



U.S. Synod Report Finds Participants Share Common Hopes, Lingering Pain

By **Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics across the country continue to feel wounded by the clergy abuse crisis, seek a more welcoming church in which their “lived reality” is prioritized over rules and regulations, and desire lifelong spiritual, pastoral and catechetical formation as disciples, according to a report synthesizing the 10-month synodal process in dioceses.

Participants in the process also ex-

pressed concern that the U.S. Catholic Church is deeply divided and that a lack of unity exists among the bishops, spoke of a desire to “accompany with authenticity” LGBTQ+ individuals and their families, and voiced hope that laypeople’s gifts would be more widely utilized in a spirit of collaboration throughout the church, the report said.

Released Sept. 19 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the report summarizes the concerns, hopes, pains and desires voiced by an

estimated 700,000 participants who joined thousands of listening sessions and other events during the diocesan phase in the lead-up to the Synod of Bishops on synodality in October 2023.

There are roughly 66.8 million Catholics in the U.S., according to the report, meaning more than 1% of Catholics participated in the listening sessions.

“The listening is an opening movement toward a wise discernment locally, regionally and na-

tionally about what our deepest concerns, our deepest hopes are right now at this moment in time,” Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, who is overseeing the U.S. involvement in the synodal process, told Catholic News Service.

Bishop Flores, who chairs the USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine, said the process that has unfolded since October — and led to the 16-page synthesis report sent to the Vatican — enabled people to respectfully

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Bishop Honors Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, First Responders at Blue Mass in Wheeling

By **Colleen Rowan**

In his celebration of the Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, Bishop Mark Brennan bestowed a blessing upon law enforcement officers, firefighters, and all first responders.

“We need you, we thank you, and we want to show in this Mass we do appreciate what you do,” the bishop said to them at the beginning of the Mass.

Asking God to send down his blessings on these, his servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others, Bishop Brennan prayed at the end of Mass, “Grant them courage when they are afraid, wisdom when they must make quick decisions, strength when they are weary, and compassion in all their work. When the alarm sounds and they are called to aid both friend and stranger, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Joining the bishop in honoring them was Deacon Doug Breiding of the cathedral who gave the homily for the Sept. 17 Mass.

The Mass was sponsored by the cathedral and the Knights of Columbus Charles Carroll Assembly 1185 of Wheeling. Matt Koval, a member of 1185, said the assembly wanted to

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Bishop Mark Brennan is pictured with City of Wheeling Fire Department Chief Jim Blazier, right, and Captain Steven Moore, left, following the Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 17.

Colleen Rowan Photo

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listen to each other and develop a new understanding of what life in the church can be.

"It's an important step that gives us an experience as a local church," Bishop Flores said. "That's why I think it's always important to see that this is a seed that is planted and has a chance to grow. I think that's what the Holy Father is asking for us."

Titled "National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America for the Diocesan Phase of the 2021-2023 Synod," the report was prepared in advance of the Synod of Bishops called by Pope Francis.

The synod's theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission."

The report is the synthesis of 290 documents received by the USCCB from various contributors. The report said the documents "represent over 22,000 reports from individual parishes and other groups" that emerged from more than 30,000 opportunities to join the synodal process.

The national synthesis report draws from the 14 intermediate syntheses submitted by teams from each of the geographic regions of the U.S. church. All 178 Latin dioceses and archdioceses submitted syntheses that were incorporated into the regional reports.

The 18 Eastern Catholic eparchies and archeparchies, which make up a separate region under the USCCB, sub-

mitted their reports directly to the Vatican.

For the process, the USCCB created a 16th "region" for the numerous Catholic national ministries, universities, associations and organizations working throughout the country. Those organizations submitted 112 summary reports.

In a letter introducing the report, Bishop Flores described the document as "an attempt to synthesize and contextualize the common joys, hopes and wounds called forth with the help of the Holy Spirit in the unfolding of the synod."

"While not a complete articulation of the many topics and perspectives shared in the listening process, this synthesis is an attempt to express the broader themes that seemed most prevalent in the dioceses and regions of our country," he wrote.

The report is divided into four themes: "Enduring Wounds," "Enhancing Communion and Participation," "Ongoing Formation for Mission" and "Engaging Discernment." Each section summarizes common observations raised in the listening sessions.

It includes directly quoted descriptions of common concerns, hopes and desires from individual regional reports raised in the local listening sessions.

The report cites several "enduring wounds" expressed during the sessions. In addition to the still unfolding effects of the sexual abuse crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to

exact a toll on the sense of community people felt before the virus swept around the world in 2020.

"The pandemic itself 'has led to the fraying of our communities in some ways, accelerating a trend toward disengagement and intensifying the isolation and loneliness of many, youth and elderly in particular. A large number of faithful have not yet returned to worship,'" the report said, quoting the Region 12 submission from Northwestern states.

Divisiveness and polarization in the church was a concern expressed in multiple regional reports. The Region 9 report covering four Midwestern states said division over the celebration of the Eucharist is disconcerting, particularly when it comes to the pre-Vatican II Mass.

"The limited access to the 1962 missal was lamented; many felt that the difference over how to celebrate the liturgy 'sometimes reach the level of animosity. People on each side of the issue reported feeling judged by those who differ from them,'" the national synthesis report said quoting the Region 9 submission.

Other concerns were expressed by people who feel marginalized. The report said marginalized people fall into two broad groups.

One made up of those who are vulnerable by their lack of social or economic power, including those with disabilities, the mentally ill, immigrants, ethnic minorities, people in the U.S. without documents, the unborn and

their mothers, and those living in poverty, who are homeless, are incarcerated or living with an addiction.

The second group includes women, "whose voices are frequently marginalized in the decision-making processes of the church," the report said. Others in the group include those who are marginalized "because circumstances in their own lives are experienced as impediments to full participation in the life of the church" including members of the LGBTQ+ community and people who are divorced and may have remarried, and those civilly married.

"The synodal consultations around the enduring wounds caused by the clergy sexual abuse scandal, the pandemic, polarization and marginalization have exposed a deep hunger for healing and the strong desire for communion, community, and a sense of belonging and being united," the national synthesis report said.

Under the theme of "Enhancing Communion and Participation," the sacramental life of the church and the spirit of welcome within the church were addressed. The report found that the wounds expressed among participants in listening sessions could be addressed by the church being more welcoming to those not in the mainstream.

Quoting the Region 13 report from Southwestern states, the synthesis report said participants were concerned with "obstacles to community within their parishes, partly due to the divisive

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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:

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

To Report to Civil Authorities:

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

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

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

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



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Governor Signs West Virginia Abortion Ban

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—On Sept. 16, Gov. Jim Justice announced he had signed into law a bill banning most abortions in West Virginia.

“I’ve done exactly what I said I would do — I’ve signed it,” Justice told reporters. He said he’s “proud that I signed it and I believe wholeheartedly that it does one thing that is absolutely so important — it does protect life.”

With his signature, the bill immediately became law in West Virginia. It bans 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.

H.B. 302 was passed by the Senate 22-7 and by the House of Delegates 78-17.

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political climate and resulting polarization within the country.”

People in the region also identified the centrality of the Eucharist as a “source of hope for greater unity.” They said in addition that “receiving Eucharist does bring them more closely in solidarity with the poor,” according to the synthesis report.

Concerns about racism within the church and the lack of welcome to diverse cultural and ethnic communities emerged in listening sessions. The elderly, the report said, were particularly hurt by the departure of young people from church life.

“Young people themselves voiced a feeling of exclusion and desired to participate more fully as members of the parish community,” the synthesis report said.

The synthesis report also included the observation that “nearly all synodal consultations shared a deep appreciation for the powerful impact of women religious who have consistently led the way in carrying out the mission of the church.”

Participants in listening sessions expressed a “desire for stronger leadership, discernment and decision-making roles for women — both lay and religious — in their parishes and communities.”

The synthesis report said a common hope that emerged nationwide was the “desire for lifelong spiritual, pastoral and catechetical

formation as disciples.” Discussions in the sessions “made clear the importance of evangelization as we continue to live out the church’s mission, which requires stronger formation.”

Steps would include accompanying with families in their formation as people long for a closer encounter with Jesus.

Suggestions also emerged on the need to “journey together” in the formation of clergy. The Region 5 intermediate report from Southern states suggested such formation was needed to better understand human and pastoral needs, cultural sensitivity, stronger emphasis on social justice, how to include laypeople in decision-making and “learning to speak with empathy, creativity and compassion.”

Laypeople, the synthesis report said, also expressed hope that a genuine appreciation for their gifts and talents would grow into a “relationship of collaboration” with pastors.

The final theme, “Engaging Discernment,” concluded that the diocesan phase of the synodal process was the first step in a church rooted in synodality, or walking together.

The synthesis report said the process enabled thousands of people to reengage “in the simple practice of gathering, praying together and listening to one another.”

It invited people to commit to “ongoing attentive listening, respectful encounter and prayerful discernment.”

Going forward, the report called for continued engagement with

communities that did not participate broadly in the listening sessions particularly Indigenous people, ethnic communities and immigrants.

“Engaging and discerning with our sisters and brothers who experience the woundedness of marginalization, as well as those whose voice were underrepresented within the synodal process, will be essential for the unfolding of the synodal journey in our dioceses and in our country,” the report said.

The next phase in preparation for the Synod of Bishops is being called the continental phase. It will find teams gathering by continent to synthesize the reports submitted to the Vatican thus far. Synod officials will prepare the “instrumentum laboris,” or working document, to guide continental or regional ecclesial assemblies that will take place by March.

The North American report will be submitted by the U.S. and Canada. Bishop Flores said some preliminary outreach has already occurred among the teams from the two nations. Other continental reports will involve significantly larger gatherings of teams from individual ecclesial assemblies.

Those assemblies will produce another set of documents that will help in the drafting of a second working document for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

The synod is expected to produce a final document on how synodality can be practiced throughout the church.

The Eucharist
Through the Lens of the Old Testament Texts

Presenter: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Dianne Bergant, CSA is the Carroll Stuhlmüller, 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.

October 6, 2022 | 6:00PM
St. John Catholic Church
1704 Webster Rd.,
Summersville, WV 26651
(304) 872-2554

Mass..

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honor those who protect and serve the community as they embody the four pillars of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Among those in attendance were City of Wheeling Fire Department Chief Jim Blazier and Captain Steven Moore; Ohio County Homeland Security Director Lou Vargo; and Chief Deputy John Schultz and Major Doug Ernest of the Ohio County Sheriff's Department.

Deacon Breiding told the congregation that more first responders had planned to attend but were unable to because of an emergency. "Right now there is an active incident going on and they are taking care of matters," he said. "So, we should keep them always in our prayers and especially during this Mass."

Deacon Breiding began his homily by thanking Bishop Brennan for giving him the honor to preach. Deacon Breiding shared with the congregation and the honored guests that he has some experience as a first responder.

"I have a fondness for the Ohio County Sheriff's Department," he said, going back to the 1980s when he was an Oglebay Park ranger. There, he worked the night shift and got to meet many of the deputies over a cup of coffee and breaking bread along with response to incidents and accidents in the park.

Deacon Breiding also served for a time as a certified EMT.

"I ran with one of the county squads," Deacon Breiding said. "And my heart goes with all them, especially when I hear the sirens going. It still brings back fond memories and yet also a matter of hoping for the best for all involved. So, a warm welcome to our guests."

The doors of the cathedral are always open, Deacon Breiding said to the first responders gathered, saying that the church can provide a place to find quiet and peace.

"You're welcome to come in," he said, "to spend some time and just to be able to assess what's going on. Just to get away from all the noise."

He encouraged them to "take a brief moment and ask for proper guidance" when they need it, when they turn the emergency lights on.

"I can remember when I flipped the lights," Deacon Breiding said, "I certainly didn't know what I was heading into on some occasions. ... I think we have a duty to all these first responders and I would like to encourage all of us to keep them in our daily prayers."

But also, he continued, "every time you hear a siren, the squad car, the engine, the ambulance, (see) the lights, to pause for just a brief moment, say a prayer for these men and women. They put their lives on the line to go in the face of danger as we all leave that danger."

"Our prayers are with you," he said. "We are certainly grateful for all that you do, that you continue to do."

He again encouraged all gathered to pray for all first responders, making the best of the situation that they are involved in "for the greater glory."

Following Deacon Breiding's homily, Bishop Brennan spoke of the history of the Blue Mass and the priest who began this celebration in 1934. At that time, Msgr. Thomas Dade was serving at St. Patrick Parish, the oldest church in Washington, D.C., when it was still part of the Baltimore Archdiocese, the bishop explained. Msgr. Dade was a chaplain for the police and the

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Colleen Rowan Photo

The City of Wheeling Fire Department Honor Guard salutes the American and West Virginia flags at the beginning of the Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 17.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan bestows a blessing upon law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders at the Blue Mass.



Colleen Rowan Photos

From left: City of Wheeling Fire Department Captain Steven Moore rings the bell for the Last Bell Ceremony at the end of the Blue Mass; Chief Deputy John Schultz and Major Doug Ernest of the Ohio County Sheriff's Department and Wally McMasters of the Valley Grove Fire Department are pictured during the Mass.

Mass..

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fire department of Washington, and so he started the Blue Mass for them.

In 1947, Washington was separated from Baltimore and became the Archdiocese of Washington, where Bishop Brennan previously served. "I knew him (Msgr. Dade). When I was there for that diocese in the mid 1970s, he was still there," Bishop Brennan said, remembering Msgr. Dade as "a very active, vigorous pastor of a large parish, a real go-getter. During World War II he organized all kinds of things for the servicemen who were stationed in Washington, including my dad," who was being trained for radio operations on aircraft.

With all that Msgr. Dade did in his priesthood, especially starting the Blue Mass, he was "a priest to really serve the people," Bishop Brennan said. "He saw the need and responded."

Before the bishop bestowed the blessing upon first responders toward the end of Mass, Blazier led a Last Bell Ceremony. He explained to the congregation that throughout history the lives of first responders have been closely associated with the ringing of a bell.

"As they began their hours of duty it was the bell that started it," he shared. "Both day and night, each alarm was sounded by a bell and called them to aid their community and place their lives in jeopardy for the good of their fellow man."

When the incident had been resolved and the

alarm had come to an end, he said, a bell would sound, box 131, to signify that all responders had returned home safely.

"Today, we would like to honor those first responders who have passed before us," Blazier said, "their duties complete and they have returned home. The bell will now ring, box 131, in memory of and in tribute to their life and service."

Moore then rang the bell five times in the back of the cathedral.

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

Diocesan Rosary Congress

October 1-8 in Parishes across the State

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.

Below are locations, dates, and times. Plans have not been finalized for the Clarksburg, Martinsburg, and Parkersburg vicariates. For updates, visit dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/

Beckley Vicariate

- Oct. 1, St. Peter Parish, Welch, 3-4 p.m.;
- Oct. 2, Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield, 6 p.m.;
- Oct. 3, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley, 6-8 p.m.;
- 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, 6-8 p.m.

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.;
- Oct. 6, Church of the Ascension, Hurricane, 6 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.)



Instructional Masses Focus on Christ's Gift of the Eucharist

Second in the Series at St. Leo's Sunday at 4 p.m.

By Joyce Bibey

The first Instructional Mass celebrated in this Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival was held in Wheeling last week. The second in the series will be held at St. Leo in Inwood at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25.

Attending an Instructional Mass can give you a fresh set of eyes and a greater sense of purpose and thanksgiving. Sure, the Instructional Mass is perfect for the RCIA class, confirmation candidates, and those married or in a rela-



Msgr. Rick Hilgartner

tionship with a Catholic, but they are also intended for each one of us.

Even the Catholics with the best intentions among us can be guilty of taking the Mass for granted. We can lose sight of its soul saving significance; we go out of obligation; or we choose not to go because of a million distractions the devil has us believe are more important.

"The heart of the Mass is the same as it was in the Upper Room at Passover with Christ and His disciples at the Last Supper," Father Jim Gretz, D.Min., said to those in attendance at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, the first location in what will be a series of Instructional Masses celebrated around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston this year. "The Mass is a time to enter into that mystery of what God did for you."

Father Gretz's love of the liturgy was evident as he walked the faithful through the history, reason, and meaning of our responses and gestures.

"We kneel to show hum-

bleness before the King of Kings. We stand and rise to show honor and great respect. We sit (in the house of God) so we can be attentive to our Lord's teachings," he explained and added, "We need to be mindful of the 'Ars Celebrandi' -the art of celebration, we enter into the Mass, we don't just attend or push play."

He said some early scholars and theologians looking at the order of the Mass thought that the "Sign of Peace" should come at the beginning of the celebration to emphasize to the faithful that we come as a loving, forgiving, and peaceful people, and like Christ taught us we need to be "willing to give genuine forgiveness, show compassion, and offer peace to those around us."

The entire Mass is a reminder of how much God loves you, Father Gretz said. The Mass is an affirmation of who we are. The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. In the Words of Institution and Consecration spoken by the priest or bishop, Jesus did not say this is a reminder or symbol, but that "It is the Body and Blood" of Christ.

The priest declares the words Jesus Himself said, "This is my Body. This is My Blood."

When we say the creed together, know we are reciting what our forefathers in the Church professed nearly 1700 years ago to clarify the teachings of Christ and His Holy Church. When we say the Our Father, we are praying the words Christ gave us on his journey to Jerusalem, according to Luke (Chapter 11); and at the Sermon on the Mount according to Matthew (Chapter 6).

Faithful around the Martinsburg Vicariate this weekend can make plans to attend the Instructional Mass set for 4 p.m. at St. Leo in Inwood Sunday, Sept. 25. It fulfills the Sunday obligation.

Director of Worship and Sacraments for the Diocese, Bernadette McMasters Kime, D. Min., is hoping to announce Instructional



Joyce Bibey Photo

Father Jim Gretz celebrates an Instructional Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling Sept. 18. He is a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and pastor of St. Matthew Parish, a congregation combining four parishes serving the Pittsburgh communities of Etna, Millvale, Reserve Township, and Glenshaw. He is the former director of the office of Liturgy and Worship for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

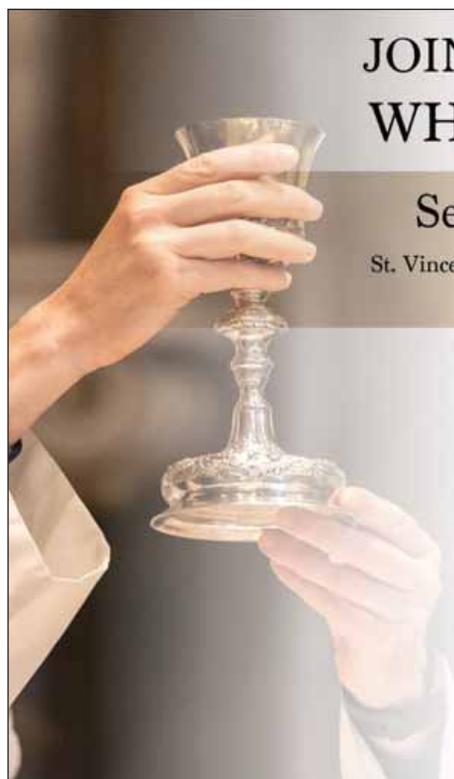
Masses for the Clarksburg, Parkersburg, Charleston, and Beckley vicariates soon. "It is in the Mass we are given the gift of the Eucharist and then sent out into the world as disciples of Christ," she said.

The Instructional Mass at St. Leo will be celebrated by

Msgr. Rick Hilgartner. He is the former Secretariat for Divine Worship for the USCCB, associate director of the National Liturgy Office, and president of National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM).

The National Eucharistic Revival began on June 19,

the Feast of Corpus Christi. This three-year focus begins with a diocesan year, inviting diocesan staff, bishops, and priests to celebrate Jesus's true presence in the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ with events, celebrations, and enrichment programs.



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

Sept. 18 • 4pm	Sept. 25 • 4pm
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling Father Jim Gretz	St. Leo Parish, Inwood Msgr. Rick Hilgartner

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.

The Longing to be United with Our Lord

By Colleen Rowan

In the life of a priest or a deacon there are moments in which his heart is pierced with a love from God. These are the words of Father Justin Golna in his homily for the third night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 19.

He now serves as administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg, but it was just a few years ago on Christmas of 2019 that Father Golna himself experienced one of those moments for the first time.

"I was a deacon, and I was in Rome (in seminary)," he said in his homily. "I didn't want to travel anywhere for Christmas because I had a hope that I would be able to be a deacon at the pope's Mass. So, I waited as the days of Christmas break ticked by and finally on our bulletin board was the notice, 'the Vatican needs acolytes and deacons to distribute Holy Communion at the pope's midnight Mass.'"

Father Golna arrived early and received his training. As the Holy Father was celebrating the Mass, Father Golna was in the chapel praying and waiting with the other deacons for the time to distribute Holy Communion to the people in St. Peter's Square. He then saw the papal emcees with a trunk, which was supposed to hold 60 ciboria, the vessels which hold the consecrated hosts. Inside, however, they found only 15.

After consulting with each other, Father Golna said, they announced to the deacons: "There is not enough time to get more ciboria, so the first 15 to come to this table will be the ones to distribute Holy Communion to the faithful gathered outside."

"And the Lord was with me that evening because he positioned me right next to that table," Father Golna said. "So, I was the first in line. We received the hosts from the tabernacle and just as the Eucharistic prayer was starting, we were let out to the square."

Throngs of people, he said, were eagerly waiting to receive our Lord.

"I kept glancing at the Jumbotron, waiting to see the moment when he (the pope) would receive so I could feed the people," Father Golna said. Upon seeing the Holy Father receive from the chalice, he then began to offer the Eucharist to the eager faithful.

"For each person that I distributed Communion to, 100 more got in line," Father Golna said. His hands freezing so much from the cold that he could not feel his fingers, but he continued as the line's numbers increased.

"The attendant who was with each of us tapped me on my shoulder and said, 'Padre, it's time to go.' I said, 'Just a minute,' and I kept trying to distribute more," he said.

And with each host, he said, more people joined the line.

"Padre, we have to go now.' I said, 'I can't. Give me one more minute.' Finally, he started to pull me away," he said. "And it was in that moment when I looked out at the crowd of people who had not been able to receive because there were too great a number, I felt the same love that

the Lord feels. I could see the longing to be united with him, and yet I was being dragged away. And I was struck to my heart at how much I suffered with them, had compassion for them, at that moment."

As he was led away, one of the Vatican police officers, dutifully guarding the deacons, pulled Father Golna aside, "Father, can I receive?" he asked.

"I gave him one of my final hosts," Father Golna said. "And it was in this moment that I realized that there is a true desire for us to be united with the Lord in this great sacrament."

For the people, the longing was more tangible than it had ever been, he said.

"We, who live in this oasis of churches where we can receive Holy Communion whenever we want, need to cultivate this same longing that those people had," he said.

That moment in St. Peter's Square was palpable. Seeing in the people's eyes that the most important thing was the Lord and how much they wanted to receive him and how sad they were when he was being dragged away.

"This longing that we have to have for our Lord comes from a strong foundation of love," Father Golna said. "And what greater love is there, our Lord tells us, than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

This is exactly what the Lord does, Father Golna said. "He allows himself to become vulnerable, to become subjected to us as we receive him. And then when we consume him, a true laying down of his life so that as the son of God became the son of man we sons of men become sons of God. Our Lord allows us to consume him so that we become divinized. We become Christified. We become raised to our supernatural level that we are destined to be. And this occurs because our Lord has laid down his life for us."

"We know that is the Real Presence of our Lord"

Turning to the gospel for the evening (John 6:24-35) the Bread of Life Discourse, Father Golna spoke of the crowd finding Jesus and asking, "Rabbi when did you get here?"

The Lord, Father Golna said, doesn't answer them directly: "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled."

They were seeking that nourishment that will fade away, that leads to another hunger, Father Golna said, and the Lord was here to feed them that supersubstantial bread.

"Then we have our Lord saying he is the bread from heaven. He is the bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. And we know this discourse," Father Golna said. "We know later he says, You need to eat my flesh and drink my blood."

His people have a difficult time with this, Father Golna said. They have a hard time seeing past what he is saying to the deeper reality.

"We come here not because we think that the



Colleen Rowan Photo
Father Justin Golna blesses the faithful at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 19

Eucharist is a symbol, but because we know that it is the Real Presence of our Lord," Father Golna said to the gathered faithful. "We come to worship him. We are able to see beyond the appearance to what lies beneath. To the substance, to what it truly is."

This crowd, confronted with Jesus's words—You will eat the bread from heaven; you will eat my flesh—are scandalized, Father Golna said, because they cannot see past the humanity into the divinity of Christ.

"We have this same hunger. We have the same hunger to be united with the Lord and we have

See "United" on Page 8

United...

Cont'd from Page 7

the great gift of seeing past the appearance into that substance, into Christ himself. Our Lord allows us to consume him."

The word that the Lord uses when he speaks about eating his flesh is gnaw, Father Golna said, and every chance the people ask if he really means eating his flesh, Jesus does not waver.

"Our Lord doubles down each time," Father Golna said. "He wants us to do this in memory of him. He leaves us this great sacrament as a loving sign of his presence forever. And we have to have that same desire and hunger as those people did in St. Peter's—that desire that draws us to him no matter how difficult it may be, a desire to be united with him." Not as mere bread, Father Golna stressed, but that supersubstantial bread that gives life, strength in weakness, hope in doubt, medicine in sickness of spirit.

"We are called to ensure that we have this same love and desire," he said, "an imitation of Christ's love for us."

"Our love must be rooted in the same love that Christ has for us"

One of Father Golna's favorite things about being a parish priest is seeing elderly couples. As couples grow old together, they begin to talk like each other, Father Golna said. They use the same language as one another, they finish one another's sentences. Because when one loves someone else so much, they take on the other's identity, he said, and they want to be surrounded by that love. They conform themselves to the person they love, he said.

"We are called to conform ourselves to our beloved, to Christ himself," Father Golna said. "We heard in the gospel this past weekend that we cannot have two masters. Our heart is called to be whole, to be united in our one love and that love is God. And when we do draw deeper into love with God, we conform ourselves to him.

"In those moments when we suffer as he suffered, we find our strength to persevere in this most august sacrament in his body and blood, his soul and divinity," he said. "When we are tempted with doubts that come to us from the world, we find our answers in silent adoration before our Lord. When we are sick in spirit, we have the perfect medicine to heal all our wounds. It's up to us to increase the fire of our love, to increase our devotion, to increase our ability to be conformed to him. So that when we are truly conformed to Christ, you will radiate this love to others."

Whether one is a priest, a deacon, a religious, or a lay person, all will have these moments where God's divine love pierces our hearts, Father Golna said.

"We have these moments where we are fire for him, and that fire attracts. We are able to foster this fire," Father Golna said. "Our love must be rooted in the same love that Christ has for us. And a love that is total, that is absolute, that allows nothing else to enter into it. A love that is giving of everything we have back to our creator, in knowledge that we receive everything we have from him. This love is what animates us."

With the Eyes of Faith

"The reason we're here on a weeknight, the reason we go to Mass when we don't want to, the reason we love our neighbor and we pray for our enemies, because we know love himself," Father Golna said. "Our Lord is unique in that his words create and when he says that he is the bread of life he has created this reality that we are drawn to. We know not just with our eyes but with the eyes of faith that the entirety—the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord is contained in something so precious as this host. And we are drawn to it. We are drawn to it because of love."

Love alone is credible in a world which has inverted its priorities, Father Golna continued. Love alone, he said, will attract others to this same joy and love that one has when united to Christ. The faithful are called to have love overflow from them to those they meet, he said.

The source and summit of this love is here before all, he said.

"And in those moments when we are weak, Christ is strong for us. We have the greatest gift," Father Golna said. "We have the gift the Jewish people waited centuries to receive—God incarnate."

This gift is easy to take advantage of, Father Golna said, because we have access to it each and every day.

"We are called to be in that state of awe and inspiration that those people in the square were," he said, "to foster a sense of mystery in the face of so great a Lord that we humbly receive him, we humbly adore him, we humbly love him."

This is the great call, he said. "This is our end, to be united with God not just in this life as we are at each Mass, but for all eternity," Father Golna said. "And the beautiful part of God is that each time we do receive him we are given a foretaste of that wedding banquet prepared for us at the end of time, a foretaste of what it will be like to be in his presence for all eternity, a foretaste of that union with God to which we are called to live forever. We are called to live from one reception of Communion to another, from one Mass to another. Once we place this priority, this understanding about life in its proper way, everything else will fall into place. But we are only able to do it when we approach the Lord with great love."

An Opportunity in this National Eucharistic Revival

The theme of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral is "The Holy Eucharist." The novena coincides with the National Eucharistic Revival. For the next six Mondays, through Oct. 31, the faithful will gather at 7 p.m. at the cathedral for the novena with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily by guest clergy, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague.

The fourth evening of the novena, Sept. 26, will be celebrated by Msgr. Samuel Sacus.

The remaining Mondays of the novena are: Oct. 3 with Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration, Administration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital; Oct. 10 with Father Chester Pabin; Oct. 17 with Father Saateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L.; Oct. 24 with Father Jude Perera; and Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

For information on gatherings and celebrations in our diocese, visit

dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/



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Bishop Brennan's Visits to Catholic Schools Continue with Latest Stop in Martinsburg



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan eats lunch with students in kindergarten through grade two during his visit to St. Joseph School in Martinsburg Sept. 15.

MARTINSBURG—Bishop Mark Brennan is continuing his visits to Catholic schools around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. His latest stop was at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg Sept. 15.

The bishop celebrated Mass at St. Joseph

Church for students in grades kindergarten to eight, during which he spoke about the two things people need that they can't get on their own: forgiveness for their sins and the ability to overcome death, school officials said.

Bishop Brennan visited every classroom in the school's two buildings, giving lessons to the students gathered in each. He conversed with members of the staff and administration, and had lunch with students in kindergarten to grade two.

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Concert to be Held at All Saints, Bridgeport, for Parish's 75th Anniversary

BRIDGEPORT—John Angotti and Meredith Dean Augustin will be at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport Oct. 15-16. They will sing for both weekend Masses (Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m.) and do an evening concert on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.

This event is in celebration of the parish's 75th anniversary.

John Angotti was raised in Clarksburg, a small community nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Third, in a family of four adopted children, (an older brother and two sisters) John's first ability to speak without stuttering was at the age of 4 with the hymn "The Church is One Foundation". How appropriate for the mission God has planned for him thus far.

An accomplished pianist, John began studying piano at the age of 7. His mother, who has been a church musician for over 50 years, motivated him to become involved with the children's choir at a very early age. "I believe it was there where I truly began to form my beliefs about God through the songs we were singing," Angotti says.

John has been writing Christian music since his teen years at St. Joseph Seminary, where Angotti was considering priesthood. "After I left the seminary it never dawned on me that God perhaps wanted me to do something else for the church, perhaps more suited for the gifts God gave me," he says jokingly. It was in the music director positions where he found himself composing songs for worship and meditation. He wanted the congregation to participate in song and prayer during worship services on Sunday.

"...I feel that no matter what I want to do with my life on a personal side, I've come to see that my vocation, not my occupation in life, is to help the people of this world come to know love and in knowing love we come to know

God..."

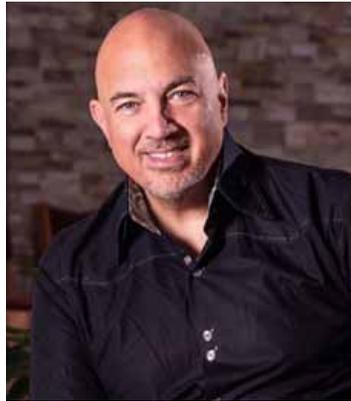
John's collection of experiences as director of Children's, Young Adults, Adults and Contemporary Music Choirs, as well as his experiences in the secular world, have prepared him for his full-time music ministry; a ministry which sends him around the world as a speaker and presenter for conferences and events. He is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in marketing; a graduate of the Naval School of Music, where he majored in voice and minored in piano; and a graduate of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where he holds a masters degree in pastoral studies.

John spreads the Gospel message through word and song, taking a special interest in reaching today's youth and stressing the importance of finding God in the everyday lived experiences.

"...the awakening of God in every waking, breathing moment leads to better choice making and understanding worship is a response to this awakening..."

His witness and music has inspired and changed the lives of thousands. He is the director of Music and Liturgy at St. Philip Catholic Church in Franklin, Tenn., as well as a full-time music missionary spreading the message of Jesus through out the country in parishes, schools, and conferences such as the National Catholic Youth Conference, National Conference for Youth Ministers, National Pastoral Musicians Conference, Los Angeles Religious Education Conference, The East Coast Religious Education Conference, The NCCA Conference, The Hofinger Religious Education Conference in New Orleans, and the NCEA.

John Angotti Music Mission (JAMM) debuted John's new, original musical "Job: The Now Testament" in Memphis in the



John Angotti

summer of 2013. "Job: The Now Testament" is intended for a truly ecumenical audience of all ages as it addresses the question of: Why do bad things happen to good people? Music lovers young and old rocked to the contemporary musical score and were moved by the compelling story of Job. This musical has a relevant message in today's world as it looks for answers in the most difficult circumstances of life.

Meredith Dean Augustin says when she sings, she feels close to God. These words have been used to describe listening to Meredith. Love flows through her – and her voice touches hearts. A West Virginia girl, who grew up in Morgantown, Meredith began playing the piano and singing at a very young age. She describes, "My mom taught piano lessons while I was in

her womb. I think it started there. When I was 2, my mom and dad told me it was time to give up my pacifier, and I could sing myself to sleep.... I haven't stopped."

After completing her master of science degree in rehabilitation counseling from West Virginia University, Meredith's musical activities began leading her to New York City, where she eventually made her home. Currently, she is the director of Music at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in midtown Manhattan. Meredith reflects, "In the last 15 years, my job has allowed me to come face to face with so many beautiful people from so many beautiful cultures. It certainly has helped me evolve personally, as well as musically."

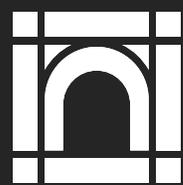
A rare artist who appeals to fans of all genres – particularly jazz/world/Christian – Meredith has been blessed to collaborate with musicians from all over the world, in particular, Haiti. She has collaborated with many liturgical composers and is featured on records with John Angotti, Tom Kendiza, and Chris DeSilva to name a few. Meredith also has released four solo records entitled: "What's Goin' On," "Deep River," "Come and Go With Me," and "Boundless Mercy."



Meredith Dean Augustin

When she is not on the road presenting workshops and concerts at conferences throughout the country, Meredith can be found performing quarterly shows in New York City, selling out jazz clubs such as Club Bonafide, Gin Fizz, and the Triad Theatre, to name a few. In the jazz world she has performed with Etienne Stadwijk, John Benitez, Dave Kikoski, Axel Tosca and many others. Meredith has been a featured singer on Mountain Stage: Joy to the Word with Bob Thompson, and she recently made her TV debut on Good Morning America singing background vocals with the legendary Patti LaBelle.

This event is open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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Innovative Scholarship Confronts Crisis of Smartphone Addiction

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—Franciscan University of Steubenville launched a 2022-23 pilot of the “Unplugged Scholarship,” which awards financial assistance to students who give up using a smartphone for the duration of their undergraduate studies.

“Our Rebuild My Church Campaign is about forming a ‘new generation of builders’ to renew our Church and world,” said Franciscan University Vice President of Advancement Bob Hickey. “This scholarship will help free our students to focus on the heart of this formation: relationship with the Lord and each other. As our scriptural theme this year reminds us, we are called to freedom to ‘serve one another through love.’”

Franciscan University alumni Justin Schneir '99 and Hope (Batchelder) Schneir and a small group of alumni initiated the Unplugged Scholarship, which has raised over \$3 million, to foster a community of academic excellence, friendship, and spiritual growth. The group hopes to encourage wholesome interpersonal relationships that better reflect Christ’s incarnational model.

“The attack on Christian culture has gone beyond the attack on the family, or the clergy, or fatherhood, but now aims at humanity itself,” said Hope Schneir. “We need to find ways to reclaim what it means to be human, to live out the adventure of life to the full, and to more fully embrace our God-made world, rather than this man-made, artificial one.”

The Schneirs expressed their hope that this scholarship will be a step in reclaiming that adventure.

“We hope these brave students pioneer an unplugged lifestyle that carries into their vocations as businesspersons, educators, religious leaders, medical professionals, mothers, and fathers, and that they might be free and more capable to make their lives ‘something beautiful for God,’” said Hope Schneir.

“We are so grateful to Justin and Hope Schneir for their leadership and support, and to all the generous alumni who have contributed to this much-needed scholarship,” said Franciscan University President Father Dave Pivonka, TOR. “This is the sort of inspiring alumni commitment and creativity that make our mission possible.”

“Our pilot group is small, but our hope is that, in time, there will be enough funding to supply an Unplugged Scholarship to every student who wants one,” said Justin Schneir. “We want to start a movement that might extend beyond Franciscan University. We are looking for partners who will come alongside and help make this scholarship more widely available.”

Student enthusiasm for this scholarship has surpassed expectations. Of the almost 170 students who applied for the \$150,000 pilot phase of the Unplugged Scholarship, 30 students spread across all four class years each received \$5,000 in tuition assistance for the 2022-23 academic year. However, almost 50 additional student applicants chose to give up their smartphones and participate, even without receiving financial assistance.

As Tim Delaney, Franciscan University executive director of Alumni and Constituent Relations, ex-

plained, all 80 participating students will form a new group called “Humans Engaging Reality.” They recently met to share about what life has been like these first days without a smartphone.

“There were some funny stories shared, like getting lost in an airport and needing to ask a real person for directions,” said Delaney. “Other stories were more heartfelt. One shared about how giving up his smartphone is helping in the struggle with pornography. Another student shared about being diagnosed with depression and anxiety, only to have both disappear soon after she gave up her smartphone!”

“When I first heard about this Unplugged Scholarship my immediate reaction was, ‘Awesome!’” said scholarship recipient and Franciscan University senior Mary Saarinen of Laurel, Maryland, a theology major. “This scholarship challenge would push me to be present to the person in front of me, to look up and take in my surroundings as I walk across campus, and to detach from the need to entertain myself whenever I feel like it.”

Fellow scholarship recipient, Michael Van Vickle, a sophomore in finance from Irving, Texas, agrees.

“I think this is a perfect opportunity for me to let go of my phone and put more time and energy into things that matter,” he said. “It is much harder to stay on the path of holiness when you have a million things jumping out at you.”

“We deeply appreciate our scholarship recipients, and all students who have joined this new Humans Engaging Reality group, who have embraced the challenge to ‘unplug’ and to join us in this step of faith,” said Hickey.

For more information about the Unplugged Scholarship at Franciscan University of Steubenville, call 800-783-6220 or email admissions@franciscan.edu.

One of only 15 faithfully Catholic universities endorsed by the Cardinal Newman Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville continues to lead the renaissance of Catholic higher education called for in *Ex corde Ecclesiae*.

Franciscan University, founded in 1946 by friars of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, integrates excellent academic programs with a dynamic faith environment to serve 2,500 students from all 50 states and 17 countries on campus and an additional 900 students online.

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PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

September 25, 2022

What is Priesthood Sunday?

Priesthood Sunday, the last Sunday of September, is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priest as central to the life of the Church.
Note: Parishes may choose to celebrate Priesthood Sunday on another Sunday when it is convenient for them.

This nationwide event is coordinated and sponsored by the US Council of Serra International.

What happens on Priesthood Sunday?

The lay faithful of all parishes in the USA develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring their parish priests at Mass and other parish events, such as social celebrations and school activities.

Priesthood Sunday is designed to be an event led by the laity, but be sure to ask each parish priest to participate by talking about how they experienced and answered their own calling and about priests who have inspired them.

Priesthood Sunday allows priests and parishioners to build a stronger working relationship. Together, they can take an honest look at the challenges of the future and how they can collaborate to meet those challenges as a united force.

What is the US Council of Serra International?

The US Council of Serra International is an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the USA. More than 7,000 Serrans in over 200 clubs nationwide collaborate with their bishops, parishes, and vocation directors to fulfill this mission. Through this ministry, Serrans work to further their common Catholic faith. Visit the US Council at www.serraus.org.

Celebrate Priesthood Sunday on September 25, 2022



National Migration Week 2022: Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

National Migration Week for 2022 takes place Sept. 19-25, and will conclude with the Vatican's celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which always falls on the last Sunday of September.

The primary theme for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees." Commenting on the place of migrants in God's plan, Pope Francis emphasizes that "the Kingdom of God is to be built with them, for without them it would not be the Kingdom that God wants. The inclusion of those most vulnerable is the necessary condition for full



CNS/David Maung

citizenship in God's Kingdom."

Built on the foundation of welcoming the stranger, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) provides ref-

ugee resettlement and immigration services.

"Our Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services program focuses on family-based immigration

services to help family members reunite," said Kellie Rogers, CCWVa director of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services.

CCWVa works to ensure

immigrants and refugees have a network of support and resources in place upon their arrival. Families are resettled in areas where they can thrive and become contributing members of their communities.

"We are especially grateful for our volunteers who welcome immigrants and refugees and help them assimilate into a new culture," said Rogers.

As we celebrate National Migration Week, we reflect on how we can better welcome, protect, and integrate migrants living in West Virginia.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit 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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8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
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Bishops Speak Against Transport of Migrants; It 'Offends God,' Says One

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several U.S. Catholic bishops slammed the actions of Republican politicians who have recently begun to send out of their states groups of women, children and men seeking refuge.

They said these politicians are falsely telling the migrants that work, food and other benefits await them if they get on planes to other locales, but instead the only thing they find on the other end of the trip is confusion.

"To use migrants and refugees as pawns offends God, destroys society and shows how low individuals can (stoop) for personal gains," wrote San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller on Twitter Sept. 18.

He was one of several bishops to speak out after the latest drop-off of migrants — two groups of mostly Venezuelans who were flown Sept. 14 to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

More than 6 million people have fled Venezuela because of political turmoil that has sent the country into an economic spiral, causing what the U.N. refugee agency calls the "second-largest external displacement crisis in the world."

Though many have fled to nearby countries, others, with family in the U.S., have opted to make the long trip north.

The Texas archbishop said the tactics to ship them off elsewhere "promote human trafficking," and he called out the "sick actions" of political leaders who do "little about the issue."

Some of the migrants have been sent from border states such as Texas and Arizona to Washington and New York in planes and sometimes buses. Some were recently dropped off near Vice President Kamala Harris' residence in Washington without prior notice to local officials.

Volunteers in those cities, including faith-based nonprofits such as Catholic Char-

ities, have scrambled to help the newcomers confused by the situation.

"The problem is not the refugees, it is leaders that cannot accept: We are one with humanity," Archbishop García-Siller said, adding that he would be praying for "conversion of heart" and for the protection of brothers and sisters in need.

Earlier this summer, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network called for the protection of Venezuelans in the U.S. given the country's turmoil, where hyperinflation has caused supply shortages of food and medicine, among other basics.

Republican politicians such as DeSantis, a Catholic, have followed the lead of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, also a Catholic and a Republican, who first began busing and flying groups of migrants in the summer.

Abbott said the move was to protest the Biden administration's stance to allow in refugees and other migrants and give politicians who support allowing migrants into the country a taste of what border states such as Texas deal with on a daily basis when large groups of people pour in.

However, the group DeSantis sent to Martha's Vineyard is believed to have originated in San Antonio, not Florida.

San Antonio's Archbishop García-Siller, said on Twitter that "Texas is not overwhelmed by refugees."

Another Texas prelate, Brownsville Bishop Daniel E. Flores, said Sept. 16 on Twitter that "the degrading disrespect

with which immigrants are treated in this country — like pawns in games of political showmanship — is a disgrace."

"Are we so drunk on our own power that we are blind to basic human dignity? Judgment on Christians who disrespect the poor will be most severe," he said.

Though taken by surprise, the community at Martha's Vineyard pulled together to help with the sudden arrival of the migrants Sept. 14.

In a Sept. 16 statement, Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha of Fall River, Massachusetts, said the community responded in the manner the Gospel tells Christians to care for the stranger, citing St. Matthew's Gospel: "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."

"This mandate was clearly evident in the inspiring response of the Martha's Vineyard community as a whole to the plight of some 50 migrants mostly from Venezuela who were literally left stranded on their island on Wednesday," he wrote.

"Shelter, food, and basic needs assistance were quickly provided in accord with the dignity due all migrants, who are — first and foremost — our sisters and brothers in the human family regardless of birthplace or legal status," he added.

Various faith groups and others stepped in to help, including high school students studying Spanish who facilitated communication with the migrants.

"Here in the Diocese of Fall

River, which encompasses Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, we must do all we can to ensure a humanitarian response to this crisis," Bishop da Cunha.

"Now that the state has relocated the migrants from the island to a military base on the Cape mainland, bilingual staff from Catholic Charities-Diocese of Fall River (Catholic Social Services) is there to welcome them in their native language and to assist officials in assessing their needs, immediate and long term," he said.

The Catholic agency "agency has committed its resources to address these needs working alongside the state and other relief agencies," he explained, adding that "pastoral outreach including Mass and the sacraments will be made available from our parishes in the region, and parishes may also be called upon for other support depending on needs that become evident."

He added that he knows one of our churches on Martha's Vineyard "is ready with additional shelter space should the need arise."

In Florida, Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami said that "reports of Florida involvement in transporting migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard are disconcerting."

He said immigration is not just a political issue but a fundamental human and moral issue, adding that migrants are "not faceless numbers — but human persons" and are brothers and sisters.

"Any action to transport persons under false pretenses and leave them stranded with

no assistance would be to diminish their human dignity and objectify them," he said.

Archbishop Wenski said the "broken immigration system is a problem; but immigrants themselves are not 'problems.'"

Boston Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley said in a Sept. 16 statement the situation requires a longer-term response because "not only Venezuelans, but Haitians and other Latin Americans are caught up in the crushing emergency of the U.S. southern border."

But a partnership between nonprofit agencies with civil authorities can help those who need it, he said.

"In a globalized world, immigration challenges will continue. In our country, a broken immigration system requires immediate reform," Cardinal O'Malley said.

"From the Dreamers who still seek legal stability in their lives, to those fleeing war in Ukraine, poverty in Latin America and Africa, or crises in the Middle East, the call of our common humanity will be with us for years to come," he said. "I pray we will be equal to the challenge."

Bishop da Cunha said what was most important was to keep in mind the Christian response toward the vulnerable.

"These newcomers to our area have endured a difficult journey and the challenges they face are many," he said. "Our welcome to them must be marked by respect and compassion and be coupled with our prayers for them in the weeks and months ahead."



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Pope Decries Savagery, Monstrosities against People in Ukraine

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

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Highlighting the “terrible situation” unfolding in Ukraine, Pope Francis again called for prayers for the nation’s “noble and martyred” people.

The pope said his envoy there “told me about the pain of these people, the savagery, the monstrosities, the tortured corpses they find.”

Pope Francis was relaying the news he said he received Sept. 20 by telephone from Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, whom the pope has sent to Ukraine to deliver humanitarian aid and comfort in his name.

Speaking to those gathered for his general audience in St. Peter’s Square Sept. 21, the pope asked that people pray and unite with “these people who are so noble and martyred.”

Cardinal Krajewski was making his fourth visit to Ukraine since the war began and traveled to Odesa and surrounding areas.

In an interview with Vatican News published Sept. 19, the cardinal said he could only pray when he was standing near a mass grave site in eastern Ukraine and seeing the delicate and solemn removal of bodies.

“I knew I would find so many dead, but I met men who showed the beauty that is sometimes hidden in our hearts,” Cardinal Krajewski said after visiting the mass grave in the northeastern city of Iziom.

“They showed a human beauty in a place where there could have only been revenge. Instead, there wasn’t,” he told Vatican News.

Russian forces fled the area after Ukraine launched a counteroffensive to regain occupied territory. In a forest near Iziom, soldiers found a mass grave site with the remains of an estimated 500 people.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a video message, said investigators saw evidence that some of the victims had been tortured.

Similar mass grave sites were found earlier this year in other areas formerly occupied by Russian forces.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied Russia’s involvement in the atrocities, and repeated accusations that mass grave sites were staged by Ukraine, the Reuters news

agency reported.

Cardinal Krajewski, who was accompanied by Ukrainian Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk of Kharkiv-Zaporizhia, said the careful removal of the bodies in Iziom seemed like a solemn liturgy.

“There was one thing that touched me so much,” he told Vatican News Service. “These young Ukrainians were pulling out the bodies so gently, so quietly, in total silence. It looked like a ‘celebration’; nobody was talking but there were so many policemen and soldiers there — at least 200 people. All in silence, with an incredible appreciation for the mystery of death. Truly there was so much to learn from these people.”

Noting that the workers removed the bodies as if they were doing it “for their own families, for their parents, children, siblings,” Cardinal Krajewski said that he and Bishop Honcharuk could only watch and pray.

“The bishop and I were walking around among them. I was reciting the Divine Mercy Chaplet the whole time; we were there for at least three hours. I couldn’t do anything else,” he said.

“This is what has stayed with me now that I’m back in Kharkiv. I am in the chapel and think about these young people,” he said.

In an interview with Vatican News published Sept. 17, Cardinal Krajewski said he and several others came under gunfire while delivering humanitarian aid to suffering Ukrainians on Pope Francis’ behalf.

The Polish cardinal was delivering goods in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhia with a Catholic bishop, a Protestant bishop and a Ukrainian soldier when the attack occurred.

“For the first time in my life, I didn’t know where to run because it’s not enough to run. You have to know where to go,” the cardinal



CNS Photo/Alexander Ermochenko, Reuters

A local resident removes debris inside a multistory apartment block damaged by shelling in the course of the Ukrainian-Russian war in the Russian-controlled city of Enerhodar, in Ukraine’s Zaporizhia region, in this Sept. 1, 2022, file photo. Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, said he and several others came under gunfire while delivering aid in Zaporizhia.

said.

The cardinal and those with him managed to escape the attack and continued delivering goods loaded in a minibus.

The Dicastery for the Service of Charity announced Sept. 9 that Cardinal Krajewski would embark on his fourth trip to Ukraine and visit Odesa, Zhytomyr, Kharkiv and other locations in eastern Ukraine.

The purpose of his visit, the dicastery said, was to provide support to “various communities of faithful, priests and religious, and their bishops, who for more than 200 days continue to remain in the places of their ministry despite the dangers of war.”

“It is a silent and evangelical trip to be with the people who are suffering, praying and comforting each of them, showing with his presence that they are not alone in

this situation that is only bringing destruction and death,” the statement said.

Speaking by telephone with Vatican News, Cardinal Krajewski noted that his visit to Ukraine coincided with the ninth anniversary of his episcopal ordination and his appointment as papal almoner.

The cardinal said he spent the day loading a minibus with provisions and rosaries blessed by the pope and delivering them to people in areas where “no one besides soldiers enter anymore.”

Witnessing the devastation of war in the country on the day of his anniversary, Cardinal Krajewski told Vatican News that it was a “day without mercy” in which “there are no tears nor words.”

“We can only pray and repeat: ‘Jesus, I trust in you,’” the cardinal said.

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Pope Calls for Increased Assistance to Those Hit by Hurricane Fiona

By **Catholic News Service**
VATICAN CITY (CNS) —

As Hurricane Fiona swept across the Caribbean, leaving behind numerous victims and material destruction, Pope Francis called for greater solidarity in assisting all those affected.

In separate telegrams sent to the presidents of the bishops' conferences of Puerto Rico and of the Dominican Republic Sept. 21, the pope assured them of his prayers, asking that God would offer his consolation to those suffering as a result of the natural disaster.

The telegrams, written on behalf of the pope and signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, were sent to Bishop Rubén Antonio González Medina of Ponce, Puerto Rico, and Archbishop Freddy Antonio de Jesús Bretón Martínez of Santiago de Los Cabaleros, Dominican Republic, the presidents of the conferences. The pope was "deeply distressed to learn of the natural disasters that have struck" both countries due to Hurricane Fiona, the telegrams said.

The hurricane touched down in Puerto Rico Sept. 18, causing massive flooding, wind damage, power outages and the shut-down of water service across a large part of the island, affecting millions of residents and leaving at least two people dead, officials said.

Bill Calls for Protecting Pregnancy Care Centers, Investigating Attacks

By **Julie Asher, Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — House sponsors of a new bill to protect pregnancy centers said the measure would require the Biden administration to publicly disclose how it is handling the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of violent attacks on pregnancy resource centers around the country.

"My goal is to foster an environment where no woman feels like their only option is abortion, and I am committed to supporting women and children at every stage of life," said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., who co-sponsored the bill with Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J.

"The violent attacks on pregnancy centers in Washington state and across the country are reprehensible and only endanger and intimidate the women who depend on them for critical medical care, education and other resources," Rodgers said in a statement Sept. 20, the day she and Smith introduced the bill.

The Protect Pregnancy Care Centers Act of 2022 quickly garnered 28 co-sponsors. "I believe all extreme and hateful acts of violence should be condemned, which is why I'm helping lead this legislation to hold President (Joe) Biden accountable for his failure to respond to this threat with the urgency it deserves," Rodgers said.

Nearly 70 acts of violence against such centers have been recorded since May, when a draft opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health* organization case was leaked.

The court's June 24 decision in the *Dobbs* case ultimately overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which had legalized abortion nationwide. The ruling allows states to decide their own laws regarding abortion.

Many of the centers have been firebombed, vandalized and graffitied. Smith said the "pro-abortion" group "Jane's Revenge," whose name has been graffitied on many of the centers that have been attacked, has declared "open season" on these pro-life pregnancy centers, amounting to what he called "horrific acts of terrorism."

"Now more than ever, we need to ensure the safety and security of the estimated 3,000 pregnancy care centers that provide life-affirming alternatives to abortion — offering critical, quality care for pregnant women facing challenging circumstances and helping to save so many unborn, innocent lives," said Smith in a statement.

He said the attacks on these centers are "a coordinated effort to intimidate front-line volunteers and licensed medical professionals providing critical support to mothers in need and their unborn baby boys and girls."

Among its provisions, the Protect Pregnancy Care Centers Act would require the inspector generals of the departments of Justice and Homeland Security to investigate and disclose to Congress information on the Biden administration's response

"to the surging violence," including details gathered on groups that have claimed responsibility for the attacks and the number of prosecutions initiated against perpetrators.

The measure also would require the Biden administration to report on current funding streams available to pregnancy care centers for needed security measures "to guard against violent threats and provide recommendations for the creation of additional grant programs to protect them given the spike in attacks in recent months."

Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said the legislation "is a step forward in ensuring that pregnancy centers are able to serve the needs of women in their communities without fear of violence."

Other supporters of the measure include the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, March for Life and the Family Research Council.

In a June 16 story, the Washington Examiner quoted an FBI spokesperson as saying the agency was investigating attacks and threats "targeting pregnancy resource centers and faith-based organizations across the country."

"The FBI takes all threats seriously and we continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners and will remain vigilant to protect our communities," the spokesperson said.

Besides attacks on pregnancy centers, arson, vandalism and other destruction has taken place at about 100 Catholic sites across the United States since May 2020.

A number of Catholic and other pro-life leaders, as well as members of Congress, have urged the Biden administration to do more to investigate such attacks. On Sept. 21, the CEO of a pregnancy care center in Buffalo, New York, that was firebombed over three months ago told reporters that neither the local police department nor the FBI "is taking the case seriously." In late August, pro-life leaders denounced a consumer alert issued by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison criticizing the state's crisis pregnancy centers.

His alert stated that "many so-called crisis pregnancy centers may pose as reproductive health care clinics despite not providing comprehensive reproductive health care to consumers."

In late June, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., called for the state and federal government to "crack down" on crisis pregnancy centers, and a month later demanded the federal government shut them all down because, she said, they "fool people who are looking for pregnancy termination."

A new study cited by Rodgers, Smith and National Right to Life's Tobias showed that nearly 3,000 pregnancy centers serve about 2 million clients annually. It said the centers provide such services as limited obstetrical ultrasounds under a local doctor's oversight; parenting classes; material assistance, such as diapers, cribs and car seats; and referrals to local resources to help pregnant women in need with housing or transportation.

Bishops in Belgium Defy Vatican, Publish Ceremony for Blessing Same-Sex Unions

By **AC Wimmer, Catholic News Agency**

In open defiance of the Vatican, Catholic bishops in Belgium on Sept. 20 announced the introduction of blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples in their dioceses.

The bishops of Flanders also published a liturgy for the celebration of homosexual unions. In doing so, they are going directly against the Vatican," reported *Nederlands Dagblad*.

The Vatican published an official clarification in March 2021 that the Catholic Church does not have the power to give liturgical blessings of homosexual unions.

However, basing their argument on *Amoris laetitia*, Cardinal Jozef De Kesel of Mechelen-Brussels and other bishops of the Flemish-speaking part of Belgium on Sept. 20 published a document titled "Being pastorally close to homosexual persons — For a welcoming Church that excludes no one."

The bishops' publication contains a suggested liturgy for same-sex blessings, including prayers, Scripture reading, and parts in which the couple can "express before God how they are committed to one another." The bishops of the Flemish-speaking part of Belgium also announced that each diocese will appoint a person as "concrete

response and fulfillment to the desire to give explicit attention to the situation of homosexual persons, their parents and families in the conduct of policy. Pope Francis also expressed this explicitly in his April 2016 apostolic exhortation on the pastoral care of families, *Amoris laetitia* ("The Joy of Love").

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) issued its latest declaration on same-sex blessings on March 15, 2021, in a document known as a *Responsum ad dubium* ("Response to a question").

In reply to the query, "Does the Church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the

same sex?" the CDF answered, "Negative."

The congregation outlined its reasoning in an explanatory note and accompanying commentary. The Vatican statement, issued with the approval of Pope Francis, sparked protests and open defiance in the German-speaking Catholic world. Organizers held a day of protest in response to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's declaration that the Church does not have the power to bless same-sex unions.

German priests and pastoral workers also openly defied the Vatican and conducted blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.



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Papa pide más ayuda para los afectados por el huracán Fiona

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Mientras el huracán Fiona azotaba el Caribe, dejando atrás muchas víctimas y destrucción material, el papa Francisco pidió más solidaridad y ayuda para todos los afectados.

En telegramas separados enviados a los presidentes de las conferencias episcopales de Puerto Rico y de la República Dominicana el 21 de septiembre, el papa les aseguró de estar en sus oraciones, pidiendo que Dios ofrezca su consuelo a los que sufren como resultado del desastre natural.

Los telegramas, escritos en nombre del papa y firmados por el cardenal Pietro Parolin, secretario de Estado del Vaticano, fueron enviados al obispo Rubén Antonio González Medina de Ponce, Puerto Rico, y al arzobispo Freddy Antonio de Jesús Bretón Martínez de Santiago de Los Caballeros, República Dominicana, los presidentes de las conferencias.

El papa dijo estar "profundamente angustiado al enterarse de los desastres naturales que han golpeado" a ambos países debido al huracán Fiona, decían

los telegramas.

El huracán llegó a Puerto Rico el 18 de septiembre, causando inundaciones masivas, daños causados por vientos fuertes, apagones de electricidad y falta de servicio de agua en gran parte de la isla, afectando a millones de residentes y dejando al menos dos muertos, dijeron las autoridades.

El huracán causó daños peores en la República Dominicana a medida que tomaba fuerza moviéndose hacia el norte, provocando deslaves y destruyendo cientos de viviendas. Al menos dos personas murieron, una por un poste de electricidad, otra por un árbol, que fueron derribados por ráfagas de viento.

En el telegrama del papa, el Pontífice pidió a todos los cristianos y personas de buena voluntad incrementar sus esfuerzos de "solidaridad para ayudar a los afectados por esta calamidad y mostrar así esa cercanía fraterna a la que todos estamos llamados".

El huracán azotó las Islas Turcas y Caicos el 20 de septiembre y se registraron ráfagas de hasta 155 millas por hora el 21 de septiembre mientras se dirigía hacia las Bermudas.

DIÓCESIS DE WHEELING-CHARLESTON CALENDARIO DE CONFIRMACIÓN

Obispo Mark E. Brennan, Celebrante

Domingo 2 de octubre: Santo Santiago el Apóstol, Clarksburg, 4 p.m.

Domingo 9 de octubre: Santos Pedro y Pablo, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Domingo 16 de octubre: Santa Inés, Shepherdstown, 10:30 a. m.

Jueves 20 de octubre: Ascensión, Hurricane, 6:30 p. m.

Sábado 22 de octubre: Santísimo Sacramento, South Charleston, 5:30 p. m.

Domingo, 23 de octubre: Confirmación combinada: Sagrado Corazón, Huntington y San Pedro Claver, Huntington, en la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón, 9 a. m.

Domingo 30 de octubre: Santo Rosario, Buckhannon, 9 a. m.

Domingo 6 de noviembre: Todos los Santos, Bridgeport, 10 a. m.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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.

Sunday, November 6: All Saints, Bridgeport, 10 a.m.

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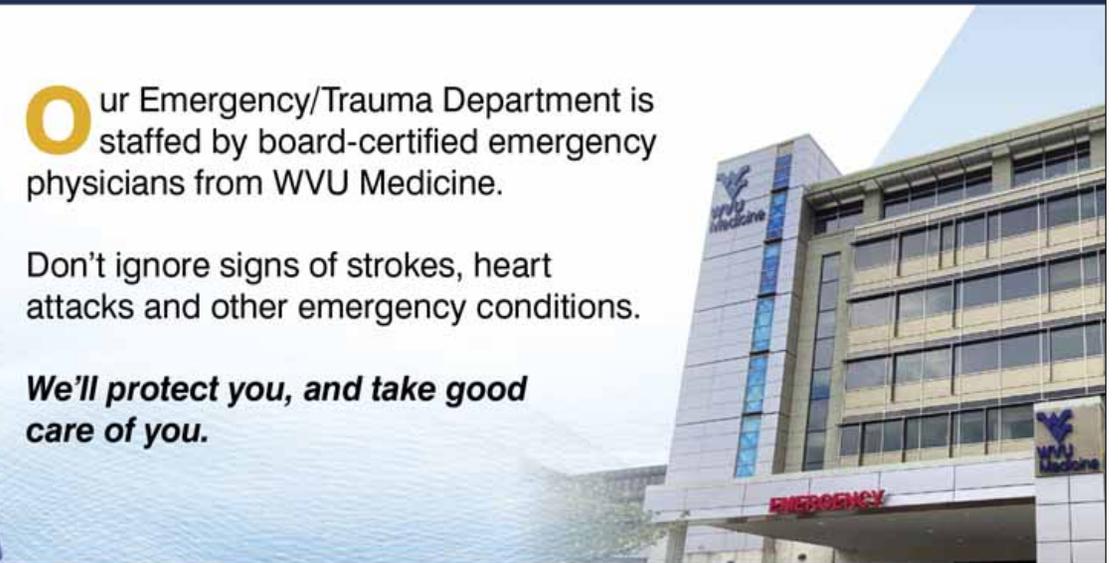
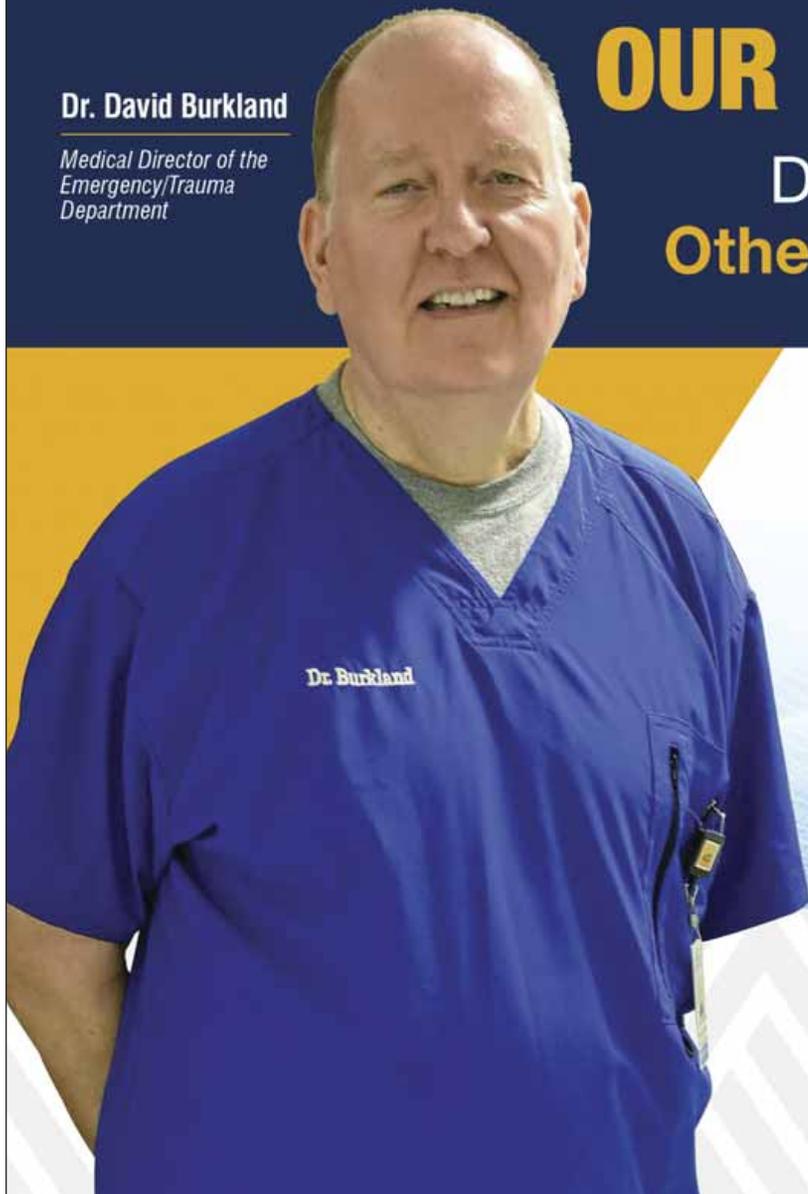
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