

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Bishop Brennan Celebrates Blue Mass for Police, Firefighters, and First Responders



Tyler J. Greenwood Photo

Following the Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 16, Bishop Mark Brennan and Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the cathedral, gather with Wheeling firefighters. Standing next to the bishop, at right, is City of Wheeling Fire Department Chief Jim Blazier. In the back, center, is Deacon Doug Breiding, permanent deacon at the cathedral.

**By Colleen Rowan**

**WHEELING**—In his homily for the second annual Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 16, Bishop Mark Brennan spoke of a “great evil” the country faces in the modern day—exaggerated individualism.

“Exaggerated individualism that downplays or even ignores our connection to one another and to God. And it shows up in matters as diverse as the insistence on being

able to carry a gun wherever we want or the claim that a person can change his or her sex just because he or she wants to and everyone has to accept it,” Bishop Brennan said. “It’s also seen in the decision of many Americans to abandon their affiliation with religious bodies and their faith, severing their ties with other human beings and with the God who made them. But we are social and God-made by nature and eventually the thinness

of this exaggerated individualism, like thin ice on a pond in winter, cannot support the weight of reality and we fall through the ice hurting ourselves and sometimes others.”

The bishop said the large increase in depression and suicide, especially among young people, testifies to how false exaggerated individualism is as a way to live. People must affirm their connectedness to others, he said,

and to God.

“Tonight, we remember men and women who recognize their connectedness to other people and I trust to God as well,” Bishop Brennan said at Mass which gathered Wheeling’s law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders at the cathedral. “We thank God for the members of our police forces, fire brigades, first responder units, and other groups

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# In Letter to Bishops, Vatican Asks All Faithful to Pray for the Synod

By **Justin McLellan**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — The Vatican is asking all baptized people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers.

In a letter directed to all bishops released Sept. 15, Cardinal Mario Grech, synod secretary-general, asked the world's bishops "to pray for the synod and to urge every Christian community in your particular church, especially monastic communities, toward unanimous and incessant prayer."

"The synod is first and foremost an event of prayer and listening that does not solely involve the members of the synodal assembly, but every baptized person, every particular church," the

letter read. "Indeed, all are called in this moment to join ourselves to the communion of prayer and in the insistent invocation of the Holy Spirit so it may guide us in the discernment of what the Lord asks today of his church."

The cardinal's letter includes a blessing to be recited at the end of Sunday Masses Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, the two Sundays before the assembly opens Oct. 4. He also sent out prayer intentions for the church, bishops and other participants in the assembly, theologians, young people and all Christians. One asks that "the entire people of God, in a dynamism of communion, may feel that they are truly participating in the life of the church."

In a statement, the Vatican said the letter also was sent to the leaders of the Eastern Catholic

churches "with a request to implement a similar blessing and intercessions in their Divine Liturgies."

It also noted other efforts to create a prayerful environment during the synod, such as the ecumenical prayer vigil to be held in St. Peter's Square Sept. 30 and a three-day spiritual retreat for members of the assembly prior to its opening.

In his letter, Cardinal Grech wrote, "To pray for the synodal assembly, to intercede for all of its members, firstly the Holy Father who so often asks us to pray for him, is to realize the highest level of participation."

The cardinal identified four modes of prayer for people to join themselves to the synod: listening, adoration, intercession and thanksgiving.

## 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal

misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/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."



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Screenshot Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan blesses Wheeling police, firefighters, and first responders at the Blue Mass he celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 16.

## Blue Mass...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

who are willing to respond to the needs of their fellow human beings even at risk of their health and sometimes their lives."

The Mass was co-sponsored once again by the cathedral and the Knights of Columbus Charles Carroll Assembly 1185 of Wheeling.

Bishop Brennan shared in his homily that a number of years ago he talked to the son of a New York City fireman who died trying to save others when the twin towers in New York came crashing down in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. He regretted losing his father when he was a boy but he admired his father and he hoped to become a firefighter himself, the bishop said.

"He understood his relationship with others and as a young man of faith he also recognized his relationship with God," Bishop Brennan said. "That young man was no captive of an extreme individualism."

The police, fire personnel, and first responders honored that evening at the cathedral are practitioners of mercy toward the people of the community, the bishop said.

"We pray that God may protect them from harm," he said, "for they have grasped the truth that they are not alone but belong to us all and they are willing to serve us."

The bishop noted that there is a shortage of police, firefighters, and first responders—a result of an exaggerated individualism which fosters isolation from others. The lack of interest in their well-being, he said, is all too evident in the community.

"We must encourage our young people, especially, to break out of their shells ... and to be-

come more fully integrated in the community, including in our church," he said. "They will reap a harvest of goodness that they did not know existed and they will contribute to the health of our society. Those who respond in this way imitate the mercy of God. For as the Psalm (103:11) says, '...as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.' And so too the words of Jesus Christ who teaches us to forgive those who offend us, 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy' (Matthew 5:7). We are not alone we are on a journey together. Mercy and forgiveness pave the road and let us make more rapid progress toward our final destination where we shall enjoy the mercy of our God for all eternity."

At the end of the Mass, Bishop Brennan invited all law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, and first responders to the altar to receive a special blessing.

"Almighty and eternal God you have revealed your glory to all peoples and to all nations," the bishop prayed. "You are our God of wisdom and of power and might. Through your guidance authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is wisely decreed. Let the light of your divine wisdom shine forth in our police, firefighters, and first responders gathered here today. May they seek to preserve peace, promote the happiness of all, and continue to bring us the blessings of liberty and equality. Give them the courage to make split second decisions with integrity and to guard our welfare and protect all with dignity, strength, and good judgment. Allow their training and their mentors to continue to provide examples that shape their performance and enhance their physical and mental strength. May they be en-

abled by your powerful protection to discharge their duties with honesty and wisdom. We commend them to your unbounded mercy. May they be blessed always and everywhere with the joy of preserving our liberties. Protect them in their work and may they enjoy the blessings of the peace that the world cannot give but is found in the blessings of eternal life when their life's work has ended. We pray to you O Lord our God and ask these blessings through Christ our Lord Amen."

Following the Mass, a reception was held at Central Catholic High School.

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# U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Chair Calls for 'Radical Solidarity' with Pregnant, Parenting Women

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — U.S. pro-life efforts “must remain strong to end legalized abortion” in this nation, but all Catholics have a personal responsibility to accompany women facing difficult or challenging pregnancies, said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, invited Catholics into “radical solidarity” with pregnant women in a Sept. 18 statement commemorating the 50th anniversary of Respect Life Month in October. The U.S. bishops set aside the month “as a time to focus on protecting God's precious gift of human life,” he said.

“While ending legalized abortion remains our preeminent priority, the most immediate way to save babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with lifegiving support and personal accompaniment. This is radical solidarity,” Bishop Burbidge said.

St. John Paul II first defined “radical solidarity” in this way, the bishop said, quoting from the pope's book “Crossing the Threshold of Hope” (1994): “In firmly rejecting ‘pro-choice’ it is necessary to become courageously ‘pro woman,’ promoting a choice that is truly in favor of women. ... The only honest stance, in these cases, is that of radical solidarity with the woman. It is not right to leave her alone.”

“Being in radical solidarity with women who are pregnant or raising children in difficult circumstances means putting our love for them into action and putting their needs before our own,” Bishop Burbidge said. “Pope Francis reminds us that solidarity ‘refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset, a transformation within our own hearts.’”

Bishop Burbidge said there is much to celebrate about the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the U.S. Supreme Court. In June 2022, the high court overturned its prior rulings that made abortion access a consti-

tutional right — its 1973 Roe decision and its 1992 ruling in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which affirmed Roe. The court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision returned the issue of abortion regulation to the states.

Twenty-two states have moved to ban or restrict abortion, although not all of those efforts are currently in effect amid court challenges.

“While we thank God that the terrible reign of Roe has ended, we also recognize that abortion still continues in most states and is aggressively promoted at the federal level,” Bishop Burbidge said. “A great many prayers, sacrifices, and good works are still desperately needed to transform a culture of death into a culture of life. Our public witness, our marching, and our advocacy must continue, yet laws alone will not end the tragedy of abortion.”

But “the new mindset” of which Pope Francis speaks “requires that we come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their preborn children,” Bishop Burbidge said.

This also “means addressing the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her,” he continued. “This includes collective efforts within our dioceses, parishes, schools and local communities, engagement in the public square, and pursuit of policies that help support both women and their preborn babies.”

“It all the more so requires our individual, personal commitment to helping mothers in our own communities secure material, emotional, and spiritual support for embracing the gift of life,” he said. “Radical solidarity means moving beyond the status quo and out of our comfort zones.”

An example of the church's outreach to pregnant and parenting mothers is the U.S. bishops' parish-based and nationwide initiative Walking with Moms in Need. “(It) provides easy-to-follow, step-by-

step instructions to help transform our parishes into places of welcome, support, and assistance for pregnant and parenting mothers facing difficulties,” he explained, urging Catholics to get involved in the initiative.

In his statement, Bishop Burbidge included a number of questions he said Catholics must ask themselves: “Do I know what efforts are happening in my area to help women who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances? What are the needs? What are my gifts and talents? How can I adjust my schedule or budget to assist efforts to help moms in need and their children?”

“Radical solidarity can be lived out in countless ways,” he said, “including volunteer-

ing at your local pregnancy center; helping an expectant mother find stable housing; babysitting so a mom can work or take classes; providing encouragement and a listening ear to a mom without a support system; or speaking to your pastor about beginning Walking with Moms in Need at your parish.”

Along with “enshrining pro-life laws and policies” is the need to transform the culture, which “requires continual conversion of our own hearts, so that we can recognize in every person the face of Christ and place their needs before our own,” Bishop Burbidge said.

He concluded his statement by reiterating his invitation to all Catholics “to think

about building a culture of life in terms of radical solidarity” during Respect Life Month this October.

“We are the Church. Our prayers, witness, sacrifices, advocacy, and good works are needed now, more than ever,” he said. “We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world today and we each have a personal responsibility to care for one another.”

For more information on how to celebrate Respect Life Month, visit <https://www.respectlife.org/celebrate/>, which has articles, prayers, resources and a toolkit for parish leaders in English and Spanish. The website for Walking with Moms in Need is <https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/>.



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# Life Expo Set for Oct. 5 in Wheeling

*Event to Support Individuals, Groups Helping the Unborn to End of Life*

**By Joyce Bibey**

**WHEELING**—Let us help you — the Office of Social Ministry, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston invites... parish leaders; church community & outreach groups; supporters of unplanned pregnancies; social workers; school community and counselors to the 2023 Life Expo Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the St. Michael Angelus Center at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. Attendees can engage and learn from groups and experts supporting the social, economic, physical, and spiritual needs of women, children, and families from prenatal to end of life.

Admission is free and lunch will be provided.

Visit and gather information from groups who will be there to share with you, said organizer Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministries for the diocese.

"The task at hand can seem overwhelming," she said. "The needs of everyone, including the unborn, are beyond the scope of anyone person or organization. However, our shared resources, knowledge, determination, and commitment to service can move mountains in one persons' life at a time."

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Byron Calhoun, MD. He is a professor and vice-chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine at the West Virginia University and is also board certified in Addictions Medicine. Calhoun received his BS in 1979 as a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School with an MD in 1983, completed his residency in OB/GYN at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1987 and finished a Fellow-

ship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Oregon Health Sciences University in 1989. Calhoun has authored many peer review articles, scientific papers, and edited and published a monograph (March 2016) dealing with addictions in women's health titled Tobacco Cessation and Substance Abuse Treatment in Women's Healthcare with Springer Publications.

Additional speakers include Walking With Moms In Need, Her PLAN, Wellspring, Creighton Fertility Care™ & NaPro TECHNOLOGY, Catholic Charities West Virginia, St. Vincent de Paul Society, WV Pregnancy Centers Coalition, and Nina Lindemuth, CNRP.

Together, we can make a difference and offer HOPE and resources to those who need us most, Barton said.

Register at [dwc.org/2023-life-expo](http://dwc.org/2023-life-expo).

For more information, contact A.J. Emery at [aemery@dwc.org](mailto:aemery@dwc.org), or (304) 233-0880, ext. 326.

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**Keynote Speaker Dr. Byron Calhoun, MD**

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**PLUS visit with and gather resources from groups to learn how they can assist your life supporting efforts!**

To register, visit [dwc.org/2023-life-expo](http://dwc.org/2023-life-expo).  
For more information, contact A.J. Emery at [aemery@dwc.org](mailto:aemery@dwc.org), or 304.233.0880, ext. 326.

# Candlelight Rosary Procession Will Be Held in Wheeling Oct. 6

**WHEELING**—Join Bishop Mark Brennan and faithful throughout the area in a Candlelight Rosary Procession praying for our church, world, and families on Friday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

The procession will begin at St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market Street, Wheeling and end at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling. A brief prayer service will occur upon arrival at the

cathedral including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

For those who are unable or would prefer not to walk in the 0.6 mile procession, the Blessed Sacrament will be ex-

posed and the rosary prayed at the cathedral, awaiting the arrival of those in the procession. Shuttle buses will also be available to transport people back to their cars following the procession.



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**Program Begins at 7:00 PM**

PROGRAM

**AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**  
*A Perspective of History*  
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**DR. DONALD PATTHOFF**  
*Faith in Fiction, History, and Reality: Presence and Possession*  
Don Patthoff is a dentist, author, editor-in-chief: "Journal of Laser Dentistry," and co-founder George Washington Institute of Living Ethics.

**Keynote: BOB O'CONNOR**  
*Priestfield and the Colonial Founding of the American Catholic Church*  
Bob O'Connor is a Civil War historian, author of over two-dozen books on Civil War history, frequent speaker and historical impersonator, and past Director of Tourism in Washington County, Maryland.

**STANLEY D. WILLIAMS, PhD**  
*Persecution of the Catholic Church in America and Writing the Wizard Clip Haunting Novel*  
Stan Williams is a filmmaker, author, Hollywood screenplay consultant, and publisher of Catholic apologetic media.

**BOOK SIGNING**

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# ‘Jesus and the Eucharist’ Series Launches Nationwide to Foster Love for Holy Eucharist

By **SueAnn Howell**

**(OSV News)** — The National Eucharistic Congress, in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Augustine Institute, has released a seven-part video series to help parishes nationwide launch small group communities to grow in faith and love for the holy Eucharist.

The guided series is hosted by Montse Alvarado, president and chief operating officer of EWTN News, and Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chair of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. The initial small group series released Sept. 14 titled, “Jesus and the Eucharist,” is the first of seven weekly sessions available on the revival’s online “LEARN” platform.

Each session opens with an exhortation from a different bishop; includes teaching from prominent theologians and influential figures in the church today; and highlights personal testimonies from everyday Catholics who have experienced the transformative power of Eucharistic love in their own lives.

The four pillars that uphold the movement of the National Eucharistic Revival are reinvigorating worship, personal encounter, robust faith formation and missionary sending. The “Jesus and the Eucharist” series was created as a tangible underpinning to the third pillar of formation.

“Our hope is that the fire which burned in the hearts of the first Christians begins to burn in our hearts in a new and powerful way, so that we can’t help but share with others what is burning within us,” Bishop Cozzens said in introducing the series. “When that happens, when we become missionaries to the whole of the Good News of our salvation in Christ, then we fulfill in our time the Great Commission which Jesus has given to us: ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.’”

Each of the lessons lasts about two hours, and the format consists of both a video and table discussion component with shared testimonials along the way and designated times for prayer.

“This study is a great ‘out-of-the-box’ solution for parishes,” explained Joel Stepanek, chief operating officer for the National Eucha-

ristic Congress. “Parishes simply need to train table facilitators and a core team to implement the study, set up a hall with tables that can seat roughly eight people, and press play.”

Session 1, called “Our Story,” offers initial background with the story of God, creation and our place in it. Sessions 2, 3, and 4 key in on the themes of Jesus, salvation and the church, and explore why God chose to establish the Christian Church. Sessions 5 to 7 focus on the sacraments of the church, specifically the transformative power of the Eucharist and its biblical roots.

“Jesus and the Eucharist” was developed specifically for the revival’s parish year by a team of Catholic experts working closely with the National Eucharistic Revival, and every parish in the country is encouraged to begin using the study. New lessons are now available for download every Thursday through Oct. 26 on the Eucharistic Revival website, [eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org).

Individuals also may access the free online series if unable to participate in a parish program.

Kris Frank, chief mission officer for the National Eucharistic Congress, said, “The hope is that the series will provide a renewed sense of formation around the Eucharist and also assist parishes in launching ongoing small group communities and initiatives. We want this to be more than just a series; but, as Bishop Cozzens says, this revival is all about a fire and not so much about a program.”

The National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the USCCB kicked off June 19, 2022, the feast of Corpus Christi. It is a movement in the United States to restore understanding and devotion to the holy Eucharist. The revival includes a cross-country pilgrimage starting in May 2024 and culminates with the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years, to be held July 17-21, 2024, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

(SueAnn Howell writes for OSV News from North Carolina.)

The National Eucharistic Congress website is <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org>. The LEARN platform, with access to the “Jesus and the Eucharist” video series, is listed under the REVIVAL section.



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[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)




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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



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**DONUTS & COFFEE 8:30AM**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# Perpetual Vows Taken by Sister Jennifer Berridge

By Joyce Bibey

Her response to God was an enthusiastic “All in,” and her beaming smile showed it.

Sister Jennifer Berridge, CSJ, made her Perpetual Profession of Vows on Sept. 16 at Mount St. Joseph Chapel in Wheeling.

According to Sister Chris Schenk, CSJ, mentor of Sister Jennifer during her formation, the newest full member of the Congregation of St. Joseph was “All in from the beginning.” Sister Chris gave the reflection after the homily at the Liturgy.

“Today, Jennifer you join a cloud of witnesses, who made a way, where there was no way,” she said speaking of her commitment to love God and serve others.

Sister Jennifer is one of

522 women and men in the US who have made their perpetual profession in US religious institutes.

Sister Chris said the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-40 shared during the liturgy reflects Sister Jennifer’s heart and is at the heart of the Sisters of St. Joseph’s charism, “Love of God and love of neighbor are one in the same.”

“The mysterious God is often painfully disguised as those who suffer,” she said, and it is Sister Jennifer’s calling to not only be a servant through her life as a religious sister, but also her profession as a case manager for Catholic Charities of West Virginia.

The crowd was on their feet and all smiles as they cheered and celebrated Sister Jennifer as she completed her vows, signed her



Sister Jennifer Berridge, CSJ

profession, but no one was more elated and fuller of genuine joy than Sister Jennifer herself. It was evident not only on her face, but thanks to a microphone nearby you could hear her so soft, genuinely happy

giggle.

As she left the sanctuary to return to her seat, she hugged her mother, Kathy Doberstyn, who through many happy tears was able to say, “I am so proud of you!”

“What a wonderful day to join us together in praise of God and in thanksgiving for a woman of our faith community, our church who wishes to dedicate herself perpetually — the rest of her life — to the service of God and neighbor,” Bishop Mark Brennan said at the beginning of the Mass. He was assisted by Deacon Paul Lim of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who works with Sister Jennifer at WVU Wheeling Hospital and her position at CCWV.

“Sister Jennifer we share your joy — you have found the Pearl of Great Price and

you are willing to sell everything else to buy it,” Bishop Brennan said at the conclusion of his homily, referencing the parable in Matthew 13:45-46. The Pearl of Great Price can be interpreted as our faith, our relationship with our loving God, and the discovery of the glories of the Kingdom of Heaven that gives us life, unity, and dignity. “In the words of the psalm (Psalm 16) today ‘You have found your path of life.’ May you have many more years to enjoy it, and be of service to your brothers and sisters.”

Sister Jennifer is originally from the Cleveland, Ohio area. She is the daughter of Kathy (Berridge) Doberstyn and late John Berridge. The family attended the Church of the Resurrection, in Solon, Ohio.

## Free CDU Seminar in October: The Art of Evangelization through Apologetics

An online seminar, The Art of Evangelization through Apologetics, will be offered by Catholic Distance University Oct. 2–23. Popular instructor Allan Wright will share the good news of Jesus Christ, whose teachings entrusted to the church encompass truth, beauty, and goodness. Learn to communicate a faith that is both relevant and foundational for one’s life, and gain the confidence to share the Gospel in an engaging, natural way and appreciate why being a credible believer is the most effective apologetic tool.

Tuition is free, thanks to a partnership with the diocese, and study can be completed when you have time available during the dates the seminar is offered. To register, visit <https://www.pathlms.com/cdu/courses/38096>. When setting up your account, be sure to use the access code, CDU20DIOCESEWC, to receive your free tuition.

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# St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Celebrating 40th Anniversary with a Ruby Jubilee Mass and Reception



Courtesy Photo

## St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake

### From St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake

On this momentous anniversary, we are reminded of the enduring spirit of faith, dedication, and community that has brought us this far. We are grateful for those who have laid the foundation for our church family... our Bishops, Priests, and Benefactors. It is their dedication and sacrifice that paved the way for our spiritual growth. We also remember those who have gone before us. Their selflessness and devotion continue to inspire us to serve you and our neighbors.

The legacy of our founders and the commitment of all who have walked this journey with us continue to inspire us as we move forward, embracing the next chapter in the history of St. Luke's Parish with faith and hope. St. Luke Parish now serves more than 350 families in the Cheat Lake area with more joining each year.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of St. Luke the Evangelist on Sunday, Sept. 24, we will come together at 4 p.m., to celebrate the thanksgiving Eucharist, presided over by Bishop Mark Brennan and concelebrated with many other priests. Following the Mass, we will continue the celebration with food and fellowship. Anniversaries serve as moments not just to reflect on the past but also to look ahead with hope. Let us remember God's blessings over the past 40 years and eagerly anticipate the bright future that lies ahead as we embrace our St. Luke Parish and continue our commitment to serve God and others while spreading the Good News to those who seek to share in the blessings of our Catholic faith.

St. Luke the Evangelist Roman

Catholic Church (Cheat Lake) Morgantown, West Virginia, was the vision of Bishop Joseph Hodges. In his 1978 memorandum to the Cheat Lake Catholic community, he wrote, "It is the policy of the Church to establish parishes where they can best serve the people and where people can support them." With this vision, Bishop Hodges and Reverend Colombo Bandiera, then pastor of St. Theresa in Morgantown, led planning and negotiations to establish a Church to meet the spiritual care of the Catholics residing in this area. The responsibility of finding a fitting place for the Church was entrusted

the Catholics residing in the area and bring them together to mold them into an active Catholic community. According to Father Larry Dorsch, the newly arrived Associate at St. Theresa, felt that an appropriate day for the first celebration should be the feast of St. Luke. Plans were made and invitations issued to all those living in Union District and to all of St. Theresa's parishioners to come celebrate at the Cheat Lake Volunteer Fire Department on Fairchance Road. It was a covered dish dinner; according to Father Dorsch, it was truly a success.

Since the first meeting with the

provided a temporary place of worship for the Catholic community for eight months. The dream of many came true with the blessing and dedication of the new mission on Sunday, April 27, 1980.

### Independence and Parish Status

During the first few years as a mission, associate pastors from St. Theresa would visit on Sundays and Holy Days to celebrate Mass. The first associate was Father Larry Dorsch followed by Father Richard Shoda. It became apparent that a resident priest was needed at the mission. Father Gary Naegele resided at the parish from 1982-1983. St. Luke was designated an independent parish in 1983, a reflection of its growing presence in the Cheat Lake community. On July 1, 1983, Father Machiewicz was appointed as the first administrator of this independent parish. The first baby to be baptized at the new church was Courtney Fleming Ballestier on July 10, 1983. The first Sacrament of Matrimony was celebrated between Mary Kayle Jolovich and Jeffery David Rackowitz on August 13, 1983.

Father Machiewicz remained at St. Luke until June 1985, and Fr. Leonard Kellerman was the administrator from 1985 to 1986. Father Fredrick Annie became the first pastor of St. Luke in 1986 and served until 1992. Msgr. Jeremiah McSweeney continued to shepherd the Parish from 1992 to 2002. With the increase of families and the increased need for education, Sister Lenore Thomas IHM was appointed pastoral associate during Msgr. McSweeney's tenure and remained at St. Luke until

See "Jubilee" on Page 10



to Fr. Bandiera. During mass at St. Theresa's on Sunday, July 30, 1978, Fr. Bandiera announced the plans for establishing a Catholic mission at Jo Glen Drive.

At this point, it was decided to engage the services of Alpha Associates, Inc., a local firm in Morgantown, to draw up some preliminary plans for the construction of the mission. Sam Bonasso of Alpha Associates was contacted, and the firm's architect, James Davison, drew up the plans.

In the meantime, Father Bandiera felt work should begin with

Catholic community went so well, another activity was planned for the evening before Thanksgiving. Fr. Dorsch celebrated the liturgy for all present. After the liturgy, a wine and cheese party took place. Father Dorsch said, "this too went very well, and everyone had a delightful time."

While the Catholic mission church was being built, the Cheat Lake Catholic community attended daily mass at the Franciscan Friary on Tyrone Road, and Sunday mass was held at the Cheat Lake Methodist Church. Both places

## Jubilee ...

### Cont'd from Page 9

September 1998. In January 1996, Mary Help of Christians in Bruce-ton Mills was established as a mis-sion church of St. Luke. It served the Catholic community in that area until 2014.

### Community and Outreach

St. Luke, our patron saint, is a great model for us all through his mercy, patience, and compassion, especially for the poor. There have been so many graces that have flowed from this parish commu-nity over the past 40 years, such as providing food to area pantries, helping with Sarah's Table to feed people who are food insecure, Christian Help annual toy drive, and collecting diapers for St. Ursu-la's to name a few. The past 40 years are merely a beginning, a down payment on the mission that God still has for us. St. Luke has much to celebrate from the past 40 years and so much to look forward to as our parishioners continue to serve the community and make Jesus Christ known and loved.

St. Luke Parish has many active groups that work to fulfill our mis-sion statement. In 2006, the St. Luke Women's Bible Study and Prayer Group was founded. This community of women gathers on Friday mornings coming together in love and fellowship, under the aegis of the Come Holy Spirit prayer, to speak and to listen, to share their hopes, dreams and vi-sions, as well as their fears, tears and challenges. They lift each other up by the act of sharing.

St. Luke has an active Catholic men's group that has been meeting every Saturday morning since April 2007. This is a great forum for Catholic men to grow in faith and to raise up one another, support one another, and learn from one another.

The Knights of Columbus Council 16530 was initiated at St. Luke in 2016 to empower Catholic men to live their faith at home, at St. Luke Parish, at work, and in the Morgantown and West Virginia communities.

### Growth of St. Luke Parish

Growth at St. Luke was faster than anticipated. Space was needed for religious education, pa-rishioner meeting rooms, and a rectory. A large addition consisting of classrooms and a rectory was completed and dedicated in No-vember 1996. Because of the con-tinued growth at St. Luke, an inde-pendent rectory was dedicated in July 2014. This allowed additional space for offices, classrooms, and



Courtesy Photo

Above is a photo of a 1979 news story on St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake, in the Dominion Post.

music ministry. Additionally, with many thanks to the overwhelming generosity of benefactors, St. Luke was able to build a beautiful grotto for its campus. The grotto was ded-

icated in October 2016 and is truly a beautiful place of prayer and peace for all to encounter Jesus through Mary. Then, in 2017, St. Luke celebrated the completion of

the new kitchen, where parishio-ners gather for events like the an-nual fish fry and experience Christ in a personal way while serving others.



Courtesy Photo

Above is a photo of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake, in 1980.

# Good Shepherd Board Appoints New Administrator

**WHEELING**—Bishop Mark E. Brennan and the Board of Directors of the Welty Home for the Aged, Inc. have selected Morgan Murphy as administrator of Good Shepherd Nursing Home. Murphy is Good Shepherd's assistant administrator and regulatory and compliance officer. The appointment was announced by Elizabeth Gates, a member of the Good Shepherd board and chair of the search committee.

Murphy will succeed Donald R. Kirsch, who has served as Good Shepherd administrator for 43 years. The two will work together for the next six months to ensure a smooth transition; Murphy will assume her new post on March 1.

The new administrator is a Wheeling native who is a graduate of Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialty in health services for long-term care at West Liberty University. She also earned a master's degree in health care administration from Ohio University and is a Licensed Nursing Home administrator.

She thanked Bishop Brennan and the Welty Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve as the next manager/administrator of the Welty Home for the Aged, Inc. "I am extremely honored to be given this opportunity," she said.

Gates and a committee of six Good Shepherd board members, Good Shepherd's nursing director and its admissions director focused on the job description and determined what they were looking for in an administrator. "We want to continue the fine tradition of care and the culture of Good Shepherd," she said.

The search committee met with the nursing home's human resources director to create a job description that specified professional criteria, certifications, and experience, and posted it in-house, online, and in statewide publications. The search committee considered all applica-



**Morgan Murphy**

tions and eventually conducted intensive in-person interviews with several candidates.

"Morgan Murphy has the confidence of the Board of Directors to meet the challenges associated with caring for the aged with empathy and professionalism, and to manage the facilities of the Welty organization," Gates said. "Her education and experience have provided her with the foundation required for this post."

Murphy has been a familiar face at Good Shepherd since she was a child. She often accompanied her father, Don Kirsch, as he visited with residents and families and remembers being part of a group of piano students who performed music recitals for residents. "I spent much of my childhood accompanying my dad to various events at Good Shepherd Nursing Home and because of that, I have always felt that this is an extension of my family," she said. "I've worked within the Welty Corporation for over ten years, and I would not be who I am today without this organization."

Kirsch said Murphy is well prepared to become Good Shepherd's administrator. "Randy Forzano, my colleague of 38 years, and I have spent Morgan's entire adult life preparing her for this type of opportu-

nity not if, but when and where it became available," he said. "Now that the opportunity has arrived with the Welty Corporation, I know that I can speak for Randy when I say that Morgan is the right person, with the right skill set, at the right time to carry the legacy of Clara Welty forward into the next generation. All corporations should be so fortunate."

Murphy's job preparation began in her teenage years, when she helped with resident activities at Good Shepherd and worked evenings and summers as a receptionist. Before joining the Good Shepherd staff as regulatory and compliance director in 2017, she completed a year-long administrator-in-training program at Good Shepherd, then was named manager of skilled rehabilitation and long-term care facility at East Ohio Regional Hospital. She later served as a physician integration specialist at the Ohio Valley Health Services & Education Corporation.

"I was fortunate to be surrounded by great mentors, in particular my dad. There is no denying the love and dedication he has for the Welty organization, and I am proud to have learned from the best and thankful that I share the same level of passion in caring for the elderly," Murphy said.

"With the knowledge he and others have shared with me over the years, I am confident that I am prepared for this role," she said. "I am excited to continue this journey and enhance the corporation's high level of care and services provided to so many in our community."

Good Shepherd Nursing Home is part of a continuum of senior living options offered by the non-profit Welty Corporation to deliver the features that discerning seniors need and want. In addition to Good Shepherd, the Welty Corporation operates the Welty Home, which consists of 52 assisted living suites for seniors who need some help in managing daily living tasks. Welty Corporation also maintains 121 comfortable, maintenance-free apartments for seniors in the Clara Welty Apartments at 1276 National Road, Bertha Welty Apartments at 1315 National Road, Welty TownHomes at 1287 National Road, and Braddock Apartments at 153 Edgington Lane. These properties are designed for people who want to live independently but appreciate the added measures of comfort and security of apartment living. For information call (304) 242-1093 or visit [www.weltyhome.org](http://www.weltyhome.org).

## Good Shepherd is hiring nurses!

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# Pledge Now. Pay Later. #MillionRosaries4WV

By Joyce Bibey

Upon seeing the tally marker for the One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV slowly edging beyond 173,000, Sister Martha Gomez said, "I'm praying for prayers!" She said she can't say it loud enough "Pledge now, and pay later!" Wait what is she saying? In our case we all need to make our pledges now for our future rosaries to include the intention of increased vocations in WV – so, "PLEDGE NOW AND PRAY LATER," she said. "We need our international priests, religious, and laity in WV to share it with their home countries, so our voices around the world are praying for us."

### Mission Showering Blessings

It is no secret that the One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV is doing more than offering our prayers for vocations. It is a renewal of a devotion. It is even an re-introductory for those who never or rarely said the Rosary. It is giving ownership to those who want to see and support faithful vocations in WV. Most importantly, it is uniting us across the

state to raise our voices young and old alike to Heaven.

Groups are gathering to make rosaries; our Catholic schools are sharing heartwarming images of their students and staff gathering to mediate on the Rosary; and faithful are stepping up, forming rosary groups at work, in their homes, or online.

"I am encouraged at how so many people in our diocese, including in our schools, are turning to the Rosary to pray for vocations," said Director of Vocations and Pastor of St. John's University Parish Father Brian Crenwelge.

"As the vocation director, I can see the fruit of the prayers of the faithful of WV and our bishop for vocations. Other than the Mass and the Divine Office, the Rosary has been advocated as the most powerful prayer. I hope that this pledge will enable people who normally didn't pray the Rosary regularly before to continue praying it on their own for vocations. As Pope St. Pius X once said, 'If there were one million families praying the Rosary every day, the entire world would be saved,'" he said.

# PLEDGE NOW! <sup>R</sup><sub>A</sub>Y LATER!



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# Run so as to Win, Live so as to Die

**By Joe Derico, seminarian of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at St. John Paul II Seminary, Washington, D.C.**

St. Paul says in his first epistle to the Corinthians, "Run so as to win. (9:24-27)" This great line in the Bible is probably one of the best known and by far one of the most quoted. It is a great exhortation to the cardinal virtue of fortitude, one of the hinges so to speak of our moral life. Without fortitude, it is quite difficult for us to attempt any task. It is necessarily, one aspect of life that we need to possess in order to live according to the will of the Father. Fortitude however, I believe, is one of the virtues most lacking in my generation, and undoubtedly in the ones preceding as well. We are a people who seem to no longer have the fortitude to carry on in life. So many people are afraid of commitment, or dare I say, of trying to do what it takes to maintain that commitment. Look no further than the percentage of marriages that end in a divorce, or to priestly attrition rates. We have become a people without the grit that those who lived through World War II and the great depression possessed, and we need to reclaim it or else we will be farther away from the life to which the Lord is calling us.

I believe one way that we can grow in this virtue of fortitude is to live as if we have a supernatural purpose to our lives. As if we were created for something. As if God (and the evil one) existed. In no other part of our human existence is our lack of fortitude made more manifest. We chose to live our lives as if we are God. As if we establish the rules by which we have to live, and as if we can change them at any opportunity. We have lost, so to speak, our spiritual grit. I drew a contrast of recent generations to

that of those who lived through the depression. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the great author of the Sherlock Holmes Mysteries, drew the same contrast more than 100 years ago. He said, "In those simple times there was a great wonder and mystery in life. Man walked in fear and solemnity, with Heaven very close above his head, and Hell below his very feet. God's visible hand was everywhere, in the rainbow and the comet, in the thunder and the wind. The Devil, too, raged openly upon the earth; he skulked behind the hedgerows in the gloaming; he laughed loudly in the night-time; he clawed the dying sinner, pounced on the unbaptized babe, and twisted the limbs of the epileptic."

We have ceased living as if God and Satan exist, and we need to reclaim that sense of mystery that those older generations possessed. If you were attempting to get a new job, presumably a higher position, something which would enable you to better yourself, you would not be content with barely filling out the minimum requirements on the application, and providing little information in your resumé. Rather, you would do everything that you could, to make yourself seem the most attractive person for the job. You would dress well for the interview, and tell the interviewer the best information about yourself. Why do we not treat our spiritual goals in the same way? We refuse to run the race of life so as to win that imperishable crown of glory of which St. Paul speaks, but rather, we content ourselves with the crown of perishable greenery, which will wither and fade.

We need only live our lives as if we were really trying to attain heaven, not simply providing some half-hearted effort hoping that we might be able to tell St.

Peter at the heavenly gates that we tried our best (knowing of course that this is not the case). A significant part of that is discerning what vocation the Lord is calling us to in life.

To be sure, God calls all of us to a vocation, whether it be that of the married life, the Sacred Priesthood, or to Consecrated life. The primary goal of our lives however, is what St. John Paul II, and his successors have referred to as the universal call to holiness. This universal call, means that all of us have a primary vocation to be holy people, and then our secondary vocation is that calling that we receive from the Lord, which is designed to aid us in our primary vocation. If any of us have this disillusion of believing that the order of these vocations is other than that which I have stated, then they also have some serious questions to ask themselves about how they are living their secondary vocation.

If a married couple is not living their vocation in order that their union may serve as a form of sanctification to each other and themselves, then they have totally disregarded the purpose of their voca-

tion. The same may be said of the priestly vocation. A priest must live his life, constantly fighting the battle for holiness, of which we are all so painfully aware, but also fighting for holiness in his people. If he compromises on the "difficult" teachings of the church, or avoids speaking of them at the pulpit, then he too, has forgotten his vocation. The same properly may be said of a consecrated religious, who are called to live their call to holiness in accord with the rule which they observe, and the constitutions of their order. Any failure to do so, constitutes a failure to properly live their vocation. Let us not forget the words of the Lord in St. Matthew's Gospel, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." (18: 5-7) Our secondary vocations then, that work to which God is calling us in life is designed not only to aid us in our vocation to holiness, but also to aid others. For married people, this is most properly the children that they are called to bring forth.

**See "Live" on Page 14**

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# Live ...

**Cont'd from Page 13**

For priests, the souls entrusted to their care. For active religious, the souls with whom they work, and all of those that they encounter in their apostolate. For contemplative religious, the souls for whom they are bound to pray each day, often the universal church.

All of these things are important for us to remember in our lives. Many religious, pray the vows that they once made before their superior, each day, in order that they might be reminded of their mission. I believe that the same could easily be said of any vocations. Married people, renew your vows before God each day. How many

marriages have ended because the married parties have forgotten that they made solemn vows before God and his church, and have failed to live them out? For priests too, renew your vows in front of the Lord in the blessed sacrament each day. Let them renew your faith and vigor for preaching the gospel that you had on that day you made them before your bishop.

Our vocation should lead us to fulfill the great commission given us in the Gospel: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Mt 28:19-20)" Simply put, live your life as if you have a real mission; because you do, and should you forget it, you run the risk of leading yourself, and through scandal, other souls (for priests and religious this element of the equation is especially notable), to hell. And on that judgement day, in front of our Lord, you may very well run the risk of hearing Jesus say, "Woe to you."

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# El presidente del comité provida de los obispos pide una 'solidaridad radical' con las mujeres embarazadas y madres

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — Los esfuerzos provida de Estados Unidos "deben seguir siendo fuertes para poner fin al aborto legalizado" en esta nación, pero todos los católicos tienen la responsabilidad personal de acompañar a las mujeres que enfrentan embarazos difíciles o desafiantes, dijo el presidente del Comité de Actividades Provida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB).

El obispo Michael F. Burbidge de Arlington, Virginia, invitó a los católicos a una "solidaridad radical" con las mujeres embarazadas en una declaración del 18 de septiembre para conmemorar el 50 aniversario del Mes del Respeto a la Vida en octubre. Los obispos estadounidenses reservaron el mes "como un tiempo para centrarse en proteger el precioso don de Dios de la vida humana", dijo.

"Si bien poner fin al aborto legalizado sigue siendo nuestra principal prioridad, la forma más inmediata de salvar a los bebés y a las madres del aborto es rodear completamente a las madres necesitadas de apoyo vital y acompañamiento personal. Esto es solidaridad radical", dijo el obispo Burbidge.

San Juan Pablo II definió por primera vez la "solidaridad radical" de esta manera, dijo el obispo, citando el libro del Papa "Cruzando el umbral de la esperanza" (1994): "Al rechazar firmemente el concepto 'pro-elección' es necesario volverse va-

lientemente 'pro mujer', promoviendo una elección verdaderamente a favor de las mujeres. La única postura honesta, en estos casos, es la de una solidaridad radical con la mujer. No está bien dejarla sola".

"Ser radicalmente solidarios con las mujeres que están embarazadas o criando hijos en circunstancias difíciles significa poner en acción nuestro amor por ellas y anteponer sus necesidades a las nuestras", dijo el obispo Burbidge. "El Papa Francisco nos recuerda que la solidaridad 'se refiere a algo más que unos pocos actos esporádicos de generosidad. Presume la creación de una nueva mentalidad', una transformación dentro de nuestros propios corazones".

El obispo Burbidge dijo que hay mucho que celebrar por la anulación del caso Roe vs. Wade por parte de la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos. En junio de 2022, el tribunal superior anuló sus fallos anteriores que hacían que el acceso al aborto fuera un derecho constitucional: su decisión Roe de 1973 y su fallo de 1992 en Planned Parenthood vs. Casey, que confirmó Roe. La decisión del tribunal en el caso Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization devolvió la cuestión de la regulación del aborto a los estados.

Veintidós estados han tomado medidas para prohibir o restringir el aborto, aunque no todos esos esfuerzos están actualmente en vigor en

medio de impugnaciones judiciales.

"Si bien agradecemos a Dios que el terrible reinado de Roe haya terminado, también reconocemos que el aborto aún continúa en la mayoría de los estados y se promueve agresivamente a nivel federal", dijo el obispo Burbidge. "Todavía se necesitan desesperadamente muchas oraciones, sacrificios y buenas obras para transformar una cultura de muerte en una cultura de vida. Nuestro testimonio público, nuestra marcha y defensa deben continuar, pues las leyes por sí solas no pondrán fin a la tragedia del aborto".

Pero "la nueva mentalidad" de la que habla el Papa Francisco "requiere que nos amemos a las madres vulnerables en una profunda amistad, compasión y apoyo tanto para ellas como para sus hijos no nacidos", dijo el obispo Burbidge.

Esto también "significa abordar los desafíos fundamentales que llevan a una futura madre a creer que no puede acoger al niño que Dios le ha confiado", continuó. "Esto incluye esfuerzos colectivos dentro de nuestras diócesis, parroquias, escuelas y comunidades locales, participación en el ámbito público y la búsqueda de políticas que ayuden a apoyar tanto a las mujeres como a sus bebés no nacidos".

"Esto requiere aún más nuestro compromiso individual y personal para ayudar a las madres de nuestras pro-

pias comunidades a obtener apoyo material, emocional y espiritual para abrazar el don de la vida", dijo. "La solidaridad radical significa ir más allá del status quo y salir de nuestras zonas de confort".

Un ejemplo del alcance de la Iglesia a las madres embarazadas y madres es la iniciativa nacional y parroquial de los obispos de EE.UU. "Camina con madres necesitadas".

"(Esta iniciativa) proporciona instrucciones paso a paso fáciles de seguir para ayudar a transformar las parroquias en lugares de acogida, apoyo y asistencia para las madres embarazadas y madres que enfrentan dificultades", explicó, instando a los católicos a involucrarse en la iniciativa.

En su declaración, el obispo Burbidge incluyó una serie de preguntas que, según dijo, los católicos deben hacerse: "¿Sé qué esfuerzos se están realizando en mi área para ayudar a las mujeres que están embarazadas o son madres en circunstancias difíciles? ¿Cuáles son las necesidades? ¿Cuáles son mis dones y talentos? ¿Cómo puedo ajustar mi cronograma o presupuesto para ayudar a las madres necesitadas y a sus hijos?"

"La solidaridad radical se puede vivir de innumerables maneras", dijo, "incluido hacer voluntariado en el centro de embarazo local; ayudar a una futura madre a encontrar una vivienda estable; cuidar niños para que una madre pueda trabajar o tomar clases;

brindar aliento y escuchar a una mamá sin un sistema de apoyo; o hablar con su párroco sobre comenzar una iniciativa de Camina con Mamas Necesitadas en su parroquia".

Junto a buscar lograr "leyes y políticas provida" está la necesidad de transformar la cultura, que "requiere una conversión continua de nuestros propios corazones, para que podamos reconocer en cada persona el rostro de Cristo y anteponer sus necesidades a las nuestras", dijo el obispo Burbidge.

Concluyó su declaración reiterando su invitación a todos los católicos "a pensar en construir una cultura de la vida en términos de solidaridad radical" durante el Mes del Respeto a la Vida en octubre.

"Somos la Iglesia. Nuestras oraciones, testimonios, sacrificios, defensa y buenas obras son necesarias ahora más que nunca", dijo. "Somos las manos y los pies de Cristo en el mundo de hoy y cada uno de nosotros tiene la responsabilidad personal de cuidar unos de otros".

Para obtener más información sobre cómo celebrar el Mes del Respeto a la Vida, visite <https://www.respectlife.org/celebrate/> que tiene artículos, oraciones, recursos y un conjunto de herramientas para líderes parroquiales en inglés y español. El sitio web de Camina con Mamas Necesitadas es <https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/>

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

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

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de [www.dwc.org](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

Fall 2023

Bishop Mark E. Brennan,  
Celebrant

Monday, October 23: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg;  
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19: Sacred Heart, Bluefield; 9:00 a.m.

**The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality**

*Embracing My Personal Journey:  
Learning the Art of Aging and Dying Well*  
(Conference offered via Zoom)

**Presented by:**  
**Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph.D., AAPC-Fellow,  
LPC ALPS**



**Saturday, November 11, 2023  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

To live is to change. Age is a gift. Dying is an art. During this program, reflective strategies are provided to assist participants in coming to terms with life and death for themselves or a loved one. Hospice, palliative care, caregivers, and those in the helping professions will benefit from time to process. Topics of grieving, diminishment, companionship, and the resources for personal integration are provided. At the conclusion of the program participants will:

1. Have resources for personal reflection and integration for their own dying and aging
2. Grasp aspects of diminishment in daily dying
3. Gather resources for companionship of those dying

**Register online:** You can register for this program by emailing [wvisreg@gmail.com](mailto:wvisreg@gmail.com). Please indicate the title of this program in your email to ensure you are registered for the correct program. You will receive an email confirming your registration along with information on making your offering either by credit card or check. *Please note that certificates will be awarded to participants who keep their ZOOM cameras on and fully participate in all sessions of the program.*

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 10, 2023**  
**OFFERING:** \$50.00 (includes materials, and certificate)

**CEUs will be requested and/or approved for:**  
**Social Workers – SW (5 CEUs), Registered Nurses – RN and Licensed Professional Counselors – LPC (5.75 CEUs)**

**Questions: Tel. (304) 345-0926 OR  
E-mail: [wvisreg@gmail.com](mailto:wvisreg@gmail.com) [www.wvis.org](http://www.wvis.org)**



The Office of Social Ministry Presents



# Catholic in Recovery

## OCTOBER 17 • 6:30 P.M.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, WHEELING

**FREE EVENT**

### SPEAKER - SCOTT WEEMAN



Scott Weeman is a beloved son of God, a husband, and a father. He is the founder of Catholic in Recovery, a community of men and women seeking freedom from a variety of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Scott is the author of *The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments* and editor/compiler of *The Catholic in Recovery Workbook*, both published by Ave Maria Press.

He holds a master's degree in clinical counseling from Point Loma Nazarene University and is an associate marriage and family therapist. Scott and his family live in San Diego, California.

### PRESENTATION

#### **Finding Freedom from Addictions, Compulsions, & Unhealthy Attachments**

The allure of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments related to alcohol, drugs, food, lust, money, codependency, and many others seek to separate us from God, isolate us from our families, and leave us empty. While sharing personal experience, strength, and hope, Scott Weeman offers key spiritual insight rooted in Catholic faith and 12-step recovery wisdom on how to avoid these temptations and find freedom if already in the grip of addiction.

**Discover more about Catholic in Recovery and our speaker at  
[CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM](http://CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM)**

For information about this event, contact the parish office at 304-242-1560

## Preschool Teacher Sought

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking a lead teacher for one of its 2-year-old classes.

Job responsibilities include ensuring the daily care of every child by following all licensing guidelines and the school's standards of care.

Job requirements include:

Must be at least 21 years old

Ability to meet state licensing requirements

Minimum of two years experience working in early-childhood programs

A minimum of an associate degree is preferred.

Salary: \$27,000 to \$29,000 per year

Benefits: 401(k), dental insurance, health insurance, life insurance, paid time off, retirement plan, vision insurance

Please send a letter of introduction and résumé to Katie MacKinnon at [kmackinnon@sjswv.org](mailto:kmackinnon@sjswv.org).



**9.30.2023**  
**Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**  
 Washington, DC

YOU are invited to a day-long pilgrimage event at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on September 30, 2023. Hear life-changing talks from Dominican Friars, participate in Mass, and, of course, pray the Rosary — all in our country's capital together with thousands of other Catholics.





LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP!

**DOMINICAN ROSARY PILGRIMAGE**  
 Visit [rosarypilgrimage.org](http://rosarypilgrimage.org) and follow us @dominicanrosary.

  

**"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."**  
 -Matthew 25:40

**ST. THOMAS PARISH, GASSAWAY & RISEN LORD MISSION, CLAY**  
 were 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal Food Pantry Grant Recipients. Together they feed 310-330 families each month and send approximately 330 children home with food bags each week.

**Together we can do more to support our brothers and sisters in need!**



*Click the Link to Donate Today!*  
[dwc.org/CSA](http://dwc.org/CSA)



# ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

**THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA**

Learn more at: [MyWVUHeart.com](http://MyWVUHeart.com)  
**Appointments: 304-243-8362**

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

**OUR TEAM**



David Michael Campsey MD  
 Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
 Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD  
 Cardiology

**WVU Heart & Vascular Institute**