

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Letter on Respect for the Lives of Mothers and Children

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

September 30, 2022

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as you likely know, the West Virginia legislature recently passed a bill regulating the practice of abortion in the State and the Governor signed it into law. The new law offers much greater protection to preborn human beings than was formerly afforded in West Virginia. It treats women who seek an abortion with commendable restraint while holding medical practitioners accountable for their actions, should they violate the law.

As Governor Justice said, neither those who support abortion nor those who oppose it got everything they wanted from the new law. Some on one side wanted no restrictions or very few on abortion and no consequences for those who practice the procedure. Some on the other side did not want the exceptions allowed by the law for cases of rape, incest and a serious threat to the mother's life. While acknowledging the genuine hardship of women in such situations, they saw a greater injustice in taking the life away from a baby conceived in those circumstances or caught in a tragic crisis the child could not avoid.

All in all, however, the new law makes life in the womb much safer for preborn children in West Virginia. We must remember that God Himself gave us the commandment, "You shall not kill," and that Jesus has taught us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, which is irrelevant if we stand by and let the smallest, most vulnerable human beings be killed. I applaud the national Knights of Columbus and our local Knights Councils for providing sonogram machines to pregnancy centers. Seeing their tiny child alive, many women have changed their mind about getting an abortion.

Be clear about this: abortion is a gruesome matter. While there are a number of ways in which a preborn child is killed, two are most common: either a painful surgical procedure, in which the child is dismembered within the womb, or a similarly painful, chemically induced expulsion of the preborn child from the mother's womb. What humane person, especially a God-fearing one, could approve of such a brutal act? My personal experience counseling women who have had abortions has also taught me how scarred their abortions often leave them, once they recognize that they have done the most unnatural thing for a woman to do: allow her

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Hurricane Ian Leaves Catastrophe in Florida, Cuba



CNS Photo/WPLG TV via ABC via Reuters

An aerial view shows homes surrounded by floodwaters in Lee County, Fla., Sept. 29 after Hurricane Ian caused widespread destruction across the Sunshine State.

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It's too early to tell the extent of Hurricane Ian's damage in the Catholic dioceses of Venice and St. Petersburg or the rest of the Sunshine State for that matter, but President Joe Biden in a Sept. 29 news conference said it is likely to rank as "one of the deadliest hurricanes in Florida history."

"The numbers ... are still unclear, but we're hearing early reports of what may be substantial loss of life," the president said.

No fatalities were reported early Sept. 29, but authorities were just beginning a search and rescue efforts, which were hampered by debris strewn on roads and bridges damaged by Ian's 155 mph winds when it lashed Florida Sept. 28 and 29.

"We know many families, many, many, are hurting today and our entire country hurts with them," Biden said during the news conference at the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington.

He promised to visit at a future date so as not to disturb initial rescue efforts but pledged financial help from the federal government to help Florida recover.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in a Sept. 29 news conference in Tallahassee said the impact of Hurricane Ian in his state is historic. He reported that upward of 2 million people were without electricity in the state.

"The damage that was done has been historic and this is just off initial assessments. ... We've never seen a flood event like this. We've never seen a storm surge of this magnitude," he said.

Organizations such as Catholic Charities USA said they have their response teams in place to deal with the aftermath of the massive Category 4 storm that lashed western and central Florida.

Even in a state used to powerful storms, Ian's destruction managed to shock, leaving mementos of its might in the form of cars battered by winds and water, left

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child to be killed. We should spare women that trauma.

My brothers and sisters, our Church is both pro-child and pro-woman. As the pro-life movement long ago realized, seeking only to limit or eliminate abortions is not enough. We must also provide support to mothers before and after they give birth and to their families. Pregnancy centers around the nation have been doing that for decades, often helped by volunteers and money from Catholic parishes. The American bishops' program, "Walking with Moms in Need," will strengthen the connection between Catholic parishes and local pregnancy centers. Stay alert for more information about this initiative.

We must work as well to ensure that hospitals in our State provide quality prenatal and postpartum care, especially to those women who lack health insurance and other financial resources. Having checked with the administrators of Catholic hospitals in West Virginia, I can assure you that, as a matter of faith and respect for the dignity of the person, they will not turn away women who lack health insurance but need quality prenatal and postpartum care.

An inspiring example of what we can do together comes from St. Joseph's Parish in Martinsburg. Assisted by other Catholic parishes and other churches in the Eastern Panhandle, St. Joseph's is renovating a former convent to provide a place for pregnant women to live who have nowhere else to go. "Mary's Refuge" will be able to accommodate nine pregnant women, who can live there for up to a year while they work and receive counseling on healthy lifestyle choices and how to raise a child. Could not such a project go forward in other parts of our State?

The State, too, has a role to play. Our legislature and Governor have created a law that will shield many preborn children from an untimely and atrocious death, but the State can and should do more. Especially now, with large budget surpluses, but even in difficult times, the State should prioritize funding programs directed toward helping young families pay for quality childcare when both parents or a child's only parent must work outside the home. Paid maternity leave would help mothers in postpartum recovery and give them time to bond with their newborn children. Giving more support to adoption services, promoting adoption and reducing financial obstacles in the adoption process would benefit adopted children and their new family. More must be done to support women subjected to domestic violence, which often harms their children as well. Government cannot do everything, but these are some of the things it could do.

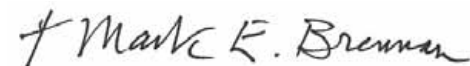
Pope St. John Paul II often spoke of "building a culture of life." That is the larger goal to which we Catholics must be committed. Building that culture

includes all of the positive steps that the Church, other private groups and our governments can take to uphold the right to life and promote the welfare of families. But building a culture that respects all human life also means resisting evil, the "culture of death" that has gained a strong foothold in our country.

We see the culture of death at work now in attempts to discredit and damage pregnancy centers. We see it in attacks on Catholic churches that have occurred across the nation and in the vilification of Catholic Supreme Court justices for supposedly imposing their religion on the country by overthrowing the Roe-Casey abortion regime. We see it in programs advanced by major corporations that will provide funds for their pregnant employees to travel to states that make abortion readily available. We must defend and support pregnancy centers, speak out against attacks on churches, Catholic groups and individuals and others who support both child and mother, and challenge their pregnant employees who want to give birth to their children. In the latter case, look up on the internet the names of those corporations. Do they deserve our patronage? We have to resist evil as well as do good.

These are tumultuous times. We cannot be certain of what may come from our efforts to build a culture of life. We can only entrust ourselves and our cause to the Lord and do our best. St. Teresa of Kolkata said that God has called us not to be successful but to be faithful. Yet we must trust that, in seeking to be faithful to the God who has given us life, we will be able to stem some of the evil that threatens human beings and accomplish some substantial good for them. St. Paul said, "Bear one another's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" [Galatians 6:2]. Let us bear the burden of standing up for life and promoting the good of our brothers and sisters, the little ones and the bigger ones. As a contemporary song says, "Go make a difference. You can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world." Let us not shrink from the struggle but engage in it with confidence in the God who has made the ultimate difference in the world by sending His Son as our Savior. United to him, we can make a difference in today's world for women, children and families. May God bless and guide us.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:

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

To Report to Civil Authorities:

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

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

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

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:

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



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September 30, 2022, Vol. 53, No. 40

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....

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Member

Catholic Press Association

West Virginia Press Association

National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



Published 24 times per year. All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

October: Respect Life Month

WASHINGTON — The Catholic Church in the United States observes October as “Respect Life Month.” This year, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities invites Catholics to “practice radical solidarity and unconditional love” for pregnant and parenting mothers.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* this past June returned the responsibility of limiting abortion from the judiciary to the legislature. For those of us who have prayed for this moment to arrive, says Archbishop Lori, “it is the time for a renewal and rededication of our efforts to build a culture of life and civilization of love.” He explains that “justice requires that the basic protections of the law against violence be extended to the preborn child”

while explaining that building “a world in which all are welcome requires not only justice, but compassion, healing, and above all, unconditional love.”

Moving from law to culture, Archbishop Lori asks Catholics to “shift the paradigm to what St. Pope John Paul II described as ‘radical solidarity,’ making the good of others our own good, including especially mothers, babies (born and unborn), and families throughout the entire human lifespan.” He reminds the faithful that “Our Church understands that parents, children, and families need help not just during pregnancy, but throughout the whole of life’s journey because millions of Catholics already accompany their neighbors in such circumstances.”

Courtesy of www.respectlife.org
At right is a graphic for Respect Life Month.



Diocesan Official Appointments

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

Very Rev. Casey Mahone, V.F., is reappointed Vicar Forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective September 16, 2022. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg.

Very Rev. J. Stephen Vallonga, V.F., is reappointed Vicar Forane of the Parkersburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective September 16, 2022. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg.

Father Brian Crenwelge is reappointed Vocations Director for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for a period of three years, effective September 20, 2022. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown.

Mr. Chad R. Carter is reappointed to the office of Chancellor for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for a term of three years, effective September 16, 2022.

Hurricane..

Cont'd from Page 1

floating in flooded city streets next to uprooted trees and parts of roofs torn from buildings in the cities of Fort Myers, Tampa and Punta Gorda.

Part of a bridge that connected Sanibel Island to the mainland of Florida collapsed.

In a series of updates for the Tampa Bay Times, reporter Zachary T. Sampson wrote Sept. 29: “In Fort Myers Beach, emergency officials expect to find bodies in the rubble. They know people did not all heed the evacuation orders.”

Dioceses in the affected areas closed their churches, schools and other gathering centers. The Diocese of Venice posted a video of the Servant Sisters of the Virgin of Matara Sept. 28 as volunteers helped board up windows at St. Michael Church in Wauchula in the northern part of the diocese.

There were no updates on social media or on the websites of those dioceses early Sept. 29.

Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of St. Petersburg, which includes Tampa, and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice had asked for prayers, knowing their diocesan territories were in the crosshairs of the storm.

Some other U.S. bishops kept an eye on the hurricane and offered solidarity with the people of Florida.

“We pray for all people in Florida, especially for people’s lives affected,” wrote Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio on Twitter just before the hurricane

made landfall. “May you, Lord, be their strength! We do not control everything.”

More than 2 million were still without electricity as the hurricane, downgraded to a tropical storm early Sept. 29, headed north toward Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Family members desperately posted on Twitter asking for updates on conditions in places such as Venice, close to where the storm made landfall and where many remain without communication.

Authorities began to survey the damage early Sept. 29, looking for those who had not managed to leave before the hurricane hit. They asked those who stayed in their homes to remain indoors as officials were conducting water rescues but still struggling to make their way amid debris and remaining flooding and wind.

Catholic Charities USA said in a statement that its disaster response teams “have a long history of mobilizing quickly to meet the needs of those affected by catastrophic events in the U.S. and its territories.”

The organization encouraged donations at <https://ccusa.online/Ian> for efforts to help those dealing with the storm’s destruction.

DeSantis said Sept. 28 that recovery efforts need financial assistance, and asked people to refrain from sending items, such as clothes, to Florida and send economic help or volunteer instead.

He also said he asked Biden for a major disaster declaration for the federal government to pay for recov-

ery efforts in the state, which the president responded to by stating in his news conference that the government would help Florida.

In Cuba, where Ian wreaked havoc Sept. 27 before heading to Florida, the diocese most affected posted Sept. 28 on Facebook photos of widespread damage, destroyed crops, torn roofs and collapsed buildings in Pinar del Rio, where children were helping with cleanup efforts at Catholic churches.

News agency EFE said three fatalities were reported on the island as of Sept. 29 and Cuba remains largely without electricity. Its tobacco crop, famous for the island’s cigars, has been damaged.

“The images are devastating. A people mired in misery and despair now face the onslaught of a natural phenomenon of great magnitude,” said a post on the Facebook page of the Diocese of Pinar del Rio, where the hurricane made landfall. “Hurricane Ian has destroyed homes, crops, (government centers, etc.) but it has also sown sadness and desolation.”

The post said cisterns were damaged, along with windows and roofs, and personal property in many homes. What precious little people had has been taken, the post said, adding that “in the midst of it all, there is sadness and worry about a very uncertain future.”

“This is how the Diocese of Pinar del Río is today,” the post said, but added that “in the midst of this reality, the church wants to be present to tell us that we are not alone, that God has not abandoned us.”

Diocesan Rosary Congress



October 1-8 in Parishes across the State

Adoration and prayer before the Eucharistic Lord and to seek the protection and intercession of the Blessed Mother. Bishop Mark Brennan is inviting all to participate in the congress, which is being held in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival.

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

Beckley Vicariate

Oct. 1, St. Peter Parish, Welch, 3-4 p.m.

Oct. 2, Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield, 6 p.m.

Oct. 3, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley, 6-8 p.m.

Oct. 4, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Summersville, 4-7 p.m.

Oct. 5, SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Oak Hill, 9-10 a.m.

Oct. 6, Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton, noon

Oct. 7, St. Patrick Parish, Hinton, 6-8 p.m.

Martinsburg Vicariate

Oct. 1, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkely Springs: Living Rosary at 4 p.m. at Grotto; Rosary at 4:30 p.m. in church.

Oct. 1-8, St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town: Rosary at 6:30 p.m. Adoration, Oct. 5, 6-7 p.m. with Rosary.

Oct. 5, St. Mary Parish, Petersburg: Rosary (time not set)

Oct. 6, St. Anthony Parish, Ridgeley: Adoration 5:30-6:15 with Rosary.

Oct. 7, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Franklin: Rosary at noon

Charleston Vicariate

Oct. 1, Holy Trinity Parish, Nitro, 4 p.m., and the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 4 p.m.

Oct. 2, St. Joseph Parish, Huntington, 2:30 p.m.

Oct. 3, University of Charleston Catholic Campus Ministry, 5 p.m., JPII House Chapel

Oct. 4, St. Francis de Sales Parish, St. Albans, 6 p.m.

Oct. 5, Marshall Newman Center, Huntington, 3 p.m.; Church of the Ascension, Hurricane, 6 p.m.

Oct. 6, St. Agnes Parish, Kanawha City, 5 p.m.

Oct. 7, Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston, 11:15 a.m.

Oct. 8, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Huntington, 6 p.m. (Rosary and Eucharistic procession).

Wheeling Vicariate (all from 6-7 p.m.)

Oct. 1, St. Michael Parish

Oct. 2, Chapel of Mary and Joseph, Wheeling University

Oct. 3, Corpus Christi Parish

Oct. 4 St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Adoration begins at 10 a.m.)

Oct. 5 Our Lady of Peace Parish

Oct. 6, St. Alphonsus Parish

Oct. 7, Cathedral of St. Joseph (Adoration begins at 1 p.m.)

Bishop Honors Religious and Consecrated at Mass of Appreciation



Colleen Rowan

Religious men and women and consecrated virgins receive a blessing from Bishop Mark Brennan during the Mass of Appreciation he celebrated for them at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Sept. 24.

By Colleen Rowan

At a Mass of Appreciation, Bishop Mark Brennan and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston honored the men and women who have been called to serve God as religious brothers and sisters and consecrated virgins.

"They are a special group within the church," Bishop Brennan said in beginning the Sept. 24 Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. "I know from experience, as do many of you, how much they offer to us and the great witness to love of God and the great apostolic ministries they have undertaken."

Nearly 30 religious and consecrated from around the state attended the Mass, including the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters; the Dominican Sisters of Mary,

Mother of the Eucharist; Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word; Sisters of the Child Jesus; Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Sisters of Jesus the Saviour; Marist Brothers of the Schools; Marist Fathers and Brothers; and Order of Consecrated Virgins.

Also attending was Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Marist Brother John Byrd read the first reading and Sister Alicia Ramos Morales, SMSW, read the second reading in Spanish. Congregation of St. Joseph Sister Kathleen Durkin and Congregation of St. Joseph Sister Nancy White were the gift bearers for the Mass.

Deacon Doug Breiding an-

nounced to the congregation that he was offering the homily because the bishop, who celebrated the Mass, was having respiratory issues. Deacon Breiding said it was an honor to have all of the religious and consecrated gathered at the Mass.

Speaking of the gospel reading (Luke 16:19-31) "The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus," Deacon Breiding said the problem was not that the rich man did anything wrong, but that he did nothing at all. He did nothing to help Lazarus, who was poor, hungry, and ill. "That's what it comes down to," Deacon Breiding said. "Not a matter of looking over a checklist and saying, 'I didn't murder anyone this past week. I didn't steal anything. I didn't gossip.' No, it's a matter of when you drove past

... somebody who is hungry or cold, or in need of a visit. That's what Jesus's point is—to do something, be proactive."

Deacon Breiding pointed out that when Jesus was asked what is the greatest of the commandments, his answer was love God with everything and love neighbor. "That's our challenge for tonight, as a matter of reminders of heaven and how we should stay focused," Deacon Breiding said.

He suggested doing a morning offering, saying a brief prayer to center one's focus. This, he continued, would be before praying the Liturgy of the Hours or any devotions in the morning such as the rosary or Mass.

"As soon as waking up, take those few minutes to say with your
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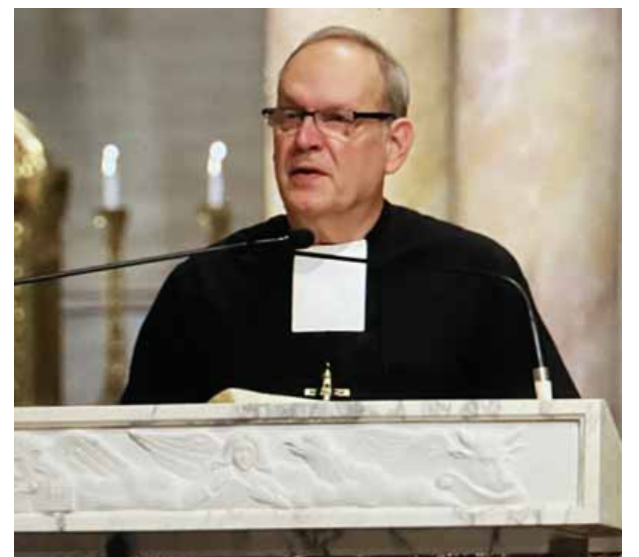
Colleen Rowan Photo

At the Mass are women religious from a number of orders including the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters; Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word; Sisters of the Child Jesus; Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; and the Sisters of Jesus the Saviour.



Colleen Rowan Photo

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist are gathered at the Mass.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Marist Brother John Byrd offers the first reading.

Mass..

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heart a morning offering to God," he said.

Focus on pursuing righteousness, Deacon Breiding implored, noting the words of St. Paul, let us keep our focus.

The religious and the consecrated gathered at the Mass, he said, have responded to God's call. "As the bishop said, there are various calls. And I firmly believe each and every one of us here has been given a calling from God with no exceptions," Deacon Breiding said. "The thing is figuring out that call and delivering it to the best of your ability. Jesus didn't say it was going to be easy ... but he did say it was worth it."

The religious and consecrated have dedicated their lives to doing something where there is a need, Deacon Breiding said.

"We are truly grateful for all of you and those

that have come before you and those that will be after you," he said.

He went on to ask all to not only pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and diaconate, but also to religious life. Some present at the Mass or watching the livestream or televised replay on Sunday perhaps have a call from God to priesthood, diaconate or religious life.

"Pursue it," Deacon Breiding said. "Get with a religious and say, 'You know, I have some questions.' And each one of these folks that are out here, I'm sure, will be happy to talk with you."

He then thanked the religious and consecrated for their boundless service to God's people in the diocese.

"Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for the poor, for the pregnant, for the outcast, for those who need instruction,

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Colleen Rowan Photo

Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (right), and Sister Carmella Campione, CSJ (left), are pictured at the Mass.

Religious Vocations Awareness Day to be held at Franciscan University

Over 45 Religious Communities and Dioceses to Inspire Interest in Religious Vocations

STEBENVILLE, Ohio—Religious Vocations Awareness Day will take place at Franciscan University of Steubenville on Friday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Finnegan Fieldhouse. All who are interested in learning about the diocesan priesthood and religious life are invited to attend.

Over 45 religious communities and dioceses will be represented at the annual event, including the Diocese of Steubenville, the TOR Franciscan Friars, TOR Franciscan Sisters, Dominicans, Carmelites, and many more. Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, will also be present.

The event is sponsored by Franciscan University's Priestly Discernment Program, which helps men discern a call to priesthood or religious life while attending Franciscan University.

"Having an opportunity to interact with so many different vocation directors in one place is very beneficial to our students and other participants as they explore the possibility of serving our Lord Jesus Christ and the church through ordained ministry or consecrated religious life," said Father Jonathan McElhone, TOR, director of the Priestly Discernment Program. "Discernment requires concrete action. Talking with a variety of vocations directors is one important action a person can take."

Father McElhone also noted that participants will have the chance to win door prizes: "We hope to see many young people stop by, meet some priests and religious, and perhaps win some prizes!"

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lucia Bortz, Priestly Discernment Program,



Courtesy Photo

Women religious from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; Sisters of the Child Jesus; Sisters of Jesus the Saviour; and Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters are seated at the dinner.

Mass..

Cont'd from Page 6
to be educated. Thank you for responding to God's call."

He added a challenge to all in the congregation and watching from home to remember, as St. Paul said in the first reading for the Mass, "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith..." (1 Timothy 6:11-16).

Toward the end of the Mass, Bishop Brennan asked all of the gathered religious and consecrated to stand for a blessing.

"We give thanks to you for responding to God's call by consecrating your life to Christ," Deacon Breiding said to them. "We

confidently pray that God who has begun this good work in you will bring it to completion on the day of Christ Jesus."

Bishop Brennan then prayed: "All praise and glory are yours almighty and eternal God. Look with kindness upon these your servants who have committed their lives to doing your will. Bless them and give them peace. Reassure them of your love for them and our gratitude for all they have done to serve the church. We ask this through Christ our Lord."

Following the Mass, a dinner was held in their honor at the Great Hall at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling.

SAVE THE DATE

THE DATE



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OCTOBER 19-20, 2022

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Benwood-McMechen 214 Marshall Street McMechen, WV 304-232-1710	Moundsville 118 Grant Avenue Moundsville, WV 304-845-4560	Beck-Altmeier 204 West Main Street St. Clairsville, OH 740-695-0475

Cathedral Will Celebrate 200 Years of Faith and Community

WHEELING—The Cathedral of St. Joseph is celebrating 200 years of the Catholic faith in Wheeling on Saturday, Oct. 8. The evening will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan at 6 p.m. followed by a cocktail hour and dinner at 7 p.m.

“Join us as we come together to celebrate 200 years of faith and community,” anniversary committee members said. “Two hundred years ago the spirit of fellowship and community was very much alive as the faithful came together to

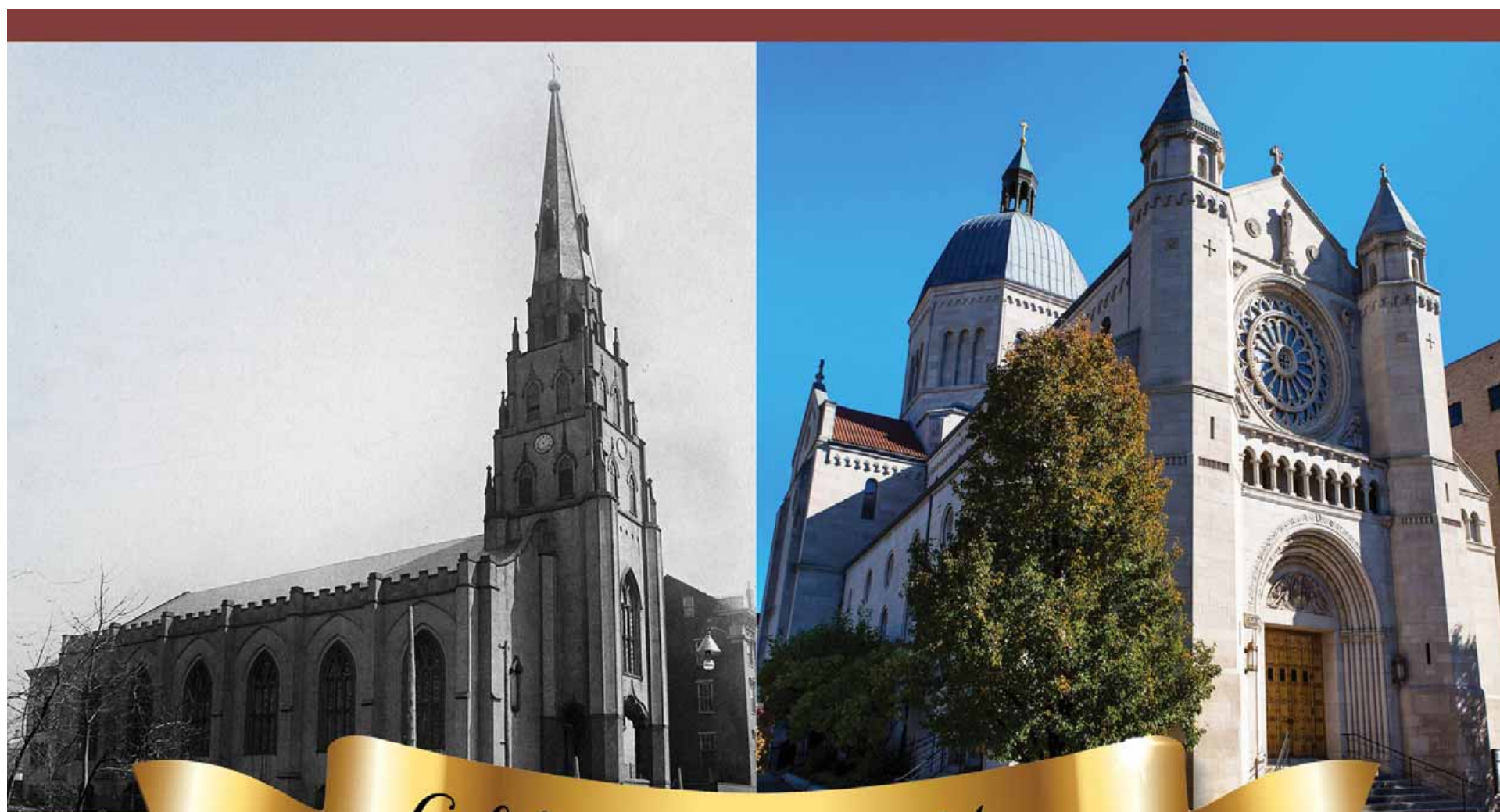
bring the reality of a physical church to fruition.”

Two hundred years ago, the Catholic community of Wheeling formed St. James Parish. The initial members were primarily Irish and German immigrants. A second church was built in 1849. When the Diocese of Wheeling was created in 1850, St. James became the cathedral parish. The name of the parish was officially changed to St. Joseph in 1872. The current cathedral was built and consecrated in 1926.

Throughout its history, the cathedral parish community has grown and thrived. The anniversary committee invites all to join in this celebration of the Catholic faith in Wheeling.

Tickets may be purchased for \$20 for adults and \$8 for children ages 5-12 this weekend in the back of the cathedral following all Masses.

For more information, call the cathedral parish office at (304) 233-4121.



1822

Celebrating 200 Years

2022

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

6:00 PM Mass
with Bishop Mark E. Brennan

7:00 PM Cocktail Hour & Dinner

Tickets may be purchased following Masses on September 24/25 and October 1/2

St. Peter the Fisherman Parish Celebrates 150th Jubilee

St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont celebrated its 150th jubilee Sept. 23. The beginning of what is now St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church began as a mission established in 1856 on the corner of Jackson and Madison Streets. The small brick building was built by Father James Cunningham. In 1857 it was dedicated to St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles. It continued as a mission until 1873 when Father William Lambert was appointed the first permanent pastor. The first baptism occurred in January 1873.

Sixteen pastors have served the community of St. Peter the Fisherman. In 1998, due to mine subsidence and the close proximity of St. Joseph's Church and St. Peter's, the decision was made by Bishop Bernard Schmitt to combine both churches. The name of the combined churches would be St. Peter the Fisherman. Father Stanley Tuchalski was appointed the new pastor. By the year 2000 St. Anthony Parish in Grant Town, Our Lady of Assumption, Rivesville and All Saints in Barrackville closed, due to the declining economic situation in these communities. They were incorporated into St. Peter the Fisherman Church.

Saint Peter the Fisherman celebrated its 150th Jubilee weekend of festivities Sept. 23-24, remembering and recognizing those who have gone before them.

The weekend event kicked off with the Friday 5:30 p.m. Mass of 190 in attendance with very Rev. Father Casey Mahone, V.F., and 12 area priests.

Father Mahone's homily reflected the history of the church "intertwined with the faithful who had laid the foundation of our building and a faith we must carry forth today," parish officials said. "He noted that our current struggles are the same today as in the past. God was with our founders, and father emphasized he is with us today."

Robert Ellis, pastoral musician, and the choir presented a selection of music with the song of St. Peter in the beginning and Immaculate Mary at the end. John Bonasso, Cecily Enos, Phil Serge, and Susan Spadafore were cantors. Rose Ilich, Chris Adducchio, Anthony Menas were readers, and Deacon David read the Gospel. The Burns family were the gift bearers; altar servers included Elizabeth Kennedy, Macey and Mitchell Nigh, Camdyn Staron, and Luca Beto; and ushers were Tom Hall, David Lester, David Parker, and John Terlosky.

After Mass, parishioners gathered at the Knights of Columbus Hall where everyone enjoyed dinner, prepared and served by the Knights. Mary Jo Roman, Parish Pastoral Council chair, gave the welcome and thanked all of the PPC members and volunteers who were instrumental in the success of the weekend event. Her welcome concluded with encouraging words of "Darkness NEVER outshines the Light regardless of our struggles," one of the themes of the weekend. Then, she introduced Father Mahone who led the blessing before the meal.

After dinner, Father Mahone shared a few congratulatory remarks; Paula Ciumedean, PPC vice-chair, read the names of parishioners aged 90 plus, and Father Mahone presented those in attendance with a gift. Fairmont Catholic Grade School presented a program of dance by the children and songs from the faculty.

Prior to the final blessing, Fairmont Mayor Tom Mainella read and presented a proclamation from the City of Fairmont to the parish.

Saturday's festivities were held in Lambert Hall and outside on the grounds of the church. Children's games, food, and raffles were available in the hall. Outside, T-shirts, fritti, artwork, and crafts were sold by area vendors. The West Side Rhythm and Blues entertained, a tour of Fairmont Catholic Grade was available, and a tour and history of the stained-glass windows in the church, prepared by Ann Burns and John Bonasso, was also available. Carrie Menas and Antoinette Haight chaired Saturday's

See "Jubilee" on Page 10



Courtesy Photos

From top: Fairmont-area priests are pictured following the celebration of the 150th jubilee Mass at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont; women religious attend the jubilee dinner; and parishioners age 90 and above are honored.



Courtesy Photo

Fairmont Catholic Grade School students perform at the jubilee dinner.

Jubilee..


Cont'd from Page 9

events; Rose Illich chaired the dinner, and Beverly Vogel prepared the history of the church.

In January, the year-long conclusion of the Jubilee Celebration, all parishioners will receive a Jubilee Magazine that will re-

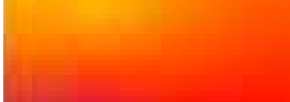
flect the 150 years of the parish. The magazine will include photos of the clergy, a list of the members aged 90 and above, reflections from a few parishioners, a list of all current parishioners, and photos from the past, present, and the Jubilee Celebration.

Rosemary Vingle is chair of the magazine.



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Bishop Brennan Visits Clarksburg's Catholic Schools



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan (center) is pictured with students from St. Mary Central School and Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg. During his visit, the bishop visited classrooms and celebrated a school Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. Mary Ann Deschaine, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, joined the bishop on the visit. She is pictured (center, back right) with school administration and area priests.

First Legion of Mary Gathering at Immaculate Conception in Montgomery Set for Oct. 23

MONTGOMERY—The first organizational meeting of the Legion of Mary at Immaculate Conception Parish in Montgomery will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 23.

The church is located along State Route 61 near the campus of Bridge Valley Community and

Technical College (former WV Tech campus). The pastor of Immaculate Conception, Father Dominikus Baok, SVD, will be the spiritual director. He can be reached at (304) 442-2101 office, (304) 779-3121, or (304) 689-0101 cell or via email at domibaok@yahoo.com.

Shepherdstown Knights Begin Coats for Kids Collection

SHEPHERDSTOWN—St. Agnes Knights of Columbus began accepting donations for the annual “Coats for Kids” campaign Sept. 23. The collection will run through October.

“We are asking the parish and community to once again give whatever they can toward the purchase of these coats,” officials of the council said. “Last year we gave 168 coats to Jefferson County Schools, local churches,

and Boys and Girls Clubs in the area.”

Cash or Checks (made out to St. Agnes KOC with coats for kids on the memo line) can be dropped in the offertory basket at St. Agnes Parish or can be mailed to Bob Rizzo (PO Box 1143 Shepherdstown, WV 25443) or to St. Agnes.

For more information about the collection, call (304) 676-5687.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, October 2: St. James the Apostle, Clarksburg, 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 9: SS. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 16: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 22: Blessed Sacrament, South Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 23: Combined Confirmation: Sacred Heart, Huntington, & St. Peter Claver, Huntington, at Sacred Heart Parish, 9 a.m.

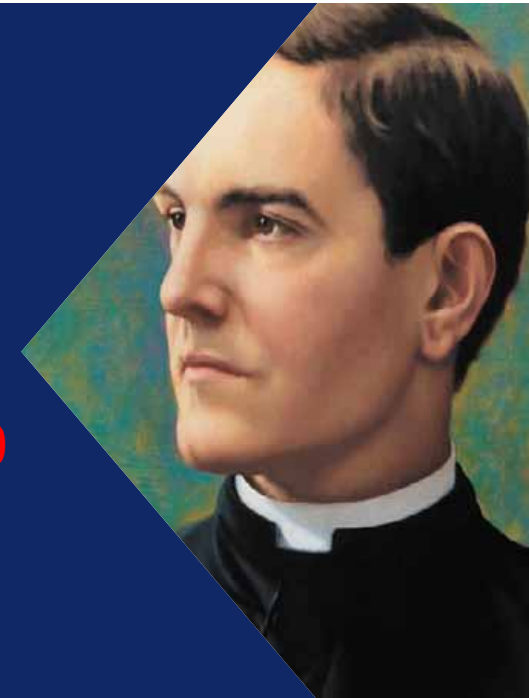

Sunday, October 30: Holy Rosary, Buckhannon, 9 a.m.

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

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Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague Continues at the Cathedral

By Colleen Rowan

“May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even until the end of time. Amen.” The faithful who gather each Monday evening in Wheeling for the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph pray this prayer. Praising and worshipping Jesus under the title of the Infant of Prague, they bring their intentions to him.

Every Monday they gather at 7 p.m. for the novena with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily by guest clergy, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague.

Msgr. Samuel Sacus celebrated the fourth evening, Sept. 26, and encouraged everyone to attend Mass even if they are unable to receive Communion.

“If I can’t go to Holy Communion ... why should I go to Mass? How many times have I heard that? I couldn’t count,” Msgr. Sacus said in his homily.

Jesus is in the Tabernacle, he said, and the purpose of Mass is to offer sacrifice.

“If you want Jesus you’re in the right place (the Catholic Church),” Msgr. Sacus said. “We join ourselves to Jesus when you say ‘With



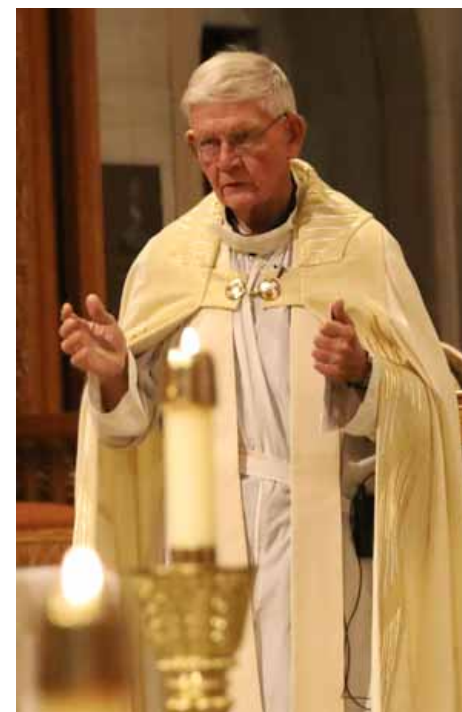
Colleen Rowan Photo

The Most Blessed Sacrament is exposed at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Sept. 26.

him, through him, and in him” at Mass.

Some have said to him that the people merely watch as the priest celebrates. But he pointed to Pope Benedict XVI’s response when asked what the greatest day of St. John Paul II’s life was. The greatest day, Pope Benedict said, was the

“May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even until the end of time. Amen.”



Colleen Rowan Photo

Msgr. Samuel Sacus celebrates the fourth night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Sept. 26.

day of his baptism.

“You share in the priesthood of Christ in a different way,” Msgr. Sacus said to the people gathered at the cathedral. “Everybody who is baptized. ... You should be here” at Mass.

The theme of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the cathedral is “The Holy Eucharist.” The novena coincides with the National Eucharistic Revival.

The fifth evening of the novena, Oct. 3, will be celebrated by Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of

Mission Integration, Administration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.

The remaining Mondays of the novena are: Oct. 10 with Father Chester Pabin; Oct. 17 with Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L.; Oct. 24 with Father Jude Perera; and Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan.

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Welcome, Support, Accompany All Migrants, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis called on everyone to work together to build a more inclusive and fraternal future.

"Migrants are to be welcomed, accompanied, supported and integrated," he said Sept. 25 before praying the Angelus with those gathered for an outdoor Mass closing Italy's National Eucharistic Congress in the southern city of Matera.

"Let us renew our commitment to building the future in accordance with God's plan: a future in which every person may find his or her place and be respected; in which migrants, refugees, displaced persons and the victims of human trafficking may live in peace and with dignity," he said.

"It is also thanks to those brothers and sisters that communities can grow on a social, economic, cultural and spiritual level; and the sharing of

diverse traditions enriches the people of God," he said. "Let us all work together to build a more inclusive and fraternal future!"

The pope also made urgent appeals for peace in Myanmar, Ukraine and Cameroon.

Addressing the crisis in Myanmar, the pope said that "for more than two years that noble country has been martyred by serious armed clashes and violence, which have caused many victims and displaced persons."

"This week I heard the cry of grief at the death of children in a bombed school. One can see it has become a fad to bomb schools today," he said.

"May the cry of these little ones not go unheard!" the pope said. "These tragedies must not happen!"

At least 13 people were killed, 11 of them children, when they were fired upon by helicopter airstrikes and by troops affiliated with the nation's ruling military junta Sept. 16. Another

15 children were reported to be missing from the school in a Buddhist monastery in the village of Let Yet Kone, in north central Myanmar.

Myanmar's military-ruled government has denied reports it was responsible for the air attack, while witnesses told The Associated Press and other news outlets Sept. 20 that two helicopters fired at the school for about an hour, followed by a raid by dozens of soldiers firing their weapons; soldiers then took away more than a dozen children, AP and UNICEF reported.

Among his other appeals, Pope Francis prayed that "Mary, Queen of Peace, comfort the martyred Ukrainian people and obtain from the heads of nations the strength of will immediately to find effective initiatives to bring the war to an end."

The pope also said he wanted to join the bishops of Cameroon appealing for the liberation of nine people, including five priests and a religious

sister, kidnapped in the Diocese of Mamfe.

"I pray for them and for the populations of the ecclesiastical province of Bamenda: may the Lord give peace to hearts and to the social life of that dear country," the pope said.

The incident occurred Sept. 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, which was also burned down, in Nchang, in southwestern Cameroon. The kidnappers, identified only as separatists, were asking the church to pay a ransom of \$50,000, a request the church has rejected.

For about six years now, Cameroon has been reeling from a separatist war, with people in the country's two English-speaking regions fighting to break away and form a new nation they call Ambazonia.

Official figures indicate that at least 4,000 people have been killed, more than 700,000 displaced and about 70,000 have found refuge in Nigeria.

FBI Arrest of Pennsylvania Pro-Life Leader Called 'Horrendous Stunt'

By Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The head of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia said the FBI's arrest of a prominent Catholic pro-life activist known for his sidewalk counseling outside a Philadelphia abortion facility is "a horrendous stunt to intimidate pro-lifers."

Mark Houck, 48, was arrested at his home in rural Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the morning of Sept. 23 for allegedly assaulting an abortion clinic volunteer a year ago in violation of the federal FACE Act.

The 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act prohibits intentional property damage and the use of "force or threat of force or ... physical obstruction" to "injure, intimidate or interfere with" someone entering an abortion clinic.

"There never was any blocking of access to an abortion center, and instead it was a moment of defense for the sake of his 12-year-old son," Tom Stevens, president and CEO of the Pro-Life Union, said in a statement

Sept. 26. "This has been a consistent experience down at Planned Parenthood, where Mark and his family have been hassled."

Houck made an initial appearance in federal court in Philadelphia the same day he was arrested. On Sept. 27, he was arraigned in the same court on two counts of allegedly violating the FACE Act.

He is being represented by Peter Breen, who is vice president and senior counsel at the Thomas More Society, a not-for-profit law firm based in Chicago.

"This case is being brought solely to intimidate people of faith and pro-life Americans," stated Breen. "Mark Houck is innocent of these lawless charges, and we intend to prove that in court."

Steve Ertelt of LifeNews.com, a pro-life news website, and other news outlets reported that Houck's wife, Ryan-Marie, said her husband was doing sidewalk counseling outside the Planned Parenthood-Elizabeth Blackwell Health

Center Oct. 13, 2021, when a volunteer "patient escort" leading women into the building to have abortions threatened the couple's son and yelled obscenities at him.

Ryan-Marie Houck said her husband pushed the man away from his son to protect the child after the man entered "the son's personal space" and refused to stop hurling "crude ... inappropriate and disgusting" comments at the Houcks.

If convicted of the offenses, Houck faces up to a maximum of 11 years in prison, three years of supervised release and fines of up to \$350,000.

In a Sept. 27 statement, the Thomas More Society said its attorneys notified the Justice Department "that case law in the same district" where the Planned Parenthood center is located — and where Houck does sidewalk counseling — "had held that the FACE Act does not cover one-off altercations like the one involving Houck, which was initiated by the abortion proponent who was harass-

ing Houck's son."

"The Department of Justice was also advised that if the decision was made to bring a charge against Houck despite lack of legal foundation, Houck would appear voluntarily," the release said, but Houck's "offer to appear voluntarily" was never accepted, it added.

During a Dec. 1, 2021, prayer vigil in front of the same Planned Parenthood facility in Philadelphia, amid routine heckling and intimidation, Houck and other pro-life advocates stressed the need for prayer, fasting and a willingness to rejoice amid the inevitable rejection their pro-life advo-

cacy incurs.

"I've been spit on, I've been cursed at, I've been mocked, I've been pushed, I've been shoved, I've been knocked over," Houck told CatholicPhilly.com, the online news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. "I give thanks for it, for the ability to suffer in a small way (for Christ)."

During the vigil, Planned Parenthood stationed an armed security guard outside the facility to take names and make notes on participants, who included moms, babies and senior citizens.

(Contributing to this story was Gina Christian in Philadelphia.)

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Jesus, Present in the Eucharist, Inspires Compassion, Sharing, Pope says

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One cannot love and worship the Eucharist without compassion for the poor and marginalized, Pope Francis said at a Mass concluding Italy's eucharistic congress.

"Let us recognize that the Eucharist is the prophecy of a new world, it is the presence of Jesus who asks us to dedicate ourselves to an effective conversion," which includes the conversion from indifference to compassion, from waste to sharing, from selfishness to love and from individualism to fraternity, he said in his homily Sept. 25.

The pope concelebrated the Mass at an outdoor stadium in the southern Italian city of Matera, which was host to Italy's 27th National Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22-25.

Rain, thunder and lightning storms forced the pope to travel by airplane and car rather than by helicopter from the Vatican.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the day's Gospel reading (Lk 16:19-31), in which Jesus tells the parable about the nameless rich man who "dined sumptuously each day" and ignored the poor man, Lazarus, "who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps."

When Lazarus died, "he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham," however, when the rich man died, he was sent to "the netherworld, where he was in torment," according to the Gospel reading.

Pope Francis said, "It is painful to see that this parable" is still alive today with so many "injustices, inequalities, the unequal distribution of the earth's

resources, the abuse of the powerful against the weak, the indifference to the cry of the poor, the abyss we dig every day creating marginalization."

All of this, he said, "cannot leave us indifferent."

The parable talks about the abyss or great chasm that the rich man dug between him and Lazarus when they were alive, so now, "in eternal life, that gulf remains," the pope said.

One's eternal destination is determined by one's earthly life, he said. "If we dig a chasm now," separating oneself from others, then "we dig our own grave for later; if we raise walls against our brothers and sisters now, we remain imprisoned in loneliness and death later."

The Eucharist offers a "permanent challenge" to adore and worship God, not oneself, the pope said, and "to put him at the heart" of everything.

"Only the Lord is God, and everything else is a gift of his love," he said.

"If we worship ourselves, we die, asphyxiated inside our tiny ego; if we worship the riches of this world, they take possession of us and enslave us; if we worship the god of appearance and are inebriated in wastefulness, sooner or later life is going to ask us (to pay) the bill," Pope Francis said.

"Instead," he said, "when we adore the Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist, we receive a new way of looking at our lives as well: I am not the things I possess and the successes I am able to achieve; the value of my life does not depend on how much I can show off nor does it diminish when I go through failures and setbacks."

"Every one of us is a child who is loved" and

blessed by God, "who wanted to clothe me with beauty and wants me free from all enslavement," he said. Those who worship God are free and are slaves to no one, he added.

The pope asked people to rediscover the prayer of adoration and to pray for a church that is "eucharistic, made up of women and men who break themselves like bread for all those who gnaw on loneliness and poverty, for those who are hungry for tenderness and compassion, for those whose lives are crumbling because the good leaven of hope has been lacking."

The ideal, he said, is "a church that kneels before the Eucharist and worships with awe the Lord present in the bread, but which also knows how to bend down with compassion and tenderness before the wounds of those who suffer" and to become the "bread of hope and joy for all."

"For there is no true eucharistic worship without compassion for the many 'Lazaruses' who walk beside us even today," he said.

"While we are hungry for love and hope or are broken by the trials and sufferings of life, Jesus becomes food that feeds us and heals us," he said, and while injustice and discrimination against the poor continue, "Jesus gives us the bread of sharing and sends us out every day as apostles of fraternity, justice and peace."

After the Mass, Pope Francis went to the Archdiocese of Matera's new Mensa della Fraternità, a soup kitchen and social center for the poor and the elderly. The pope greeted the staff and blessed the new structure, which was completed as a project in conjunction with the eucharistic congress.

The Eucharist

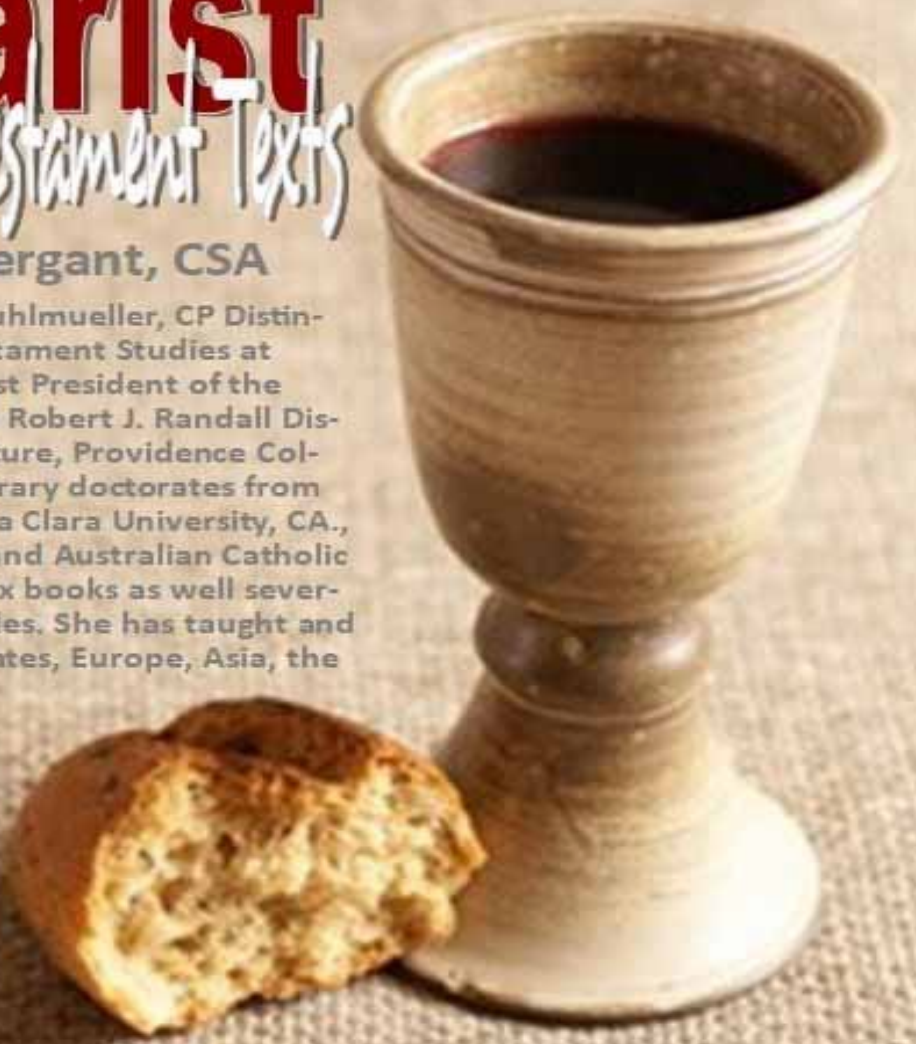
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Presenter: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Dianne Bergant, CSA is the Carroll Stuhlmüller, CP Distinguished Professor Emerita of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union. She is Past President of the Catholic Biblical Association and Rev. Robert J. Randall Distinguished Professor of Christian Culture, Providence College, Providence, RI. She holds honorary doctorates from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, CA., Marian University, Fond du Lac, WI, and Australian Catholic University. She has authored thirty-six books as well several book chapters and numerous articles. She has taught and lectured extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and South Pacific.

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Catholics Decry Clemency Denial in Oklahoma, Call for End to Death Penalty

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders are speaking out about a Sept. 27 decision by Oklahoma’s Pardon and Parole Board to deny clemency to Benjamin Cole, a 57-year-old man sentenced to die for killing his 9-month-old daughter in 2002.

Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, who is a longtime opponent of the death penalty, tweeted Sept. 28 that Cole “is the next person scheduled for execution in Oklahoma. He is a frail, 57-year-old man with a damaged brain. Cole suffers with progressive and severe mental illness. He is wheelchair bound and much of the time catatonic.”

She also urged Oklahoma Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt to stop the execution, which is set for Oct. 20.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City similarly pointed out Cole’s mental state.

In a Sept. 28 statement, he said: “While it is too late to provide Benjamin Cole with any care or treatment that might have prevented his crime almost 20 years ago, we still have an obligation to recognize the dignity bestowed upon him by God, and the effects of his debilitating mental illness.”

He said the denial of Cole’s clemency was disappointing, noting “there is hardly any justice to be seen in taking the life of a man who is hardly able to speak and lacks the basic understanding of why the state is seeking his ex-

ecution.”

The archbishop said Cole “should be allowed to live out what remains of his life in the hope that he receives the mental health care he should have received decades ago.”

He also urged people to pray for the victims of violence and their families “that God brings them comfort and peace” and asked them to “pray for the soul of the condemned and those who will be involved with his execution.”

In a Sept. 22 column in America, a Jesuit monthly magazine, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone stressed that it is “well past time that the death penalty be stricken from the books” and urged local Catholics to join with Pope Francis in his prayer intention for September seeking an end to the death penalty.

The archbishop said the pope’s prayer request was especially important in the San Francisco Archdiocese, “which includes within its boundaries San Quentin State Prison, the regrettable home of California’s death row for male inmates.”

He said the death row at the state prison has consistently been one of the largest in the United States, even though California Gov. Gavin Newsom began the process of dismantling the prison earlier this year.

The archbishop said California citizens have voted twice to “to keep the death penalty on the books.” He also pointed out that California has not executed anyone since 2006 and the

practice is “officially on hold after Governor Newsom issued a moratorium on its use.”

He also stressed that the moratorium, put in place in 2019, is only a temporary solution and that “the legal struggle over the death penalty will continue since a moratorium can easily be lifted.”

He said Pope Francis and previous popes, as well as bishops around the world, “hold the strong view that the death penalty should be abolished not because it is an intrinsic evil, such as murder or abortion — which involve the killing of innocent human life. It is not; that is, it is not always and everywhere wrong.”

“But as we learn more about the death penalty in its practical operation,” he continued, “we should ask ourselves a key question: Is it necessary to kill in order to protect society?”

“We can once again take our cue from Pope Francis, who revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 2018, declaring that the death penalty ‘is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person’ and stating that the church works ‘for its abolition worldwide,’” the archbishop wrote.

He stressed that evidence the death

penalty deters future murders is difficult to establish and what does exist shows the deterrent effect “is vanishingly small.”

He also noted the death penalty “carries within it the grave possibility of wrongly executing an innocent man or woman.” He cited a statistic from the Death Penalty Information Center that since 1973, 190 former death-row inmates have been exonerated of all charges related to the wrongful convictions that had put them on death row.

“The death penalty abruptly ends the possibility of conversion and mercy,” Archbishop Cordileone wrote, stressing that “a holy death, reconciled to God, is what we should wish for every prisoner on death row.”

Abolition of the death penalty was not just a concern for the month of September but continues to be a focus in October during Respect Life Month. The World Day Against the Death Penalty is Oct. 10.

In addition, the Catholic Mobilizing Network, which works to end the death penalty and promote restorative justice, is inviting Catholics to take part in a novena to end the death penalty Oct. 1-9. The novena can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3LUAEA1>.

You are Invited to a Music Workshop
sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Parish music directors and all involved in parish music ministry are invited
to attend one of two workshops featuring a reading session of new music
appropriate for the celebration of the Eucharist



Saturday, October 15, 2022: 10:00am-12noon

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
(1114 Virginia St. E., Charleston) or

Sunday, October 16, 2022: 2:00-4:00pm

St. Francis de Sales Parish (1 Guthrie Drive, Morgantown)

The workshop is free, but you must register by October 12 to attend.

Please go to:

<https://dwc.org/music-workshop/>

or call 304-230-1558 to reserve your spot.

Tom Octave, Diocesan Director of Sacred Music for the
Diocese of Greensburg, will be the guest presenter for
these sessions.



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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán 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 eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

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

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

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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA
MISSION MOMENT

Preparedness: Vital in Dealing with Disasters

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Disaster Services program provides help to West Virginians when disasters strike. This includes both natural disasters, such as floods, and personal household disasters, such as house fires.

"Our primary role in disasters is providing support for long-term recovery," said Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services specialist.

CCWVa Disaster Services provides support to all 55 counties in West Virginia. The program's goal is to return people to safe, secure, and stable housing.

"In addition to our recovery work, we also focus our efforts on preparedness, which includes connecting with and supporting parishes throughout the state," said Pierce. "Our partnerships and collaboration with parishes are vital to being prepared for and responding to disasters."

Ready, a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for disasters, promotes preparedness through public involvement.

The Ready campaign asks individuals to do four key things during National Preparedness Month:

- Stay informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.
- Make a family emergency plan.
- Build an emergency supply kit.
- Get involved in your commu-

nity by taking action to prepare for emergencies.

"Being informed and prepared is the key," said Pierce. "With over 100 parishes and missions throughout West Virginia, the Catholic community makes a difference."

CCWVa Disaster Services is available to provide information, training, and support to parishes and individuals.

For more information, contact Lora Pierce at lpierce@ccwva.org or (304) 559-1025.

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

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

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Courtesy Photo

CCWVa's Disaster Services program provides help to West Virginians when disasters strike

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8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
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11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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Please register through The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston.

For more information, please call the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 304-233-0880, extension 374.

On **Saturday, October 29th, 2022** from **11:00 AM to 7:00 PM,** join us at our Diocesan camp property: **225 Catholic Conference Center Huttonsville, West Virginia 26273**

We will celebrate Mass with our bishop, Mark E. Brennan. There will also be adoration, music, food, recreational activities, catechesis, and speakers.

Parents are encouraged to attend as well.

Dr. David Burkland

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