Getting Vaccinated and Wearing Masks are ‘Genuine Acts of Love,’ Bishop Brennan Says

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—“Getting vaccinated and wearing a good mask are genuine acts of love by which we protect our neighbor and our own health,” Bishop Mark E. Brennan said in a video message to the Catholic faithful of West Virginia. “We should do these two things to enhance the health of and safety of our family members, friends, and the most vulnerable.”

Bishop Brennan’s message was released on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s social media Aug. 27. He began his message by saying that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the Mountain State with large increases of the number of persons infected, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The bishop encouraged everyone to pray for all those affected by the virus and for an end to the pandemic, and said that all can act boldly in the face of this “mortal threat.”

Bishop Brennan emphasized that vaccines are now fully approved and widely available and give substantial protection to those who are vaccinated. Wearing masks in public settings and large indoor gatherings, he said, adds further protection.

“Some object that vaccinations and wearing masks interfere with their personal freedom. Our freedom is a very limited but real participation in God’s freedom, and like God’s, is meant always to be used to do good,” the bishop said.

“I urge you to choose to do good to your neighbor and to yourself by being vaccinated and wearing a protective mask in appropriate settings,” the bishop said. “No one among us would choose to watch a family member or friend suffer and possibly die if we had the power to stop it. We do have the power, to a great degree, to counteract a deadly virus by getting vaccinated and wearing a mask. As we continue to navigate through these difficult times, we pray for patience and a strong resolve to do what is best for everyone.”

The bishop also reminded everyone, in his message, that the Lord Jesus has taught all to love their neighbor as themselves.

Bishop Brennan released his message days after asking everyone to wear masks in all of the diocese’s churches. His request was made Aug. 25 and was prompted by the surge in COVID-19 cases.

See “Bishop” on Page 3
**Diocesan Pilgrimage in Honor of St. Joseph**

*Second Sundays in September–November*

By Joyce Bibe

Celebrate the Year of St. Joseph with faithful from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston by making a pilgrimage to significant churches in the state named for the Guardian of the Redeemer and Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consider embarking on your St. Joseph pilgrimage at one of three notable churches under his patronage with Mass and special tours of the churches on the second Sunday of each month from September to November (Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14). See Sunday Pilgrimage Mass times below:

- **St. Joseph Church, 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg.** Mass to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.
- **The Cathedral of St. Joseph, 13th and Eoff Streets, Wheeling.** Mass to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.
- **St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 229 California Avenue, Weirton.** Mass to be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Bishop Mark Brennan encourages Catholics in West Virginia to visit the churches, chapels, and missions in the diocese named in honor of St. Joseph. This act of faith and spiritual renewal will gain a plenary indulgence (under the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the pope, and total detachment from all sin, including venial sin) for all the faithful who visit a pilgrimage site.

The faithful are also invited to join the 9:00 Catholic Mass in the Parkersburg Vicariate for a special pilgrimage to the memorial chapel to St. Joseph Chapel at 101 W. Penn Avenue, Parkersboro from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday Sept. 12. Volunteers will lead a rosary at 3:45 p.m. followed by the Litany to St. Joseph, and silent prayer. A tour of the church and reception will follow.

See “Pilgrimage” on Page 13

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**Diocesan Official Appointments**

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Very Rev. John S. Ledford, V.F.** is appointed pastor of St. John Parish in Benwood and St. James Parish in Mchomen, effective September 1, 2021. This appointment is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale and does not change his place of residence.

**Father Nye “Joseph” Wiley** is appointed parochial vicar of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling with residence at the parish rectory, effective September 14, 2021. St. Alphonsus Parish will be under the administration of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. This appointment is in addition to his current assignment as chaplain to Central Catholic High School in Wheeling.

In consultation with Very Rev. Father Battula Jaya Raj, H.G.N., provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Mallela Praveen Kumar, H.G.N.,** is appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg with residence at the parish rectory, effective September 1, 2021.

In consultation with Very Rev. Dr. Joby Kavungal, R.C.J., provincial superior of the St. Thomas Aquinas Province of the Rogationists Fathers in India, **Father Doney Palakuzhayil, R.C.J.,** is appointed parochial vicar of St. John Parish in Benwood and St. James Parish in McMechen with residence at the parish rectory in McMechen, effective September 1, 2021.

**Father Jose Mauricio Henriquez** is appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish in Morgantown with residence at the parish rectory, effective September 1, 2021. He is also appointed chaplain of J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.

**Father Biju Parampli** is appointed administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Logan, St. Edmund Chapel in Man, and Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson with residence at the parish rectory in Logan, effective September 19, 2021.

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**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese’s Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults.

Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click “Office” on the menu bar, 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.reportbishopsabuse.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.reportbishopsabuse.org.

**To Report to Civil Authorities:** Contact your local law enforcement department, regardless of whether you believe that the accused is a religious person. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment”, then “Download Forms.” The form is titled “Claim Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator:** Please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

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*The Catholic Spirit* intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every respect. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos are welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.
Diocesan Pastoral Council Conducting Pastoral Needs Survey

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is conducting a pastoral needs survey. With the title, “Let Your Voices be Heard,” the survey was spearheaded by the DPC’s Pastoral Concerns Subcommittee and invites the Catholic faithful to share their insights and opinions on meeting needs in the diocese.

“We hope our people in the pews will take this opportunity and let their voices be heard on various topics,” said Gina Bogges, one of the eight members of the subcommittee. Once completed surveys are received, committee members will compile the information and present the overall results to Bishop Mark E. Brennan and the Diocesan Pastoral Council at the next scheduled meeting in October.

The survey is available online and in paper form in both English and Spanish. To complete online, visit the diocese’s website at https://dwc.org/pastoral-needs-survey/. Boggess said that most surveys are completed by those over the age of 60, and that for the survey to be truly effective they must hear from youth and young adults as well.

Boggess, who is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, said that after the results of the survey are in subcommittee members will explore, investigate, prioritize, and recommend future pastoral undertakings based on the needs and concerns of the Catholic population in West Virginia.

“We also plan to share with priests a summary of the results from their church,” she went on to say. “We hope the results will provide valuable insight into the hearts and minds of their parishioners. In addition, the results can be used as a tool and guide by the priests and their pastoral council when planning and making decisions concerning those they serve.”

Paul Buede of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town who also serves on the subcommittee, said members are excited to be part of a unique opportunity to provide a platform for the people of the diocese to share what has worked well in their parishes, what hasn’t or isn’t working well, and any other feedback.

“It’s always good to know what works, but it’s also critical to understand the gaps, so our bishop and his team can better minister to our diocese,” Buede said. The diocese, he continued, has gained diversity of many demographic factors, but also of spirituality.

“We have people who feel more connected to Christ through more charismatic prayer and worship, but also those who are more connected to Christ through more traditional liturgy and prayer, and everything in between,” Buede said. “Part of the great difficulty, I imagine, for our shepherds, is trying to ensure that to the extent possible, people are engaged as much as they can be, but that all of this diversity stays licit, true to the faith, and truly spiritually beneficial. I know that is difficult, so helping paint that picture or draw that map can only help them in that mission.”

At the same time, Buede said, different parts of the diocese and parishes struggle with different problems, “so it’s important to draw that map so the bishop can ensure his resources are best targeted to provide the support needed in the right places.”

Speaking with Boggess and Buede on the Pastoral Concerns Subcommittee are Linda Abrahamian of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg; James Archer of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport; Kevin Britt of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Moundsville; Denise Klug of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville; Colleen O’Brien of St. Michael Parish in Vienna; and Father Jesseon Stephan, MCBS, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in New Cumberland and Sacred Heart Parish in Chester.

“Our primary focus is the relationship between the church and society,” Boggess said of the subcommittee. “This focus encompasses: building up the Catholic community, effective parish social outreach, ecumenism, evangelization, and the relationship between churches/vicariates and the diocese.”

Before they could offer any suggestions or guidance to Bishop Brennan, Boggess said Pastoral Concerns Subcommittee members knew they first had to get feedback from the few low Catholics. “So, we decided to go straight to the source in the form of a survey,” she said, noting that they had consulted Bishop Brennan and Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G. “They were very open to the idea and expressed their desire to gain a better understanding of the faithful on specific issues as well as to identify the needs and concerns that our people have relating to the church and living out their Catholic faith,” she said.

The subcommittee enlisted the help of the vicars, vicariate pastoral councils, church pastoral councils, and office staff to promote the survey through bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements, and informational e-mails. Boggess said that diocesan staff have been extremely helpful in constructing and promoting the digital survey.

“I would personally like to acknowledge the Pastoral Concerns Committee for their hard work and dedication,” Boggess said. “Their love and passion for our church in West Virginia is inspiring! The Pastoral Concerns Committee would like to convey our gratitude to everyone who has helped with this endeavor! Thank you to each and every person who has completed the survey. We encourage those who have not completed the survey to please take a few minutes and let your voice be heard!”

Bishop...

Go to Page 1 of Covid cases in West Virginia. That afternoon, pastors and parishioners were asked to place a sign with the following or similar message at each entrance of their churches: “Until further notice, Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass wear a mask, other than to be vaccinated.”

“There is no other pathway out of this concern about,” Justice said at his press briefing. “There is no other pathway out of this other than to be vaccinated.”

Last month, Pope Francis offered a video message that was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative’s “It’s Up To You” campaign to increase people’s confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by reminding them that the vaccines are safe, effective, and save people’s lives.

“Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people,” he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome.
Catholic Distance University Has Great Offerings This Fall

A Free Online Apologetics Seminar, and Opportunities to Begin Degree or Certificate Program Online

WEST VIRGINIA—Fall is a great time to enroll in a free online seminar at Catholic Distance University in Charles Town.

The Art of Evangelization through Apologetics runs from Oct. 4-25. Popular author, Catholic radio guest, and instructor Allan F. Wright will share the good news of Jesus Christ whose teachings entrusted to the church encompass truth, beauty, and goodness. Learn to communicate to others a faith that is both relevant and foundational for one’s life. Gain the confidence to share the Gospel in an engaging and natural way and appreciate why being a credible believer is the most effective apologetic tool.

Thanks to CDU’s partnership with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, any parishioner in the diocese can enroll in the seminar without charge by using the following promotion code at checkout: CDU20. To register, visit https://cdu.catalog.instructure.com/courses/66849/enrollment/new.

Catholic Distance University’s Fall II term offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses that are perfect for beginning one’s academic degree or certificate program. Classes begin Oct. 25, so apply soon to be admitted and eligible to register.

Degrees offered include an Associate’s degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Catholic Studies, a Bachelor’s degree in Theology, a Master’s degree in Theology, and a Master’s degree in Theology and Educational Ministry. Certificate options include the undergraduate Catechetical Coordinator certificate and graduate certificates in Sacred Scripture, Church History, and Catholic Education.

Learn more at cdu.edu or contact Admissions Director Todd at admissions@cdu.edu; or 1-888-254-4CDU.
Blue Mass to be Celebrated on Eve of 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

By Colleen Rowan

WEIRTON—On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the Catholic community of Weirton will honor their heroes—police, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, members of the military, and their families.

A Blue Mass will be celebrated for them at noon on Sept. 10 at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton by Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. Joining in the celebration will be students from the Catholic schools of Weirton—Madonna High School, St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, and St. Paul School.

The Blue Mass is celebrated at St. Joseph the Worker Church each year at this time to pray for and to thank those who put their lives on the line for others.

“The first responders, police, firefighters, EMS, etc., and the military, and all those who run into a tragic situation when everyone else is running out, are to be commended and continually lifted up in the public setting,” Father Schuelkens said. “If we do not, as a community, honor the heroic and sacrificial disposition of these careers, then we will lose their dutiful and life-giving service.”

Across the nation, faithful will be praying for and remembering the close to 3,000 people killed 20 years ago in the terrorist attacks in New York, at the Pentagon, and in a field near Shanksville, Pa. Many who were killed were police, firefighters, and other first responders.

In his homily at last year’s Blue Mass, Father Schuelkens said that on that day, they give thanks to the Lord for those individuals who say yes to God’s call of protecting others, for those who say: “Yes, I will defend, and I will protect, and I will help even at the risk of my own life.’ We give thanks because there are law enforcement officers, there are firefighters, there are first responders, and there are people in the military who say, ‘I’ll step forward, I’ll take the risk.’”

Young Adults Invited to Encounter Love

An Enriching Event on Building Strong Relationships

By Joyce Bibey

MORGANTOWN—St. John the Evangelist Catholic Campus Ministry invite young adults from across the state to an event in Morgantown on the banks of the Monongahela River that aims to empower high school and college students.

On Oct. 16, Mountaineer Catholic presents Encounter Love, featuring popular Catholic speakers Lisa Cotter and Father Joe Freedy.

It will be a day to fuel the hearts and minds of young adults, as they are energized by two dynamic speakers, uplifted with music, empowered with spiritual reflection, and fed via a fabulous food truck, said Colleen Criste, campus minister for St. John University Parish at West Virginia University.

Blending practical insights, sound theology, and a bit of humor, Cotter will address high schoolers, college students, and young adults about authentic friendships, dating, and marriage, Criste shared.

Cotter is a strong Catholic mother of three, podcaster, and founder of Made to Magnify, a ministry to “help people become saints.”

She and her husband, Kevin, have worked with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) ministry, a group of missionaries that evangelize college campuses; and co-authored “Dating Detox: 40 Days of Perfecting Love in an Imperfect World”. The book is the result of a summer the couple spent interviewing young adults who transitioned from what is often a toxic modern dating arena to understanding God’s plan and following it freely to find love.

Her presentation in October will highlight how developing true, authentic friendships and relationships may be difficult, but with the right mindset you can build stronger relationships with more meaning knowing the keys to God’s grace and plan.

Father Freedy has worn many hats in his career so far as a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

He is the founder of Dry Bones Ministries, a group whose mission is to revitalize the faith of and build a future for Catholics in Pittsburgh. He is also the assistant director of Evangelization for his diocese and the chaplain for two high schools in Allegheny County.

A native of Bethel Park, Pa., he earned a scholarship to play Division I football at the University of Buffalo, where he was the starting quarterback for three years.

Throughout his college career he discerned a calling to the priesthood and entered St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh and the North American College in Rome, studying at the Gregorian University and John Paul II Institute. He was ordained in 2008. Prior to his current position he was a parish priest in Wexford and the chaplain for two high schools in Allegheny County.

The day will also feature the St. John’s Praise and Worship Band made up of WVU students.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available to cover costs for students or groups wanting to attend the day, Criste said. Attendees can park at the Wharf District Parking Garage. Afterwards, event goers are invited to linger in Morgantown and go to Mass at St. John University Parish at 5 p.m. The church is in walking distance of the speaking venue.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and more information contact Criste in the office of campus ministry at (304) 296-8231, ext. 12, or e-mail her at: colleen.criste@mountaineercatholic.com.
Texas' 6-Week Abortion Ban is Law after Supreme Court Fails to Block It

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Texas bill banning abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy became law Sept. 1 when the U.S. Supreme Court did not act on an emergency request to put the law on hold.

The law, signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott in May, became effective at midnight central time Sept. 1. It is one of the strictest abortion measures in the country, banning abortions in the state after a fetal heartbeat is detectable. The law has an exception for medical emergencies but not for rape or incest.

Court watchers on both sides of the issue kept vigil at the Supreme Court into the night waiting for an order that never came.

Abortion providers in the state had argued that the law would prevent about 85% of abortions in the state and will likely cause many clinics to close.

The Supreme Court could still act on the providers’ emergency request; it just did not respond before the law went into effect.

A unique part of the Texas law is that private citizens can enforce it by suing abortion providers and anyone involved in facilitating abortions.

Currently, at least 12 other states have legislation banning abortions early in pregnancy, but these bans have been blocked by courts.

“Hopefully, this law will begin saving the lives of tens of thousands of Texas babies and we look forward to the day that babies’ lives will be spared across America,” said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

She also applauded the efforts of the Texas Right to Life and “pro-life Texans who have been working diligently and tirelessly worked with state legislators to protect unborn babies by passing laws to keep pregnant women from having an abortion.”

The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before the 24-week mark. This fall, the court will take up a Mississippi abortion ban after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Those appealing the state law filed a motion in late August that was denied by the district court. They turned to the U.S. Court of Appeals “Law” on Page 15

Archbishop Broglio Prays for Dialogue, Respect for Human Life after Bombing

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, called for prayers and respect for human life following the bombing outside of an airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, that claimed the lives of 170 Afghan citizens and 13 U.S. service members.

The archbishop, who was in San Diego Aug. 27 to attend a diocesan renovation, said, in a statement that he joined the assembled priests “to pray for the repose of the souls” of the lost U.S. soldiers “and the consolation of their families.”

“Together we beg the Prince of Peace for a time of dialogue and a profound respect for the priceless value of human life,” the statement said.

The terrorist attack outside of the airport Aug. 26 occurred as hundreds of people gathered in hope of being evacuated on one of dozens of flights arranged in the days following the rapid advance of the Taliban as it regained control of the Afghan government. U.S. forces were deployed to facilitate evacuations and to keep order among the throngs of people.

The U.S. military has carried out two attacks on targets of the Islamic State in Afghanistan, known as Islamic State Khorasan, which has claimed responsibility for the airport bombing.

President Joe Biden, first lady Jill Biden and several U.S. officials paid their respect to the U.S. troops killed in the bombing as their bodies were returned home in a ceremony at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Aug. 29.

Also in response to the attack, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore said he was heartbroken by “the senseless loss of precious life.”

“Acts of terror are an attack against all of us and have no place in a civilized or just society,” he said in a statement released by the archdiocese Aug. 26. “Please, I urge the members of our Archdiocese of Baltimore to join our Holy Father, Pope Francis and our global community to pray for peace and an open dialogue that creates a path to solutions and not to more death and suffering.”

He also urged the faithful to “remember all of the victims, their families and loved ones.”

Dioceses Emerge from Hurricane Ida’s Wrath as Others Prepare to Help

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities in and around the areas of Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Ida — one of the most powerful storms to hit the continental U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 — are collecting donations as they prepare to help with the yet-unknown damage caused by the late August storm.

In a televised Aug. 30 meeting with President Joe Biden, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said he estimated that close to 2 million are without electricity in the region, though news reports said about 1 million were affected.

Many remained without cellphone service and although just one death had been confirmed by midday Aug. 30, Edwards said the death toll likely will rise.

Many Masses Aug. 29 had been suspended in the region as residents prepared to ride out the storm or had evacuated.

Edwards said the damage was “catastrophic” as news outlets showed flooded and destroyed homes, torn roofs and water running through Louisiana streets like a rushing river.

Biden said he asked the Federal Aviation Administration to work with electric providers in Louisiana and Mississippi to use surveillance drones “to assess Ida’s damage to energy infrastructure.”

Though the hurricane had torn through Louisiana as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 29, the following day it was heading as a downgraded tropical storm, but still life-threatening, toward Mississippi and then Tennessee, where flooding was the main concern.

As levees in Louisiana seemed to have stood up of Ida’s wrath, many on social media urged the public to keep in mind that help would be needed in small agricultural towns, not just for damage to New Orleans.

Catholic dioceses and organizations said they were mobilizing to help as soon as conditions allowed.

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After Afghanistan Withdrawal, Pope Denounces Attempts to Impose Democracy

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his first interview since undergoing surgery in July, Pope Francis condemned Western attempts to impose democracy on other countries in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal in Afghanistan.

In a 90-minute interview with COPE, the radio network owned by the Spanish bishops' conference, broadcast Sept. 1, the pope commented on the United States' "20 years of occupation and then leaving" Afghanistan.

However, he mistakenly attributed a quote to German Chancellor Angela Merkel that criticized attempts to impose democracy in other countries; it was said by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"It is necessary to stop the irresponsible policy of enforcing its own values on others and attempting to build democracy in other countries based on outside models without taking into account historic, ethnic and religious issues and fully ignoring other people's traditions," Putin said during an Aug. 20 meeting with Merkel in Moscow.

"Concise and conclusive," the pope said about the quote. "I think this says a lot; and everyone can interpret it as they wish. But there I felt a wisdom in what this woman said." April, President Joe Biden announced a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by Sept. 11. However, as Taliban fighters took control of the country, Biden sped up the withdrawal and ordered the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan to conclude Aug. 31.

As throngs of people desperate to leave the country crowded a gate of the Hamid Karzai International Airport Aug. 26, a suicide bomber detonated an explosion, killing at least 169 civilians and 13 U.S. service members. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the blast, an explosion, killing at least 169 civilians and 13 U.S. service members. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the blast.

"I am going to try to ask for what the church always asks for in times of great difficulty and crisis: more prayer and fasting," he said. "Prayer, penance and fasting, which is what is asked for in moments of crisis." Pope Francis also addressed concerns about his health and the subsequent rumors that circulated regarding his possible retirement. While he receives daily news reports, the pope said he "found out much later ... that there was something about me resigning."

"Whenever a pope is ill, there is always a breeze or a hurricane of conjecture," he said. The pope was admitted to Gemelli hospital July 4 to undergo "a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon." He underwent a three-hour left hemicolectomy, which is the removal of the descending part of the colon, a surgery that can be recommended to treat diverticulitis, when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestines or colon become inflamed or infected. Pope Francis told COPE that since his recovery, he leads "a totally normal life" and that "now I can eat everything, which was not possible before" the medical procedure.

"I still have the post-operative medications because the brain has to register that it has 33 centimeters less intestine. And everything is managed by the brain, the brain manages our whole body, and it takes time to register it," he said.

Pope Francis also commented on his recent apostolic letter "Traditio Custodes" ("Guardians of the Tradition."). The document declared the liturgical books promulgated after the Second Vatican Council to be "the unique expression of the lex orandi (law of worship) of the Roman Rite," restored the obligation of priests to have their bishop's permission to celebrate according to the "extraordinary" or pre-Vatican II Mass and ordered bishops not to establish any new groups or parishes in the liturgy presently not approved by the old liturgy. Furthermore, priests currently celebrating Mass according to the old missal must request authorization from their bishop to continue doing so and for any priest ordained after the document's publication July 16, the bishop must consult with the Vatican before granting authorization. Pope Francis said he regarded Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 apostolic letter, "Summorum Pontificum," which allowed priests to celebrate the "extraordinary form" of the Mass according to the rites published in 1962, to be "one of the most beautiful and human pastoral things" done by his predecessor. Nevertheless, 15 years after its promulgation, an evaluation involving all bishops from around the world was necessary, he explained.

"The concern that appeared the most was that something that was done to pastorally help those who have lived a previous experience was being transformed into ideology," the pope said. "That is, from a pastoral thing to ideology. So, we had to react with clear norms; clear norms that put a limit to those who had not lived that experience."

The pope said he worked with "traditionalist people of good sense" in drafting "Traditio Custodes" and that it emphasized pastoral care "with some good limitations.""I don't know whether there will be a review or not, but certainly there was a lot of deception, perhaps on the part of the new authorities," he said. "I say deceit or a lot of naiveté; I don't understand."

Nevertheless, the pope said that the situation in Afghanistan is yet another sign that "we live in a world of wars" and "that as pastor, I must call Christians to a special time of prayer."

"Let's hope that these steps we are taking ... will help to make these events happen less and less," he said.

During the interview, the pope was asked about the Vatican trial against 10 individuals and entities, including Cardinal Angelo Becciu, former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, on charges ranging from embezzlement to money laundering and abuse of office. The charges stemmed from a Vatican investigation into how the Secretariat of State used $200 million to finance a property development project in London's posh Chelsea district and incurred millions of dollars in debt. At the time, then-Archbishop Becciu served as "sostituto," the No. 3 position in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Cardinal Becciu was forced to offer his resignation to the pope in September 2020, after he was accused of embezzling an estimated 100,000 euros of Vatican funds and redirecting them to Spes, a Caritas organization run by his brother, Tonino Becciu, in his home Diocese of Ozieri, Sardinia.

The pope told COPE he authorized the Vatican's investigation into the See "Reforms" on Page 15
Van Mueller presents

Faith, Family and Financial Security

Join us for an informative online presentation by Van Mueller, one of the top speakers in the insurance and financial industry.

Van Mueller is an author and dynamic speaker known for helping clients plan successful insurance and retirement strategies. He is a global speaker that has presented in all 50 states and every province in Canada, inspiring his audience to take control over their financial future.

Van will ask a series of tough questions to help you think about how ready you are for whatever may come next, such as:

- What is the easiest and safest way to make retirement money last longer?
- What if you suddenly died – Wouldn’t you rather leave a loved one with your hard-earned money rather than the Internal Revenue Service?

Join us as Van helps us think through our answers to these questions, and many more!

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Cathedral of St. Joseph Planning Domestic Violence Awareness Events

By Joyce Bibey

WHEELING—Bishop Mark Brennan will be the celebrant at a special Mass in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 10 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. Following Mass there will be a workshop to raise awareness of domestic violence in the Great Hall of Central Catholic High School.

While Bishop Brennan will be speaking about family peace and threats to it during his homily, the workshop after the Mass will feature presenters from local and national agencies.

The workshop presenters include representatives from Catholics for Family Peace and the Wheeling YWCA, along with Shelly Ernest, victim/witness coordinator of the Ohio County Prosecutor’s Office. In addition, B.L. Edmundson, a licensed outpatient mental health therapist certified in treatment of additions, and Erica Hartley, of Vance Presbyterian Church, will also speak and be on hand to answer questions.

Bishop Brennan was the featured homilist for the Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Mass last year organized by the national office of Catholics for Family Peace and the USCCB’s Secretariat Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. The purpose of these events is to inform the Catholic community on ways to promote family peace, prevent and respond to domestic abuse, provide resources, and encourage prayer for all families. The initiative provides education, resources, and research that help pastoral leaders, clergy, and parishioners recognize domestic abuse and respond with compassion.

To learn more, please visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of abuse, please know that there is hope, help, and healing. For information on local resources, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233; TTY: 800-787-3224.

The Oct. 10 program in Wheeling will also be shared on the Cathedral of St. Joseph’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/wheelingcathedral and dwc.org.

Reservations are requested by calling (304) 975-3230.

Charleston Serra Establishes Fund to Support Seminarians in Memory of Father Leon Alexander

CHARLESTON — The Serra Club of Charleston has established a permanent fund in support of men studying for the Catholic priesthood. The organization has contributed nearly $4,000 as the seed funds.

The new fund is named for the late Father Leon Alexander, a priest of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, who died in 2021.

“Father Leon was a dedicated and joyful priest who served the church and a host of Catholics for many years even after his retirement,” said Joe Deegan, an officer of the Serra Club of Charleston who as one of his parishioners at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston knew the priest well. “Father Leon remained a dedicated pastor and priest until his last day of life. Many other priests in the West Virginia church held Father Leon in high regard and often sought his advice on personal and church matters.”

The Father Leon Alexander Burs was created in consultation with the Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The diocese and the Serra Club of Charleston are planning its first disbursements for seminarians discerning the priesthood for service to the local church.

Father Alexander was pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish for over 20 years and had also served several parishes in the diocese. Father Alexander was born in Huntington, where he was a member of St. Joseph Parish. He attended St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., and St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling May 14, 1966.

Father Alexander founded the diocese’s youth camp, Camp Tygart (now Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp) in Huttonsville, and served as director from 1966 to 1974. He served as associate pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley from 1966 to 1968 and of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg in 1968. He was director of Youth for the diocese from 1968 to 1971 and then served as associate pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown from 2006 to 2010.

Father Alexander served as dean of the Bluefield Deanery from 1981 to 1986 and vicar forane of the Charleston Vicariate from 1986 to 2006. He retired from active ministry in 2010. He also served as temporary administrator of Ascession Parish in Hurricane from 2018 to 2019.

Father Alexander served on Presbyteral Council, the Clergy Personnel Committee, and the Priests Health and Retirement Board. He was best known for his time spent at Camp Tygart in Huttonsville.

The Serra Club of Charleston, founded in 1951, is part of Serra International, an international organization dedicated to fostering priestly and religious vocations.

Donations to the Father Alexander Bursse are deductible for federal income tax purposes and may be made to “Serra Club of Charleston” and mailed to P.O. Box 1746, Charleston, WV 25326. See www.serracharleston.org for more information about the Serra Club of Charleston.
Central and St. Michael’s Teachers Honored as Teachers of the Year

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Two of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Catholic school teachers were among three recipients of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce’s Teachers of the Year award. They are Marcy Hartzell, vice principal and middle school language arts and religion teacher for grades seven and eight at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling; and Tom Perdziola, chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling.

Hartzell started at St. Michael's as a substitute teacher in 2010. The next year she came on as a full-time teacher for the fifth grade. She said she feels very overwhelmed and grateful to receive the award.

"St. Mike's is a great place to work," Hartzell said, and emphasized the support from stakeholders, parents, the parish, as well as Father Carlos Melocon, pastor of the school and St. Michael Parish, and Principal Kim Burge. Hartzell has also had many great mentors at the school, she said, including former principal Sis Richardson. Hartzell said that she and her fellow teachers collaborate and work to make each other better.

"I feel very supported by my coworkers," she said. "They will challenge me and help me to grow. This is an awesome place to be."

She and her family are members of St. Michael Parish. She is a graduate of Catholic Central High School in Steubenville, where she received her undergraduate in elementary education. She then went on to attend Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and taught in Catholic schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Her family moved to Wheeling in 2003, and she began volunteering at the school.

She and her husband Jamie have been married for 28 years and have four children: Peter, 25; Lucy, 24; Margaret, 18; and Andrew, who just began his junior year at Wheeling Central. Her other children are graduates of Central and all four attended St. Michael’s as well.

"I am very lucky, any teacher from Central Catholic is just as deserving," Perdziola said of his award. He has been teaching for 38 years, and this is his fifth year at Central.

Perdziola lives in Bethel Park, Pa., and is a member of St. Louise de Marillac Parish. He is grateful to have received the award and to teach at Central.

"I teach at Central Catholic because I believe that it is the best!" Perdziola said. "I recently beat cancer. The reason why I beat it was my students at Central Catholic. A fellow teacher, Pam Hartman said to me, ‘When you have that word of hope, you will beat it’. I want to thank the students at Central Catholic for saving my life and allowing me to teach again!

"I also want to thank my family for never leaving my side!"

Infant of Prague Novena Begins at Cathedral Sept. 13

WHEELING—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling will celebrate the annual Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague beginning this year on Monday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

The novena will be prayed on nine consecutive Monday evenings concluding on Nov. 8. Each week consists of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily given by a guest priest, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague. The theme for this year is “Called to Be Holy!” Everyone is invited to attend this beautiful devotion. God has been astonishingly generous in blessing those who have been devoted to His Infant Son.
Radianc Presence is a Present

WVU Campus Minister hopes to radiate Christ’s love

By Joyce Bibey

Walk into her office and you’ll be greeted with a heartwarming smile. Catch up with her and her family during an outdoor adventure and you’ll be treated to her contagious laughter. Yet the most attractive and impressive thing about Colleen Roderique Criste is her beautiful heart and glowing spirit—an asset that is benefiting countless young adults at the St. John University Parish Newman Center in Morgantown.

Criste grew up in a cradle Catholic in a strong and faithful family, but until two years ago she didn’t realize how much her upbringing, raising 8 children in this ever-changing and challenging world, and committing to take time for herself for continuing education of mind and spirit would inspire her to be so inspirational in her role as director of programs for Campus Ministry at WVU.

She was born and raised in southern New Jersey, but up until two years ago she didn’t realize how much her upbringing, raising 8 children in this ever-changing and challenging world, and committing to take time for herself for continuing education of mind and spirit would inspire her to be so inspirational in her role as director of programs for Campus Ministry at WVU.

Colleen Criste with her spiritual mentor, Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, Franciscan University president.

Ministry at WVU.

It was a regular thing for us to have priests over for dinner, joining us on family vacations, and having private Masses in our home. I never realized how unusual that was!

Her father Ray Roderique was a deacon, known as Deacon Ray Rodrigue (taking the original ancestral spelling of his last name). He and her mother Mary Kathleen were prayer ministry leaders in their community. Her uncle, Father Ed O’Connor, was an author and theology professor at Notre Dame University. Her aunt, Sister Maria, was a nun with the Sisters of Mercy. Her brother, Father Ray Roderique, is a priest for the Diocese of Newark, and two of her cousins, Father Jon Mary Foster and Mother Magdalene Foster, founded and belong to an order called the “Mission of Divine Mercy” in Texas.

“I would describe my faith as a blend of constancy and flux, if that makes any sense,” she said. “From a very early age I knew I was Catholic and had a strong personal relationship with Him. However, no matter how religious the upbringing, it cannot replace the fact that you must embrace faith and walk it in for yourself. No one can do it for you.”

Her journey through life led into and through heartbreakingly challenges, but thankfully she had the heart and mind to listen to people who let Christ speak to her through those times.

“I rebelled and rejected the church for many years,” she said of her young adult life. “I didn’t attend Mass and lived a life bent on self-destruction. It wasn’t until I reached my lowest point, when I desired death more than life, that I got down on my knees and begged God to help me. I made a promise to Him that night. I said, ‘God, if you are real, if you will change my life, I will serve You every day for the rest of my life.’ That was the beginning of everything. Three days later, I attended Mass for the first time in years. It was at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lynchburg.”

As fate would have it, Holy Cross is where she ended up meeting her future husband Dan Criste “in the Donut Line” after Mass. We were married one year later, and have 8 children: Daniel, Jacob, Mary, Isaac, Abby, Joshua, Elijah, and Aaron. We also have 2 babies in heaven: Joseph and James.

When the family moved to Morgantown, they joined St John’s Parish. It was a year later in July of 2020, when she took on the role of Campus Minister at the invitation of Father Brian Crenwelge.

“I was hesitant at first, because I had never done campus ministry before—never even considered it,” Criste said. “But then I remembered a prophetic word that had been given to me just days after moving to Morgantown by a Catholic Evangelist named Mary Bielski. She went out of her way to share this message with me. — ‘The Holy Spirit is telling me to tell you that God has called you into a new mission field. Your new mission will be ministering to young adults, specifically young adult women, and it will flourish!’”

Criste met Bielski at a Steubenville Power and Purpose Conference. Between sessions Bielski, whom she’d never met before approached her thinking she’d been acquainted. “I assumed she was just some enthusiastic person from the audience,” Criste remembered. “It wasn’t until the next day that I discovered she was actually one of the keynote speakers for the weekend and had the power of prophecy! I still get goosebumps when I recall her words!”

“I had no idea at the time how any of what she said could happen.”

Needless to say, Criste was nervous about the day,” she said. “If we can help young adults now to know the love of God, then we have done our jobs well. They will leave the campus of WVU better, stronger, and holier, and that can only impact the church in the best possible way!”

She said we all need to rely on Jesus and call upon him to “use us to serve others.” In doing so, we also need to seek spiritual advisors to keep us motivated. “One of my strongest spiritual mentors is Father Dave Pivonka, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville,” Criste said. “He continues to inspire me with his humility and deep dependence on the Holy Spirit to do the work he has been called to do.”

She wholeheartedly believes she is an effective campus minister because of the power of the Holy Spirit. “To be perfectly honest, I wake up every morning feeling a little nervous about the day,” she said. “I recognize the gravity of this role, and I don’t always feel equipped to do it. But then I think of this quote: ‘God does not choose the ones who are equipped, He equips the ones He chooses.’ I ask the Holy Spirit to fill me with His grace, strength, and gifts; to minister to the students through me. Not by my strength, but by His. Not my will, but His. In the end, my hope is that every person I have encountered in life will know that they were loved.”

By Joyce Bibey

Do you know an exceptional Catholic in West Virginia, someone or a group who are shining examples of #FaithInWV? Email Joyce Bibey your feature idea to jbibey@dwc.org. Visit FaithInWV.org and every issue of The Catholic Spirit to read more inspiring stories.
Working Toward a Common Goal

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Regional Director

The Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Romney office has been making changes and forming partnerships to serve clients more efficiently.

“We are happy to be sharing office space with the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation,” said Holly Redman, CCWVa Case manager. “Both of our organizations have a mission of improving our community.”

CCWVa is also partnering with Helping Hands, a secondhand store with the experience and resources to clean, sort, store, and distribute used clothing donated to CCWVa. CCWVa clients will receive clothing vouchers to continue receiving donated clothing for free.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

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From left: Jeanne Costello of CCWVa, Mary French of Helping Hands, and Holly Redman of CCWVa, gather in front of the Helping Hands donation shed.

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On Aug. 7 (pre-mask requirement), members from the cluster of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, Holy Rosary Mission in Sistersville, and St. Joseph Mission in Proctor are gathered with their pastor, Msgr. Kevin M. Quirk, on their pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. During their pilgrimage, Father Justin Golna preached the votive Mass of St. Joseph. The pilgrims prayed the Litany of St. Joseph and then had a 1.5-hour tour of the cathedral. This was part of the cluster’s celebration of the Year of St. Joseph.

Pilgrimage ...

Cont’d from Page 2

It is important to note that St. Joseph Parish in Huntington will host an event honoring the patron of the diocese and the Universal Church in the spring. Additional pilgrimages to missions and chapels under the patronage of St. Joseph will be announced in the weeks and months ahead.

Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph for the whole Church, which began Dec. 8, 2020, and will conclude on Dec. 8, 2021. Bishop Brennan has extended the Year of St. Joseph in our diocese to conclude on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, beloved father, guardian of the Holy Family, and humble servant of God, through the solemnity on March 19, 2022.

The culmination of the Year of St. Joseph will be celebrated with Mass and other special events at the Co-Cathedral of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

“May our faith in God and our devotion to His great servant, St. Joseph, bring us closer to Jesus Christ and one another,” Bishop Brennan said.
Vacunarse y usar máscaras son ‘verdaderos actos de amor’, dice el obispo Brennan

Por Colleen Rowan
WEST VIRGINIA—“Vacunarse y usar una buena máscara son actos genuinos de amor mediante los cuales protegemos a nuestro prójimo y nuestros propios familiares”, dijo el obispo Mark E. Brennan en un mensaje de video a los fieles católicos de Virginia Occidental. “Debemos hacer estas dos cosas para mejorar la salud y la seguridad de nuestros familiares, amigos y los más vulnerables”.

El mensaje del obispo Brennan se publicó en las redes sociales de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston el 27 de agosto. Comenzó diciendo que la pandemia de COVID-19 continúa devastando el estado de la montaña con un gran aumento del número de personas infectadas, hospitalizaciones y muertes.

El obispo animó a todos a rezar por todos los afectados por el virus y por el fin de la pandemia, y dijo que todos pueden actuar con valentía ante esta “amenaza mortal”. El obispo Brennan enfatizó que las vacunas ahora están completamente aprobadas y ampliamente disponibles y brindan una protección sustancial a quienes están vacunados. El uso de mascarillas en entornos públicos y grandes reuniones, en idioma, agrega más protección.

“Algunos objetan que las vacunas y el uso de mascarillas interfieren con su libertad personal. Nuestra libertad es una participación muy limitada pero real en la libertad de Dios, y como la de Dios, siempre debe usarse para hacer el bien”, dijo el obispo.

“Le insto a que elija hacer el bien a su vecino ya usted mismo al vacunarse y usar una máscara protectora en los entornos apropiados”, dijo el obispo. “Ninguno de nosotros elegiría ver a un familiar o amigo sufrir y posiblemente morir si tuviéramos el poder para detenerlo. Tenemos el poder, en gran medida, de evitar la muerte mortal al vacunarse y usar una máscara. A medida que continuamos atravesando estos tiempos difíciles, oramos por paciencia y una firme determinación de hacer lo mejor para todos”.

El obispo también recordó a todos, en su mensaje, que el Señor Jesús les ha enseñado a todos a amar al prójimo como a sí mismos.

El obispo Brennan dio a conocer su mensaje días después de pedirles a todos que usen máscaras en todas las iglesias de la diócesis. Su solicitud se realizó el 25 de agosto y fue motivada por el aumento de los casos de Covid-19 en Virginia Occidental. Ese tarde, se pidió a los párpados y parroquias que colocaran un letrero con el siguiente mensaje o un mensaje similar en cada entrada de sus iglesias: “Hasta nuevo aviso, el obispo Brennan pide que todos los asistentes a la misa usen una mascarilla, excepto los niños pequeños debajo de la edad de 2 años. Gracias por su cooperación en este acto de caridad cristiana”.

Encuesta sobre las necesidades pastorales del Consejo Pastoral Diocesano

Por Colleen Rowan
WEST VIRGINIA—El Consejo Pastoral Diocesano (DPC) de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston está llevando a cabo una de sus actividades de necesidades pastorales. Con el título “Deje que se escuchen sus voces”, la encuesta fue encabezada por el Subcomité de Preocupaciones Pastorales del DPC e invita a los fieles católicos a compartir sus puntos de vista y opiniones sobre cómo satisfacer las necesidades de la diócesis.

“Esperamos que nuestra gente en las bancas aporten esta oportunidad y permita que sus voces sean escuchadas sobre varios temas”, dijo Gina Bogess, una de los ocho miembros del subcomité. Una vez que se reciban las encuestas completadas, los miembros del comité recopilarán la información y presentarán los resultados generales al Obispo Mark E. Brennan en el Consejo Pastoral Diocesano a la próxima reunión programada en octubre. La encuesta está disponible en línea y en papel, tanto en inglés como en español. Para completar en línea, visite el sitio web de la diócesis en https://dwc.org/pastoral-needs-survey/. Bogess dijo que las iglesias enviaron formularios impresos de la encuesta a sus feligreses confinados en sus hogares y a otras personas. Los formularios impresos de la encuesta también están disponibles en las iglesias, y los feligreses pueden simplemente completarlos y colocarlos en cestas de recolección en las misas o devolverlos a las oficinas parroquiales.

Bogess señaló que la mayoría de las encuestas están siendo completadas por personas mayores de 60 años, y que para que la encuesta sea realmente efectiva, también deben escuchar a los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes.

Bogess, quien es miembro de la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Princeton, dijo que después de que los resultados de la encuesta estén en el subcomité, él y el equipo puedan ministrar mejor a nuestra diócesis”, dijo el obispo.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: “Seguimos las órdenes del estado y del gobierno federal. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente”, dijo el obispo.


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

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Make the Brave Choice to Lead a Simpler, Eco-Friendly Life, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People should change the way they eat, travel and use natural resources, energy and products so they minimize their harm to the earth, Pope Francis said.

“Let us pray that they will make courageous choices, the choices necessary for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, taking inspiration from our young people who are absolutely committed to this,” the pope said.

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