

# THE CATHOLIC Spirit

## Stop the Wars While There is Still Time, Pope Tells Peace Summit

By **Caroline de Sury, OSV News**

**PARIS (OSV News)** — For three days, Paris welcomed several thousand participants from around the globe who took part in the 38th “International Meeting for Peace,” organized Sept. 22-24 by the Community of Sant’Egidio.

In a message sent to the gathering and read during a closing event in front of Notre Dame Cathedral Sept. 24, Pope Francis said that “the risk that the many conflicts will dangerously spread instead of ending is more than real,” and that he takes up “your cry and that of the many people affected by war, and I address it to political leaders: Stop the war! Stop the wars! We are destroying the world! Let us stop while there is still time!”

High level participants of the peace meeting included French President Emmanuel Macron, Sant’Egidio’s founder Andrea Riccardi, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris, Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, who is primate of the Anglican Communion, Chems-Ed-dine Hafiz, who is rector of the Grand Mosque of Paris, and Chief Rabbi of France Haim Korsia.

Archbishop Ulrich recounted Sept. 22 what he had seen in the Holy Land, where he recently visited.

Despite their weariness, the archbishop said, “men and women of goodwill” do not “give up educating children and young people, caring for the sick and the dying, welcoming newborns whether they are with or without family and maintaining the ties that, when the time comes, will rebuild peace,” he said. For the archbishop

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## Meet Christ in Migrants, and Respond with Compassion, Says U.S. Bishops’ Migration Chair

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — In a message ahead of the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the U.S. bishops’ migration chair stressed Pope Francis’ call for solidarity with migrants, “reminding us that their journeys mirror the biblical Exodus, with God as their guide and companion.”

“(The pope) emphasizes that every encounter with migrants is

an encounter with Christ, urging us to respond with compassion, recognizing their struggles as a reflection of our shared journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven,” said Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, according to a Sept. 19 news release.

The USCCB release highlighted the beginning of National Migra-

tion Week, observed Sept. 23-29 this year. During the time leading up to World Day of Migrants and Refugees — which takes place on the last Sunday of September — the Catholic Church in the U.S., it said, calls “attention to the challenges confronting migrants and refugees, from their country of origin to their destination, and how Church teaching calls on

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## St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling Celebrating Season of Creation



Courtesy photo

**Sister Kathleen Durkin, CSJ, is pictured on the second Sunday of the Season of Creation during Mass in the chapel at St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling.**

**WHEELING** — The Congregation of St. Joseph celebrated the first Sunday of the Season of Creation at the St.

Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling with Sister Ileana Fernandez, CSJ, giving an introduction before Mass “powerfully

breaking open the Word, calling us to hope and action with creation,” members of Friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph -

Wheeling Center posted on their Facebook page Sept. 18.

The Season of Creation is a time to join in prayer and action for “our common home,” the Congregation of St. Joseph said in a post before the observance began. This year, the theme is “To Hope and Act with Creation.”

“Each week, we will be offering prayers, questions to consider, and actions to take,” congregation officials said. “Join us as we share this journey through the Season of Creation!”

On the second Sunday of the celebration at the retreat center, Sister Kathleen Durkin, CSJ, broke open the Sunday readings and “applied the truth to local challenges to care for earth and our dear neighbor without distinction,” members posted. “Another call to hope

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# Pope...

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of Paris, this is an exemplary attitude that can begin peacemaking even in the midst of war.

Bishop Vitalii Kryvytskyi of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kyiv-Zhytomyr represented Ukraine in Paris and stressed that the church has an important role to play on the path to regaining peace.

The bishop, a Salesian, explained to the Italian news agency ANSA the difficulty is that "people are increasingly tired" of the war. "We all had in our hearts the hope that the war would end sooner, but instead it continues."

He said Ukrainians feel that the world is also tired of war in their country. "We hear and see how Ukraine is being talked about less and less. We also feel this from the reduction in humanitarian aid, but the needs of the people are not decreasing but rather growing."

He said that the great concern is that "during this year the international community has not found the tools, the ways to stop the aggressor."

On Sept. 24, the closing day of the meeting, participants were spread out over different locations, according to their religious denomination, to pray for peace.

Christians gathered in the Parisian Church of St. Severin. After an ecumenical prayer, they crossed the nearby Seine River to Notre Dame Cathedral, still closed as final renovation work is completed.

"We must keep religions away from the temptation of becoming a tool that fuels nationalism, ethnicity, populism. Wars are intensifying. Woe to those who try to drag God into wars!" Pope Francis said in his remarks sent to the gathering.

(Caroline de Sury writes for OSV News from Paris.)

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

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

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

### To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:

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

### To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

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

Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms."

The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

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](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops's teaching document on political engagement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," provides guidance to Catholic voters during a presidential election year.

(OSV News/Courtesy USCCB)

**Click here to read the document**

## The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org))

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and

### Our Lady of the Rosary

Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

### Advent

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 22

### Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

	September 27, 2024 Vol. 55, No. 40	Office: 1322 Eoff St. Mailing: PO Box 230 Wheeling, WV 26003 (304) 232-0444	<a href="http://thecatholicspiritwv.org">thecatholicspiritwv.org</a> <a href="http://dwc.org">dwc.org</a>
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# Compassion...

Cont'd from Page 1

Catholics to respond with compassionate acts of love."

Catholic dioceses and institutions around the country commemorate this week with events like special Masses, volunteer opportunities and immigration legal clinics, the statement said.

In his message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis emphasized that "God walks with his people," and he walks within his people, particularly the poor and the marginalized.

"It is possible to see in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland," the pope wrote in his message. "Their journeys of hope remind us that 'our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Phil 3:20)."

The pope also said that, like the people of Israel in the time of Moses, "migrants often flee from oppression, abuse, insecurity, discrimination, and lack of opportunities for development." Like the Jewish people in the desert, migrants are tried by obstacles, including thirst, hunger, exhaustion,

and the temptation of despair, he said.

Yet, "God not only walks with his people, but also within them," and many migrants entrust themselves to God during their perilous journey seeking safe refuge and consolation amid discouragement, the pope added.

"How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany migrants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent!" he exclaimed.

According to United Nations' estimates, there were about 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020 (accounting for 3.6% of the global population). The UN's refugee agency has said that, in 2023, there were 117.3 million forcibly displaced people — which includes refugees, asylum-seekers, people in need of international protection and internally displaced people — in the world.

In his annual message, Pope Francis recalled Jesus Christ's insistence that his followers help others in need, as told in Matthew 25. He said that the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, is also an encounter with Jesus.

"Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the

Lord," the pope said. "It is an occasion charged with salvation because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord."

The USCCB's statement pointed people to its Justice for Immigrants website for suggestions on how to walk with migrants during National Migration Week through prayer and action.

The website includes a kit about National Migration Week, which suggests ways to volunteer, refers people to the joint pastoral letter that the U.S. and Mexico bishops issued in 2003, and lists ways to offer accompaniment in the context of migration. Some of these ways to accompany migrants include assisting migrants with transportation to court proceedings and medical appointments, helping parents enroll their children in schools, and being present to listen to their stories.

The Sept. 19 USCCB statement also referred people to resources prepared by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

"Migrants are a contemporary icon of this people on a journey, of the Church on a journey, and at the same time, it is in them and in all our vulnerable brothers and sisters that we can encounter the Lord who walks with

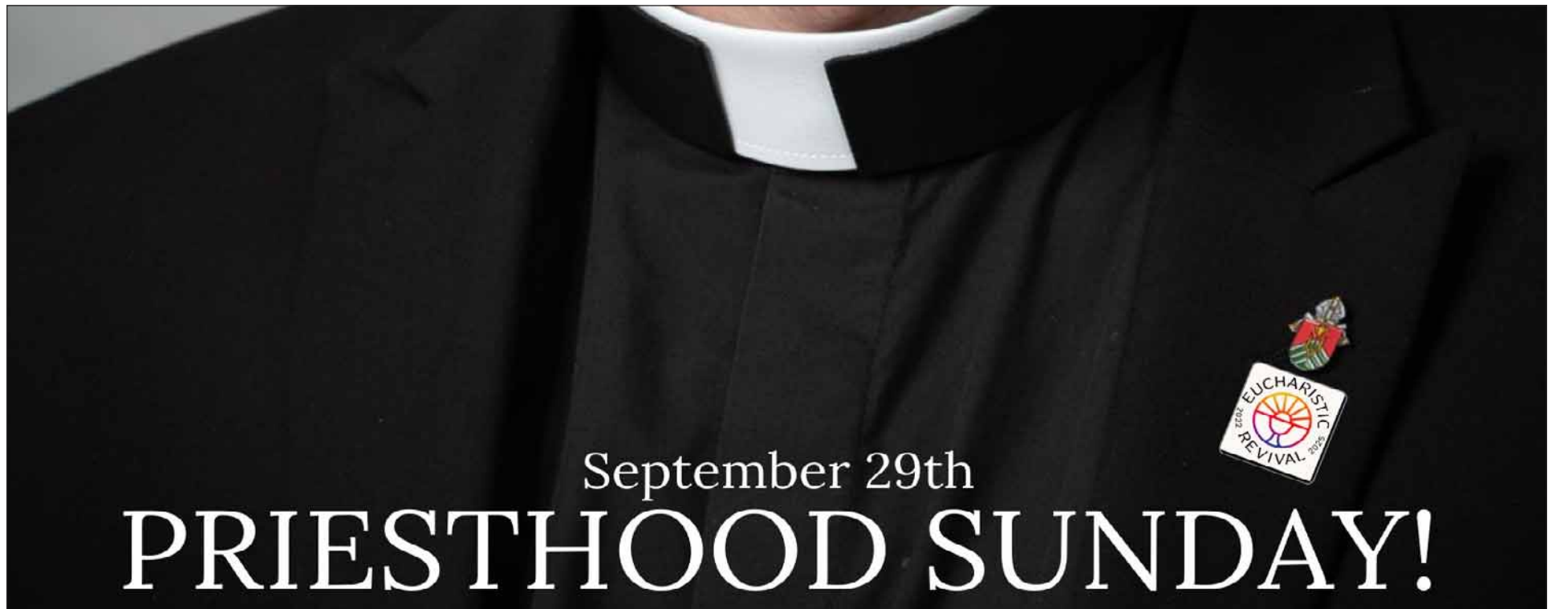
us," said a webpage from the dicastery, which shared information and videos about a communication campaign inviting all people of goodwill to organize initiatives with migrants, refugees, vulnerable people.

In closing his World Day of Migrants and Refugees message, Pope Francis urged people to "unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions."

"Help us to keep walking, together with our migrant brothers and sisters, toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us," the pope prayed. "Open our eyes and our hearts so that every encounter with those in need becomes an encounter with Jesus, your Son and our Lord."



Resources on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees are available at the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's website at <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2024/giornata-mondiale-migrante-e-rifugiato-2024-tema-messaggio-papa.html>

USCCB's Justice for Immigrants website includes information on National Migration Week: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/national-migration-week-2024/>





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# Creation...

**Cont'd from Page 1**  
and act with creation."

The Season of Creation spans five weeks between the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Sept. 1) and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4). This "time for creation" offers, in the words of Pope Francis, "individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection

of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offers more information about the Season of Creation at <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/WDPCC-Bulletin-Insert.pdf>


## A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

(304) 233-0880, Ext. 289; [kbarton@dwc.org](mailto:kbarton@dwc.org)

Catholic in Recovery is a nonprofit organization that seeks to serve those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments.



# Respect Life Month



I CAME SO THAT  
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October 2024  
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# Synod on Synodality: Second Session Sets Sights on Mission

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — With many of the concrete, hot-button issues removed from the agenda and turned over to study groups, some people wonder what members of the Synod of Bishops on synodality will be doing when they meet at the Vatican in October.

For Pope Francis and synod organizers, though, taking issues like women deacons or seminary training off the table will allow the 368 synod members to focus on their main task: Finding ways to ensure “the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

Cardinal Mario Grech, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, cited that quote from Pope Francis’ 2013 exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel,” when explaining what the three-year process of the synod on synodality was all about.

The working document for the synod’s second session Oct. 2-27 summarized as its task “to identify the paths we can follow and the tools we might adopt in our different contexts and circumstances in order to enhance the unique contribution of each baptized person and of each Church in the one mission of proclaiming the Risen Lord and his Gospel to the world today.”

In the preface to a book on synodality, published in the Vatican newspaper Sept. 24, Cardinal Grech wrote that the consultations held with Catholics around the world starting in 2021-2022 “noted, not without disappointment, the problem of a church perceived as an exclusive and excluding community — the church of closed doors, customs and tolls to be paid.”

“What needs to change is not the Gospel, but our way of proclaiming it,” he said.

The task of synod members — bishops, priests, members of religious orders and lay men and women — will

be to better define or at least describe what is meant by synodality and to suggest ways to live out that vision.

Specifically, that means: helping people listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit; looking at relationships within the church and making sure they empower every member to take responsibility for the church’s mission; reaching out to people who have felt rejected or excluded by the church; increasing the accountability of people in leadership positions; ensuring parish and diocesan councils are truly representative and listened to; and increasing opportunities for women to place their gifts and talents at the service of the church, including in leadership and decision-making.

While those goals make sense from an organizational point of view, the Catholic Church sees itself as the body of Christ, not an organization, and it has traditionally tied the task of governance and decision-making to ordination. How that authority is exercised can vary according to church, country and culture. Synod members come from more than 110 countries and from 15 of the Eastern Catholic churches.

Part of the synod’s discernment involves listening to each other and to the Holy Spirit in respecting people’s traditions with a small “t,” while also being open to something new. Pope Francis’ frequent observation that the Holy Spirit takes diversity and from it creates harmony, not uniformity, is a test for a church that is universal while also incredibly varied.

In the same text published by the Vatican newspaper Sept. 24, Cardinal Grech wrote, “While traditionally Catholicism has focused more on the ‘singular,’ identifying in unity ‘cum et sub Petro’ (‘with and under Peter’) a safeguard against dispersion and error, today we feel the need to rebalance the discourse by making space for the ‘plural,’ so that unity does not degenerate into uniformity, extinguishing the imagination of the Holy Spirit, who scatters seeds of truth and grace in the different peoples and in



CNS photo/courtesy Synod of Bishops

This is the official logo for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

their varied cultures.”

Cardinal Grech also insisted that the synod’s criticism of “clericalism,” like Pope Francis’ criticism of it, does not come from some “philosophical or political egalitarianism” but from “missionary anxiety.”

“In fact, by sapping the potential of lay men and women in the work of evangelization, clericalism weakens

mission, making the church more fragile in the face of the challenge of sharing the Gospel in the world,” the cardinal wrote.

Clericalism restricts evangelization to the clergy, he said, and it “leaves the ‘simple’ baptized in a position of passivity as if the missionary mandate of the Risen Lord did not apply to them as well.”

Learn more and sign up!

## DOMINICAN ROSARY PILGRIMAGE

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7:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - [www.mydailyliving.com](http://www.mydailyliving.com) and YouTube



# Churches Shelter People Escaping Violence as Death Toll from Israeli Attacks Climbs in Lebanon

By Junno Arocho Esteves, OSV News

**(OSV News)** — Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon meant to target Hezbollah militants have led to over 550 deaths, including 50 children and 94 women, the Lebanese Health Ministry said. Christian churches in the country are sheltering people escaping violence.

“People are now living in church halls, so they will need food, sanitary products, mattresses, blankets, and if it continues, we will need heating for winter, though of course, we hope it will not last that long,” said Marielle Boutros, project coordinator in Lebanon for the pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need.

According to The Associated Press, the Lebanese Health Ministry told journalists Sept. 24 that 16 paramedics and firefighters were among those killed, and 1,835 people were wounded in the attacks.

Despite concerns by world leaders of escalating violence in the Middle East, Israel has expanded its attacks against Hamas by targeting its closest ally in Lebanon.

Israeli military officials said its airstrikes targeted the militant group’s strongholds in Beirut and announced that it had killed Ibrahim Qubaisi, a senior Hezbollah commander, the Reuters news agency reported.

Pope Francis said during his general audience Sept. 25 that the escalation is “unacceptable” and urged the international community to make “every effort” to stop the descent into violence.

The increasing tensions in the Middle East as well as other global conflicts were at the forefront of discussions as world leaders gathered at the United Nations headquarters in New York for high-level meetings at the start of the 79th session of the General Assembly.

In his opening address Sept. 24, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the world “can’t go on like this” and that the current course is “unsustainable.”

“Gaza is a nonstop nightmare that threatens to take the entire region with it. Look no further than Lebanon. We should all be alarmed by the escalation. Lebanon is at the brink. The people of Lebanon — the people of Israel — and the people of the world — cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza,” Guterres said.

While condemning Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel, Guterres said that “nothing can justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.”

Guterres also denounced alleged human rights violations committed by governments at war. Most recently, a video showed Israeli soldiers throwing the bodies of dead Palestinians off the roof of a building. The Israeli Defense Forces said it was investigating the incident, which would violate international law.

“The level of impunity in the world is politically indefensible and morally intolerable,” he said.

In his speech, U.S. President Joe Biden advo-

cated against a “full-scale war” in Lebanon Sept. 24 and expressed his desire to reach a cease-fire agreement quickly.

Boutros, project coordinator in Lebanon for ACN, said that although Hezbollah is meant to be the intended target of attacks by Israel, civilians, including Christians, are bearing the brunt of the aggression.

The strikes, she said, are “affecting everyone,” because “all south Lebanon is being targeted,” Boutros said Sept. 24 during a visit to ACN headquarters in Koenigstein, Germany, according to a statement released by the Catholic charity.

“These are not purely Shia or Hezbollah areas, and we have a lot of Christian families living there,” she said. “Some have lost their houses, and they are moving now from the south to other places in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and the north, to find safety.”

According to ACN, the charity runs “more than 300 projects in Lebanon” and its work in the country has increased significantly “with the recent economic meltdown in Lebanon, as well as the massive port explosion which destroyed large parts of Beirut.”

Boutros said that escalating conflict in the country may lead to an exodus of Christians and risks diminishing their presence in the region.

“I am 37 years old, and I have experienced more than five wars in Lebanon,” she lamented. “It is not easy to live in a country where one day you are fine, and the next you are hiding from missiles. It is not the kind of life that young people like to live. The trauma the people are experiencing now, and the trauma of having yet another war will not be easily forgotten.”

Thousands of families from southern Lebanon have packed cars and headed north toward Beirut since the Sept. 21 escalation. Some 100,000 people living near the border had already been displaced since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, subsequent war and intensified daily fire between the militant group Hezbollah and Israel.

At a panel discussion the previous day in Rome, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, said that although the situation in northern Lebanon “has always been volatile,” the current conflict between Hezbollah and Israel has taken a more intense turn.

“It’s challenging to discern the true intentions of each side,” Cardinal Pizzaballa said. He also noted that various accusations made by each side have made it difficult to discern the true nature of the conflict and that Israel and Lebanon seem bent on giving each other a “lesson.”

The event, titled, “Is Peace Possible? The Middle East Crisis,” was held Sept. 23 at the Shrine of San Salvatore in Lauro to coincide with the feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina and in-

cluded the participation of several Italian government officials.

The cardinal also expressed his dismay at the unsuccessful attempts at calling a cease-fire and a negotiated peace in the Holy Land, lamenting that “we always seem close to a solution, yet peace remains elusive.”

However, Cardinal Pizzaballa also noted that a solution to the current conflict does not necessarily guarantee peace.


“In this context, it makes little sense to discuss it. Currently in Israel, the focus is on winning, and peace is not viewed as victory. This is a major misunderstanding, not just in the Holy Land,” he said.

While a “political peace” between Israel and Hamas is absent, he continued, it does not mean true peace is unattainable “since it is a choice.”

“Right now, institutions are paralyzed, and diplomacy is not significantly impacting the conflict. Yet, society is made up of more than just institutions; there are other vital components,” Cardinal Pizzaballa said.

“If I’ve learned anything this year, it’s that we must prepare for peace,” he added. “It is a product of culture and needs to be nurtured in schools, starting from the grassroots level, to create opportunities that gradually rebuild trust.”

(Junno Arocho Esteves reports for OSV News from Malmö, Sweden.)



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to be posted at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)**



## Immaculate Conception Parish Celebrates Sister Beritha Mashu's 50th Anniversary



Courtesy photo

Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg celebrated Sister Beritha Mashu's 50th anniversary as a Sister of the Child Jesus (Zimbabwe) with Mass followed by a dinner in the parish center. Sister Beritha is pictured with the decorations honoring her at the parish.

## Eucharistic Rosary Rally for 'Faith and Freedom' Set for Oct. 6 in Follansbee

**FOLLANSBEE**—St. Anthony Parish Altar and Rosary Society's Eucharistic Rosary Rally for "Faith and Freedom" will be held Sunday, Oct. 6, at 2 p.m. at the Follansbee Park large shelter. This will be followed by a motorcade procession to church with the Most Blessed Sacrament for devotions.

"All are welcome to join in public prayer for our faith and our religious freedom," members of the society said.

A reception with light refreshments will follow the completion of the rally in the church hall.

## Franciscan University Launches New In Person Video Series

**STEUBENVILLE, OHIO**—Franciscan University of Steubenville has launched a free, online video series called In Person on FaithandReason.com. This new series features exclusive interviews by University President Father Dave Pivonka, TOR '89, with Catholics from many walks of life. These guests talk about God's unique call in their lives and the unexpected places following that call has taken them.

The first In Person episode features Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus Christ on the hit series The Chosen. In the episode, Roumie talks about what playing Jesus has taught him about prayer, how he deals with fame, and more.

"Living as a Christian in today's increasingly secularized world is challenging, but hearing other people's stories of faith can be a profound source of encouragement," said Father Pivonka. "With this new series, I am honored to sit down with Catholics from different backgrounds and share their stories about how God has worked in their lives. I'm inspired and uplifted by their witness and pray our viewers will be, too."

Upcoming In Person episodes include interviews with Super Bowl Champion and former pro-football player Matthew Birk; Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut; author Arthur Brooks; radio host and speaker Katie Prejean McGrady; and more.

In Person is the latest addition to Franciscan University's online platform, FaithandReason.com. Faith and Reason features free videos and podcasts that explore important topics such as Church and culture, politics and philosophy, spirituality, and the joy of life in Christ.

To watch In Person, sign up for free at FaithandReason.com.

## Candlelight Rosary Procession through Wheeling to be Held Oct. 11

**WHEELING**—Join faithful from throughout the area in a Candlelight Rosary Procession praying for our Church, world, and families on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. The procession will begin at St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market Street, Wheeling and end at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling. A brief prayer service will occur upon arrival at the cathedral including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For those unable to walk the 0.6-mile procession, the rosary will be prayed at the cathedral while awaiting the procession's arrival. Shuttle buses will also be available to transport people back to their cars following the procession.

Parking and Transportation Options: 1) Park at the cathedral starting at 6 p.m. and take the shuttle bus to St. Alphonsus for the start of the rosary. The last shuttle leaves the cathedral at 6:45 p.m. 2) Park at St. Alphonsus and take a shuttle from the cathedral back to St. Alphonsus after the rosary.

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# Assumption Parish Concludes Sesquicentennial Jubilee Celebration

Assumption Catholic Church in Keyser recently concluded its year-long Sesquicentennial Jubilee Celebration. "It was a year of prayer, thanksgiving, outreach, education, celebration, and special events in gratitude to Our Lord for our parish, our parish family, and all the priests, sisters, and other religious who shepherded the parish throughout the past century and a half," said Father Thomas Sebastian, CST, pastor.

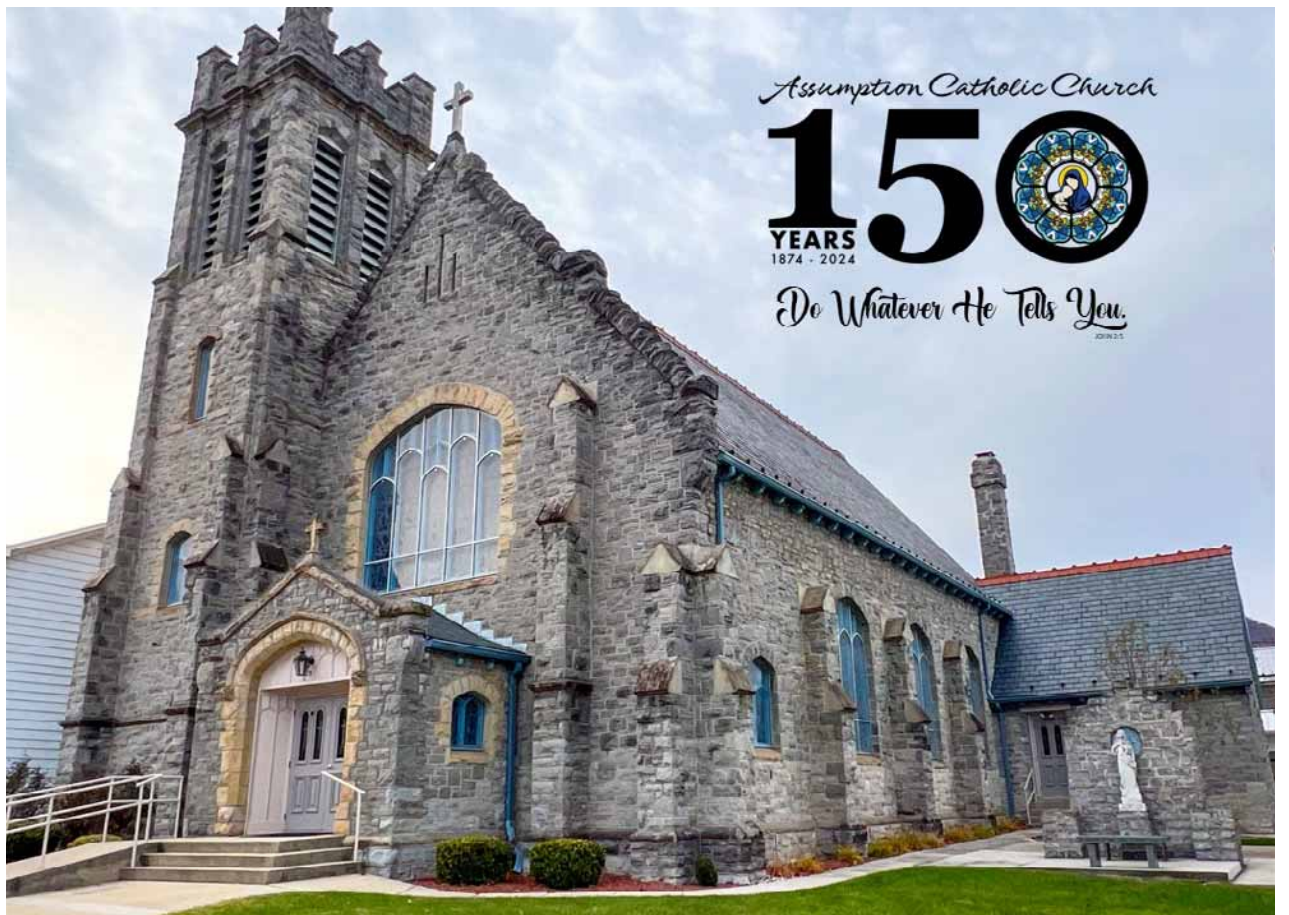
Father Thomas and parish office manager Kelli Wittman, as the Jubilee Chairman, oversaw the planning and execution of the year-long celebration. They created six committees led by parishioners to coordinate each important component of the anniversary events. The guiding theme for the year was "Do whatever he tells you (John 2:5)."

In September 2023 a kick-off event was held at Brookdale Farms. Coordinated by Tammy Dorsey-Dale and Nancy Starcher, the day began with celebration of Holy Mass under the pavilion, followed by lunch and fellowship. More than 100 people attended, despite it being a day that brought chilly temperatures and steady rain.

Kelley Kuhn and Mike Landis chaired the Communications Committee responsible for all written and visual messaging. A wall calendar for 2024 was given to all parishioners that featured the beautiful stained glass windows in the church. This committee also coordinated the signs, banners and other advertising that provided added excitement as the parish moved closer to its finale.

The Fundraising Committee, chaired by Julie Alt, organized events to help offset the cost of the year-long celebration. Fundraisers included a trivia night, the sale of t-shirts and hats with the Jubilee logo, several raffles and a live auction.

Dena Turner oversaw the Liturgical Committee with the help of co-chair Nancy Starcher. This committee scheduled guest speakers to offer spiritual growth to the congregation during the Jubilee year. A three-day retreat was held just before Christmas with Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap. Earlier this year Sister Jessica Bernal, HMSP, spoke to our religious education students and their parents about how young people can use their faith in the world. Former associate pastor of Assumption, Father Jojan Joseph, CST, made a presentation about the roots of the priesthood. The final program was held following Divine Mercy Sunday with Father Ben Cameron from the Fathers of Mercy leading a three-day retreat focusing on the importance of



Courtesy photo

marriage and family.

Pam Williams is chairing the Commemorative Book Committee to document this historical occasion. Information will include parish history with pictures, St. Frances Catholic School history, details about the stained glass windows, Jubilee year photos, as well as an updated parishioner directory.

The parish's finale weekend was held Aug. 9-12 which began with Friday morning Mass at the parish's St. Thomas Cemetery in remembrance of past parishioners. Due to impending rain, however, the Mass was moved to the church. Instead, Father Thomas offered a special blessing in the cemetery following the Vigil Mass on Saturday.

The Finale Event Committee, led by Jean and Sue Harber, planned two separate events. The first was aimed at giving the young people of the parish a special memory of the 150th anniversary. A fun fair was held Sunday afternoon at the parish social hall with a DJ, many games and prizes, and pizza and snowcones.

The culmination of the year took place on Monday evening with the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan. Concelebrants included Very Rev. Timothy Grassi, vicar forane of the Martinsburg Vicariate; Father Sebastian; Father Jojan Joseph, CST; Father Binoy Thomas, CST; Father Stephen Vallelonga; Father Daniel Price; Father Phillip Szabo; Father Arul Anthony; Father Jose Manuel Escalante; Father Shinu Lukose, CST; and Father Binu Emmanuel, CST. Deacon Larry Hammel, who serves as deacon for the parish, and seminarian Travis Moger also participated.

Following this special Mass, a dinner and continued celebration was held at the Keyser Fire Station No. 2. Nearly 200 parishioners, family members, and out of town guests joined in the final night of celebration.

"Our Jubilee year has allowed us to reflect on our glorious past, celebrate the joy of our 150th anniversary and look forward with excitement to the wondrous things God has planned for us," concluded Father Thomas.

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# PCHS Students Step Aboard History

**P**arkersburg Catholic High School students are pictured at right on a tour on the LST-325 (Landing Ship Tank) from WWII. The LST-325 (pictured below) made stops in Parkersburg and other cities as it made its way down the Ohio River this month. Launched in 1942, the LST-325 is now the only operational LST in WWII configuration afloat in U.S. waters. Students were able to experience what life was like for the soldiers aboard this ship and learn how this vessel was designed to land battle-ready tanks, troops and supplies directly onto enemy shores. "We graciously thank the veterans onboard for their knowledge and service to our country," PCHS officials said. Students are pictured with one of the veterans and Cheryl Bucina, PCHS history teacher.

*Courtesy photos*



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## Confirmation in Chester



Bob Glass photo

Sacred Heart Parish in Chester kicked off Bishop Mark Brennan's Confirmation schedule for the Fall. He confirmed three youth on Saturday, Sept. 21. In the front, from left, are: Gannon Cline, Clayton Heizler, and Cindy Staggers. In the back are Father Bill Matheny, pastor (left); and Bishop Brennan.

### Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2024 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Saturday, September 28: St. Mary, Petersburg; 4 p.m.
- Sunday, October 6: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown; 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane; 11 a.m.
- Sunday, October 27: All Saints, Bridgeport; 10 a.m.
- Saturday, November 9: St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont; 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, November 16: Sacred Heart, Williamson; 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 19: St. Anthony, Follansbee; 6 p.m.

## Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions.

Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area.

Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holidays as needed.

Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) to schedule an interview or for more information.

## Director of Music Ministries Needed

The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart located in Charleston, West Virginia is looking for a pastoral musician. Responsibilities include overseeing the selection of music for liturgies, substituting for our organist, directing the choir, cantoring when necessary, preparing worship aids and expanding our current music program. Candidates should have a BA degree or higher in a music field, or other field, if musically trained, excellent organ/keyboards/choral conducting skills and vocal technique and be familiar with music notation software. A practicing Catholic is preferred but not required; candidates must be of the Christian faith with willingness to learn about and genuinely support others in their Catholic faith. Conversant with a variety of liturgical styles including contemporary, classical, and traditional. Must demonstrate a commitment to use a blended approach to liturgical music that encourages the assembly to sing. Working hours are flexible and include weekends and some evenings. Complete job description available upon request. Please send résumés to: Bernadette McMasters Kime, Office of Worship and Sacraments, PO. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email [bkime@dwc.org](mailto:bkime@dwc.org)

Résumé submissions will be accepted until the position is filled.

## Full-Time Maintenance Worker Needed

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is in need of a full-time, experienced maintenance worker. Responsibilities include sweeping; mopping; dusting; emptying trash cans; cleaning restrooms, doors and windows; vacuuming; cleaning out flower beds; shampooing carpets; and stripping floors. The hours are 4 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. The pay starts at \$14 per hour, based on experience. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjsvw.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjsvw.org).

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# Encuentren a Cristo en los migrantes, y respondan con compasión, dice el presidente de Migración de la Conferencia Episcopal de EE. UU.

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — En un mensaje previo a la 110ª Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado, el presidente del comité de migración de los obispos de Estados Unidos subrayó el llamamiento del Papa Francisco a la solidaridad con los migrantes, "recordándonos que sus travesías reflejan el Éxodo bíblico, con Dios como su guía y compañero".

"(El Papa) enfatiza que cada encuentro con Cristo, instándonos a responder con compasión, reconociendo sus luchas como un reflejo de nuestro viaje compartido hacia el Reino de los Cielos", dijo el obispo Mark J. Seitz de El Paso, Texas, presidente del Comité de Migración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), según un comunicado de prensa del 19 de septiembre.

El comunicado de la USCCB destacaba el inicio de la Semana Nacional de la Migración, que este año se celebra del 23 al 29 de septiembre. Durante la semana que precede a la Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado -- que tiene lugar el último domingo de septiembre -- la Iglesia Católica en los EE.UU., pone en relieve "los desafíos que enfrentan los migrantes y refugiados, desde su país de origen hasta su destino, y cómo la enseñanza de la Iglesia llama a los católicos a responder con actos compasivos de amor".

Diócesis e instituciones católicas de todo EE.UU. se han ido preparando para conmemorar esta semana con eventos como misas especiales, oportunidades de voluntariado y clínicas legales de inmigración, continuó el comunicado.

En su mensaje para la Jornada Mundial del Migrante y del Refugiado de este año, el Papa Francisco enfatizó que "Dios camina con su pueblo", y camina

dentro de su pueblo, particularmente los pobres y los marginados.

"Es posible ver en los emigrantes de nuestro tiempo, como en los de todas las épocas, una imagen viva del pueblo de Dios en camino hacia la patria eterna", escribió el Papa en su mensaje anual. "Sus viajes de esperanza nos recuerdan que nosotros somos ciudadanos del cielo, y esperamos ardientemente que venga de allí como Salvador el Señor Jesucristo' (Flp 3, 20)".

El Papa dijo también que, como el pueblo de Israel en tiempos de Moisés, "los migrantes huyen a menudo de situaciones de opresión y abusos, de inseguridad y discriminación, de falta de proyectos de desarrollo". Como el pueblo judío en el desierto, los migrantes se enfrentan a obstáculos como la sed, el hambre, el agotamiento por el trabajo y se ven tentados por la desesperación.

Sin embargo, "Dios no sólo camina con su pueblo, sino también en su pueblo", en el sentido de que "se identifica con los hombres y las mujeres en su caminar por la historia -- especialmente con los últimos, los pobres, los marginados--, como prolongación del misterio de la Encarnación". Y muchos emigrantes se confían a Dios durante su peligrosa travesía buscando refugio seguro y consuelo en medio del desánimo, añadió el Papa.

"Imaginemos cuántas biblias, evangelios, libros de oraciones y rosarios acompañan a los emigrantes en sus viajes a través de desiertos, ríos y mares, y de las fronteras de todos los continentes", exclamó el Santo Padre.

Según estimaciones de las Naciones Unidas, en 2020 había unos 281 millones de migrantes internacionales en el mundo (lo que representa el 3,6% de la población mundial). La agencia de la ONU para los refugiados ha dicho que, en 2023, el mundo contaba con 117,3

millones de personas desplazadas por la fuerza -- categoría que incluye a refugiados, solicitantes de asilo, personas que necesitan protección internacional y desplazados internos.

En su mensaje anual, el Papa Francisco recordó la insistencia de Jesucristo en que sus seguidores ayudaran a los necesitados, tal y como se relata en el pasaje bíblico de Mateo 25. Dijo que el encuentro con el migrante, como con cada hermano y hermana necesitados, es también un encuentro con Jesús.

"Cada encuentro a lo largo del camino es una oportunidad para encontrar al Señor", dijo el Papa. "Es una oportunidad cargada de salvación, porque en la hermana o en el hermano que necesitan nuestra ayuda, está presente Jesús. En este sentido, los pobres nos salvan, porque nos permiten encontrarnos con el rostro del Señor".

La declaración de la USCCB remitió a la gente a su página web Justicia para los Inmigrantes para que encontraran sugerencias sobre cómo caminar con los inmigrantes durante la Semana Nacional de la Migración a través de la oración y la acción.

El sitio web incluye un kit sobre la Semana Nacional de la Migración, que sugiere formas de ofrecerse como voluntario, remite a la carta pastoral conjunta que los obispos de EE.UU. y México publicaron en 2003 y enumera formas de ofrecer acompañamiento en el contexto de la migración. Algunas de estas formas de acompañar a los migrantes incluyen ayudar a los migrantes con el transporte a los procedimientos judiciales y citas médicas, ayudar a los padres a inscribir a sus hijos en las escuelas, y estar presente para escuchar sus historias.

La declaración de la USCCB del 19 de septiembre también remite a recur-

sos preparados por el Dicasterio para el Servicio del Desarrollo Humano Integral del Vaticano.

"Los migrantes son un ícono contemporáneo de este pueblo en camino, de la Iglesia en camino y, al mismo tiempo, es en ellos y en todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas vulnerables donde podemos encontrar al Señor que camina con nosotros", señala una página web del dicasterio, que comparte información y vídeos sobre una campaña de comunicación que invita a todas las personas de buena voluntad a organizar iniciativas con migrantes, refugiados, personas vulnerables.

"En esta Jornada dedicada a los migrantes y refugiados, unámonos en oración por todos aquellos que han tenido que abandonar su tierra en busca de condiciones de vida dignas", dijo el Papa al concluir su mensaje.

"Ayúdanos a no dejar nunca de caminar junto con nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes hacia la morada eterna que tú nos has preparado", rezó el papa. "Abre nuestros ojos y nuestro corazón para que cada encuentro con los necesitados se convierta también en un encuentro con Jesús, Hijo tuyo y Señor nuestro".

NOTAS: La página web Justicia para los Inmigrantes de la USCCB incluye información en español sobre la Semana Nacional de la Migración: <https://justiceformigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NMW-Toolkit-2024-SP.pdf>

-Recursos sobre la Jornada Mundial del Migrante y del Refugiado están disponibles en la página web del Dicasterio para la Promoción del Desarrollo Humano Integral del Vaticano: <https://www.humandevlopment.va/es/news/2024/giornata-mondiale-migrante-e-rifugiato-2024-tema-messaggio-papa.html>

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

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

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

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

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

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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





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


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

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


**OUR TEAM**



David Michael Campsey MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD  
Cardiology

**WVU Heart & Vascular Institute**