

THE CATHOLIC

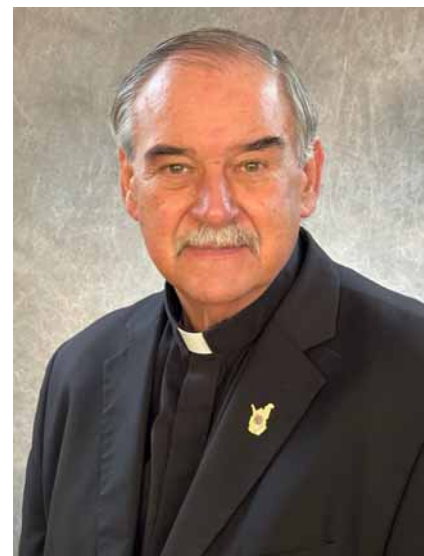
Spirit

Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson, Vicar General, Dies at the Age of 75

Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson, V.G., died at the age of 75 on the morning of Sept. 12, 2024. He was born on May 1, 1949, in Steubenville, Ohio, to the late John and Eleanore Peterson of Weirton and was the oldest of their six children. He was baptized at St. Paul Parish and attended Sacred Heart of Mary School, both in Weirton. He attended St. Joseph Seminary in Vienna from 1963 to 1967 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts from Wheeling College in 1971. He obtained a Master of Theology from Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame, in 1974 and was ordained to the priesthood on April 19, 1975, by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges in Wheeling.

Msgr. Peterson served as vicar general of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston from April 2023 to the time of his passing and would have celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood on April 19, 2025. He served as chairman of the diocese's Building and Renovation Commission and served on the Clergy Personnel Committee, Board of Directors and the Trustees of the Priests' Health and Retirement Association, Presbyteral Council, Diocesan Consultors, Diocesan Finance Council, the Bishop's Executive Staff, and the Executive Committee of the Presbyteral Council.

See "Peterson" on Page 2



Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson, V.G.

Dr. Dianna Vargo Appointed President of Wheeling University by Bishop Mark Brennan

WHEELING — Acting on the recommendation of the Wheeling University Board of Trustees, Bishop Mark Brennan announced the appointment of Dr. Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D., as the 14th president of Wheeling University.

During the university's Mass of the Holy Spirit celebration Sept. 6, Bishop Brennan officially welcomed Vargo to the leadership position and bestowed a blessing on the new president.

"Since serving as Interim Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Vargo has led Wheeling University with dignity and integrity," said Bishop Brennan. "She has worked hard to build trust among students and staff and has helped to reinvigorate relationships between the university and various local organizations and community leaders.

"Seeing first-hand the work she has accomplished in these past six months; I am happy to act on the recommendation of the Wheeling University Board of Trustees and appoint Dr. Dianna Vargo as president of Wheeling University."



Bishop Mark Brennan and Dr. Dianna Vargo, new president of Wheeling University, are pictured during the university's Mass of the Holy Spirit Sept. 6

Chair of the Board of Trustees, David Hendrickson, J.D., praised Vargo for

her leadership over the past six months.

"Dr. Vargo is a natural

born leader. She is loved and adored by all on the Wheeling University cam-

pus. The university is extremely lucky to have her as the next president. She stepped up in a time of need and has done much to ensure the future of the university," he said.

Vargo has been serving as the university's chief operations officer since Feb. 20. As the COO, Vargo oversaw all operations at Wheeling University.

"This is a very exciting and important opportunity, not just for me, but for our entire faculty and staff. All of us here are firmly committed to advancing this great university and providing the best learning environment for our students. I'm very grateful to Bishop Brennan, Board Chair Mr. Hendrickson, and all our trustees for their confidence in our team," Vargo said.

A native of St. Clairsville, Ohio, Vargo has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Ohio University. She has three advanced degrees: a Master of Arts in Science/Mathematics Education from Wheeling College (1987); a Master of Arts in Education

See "Vargo" on Page 3

Inside:

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity Celebrate 150 Years of Ministry in the U.S. at Basilica in Charleston, Page 4

Peterson...

Cont'd from Page 1

Throughout the years, Monsignor served all over West Virginia, beginning at Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield as a deacon from 1974 to 1975. Following his ordination to priesthood, he was associate pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling from 1975 to 1978 and St. Peter Parish in Fairmont from 1978 to 1979. He served as rector of the Wheeling Seminary House of Studies from 1979 to 1984, as director of the diocese's Office of Vocation Ministries in Wheeling from 1980 to 1984, and promoter of justice for the Diocesan Tribunal in 1981. He was pastor of Wheeling's St. Mary and St. Ladislaus parishes from 1984 to 1990. He then headed to the southern region of the diocese to serve as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington from 1990 to 2004. During this time, he was also dean of the Huntington Deanery. In 2004, he was appointed pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg and vicar forane of the Parkersburg Vicariate. From 2006 to 2007, he was temporary administrator of St. John Parish in St. Marys and Christ our Hope Parish in Harrisville. In 2008, he served as temporary administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg and St. Monica Mission in Lubeck.

In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI named him a Chaplain to His Holiness, entitling him to be addressed as monsignor. The next year, he was reappointed vicar forane of the Parkersburg Vicari-

ate serving until 2016. He was pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling from 2016 to 2018 and was then appointed rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling in 2019. He also served as vicar forane of the Wheeling Vicariate from 2018 to 2021. He retired from active ministry in 2020 and was appointed as vicar general of the diocese in 2023.

Msgr. Peterson was an avid gardener and ham radio operator. He loved his family and loved spending time with them. He loved celebrating holidays with family, especially Christmas.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Eleanore Peterson. He is survived by his siblings, Marianne Widmeyer (Les); Charles A. Peterson; John Peterson (Rhinda); Richard Peterson; and Christine Nesbitt (Jack); as well as seven nieces, two nephews, one great niece, and three great nephews.

Reception of the Body will be at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 16, at Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Weirton. Visitation will be held at the church from 2 to 8 p.m. A vigil will be celebrated by Very Rev. Donald Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F., at 7 p.m. at the church.

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, visitation will be held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, from 9 to 10:45 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. at the cathedral with Most Rev. Mark Brennan, bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, as celebrant. Interment will be at 2:30 p.m. in New Cumberland Cemetery in New Cumberland.

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

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."



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

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spiritwv.org
dwc.org

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Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
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Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Very Rev. John Rice, V.F., is reappointed designated pastor of Parkersburg Catholic High School for a term of three years, effective September 14, 2024. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg.

Father Joyson P. Varghese is appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg with residence at the parish rectory, effective September 2, 2024.

Father John Finnell is appointed temporary administrator of Christ the King Parish in Dunbar, Holy Trinity Parish in Nitro, and St. Patrick Mission in Bancroft, effective retroactively to September 1, 2024. His place of residence will remain the same.

Father J. Stephen Vallelonga is appointed chaplain of Council #12191 of the Knights of Columbus for the current Fraternal Year, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs.

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 the publication date of the issue.

Our Lady of the Rosary
Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

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

Vargo...

Cont'd from Page 1

Administration from WVU (1993); and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from WVU (2009).

Vargo came to Wheeling University as an adjunct in the education program in 2016, after retiring from Ohio County Schools. She later became an assistant professor of Education and director of Graduate Education and the ACT programs. She also oversaw the Master of Educational Leadership (MEL) program. In 2021, she became the director of Education programs at Wheeling. Under her leadership, Forbes Education chose the MEL program as one of the 10 best online educational leadership programs in the United States last spring.

She began her teaching career at Bishop Donahue High School. Vargo started her career in the Ohio County school system in 1983 as a math teacher at Wheeling Park High School. During her time at Wheeling Park, she also coached cross country and track. She later became assistant principal and, in 2001, she was named principal of Wheeling Park High School. In 2005, she was selected as assistant superintendent of Ohio County Schools and served in that position until the summer of 2009, when she was appointed deputy superintendent. Vargo was named superintendent in July 2012.

Additionally, Dr. Vargo is active in the greater Wheeling community, serving as a member of the Wheeling Hall of Fame Committee, a member of the City of Wheeling Municipal Civil Service Commission, and a member of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Executive Board.



Courtesy photo
David Hendrickson (right), chair of the Wheeling University Board of Trustees, and Chad Carter, a member of the Board of Trustees, welcomed Dr. Dianna Vargo, Ed.D., as the university's 14th president.

BLUE MASS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

6:00 PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

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Bishop Mark E. Brennan
Celebrant & Homilist

*A reception will follow.
All are welcome.*

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.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

Catholic in Recovery

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:
Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
(304) 233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Catholic in Recovery is a nonprofit organization that seeks to serve those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments.

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & Christian Charity Celebrate 150 Years of Ministry in the U.S. at Basilica in Charleston

By **Martina Hart**

CHARLESTON — On Sept. 7, the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity marked 150 years of ministry in the U.S. with a Mass of thanksgiving celebrated for them at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

In 1874, four sisters embarked on a journey across the Atlantic from Nonnenwerth, Germany, to Buffalo, N.Y., following the request of the Jesuit Fathers in Buffalo to teach the children of the German immigrants there. This year marks the 150th anniversary of their arrival in this country – “Crossing the Threshold – Then and Now!” – and of the sisters’ ministry in various states across the U.S.

The sisters arrived in Charleston in 1903, having been invited by the Capuchin Franciscan priest at Sacred Heart Parish, to staff Sacred Heart (Grade) School (1903-1989) and subsequently also St. Anthony School (1922-1975) and Sacred Heart High School (now Charleston Catholic High School, 1923-1992). While some sisters were teachers, others applied their talents to minister in parishes and social work, as well as provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance. Still residing in Charleston are Sisters Molly Maloney and Frances Kirtley. Sister Maloney is associate spiritual director at the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality. Sister Kirtley held various positions in pastoral care at Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) and after retiring a few years ago still serves there as a volunteer.

The anniversary Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F., rector of the basilica, and concelebrated by

Father Roy Kurakula, vice-rector; Deacon Michael Kawash served as deacon. They were joined by parishioners of Sacred Heart and St. Anthony parishes, among them lay associates of their congregation and former students. Several sisters came back to Charleston for the occasion, also to visit their former places of ministry. Sister Patricia McMahon taught at Charleston Catholic High School, Sister Maureen Harris at Sacred Heart Grade School, and Sister Diane Bernbeck at St. Anthony School. They were accompanied by Sister Regina Snyder, a representative of their Provincial Council, their motherhouse being in Stella Niagara, N.Y.

“I have been greatly encouraged by their faith and joyful witness of their lives,” said Father Higgs. He commended Sisters Kirtley and Maloney for their ministry of care and their ability to see, hear and respond to the needs of others.

“Can you imagine the thousands upon thousands of lives Sister Fran has touched through those years and listening to those facing illness, suffering, pain, and death? The many words she spoke of God’s love and Jesus’ comfort and care and hope by her gentle touch and by her prayers,” Father Higgs said. “That gift of listening and speaking compassion and hope continues in the service of Sister Molly in her vital ministry at the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality,” he added. “Thank you, sisters, for your service to our communities, for your presence here in our diocese, in our schools, in our parishes and well beyond. You continue to touch the lives of many, many people. May you continue



Martina Hart photo

Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity are pictured with clergy and altar servers at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston after a Mass of thanksgiving Sept. 7 celebrating the 150th anniversary of the order’s ministry in the U.S.

to help us to see and hear clearly the good news.” Sister Maloney recalled the history of the sisters’ arrival in the USA and in particular in Charleston as chronicled in their province documents. “It seems so fitting to me that our sisters from Niagara Falls, New York, Buffalo, New York, and Columbus, Ohio returned to the Charleston, WV, roots, visiting and interacting with the juniors and seniors at Charleston Catholic, meeting some of the students at Sacred Heart Grade School and also a return trip to their former convent where many of them lived, now called Cordis Center (the rectory of the basilica parish),” Sister Maloney said. She observed how ev-

eryone participating in the Mass that evening was somehow connected to the three schools where the sisters had served. “You can be so proud and happy and joyful that our parish is providing such schools of excellence for our students,” she said. “I know our sisters who are educators were very, very impressed.” She expressed the sisters’ heartfelt and deep gratitude for the reunion that evening and for continuing their ministry. “We thank you, each and every one of you who contributes to the life of this parish and the life of our schools and

thank you for welcoming us back,” she concluded.

Following the Mass, a reception was held in the Msgr. P. Edward Sadie Gathering Space, providing opportunities to foster old and establish new relationships. Displays and a short movie provided insights into the history and ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. Quoting their foundress, Mother Magdalen Damen, they trust that “it is God’s work” and “God will provide,” as they cross thresholds, walking together into the future.

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Annual Mass of Appreciation for Religious and Consecrated Celebrated at Cathedral



Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan and clergy gather with religious sisters, brothers, and consecrated virgins following the annual Mass of Appreciation he celebrated for them at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 7.

By Colleen Rowan

Men and women who have been called to serve God as religious brothers and sisters and consecrated virgins were honored Sept. 7 by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling with the annual Mass of Appreciation. Bishop Mark Brennan celebrated the Mass and prayed for them as they continue their ministry in West Virginia.

“We honor this evening men and women who have consecrated their lives to the Lord,” the bishop said in his homily, noting that the majority of them have taken vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and that all of them have

served or still serve in a variety of ministries.

“There really is no way to calculate the good that they have done for Christ’s people and those outside our church,” he said. “So, we honor these consecrated men and women for heeding Christ’s call, for helping the deaf to hear the gospel and young and old to proclaim the

faith, for enabling the lame to walk with the Lord as his disciples, for opening the eyes of the blind to see the beauty of truth. We pray that the Lord may continue to bless and guide them as they grow in fidelity through his call. May they have confidence in the Lord’s love and protection. For he says to them as he says to us all: ‘Be strong,

fear not. Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you’ (Isaiah 35:4).

Concelebrating the Mass was Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, rector of the cathedral. Additional clergy serving at the Mass were Deacon Doug Breiding as deacon of the Eucharist and Deacon Jacob Man-

ning as deacon of the word.

Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, joined the 36 religious and consecrated representing nine communities from around the state for the Mass and a dinner that followed at Central Catholic High School. Each year, the

See “Mass” on Page 6

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Cathedral to Host Annual Fall Festival with Food, Fun, and Festivities for All

WHEELING—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling is excited to announce its annual Fall Festival, set to take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, from noon to 9 p.m. on Byron and 13th Streets surrounding the cathedral. This family-friendly event promises a day filled with delicious food, lively music, and engaging activities that will delight community members of all ages.

Festival-goers can look forward to indulging in a wide array of culinary delights, featuring both local favorites and traditional festi-

val fare. For those 21 and older, a selection of beer and wine will also be available, offering the perfect complement to the day's festivities. The event will be filled with the sounds of live music, with performances by popular local bands Faire May, Mr. Fancypants, and MSM, creating a festive atmosphere that will resonate throughout the day.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore an assortment of unique handmade crafts and goods from talented local artisans. This is an ideal chance to find one-

of-a-kind items while supporting local businesses. In addition to shopping, the festival will offer a variety of games and activities, including classic festival games, a pickleball court, and a football watch party where guests can cheer on WVU and Notre Dame. Children and adults alike can enjoy a vibrant pumpkin patch.

Those interested in the rich history and stunning architecture of the Cathedral of St. Joseph can enjoy guided tours throughout the day. These tours provide a unique opportunity to appreciate the

beauty and heritage of the cherished church. For those with a sweet tooth, the bake sale will offer an array of homemade treats lovingly prepared by the parish community. The festival will also feature exciting raffles, including a 50/50 raffle and beautifully themed baskets, giving attendees the chance to win special prizes.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph's Fall Festival is not just an event but a celebration of community, faith, and tradition. Everyone in the area is warmly invited to join in the fun, fellowship, and festive spirit.

Mass...

Cont'd from Page 5

Mass is organized by Sister Martha's office, especially through the work of Karen Muenze, secretary. For the Mass, Sister Peter Thomas, OP, read the first reading and Sister Janice Landwehr, CSJ, read the second reading. Taking up the gifts were Catherine Leahy, a consecrated virgin, and Brother John McDonagh, FMS.

Attending this year's celebration were Sisters of the Child Jesus—Sister Beritha Mashu, SJI, Sister Maria Rukwishuro, SJI, and Sister Marita Sithole, SJI; Congregation of St. Joseph—Sister Molly Bauer, CSJ, Sister Carmella Campione, CSJ, Sister Kathleen Durkin, CSJ, Sister Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ, Sister Ruth Kettman, CSJ, Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl, CSJ, Sister Janice Landwehr, CSJ, Sister Marguerite O'Brien, CSJ,

Sister Mary Palmer, CSJ, Sister Ellen Poche, CSJ, Sister Mary Ann Rosenbaum, CSJ, Sister Joyce Ann Waltz, CSJ, Sister Alicia Weiskircher, CSJ, and Sister Nancy White, CSJ; Dominican Sisters of Mary—Sister Peter Thomas, OP, Sister Pio Maria, OP, Sister Catherine Paul, OP, Sister Paulina Grace, OP, Sister Daniel Albert, OP, Sister Maria Carlo, OP, Sister Margaret Andrew, OP, and Sister Maria Lourdes, OP; Ursuline Franciscan Congregation—Sister Setsulu Mary Kezo, UFS, Sister Reeta Lopis, UFS, and Sister Rita Miranda, UFS; Eudist Servants of the Eleventh Hour—Sister Dolores Keyser, ESEH; Order of Consecrated Virgins—Catherine Leahy; HMSP Lay Missionaries, Missionary Sisters Servants of the Word—Susan Jaquelyn Clemente Santos, Emily Raquel Gonzalez Arellano, Thais Noemy Rojas Trinidad, and Lizbeth Garcia Posadas; and Marist Brothers of the Schools—Brother John Byrd, FMS, and Brother John McDonagh, FMS.

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THE Cathedral of St. Joseph



CEO of 9/11-Related Foundation Reflects on Service to First Responders, Vets, Families

By Beth Griffin, OSV News

NEW YORK (OSV News) — The passage of 23 years has only strengthened Frank Siller's resolve that first responders to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the soldiers lost in the war that followed will never be forgotten.

Siller is founder, chairman and CEO of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, established by his family to honor the sacrifice of their youngest sibling, Stephen.

A firefighter with the Fire Department of the City of New York, Stephen Siller died while trying to save lives at the World Trade Center. Two of four planes hijacked by terrorists on the morning of Sept. 11 destroyed the twin towers. The third smashed into the Pentagon in Washington and the fourth went down in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers on the Washington-bound plane thwarted the hijackers.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks; more than 6,000 were injured, and thousands more suffered long-term, sometimes-fatal health consequences.

The foundation is a reflection of the Siller siblings' Catholic faith and the example of their late parents, George and Mae, who were secular Franciscans. Siller said his parents demonstrated and taught Franciscan values of "service, sacrifice and doing good."

When Stephen died, "we made a decision early on not to let evil triumph," Frank Siller told OSV News. "We had learned from our parents not to lay down and say, 'Woe is me,' but to accept things for what they were and decide to do good instead of feeling sorry for ourselves. When you do good, you feel better."

The good is manifested in generosity to injured first responders and veterans and care for the families of those who have died. The foundation helps spouses and children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty, or as a result of 9/11-related illnesses, often paying off a remaining mortgage. It provides mortgage-free homes to Gold Star families with young children of military personnel who died in the line of duty.

Its "Smart Homes" program constructs custom, specially adapted homes for catastrophically injured service members.

In recent years, with fewer service members deployed to overseas wars, Siller said there has been an



OSV News photo/Caitlin Ochs, Reuters
A cross made of steel from one of the fallen towers of the One World Trade Center is seen at sunrise Sept. 11, 2021, at New York's Breezy Point 9/11 Memorial on the day marking the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

increased focus on helping homeless veterans. "The government says there are 40,000 homeless veterans, but I think there are many more than that," Siller said.

"But our goal is to eradicate homelessness in veterans," he said.

The foundation's ambitious program entails the development of "veteran villages," which are largely existing buildings converted to an average of 150 apartments each.

"We don't want them to be shelters, just a roof overhead. These are villages with rec centers and wrap-around services to help homeless vets get better and be a part of society," Siller said. Services are supplied by small not-for-profit organizations.

Siller said the program provided homes for 5,000 previously homeless veterans last year and will serve 6,500 more men and women this year in cities across the country. He predicted the foundation will place 10,000 homeless veterans in its "villages" in 2025.

From modest beginnings in December 2001, the foundation has grown exponentially. It reported over \$474 million in revenue and support in 2022. Its signature annual event, a late September

5K Tunnel to Towers walk and run from Brooklyn to Manhattan, drew 1,500 participants in 2002. Already, almost 40,000 are registered for the 2024 event, according to Siller. The run takes place Sept. 29.

"The run is a reflection of our commitment to honor and never forget the sacrifices of the first responders. So many participants, volunteers and donors have joined us and so many have had their own acts of heroism and courage," Siller said.

Some of the participants have been coming for years, he said, and some of the ones who started out as youths now bring their own children. "We need new people along the way to spread our message," Siller said.

The message-spreading includes an online K-12 age-appropriate educational curriculum and a 83-foot-long tractor-drawn trailer that travels the country with a 9/11 exhibit.

The foundation got its name from Stephen Siller's path on 9/11. He was off-duty that day, but suited up to help when the emergency calls came. Finding the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel under the East River closed to vehicular traffic, he ran

through the tunnel to lower Manhattan with his 60 pounds of FDNY turn-out gear. He left behind his wife, Sarah, five children and the six older siblings who cared for him after their parents died when he was a young child.

Frank Siller, volunteer CEO of a huge charity, said he can be found most Sundays at the 8 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament, his lifelong parish in the Staten Island borough of New York.

Thinking about the impact and continued expansion of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, he quoted St. Francis, "While we have time, let us do good." He added with a chuckle, "I'm 71. I'm running out of time."

The annual run now includes more than 1,000 specific teams, each running in honor or memory of someone.

"That's the beauty of the foundation," Siller said. "We bring people together. My buddy St. Francis would be happy about this."

The Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk takes place Sunday, Sept. 29. Registration information is at: <https://t2t.org/new-york-city-5k>

(Beth Griffin writes for OSV News from New York.)

Praying the Liturgy The Work of the Baptized



By our baptism we are called: called to gather, called to hear and proclaim, called to give thanks and praise, called to eat and drink in order to more deeply become ... the Body of Christ, the People of God. Through the prayer of the liturgy, we are transformed into this People ever more deeply. Together we will reflect on this most central communal action we, the baptized, pray as deep encounter with the Paschal Mystery.



Rodica Stoicoiu, MS., MA., Ph.D., is a theologian of liturgy. She has worked in pastoral ministry for over thirty five years, both as a liturgist and in adult faith formation. As an academic, Dr. Stoicoiu has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels for over thirty years. Her writing, teaching, and work in formation focus on liturgy, Church, Eucharist and the Reign of God.

DATE: September 21, 2024

TIME: 9:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION: Mount St. Joseph Chapel
Wheeling WV**

COST: \$40.00 (includes lunch)
(Partial Scholarship Available)

**RSVP: Call Anna Marie - 304-907- 0171
or email: atroiani@csjoseph.org**

FACILITATOR:

Rodica Stoicoiu, MS., MA., Ph.D.



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and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Office of Worship and Sacraments**



Hallow Partners with Catholic Universities to Cultivate Student Prayer Lives

By Jack Figge, OSV News
ATCHISON, Kan. (OSV News) — This fall, as students return to college and university campuses, Hallow, the acclaimed prayer app, is working to help students build a vibrant faith life through forming partnerships with Catholic educational institutions across the country.

Last February, Hallow launched a new initiative to build its network and usership on Catholic campuses. Jacob King, Hallow's university success lead, has been leading the effort and says that the desire for this initiative arose from Hallow's origin story.

"The founders, Alex Jones, Alessandro DiSanto, and Erich Kerekas, created a little app to help them meditate and pray as the three college friends had recently reverted to the faith," King told OSV News. He said that as it changed their lives, they shared the app "with more and more people" and recognized it could have a much wider life-changing impact.

"We want to give university students a tool that can help change their lives," he said.

As the app has grown, Hallow's founders began looking at how they could expand their network and serve others. They realized that college campuses would be a perfect opportunity to share their app with an audience who often struggles to build healthy prayer habits.

"Prayer can change lives," King said. "College is such a pivotal time. You're planning for your future. You're still young; you have your whole life ahead of you, and we believe that if you stay prayed up, if you stay connected to God, it can radically shift and change your life."

Last year, King began building connections with Catholic universities across the country to see if they would be interested in participating with Hallow. In the past two years, the app has partnered with about half a dozen Catholic colleges and universities, such as the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and Benedic-

tine College in Atchison.

When Hallow and a school partner with each other, the entire student body receives a free premium subscription to the app. Hallow then works with the administration to help provide the best resources and outreach possible. The program has focused first on partnering with Catholic colleges whose administrations intentionally want to help their student body grow in prayer.

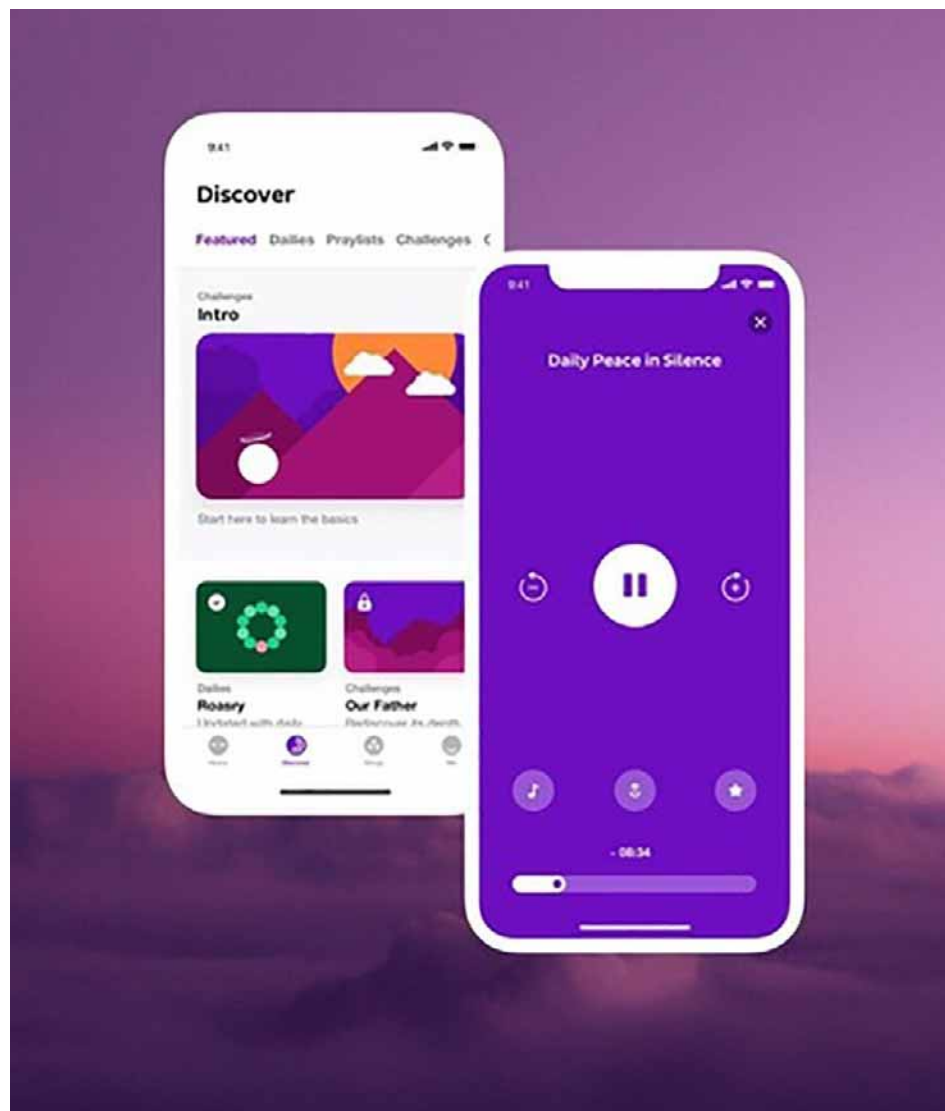
"We are open to working with any college; it could be Catholic, Christian, or secular, but we need the institution themselves to really want to partner with us, so that we can make that effort together to improve the prayer lives of their students," King said. "Thus, the obvious candidates are Catholic colleges that already believe in the mission that college is more than intellectual formation; it's a time to have that human formation, that spiritual formation."

When a college agrees to partner with Hallow, King explained, he meets with administrators and establishes a contact point to meet with monthly. Then, King begins to find students to serve as Hallow ambassadors — students who will organize events and promote the app across campus.

"We meet at least once a month with the ambassadors, where we pray together and talk about best practices for helping to grow in small groups," King said. "We send physical marketing materials, such as banners and posters, around campus. We also look to bring in speakers that can meaningfully engage students and encourage them to build their prayer lives."

Last February, Emma Fleck began serving as a Hallow ambassador and frequently using the app. As a student-athlete at St. Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, she found herself struggling to build a prayer routine. When she began using Hallow, however, she immediately noticed a difference in her day-to-day life.

"Hallow has helped me grow in my prayer life while in college by sending me reminders and inspiring me to take time to pray even



OSV News graphic/courtesy Hallow

This is a rendering of the Catholic prayer and meditation app Hallow, which has experienced a dramatic increase in popularity since it was introduced in December 2018.

with a busy schedule," Fleck told OSV News, adding that the prayers she has learned via the app "have helped me in times of anxiety and stress, especially while being a student-athlete."

Since she became a Hallow ambassador, Fleck has worked to connect her fellow students with the app. Many students at St. Francis have begun to use the app, Fleck said, adding she can see a difference on campus as it has given students an easy-to-use resource to launch their prayer life.

"I believe Hallow is a great

resource for everyone who is looking to deepen their relationship with Christ, no matter where they are at on their journey. It gives people a great starting point who may be overwhelmed on where to start in their prayer life," Fleck said. "A prayer, meditation, inspiring podcast, or worship music is always only one click away with the Hallow app, which helps students connect with God no matter where they are or what they are doing."

(Jack Figge writes for OSV News from Kansas.)

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Rosary in Reparation



John Sherwood photo

Members of the Rosary Group at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town gather outside the Jefferson County Court House to pray the rosary in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Saturday, Sept. 7.

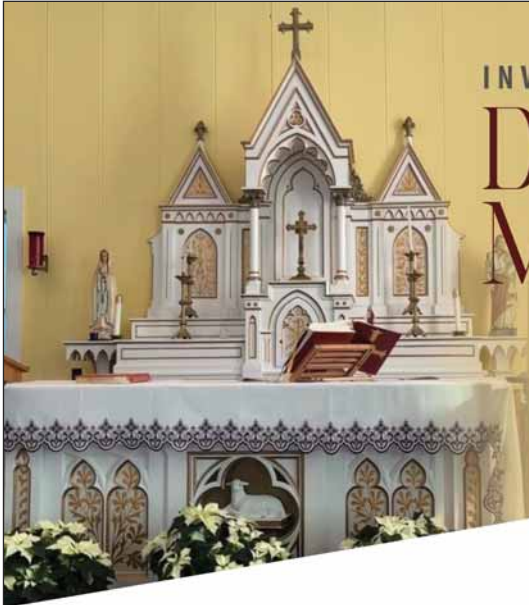
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2024 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Saturday, September 21: Sacred Heart, Chester; 5 p.m.
- Saturday, September 28: St. Mary, Petersburg; 4 p.m.
- 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.


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/keyboards/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, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email bkime@dwc.org

Résumé submissions will be accepted until the position is filled.



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Congreso Eucarístico en Quito: Las respuestas proféticas que la Iglesia puede dar en tiempos de crisis

By **Eduardo Campos Lima, OSV News**

(OSV News)—Los dos primeros días de ponencias del 53 Congreso Eucarístico Internacional en Quito, Ecuador, contrastaron las penurias que actualmente enfrentan muchas personas en diferentes partes del mundo con las respuestas proféticas que la Iglesia puede dar en tiempos de crisis.

Los oradores que intervinieron en este evento, que se desarrolló del 8 al 15 de septiembre, compartieron sus puntos de vista sobre las duras realidades que viven millones de personas en la actualidad, desde las víctimas inocentes de la guerra en Ucrania hasta las familias de inmigrantes que emprenden viajes traicioneros desde Sudamérica a Estados Unidos y acaban encontrando más exclusión y violencia.

En su intervención, Rodrigo Guerra, secretario laico de la Pontificia Comisión para América Latina, resumió la mayor parte de las actuales "heridas del mundo", como vienen llamando los organizadores del congreso a los problemas sociales que pueden ser sanados por el sentido de fraternidad que proporciona la Eucaristía.

Él mencionó la desigualdad social y el aumento de la brecha entre ricos y pobres, algo especialmente alarmante en América Latina; la falta de cuidado de la Tierra, con todas las consecuencias ecológicas que esto conlleva; y la inexistencia de fraternidad y perdón cuando se trata de desacuerdos políticos.

"Muchos de nuestros países están desgarrados por tremendas polarizaciones por oposiciones ideológicas gravísimas", dijo Guerra, añadiendo que el populismo -- tanto de derecha como de izquierda -- es el resultado indeseable de esas fracturas sociales.

También mencionó la inmigración masiva -- y la ausencia de una acogida adecuada por parte de los países de destino -- como uno de los retos más complejos de la actualidad.

Leyden Rovelo-Krull, que dirige la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Kansas

City-St. Joseph, Missouri, compartió su experiencia de trabajo con inmigrantes que acaban de ser liberados por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de Estados Unidos tras un largo viaje desde Sudamérica o Centroamérica hasta la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

Recordó que en 1983 la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU. afirmó que la presencia hispana y latina en la vida eclesial estadounidense era "una bendición de Dios para la Iglesia y para nuestro país", dado que esos inmigrantes habían revitalizado parroquias en todo el país.

A pesar de ello, un alto porcentaje de ciudadanos estadounidenses ha manifestado su oposición a la llegada de migrantes latinoamericanos, incluidos fieles católicos.

Rovelo-Krull describió los sufrimientos de algunas de las personas que ha conocido durante su trabajo, como una madre que perdió a su hija de 5 años mientras cruzaba Centroamérica y tuvo que enterrarla por el camino, en un punto que no sabe exactamente dónde está.

El trauma de tantas familias inmigrantes puede ser comparable al de las víctimas de la invasión rusa a Ucrania, descrita vívidamente por el obispo auxiliar Hryhoriy Komar, de la eparquía católica de Sambir-Drohobych, ciudad cercana a la frontera con Polonia. Contó a la audiencia que al menos 20.000 niños ucranianos han sido secuestrados por los ocupantes rusos.

"Ahora en el mundo hay 6 millones de refugiados ucranianos y 10 millones de refugiados dentro del país. Muchos pueblos y ciudades ya desaparecieron, sepultando bajo ruinas a la gente", afirmó.

Los rusos han ocupado gran parte del país, por lo que no es posible saber cuántos ucranianos fueron asesinados, añadió el obispo Komar.

Para muchos participantes, esas descripciones les llevaron a reflexionar sobre sus propias realidades. Ese fue el caso del obispo Giovanni Paz, de Latacunga, Ecuador.

"Algunos de esos temas me impactan mucho, como los desafíos de la inmigración, que también se notan en mi diócesis", dijo a OSV News.

Mons. Paz afirmó que de vez en cuando salen autobuses que llevan decenas de personas al norte con gente de las pequeñas comunidades andinas de su diócesis que buscan una vida mejor.

"Antes recibíamos grupos de 1.200 niños para la catequesis y ahora somos sólo 400", dijo, y agregó que muchos niños son dejados por sus padres para vivir con sus abuelos, y terminan abandonando la escuela e involucrándose con las drogas y la delincuencia.

"Algunas de esas personas son deportadas a Ecuador apenas llegan a Estados Unidos. Nos cuentan las violaciones de derechos humanos que sufren en el camino", lamentó monseñor Paz.

Mientras el Papa Francisco defiende los derechos de los inmigrantes, la mayoría de las sociedades los han estado rechazando, dijo el obispo.

"Tenemos que ser una Iglesia profética. De lo contrario, estaremos siendo cómplices", argumentó.

Al día siguiente hubo presentaciones sobre fuertes voces proféticas. El 10 de septiembre, los obispos latinoamericanos hablaron de algunas de las figuras más veneradas en la historia de la Iglesia católica de la región. Es el caso del obispo ecuatoriano Leônidas Proaño (1910-1988), que dedicó su vida a los indígenas y campesinos, y de San Óscar Romero (1917-1980), arzobispo salvadoreño asesinado por el régimen militar.

El padre Juan Carlos Garzón, secretario general de la CEI, dijo que "en los momentos más difíciles Dios nos envía los profetas de nuestro tiempo".

"Queríamos descubrir las heridas del mundo y luego ver después cómo Cristo viene a redimirnos", explicó el padre Garzón.

(Eduardo Campos Lima escribe para OSV News desde São Paulo.)

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 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, diacono, 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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