

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Bishop Brennan and Pro-Life Leaders Laud West Virginia Legislature for Passing Abortion Ban

By Colleen Rowan

**WEST VIRGINIA** — Bishop Mark Brennan and pro-life leaders of West Virginia lauded the state legislature for passing an abortion ban Sept. 13. The bill which will ban most abortions in the state, with some exceptions, now waits for Gov. Jim Justice's signature.

HB 302 was passed by the state

Senate 22-7 and by the House of Delegates 78-17.

"The action taken by our elected officials to provide greater legal protection for the unborn is an important step in fostering a sincere culture of life in the Mountain State," Bishop Brennan said in a statement.

"It is clear that work remains to

be done to soften hearts and create a society that values and protects every human life," the bishop continued. "It is clear that it will take time to heal the personal and societal scars from abortion permitted for so long under the Roe regime. I pray that as a state, we continue to move toward these moral and just ends. I encourage our representa-

tives to continue to lead us in that direction by providing ample resources to support women and children, by expanding access to quality and affordable childcare, by promoting paid maternity and family leave, by better protecting victims of domestic violence, by promoting and facilitating

**See "Ban" on Page 2**

## Diocesan Rosary Congress to be Held in Parishes across the State

By Colleen Rowan

**A** Diocesan Rosary Congress is set to be held in parishes across West Virginia Oct. 1-8 bringing the Catholic faithful together for adoration and prayer before the Eucharistic Lord and to seek the protection and intercession of the Blessed Mother.

Bishop Mark Brennan is inviting all to participate in the congress, which is being held in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival.

"This effort is critical at this time as together we pray for respect for the sanctity of human life, reparation, and peace and unity in our country and throughout our world," said Michael J. Tupta Jr., a member of the Eucharistic Revival Committee for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. "Please make every effort to come out and attend a holy hour near you as we pray as a church nourished by the Eucharist and inspired by the prayers of our Blessed Mother Mary."

Tupta, who is a parishioner of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, said that parishes and campus ministry groups are planning holy hours that include

**See "Rosary" on Page 2**



Joyce Bibey Photo

Pictured is a stained glass window depicting the rosary at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. The basilica is one of many churches hosting the Diocesan Rosary Congress in October.

## Ban..

Cont'd from Page 1

adoption, and by addressing food insecurity. "A culture that values life will bind and unite us; it will orient us toward seeking the common good for one another," the bishop said in the statement.

Bishop Brennan took his commitment to building a culture of life and fostering outreach to pregnant women and mothers in need in West Virginia a step further last month with the addition of Kathy Barton as the diocese's new director of Social Ministries. She began in the position Aug. 8 focusing on pro-life issues, starting with abortion. Among other outreach initiatives, Barton is helping parishes create ministries in their communities to help pregnant women who are facing challenges but also bringing support to them after their babies are born.

With the governor's signature, the bill will immediately become law in West Virginia. The bill would ban abortions "unless in the reasonable medical judgment of a licensed medical professional" there exists a nonmedically viable fetus; there exists an ectopic pregnancy; or there exists a medical emergency.

The passing of the bill was also celebrated by West Virginians for Life (WVFL).

"Today the West Virginia Legislature has passed a bill that will save thousands of babies' lives here in West Virginia," WVFL President Wanda Franz said in a press release from the organization. "WVFL thanks the pro-life legislators who support protection for all human life."

"For years, the people of West Virginia have fought tirelessly in defense of the unborn," WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Shields said in the press release. "Today we see our effort turned into life-saving law."

## Rosary..

Cont'd from Page 1

Eucharistic adoration, praying of the rosary and time for quiet prayer.

The diocese has recently launched its website on the National Eucharistic Revival offering information about events in West Virginia, including the Diocesan Rosary Congress with updated locations, dates, and times. Visit the site at [dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/](http://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/).

Below are locations, dates, and times for the Diocesan Rosary Congress. Plans have not been finalized for the Clarksburg, Martinsburg, and Parkersburg vicariates. For updates, visit [dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/](http://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/).

### Beckley Vicariate

Oct. 1, St. Peter Parish, Welch, 3-4 p.m.;

Oct. 2, Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield, 8 a.m.;

Oct. 3, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley (time has not been announced);

Oct. 4, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Summersville, 4-7 p.m.;

Oct. 5, SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Oak Hill, 9-10 a.m.;

Oct. 6, Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton, noon;

Oct. 7, St. Patrick Parish, Hinton (time has not been announced)

### Charleston Vicariate

Oct. 1, Holy Trinity Parish, Nitro, 4 p.m., and the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 4 p.m.;

Oct. 2, St. Joseph Parish, Huntington, 2:30 p.m.;

Oct. 3, University of Charleston Catholic Campus Ministry, 5 p.m., JPII House Chapel;

Oct. 4, St. Francis de Sales Parish, St. Albans, 6 p.m.;

Oct. 5, Marshall Newman Center, Huntington, 3 p.m.; Church of the Ascension, Hurricane, 6 p.m.;

Oct. 6, St. Agnes Parish, Kanawha City, 5 p.m.

Oct. 7, Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston, 11:15 a.m.;

Oct. 8, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Huntington, 6 p.m. (Rosary and Eucharistic procession).

### Wheeling Vicariate (all to be held from 6-7 p.m.)

Oct. 1, St. Michael Parish;

Oct. 2, Chapel of Mary and Joseph, Wheeling University;

Oct. 3, Corpus Christi Parish;

Oct. 4 St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Adoration begins at 10 a.m.);

Oct. 5 Our Lady of Peace Parish;

Oct. 6, St. Alphonsus Parish;

Oct. 7, Cathedral of St. Joseph (Adoration begins at 1 p.m.)



Colleen Rowan Photo  
The Mary, Mother of God statue stands in the courtyard of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

## 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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

## To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:

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

## To Report to Civil Authorities:

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

## To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev.

Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

## To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:

please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



Office: 1322 Eoff St.  
Mailing: PO Box 230  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 232-0444  
Fax: (304) 233-8551  
Web site: [www.thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://www.thecatholicspiritwv.org)  
Diocesan Web site: [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)  
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**Executive Editor:** Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 ..... [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org)  
**Advertising:** contact Colleen Rowan  
**Freelance Writers:** Martina Hart, John Sherwood,  
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# In 'Major Victory' for Religious Rights, Court Blocks Transgender Mandate

**By Catholic News Service  
NEW ORLEANS (CNS)** —

A unanimous ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans blocking the Biden administration's transgender mandate "is a major victory for conscience rights and compassionate medical care in America," said the attorney who represented the plaintiffs in the case.

"Doctors cannot do their jobs and comply with the Hippocratic oath if the government requires them to perform harmful, irreversible procedures against their conscience and medical expertise," said Joseph Davis, counsel at Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm.

Davis made the remarks about the court's Aug. 26 ruling permanently blocking a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that would have forced doctors and hospitals to perform gender-transition procedures on their

patients even if this violated their conscience and medical judgment.

On Aug. 4, the 5th Circuit heard oral arguments in the case, Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra, which was brought by a Catholic health care network and a group of nearly 19,000 health care professionals.

"Franciscan Alliance and the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration seek to carry on Jesus Christ's healing ministry by providing the best possible care to every person who comes through our doors," said Sister Petra Nielsen, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, who is a member of the Franciscan Alliance's corporate board.

"We are simply asking the courts to let us keep caring for all our patients with joy and compassion — as we've done for over 145 years," she said in a statement released by Becket ahead of the oral arguments.

In an Aug. 26 statement,

Davis said: "For years, our clients have provided excellent medical care to all patients who need it. Today's ruling ensures that these doctors and hospitals may continue to do this critical work in accordance with their conscience and professional medical judgment."

The 5th Circuit affirmed the lower court's order "permanently enjoining (HHS) from requiring Franciscan Alliance to perform gender-reassignment surgeries or abortions in violation of its sincerely held religious beliefs."

The government argued it should get more chances to show why it needed religious health care providers to participate in such gender-transition procedures, but the court said other cases showed that permanent protection "was appropriate — including, ironically, cases brought by the ACLU, who had intervened in (the case) to support the government," Becket said in a re-

lease about the ruling.

In 2016, the federal government under the Obama administration began implementing a mandate requiring doctors to perform gender transition procedures on any patient, including children, and required private insurance companies — except plans run by Medicare and Medicaid — and many employers to cover gender reassignment therapy or face severe penalties and legal action.

In August of that year, Becket, joined by eight state governments, filed a lawsuit in Texas against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of Franciscan Alliance, a religious hospital network sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, and the Christian Medical & Dental Association.

After years of litigation, including an appeal to the 5th Circuit and a remand to the

lower court, a U.S. District Court granted the doctors and hospitals in the case involved permanent relief from the mandate and protected their medical conscience rights.

The Biden administration appealed to keep the mandate in place. Secretary Xavier Becerra heads HHS under President Joe Biden.

In a separate action, the HHS civil rights office July 25 released proposed regulations that could force health care workers to perform gender transition procedures; require health insurance plans to cover those costs; and likely remove federal conscience protection for those in health care who object to performing abortions.

On Aug. 4, the proposal was published by the Federal Register, opening a 60-day period for public comment that can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/3vEM4Bl>. The comment period ends Oct. 3.

## House and Senate Leaders Announce Federal Abortion Bill Bans

**By Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Republican congressional leaders announced proposed legislation Sept. 13 to place a federal ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The identical bill presented to the House and Senate is called: "Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children from Late-Term Abortions Act." It would leave in place state laws with stricter abortion restrictions.

The bill was introduced to the Senate by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and to the House by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J.

Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, praised Graham and Smith for "their untiring efforts and dedication on behalf of unborn children and their mothers," adding that the legislation would "prevent cruel and painful abortions from being performed on innocent children."

"In contrast," she said, "pro-abortion Democrats are pushing for unlimited abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy and using tax dollars to pay for abortion."

The bill, which is unlikely to advance with congressional Democrats and has already been criticized by leading Democrats, is a shift from what some Republican congressional leaders were saying this summer about most likely not introducing a national abortion ban.

The White House has described the proposed bill as "wildly out of step with what Americans believe."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said: "President Biden and congressional Democrats are committed to restoring the protections of Roe v. Wade in the face of continued radical steps by elected Republicans to put personal health care

decisions in the hands of politicians instead of women and their doctors, threatening women's health and lives."

Smith called his proposed bill an updated version of a similar bill he wrote to reflect evidence of fetal pain.

"Thanks to incredible progress made in science, we now know that by at least 15 weeks, unborn babies killed by abortion experience excruciating

suffering and physical pain," he said in a statement.

"Our legislation responds to the scientific advances already recognized in fetal medicine by increasing human rights protection for these children," he added.

In previous years, pro-life advocates have supported similarly proposed bills. Last year's proposed legislation was called "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act."

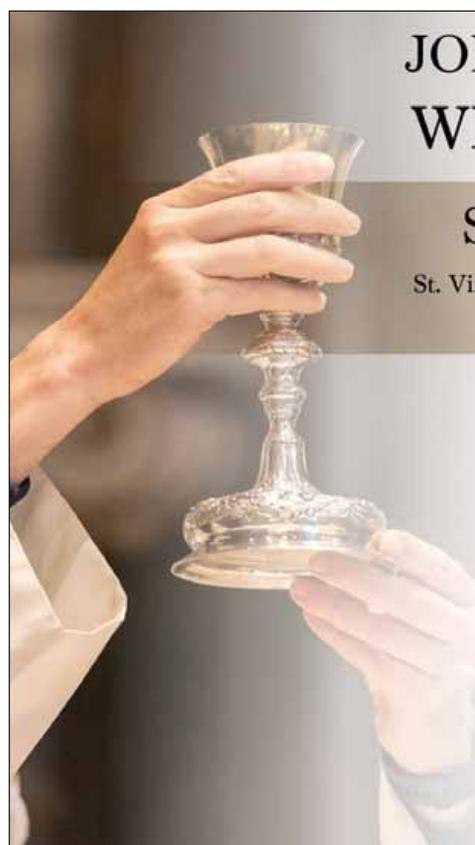
**JOIN US FOR MASS AND LEARN WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO**

<p><b>Sept. 18 • 4pm</b> St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling Father Jim Gretz</p>	<p><b>Sept. 25 • 4pm</b> St. Leo Parish, Inwood Msgr. Rick Hilgartner</p>
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**The Instructional Masses fulfill our Sunday obligation and teach why we do what we do as Catholics, so we can participate with purpose.**

**An informal reception will follow Mass.**

*These are the first in a series of Instructional Masses to be held throughout the state honoring the National Eucharistic Revival.*



# Remembering 9/11, Praying for Those Who Protect and Serve at Weirton's Blue Mass



Vince Trupiano Photo

Police, firefighters, EMS, those serving in the military, and their families attend the Blue Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton Sept. 9.

**By Colleen Rowan**

In his celebration of the annual Blue Mass in Weirton at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., gave the congregation a sobering reminder: 343 firefighters, 60 law enforcement officers, and 10 EMT and paramedics died at the World Trade Center in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. Another 125 people at the Pentagon, most of them military, he said, were killed that day in the attack, and about 7,000 military personnel have lost their lives in the war on terrorism since then.

Because most of those in the congregation — students from Weirton's Madonna High School, St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, and St. Paul School — were born after 2001, Father Schuelkens said remembering what happened on 9/11 is especially important.

"You may not realize that there were 127 firefighters who were there that day and survived and were running in to dig people out, hoping there was a survivor. Many of them knew that the dust that was flying around was dangerous," he said. "One hundred and twenty-seven firefighters have died from

what they are calling 'World Trade Center cough.'"

That is what Americans must remember on the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington, and Shanksville, Pa.

The Blue Mass was celebrated to remember 9/11 and to honor and pray for those who protect and serve today—police, firefighters, EMS, the military, and their families. This was a school Mass, celebrated at noon on Sept. 9.

"On behalf of all of us in the Catholic schools  
**See "Mass" on Page 5**

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Territory Meeting

# Mass..

**Cont'd from Page 4**

of Weirton, we would like to welcome the police officers, firefighters, first responders, members of the armed forces, and all invited guests to this Blue Mass to honor those who are willing to lay down their life every day," Madonna High School senior Juliana Velegol said in a welcoming to the congregation before the Mass began.

Life is about love, and love is about laying down your life, Father Schuelkens said to begin his homily.

"Jesus knew us even before we were born," Father Schuelkens continued. "He knew that we would be sinners and he still was willing to die for you and for me. The Lord was willing to say, I love you and I'm going to lay my life down for you so that you might have life."

Everyone is called to something that God has placed in their heart, Father Schuelkens said, and all are called to discern that, to recognize it, and then to say "yes" to God's call. When we make a good sacrifice, he said, it brings forth life in others and in ourselves.

The honorees, he said, most of the time do not know who they're laying down their lives for.

"Those who serve in the military or law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics or EMTs—they get the call, and they go. And



**Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., receives the gifts from Madonna High School, St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, and St. Paul School students during the Blue Mass.**

Vince Trupiano Photo

they're very often laying down their lives for people that they don't even know," Father Schuelkens said. "Where everybody is running away from danger, they are running into it. Why? Because they're trying to save lives. They're trying to help."

To do that, they need wisdom, Father Schuelkens said, and wisdom is to think clearly, to judge rightly, and to act decisively. Equal and connected to that, he noted, is courage. And courage is not the absence of fear, he pointed out. Courage is the strength within to do

what is needed, he said, even when one is afraid.

"We're praying that in each instance that you need that wisdom, you think clearly, you judge rightly, and you act decisively and that you do it even in the face of your own fears. We honor you, we pray for you."

But this is not enough, Father Schuelkens said, "We have to remember."

"We have to remember what happened on 9/11," he said, calling attention to the words of the philosopher George Santayana,

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Important also is support for those who survived 9/11 which must be thoughtful, unabashed, and practical, Father Schuelkens said, emphasizing the practical in the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010.

He added, "We need to support our honorees with thoughtfulness, unabashed and practical ways. If we don't, we're not remembering. We're not remembering."

In looking out among the students gathered in the congregation that day, Father Schuelkens said God will call many of them to serve their communities as well.

"Some will be called to be a firefighter or an EMT or a paramedic or a law enforcement officer or to go into the military," he said. "And I hope that you say 'yes' to that call, because you are needed, and you save lives."

In ending his homily, Father Schuelkens said to the honorees, "We do pray for you, and we do honor you, and we also remember. We remember what happened on 9/11 and we pledge our support—thoughtful, unabashed, practical.

"I hope and I pray that all of us discern what God has placed in our heart to give. He's going to call, and I hope that you say 'yes.'"



Vince Trupiano Photos

Pictured above, left and right, are scenes from the ceremony following the Blue Mass.



# BLUE MASS

*to honor law enforcement officers, firefighters,  
EMT and all first responders*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 | 6:00 PM**

**CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH**

*1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, West Virginia*

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

*A reception will follow in the Great Hall of Wheeling Central Catholic High School.*

*All are welcome.*



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# Pope Urges World Leaders to ‘Work for Peace, Not Weapons’

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

**NUR-SULTAN, Kazakhstan (CNS)** — Speaking on behalf of dozens of religious leaders, Pope Francis called on world leaders to put an end to violence and bloodshed and instead strive for peace.

“We plead with you, in the name of God and for the good of humanity: work for peace, not weapons,” the pope said Sept. 15, the final day of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Nur-Sultan and the final day of his three-day visit to Kazakhstan.

“Only by serving the cause of peace, will you make a name for yourselves in the annals of history,” he said.

The pope joined the 80 religious leaders and hundreds of delegates participating in the interreligious meeting at the Palace of Independence for the reading of the congress’ final declaration.

The declaration, read by Anglican Bishop Jo Bailey Wells of Dorking, England, expressed the leaders’ belief that “extremism, radicalism, terrorism and all other forms of violence and wars, whatever their goals, have nothing to do with true religion and must be rejected in the strongest possible terms.”

“We call upon world leaders to abandon all aggressive and destructive rhetoric which leads to destabilization of the world, and to cease from conflict and bloodshed in all corners of our world,” the leaders said. And they called upon “religious leaders and prominent political figures from different parts of the world to tirelessly develop dialogue in the name of friendship, solidarity and peaceful coexistence.”

Addressing congress participants, Pope Francis said that after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, a collective response was needed to counter the “incendiary atmosphere” caused by religious extremism that “threatened to turn religion into a grounds for conflict.”

However, “pseudo-religious terrorism, extremism, radicalism and nationalism, dressed up in religious garb, nonetheless continue to foment fears and concerns about religion,” he said.

The congress’ declaration reaffirms that religious extremism, radicalism and terrorism “have nothing to do with the authentic spirit of religion and must be rejected in the most decisive terms possible,” he said.

And, he said, “since the Almighty has created all people equal, regardless of their religious, ethnic or social origin, we are agreed that mutual respect and understanding should be considered essential and indispensable in religious teaching.”

At the same time, the pope said, governments must not exclude the voice of those who adhere to religion but must guarantee that the rights of believers, including to speak publicly, “must be protected, always and everywhere.”

For its part, he said, the Catholic Church is committed to “the unity of the human family” and “the path of interreligious dialogue,” which is “necessary and irrevocable.”

“Interreligious dialogue is no longer merely something expedient,” the pope said. “It is an urgently needed and incomparable service to humanity, to the praise and glory of the creator of all.”

The pope also told religious leaders that the declaration’s affirmation that the dignity of women and the improvement of their “social status as equal members of the family and of society” is crucial in achieving peace.

“Women must also be entrusted with greater positions and responsibilities,” he said. “How many calamitous decisions might have been avoided had woman been directly involved in decision-making! We commit ourselves to ensuring that women are increasingly respected, acknowledged and involved!”

The voice of young people, who too often fall prey to extremism, also must be heard, Pope Francis said. They must be given “opportunities for education, not weapons of destruction. And let us listen to them, without being afraid to be challenged by their questions. Above all, let us build a world with them in mind!”

“Let us press ahead on this path, walking together on earth as children of heaven, weavers of hope and artisans of harmony, heralds of peace and unity,” he said before heading to the airport for his return flight to Rome.

# Pope: Religions Must be Purified of Extremism, Self-Righteousness

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

**NUR-SULTAN, Kazakhstan (CNS)** — As war, violence and extremism in countries around the world threaten the lives of countless men, women and children, religions must rise above differences and be examples of peace and harmony, Pope Francis said.

“It is time to realize that fundamentalism defiles and corrupts every creed; time for open and compassionate hearts,” the pope said Sept. 14 at the plenary session of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

“We need religion in order to respond to the thirst for world peace and the thirst for the infinite that dwells in the heart of each man and woman,” he said.

On the second day of his visit to Kazakhstan, the pope addressed 80 religious leaders and hundreds of delegates participating in the interreligious meeting Sept. 14-15 in the Palace of Independence, a blue-glassed trapezoid-shaped building in the heart of the Kazakh capital, Nur-Sultan.

The congress, which is held every three years, was the initiative of Kazakhstan’s first president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, as a way of promoting dialogue among religions, the congress’ website stated. It also aims to prevent “the use of religious feelings of people for the escalation of conflicts and hostilities.”

Arriving at the meeting, the pope took his place at a huge round table with the other leaders and was immediately greeted by Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Al-Azhar in Egypt. Smiling, the pope affectionately embraced him.

The event began with a moment of silent prayer.

After the formal session, Pope Francis held private meetings with a dozen of the leaders, including the sheikh, but also with Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, head of external relations for the Russian Orthodox Church. The metropolitan took the place of Russian Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, who canceled his attendance at the congress.

Metropolitan Anthony told reporters his 15-minute meeting with the pope was “very cordial” and that the pope had asked him to pass his greetings to the patriarch, whom the pope had hoped to meet in Nur-Sultan. The patriarch’s withdrawal from the congress was seen by many observers as a protest of Pope Francis’ decision not to meet Patriarch Kirill in Jerusalem in June because of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and of Patriarch Kirill’s support for the war.

“We had worked to prepare the second meeting (between a pope and patriarch — the first was in Havana in 2016), and then it was canceled by the Vatican,” Metropolitan Anthony told reporters at the Palace of Independence. “We’ll see what we can do” to arrange a new meet-

ing time.

Asked if Patriarch Kirill was still bothered by Pope Francis’ comment in May to an Italian newspaper that “the patriarch cannot turn himself into Putin’s altar boy,” the metropolitan said, “I can say it was something very unexpected, this interview, and it is clear that expressions of this kind are not helpful for Christian unity.”

In his formal talk to the congress, Pope Francis said that “authentic religiosity” is needed to fight fundamentalism and extremism in religion and to show the world that it has no reason to distrust or have “contempt for religion as if it were a destabilizing force in modern society.”

Kazakhstan and other nations of the former Soviet Union “are all too familiar with the legacy of decades of state-imposed atheism: that oppressive and stifling mentality for which the mere mention of the word ‘religion’ was greeted with embarrassed silence,” the pope said.

Religion, he said, “is not a problem, but part of the solution for a more harmonious life in society.”

Focusing on the meeting’s theme, which reflected on the role of religious leaders “in the spiritual and social development of mankind in the post-pandemic period,” Pope Francis said the COVID-19 pandemic was among several challenges that “call all of us — and in a special way the religions — to greater unity of purpose.”

“COVID-19 put us all in the same boat,” he said. “All of us felt vulnerable, all of us in need of help, none of us completely independent, none completely self-sufficient.”

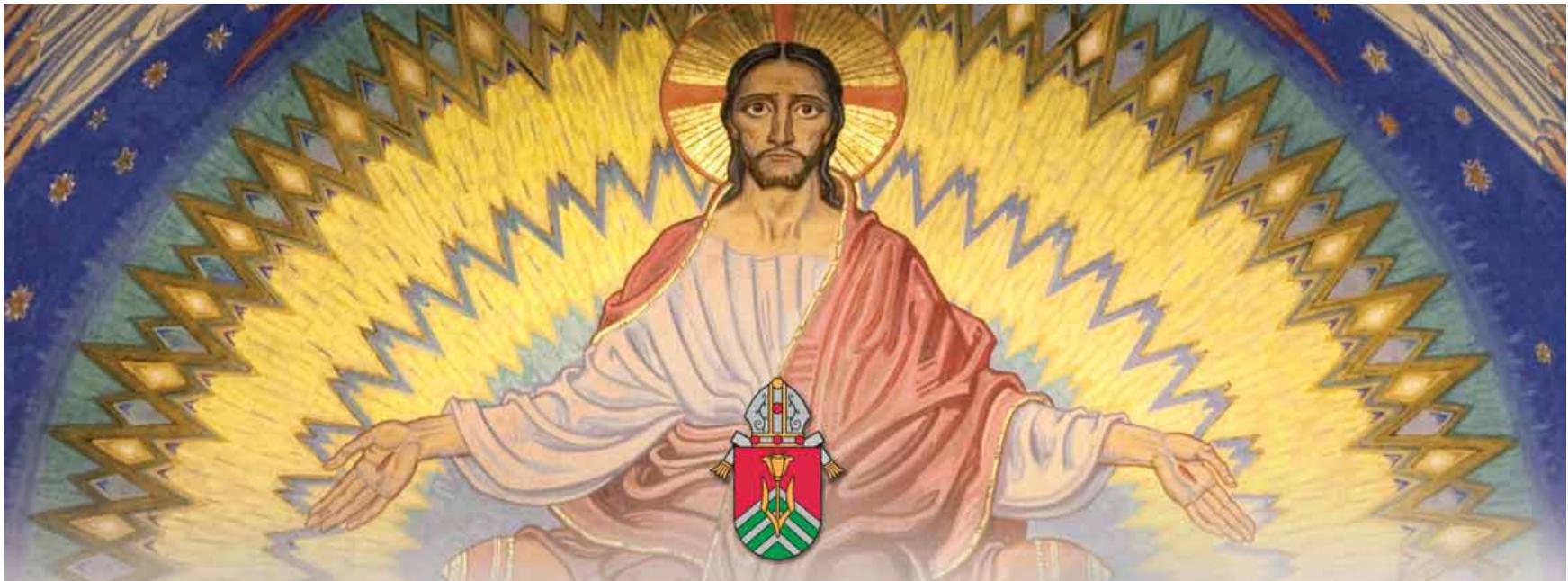
Now, he said, religions must not squander “the sense of solidarity” or act as “if nothing happened.”

Instead, the pope said, religious leaders must confront the urgent needs of the world and be “promoters of unity amid the grave challenges that risk dividing our human family even further.”

With the world “plagued by the scourge of war, by a climate of hostility and confrontation, by an inability to step back and hold out a hand to the other,” he said, it is time for religions to purify themselves from evil, particularly the “presumption of feeling self-righteous, with no need to learn anything from anyone.”

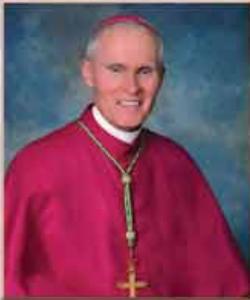
“Let us free ourselves of those reductive and destructive notions that offend the name of God by harshness, extremism and forms of fundamentalism, and profane it through hatred, fanaticism and terrorism, disfiguring the image of man as well,” he said.

“And let us learn also to be ashamed: yes, to experience that healthy shame born of compassion for those who suffer, sympathy and concern for their condition and for their fate, which we realize that we too share,” he said.



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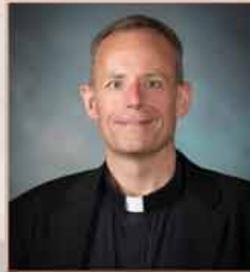
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*“To share all suffering,  
to penetrate all secrets,  
to heal all wounds,  
to go from men to God  
and offer Him  
their prayers,  
to return from God  
to men to bring  
pardon and hope...  
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O priest of  
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# Madonna, Wheeling Central Students Named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

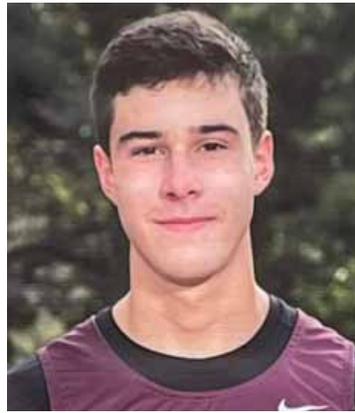
By Joyce Bibey

Congratulations to Wheeling Central Catholic's Charles "Chaz" Frizzell, and Weirton Madonna High School's Jillian "Rylie" Cottrill for being named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists.

Frizzell and Cottrill are two of the three students named in the Northern Panhandle. Semifinalists represent less than one per-



Jillian "Rylie" Cottrill



Charles "Chaz" Frizzell

cent of U.S. high school seniors. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2023 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

These scholarship recipients will join nearly

368,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

God bless Chaz and Rylie along with all of the students in our diocese in their academic journey. Keep their eyes fixed on You, their hearts filled with determination, and minds confident in their capacity to achieve great things through You Lord as their guide. Amen.

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Dianne Bergant, CSA is the Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP Distinguished Professor Emerita of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union. She is Past President of the Catholic Biblical Association and Rev. Robert J. Randall Distinguished Professor of Christian Culture, Providence College, Providence, RI. She holds honorary doctorates from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, CA., Marian University, Fond du Lac, WI, and Australian Catholic University. She has authored thirty-six books as well several book chapters and numerous articles. She has taught and lectured extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and South Pacific.

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# ‘Bring it to Jesus,’ Deacon Breiding Says at Novena



Colleen Rowan Photo  
Deacon Doug Breiding offers his homily at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral.

Colleen Rowan Photo  
The faithful are pictured during adoration at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral.

**By Colleen Rowan**

The Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague, with the theme of “The Holy Eucharist,” continued at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling with the second night celebrated by Deacon Doug Breiding, director of Cemeteries for the diocese. He encouraged those gathered to “bring it to Jesus”—all of their needs, worries, and troubles.

In the Gospel for the novena (John 6:1-15) Jesus asks Phillip where food can be found for the crowd of 5,000. Phillip knew the area, and Jesus was testing him, Deacon Breiding said. Jesus’s other disciple, Andrew, told Jesus of a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish; “but what good are these for so many?”

“Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted” (John 6:11).

The point is that all things should be brought to Jesus, Deacon Breiding said, adding, “We heard in our responsorial song, “The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs” (Psalm 145).

Deacon Breiding continued speaking of the gift of the Eucharist. The answer to anyone ques-

tioning Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist and how Jesus could change bread and wine into his body and blood is simple, Deacon Breiding said. “Jesus said it, Jesus did it, and Jesus commanded it,” he said.

“You’re here tonight, week two,” Deacon Breiding said to those gathered that evening. “What are you bringing to Jesus?”

He then recalled a time in the 1990s when he was the director of religious education at St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling. The Marists priests who were serving there at the time assisted him one evening with the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program. On that night, he gained insight that he has never forgotten.

“They said, ‘Let us pray,’” Deacon Breiding said of the Marists. “After five seconds, the silence just continued.”

“We just stayed silent to let God into our hearts,” Deacon Breiding explained. “It was a profound experience for me.”

And so, he invited the congregation to do the same—to allow themselves the experience of being in silence with God.

“Tonight, the deacon is going to be quiet ... and I want for us to take two minutes—two, 60-

minute intervals—and bring needs to Jesus.”

Silence, he continued, is something this busy world of noise and distraction needs.

“We have to know that our churches are open whether the Blessed Sacrament is exposed or in the tabernacle ... and say, ‘You know what? Life is hectic, and I’m going to take five minutes and bring it to Jesus.’”

This year’s Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague centers on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Coinciding with the celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival, launched by the U.S. bishops earlier this summer.

For the next seven Mondays, through Oct. 31, the faithful will gather at 7 p.m. at the cathedral for the novena which includes Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily given by guest clergy, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague.

The third evening of the novena, Sept. 19, will be celebrated by Father Justin Golna, administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg.

The remaining Mondays of the novena are: Sept. 26 with Msgr. Samuel Sacus; Oct. 3 with Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration, Administration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital; Oct. 10 with Father Pabin; Oct. 17 with Deacon Breiding; Oct. 24 with Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the cathedral; and Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan for the closing evening.

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# St. Michael Parish and NAMI Greater Wheeling to Host Annual Interfaith Prayer Service on Mental Illness

**WHEELING**—St. Michael Parish will again join NAMI Greater Wheeling in hosting an interfaith service to pray for individuals and families living with mental illness at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4. The event, which will take place at St. Michael Church at 1225 National Road in Wheeling, has been held every year for more than decade as part of National Mental

Illness Awareness Week.

The annual prayer service is part of the parish's stewardship activities. Chad Carter, St. Michael Liturgical Music director and organist, will again provide the music.

This year's speaker will be Valley Grove resident Kayla Straight, who has devoted her career to serving her community. She is the continuum of care manag-

er/outreach representative for WVU Reynolds' Break-Thru Service, and in the past she worked for The Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, YSS, and MIHOW.

Straight is a peer recovery coach for mental health, and the co-chair of the Ohio County Impact Coalition. She lives in Valley Grove with her husband, Jim, two daughters,

Klara and Kameron, and their dog, Koal. Kayla enjoys spending time with her extended family, reading, hiking, biking, and crafting. She is passionate about eliminating the stigmas surrounding mental health and substance use, and hopes to use her own experiences to help affect positive change in the future using honesty, transparency, and humor.

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

## St. Michael's Students Wish Our Lady a Happy Birthday



Courtesy Photo  
The Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Christian Women celebrated the birth of our Blessed Mother with treats during all lunch periods Sept. 8 at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling. "The children recited Hail Marys and were reminded to keep their heavenly mother close always," school officials said. "When we love our neighbors we are showing her how much we love her son, Jesus." Students are shown above beside the cookie and donut rosary celebrating Our Lady's birthday.

# Mother Teresa Filmmaker Says New Documentary is 'Work of the Holy Spirit'

By Kurt Jensen, Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — A new documentary about St. Teresa of Kolkata, produced by the Knights of Columbus, aims to show how her mission and spirit continues in the work of her order, the Missionaries of Charity.

"Mother Teresa: No Greater Love," directed by Emmy award-winning filmmaker, David Naglieri, was shown at the Vatican Sept. 2 and had its American premiere Sept. 11 at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington. On Oct. 3-4, the film will be shown in about 900 theaters as part of Fathom Events' Saints series.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly told the audience that the film intends to reach a younger audience that might not be as familiar with the work of the saint who died 25 years ago.

He also said Pope Francis praised the film in a letter.

The papal letter of Aug. 25 says: "Thank you for promoting this type of initiative that helps, in a creative manner, to make accessible the zeal for evangelization, especially for the young generations promoting the desire to follow the Lord who loved us first."

The Washington screening capped a weekend of events dedicated to the saint, including a special Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the dedication of the Mother Teresa Institute in Washington, designed "to preserve, protect, promote, and develop the authentic legacy of St. Teresa of Kolkata to the church and to the world." The institute will offer resources to scholars and researchers.

During the Mass, which marked the 25th anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa, Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory encouraged the faithful to look to the holy woman as a role model and "continue to fill up what she left undone in serving and loving the poor."

"While we admire her work and extraordinary example of love, mere admiration is not enough when it comes to saints who inspire our lives," Cardinal Gregory said. "St. Teresa was a woman of uncanny abilities, and she used all the gifts that God gave her for others. Her example must spur us all on to emulate God, God's Mercy in caring for those whose lives continue to be at risk."

The cardinal noted that Mother Teresa "has not been exempted from criticism in our contemporary world that always needs some how to find fault in even the most generous and loving individuals."

"St. Teresa herself would be the very first to acknowledge that there was so much more that she could and would have loved to have done to care for God's poor," Car-

dinal Gregory said. "Becoming a saint does not mean that a person has done everything perfectly — just that they did everything that they did do heroically and generously."

In a panel discussion about the new documentary after its screening, Naglieri said the process of filming new interviews and finding footage for the new documentary took 11 months and was "very much the work of the Holy Spirit."

The particular challenge was that there's not much vintage film footage of Mother Teresa available. She was not a seeker of personal publicity and didn't become well-known until British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge made a 1969 documentary, "Something Beautiful for God," about Mother Teresa's work beginning in 1948 in India serving the physical and spiritual needs of "the poorest of the poor."

Public fascination with this practitioner of "radical poverty" developed instantly and built for the rest of her life. Mother Teresa, born in North Macedonia in 1910, went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and was elevated to sainthood by Pope Francis on Sept. 4, 2016.

"We didn't want to do a chronological biography," Naglieri said. Instead, the goal was to "show how her mission and her spirit continues today."

As a result, the documentary shows the Missionaries of Charity working with children and adults in Brazil, India, Kenya and New York City. The sisters are currently in more than 130 countries.

Sister Mary Bernice, a Missionary of Charity in the Bronx, New York, retells a story in the film about Mother Teresa encountering a gang-infested neighborhood in Chicago in the 1970s that quickly moved into legend.

She ordered the sisters: "Take me now to the door where they are shooting us."

"We could not believe it. As we were walking toward the door, all these buildings surrounding us, the rifles were pointed out and kept shooting at us. Not one bullet touched us. And when we reached the door, this big man said to Mother Teresa: 'Mother, you can't come in here. I have business in here.'

"And Mother put her head down. And she looked up at him and she said: 'I, too, have business in here. Let us make a deal.' The man was so shocked that Mother would speak this way. He said: 'You can come in here, Mother. I can't stop my business. But I will protect your sisters.'"

(Contributing to this story was Richard Szczepanowski, managing editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.)

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# U.S. News Recognizes Wheeling University as a Top Regional University

## Receives High Rankings in Social Mobility and Ethnic Diversity

**WHEELING** — U.S. News & World Report once again has recognized Wheeling University as a leading institution in the region, noting it received high rankings for its ethnic diversity and social mobility.

In the annual rankings, Wheeling placed among the Best Regional Universities (South) in the 2023 U.S. News & World Report College Guide. Additionally, U.S. News listed Wheeling as a Top Performer on Social Mobility ranking it 90th among all regional universities nationwide. Social Mobility measures the extent that institutions enroll and graduate students who receive federal Pell Grants. The magazine also gave the university high marks for Campus Ethnic Diversity, ranking Wheeling as the 25th best in the South region.

“Once again, U.S. News & World Report has recognized Wheeling University as a one of Best Regional Universities – South. This ranking acknowledges the University’s commitment to academic excellence and providing its students with a well-rounded education to excel once they

graduate,” said University President, Ginny R. Favede. “In its rankings for social mobility among regional universities, Wheeling University was named the 90th best institution for making a private education available to students with limited financial means – which are exactly the type of students Archbishop John J. Swint wanted this institution to serve when he founded the school in 1954.”

Additionally, Favede noted that Wheeling received a high ranking among South Regional Universities for ethnic diversity on its campus. In this special listing, U.S. News based its calculations on students who are: non-Hispanic African Americans; Hispanic, American Indian, Pacific Islander/Native Americans, non-Hispanic white and multi-cultural (two or more races). In its formula, U.S. News produced a diversity index ranging from 0 to 1, noting a diversity ranking closer of 1, the more diverse the campus’ population was.

“U.S. News rated Wheeling’s diversity index at 0.55, meaning it is highly likely that our students will meet a stu-

dent from a different ethnic background on our campus,” Favede explained. “Last year, more than 27 percent of our total student population identified themselves in one of the listed categories. In fact, 25 percent of our current incoming class identify as a student of color.”

By having a diverse student population, Favede noted, the university enriches the experiences of the entire campus community, which better prepares students for work in a global society.

“Having a student population made up of various cultures, as well as first-generation students, broadens the educational experience for all our students and introduces them to new customs and traditions,” she added.

Every year the publication conducts extensive research of schools across the nation, first by arranging them into various subcategories, then ranking them within those categories according to a wide array of metrics. It is important to note that the rankings are driven primarily by quantitative data; that is, by measurable quantities,

such as retention rate and student-faculty ratio, rather than opinion surveys or third-party oversight.

U.S. News defines regional universities as offering a broad scope of undergraduate degrees and master’s and doctorate level programs. The ratings are based on 17 indicators: undergraduate academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources per student and alumni giving.

Wheeling proudly remains the only campus-based Catholic institution of higher education in West Virginia. According to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), Wheeling University is one of only 12 diocesan-sponsored universities in the United States. In addition to Wheeling, those other institutions include; Carroll College, Catholic Distance University, Donnelly College, Gannon University, Loras College, Mount St. Mary’s, Seton Hill University, St. Ambrose University, St. Thomas University, Thomas More University, University of Dallas, and the University of St. Thomas (M.N.).

# Wheeling University to Host YWCA’s Filmmakers of Color Festival

**WHEELING**—Filmmakers from four states will showcase their films on the campus of Wheeling University during the YWCA’s Third Ohio Valley Festival for Filmmakers of Color Saturday, Sept. 24.

According to Ronald Scott, Jr., the YWCA’s Director of Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach, the organization has teamed up with the University’s Black Student Union to host the event at the University’s Troy Theater located inside Swint Hall.

Scott said the Filmmakers of Color event is an opportunity for directors, writers or ac-

tors who identify as a person of color, to submit films that “are diverse in nature and look at life through their eyes. By partnering with Wheeling University, it allows for an amazing cultural exchange and offers the students a unique educational opportunity.”

The festival will begin at 6 p.m. when area residents and students can meet the film directors. Screening of six short films will start at 7 p.m.

More than 50 films from directors and writers from across the country were submitted for consideration. The seven chosen to be shown are filmmakers from Brooklyn; New

York; Toledo Ohio; Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Springboro, Ohio; Kent, Ohio; and Wheeling.

Brennon Reid, president of Wheeling’s Black Student Union, said, “The YWCA’s Filmmakers of Color event is a great way for students at the university to become more involved in the local community, while creating an interesting way for the students to learn and grow.”

Scott explained that those attending the event will have an opportunity to vote on the best films in four categories – best animation, comedy, drama and documentary. Two other awards – the Judge’s Choice and YWCA Choice – will also be chosen. Scott said the audience will receive instructions that evening on how to vote.

“We hope members of the community and the students

at the university will join us for this free event. I believe the community will enjoy watching the films and talking to the filmmakers about the inspiration behind their short movie,” Reid said.

Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede said, “Supporting culturally relevant community events expands our students’ learning beyond the classroom.”

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# Papa: Las religiones deben ser purificadas de extremismos y fariseísmo

**Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service**

**NUR-SULTAN, Kazajstán (CNS)** — Mientras la guerra, la violencia y el extremismo en países de todo el mundo amenazan la vida de innumerables hombres, mujeres y niños, las religiones deben superar las diferencias y ser ejemplos de paz y armonía, dijo el papa Francisco.

"Es hora de darse cuenta de que el fundamentalismo contamina y corrompe todos los credos; es hora de corazones abiertos y compasivos", dijo el papa el 14 de septiembre en la sesión plenaria del Congreso de Líderes de Religiones Mundiales y Tradicionales.

"Necesitamos que religión responda a la sed de paz mundial y la sed de lo infinito que habita en el corazón de cada hombre y mujer", dijo.

En el segundo día de su visita a Kazajstán, el papa se dirigió a 80 líderes religiosos y cientos de delegados que participaron en la reunión interreligiosa del 14 al 15 de septiembre en el Palacio de la Independencia, un edificio de forma trapezoidal con vidrios azules en el corazón de Kazajstán capital, Nur-Sultán.

El congreso, que se realiza cada tres años, fue una iniciativa del primer presidente de Kazajstán, Nursultan Nazarbayev, como una forma de promover el diálogo entre las religiones, indicó el sitio web del congreso. También tiene como objetivo evitar "el uso de los sentimientos religiosos de las personas para la escalada de conflictos y hostilidades".

Al llegar a la reunión, el papa tomó

su lugar en una gran mesa redonda con los otros líderes y fue inmediatamente recibido por el jeque Ahmad el-Tayeb, gran imán de Al-Azhar en Egipto. Sonriendo, el papa lo abrazó cariñosamente.

El evento comenzó con un momento de oración en silencio.

Después de la sesión formal, el papa Francisco se reunió en privado con una docena de líderes, incluso el jeque, pero también con el obispo metropolitano Antonio de Volokolamsk, jefe de relaciones exteriores de la Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa. El metropolitano ocupó el lugar del patriarca ruso Kirill de Moscú, que canceló su asistencia al congreso.

El metropolitano Anthony dijo a los periodistas que su reunión de 15 minutos con el papa fue "muy cordial" y que el papa le había pedido que transmitiera sus saludos al patriarca, a quien el papa esperaba para una reunión en Nur-Sultan. Muchos observadores vieron la retirada del patriarca del congreso como una protesta por la decisión del papa Francisco de no reunirse con el patriarca Kirill en Jerusalén en junio debido a la invasión rusa de Ucrania y al apoyo del patriarca Kirill a la guerra.

"Habíamos trabajado para preparar la segunda reunión (entre un papa y un patriarca, la primera fue en La Habana en 2016), y luego fue cancelada por el Vaticano", dijo el obispo metropolitano Anthony a los periodistas en el Palacio de la Independencia. "Veremos qué podemos hacer" para concertar una nueva reunión.

Cuando se le preguntó si el patriarca Kirill todavía estaba molesto por el comentario del papa Francisco en mayo a un periódico italiano de que "el patriarca no puede convertirse en monaguillo de Putin", el metropolitano dijo: "Puedo decir que fue algo muy inesperado, esta entrevista, y está claro que expresiones de este tipo no ayudan a la unidad de los cristianos".

En su discurso formal ante el congreso, el papa Francisco dijo que se necesita una "religiosidad auténtica" para luchar contra el fundamentalismo y el extremismo en la religión y para mostrarle al mundo que no tiene motivos para desconfiar o tener "desprecio por la religión como si fuera una fuerza desestabilizadora" en la sociedad moderna.

Kazajstán y otras naciones de la antigua Unión Soviética "están demasiado familiarizadas con el legado de décadas de ateísmo impuesto por el Estado: esa mentalidad opresiva y asfixiante por la que la mera mención de la palabra 'religión' fue recibida con un embarazoso silencio", dijo el papa.

La religión, dijo, "no es un problema, sino parte de la solución para una vida más armoniosa en la sociedad".

Centrándose en el tema de la reunión, que reflexionó sobre el papel de los líderes religiosos "en el desarrollo espiritual y social de la humanidad en el período posterior a la pandemia", el papa Francisco dijo que la pandemia de COVID-19 se encontraba entre varios desafíos que "nos llaman a todos -y de manera especial las religiones-

una mayor unidad de propósito".

"COVID-19 nos puso a todos en el mismo barco", dijo. "Todos nos sentimos vulnerables, todos necesitábamos ayuda, ninguno completamente independiente, ninguno completamente autosuficiente".

Ahora, dijo, las religiones no deben derrochar "el sentido de la solidaridad" ni actuar como "si nada pasara".

En cambio, dijo el papa, los líderes religiosos deben enfrentar las necesidades urgentes del mundo y ser "promotores de la unidad en medio de los graves desafíos que corren el riesgo de dividir aún más a nuestra familia humana".

Con el mundo "plagado por el flagelo de la guerra, por un clima de hostilidad y confrontación, por la incapacidad de dar un paso atrás y tender la mano al otro", dijo, es hora de que las religiones se purifiquen del mal, en particular la "presunción de sentirse santurrón, sin necesidad de aprender nada de nadie".

"Liberémonos de aquellas nociones reduccionistas y destructivas que ofenden el nombre de Dios con asperezas, extremismos y formas de fundamentalismo, y lo profanan a través de la atrevida, el fanatismo y el terrorismo, desfigurando también la imagen del hombre", dijo.

"Y aprendamos también a avergonzarnos; sí, a experimentar esa sana vergüenza que nace de la piedad por el hombre que sufre, de la conmoción y del asombro por su condición, por su destino, del cual nos sentimos partícipes", dijo.

## Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

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

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

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

# DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

Friday, September 16: Holy Spirit, Monongah, 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 2: St. James the Apostle, Clarksburg, 4 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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DOORS OPEN @ 6:30 - EVENT STARTS @ 7  
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- Presentation for Parents, Young Adults, and Teens
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
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### THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY

**SEPTEMBER 27**

DOORS OPEN @ 6 - EVENT STARTS @ 6:30  
ST. MICHAEL PARISH

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- 6:30 WOWK 13      Huntington - Charleston
  - 6:30 WTOV FOX 9      Wheeling-Steubenville
  - 8:00 WBOY NBC 12      Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
  - 8:30 WVNS FOX 59      Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
  - 11:00 WDVM 25      Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
- Plus watch episodes online at - mydailyliving.com



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA MISSION MOMENT

# Celebrating Charity in Action



John Sherwood Photo

Cheryl Gregory receives the Charity in Action Award in Martinsburg.

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) honored Cheryl Gregory with its Charity in Action Award at the agency's Cuisine With A Cause event on Monday, September 12 in Martinsburg.

"At Catholic Charities, we are on a mission of love to end poverty, one family at a time," said Beth Zarate, CCWVa president and CEO. "We are blessed to have many partners who walk this journey with us, and we are honored to be able to recognize Cheryl for her compassion and dedication."

### Cheryl Gregory

Cheryl has volunteered with Catholic Charities since 2013. She began by assisting with raffle baskets for an event, and her involvement continued to grow from there.

"Cheryl is one of those people who can't help but give back to the community," said Ed Wilson, CCWVa Regional Advisory Council member. "As a lifelong resident of Berkeley County, she truly loves making her community a better place to live for everyone."

Cheryl volunteers with the CCWVa personal care pantry, which provides

toiletries and other hygiene items to those in need. These items cannot be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, creating a need for those whose budgets cannot cover these items.

Cheryl does a regular inventory of the personal care closet, develops shopping lists, finds the best prices, purchases the items, and helps stock the shelves.

In addition, Cheryl helps with CCWVa's volunteer income tax assistance program and manages the furniture outreach service. Cheryl has served on both the CCWVa Regional Advisory Committee and the Cuisine With A Cause committee.

Cheryl says that helping others has always been in her heart, and her favorite poem is *The Dash* by Linda Ellis. The poem notes that when a person dies, others look at the dates on that person's tombstone from beginning to end. What matters most is the dash between those years. Cheryl says, "Live your dash." She says she hopes what she has done during her "dash" has been meaningful and has made a difference in the lives of many.



Courtesy Photo

CCWVa volunteer Cheryl Gregory stocks the agency's personal care pantry in Martinsburg.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

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

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Please register through The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston.

On **Saturday, October 29th, 2022** from **11:00 AM to 7:00 PM,** join us at our Diocesan camp property: **225 Catholic Conference Center Huttonsville, West Virginia 26273**

We will celebrate Mass with our bishop, Mark E. Brennan. There will also be adoration, music, food, recreational activities, catechesis, and speakers.

For more information, please call the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 304-233-0880, extension 374.

Parents are encouraged to attend as well.

**Dr. David Burkland**

Medical Director of the  
Emergency/Trauma  
Department

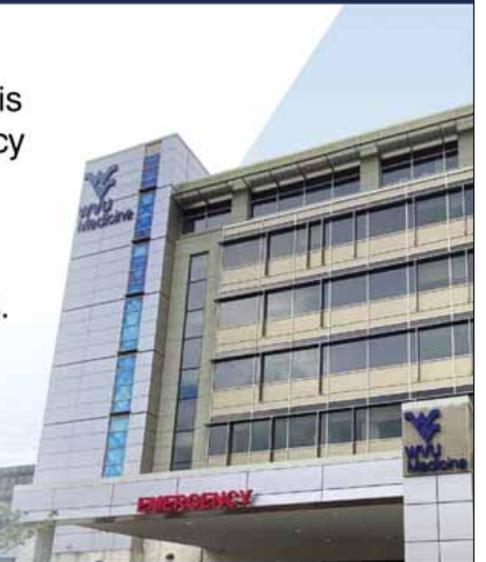
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