What is the easiest and safest way to make retirement money last longer?
- What if you suddenly died – Wouldn't you rather leave a loved one with your hard-earned money rather than the Internal Revenue Service?

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Date: September 29, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Registration link: sept29.abbatekofc.com

Learn more at our virtual job fair on October 6 at 7 p.m.



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

Sunday, September 19, 2021: Ascension Parish, Hurricane, 5:00 p.m.

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.

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Basilica's Music Director Presents 'Why Do We Sing at Mass?'



Martina Hart Photo

Mark Haas, music director at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, presents "Why Do We Sing At Mass?" to parishioners in the basilica's gathering space Sept. 2.



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Contact: Chris Gorski at catholiccamporee@aol.com for further information



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Bridging the Divides, Tending the Gap Zoom Retreat is This Month

WHEELING—Many are tired of divides, disagreement and distancing over hot button issues and are ready to stop the shouting and start the healing. The Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph (CSJ), in partnership with the Fetzer Institute and the CSJ retreat centers, is offering a two-day Zoom conference filled with speakers and workshop experiences to help navigate chaos and move toward unity.

Full details can be found at <https://one.bid-pal.net/bridgingdivides/about>. Registration is required. People of various spiritualities, ages, and cultures will all find something of value, organizers said.

Powerful plenary speakers include: “Welcome” by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ; “Spiral Dynamics Integral as a Framework for Understanding,” by Vernice Solimar, PhD—a founding member of Ken Wilbur’s Integral Institute; “How Psychological Manipulation Works to Divide Us,” by Diane Bencoter whose work has been featured on the media, most recently on the 8/29/2021 edition of CBS’s 60 Minutes program; “Healing Historical Harm” by Maka Akan Najin Black Elk, executive director for Truth and Healing at the Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota; “Building an Empathy Bridge over Churning Political Waters,” by Arlie Hochschild, PhD whose nine books have included a New York Times best seller and a finalist for the National Book Award; and “Science in a Fact Free World,” by Katharine Hayhoe, PhD, an evangelical Christian who was named one of TIME’s 100 Most Influential People and a United Nations Champion of the Environment.

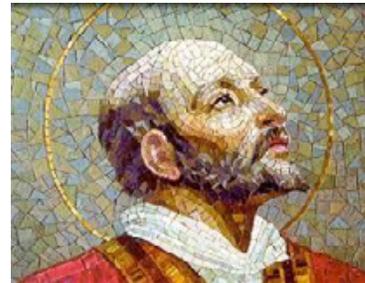
Experiential breakout sessions covering a wide variety of topics and learning modalities will deepen the learning and provide tools to carry home and put into service, organizers said.

For further media information, contact TheWell@csjoseph.org or call (708) 482-5048.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph is a religious community of nearly 500 vowed Catholic women and over 500 lay associates who live and minister in the U.S. and around the world: “Our mission is to bring all into unity with God, with one another, and with all creation. One way in which we do this is through partnerships such as this one with the John E. Fetzer Institute, whose mission is to help build the spiritual foundation for a loving world.”



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The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola



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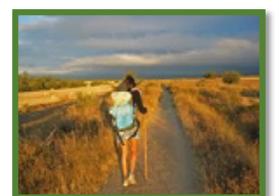
This retreat is for those too busy for a traditional retreat by offering an opportunity to meet regularly with a Spiritual Director via zoom either weekly or bi-weekly by choosing one of the following options.

Option 1: Begins week of September 12, 2021 through May 21, 2022

Option 2: Begins at any time one is available, lasting 8 consecutive months

Cost: 30 min session – \$25.00, 1- hour session - \$50.00

For more information: Sr. Ily Fernandez @ ifernandez@csjoseph.org or
Anna Marie Troiani @ atroiani@csjoseph.org





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Back to School: A ‘Second Chance’

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications Specialist

Like many students, Jamie Williams goes back to school this month. Through perseverance and hard work, Jamie is enrolling in college for the first time, at age 30, as she recovers from addiction.

“I thought I was so dumb,” said Jamie. “Then someone came along to encourage me.” That someone was Michelle Montz, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) adult education instructor.

“It’s impressive how Jamie is always able to overcome any obstacle thrown her way,” said Michelle. “She is diligent in her endeavors and maintains a positive attitude in all she does.”

Jamie was introduced to drugs by her mother at the age of 13 and has struggled with Substance Use Disorder since that time.

In December of 2020, Jamie lost her husband to an overdose. Three months later, her mother overdosed, and sadly did not survive. Jamie said that was her “wake-up call” to get sober.

“Seeing my kids at their dad’s funeral – that’s not fair to my kids,” said Jamie. “So I’m not going to cause any more hurt.”

Jamie entered the Sound Mind sober living program and enrolled in classes as part of her recovery. She said in the beginning, she did not understand the purpose of education in recovery.

“Why are y’all trying to teach us school; we’re trying to get off drugs,” Jamie joked. “Now I see; if you want a better life, you have to learn.”

CCWVa’s Adult Learning Program provides free classes to any adult who wants to work toward a high school equivalency, earn a certification for work, or gain skills to pursue a new career or higher education. The program is offered in Mullens, Huntington, and McDowell County.



Michelle Montz, left, and Jamie Williams are pictured.

Courtesy Photo



Jamie Williams is pictured in her construction flagger uniform.

Courtesy Photo

Research shows not only does adult education have a positive impact on learners’ employability and income; it also helps individuals acquire a renewed sense of self as well as an improved quality of life.

“Up until recently, I always thought my life was destined to be terrible,” said Jamie. “But now I have a purpose. Education helps you excel in life, not just in your recovery,” said Jamie.

At CCWVa, all program staff are trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma-informed care techniques to provide the highest quality care possible to vulnerable West Virginians.

Jamie is hopeful for her future and glad to break the cycle of addiction for her children. She recently began working as a con-

struction flagger, and she plans to pursue a career in psychology after college.

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

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USCCB lanza iniciativa para abordar la polarización en EE. UU.

Por Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service

CLEVELAND (CNS)—La polarización en la sociedad ha llevado a la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB por sus siglas en inglés) a lanzar una iniciativa que busca unir a las personas para servir al bien común.

Llamada "Civilízalo: Un mejor tipo de política", la iniciativa está diseñada para "hacer avanzar el tipo de conversaciones que necesitamos tener para superar nuestras divisiones", expresó Jill Rauh, directora de educación y alcance del Departamento de Justicia, Paz y Desarrollo Humano, que coordina el esfuerzo.

La USCCB presentó la iniciativa el 7 de septiembre.

El esfuerzo se basa, en gran medida, en las enseñanzas del papa Francisco, y, en particular, su llamado en la tercera encíclica de su papado: "Fratelli Tutti, sobre la fraternidad y la amistad social".

"Estamos en una situación en la que tanto en la sociedad como en la iglesia estamos experimentando mucha división y polarización", manifestó Rauh a Catholic News Service. "En 'Fratelli Tutti', el papa Francisco específicamente está llamando a los católicos y a todas las personas de buena voluntad a construir una política mejor, una que

este al servicio del bien común".

Sin embargo, la iniciativa no solo está destinada a líderes políticos, sino a todas las personas, añadió Rauh.

Una página web especial para la iniciativa, CivilizeIt.org, tiene enlaces a un conjunto de herramientas con recursos para ayudar a las parroquias, grupos pequeños e individuos a abordar la polarización de cualquier tipo.

"El papa Francisco es muy claro en 'Fratelli Tutti', y los obispos han sido claros en 'Formando la conciencia para ser ciudadanos fieles' en que estamos llamados a involucrarnos en la esfera pública y a hacerlo durante todo el año, a trabajar juntos y a intentar identificar formas de trabajar por el bien común", señaló Rauh.

"Formando la conciencia" es el documento cuatrienal de los obispos sobre la participación electoral.

Otras oficinas de la USCCB también están promoviendo la iniciativa, dijo Rauh. Además, los líderes de al menos 45 diócesis están planeando incorporar la iniciativa en los programas diocesanos y se espera que participen aun más.

Los recursos del kit de herramientas incluyen una oración por la civilidad, que se basa en la oración por la paz de San Francisco de

Asís, y una reflexión titulada "Amar a nuestro prójimo a través del diálogo". Otros materiales incluyen una guía de estudio y folletos parroquiales.

Se invita a los visitantes del sitio web a firmar un compromiso diciendo que dependerán de "la caridad, la claridad y la creatividad" para promover la comprensión y el diálogo en vez de la división.

Los firmantes se comprometen a afirmar la dignidad de cada persona, incluso cuando no estén de acuerdo con alguien, y a escuchar respetuosamente a los demás "para comprender experiencias diferentes a las mías".

El compromiso también invita a los firmantes a participar en un "examen crítico para asegurar que mis perspectivas estén arraigadas en la verdad, que mis fuentes de información sean imparciales y que no me exponga a la manipulación de intereses partidistas".

Otras acciones enumeradas con

el compromiso incluyen convertirse en un "constructor de puentes que participa en un diálogo constructivo basado en valores compartidos" y ver las diferencias en las perspectivas como "oportunidades de tensión creativa que pueden producir soluciones para el bien común".

La iniciativa se basa en un programa con un nombre similar presentado por el Departamento de Justicia, Paz y Desarrollo Humano para el ciclo electoral del 2020. Ese esfuerzo buscó recordarle a la gente que la cortesía en las discusiones políticas, no el rencor, es una virtud.

La idea de "Civilízalo: Un mejor tipo de política" se originó en la Oficina de Acción Social de la Arquidiócesis de Cincinnati en 2016. Su éxito en Ohio llamó la atención de la USCCB, que decidió que el modelo, con algunos ajustes, podría introducirse en todo el país en 2019.

Anunciar con El espíritu católico

Póngase en contacto con Colleen Rowan en
crowan@dwc.org

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 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 Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

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

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