Enrollment Increase is ‘a Testament to Our Schools,’ Interim Superintendent Says

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Enrollment is up in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Catholic schools, preliminary numbers show.

“We’re in a state that’s losing population and we’re actually increased by 127 students so far, which I believe is a testament to our schools,” said Jennifer Hornyak, interim superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. “We’re doing great things and people want to be part of it. They want to be part of our academic success. They want a safe environment for their students, and they want the Catholic faith to be center.”

This is evident through the number of families that are choosing the diocese’s Catholic schools through the West Virginia Hope Scholarship. Last year, 400 students enrolled in diocesan schools were receiving the Hope Scholarship. This year, the number has risen to 932 students.

The Hope Scholarship gives the state’s parents the power to choose which schools their children will attend.

Bishop Mark Brennan cuts the ribbon to officially open the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Lab at St. Paul School in Weirton Aug. 30. With him are, from left, SPS students Riley Lallone, Alby Osleger, and Liam Morris; Jennifer Hornyak, interim superintendent of the diocese’s Catholic Schools; Mallory Osleger, 3-year-old preschool aide; and SPS students Benny Feesler, Lilah Desimone, and Keegan Osleger. In the back, at right, are Father Binu Sebastian, pastor; and Principal Jamie Lesho.

Theology of the Body K-12 Curriculum Introduced in Diocese’s Catholic Schools This Year

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—A program that helps children and teens understand and grow in their “God-given identity” is being introduced in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Catholic schools this year. Theology of the Body K-12, a program by the Ruah Woods Institute in Cincinnati, is based on St. John Paul II’s series of talks about sexuality called Theology of the Body.

The institute’s website states, “Our K-12 foundational curriculum equips teachers and parents with church-approved tools for forming boys and girls in their God-given identity. REVEALED/ROOTED (age-appropriate lessons) brings to life Pope St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body in the context of our modern world. Through this curriculum, children gain an understanding of who God is, who they are as image-bearers of God, male or female, and how they fit into the world.”

In announcing the implementation of the program in West Virginia’s Catholic schools, Bishop Mark Brennan discussed its necessity in a letter to “colleagues in the educational ministry of the church.” This included parents as the diocese’s Catholic schools recognize parents as partners in their children’s education.

“We live in a very polarized...
Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father John Rice** is reappointed as district friar to the Council #12830 of the Knights of Columbus for the Fraternal Year 2023-2024, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as administrator of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling.

**Father Sojan Xavier** is appointed chaplain to Council #4694 of the Knights of Columbus for the current Fraternal Year 2023-2024, effective immediately. This is in addition to his assignment as administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Albans.

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 also 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 Schueckens, 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. 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 844.721.8381. 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.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparhies 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.”
School... Cont’d from Page 1

Bishop Mark Brennan prays with students at SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Oak Hill before blessing statues outside Aug. 24. With them is Father Jojan Joseph, CST, pastor of the school and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Oak Hill.

Program... Cont’d from Page 1

CDU partners with the diocese to offer free non-credit continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry. Visit www.pathlms.com/cdu to browse the courses and register. Use the access code, CDU20DIOCESEWC.

When setting up your account to receive your free tuition! cdu.edu

The Catholic Spirit 3
September 7, 2023
September is Disaster Preparedness Month. It is a time when we are reminded that being prepared for disasters is crucial. We may not always be able to save the homes we live in, but being prepared can help save ourselves and the ones we love.

So, just what is “disaster preparedness”?

Disaster preparedness consists of a set of measures undertaken in advance by governments, organizations, communities, and individuals to better respond and cope with the immediate aftermath of a disaster, whether it be human-induced or natural causes.

How can we be better prepared for “disasters”?

Natural Disasters - Emergency Preparedness makes sense for everyone. Being prepared assures a successful outcome of saving homes and lives. See “Be Prepared - FEMA videos” on YouTube. One of the first steps of preparedness for natural disasters is to be aware ahead of time. You can visit this Ready.gov website “Emergency Alerts” to sign up for weather alerts.

House Fires - Nearly 4,000 Americans die each year in house fires and over 2,000 are severely injured. In only 3 1/2 minutes, the heat from a house fire can reach over 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. It takes two minutes to exit an average size home. EVERY second counts. The U.S. Fire Marshall reports that smoke detectors decrease death and injury by 55%. The American Red Cross offers free smoke detectors and installation. See “Sound The Alarm – Save a Life | Red Cross” at https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html. Next, you should create and practice a fire escape plan with all family members. See “How to make a home fire escape plan | NFPA” at https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning.

How does Catholic Charities West Virginia serve in times of “disaster”?

The ministry of Catholic Charities West Virginia serves in times of “disaster” by providing guidance, support, and funding when available, to long-term recovery. Through our network of disaster partners, we connect people to needed resources. We assist those who have experienced a house fire with up to $500 to help secure their next place of residence.

I hope this is informative and useful information and wish all the best ahead. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or if I can provide additional information at (304) 559-1025 or visit catholiccharitieswv.org.

(For Family Emergency and Communication Plan documents, contact Pierce.)
Final Vows to Reflect Her Best Self
Sister Jennifer Berridge’s Faith Leads Her to Happiest Day

By Joyce Billey

The day is soon approaching when Sister Jennifer Rebecca Berridge, CSJ, will profess her final vows, surrendering to God, so she can be everything He wants her to be – happy and her best self.

At 11 a.m., on September 16, 2023, Sister Jennifer will take her Perpetual Profession of Vows with the Congregation of Saint Joseph (CSJ). Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate the Mass at Mount Saint Joseph in Wheeling with several concelebrants, including Msgr. Paul Huddock, who presided over her initial vows in July of 2020, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling.

When talking about her big day she makes it clear that it is a day to confirm her wholehearted belief that God knows us better than we know ourselves – He knows what we are meant to do in life - our purpose to help others with our gifts and talents we have been blessed with. “I’m answering that call,” she said. That call took her down a path she never imagined she would navigate.

Her trusting mindset echoes Psalm 139, “LORD, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. You sift through my travels and my rest; with all my ways you are familiar.”

“Even before a word is on my tongue, LORD, you know it all. Behind and before you encircle me...” Her repeated responses to her vows, “I will... I will... I am... I am... Will be affirmation,” she said to God. The faithful can relate it to Psalm 40, “Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will.”

Currently Sister Jennifer works for Catholic Charities West Virginia as a Hospital Transition Program case manager. She is a lifeline for patients after discharge from the hospital by providing a helping hand and heart through chronic disease management, home safety, support networks, social service programs, and food security and nutrition.

She is a graduate of Kent State University with a bachelor’s degree in human services and is a registered vascular technician.

For 13 years she worked at Aultman Hospital in Canton, Ohio. When we first met Sister Jennifer for our FaithInWV feature stories in the diocese back in the Spring of 2020, she said: “I felt like (my career choice in Canton was) what I’m supposed to be doing, but God obviously had a different plan.”

She said it was after Mass one morning a “sweet lady who I had often seen at church, but didn’t know very well,” stopped her with a sincere question – one that significantly changed her life.

“She simply asked if I’d ever thought about religious life,” Berridge recalled. “I was 38-years-old at the time. Religious life had never even entered my mind. I honestly thought to myself ‘Is this still a thing?’ All the nuns I knew were much older, and most were retired.”

She went home and told her mother Kathy and sister Becky about the talk and later her own “revelation” that she was actually considering religious life.

“They both looked at me and without hesitation agreed. They too, could see that for me,” she said.

“When I began discerning religious life, I knew I needed to talk to the Sisters of Saint Joseph who were so important to my church and my family,” she said. It was the Fall of 2014.

There are seven communities that make up the Congregation of Saint Joseph. They are in Cleveland and Wheeling, as well as Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota. As the Sisters of Saint Joseph, these women “respond to the unmet and critical needs of our contemporary society and the world.”

In December of 2015, she officially applied to be a candidate for religious life with CSJ and was formally accepted as a candidate on Jan. 23, 2016.

After being a candidate for two and a half years, she entered what is called the novitiate stage of formation, which is typically a two-year period to continue discernment and experience a concentrated program on prayer, study, reflection, and ministry.

She also spent a month in Peru working with children in an after-school program as part of the congregation’s third world missionary work.

As with her temporary vows back in 2020, her perpetual profession means she accepts the vows of poverty – “giving of your time, yourself, and resources for the life of the world, as we challenge ourselves to live ever more simply;” chastity – “meaning I belong to God, and I agree to give and receive love, the healthy genuine love of many (loving others like Christ);” and obedience – “a deep listening to the voice of God and being vulnerable, knowing I need to reflect and pray about what God is truly calling me to do,” she told us.

“It’s almost unreal to think that my temporary (first) vows were in the midst of a global pandemic,” she said, reminiscing about how grateful she was for that moment of honor, joy, and hope during a time in history that was filled with restless fear for so many.

The road to her final profession of her perpetual vows has had its twists and turns, including being slowed down by COVID twice, and the loss of a dear friend, mentor, and roommate Sister Christine Riley.

“It was rough, but I continued to cling to my faith in God and put my life and others in His hands,” she said.

See “Vows” on Page 6
VOWS...

Cont’d from Page 5

“Right now I’m just so excited, humbled, and honored that our (CSJ) leadership team – a team full of visionary women has after three years and not five, given their collective wholehearted ‘yes’ for me to make my final profession,” she said.

Having Bishop Mark Brennan as the celebrant will make the day more extraordinary.

“Because of him I have given many vocalizations to a variety of clubs, groups, and high schools,” she said. “He is a full supporter and promoter of religious life and vocations, including young women, who a lot of the time are overlooked.”

Bishop Brennan has a mutual respect for Sister Jennifer.

“It is going to be a great day to celebrate her call to serve God and His people,” he said. “She has done great work already and eagerly shares her gifts, encouraging others to do the same – a great example.”

Her advice to those who haven’t acknowledged or admitted to themselves that God is calling them to a special vocation? “Pay attention to your personal prayer life and that still, small voice of God that pops up in so many ways – messages put in front of you and messages from people, repeated messages, totally unexpected,” she said. These messages are not coincidental. If you stop for a moment and realize you are getting the same message over and over just in different ways, it’s hard to ignore what God is calling for you to do.

“It is very important to know yourself and your heart,” she said. “Before any vocation – religious life or marriage – be mindful of where you can be your best self, the happiest, and does that line up for what God would want for you.”

For Sister Jennifer she knew God wanted her life to be faithful to Him “in a way that others could see it in her. Religious life wasn’t what I initially set out to do, but looking back it was always my faith that was so important to me. Even now, not every day is easy. I have difficult work days or personal days, but at the end of each day I stop and take time to realize how grateful I am. I am so grateful for God. Each difficulty teaches me something new about myself and my faith. I rely on God; He is stronger than all and wants me to be the best version of myself.”

Sister Jennifer is glad she is breaking the mold of what most – even her younger self – thought of religious sisters in to-day’s society.

“It gets frustrating, when you hear so much talk about religious life in the future diminishing,” she said. “We assume our religious sisters are just getting older and dying out. Thank God there are those strong willed among us that totally see it differently and believe religious life will continue in good ways – God’s way – and we trust in that.”

To learn more about becoming a religious sister contact Sister Martha Gomez, the delegate for consecrated life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, by calling (304) 233-0880, ext. 264, or mgo-mez@dwc.org or the Sisters of St. Joseph at vo-

ST. THOMAS PARISH, GASSAWAY & RISEN LORD MISSION, CLAY

were 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal Food Pantry Grant Recipients.

Together they feed 310-330 families each month and send approximately 330 children home with food bags each week.

Together we can do more to support our brothers and sisters in need!

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

- Matthew 25:40

For more information, contact A.J. Emery at aemery@dwc.org, or 304.233.0880, ext. 326.

Engage and learn from groups who support the social, economic, physical, and spiritual needs of women, children, and families from prenatal on.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Byron Calhoun, MD

Admission is FREE and Lunch will be provided.

Additional speakers include:
Walking With Moms In Need, Her PLAN, Wellspring, Creighton FertilityCare™ & NaPro TECHNOLOGY, Catholic Charities West Virginia, St. Vincent de Paul Society, WV Pregnancy Centers Coalition, and Nina Lindemuth, CNRP

PLUS visit with and gather resources from groups to learn how they can assist your life supporting efforts!

To register, visit dwc.org/2023-life-expo.

For more information, contact A.J. Emery at aemery@dwc.org, or 304.233.0880, ext. 326.
Infant of Prague Novena, Holy Hour for Military and First Responders to be Held as Part of Eucharistic Revival

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Two Wheeling parishes will hold prayerful opportunities for the faithful in the coming week for the Infant of Prague Novena and Blue Masses to be celebrated at Northern Panhandle Parishes for those who risk their lives for others.

**The Catholic Spirit**

**September 7, 2023**

**By Colleen Rowan**

**NORTHERN PANHANDLE**—Blue Masses will be celebrated at parishes in the Northern Panhandle in the coming weeks praying for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, first responders, military personnel, and their families. Prayers will be offered for their safety as these men and women put their lives on the line every day. Blue Masses are celebrated all over the country each year.

**Wheeling**

Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate the second-annual Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. The Mass is being co-sponsored once again by the cathedral and the Knights of Columbus Charles Carroll Assembly 1185 of Wheeling.

All law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, first responders, and their families are invited to the Mass.

Matt Koval, a member of 1185, said the assembly wanted to honor those who protect and serve the community as they embody the four pillars of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

“All of our first responders demonstrate those every day,” Koval said. “They put their lives on the line for us every day and this is a small tangible way for us to show them our appreciation for what they do for us,” Koval said. “At the end of the day, we want to go home to our loved ones and so do they. With the Blue Mass, we can show our appreciation and pray for their safety along with the sacrifices they, and their families make.”

The Mass will include a Last Bell Ceremony by members of the City of Wheeling Fire Department. A light reception will be held in the Great Hall of Wheeling Central Catholic High School following the Mass.

“The Charles Carroll Assembly 1185 would like to thank Bishop Brennan and the Cathedral of St. Joseph for making this an annual event for our first responders,” Koval said. In anticipation of the Mass, Ohio County Homeland Security Director Lou Vargo urged people not to forget the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the first responders who lost their lives while responding vehicles throughout the country.

“By Bishop Brennan offering the Blue Mass, this has true meaning to all of us,” Vargo said. “First, there was no greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13), and the words, “We shall never forget!!” This declaration, he said, is placed on first response vehicles throughout the country.

“The lyrics come to the heart of our continued mission of serving the public,” Vargo said. “It is with this, that the Blue Mass and the bishop’s prayers and blessing are so important to us.”

**Weirton**

Each year on Sept. 11, students from St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, St. Paul Grade School, and Madonna High School gather with the Weirton community for the annual Blue Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Church. This year’s Mass will once again be celebrated on Sept. 11 at St. Joseph’s at noon by Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens Jr., V.E., pastor of the parish, to honor police, fire, EMS, the military, and their families.

The parish and Catholic schools of Weirton welcome all to this Blue Mass to honor those who are willing to lay down their life every day and to pray for them.

“This is the call, and they go. And they’re often laying down their lives for people that they don’t even know,” Father Schuelkens said at last year’s Blue Mass. “Where every¬body is running away from danger, they are running into it. Why? Because they’re trying to save lives. They’re trying to help.”

A reception will follow in the St. Joseph gymnasium.

---

Corpus Christi is hosting an evening Holy Hour on every third Monday praying for a group or cause. The parish invites all to this month’s Holy Hour on Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the church to pray for those in the military and for first responders, parish officials said.

“Please give one hour of your time to pray for those who put themselves in harm’s way to protect and defend our country in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, National Guard and for those who have ultimately sacrificed their lives for our country,” parish officials said. “Come also to pray for first responders who help in times of emergency within our local communities and throughout the country, including firefighters, police, paramedics, and EMTs. They are all there for us in times of crisis. Let us give one hour of prayer for them.”

Corpus Christi began its Holy Hour for a group or cause in February, praying for the family. In March, the parish prayed for those struggling with cancer. April brought prayers for those struggling with faith, while prayers were offered in May for mothers and in June for fathers.

In July, the parish prayed for vocations, and August was dedicated to praying for those struggling with mental health issues and addiction.
Resources for Success

#MillionRosaries4WV

By Joyce Bibey

Many faithful in and outside of WV have now heard about and made their pledge of rosaries as part of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV. So, now what?

The diocese has put together a page of resources — https://dwc.org/onemillionrosaries/ — featuring printables, free apps, websites, children’s activities, etc. to help you say the rosary, enhance your prayer life, and fulfill and even surpass your commitment.

Not clear on what are we talking about?

Bishop Mark Brennan and Sister Martha Gomez are rallying your support for one million rosaries to be said with the special intention of increased vocations in WV.

The pledge period began on the Feast of the Assumption Aug. 15 and will wrap up on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7. We need you to prayerfully consider being part of this mission and enter your pledge amount by Oct. 7, Sister Martha said, emphasizing:

“We need to clarify that Aug. 15 through Oct. 7 is the pledge period,” Sister Martha said. “We do not want people to stop praying on Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. It is important for people to know that is just the last day to pledge and they will say for increased vocations here in WV. It is an honor system. Your pledge is between you and God. We will keep a running tally, so we have a tangible motivator for the faithful – not to mention it is also a visible life line of love and support for those who are discerning their vocation.”

Strong Catholic vocations include priesthood, religious life, marriage, and single life dedicated to serving others in work and prayer. We are all called to holiness in the Sacrament of Baptism, serving God as we serve others. This mission #MillionRosaries4WV is to increase and strengthen vocations in WV. One million is a huge number, but not impossible with the help of the faithful — their prayer and their voices in rallying others outside of WV and around the world to join us, she said.

Don’t know the rosary or unsteady to do it on your own? No worries. Click on the “How to Pray the Rosary” printable on the dwc.org/onemillionrosaries page, download one of the suggested free apps, or search “Rosary” on your favorite audio streaming service like Spotify.

Pledge if you haven’t. Share this mission with others. Challenge yourself to exceed even your own expectations. All glory and honor to God.

Free Catholic Apps

CatholicMega — Like its name suggests it has mega offerings — Order of Mass, daily readings, Breviary, reading reflections, interactive Rosary, Stations of the Cross, NABRE Catholic Bible, links to popular Catholic blogs and websites, pro-life-resources, youth ministry resources, link to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and many prayers.

The Holy Rosary app — helps you to pray the Holy Rosary with options to customize the font size of text, listen to the mysteries in audio form and even give your reminder just not to miss the devotion. There are also background pictures and music to help you focus. The voices are clear, and the recitation is slow enough to understand what you are praying. The audio rosary works offline after downloading so you can listen and pray without an internet connection.

Amen from the Augustine Institute is a guided meditation app for Scriptures and Catholic prayers including the rosary. It also has inspiring stories of Saints and peaceful background music.

Relevant Radio — shows produced by Relevant Radio are available in live streaming, podcasts, audio and text prayers, daily readings, and Catholic news from all over the world. Downloads available to use offline.

Laudate is one of the original Catholic apps offering Prayer for the Day, Rosary and Chaplets, the New American Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Stations of the Cross, Podcasts and more. Very complete and easy to use but without the trendy graphics.

God Calls — an app aimed at 16-35 year-olds to help reflect on what God is calling you to do. It includes prayers, saints, journal, news, and more.

Breviary — It has Office Readings, Morning, Daytime, Evening, and Night prayers. It also includes the Rosary and Daily Mass Readings. The interface is simple and easy to use. Multiple languages are also available.

PrayAsYouGo — under the series heading you will find Rosary Reflections designed for everyone familiar and unfamiliar.

Web Pages

Rosary Specific:

FaithinWV: https://faithinwv.org/the-rosary/

USCCB: https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary


Children’s Resources:


Catholic Inspired: https://catholicinspired.design/product/roary-prayer-sheets GREAT for kids and teens on pdf download/


Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeC2zCIaF33zWgf4A5q7VqA — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart's Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!

Visit Making Rosaries for Kids — https://youtu.be/oz8mHTNbOg0 — where Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart’s Ruth and Josephine Haas (pictured above) share their Rosary making skills for their peers and parents so you can have fun making your own special rosary!
Morgantown Parish Garden Provides Fresh Produce for Local Food Pantries

By Colleen Rowan

Morgantown parish is helping to ease food insecurity in the community by providing fresh produce from its garden to local food pantries. The effort began at St. Francis de Sales Parish two years ago and has grown so much that regular donations of vegetables are being made to Catholic Charities West Virginia and St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach.

Karen Modzik, director of Religious Education at St. Francis, who spearheaded the project, said the goal is to help provide fresh and healthy options for people in need seeking help from the food pantries. “This gives them an opportunity to have some fresh vegetables. They can can them or cook with them, and that’s wonderful,” she said.

Donations from the garden this summer began in July, and include zucchini, green and yellow peppers, poblanos, cucumbers, green beans, and tomatoes.

“There’s a couple watermelon plants out there that are still growing,” Modzik added.

This year was the first experiment with green beans, she said. “And we’ve discovered that rabbits do crawl under fences,” she said, laughing. “So, we have a plan for that for next year.”

The parish donates produce for the food distributions at Catholic Charities Morgantown at least once a week, and for St. Ursula’s in Pursglove which is held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

In between food distributions, the Parish Garden Committee places baskets of vegetables in the back of church after Masses for fellow parishioners to enjoy. “So that the parish also gets a taste of the garden,” Modzik said.

Standing at the gate of the St. Francis de Sales Parish Garden in Morgantown are Karen Modzik, director of religious education, who spearheaded the project, and Richard Bell, facility director at the church, who built the garden.

“He was dedicated to the project, and relentlessly worked until it was done,” she said of Bell, who serves as facility director at the church.

Among those serving with Modzik and Bell on the Parish Garden Committee are Stephanie Henry, “Our original garden committee chairperson and a master gardener,” Modzik said. “She was really instrumental in the very beginning.”

Henry had to step back recently because of illness. “I told her she’s still going to be our expert and on our committee,” Modzik said.

John Shreve, also a parishioner, has stepped up in the effort. “He’s in that garden more than he’s in his own,” Modzik said.

As the garden project grows, Modzik’s vision is to incorporate an educational aspect.

“Stephanie also has a few wonderful ideas for educational ventures for children,” Modzik said. “We would also like to do something for the parish in the future, possibly as a farm to table event. We are hoping not only will the garden continue to grow but so will interest to enhance its continued success. We of course want to continue supporting the food pantries in the area, but we’d love to see it become a true community garden for everyone’s benefit.”
Excitement about 2024’s National Eucharistic Congress is Growing, Says Congress Official

By Natalie Hoefer

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) — Local and national organizers of the National Eucharistic Congress — which will take place in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024 — have been meeting virtually for some time.

But for the first time, scores of them met in person in Indianapolis Aug. 30 at Lucas Oil Stadium, where in less than a year tens of thousands of Catholics will gather for the closing Mass of the historic event — the first such event in 83 years.

The congress will launch the third year of a three-year National Eucharistic Revival, an initiative of the U.S. Catholic bishops to renew devotion to the Eucharist.

“The Holy Spirit is inviting the United States to find unity and renewal through a grassroots National Eucharistic Revival,” Jaime Reyna, event lead for the National Eucharistic Congress, said, quoting remarks from a letter written by executive director Tim Glemkowski.

“This movement — disguised and approved by the bishops of the U.S. — is critical to rekindling a living faith in the hearts of Catholics across America, unleashing a new era of missionary chapter at this pivotal moment in church history. ... The goal is to start a fire, not a program.”

More than 25,000 have already registered for the event, said Reyna.

“We just have a lot of people who are excited about gathering,” he noted.

“Remember that feeling after COVID when people just wanted to come back together? It’s almost the same way, that there’s that spiritual connection of wanting to come together and pray and for the many different reasons that people are just wanting to come together.”

In addition to general and breakout sessions, the five-day event will be filled with opportunities for prayer, worship and the sacraments, said Father Patrick Beidelman. The pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis is chair of the National Eucharistic Congress liturgy committee.

“We’ll have a large Mass each day, three at the Indiana Convention Center and the closing Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium, ... and opportunities for the Eucharist all over the place,” he said, adding that St. John the Evangelist Church across from the convention center “will be turned into a place of perpetual adoration starting on Wednesday evening through Sunday.”

The route of a massive Eucharistic procession during the congress is still being determined, he noted.

The day before the five-day event opens, Catholics from around the U.S. participating in pilgrimages leading to Indianapolis will converge on the city. Planning is well under way for “Eucharistic caravans.” There will be four, each following a different route and each with its own name: the “Marian Route” the “Juan Diego Route,” the “Seton Route” and the “Junipero Serra Route.” Pilgrims on all four routes will begin their journeys with Pentecost weekend celebrations May 17-18, 2024, leaving May 19. They will all reach Indianapolis July 16, 2024.

In his remarks Aug. 30, Reyna spoke with excitement about the speakers scheduled for the general and breakout sessions at the National Eucharistic Congress. Among them are well-known Catholic speakers, including priests, religious and bishops.

The church is diverse, Reyna also noted, and event coordinators are taking that into consideration. In addition to programming in English and Spanish, he said the congress team is working with existing ministries to address other language needs as well.

“We’re talking about Vietnamese, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders and others,” he said.

The team also is cognizant of engaging those with special needs.

“We are working with national ministry organizations, like the National Catholic Office for Deaf Ministry,” said Reyna. “We also (are) trying to be as inclusive as possible for all our brothers and sisters, including those who may have some physical disabilities, to make sure that they are able to participate and to see how we can accommodate and serve them.”

The event will involve “hundreds if not thousands” of volunteers, said Nikki Slater of Maribeth Smith & Associates, the Indianapolis-based event planning firm contracted to coordinate the National Eucharistic Congress.

While registration for specific volunteer opportunities and shifts will go live next spring, Slater noted that a section of the congress website — https://www. eucharisticcongress.org — will be created soon for people to sign up as interested in volunteering.

The Knights of Columbus are providing many volunteers as well.

“I’m on the volunteer committee, so I’m working with NEC to figure out where they need volunteers,” Scott Schutte said after the meeting in an interview with The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Schutte is state deputy of the Indiana Knights of Columbus. “I’ve got guys who are all excited about being part of the event.”

His current efforts are focused on the four routes pilgrims will walk from the north, south, east and west portions of the United States, all meeting in Indianapolis just before the National Eucharistic Congress begins.

“We’re trying to get with diocesan coordinators (for the routes) to find out where the Knights can provide water, food, a place to rest, maybe direct a little traffic, whatever, or at least participate in some way,” said Schutte.

He noted that the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council is a national sponsor for the congress.

“We want to give our 33,000 men the opportunity to be involved,” said Schutte.

Speaking on behalf of Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Christopher Walsh, the archdiocesan chancellor, said it’s “a tremendous honor to be the host diocese for this historic event.”

He noted the archdiocese’s commitment to the effort. But he also recognized the vital help from all of the local organizers — including state and local police, firemen and emergency medical services — for their help “in making this event the success that we certainly know it is going to be.”

Walsh called the National Eucharistic Congress “truly an event for all, as all are united in the mystical body of Christ.”

“That is what this is about, and certainly about representing the real presence of Christ in the world today through this event.”

(Natalie Hoefer is a reporter for The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.)

For information on the National Eucharistic Congress, registration, schedule, speakers or to become a sponsor, go to eucharisticcongress.org. A section on the site will be available soon for those interested in volunteering.
Wheeling Teen’s Faith Filled Heart Leads Her to Memorable Summer

By Joyce Bibey

Doing for others when they cannot do something for you in return has proven to be the best life lesson in love for a Northern Panhandle teen.

Angelene Ricci is an eighth grader at St. Vincent de Paul School in Wheeling. When you meet her you are immediately impressed with what you see — her sweet nature, maturity in her conversation for her age, and smiling eyes. What you can’t see is her heart. Angelene Ricci has a heart of gold.

The 13-year-old is an altar server at St. Vincent. She enjoys volleyball, cheering, and competing with her school’s forensics team.

While many of her peers would prioritize a family vacation packed with summer silliness, awesome restaurants, and being lazy by a pool or beach; Ricci chose to make memories in a completely opposite environment.

Ricci spent more than a week of her summer in Buffalo, N.Y., volunteering with Eight Days of Hope, a prayerful group of volunteers who recognize their gifts and talents as treasures from God. Volunteers for the organization prioritize being God’s hands and feet on earth to help others. People from all over the country and from all faiths make up the Eight Days of Hope workforce. The group rebuild homes, serve meals to those in need, and do manual labor such as yard work, painting, clean up needed as a result of natural disaster or devastating circumstance.

The Ohio County teen learned of the opportunity through her friend Ella Wheeler last spring. Wheeler’s church group at the Vineyard Church was going to make the trip north to help residents of Buffalo who had a long list of needs but no means to complete them without the help of an army.

“I went home and told my parents about it and how I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to do good for people I don’t even know,” Ricci said. “I’d be missing our big family trip and reunion in D.C. but I honestly felt like I needed to go.”

Her parents, Michael and Anne Ricci, were proud of their daughter and gave her their permission after they made sure their daughter knew that she would be giving up a trip of a home with little ones, because they would run to the windows to wave hello.

She and Wheeler were among the youngest in the group.

“It was like a big sleep over when we went to bed,” she said. “We would be in bed by 9 p.m., and all of us slept in a big gym, some on cots and some on the floor. No one complained. We met so many people from other states there to help.

She said they all were there for the same reason, “to help people out even when it’s hard, because it is the right thing to do. There is no better feeling you can get than making someone you don’t know happy, especially when you know that someone won’t ever be able to repay you.

“It’s that special feeling you really can’t put into words,” she said.

Ricci’s favorite saint is St. Therese of Lisieux, who wrote about that feeling, “I feel that when I am charitable it is Jesus alone who acts in me; the more I am united to Him the more do I love...”

Volunteering is second nature to Ricci, who with her school and parish do a variety of mer-

“Serving others with Heart of Gold”

Angelene

Volunteering is second nature to Ricci, who with her school and parish do a variety of mer-

“Serving others with Heart of Gold”

Angelene

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.
At Grist Real Estate Associates we strive to be the most welcoming, efficient, and technologically-advanced real estate service in Southern West Virginia. Our associates are consistently some of the top performers in the area.

Meet our team sales agents

W. Paul Grist  
Broker & Owner

Donna Stoner  
Paul Jacoby  
Shar Holmberg

Jenny Tuckwiller  
Kerry Baldwin  
Kate Barker  
Lauren Hanna

“At the end of the day, our success comes from the people we work with, our clients, and caring about them and how to best achieve their goals in real estate. We are “People first” in our actions. When you combine that with hard work, market knowledge, and our highly developed skills, it is a recipe for success.”

- Paul Grist

695 Jefferson Street, S., Lewisburg, WV 24901 | 304-645-5000 | gristrealestate.com

Good Shepherd is hiring nurses!

$15,000 sign-on bonus for RNs and LPNs
$10,000 sign-on bonus for CNAs

To learn about this offer, our flexible scheduling, supportive workplace and other advantages, call HR Director Heather Blake at 304.242.1093 or email hblake@weltyhome.org.

Gracious living

304.242.5233  www.weltyhome.org
Good Shepherd Nursing Home Honors Sister Marie James Cody, RGS, on Her 100th Birthday

Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Wheeling has honored Sister Marie James Cody, a member of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (RGS), for many years of dedicated service.

Good Shepherd Administrator Donald R. Kirsch announced at Sister Marie James’ 100th birthday celebration that the meditation room at the entrance of the Good Shepherd’s chapel has been renamed “The Sister Marie James Cody, RGS, Meditation Room.”

Kirsch noted that Sister Marie James began her service at Good Shepherd in 1950, two decades before it became a nursing home. In the early days of the 20th century, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity established a monastery in Wheeling to care for young women. When the monastery closed, Sister Marie James was a member of the Sisters’ leadership that decided to donate the land, building, and furnishings to the diocese to serve the needs of area residents.

“Sister Marie James not only spent her life in service to young women who were in need of her love and care, but she also served the aged of our area in numerous capacities through Good Shepherd Nursing Home,” Kirsch said. “Sister also worked in the Good Shepherd Social Services Department, providing comfort and prayer to individuals faced with one of the most difficult decisions of their lives, admission to a nursing home.”

Sister served many years as a Eucharistic minister, distributing Holy Communion to residents, and spent much of her time providing comfort to them and praying for them in the final hours of their lives to ensure that they did not die alone, Kirsch said.

Good Shepherd Nursing Home is part of a continuum of senior living options offered by the non-profit Welty Corporation to deliver the features that discerning seniors need and want. In addition to Good Shepherd, the Welty Corporation operates the assisted living program at Welty Home and independent living at the Clara & Bertha Welty Apartments, Braddock Apartments and Welty TownHomes. For information call (304) 242-1093 or visit.

Good Shepherd Nursing Home Administrator Donald R. Kirsch congratulates Sister Marie James Cody, RGS, at a celebration of her 100th birthday.

Leiws Gianola PLLC
Webster J. Arceneaux • Matthew R. Bowles • James A. Gianola
John F. Gianola • Sandra H. Kinney • Mark A. Sadd
Charleston | Morgantown
A West Virginia law firm www.lewisgianola.com

Mills Group
ARCHITECTURE · PLANNING · PRESERVATION

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON’S PARISHES AND SCHOOLS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

DWC PARISHIONERS VICTOR GRECO, JULIE DOERR AND ALEXIS BEHRENS

VISIT US @ MILLSGROUPONLINE.COM

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!
Lou W. Nau, Inc.
69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311
louwau.duitbest.com

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

Johnson Boiler Works, Inc
53 Marshall St, Benwood, WV 26331 (304) 232-9079
Steam Boiler Repairs
Este 9 de septiembre se recordará a los niños abortados en todo el país

Por Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News)—El mes, una celebración de costa a costa conmemorará las almas de los niños perdidos a causa del aborto.

El Día Nacional del Recuerdo por los Niños Abortados se celebra el 9 de septiembre, con servicios y reuniones en unos 225 lugares de todo el país. Alrededor de 56 de esos lugares son tumbas donde descansan los restos de niños abortados, mientras que la mayoría son monumentos conmemorativos.

En su decimoquinta edición, este evento, que se celebra anualmente el segundo sábado de septiembre, está patrocinado conjuntamente por dos organizaciones del Medio Oeste, Citizens for a Pro-life Society (Ciudadanos por una sociedad provida), de Michigan, y Pro-Life Action League (Liga de acción provida), de Illinois.

Remontando sus orígenes al entierro de unos 1.200 bebés abortados en 1988 en el cementerio de la Santa Cruz en Milwaukee, la ocasión —que fue en 2013— se ha convertido en “una importantemente oportunidad para sanar del aborto”, dijo a OSV News Eric Scheidler, director ejecutivo de la Liga de Acción Pro-Vida.

Los participantes han “apreciado mucho” la oportunidad de “centrarse en la vida de los niños y expresar su dolor por su fallecimiento”, dijo.

Para las mujeres que han abortado, la oportunidad de expresar su “arrepentimiento y duelo” es catártica, dijo Scheidler.

Señaló que los eventos durante esta conmemoración se “producen en lugares ya preparados para experiencias emocionales difíciles: iglesias y cementerios”, donde “esperamos que la gente derrame lágrimas”.

“Tanto si te empujaron a tomar esa decisión como si lo hiciste tú mismo, la realidad es que el aborto es una tragedia increíble”, dijo Scheidler.

“Esconderte de ello, negar el impacto que tuvo en tu vida y la vergüenza que conlleva, no hace ningún bien a nadie”.

Estar dispuestos a afrontar ese dolor ofrece la oportunidad de “reconciliarnos con nuestro pasado... y pedir la curación de Dios, que venga e infunda nuestros recuerdos y experiencias, y nos transforme”.

El y sus compañeros organizadores han “escuchado historias de transformación”, añadió.

“Una abuela se me acercó llorando después de uno de nuestros servicios, y estaba muy alterada, pero increíblemente agradecida”, dijo Scheidler.

“No podía dejar de agradecerme que le diera la oportunidad de salir y llorar públicamente la muerte de su nieto. Se había enterado a principios de semana, a través de una factura del seguro, de que su primer nieto había sido abortado por su hija, que estaba en su plan de salud”.

Las diversas concentraciones han cobrado un significado renovado incluso después de que el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos anulara la sentencia Roe contra Wade de 1973, que legalizaba el aborto, explicó.

“En algunos estados, muchas actividades proviene, como el asesoramiento en las aceras, se han paralizado”, afirmó Scheidler.

Lois Dark, coordinadora del ministerio Respeto a la Vida en la parroquia de St. Simon Stock en Berlin, Nueva Jersey, dijo a OSV News que es fundamental asegurar la “visibilidad y la educación sobre” el tema del aborto.

Con la bendición de su párroco, el padre Michael A. de Leon, la parroquia instaló un monumento a los niños abortados en la entrada principal de la iglesia.

“Todo lo que hacemos es por medio de la oración y la educación”, dijo Dark, que junto con sus compañeros feligreses marcará la observancia con un rosario delante del monumento. “Muchas personas no conocen la verdad.”

“El proceso de duelo nunca termina”, dijo Scheidler. “Hasta el fin del mundo, tendremos que recordar a todos nuestros difuntos, incluso los que murieron a causa del aborto. Creo que este acontecimiento apunta al futuro, y es un recordatorio de que los niños abortados se preocupan por nosotros, y que no estamos modelando el luto y la reparación que tendría que hacer toda la sociedad, si alguna vez conseguimos ese objetivo de proteger a los niños del aborto en toda la tierra”.

(Gina Christian es reportera nacional de OSV News. Síguela en X (antes conocido como Twitter) en @GiinaJesseReina.)


Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. Tambien 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 numeros variaran según su ubicacion. Si cree que alguien esta 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 Proteccion Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la linea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta linea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades eclesiasticas: la diocesis alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiasticas apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diocesis tambien alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiasticas apropiadas para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diocesis, 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 Schuekkens, J.C., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diocesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la linea directa de abuso sexual de la Diocesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja estan disponibles en linea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en “Diocesis” en la barra de menu, luego en “Oficinas”, luego en “Ambiente seguro”, luego “Descargar archivos y formularios”. El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.


Además de los metodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis tambien se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica de mala conducta financier
Across the Nation, Aborted Children Will be Remembered and Mourned

By Gina Christian
(OSV News) — A coast-to-coast observance this month commemorates the souls of children lost to abortion.

The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children takes place Sept. 9, with services and gatherings at some 225 locations across the country. About 56 of those locations are gravesites for the remains of aborted children, while the majority are memorials.

Now in its 15th year, the event — annually held on the second Saturday of September — is jointly sponsored by two Midwestern-based organizations, Citizens for a Pro-life Society in Michigan and the Pro-Life Action League in Illinois.

Tracing its origins to the 1988 burial of some 1,200 aborted babies at Holy Cross Cemetery in Milwaukee, the occasion — which was initiated in 2013 — has become “an important opportunity for healing from abortion,” Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, told OSV News.

Participants have “really appreciated” the chance to “put the focus on the children’s lives and express sorrow at their passing,” he said.

“For women who have had abortions, the chance to express their ‘regret and mourning’ is cathartic,” Scheidler said.

He noted the events take place in “locations already set up for difficult emotional experiences: churches and cemeteries,” where “we expect people to shed tears.”

“If abortion is an incredible tragedy,” said Scheidler, “Then to hide from that, to deny the impact it had on your life and the shame that goes along with that, isn’t doing anyone any good.”

A willingness to face such pain offers a chance to “reconcile with our pasts ... and to ask for God’s healing, to come and infuse our memories and experiences, and transform us.”

He and his fellow organizers have “heard stories of transformation,” he added.

“A grandmother came up to me in tears after one of our services, and she was very upset but incredibly grateful,” Scheidler said. “She couldn’t stop thanking me for allowing the opportunity to come out and publicly mourn for her grandchild. She’d found out earlier in the week, through an insurance bill, that her first grandchild had been aborted by her daughter, who was on her health plan.”

The various gatherings have taken on renewed significance even after the U.S. Supreme Court’s overturning of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion, he said.

“Whatever we do is in prayer and education,” said Dark, who along with her fellow parishioners will mark the observance with a rosary in front of the memorial. “So many people just don’t know the truth.”

“The mourning process never ends,” said Scheidler. “Until the end of the world, we will have to remember all of our dead, including those who were killed through abortion. I think this event points to the future, and we’re modeling the mourning and reparation that will have to be done by the whole of society, if we ever achieve that goal of protecting children from abortion through the whole land.”

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.)
The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart’s valves, walls, or chambers. We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

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

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

**OUR TEAM**

- **David Michael Campsey MD**
  Interventional Cardiology

- **Deepak Hooda MD**
  Interventional Cardiology

- **Sushant Sharma MD**
  Cardiology

---

**EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

For any grieving parent whose child of any age has died by any cause, no matter how long ago

**ONE-DAY IN-PERSON SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

October 14, 2023
9:30am -7:30pm
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
2244 Marshall Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003

Stop in or call us today!

See www.emfgp.org for more information and to register.