

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Hispanic Community Brings Statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe through Downtown Clarksburg



Courtesy photo

The Hispanic Community of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg process with the statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe through the city Sept. 21 as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month which is Sept. 15-Oct. 15. Around 80 or 90 people participated in the procession from Immaculate Conception Church to the city center of Clarksburg. Walking with them is Msgr. Paul A. Hudock who leads Hispanic Ministry at Immaculate Conception and at St. Mary Parish in Star City.

For National Migration Week, Bishops Call for Solidarity with Immigrants Amid ‘Fear, Anxiety’

By OSV News

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Ahead of the U.S. Catholic Church’s observance of its annual National Migration Week, which began Sept. 22 and ends Sept. 28, the U.S. bishops reiterated their longstanding efforts to show solidarity with immigrants amid “fear and anxiety” prompted by current immigration enforcement efforts.

Catholic social teaching on immigration seeks to balance three interrelated principles — the right

of persons to migrate in order to sustain their lives and those of their families; the right of a country to regulate its borders and control immigration; but also a nation’s duty to regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

“The U.S. bishops have consistently expressed solidarity with immigrants amid the fear and anxiety prompted by current immigration enforcement efforts,” said a statement issued Sept. 18 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The bishops have called for, and continue to press for, ‘a more humane system of immigration, one that protects our communities while safeguarding the dignity of all.’ This includes encouraging bipartisan collaboration among policymakers,” it said.

For 45 years, “the U.S. Catholic Church has celebrated National Migration Week by reflecting on its history as an immigrant Church and the ways in which the country has been enriched by generations

of immigrants, including the many Catholics who have adopted this land as their own. It is also an opportunity to grow in appreciation of the challenges faced by migrants and refugees, both in the United States and beyond, and to express solidarity through prayer, accompaniment, and advocacy.”

Typically, National Migration Week culminates in the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on the last Sunday in September, but this

See “Solidarity” on Page 3

Inside: Catholic Charities Announces 2025 Charity in Action Award Honorees in Beckley, Page 4

Bishops, Politicians Call for Prayer after Shooting at ICE Facility in Dallas, Page 7

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, V.F., is appointed Interim Vicar Forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown.

Very Rev. B.K. Akila Rodrigo, T.O.R., Assoc. V.F., is appointed Associate Vicar Forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate, effective immediately. This appointment will expire in June 2026. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. James the Apostle Parish, Clarksburg.

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.reportbishop-abuse.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.reportbishop-abuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha

Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

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Become a Knight.

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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. 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.

2025 Print Issues and Dates: Month of the Rosary, October 10; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19

Martinsburg's St. Joseph Parish Receives Oregon Catholic Press Grant

By Colleen Rowan

MARTINSBURG—St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg has received a \$750 Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) grant to strengthen its music ministry.

Parish Music Director Brian R. Kaltenbaugh said St. Joseph's is honored and blessed to be the recipient of the grant, a large part of which will be used to meet the needs of its Hispanic community.

"The Hispanic community of St. Joseph Parish has seen remarkable growth in recent years," Kaltenbaugh said. "Funds from this grant will allow us to purchase updated Spanish-language music resources to meet the growing needs of the Hispanic community, as well as add to our English repertoire."

OCP Publisher Wade Wisler shared the news of the grant with Bishop Mark Brennan in a letter on behalf of Archbishop Alexander K. Sample and the OCP Board of Directors.

"It is our sincere hope that this grant will help St. Joseph Catholic Church meet the needs they so clearly presented in their grant application, as well as support their efforts to enhance their community's liturgy and music," Wisler said in the letter.

St. Joseph's was chosen for the award out of hundreds of applications from parishes large and small across the United States, Wisler wrote. Every application was of remarkable merit and each parish's needs were worthy of assistance, making the selection process difficult, he said.

"We take great satisfaction in knowing that so many parishes are committed to fulfilling the needs of their communities," he wrote.

Although some minor restrictions apply, this is a yearly program with varying award amounts.

"We invite any parish that was not awarded a grant in the previous year to apply in the coming year," Wisler said in the letter.

Applications for the OCP Parish Grants Program may be submitted online at ocp.org/parish-grants in early 2026.

OCP is committed to providing the very best resources, music and service to Catholic parishes and worshipers all over the world, the organization states on its website. It also says the OCP Parish Grants Program is a unique program of di-

rect financial grants authorized by the OCP Board of Directors to provide assistance to parishes and campus ministries seeking to enhance the worship experience of their community.

The website states that recipients of a Parish Grant must use the money for liturgical and/or musical purposes. Grants are commonly used for: Improving multicultural ministries with additional training and purchasing of bilingual worship materials; providing online, digital or electronic resources; upkeep, repair and replacement of musical instruments, equipment and facilities; purchasing music, hymnals and other worship materials; and attending or hosting musical or liturgical conferences or workshops.

Solidarity ...

Cont'd from Page 1

year the universal church will mark the World Day of Migrants and Refugees Oct. 4-5, to coincide with the Jubilee of Migrants.

In March, the late Pope Francis chose "Migrants, missionaries of hope" as the theme for the world day observance, linking it to the Jubilee message of hope, "underscoring a key hallmark of his pontificate and in recognition of the courage and resilience of migrants and refugees who bear daily witness to hope despite hardship," the USCCB statement said.

In his comments for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Leo XIV has continued to emphasize the dignity of migrants: "In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope. Their courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a

faith that sees beyond what our eyes can see and gives them the strength to defy death on the various contemporary migration routes."

"National Migration Week invites Catholics across the country to reflect on how hope can shape and inform our collective response to migration," the USCCB statement said. "Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools, and organizations nationwide are encouraged to mark this observance with prayer services, educational programs, community outreach, and support for migration-related ministries.

The Justice for Immigrants website offers a 2025 National Migration Week toolkit, including resources to help communities "prepare spiritually and pastorally."

(NOTES: A toolkit for National Migration Week toolkit can be found on the Justice for Immigrants website, <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/national-migration-week-2025>.

Possible Cause for Sainthood of Father Charles R. Carroll

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

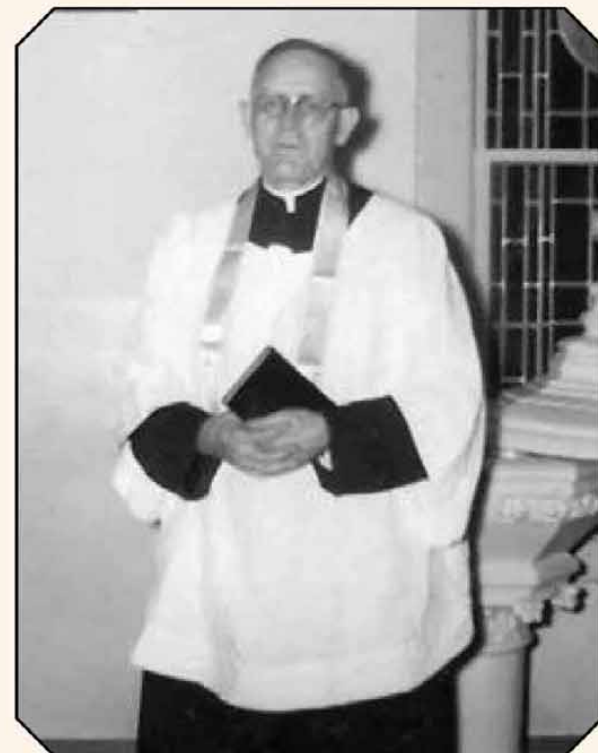
A group of people consisting of some members of All Saints Parish and former members of All Saints and its Mission Churches is exploring the possible Cause for Sainthood for Fr. Charles R. Carroll, the first pastor of All Saints Parish, Bridgeport, founder of the former school, Father Carroll served the faithful in WV from 1933-1982.

As part of this formal process, the Church seeks signs of cultus—devotion and esteem among the faithful. Bishop Brennan has encouraged the group to gather stories and testimonies.

If you knew Fr. Carroll, you are invited to share a testimony about his life and witness by emailing revrcarroll@gmail.com or by writing to:

The Cause of Father Charles R. Carroll

Attention: Stephen Pishner
All Saints Catholic Church
317 East Main St.
Bridgeport, WV 26330



Catholic Charities Announces 2025 Charity in Action Award Honorees in Beckley

BECKLEY — Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) announced its 2025 Charity in Action Awards in Beckley will honor six dedicated Beckley Outreach Center volunteers. CCWVa will recognize the honorees at its Charity in Action Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Historic Black Knight in Beckley from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Our Charity in Action Award honors charitable persons and groups for their devotion to the service of others,” stated CCWVa President & CEO Mark Phillips. “Our honorees have shown the power that radical love for our neighbors can have in creating a more just and compassionate society for all.”

All six honorees have been serving people in need for many years. Barbara Fedders, a four-year volunteer, spent 12 years helping people find information and resources at the Raleigh County Public Library. Benita Goode, a 12-year volunteer,

had a successful career as vice president and regional manager for JP Morgan Chase, overseeing 64 banks. Dr. Bert Cruz, a 13-year volunteer, is a retired physician specializing in radiology. Elizabeth “Libby” Wallen, a volunteer for two years, devoted more than 45 years to her career as a physical therapist. Kathleen McMahon-Pierce has been a volunteer for three years and worked for 35 years as a teacher, helping to develop the first program for hearing-impaired students in Raleigh County. Skip Jennings, a six-year volunteer, retired from the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) after a career dedicated to public service.

“Catholic Charities West Virginia is grateful to have so many cherished collaborators and supporters in service with us. Together in spirit and mission of charity, we have changed lives for the better,” stated Phillips.

Tickets for the Luncheon are \$25



Courtesy photo

From left are Charity in Action Awards honorees Benita Goode, Barbara Fedders (back), Kathleen McMahon-Pierce, Elizabeth (Libby) Wallen, Dr. Bert Cruz, and Skip Jennings.

per person and can be purchased at www.ccwva.org/event/cia-beckley/ or by calling 304.905.9860. Funds raised through the event support CCWVa’s programs and services in southern West Virginia.

Morgantown Magnificat to Hold Inspirational Prayer Breakfast Oct. 11

MORGANTOWN — Looking to deepen your faith? Join the next Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast, Oct. 11 at St. John University Parish Hall in Morgantown from 9:15 - 11:45 a.m. (doors open 8:45 a.m.).

Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic women aimed at strengthening and sharing our faith.

The inspirational speaker is Kate Bays, a faith-driven leader and corporate speaker dedicated to inspiring growth. With a background in TV news, Kate fosters a community where faith is reignited, purpose is discovered, and lives are transformed through her heartfelt leadership.

Tickets are \$25 per person, \$13 for students, and a buffet breakfast will be served. Register online at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/morgantownwvmagnificat>, and click on the Home tab. Or scan QR code.

For Mail-in reservations, print up registration form at magnificat-ministry.net and mail to Morgantown Magnificat, c/o 12 Whites Run Court, Morgantown, WV 26508, by Oct. 4.

Questions? Email Claire Mey at CLRPL09@gmail.com, or call Mary Paul at 304-319-2747.



Arise Small Group for Women Experiencing Infertility to Begin in Steubenville

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio — The Arise Small Group for women experiencing infertility will meet from 9-11 a.m. on second and fourth Saturdays, beginning Oct. 11 in the Marian Room at Triumph of the Cross Parish (200 Rosemont Ave, Steubenville, Ohio). “Our focus will be on cultivating the fruit of the spirit in the context of infertility. We welcome those affected by primary or secondary infertility to join us in striving to grow closer to the Lord in the context of this cross,” organizers said. For more information or to join, please contact arisesteubenville@gmail.com.



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OCT. 5

SUN. MASS 10:00AM

CONCERT

4:00 PM

Bishops, Politicians Call for Prayer after Shooting at ICE Facility in Dallas

By Amira Abuzeid, CNA

DALLAS — Politicians and Catholic bishops are calling for prayer and an end to political violence after two ICE detainees were killed and another critically injured in a shooting at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Dallas on Wednesday morning.

Police sources say the shooter, identified as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn, was armed with a rifle on a roof and took his own life just after 6:30 a.m., according to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. No ICE officers were injured in the attack.

FBI Special Agent Joseph Rothrock said during a press conference Sept. 24 that rounds found near the deceased shooter had anti-ICE messages inscribed on them.

Eric Johnson, Dallas' Republican mayor, opened the press conference asking all present to pray with him: "Let me start off by saying that I'm a person who believes very, very strongly in the power of prayer and that prayer changes things."

"And so I'm going to ask everyone please join me in praying for the families of the folks who lost their lives today. Pray for the speedy recovery for those who are hurt or injured in what happened today, but maybe even more to the point, we're a country and a city that needs prayer," Johnson said.

On a post on social media platform X, Vice President JD Vance said: "The obsessive attack on law enforcement, particularly ICE, must stop. I'm praying for everyone hurt in this attack and for their families."

Several Catholic bishops have also expressed their dismay over the violence and have asked people to pray.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco called the violence in Dallas this morning "senseless" and "politically motivated" in a social media post.

He wrote that changes in policy might be necessary but are "not enough," saying: "This is, at its core, a spiritual crisis. Much prayer is needed, indeed, essential. It is not irrelevant fluff, nor an excuse to simply acknowledge the tragedy and move on. Without help from above, there is no way out."

He quoted Erika Kirk, whose husband, conservative Christian activist Charlie Kirk, was recently assassinated in Utah: "Choose prayer, choose courage, choose beauty, choose adventure, choose family. Choose a life of faith. Most importantly, choose Christ."

Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, also called for prayers for the victims on a social media post: "The murder of two migrants by a gunman at a Dallas ICE facility today is the latest sign of America's desperate need for God. I invite you to join me in prayer for the deceased. May God's grace transform hearts and our nation and eradicate every vicious hatred from our hearts."

The shooting took place on the third day of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) National Migration Week, a time in which Catholics are called to "reflect on our history as an immigrant Church and the ways in which our country has been enriched by generations of immigrants, including the many Catholics who have adopted this land as their own."

"At a time when our culture is dominated by deep political divisions and reasonable disagreements about immigration policy, progress can feel impossible," the USCCB website states. "But by witnessing to the God-given dignity of every person, including the migrants and refugees in our midst, we pave the way for an approach rooted in mercy, justice, and the common good."

The USCCB has asked Catholics to sign the Cabrini Pledge as "a reminder of our immigrant heritage and a call to deeper engagement with our faith in response to current events."

At the press conference, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said the political violence "has to stop," recalling that the incident is the third shooting in Texas in the last few months against ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"To politicians demanding ICE agents be doxxed: 'Stop!' Cruz said. "We disagree, and that's part of the

[political] process in America, but your political opponents are not Nazis."

Cruz called for prayer for the safety of law enforcement, "who risk their lives to keep us alive," and for the victims and their families.

"Violence has no place, it is wrong," Cruz continued. He said debates about immigration can occur in the "halls of Congress, without demonizing each other, and especially not demonizing the men and women who keep us safe."

According to a CNN analysis of ICE data from a re-

search group affiliated with the law school at the University of California, Berkeley, the ICE facility in Dallas generally holds "several dozen" detainees at a time. It held more than 8,000 temporarily detained persons over the first six months of the Trump administration (according to the analyzed data, which ran through the end of July).

Most of the facility's detainees were kept in hold rooms for less than a day, or an average of 14 hours, before being moved to longer-term detention centers or other ICE facilities.

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Four More Bishops Speak out against Sen. Durbin Lifetime Achievement Award

By OSV News

(OSV News) — Five U.S. bishops have now spoken out against the decision of Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich and the Archdiocese of Chicago to present Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., a “Lifetime Achievement Award” for his work on immigration issues in November due to the senator’s longstanding public position on abortion.

The Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity Immigration Ministry and Cardinal Blase J. Cupich are scheduled to give Durbin, who is Catholic, the award at an event supporting the Archdiocese of Chicago’s local Immigration Ministry and National Pastoral Migratoria.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois — in whose diocese Durbin resides, according to his official biography — expressed his shock at the decision to The Pillar Sept. 20.

Bishop Paprocki told OSV News Sept. 24 that regardless of Durbin’s record on other issues, his public position supporting policies to protect legal abortion disqualifies him from receiving any awards, per policies of both the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archdiocese of Chicago itself.

“The reason I decided to step forward was in response to something that Cardinal Cupich and the Archdiocese of Chicago are doing,” he told OSV News. “I didn’t start this. They are doing something that is contrary to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ statement on ‘Catholics in Political Life,’ that we, as the bishops of the United States, issued back in 2004.

“And it says very clearly: ‘The Catholic community and Catholic Institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions.’”

“That’s pretty clear,” Bishop Paprocki said. “And in fact, the Archdiocese of Chicago has its own policy that is very similar to that about not giving honors or speaking opportunities to people whose public position is in opposition to the fundamental moral principles of the Catholic Church.”

On Sept. 21, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco posted on X his support of Bishop Paprocki, say-

ing, “I stand in solidarity with Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, in urging Cardinal Cupich to reconsider giving Senator Durbin a Lifetime Achievement Award through the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity given his long record of supporting legal abortion.

“Bishop Paprocki, who is Senator Dick Durbin’s bishop, has expressed shock that the Archdiocese plans to honor Senator Durbin who, although a self-professed Catholic, supports access to abortion so radically that he has even opposed legislation to protect babies born after an attempted abortion. Bishop Paprocki is correct that both clarity and unity are at risk. I hope this will be a clarion call to all members of the Body of Christ to speak out to make clear the grave evil that is the taking of innocent human life.”

He followed that up Sept. 23 with another post, saying: “Imagine this: a prominent member of the U.S. Senate has a very strong record on defending the human dignity of life in the womb but also advocates for funding for Border Patrol agents to shoot people trying to enter the country illegally. Would anyone think it reasonable to honor such a senator for the senator’s pro-life record on abortion? No one who advocates for the direct, intentional killing of innocent human life should be honored. Period.”

Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, also wrote on X on Sept. 23: “I too was shocked and bewildered to learn of this Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin. The senator’s public record has been consistently pro-abortion and he has opposed any protections or safeguards for unborn children in the womb, even to the point of rejecting legislation to protect children who survive failed abortions.

“That goes against the fundamental moral principles of the Catholic Church. It seems to me there is still time to reconsider this decision. I pray for the good of the Church this award is not given to Senator Durbin and the scandal it will likely cause the faithful is avoided.”

Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup, New Mexico, posted Sept. 24 simply, “Thank you @BishopPaprocki” on X, in response

to a formal fraternal correction that the Springfield bishop had written in First Things to Cardinal Cupich.

Also posting Sept. 24 was Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, who said, “The Archdiocese of Chicago’s plan to give @SenatorDurbin a Catholic ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ is untenable. Works of justice & protecting life are not mutually exclusive but must be inclusive. Abortion violates ‘Thou shalt not kill’ (Ex 20:13). I join @BishopPaprocki & @ArchCordileone in urging @CardinalBCupich to retract this award. Let us together pray & act consistently for life!”

In response to an OSV News request for comment Sept. 24, a spokesperson for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops declined to comment.

In a statement Sept. 22, Cardinal Cupich said Durbin purchased a condo in Chicago “some years ago” and “considers me to be his bishop.”

As such, the cardinal said, “I have remained faithful to the May 2021 instructions of the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, advising bishops to ‘reach out to and engage in dialogue with Catholic politicians within their jurisdictions ... as a means of understanding the nature of their positions and their comprehension of Catholic teaching.’”

Cardinal Cupich cited the church’s teaching on the consistent ethic of life, a phrase coined by the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, “that Catholic teaching on life and dignity cannot be reduced to a single issue, even an issue as important as abortion.

“The annual celebration of immigrants, Keep Hope Alive, will recognize all the critically important contributions Senator Durbin has taken to advance Catholic social teaching in the areas of immigration, the care of the poor, Laudato Si’, and world peace,” he continued. “The recognition of his defense of immigrants at this moment, when they are subjected to terror and harm, is not something to be regretted, but a reflection that the Lord stands profoundly with both immigrants who are in danger and those who work to protect them.”

Referring to the 2021 CDF (now DDF, or Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith) letter encouraging the U.S. bishops to dialogue with Catholic pol-

iticians, Bishop Paprocki told OSV News, “That’s fine. I do that. I’ve had dialogue with Senator Durbin. But when a bishop is trying to do that and the politician ignores it, well then you have to take some steps.”

He pointed out that the question of Durbin’s relationship with the local church predates him.

“This goes back to 2004 when the pastor of his parish here, Blessed Sacrament Parish in Springfield, was then Msgr. Kevin Vann. He’s now Bishop Kevin Vann, the bishop of Orange, California. And he told — back then — Senator Durbin that he shouldn’t go to Communion, and that was upheld by my predecessor, Bishop George Lucas, who’s now Archbishop Emeritus of Omaha. And so that has been observed here,” Bishop Paprocki said.

“Senator Durbin told me himself he does not go to Communion in our diocese,” he added. “Well, he goes to Communion apparently at a church in Chicago. He has a condominium in Chicago, but he still has his home here in Springfield. I would say I’m still his bishop as far as that is concerned.”

Bishop Paprocki pointed out that Cardinal Cupich was asked about Durbin’s not being able to receive Holy Communion directly in 2018 by the State Journal Register, the newspaper in Springfield.

“Cardinal Cupich said, ‘I leave it to each bishop who has an obligation to be in dialogue with his elected officials on this matter in terms of their own practice of the Catholic faith. I was not part of the discussion between the bishop and Senator Durbin on that, so I can’t comment on that, but I do respect any bishop who needs to take action within their own diocese, and I also believe that conversation should remain between those two,’” Bishop Paprocki told OSV News.

“Well, those two, as Cardinal Cupich himself said, would be Senator Durbin and me, Bishop Paprocki. And so at this point, that hasn’t changed,” the bishop added. “He still has a home here, which in canon law is called a domicile. He has a domicile here in this diocese. And so, to that extent, I’m in a position where I believe I have to say something. It’s not just, well, should I say something? I believe I have that obligation.”

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Cardinal Dolan: Charlie Kirk Was ‘a Modern-Day St. Paul’ and Wasn’t ‘Afraid’ to Say Jesus’ Name

By Julie Asher, OSV News

(OSV News) — The slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk was “a modern-day St. Paul,” New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a Sept. 19 appearance on “Fox & Friends.”

“He was a missionary, he’s an evangelist, he’s a hero,” he said. “He’s one, I think, who knew what Jesus meant when he said, ‘The truth will set you free.’”

Cardinal Dolan acknowledged that he was not familiar with Kirk and his movement before learning the “tragic news” of the fatal shooting of the 31-year-old founder of Turning Point USA Sept. 10 during an event at Utah Valley University in Orem, followed by an “overwhelming sense of sorrow and kind of renewal.”

“I thought, ‘I’ve got to learn about this guy,’ and the more I learned about him, I thought, ‘this guy’s a modern-day St. Paul,’” Cardinal Dolan said.

“Now I understand he was pretty blunt and he was pretty direct. He didn’t try to avoid any controversy, he didn’t even try to avoid confrontation,” he said. “The difference is the way, the mode, the style that he did it — always with respect (for his opponents) and not only was that a gracious, kind of virtuous thing to do, it’s effective. ... I thought this guy can teach us something.”

Kirk “wasn’t afraid to talk about the Lord. He wasn’t even afraid to say the name of Jesus,” Cardinal Dolan said, adding, “I heard Billy Graham once say, ‘I will never publicly speak without saying the name of Jesus because that name has power and it echoes through the uni-

verse.’ And apparently, that’s what Charlie did.”

He said he had spent the previous evening with about 200 students at the New York University Catholic Center and “this is what they talked about.”

He said he is seeing a return to religion among young people, who, he thinks, are feeling there’s “something missing ... a void,” despite their jobs and success.

There’s a “kind of a revival” of “a sense of value and truth and conviction” among young people, he said, “almost an elevation of the role of faith back into the public square where our founders intended it to be from the beginning.”

“This overwhelming sense of appreciation for Charlie and the great solidarity that we’re sensing is itself an answer to prayers and is itself a sign of the Resurrection,” he said.

“I would reckon,” the cardinal added, “that some people are saying, ‘Well, you’re saying too many nice things about him (Kirk).’ I don’t know him that well, but I am sure if he was a convinced disciple of Jesus Christ, he knew his sins. Jesus knew them.”

Asked his reaction to people who are celebrating Kirk’s murder, Cardinal Dolan said this is “a consequence of what Charlie often spoke about — the complete decline in objective good and evil. ... What the assassin did was objectively evil, and we can’t shy away from that.”

He praised Kirk’s debate

style — respecting those who disagreed with him and those he disagreed with. The focus of healthy debate, the cardinal said, must be “issues not individuals, principles not just politics, principles not people. The weakest of all arguments, you know, is ad hominem, when you begin to attack the person.”

His remarks echoed a Sept. 17 op-ed he wrote for the New York Post headlined: “In wake of Charlie Kirk killing, we must stop this hatred and acrimony.”

“I’m old enough to remember when it was possible to speak respectfully with those with whom we disagreed,” Cardinal Dolan wrote.

“Isn’t our overheated rhetoric, our automatic, knee-jerk reaction to, at a minimum, verbally attack anyone who has a different opinion, another point of view, at least partially, if not largely to blame?” he asked, for driving the kind of violence taking place in the country right now, like that which took Kirk’s life.

The previous week was “emotionally difficult for so many of us,” he said, with the “somber” anniversary of 9/11 and Kirk’s killing the day before, “another act of senseless violence” that “left a young wife and two small children without a husband and a father.”

“We recoiled at the images of this young man being fatally struck by a bullet from a high-powered rifle,” the cardinal said. “Sadly, these attacks seem



OSV News photo/Cheney Orr, Reuters
A woman cries amid a sea of signs at a memorial service for slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., Sept. 21. Kirk, co-founder of Turning Point USA, was fatally shot Sept. 10 during an event at Utah Valley University in Orem.

to be happening more frequently. The two assassination attempts on President (Donald) Trump as he campaigned for office last summer, the murder of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson, the attempted murders of Steve Scalise and Gabby Giffords, and, let’s not forget, the terrible school shootings in Minnesota, Colorado, and elsewhere. The list goes on.”

Among factors “driving this bitter hatred, this paroxysm of outrage and retribution” and contributing “to this climate of hatred and acrimony,” he said, “is the online echo chamber that many people now inhabit. ... A great many, I fear, are consuming videos and posts that reinforce and deepen the idea that ‘the other guy’ is evil, a

threat, something that must be destroyed.”

Most people “don’t respond with physical violence,” he said, “even those who consume such media,” but the question must be asked, “Does it engender violence in our hearts, minds, and souls?”

“What’s the solution? Is there a solution?” he asked. “‘Blessed are the peacemakers,’ Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount, ‘for they will be called children of God.’ How do we make peace?”

(Julie Asher is OSV News senior editor.)

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Bishop Zaidan Highlights ‘Solidarity’ with African Faithful Amid Conflict, Crises

By Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News) — As conflicts rage in several African nations, a U.S. Catholic bishop has underscored his support for African bishops and faithful.

“We reiterate our solidarity with the bishops and faithful of Africa, as they offer the world a profound witness of respect for human life and dignity amidst ongoing conflicts,” said Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, in a Sept. 24 statement.

Bishop Zaidan, who heads the St. Louis-based Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, noted that as of this year, “millions of our brothers and sisters on the African continent live displaced from their homes and communities, forced to flee due to conflict, religious and ethnic persecution, economic hardship and environmental crises.”

More than 35 armed conflicts are currently raging across the African continent, according to the Swiss-based Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

“Cycles of deadly violence and resulting humanitarian crises continue to claim thousands of innocent lives in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, and throughout the Sahel region,” said Bishop Zaidan.

In addition, he said, “Due to the rise of extremist violence, Christians, Muslims, and other people of faith are increasingly targeted by campaigns of mass killings, abductions, and forced displacement.

“We remember, in particular, the hundreds of Christian civilians massacred in recent weeks and months in Nigeria’s Middle Belt and northern regions as well as in eastern Congo,” he said.

Nigeria “continues to face a severe genocidal crisis, particularly targeting Christians and moderate



OSV photo/Zohra Bensemra, Reuters
An internally displaced woman, who said she could not return home because it was destroyed during fighting, gathers volcanic gravel to sell at a camp in the Mugunga district, near Goma, in eastern Congo, March 22. The camp was emptied after M23 rebels ordered many displaced people to leave it and other camps.

Muslims in the Northeast, Northwest, and Middle Belt regions,” according to the research and advocacy organization Genocide Watch, which was founded in 1999 by genocide scholar and former State Department official Gregory Stanton.

In a July 17 Nigeria update report on its website, Genocide Watch noted that Islamic extremist groups, including Boko Haram and Fulani jihadists, are “responsible for systematic violence” — yet “despite overwhelming evidence of genocidal acts, both the Nigerian government and key international actors remain in denial” about the atrocities, thereby “avoiding the legal and moral responsibilities

that acknowledgment would require.”

“We pray that government officials and people of all faiths may work together to bring lasting peace, justice, and security to the continent,” said Bishop Zaidan in his statement.

He stressed that “lifesaving and life-affirming international assistance funding is a crucial complement to these efforts,” and that “the Catholic Church and the U.S. government have a shared responsibility to promote the international common good and respect for human life by contributing to international humanitarian and development assistance.”

Bishop Zaidan also called for

Mary’s intercession amid the bloodshed and anguish.

“In fraternal unity with the church in Africa, we ask Our Lady Queen of Peace to comfort all those afflicted by violence and grant all people of goodwill the courage to build peace both in their local communities and across borders,” said the bishop.

Quoting Pope Leo XIV’s June 17 address to Italy’s bishops, he added, “May every community become a ‘house of peace,’ where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished.”

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

Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:
Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
(304) 3233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Walking with
Moms in Need

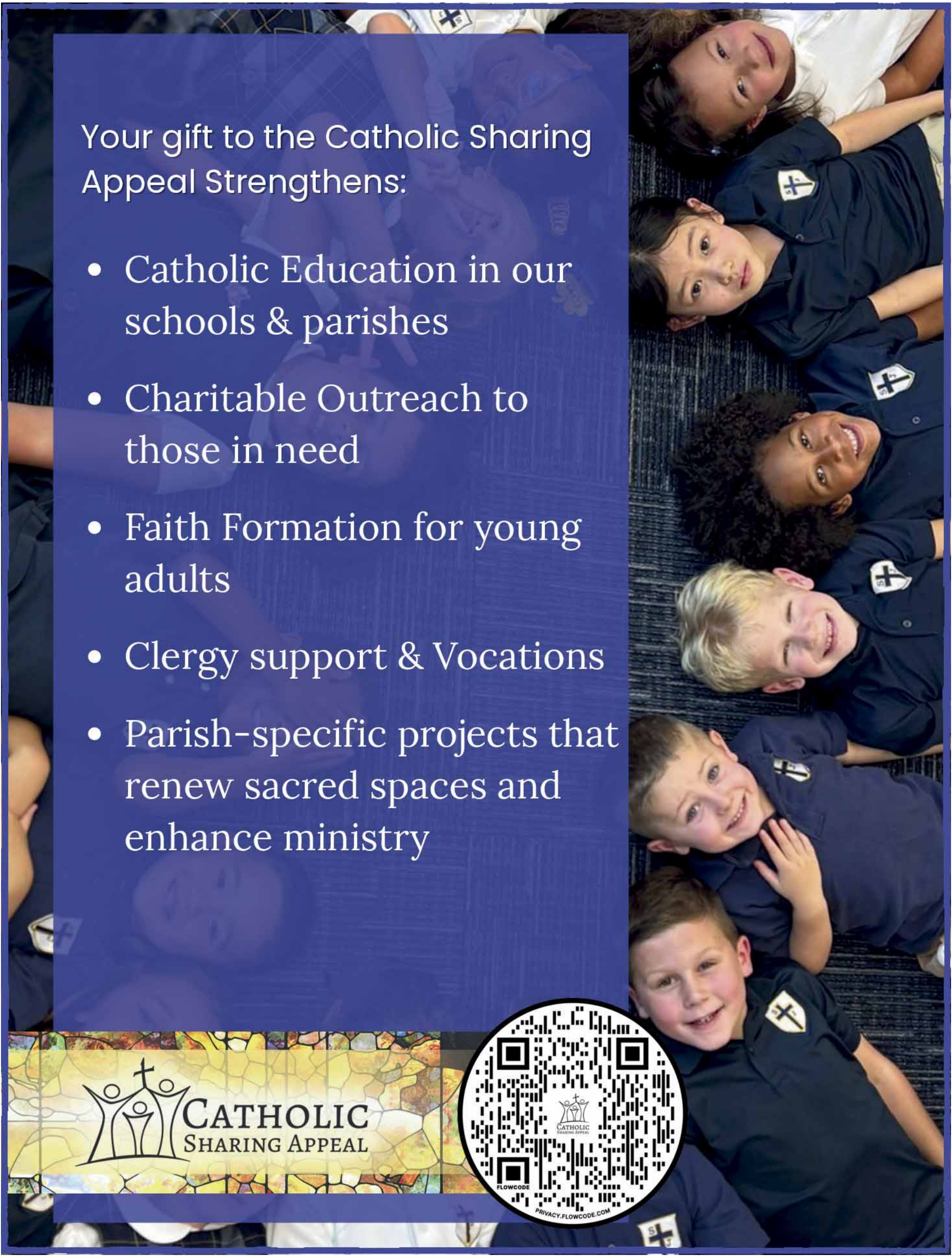


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Cross Catholic Outreach Food Packing Event Held in Wheeling



Courtesy photo

More than 200 volunteers from the Wheeling community — including many from Wheeling University, the Knights of Columbus, Wheeling Hospital, and St. Michael Parish — gathered at St. Michael's to pack 60,000 meals on Sept. 13 for Cross Catholic Outreach. Bishop Mark Brennan joined them and is pictured with Wheeling University students and administration.

Daily Living
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Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 DC News Now	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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Courtesy photo

Members of the St. Agnes Parish Knights of Columbus Council 13887 in Shepherdstown present \$1,000 scholarships to Mat Hippchen and Annabella Temple. Not pictured is David Hippchen who also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the council.

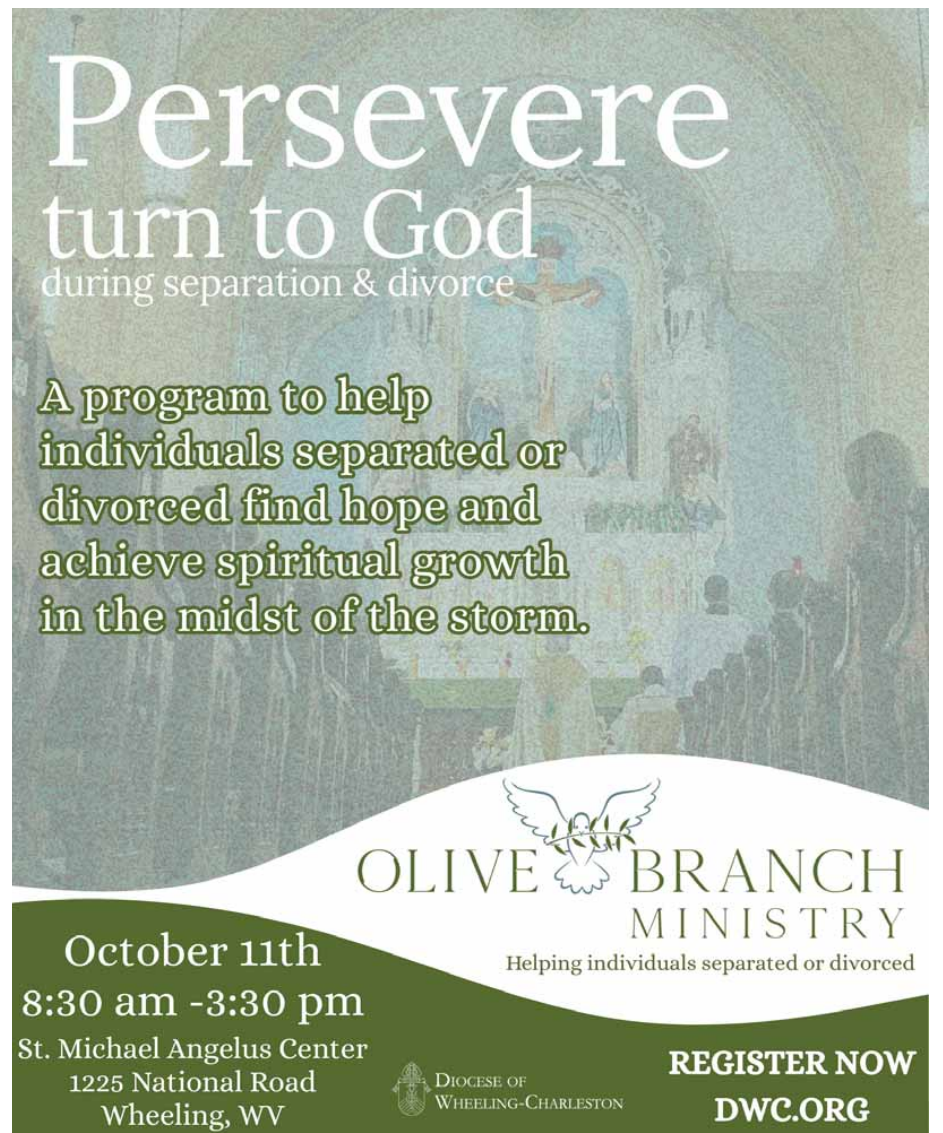


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Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

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 Estados 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 Am-

biente 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, Diocese 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 ofrece 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.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Fall 2025

Bishop Mark Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, Sept. 28: St. James the Apostle Parish, Clarksburg, 11 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 9: St. Anthony Parish, Fairmont, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18: St. Anthony Parish, Charleston, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 19: Sacred Heart Parish, Huntington, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18: St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6: St. Anthony Parish, Follansbee, 4 p.m.

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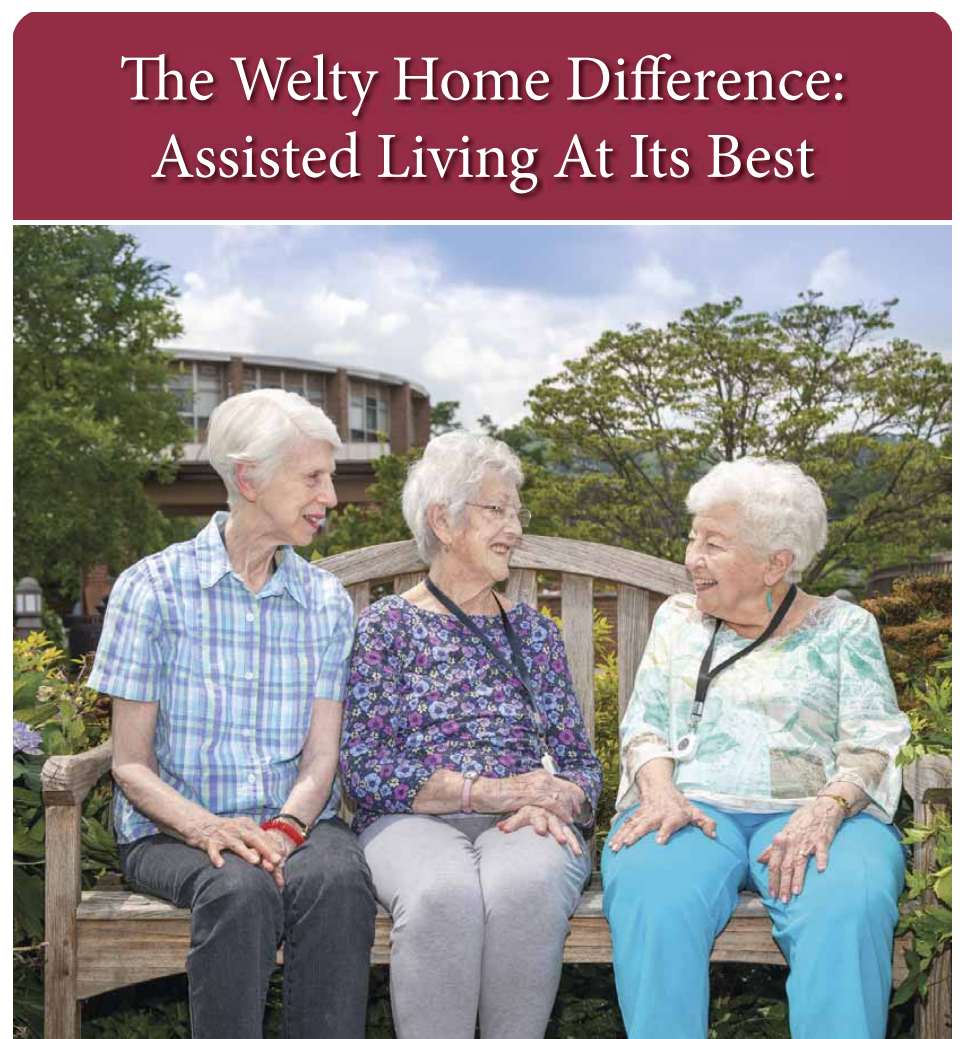
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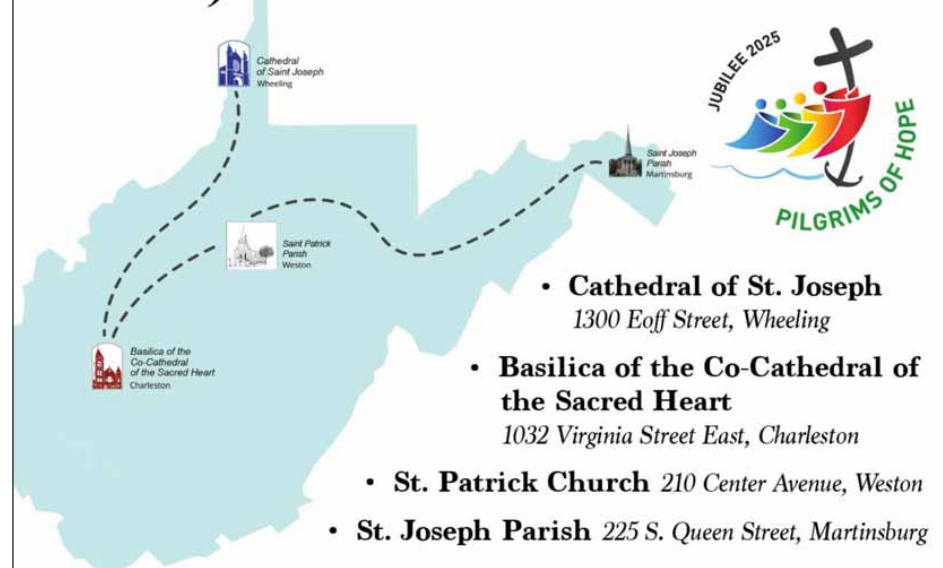
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1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

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- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
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For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

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