THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Declared 'Blessed' at Beatification Mass in St. Louis

By Gina Christian, OSV News

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen — the 20th-century theologian, evangelizer, Catholic communications pioneer, teacher and preacher — is now Blessed Fulton J. Sheen.

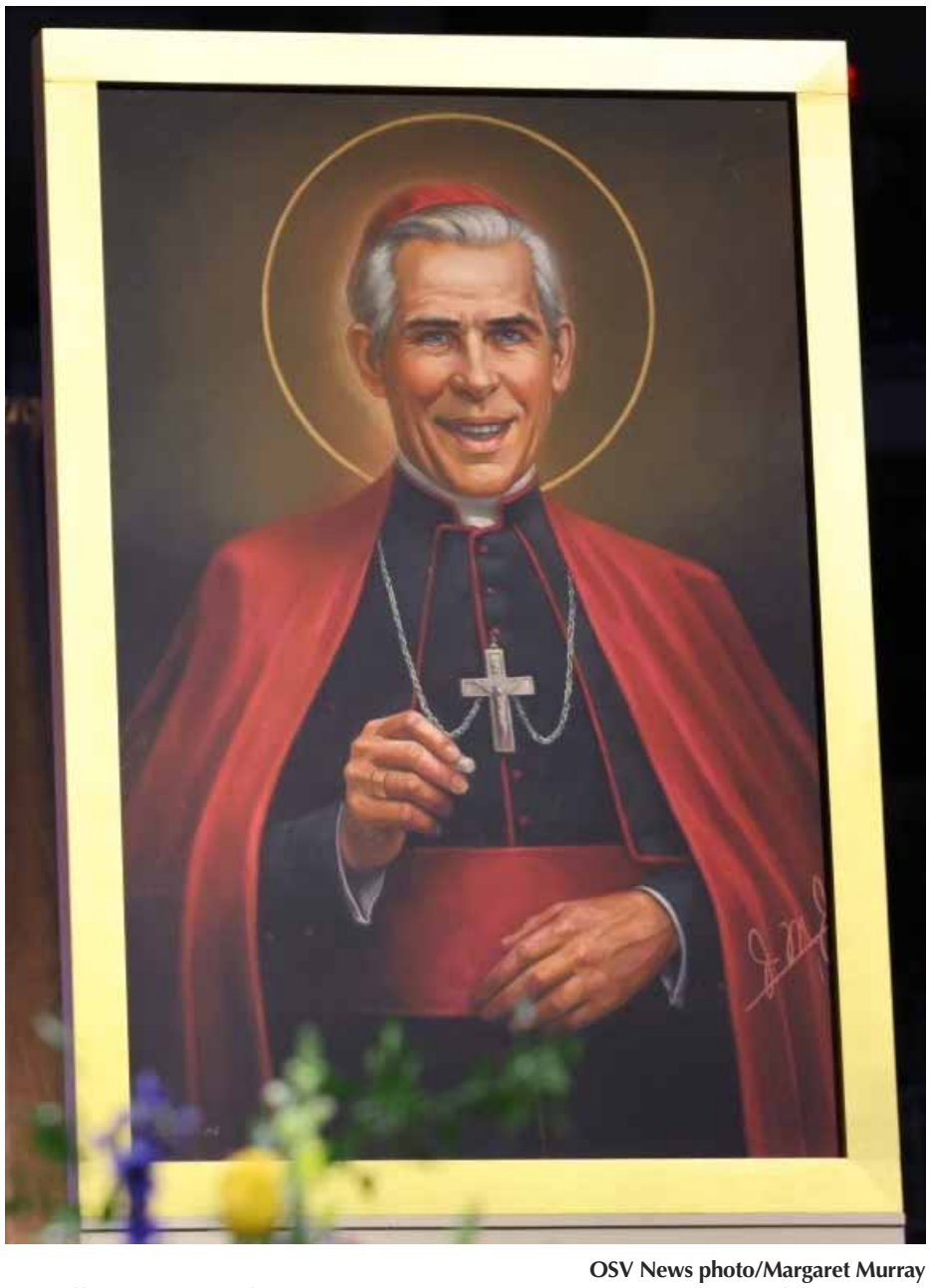
Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, a pro-prefect for the Holy See's Dicastery for Evangelization and papal delegate, pronounced the Church's declaration on Archbishop Sheen's holiness of life and witness to Jesus Christ at a Sept. 24 Mass celebrated in The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

To the applause of pilgrims, Cardinal Tagle described Archbishop Sheen as a "son of Illinois, son of the United States of America" and "indeed, son of the world."

Hundreds of clergy, including dozens of bishops and cardinals, had processed into the arena for the Mass as choirs, accompanied by an orchestra, performed a succession of hymns. The priests' vestments were embroidered with "JMJ," Archbishop Sheen's signature dedication to Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The location had been selected by Archbishop Sheen's home Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, to accommodate the number of pilgrims who arrived for the beatification and its surrounding events. Around 50,000 people were in attendance, according to organizers.

During a press conference a few hours prior to the Mass, Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria said that almost every U.S. state and several additional nations were represented by pilgrims. A number of the faithful hailed from Italy, Poland and Brazil, he said.



OSV News photo/Margaret Murray

The official portrait of Blessed Fulton J. Sheen is revealed at his beatification Mass Sept. 24 at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

Close to 90 bishops, some 1,000 priests, an estimated 1,600 men and women religious, and almost 250 deacons were present, added Bishop Tylka, who wore Archbishop Sheen's pectoral cross. Among the concelebrating prelates was Archbishop Gabriele G. Caccia, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The beatification — a papal act affirming an individual's presence in heaven is worthy of belief — officially occurred between the liturgy's Penitential Rite and the Gloria. Bishop Tylka made a formal request for Archbishop Sheen's beatification to Cardinal Tagle.

A short biography of Archbishop Sheen, who was born in El Paso, Illinois, in 1895 and died in New York in 1979, was read by Archbishop Sheen's great-nephew, Paul Cunningham, after which Cardinal Tagle proclaimed the apostolic letter from Pope Leo XIV declaring the beatification in Latin. Bishop Tylka then read the letter in English, as applause followed both.

With the papal decree's public proclamation, Archbishop Sheen became formally counted among the Church's "beati," from the Latin word for "blessed."

James Fulton Engstrom — whose revival from stillbirth in 2010, attributed to Archbishop Sheen's intercession, was formally declared the miracle that moved

See "Sheen" on Page 2

Inside:

Father Grassi Explains his new Role as Episcopal Vicar for the Usus Antiquior, Page 5

Sheen ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Archbishop Sheen to beatification — processed with his parents and siblings to present a major relic of Archbishop Sheen during the liturgy.

Enclosed in a special case called a reliquary, the relic is Archbishop Sheen's mandible, or jawbone, chosen because it represents the archbishop's tremendous gifts as an orator, teacher and evangelist.

As part of the beatification, a portrait of a haloed Blessed Fulton Sheen was also unveiled. In the image, he is notably holding a piece of chalk, which he famously used — along with a blackboard — during his Emmy-winning television show, "Life Is Worth Living."

The image was also simultaneously unveiled in the Diocese of Peoria at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

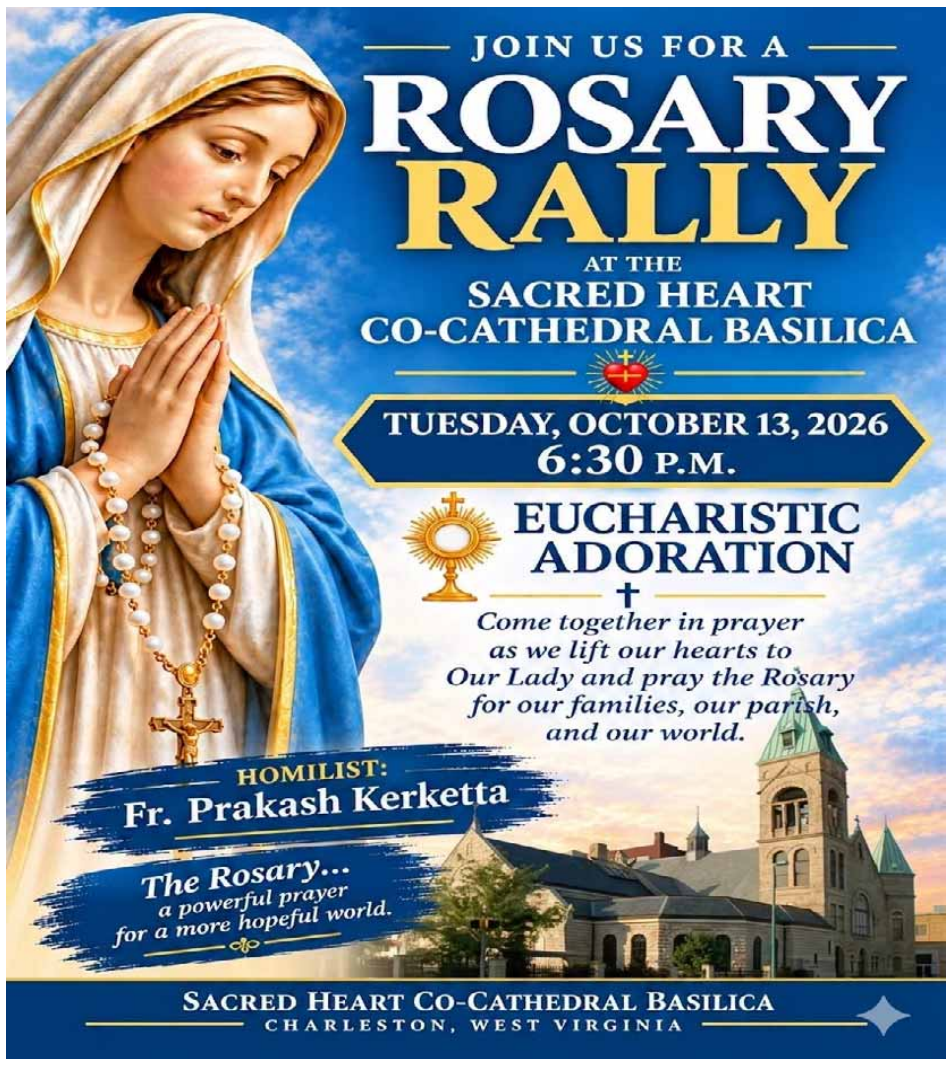
The first reading from the beatification Mass, Isaiah 52:7-10, was delivered in Spanish, with the second reading, 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7, proclaimed in Portuguese, while the Gospel taken from Mark 16:15-20 was proclaimed in English. The prayers of the faithful were offered in a variety of other languages, illustrating both the universal character of the Church and also the missionary mindset of Blessed Fulton J. Sheen, who served as the U.S. director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In his homily, Cardinal Tagle praised Archbishop Sheen as a "storyteller of Jesus" and "a "missionary who digs deep into the heart of the poor to meet Jesus there."

The cardinal noted then-Bishop Sheen's passionate advocacy for the poor during the Second Vatican Council. During the 1964 discussions on the document "Ad Gentes," on the missionary activity of the Church, then-Bishop Sheen asked his brother bishops to "affirm" the notion of poverty and the bishops who came from poor and suffering parts of the Church.

"As only a wounded Christ could convert a doubting Thomas,

See "Sheen" on Page 3



The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule 2026

2026 Print Dates:

Month of the Rosary, Oct. 9
Advent, Nov. 20
Christmas, Dec. 18

There are 10 print editions in 2026. Above are the names of the issues and the publishing dates left for the year. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

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

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV.EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

The Catholic Spirit

September 25, 2026
Vol. 56, No. 40

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

thecatholicspiritwv.org
dwc.org

Publisher: Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Andrea Acosta, Martina Hart, John Sherwood, Pam Queen
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc.

Published every Friday by e-mail & printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to each registered Catholic free of charge. Donations to help offset production costs are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are $25 annually. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit.

Submission Guidelines: news releases are articles (limited to 12,000 words) and photos are welcome. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

Sheen ...

Cont'd from Page 2

so only a Church wounded by poverty can convert a doubting world," he said.

Cardinal Tagle commended Archbishop Sheen for making genuine connections with the people he met and to whom he preached and ministered.

"The missionary evangelizer is blessed by the communion with persons and peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable, and this is communion in the name of Jesus Christ," he said.

Cardinal Tagle shared how Archbishop Sheen told a friend, who asked why he became a priest, that he was called to share the Gospel and tell the story of Jesus.

"I never tire of telling it; I never tire of improving my telling of it. I love my calling," Archbishop Sheen said, as Cardinal Tagle recounted.

In remarks after Communion, Bishop Tylka urged all attendees to pray for Archbishop Sheen's canonization, leading them together in a prayer for that intention.

"It is God who has given the Church the extraordinary witness of the man we may now call Blessed Fulton J. Sheen," he said.

Thanking the many prelates involved in the Mass, including Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, whose archdiocese hosted the beatification, and representatives from the Archdiocese of New York, Diocese of Rochester and the Pontifical Mission Societies, Bishop Tylka noted, "Your presence today is a beautiful reminder that while Peoria is incredibly proud to call Fulton Sheen one of our own, he is a gift to the whole Church."

Bishop Tylka also expressed his gratitude to Archbishop Sheen's family, individuals and benefactors involved in preparations and liturgy, and the faithful who made the pilgrimage to attend the beatification.

"Fulton Sheen has left us a great legacy," he said. "He fearlessly proclaimed the Gospel in challenging cultural times. He supported the Church's missions throughout the world. He won tens of thousands of converts and preached to millions. His time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament was the source of his insight into the Son of God. He used every gift God gave him for one purpose: to bring people to Christ. And his legacy is now ours."

Following the Mass, attendees were invited to remain in prayer to venerate Archbishop Sheen's relics.

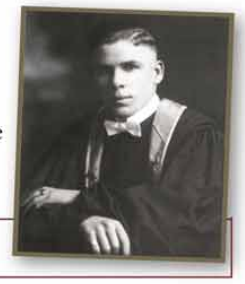
(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)

Blessed Fulton J. Sheen
A Timeline

1895 Born; El Paso, Illinois, May 8

1900 Moved to Peoria, Illinois; enrolled at St. Mary's Cathedral School

1909 Enrolled at Spalding Institute in Peoria, Illinois



1913 Enrolled at St. Viator's College in Bourbonnais, Illinois

1917 Enrolled at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota

1919 Ordained a priest, Sept. 20, St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria

1920 Began period of graduate studies at The Catholic University of America, Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, the Sorbonne in Paris and the Angelicum in Rome

1923 Obtained *agrege* doctorate in philosophy from Catholic University of Louvain

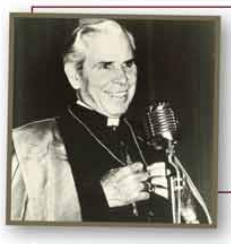
1925 Spent nine months working at St. Patrick Parish in Peoria

1926 Began teaching theology, then philosophy and religion at Catholic University in Washington; remained until 1950

1930 Began "The Catholic Hour" national radio broadcast

1950 Appointed national director of the Society for the Propagation of Faith; remained until 1966

1951 Ordained a bishop by Adeodato Giovanni Cardinal Piazza at Sts. John and Paul Basilica in Rome, June 11; appointed auxiliary bishop of New York. Began "Life is Worth Living" television series



1953 Won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality

1966 Appointed bishop of Rochester, New York, by Pope Paul VI, Oct. 21

1966 Elected Chairman of Committee for the Propagation of the Faith; Elected to Administrative Board of the National Council of Catholic Bishops

1969 Appointed to the Papal Commission for Non-believers by Pope Paul VI

1969 Resignation as bishop of Rochester accepted by Pope Paul VI, Oct. 6. Appointed Titular Archbishop of Newport

1979 Died, New York City, Dec. 9

2002 Cause for beatification and canonization opened, Sept. 14

2012 Declared venerable by Pope Benedict XVI, June 28

2026 Beatified in St. Louis, Sept. 24

ANNUAL NOVENA TO THE
INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

SEPTEMBER 14 – NOVEMBER 9, 2026
NINE CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

"Unless You Become Like Children"

SEPTEMBER 14
Chosen and Loved by the Father
Bishop Mark Brennan

SEPTEMBER 21
Becoming Little Before God
Father Daniel Heusel

SEPTEMBER 28
Your Heavenly Father Knows What You Need
Deacon Jacob Manning

OCTOBER 5
Here Am I, Lord
Father Clifton Mastran

OCTOBER 12
Receiving the Kingdom with Open Hands
Father Pen Manikyalarao

OCTOBER 19
Trusting God in Fear and Suffering
Father Chester Pabin

OCTOBER 26
The Freedom of Forgiveness
Deacon Douglas Breiding

NOVEMBER 2
Serving the Hidden Christ
Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala

NOVEMBER 9
The Child Who Is King
Bishop William Waltersheid

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV
www.saintjosephcathedral.com

Episcopal Vicar for the Usus Antiquior

By Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F.

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;" – Isaiah 40:11. These words from the Prophet Isaiah are what I would consider a summary of this position of the Episcopal Vicar for the Usus Antiquior. When Bishop Evelio contacted me to discuss the Extraordinary Form of the Mass I did not know what he was really looking for. As our conversation proceeded those words came to mind, "He tends his flock like a shepherd," because I realized this was about a bishop who cared for the people he had been entrusted to shepherd. I quickly came to understand that this was about the unity of the faith and the oneness of the mystery within the two forms of the Roman Rite of Mass. When we all believe, live and act with these intentions, we come to the realization that the presence of the Old Liturgy is a gift destined to build up the Body of Christ.

Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F.

With this in mind, Bishop Evelio asked if I would be something of a "liaison" for the Latin Mass Communities in our Diocese. What this means is that I am overseeing the different places that offer the Extraordinary Form of the Mass and offer support to them in making sure they are following all the necessary guidelines that the Holy Father has given us and seeking whatever permissions may be necessary. All of this would be done in consultation with the bishop and at his direction. Bishop Evelio was also very interested in making sure that it was reasonably accessible in all parts of this vast Diocese of ours and that those Masses be staffed by our clergy, not from neighboring clergy. Letters requesting the Extraordinary Form of the Mass in the Charleston area came to the bishop's attention. Hence, Fr. Phillip Szabo, of St. Agnes Parish in Charleston was entrusted with caring for those attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass in the southern part of the state. Further, in Wheeling, the Extraordinary Form of the Mass was being offered at the Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission one Sunday a month and a priest was brought in from Steubenville to offer the Mass. Now, Fr. Justin Golna will offer that Mass each week. The other two places in the Diocese where the Extraordinary Form of the Mass is offered is in Morgantown at St. John University Parish, by Fr. Brian Crenwelge, and in Charles Town at the Annunciation Priory by the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem. This makes access to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass in more regions of the Diocese.

Bishop Evelio sat in choir during the Extraordinary Form of the Mass at the Priory of the Annunciation in Charles Town, which means that he was on the altar and participating in the Mass, not as the celebrant, but as one who is praying with the faithful in the Mass. He addressed the congregation, informing them of his care and concern for the salvation of all the souls entrusted to him in the Diocese and that included all of them. His message was exceedingly pastoral and very genuine. He expressed that the presence of the Usus Antiquior in the Diocese meets a genuine pastoral need, drawing on a similar spirit of care and hospitality that causes our Diocese to provide Mass in Spanish.

I am hopeful that Bishop Evelio's pastoral solicitude will grow the spiritual life of the Diocese and encourage all the faithful by making reasonable accommodations for the needs of each. It is very sad when I read about many Dioceses across the country that are closing parishes and consequently eliminating Masses for the faithful. It warms my heart to think that in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we are adding Masses and giving the faithful more opportunities to participate in the ancient rite of the Mass. This can only be a win-win for everyone. May God be glorified!

304-232-0330
ALTMEYER FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY
"THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"
Wheeling Chapel 1400 Eoff Street Wheeling, WV 304-232-0330
South Wheeling Chapel 3828 Jacob Street Wheeling, WV 304-232-5444
Elm Grove Chapel 154 Kruger Street Elm Grove, WV 304-242-0330
Benwood-McMechen 214 Marshall Street McMechen, WV 304-232-1710
Moundsville 118 grant Avenue Moundsville, WV 304-845-4560
Beck-Altmeyer 204 West Main Street St. Clairsville, OH 740-695-0475
James E. Altmeyer, Jr President
James E. Altmeyer, Sr Chairman
Eugene T. Fahey Vice President
www.altmeyer.com

RICH & SHIRLEY'S QUICKPRINT
RSQP.net
PRINT & DESIGN
(304) 233-7433
92 16th Street, Wheeling, WV

Food service Equipment, Supplies, Disposables, Janitorial and more
national equipment co.
1 Fourteenth Street, Wheeling, WV 26003
304-233-2270
Stop in or call us today!

HEAVENLY DIVINE ROSARIES
We Sell Handmade Custom Rosaries & Religious Gifts!
Scan The QR Code To Visit Our Online Store Today!
Phone: (304) 277-8049
www.heavenlydivinerosaries.com
Visit Our YouTube Channel For Daily Devotionals, Prayers & Quotes of The Saints
YouTube @HDRosaries

JOHNSON BOILER WORKS, INC
53 Marshall St.
Benwood, WV 26031
(304) 232-3070
Steam Boiler Repairs

Jarvis-Williams Funeral Homes
Weldon P. Williams, FD & LIC
"Boots" Jarvis, Co-Owner & Sec
1224 S. Bridge Street, New Martinsville, WV (304) 455-3456
309 N 4th Avenue, Paden City, WV (304) 337-2311

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!
Do it Best
We Also Specialize n Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Lou W. Nau, Inc.
69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311
louwnau.doitbest.com

Immigrants and Refugees to Share Their Stories at 'Who is My Neighbor?' Gathering in Wheeling

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING — St. Michael Parish in Wheeling invites all to "A Gathering and a Conversation: Reforming the Immigration System in the United States" on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 6:30-8 p.m. This is the fifth session of the parish's series, "Who is My Neighbor?"

The gathering will be held in the cafeteria at St. Michael Parish School, which is located next to the church.

Sharing their stories will be recent immigrants and refugees to the U.S. whose families have been affected by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Three different stories will be highlighted, said Lou Volpe, a parishioner who facilitates the series. "One eventually turned out positive after a struggle, one not positive, and one is still being decided," he said.

The hope is to foster a compassionate understanding of the challenges and hardships immigrants and refugees face. And with families being separated after deportations, Volpe said, "We have to talk about that in light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching."

In the second part of the gathering, St. Michael's parishioner David Barnett will offer a PowerPoint presentation on the immigration system, which Volpe noted has not been reformed since 1996. Questions to be covered include: How do you get a visa? How do you get a green card? What are some of the pitfalls? What does it involve? What are some of the glitches that have occurred that make it difficult in general for someone to be naturalized?

"We will hear each other's voices and ideas concerning the call to modify or change the immigration system to mirror the values expressed in Universal Social Teaching," the promotional flyer states.

The third part of the evening will provide a time for participants to ask questions and to engage in open conversation.

"That's important," Vople said. "People will be able to talk and listen to each other."

Very Rev. Carlos Melocoton, V.F., pastor of St. Michael's, said the series brings people together to synodality.

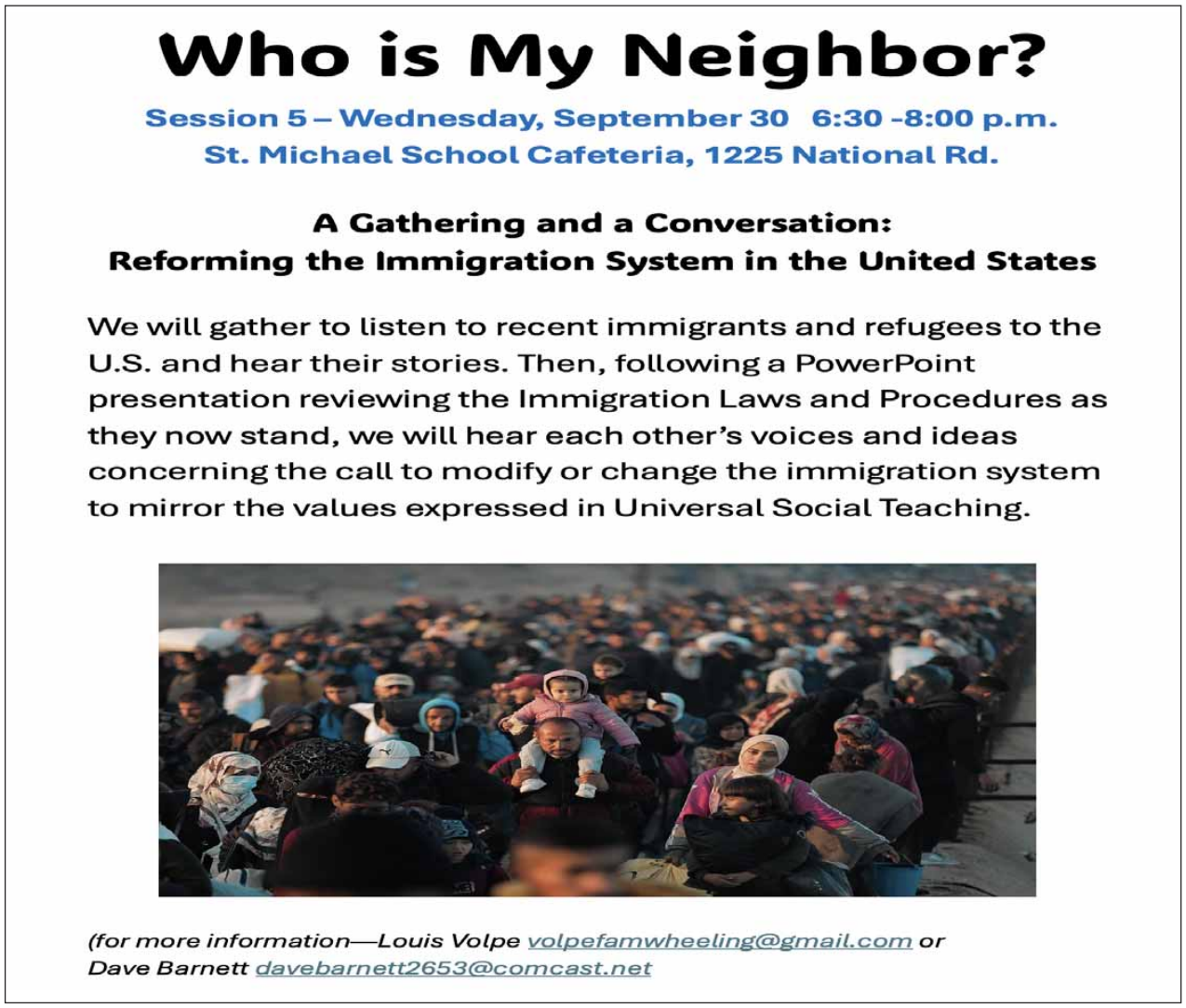
"We come to talk and learn about the plight of our immigrant brothers and sisters," he said. "We hear news about their situation on media/social media, yet we do not know how to respond. This series gets us together to dialogue, get informed, and let the Holy Spirit take care of the course and lead us how to respond in light of our Catholic Social Teachings. We already see the fruits of the Holy Spirit, we are on our fifth series, and we are doing some practical actions already."

One of those actions, he added, is the parish's campaign "Ayudas para Amistad" (Help for a Friend or Brother) which raises funds to help the immigrant/refugee community in the Northern Panhandle. Donations can be made to St. Michael Parish with "Ayudas para Amistad" on the check memo line.

Through "Who is My Neighbor?"gatherings, the parish wants to help people in the community to be aware of issues surrounding immigration. This has been the goal since the launch of the series back in February with "A Conversation on Catholic Social Teaching & Immigration." The following months brought additional gatherings in Wheeling as well as an event at St. Mary Parish in Star City which Volpe and Barnett helped to facilitate.

The upcoming session in Wheeling is free and open to the public. For more information, send e-mail to Volpe at volpefamwheeling@gmail.com or Barnett at davebarnett2653@comcast.net

Zambito
Flooring AMERICA
We have it ALL!
5095 National Road, Triadelphia, WV
304-547-1800
www.flooringamericawestvirginia.com



Bringing Christ to the Classroom

Father Doug Ondeck blesses the preschool and classrooms at St. Patrick Catholic School in Weston with the Most Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance Sept. 18. Students kneel before Christ, while other students join the procession as altar servers and choir members. With them is Principal John Riley. Courtesy photo

MILLS GROUP
ARCHITECTURE ▪ PLANNING ▪ PRESERVATION
SERVING THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON'S PARISHES AND SCHOOLS FOR OVER 25 YEARS
DWC PARISHIONERS VICTOR GRECO, JULIE DOERR AND ALEXIS BEHRENS
VISIT US @ MILLSGROUPONLINE.COM

Catholic International,
Joy from The Truth
100% Online
Catholic International partners with our diocese to offer free continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry.
Start Today!
Use the access code:
CDU20DIOCESEWC
when setting up your account to receive your free tuition!
https://catholiciu.edu/continuingeducation/

BLUE MASS

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRST RESPONDERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
10:30 AM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, West Virginia

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston
Celebrant & Homilist

A reception will follow.
All are welcome.

Knights of Columbus
Charles Carroll Assembly 1185

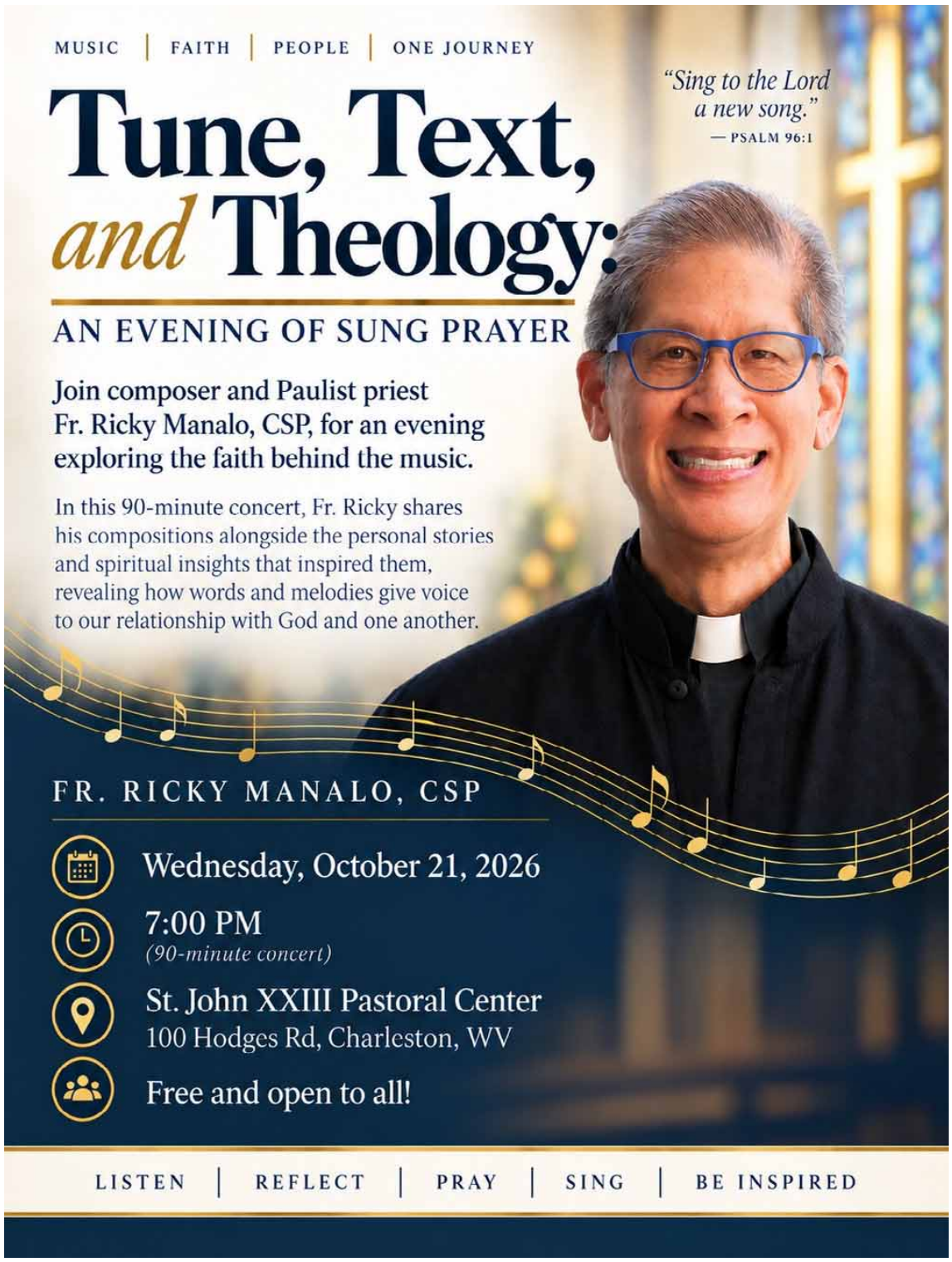
THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

2026 PACE Conference Registration is Now Open

WEST VIRGINIA— The theme for the 2026 PACE Conference is: "With One Voice: One Faith, One Spirit" and will feature internationally known composer and theologian Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP as the keynote speaker.

PACE—an acronym for Pastoral Administration and Collaborative Education—was created to provide training, formation, and professional development for staff members and volunteers serving our parishes and schools. Just as important, PACE provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships, encourage collaboration, and foster communication between Chancery employees and those serving throughout the Diocese.

The PACE Conference strives to offer something for everyone. Practical sessions provide training and guidance on topics such as Flocknote, payroll procedures, office management, technology, and other aspects of day-to-day parish and school operations. These are complemented by engaging sessions focused on pastoral ministry, faith formation, leadership, and other areas that support the Church's broader mission. Specialized sessions are also offered for those serving in school administration. Together, these opportunities make PACE not simply a training event, but a day of learning, formation, collaboration, and fellowship for those who serve the Church throughout our Diocese.



Registration is now open. Click here to register. For a listing of breakout sessions, click here. Registration timelines and fees are as follows (please note that ALL registration fees are non-refundable):

Early Registration Fee: $110 (September 21-October 7)

Late Registration Fee: $130 (October 8-14)

First time PACE attendee discounted rate during Early Registration: $90

Please note that you must secure your own lodging accommodations including the associated costs. The costs above are simply the registration costs which include meals at the Pastoral Center.

About Father Ricky Manalo, CSP:

Fr. Manalo, CSP, is a Paulist priest, liturgical composer, theologian, and pastoral scholar recognized internationally for his contributions to Catholic worship, intercultural ministry, and pastoral leadership. Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Marlboro, New Jersey, he studied composition and piano at the Manhattan School of Music, theology at Washington Theological Union, and liturgy, culture, and sociology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. In 2024, Fr. Manalo was invited by the Vatican to serve on a panel of theologians, ethicists, and experts exploring how Catholic faith can shape the ethical development of artificial intelligence. He currently serves, along with Jonathan Lewis, as co-director of The Communion Project, a Paulist initiative addressing polarization, leading efforts to bridge divides and foster dialogue within the U.S. Catholic Church.

Knights of Columbus Elkins Council to Mark its 125th Anniversary in October

ELKINS—"Help us celebrate a milestone in faith, service, and brotherhood!" The Knights of Columbus, Elkins Council #603, stated in anticipation of its 125th anniversary in October, "And we are gathering memories from throughout our council's history."

Parishioners of St. Brendan's in Elkins and St. Patrick Mission in Coalton are invited to share photos, newspaper articles, keepsakes, or other memorabilia featuring past activities, events, or members. Items may be dropped off at the parish office for Brother Knight Deacon Raymond Godwin or given to any Brother Knight for inclusion in the anniversary program.

Parishioners are asked to label each item with name and phone number so it can be returned after it has been documented.

The council thanks all for helping to honor 125 years of service and preserve these treasured memories.

The Knights 125th Anniversary Program will have an "In Memory of" memorial list of Council 603 Knights over the years who have passed on. The council is asking for a donation of $10 per name for the list which will go to help defray the costs of the Knights Anniversary Dinner and Program. Those who would like to have a loved one who was a Knight listed on that page, are asked to give the name and the donation to either Dan Kelly or Bryan Kozik or write the name on an envelope putting the donation inside, and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office.

The publishing deadline for these is Friday, Oct. 16.

Preston County Parishes Will Share 'Joy of Our Catholic Faith' at Buckwheat Festival

KINGWOOD — "The Buckwheat Festival is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our community and share the joy of our Catholic faith!"said members of Preston County's St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood and the Missions of St. Zita in Masontown and St. Edward the Confessor in Terra Alta.

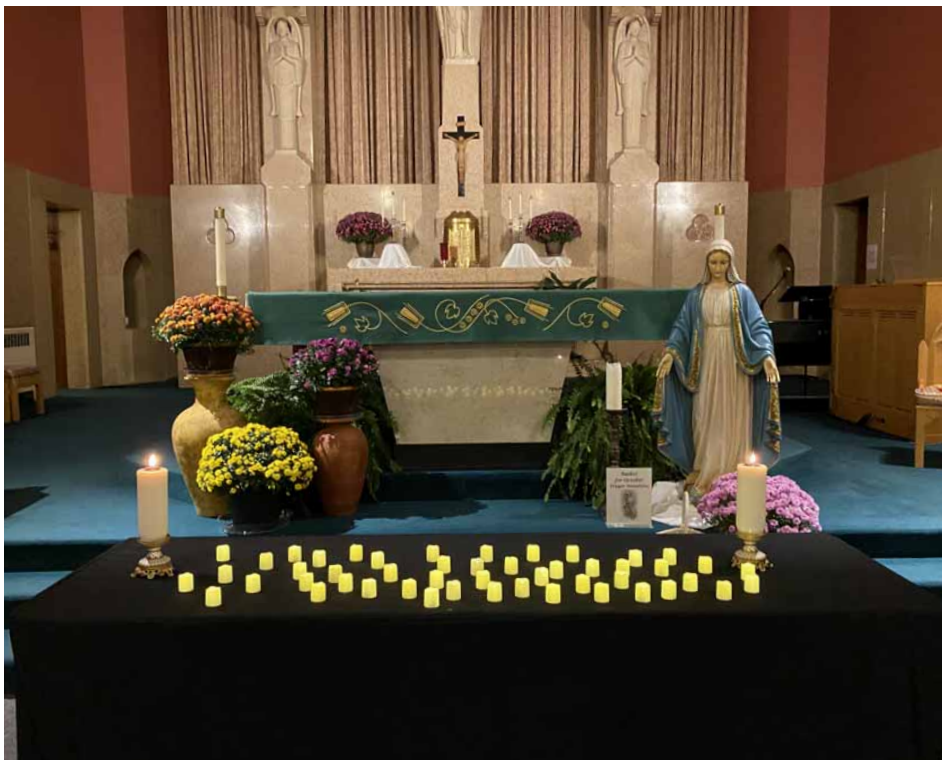
At the festival, which ends Sept. 27, "The Catholic Church of Preston County" will have an evangelization table setup at Brown Avenue across from the Community Building. "We'll be sharing information about our churches, our ministries, and the many wonderful things happening throughout our Catholic community," they said.

The group will have brochures, information about ministries at the three churches, goodies for the kids, and more.

"Most importantly, we'll be there to welcome people, answer questions, and let our community know that there is a place for them in the Catholic Church of Preston County," they said.

The Preston County Buckwheat Festival is held annually to celebrate the area's rich history of buckwheat farming.

Wheeling Parish to Host Interfaith Service for Those Living with Mental Illness



Courtesy photo

St. Michael Church in Wheeling is pictured during a past NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Greater Wheeling interfaith service to pray for individuals and families living with mental illness. This year's event will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the Angelus Center.

WHEELING—St. Michael Parish in Wheeling will again join NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Greater Wheeling in hosting an interfaith service to pray for individuals and families living with mental illness. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the Angelus Center, which is just west of the church at 1225 National Road in Wheeling.

The annual prayer service has been a part of St. Michael Parish's stewardship activities for more than 20 years. Everyone who attends the vigil will have the opportunity to light a prayer candle in honor of a friend or loved one with mental illness. Please join us!

Permanent Diaconate Formation Program

Aspirancy Program 2027-28

Click here for information

Deacon Trunzo Leading New Grief Support Group in Clarksburg

CLARKSBURG — A newly formed grief support group, The Wounded Healers, is being led by Deacon Thom Trunzo who has more than 31 years in ministry.

The group will meet Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the St. James Church Social Hall, 1300 N21st St, (Northview) Clarksburg. The first gathering was Sept. 22.

"Grief is a difficult journey, and being part of a support group is one way that allows people who are grieving to listen, learn a little about what might be going on inside, and have a safe and confidential place to share," group organizers said. "Hosted by St. James, we are grateful to Amos Carvelli Funeral Home for its sponsorship. Anyone suffering a significant loss or death of a family member or friend is warmly invited to attend."

There is no charge to attend. For more information, Deacon Trunzo welcomes your call at (304) 672-3000.

"May the Spirit of Healing and Peace be upon you!" organizers said.

Knights of Columbus®

Carroll Council 504

OF WHEELING, W.VA.

Since 1900, West Virginia's first Knights of Columbus Council — Carroll Council 504 — has been committed to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Guided by these Principles, we will continue to serve the parishioners of St. Michael, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Alphonsus, and the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and the Wheeling community today and tomorrow.

To learn more and to join us, click here

Wheeling University Names Denise Mirasola Vice President of Enrollment & Student Affairs

WHEELING—A seasoned-educator and Ohio Valley resident, Denise Mirasola, Ed.D., is the new Vice President of Enrollment and Student Affairs at Wheeling University.

The Weirton resident had most recently served as principal of Weirton Elementary School in the Hancock County School District. In her new role at Wheeling University, Dr. Mirasola oversees the University's recruitment and student affairs departments.

"Dr. Mirasola brings a wealth of experience that is beneficial to our recruitment and student life efforts. Making sure our students are successful and engaged in campus life at Wheeling University is one of her top priorities," said Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D., President of Wheeling University.

"I want to help our students feel connected to Wheeling University, support them throughout their college experience, while helping them achieve their academic and career goals. I plan to build on the recent success that Dr. Vargo and her team have achieved at Wheeling University," she said.

Dr. Mirasola added, "I am working alongside the talented teams already in

Denise Mirasola, Ed.D.

place and identifying new opportunities to strengthen the student experience and enrollment efforts. Making sure every student is connected from the moment they arrive on campus is a priority."

Before joining the Wheeling University community, Dr. Mirasola spent the last seven years as the principal at Weirton Elementary School. Her teaching career began in 1994, and she taught at the elementary, high school, and college levels. She was named assistant principal at Weirton Elementary School in 2015 and later became assistant principal at Oak Glen High School.

"It is exciting to build relationships across the University community to advance Wheeling University's mission of life, leadership, and service," Dr. Mirasola added.

Panhandle CLEANING & RESTORATION
FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER
800.504.7054
Wheeling • Morgantown • Charleston
Pittsburgh • Sarasota
PanhandleCR.com
"CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY THE MOUNTAINEERS CALL"

Now is the time to Talk!
Kepner
FUNERAL HOMES CREMATORY
304.232.5110 | KepnerFuneral.com
James B. Kepner President | Melissa Hill COIC

Duplaga's TOP NOTCH
LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC
Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls
Supply Yard
Chris Duplaga, Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com
WE DELIVER
office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

COLEMAN'S FISH MKT.
Established 1914
Centre Wheeling Market House
304-232-8510
111 Years

MJT
MICHAEL J. TUPTA, D.D.S.
Dentistry That Makes You Smile
1701 Oakhurst Drive
Charleston, WV 25314
304-744-4150
MyDentistInCharleston.com
Accepting New Patients

LG
LEWIS GIANOLA PLLC
Webester J. Arceneaux • Matthew R. Bowles
Mark A. Sadd
Charleston | Morgantown
A West Virginia law firm www.lewisgianola.com

FIND YOUR FAITH FAMILY!

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

STAY CONNECTED. YOU BELONG.

Hilltop Campus Ministry
West Liberty University & Bethany College
134 Van Meter Way, West Liberty

Marshall Newman Center
Marshall University
1609 5th Ave, Huntington

John Paul II
University of Charleston & WV State University
310 26th Street, Charleston

Your home away from home.
Stop by.
Check out our events!
Attend Mass.
Enjoy great food.
Bring a friend.
See you soon!

Mountaineer Catholic
St. John University Parish
1481 University Ave., Morgantown

Good Shepherd House
Shepherd University
101 W. High Street. Shepherdstown

Fairmont Newman Center
Fairmont State University & Pierpont College
1200 College Park, Fairmont,

Concord Newman Center
Concord University
301 Vermillion St, Athens

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Department of Faith Formation

Welty
Home for the Aged

The Welty Home difference: assisted living at its best

www.weltyhome.org • 304.242.5233

Mountaineer Catholic
St. John University Parish

St. John University Parish
Mountaineer Catholic
On the Campus of West Virginia University

El arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen es declarado beato en una Misa en St. Louis

Por Gina Christian

ST. LOUIS (OSV News) — El arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen --teólogo estadounidense del siglo XX, evangelizador, pionero de las comunicaciones católicas, maestro y predicador — es ahora el Beato Fulton Sheen.

El cardenal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefecto del Dicasterio para la Evangelización de la Santa Sede, dio a conocer la declaración de la Iglesia sobre la vida y el testimonio del arzobispo Sheen durante una Misa celebrada el 24 de septiembre en The Dome at America's Center de St. Louis, Missouri.

El lugar había sido seleccionado por la diócesis natal del arzobispo Sheen, Peoria, Illinois, para dar cabida a los miles de peregrinos que asistieron a la beatificación y a los eventos relacionados. Según los organizadores, asistieron alrededor de 50.000 personas.

La beatificación se llevó a cabo oficialmente entre el Rito Penitencial de la liturgia y el Gloria. El obispo Louis Tylka, de Peoria, Illinois, presentó una solicitud formal de beatificación del arzobispo Sheen al cardenal Tagle, el delegado papal. Se leyó una breve biografía del arzobispo Sheen, seguida del decreto formal de beatificación enviado por el Papa León XIV.

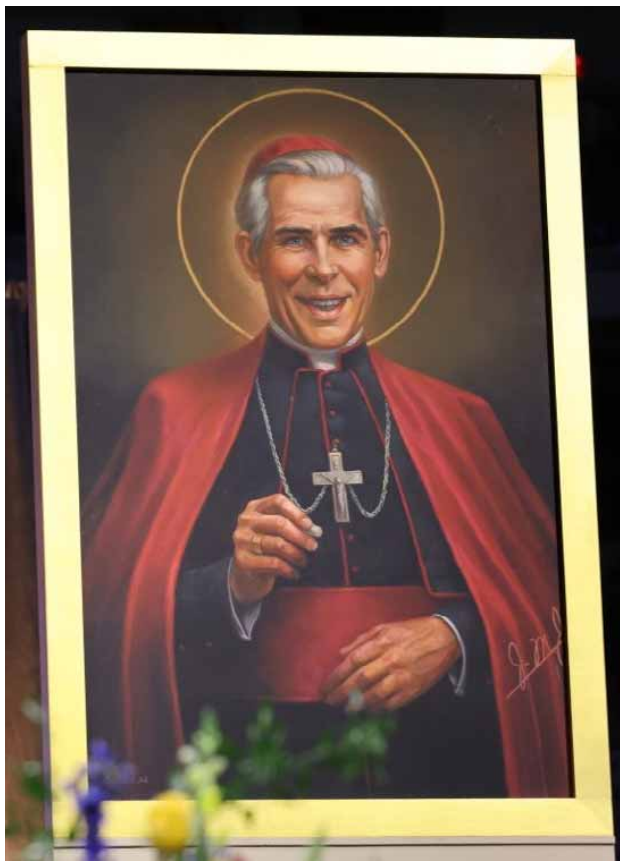


Foto OSV News/Margaret Murray

El retrato oficial del Beato Fulton J. Sheen se dio a conocer en su Misa de beatificación, celebrada el 24 de septiembre de 2026 en The Dome at America's Center en St. Louis.

Con la proclamación pública del decreto, el arzobispo Sheen pasa a formar parte oficialmente de los "beati" de la Iglesia, término latino que significa "beatos".

James Fulton Engstrom — cuya recuperación tras nacer sin pulso en 2010, atribuida a la intercesión del arzobispo Sheen, fue declarada oficialmente el milagro que impulsó la beatificación del arzobispo Sheen — presentó una reliquia mayor del arzobispo.

Guardada en un estuche especial llamado relicario, la reliquia es la mandíbula del arzobispo Sheen, elegida porque representaba los extraordinarios dones del arzobispo como orador, maestro y evangelista.

Con la beatificación, también se dio a conocer un retrato con la imagen del arzobispo Sheen con una aureola. En la imagen, llama la atención que sostenga una tiza, que solía usar (junto con una pizarra) durante su programa de televisión ganador de un premio Emmy, "Life Is Worth Living".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores: La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, 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. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

Franciscan University to Celebrate Vision of the 'Eternal Woman'

The Institute for the Study of Man and Woman explores the thought of Gertrud von le Fort with Oct. 14 event

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO — Franciscan University of Steubenville's Institute for the Study of Man and Woman will celebrate the life and thought of influential Catholic writer Gertrud von le Fort with a special evening of reflection on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pope St. Paul VI Event Center, Christ the Teacher Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

A Celebration of the Timeless Work of Gertrud von le Fort will bring together three scholars to explore von le Fort's insights into womanhood and the "eternal feminine," with particular attention to her classic work The Eternal Woman.

The event comes during a worldwide celebration marking the 150th anniversary of von le Fort's birth. Born October 11, 1876, in Minden, Germany, von le Fort became one of the important Catholic literary voices of the 20th century. The Eternal Woman, first published in German in 1934, remains among her most enduring reflections on the nature and vocation of woman.

The evening will feature a panel discussion involving Dr. Deborah Savage, professor of theology at Franciscan University and director of the Institute for the Study of Man and Woman; Dr. Margaret Harper McCarthy, associate professor of theological anthropology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America; and Dr. Jennifer S. Bryson, fellow in Catholic studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Savage has devoted much of the past two decades to developing a scientifically, philosophically, and theologically grounded account of man and woman, their identity, genius, and mission. She is also a recognized scholar of the work of Pope St. John Paul II and his philosophical anthropology.

McCarthy's teaching and scholarship focus on theological anthropology, particularly questions surrounding sexual difference, the imago Dei, personhood, equality, gender, and the nature of love. She also serves as editor of Humanum: Issues in Family, Culture, and Science and on the editorial boards of Communio and The New Ressourcement.

Bryson is currently translating works by 19th-century and 20th-century Catholic authors from German into English. Her recent work includes a translation of Ida Görres' What Binds Marriage Forever, published this year by The Catholic University of America Press.

The three scholars will give voice to von le Fort's reflections on the nature of woman and consider the continuing relevance of The Eternal Woman nearly a century after its publication.

The October 14 event will also be livestreamed through Franciscan University. For more information and to watch the livestream, visit franciscan.edu/gertrud.

project rachel

Peace starts here

If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God's healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.

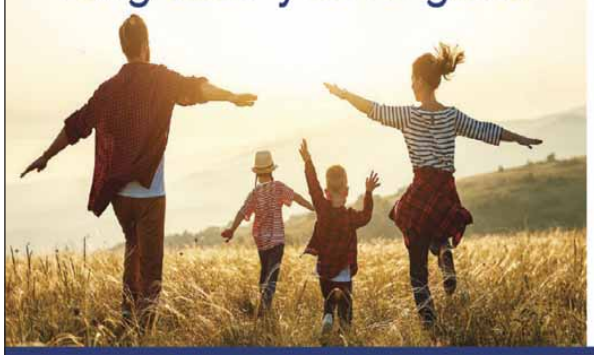
For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org

"I am happy to be part of our annual diocesan Catholic Sharing Appeal because not only has our parish benefitted from the appeal, over the years, I have witnessed first hand the tremendous impact the funds from the appeal make in the lives of people in our parishes."
-Fr. Alfred Obiudu

Make your gift to the Catholic Sharing Appeal today!
DWC.ORG/CSA

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
WOMEN'S MINISTRY
PRESENTS
KIMBERLY HAHN
LIVE
$30 REGISTRATION
SATURDAY
OCT. 3, 2026
8:00AM-12:00PM
• 8am Mass
• 9-10am Catered Breakfast
• 10-11:30 Keynote
• 11:45-12pm Rosary
150 S. Maple Ave. Clarksburg, WV

Safeguard your
FAMILY
long after you're gone



Why Choose Knights of Columbus Life Insurance?

- **Financial Security** – Help protect your family's income, mortgage, and daily needs.
- **Guaranteed Coverage** – Permanent life insurance options that may never expire.
- **Catholic Values** – Ethical investments and a commitment to faith-driven service.
- **Member Benefits** – Exclusive fraternal benefits tailored for Knights and their families.

Contact me today to learn more:
The Virtus Agency
Field Agent
(804) 547-2373
VirtusAgency2@kofc.org
www.KnightsInsurance.org

Knights of Columbus®

For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent or the Knights of Columbus. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions available to eligible members of the Knights of Columbus in U.S.A. and Canada. Guarantees assume all premiums are timely paid and are based on the claims-paying ability of the issuer. Any policy loans will impact the guarantees by reducing the policy's death benefit and cash values. Knights of Columbus is located at: 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

20299 4/25

Welty
Home for the Aged

Good Shepherd treats us like family.

www.weltyhome.org • 304.242.1093

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

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

Learn more at: My**WVU**Heart.com
Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVUHeart&Vascular Institute