

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Bishop Brennan Celebrates His 50th Anniversary of Priesthood

By Colleen Rowan

**B**ishop Mark Brennan was filled with gratitude as he looked upon the congregation gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on May 15 for the Mass celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination to priesthood. Joining him were designated concelebrants Bishop Designate Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, who will be installed as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston July 2; Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio; Bishop William E. Koenig of the Diocese of Wilmington, Del.; and Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa. Seventy-five priests were also there as concelebrants; and serving were 18 deacons. The church was filled with Bishop Brennan's family and friends as well as religious and laity from throughout the diocese.

"My brothers and sisters in Christ," Bishop Brennan said in his homily, "as I look out at you I see the trajectory of my life displayed before me"—his brother Paul and sister-in-law Patricia who he married 53 years ago as a deacon; his college roommate; Msgr. Michael Maloney, who was ordained with him in 1976 for the Archdiocese of Washington, who was concelebrating the Mass; priests he went to seminary with; priests and deacons he has served with; and former parishioners and friends from the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

"I'm very, very grateful that you've taken the time and made the effort to come here today," Bishop Brennan said.

"Today, I am most grateful to God for having called me to the priesthood," the bishop continued. "He took a lump of clay, which at times resisted His efforts, and patiently fashioned it into what I think and I hope will continue to be an instrument of his grace. And I'm grateful to my parents for the steady, unpretentious

See "Bishop" on Page 3



**Bishop Mark Brennan processes at the end of the Mass celebrating his 50th anniversary of priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling May 15.**  
Colleen Rowan photo

# Pope to Publish Encyclical on Artificial Intelligence

By Courtney Mares

**VATICAN CITY (OSV News)** — Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, "Magnifica Humanitas," will be published May 25, addressing artificial intelligence and the protection of human dignity, the Vatican has announced. The encyclical, the title of which is Latin for "Magnificent Humanity," was signed by the pope on May 15, the 135th anniversary of "Rerum Novarum," Pope Leo XIII's foundational 1891 social encyclical on labor and capital written during the first Industrial Revolution.

In an unprecedented first, Pope Leo XIV will be present in person at the Vatican press conference to mark the publication of the social encyclical, along with a tech founder from one of the world's fastest growing AI companies.

Christopher Olah, co-founder of the artificial intelligence company Anthropic, which developed the AI large language model (LLM) named Claude, will speak on a panel presenting the document at the Vatican's Synod Hall on May 25 at 11:30 a.m. local time.

Also joining the panel will be Anna Rowlands, a British theologian specializing in Catholic social teaching who helped organize the Synod on Synodality, and Léocadie Lushombo, a professor of theological ethics at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University. Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for In-

tegral Human Development, will also take part in the press conference. Pope Leo XIV and Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, will give speeches at the end of the press conference. Pope Leo XIV has expressed interest in the issue of artificial intelligence and the dignity of work since the first week of his pontificate, telling the College of Cardinals days after his election in May 2025 that he took his papal name partly in honor of Pope Leo XIII, whose landmark encyclical "Rerum Novarum" has shaped the Church's social teaching for more than a century.

"In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor," Pope Leo XIV said two days after his election.

The first American pope and a former mathematics major, Pope Leo has returned to the subject of AI again and again in speeches, messages and interviews in his first year, leading Time magazine to include him on its 2025 list of the world's most influential people in artificial intelligence, with the magazine describing him as a spiritual counterweight to Silicon Valley.

Pope Leo has addressed the issue of AI in venues ranging from a sports stadium packed with teenagers, whom he told to use AI "in such a way that if it disappeared tomorrow, you would still

know how to think," to a gathering of legislators from 68 countries, where he insisted that artificial intelligence is a tool meant to serve human beings, not replace them. The pope has also warned priests not to use chatbots to write their homilies and expressed concern for AI's potential effect on children's "intellectual and neurological development."

The pope's 2026 message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, published in January, has been his most robust document on AI and protecting human dignity to date. In the papal message, he underlined that "our faces and voices are unique, distinctive features of every person" that reveal "a person's own unrepeatable identity" and that by "simulating human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, consciousness and responsibility, empathy and friendship," AI systems "encroach upon the deepest level of communication, that of human relationships."

Pope Leo also warned that AI systems "have increasingly taken control of the production of texts, music and videos," putting "much of the human creative industry at risk of being dismantled and replaced with the label 'Powered by AI,' turning people into passive consumers of unthought thoughts and anonymous products without ownership or love."

"The ability to access vast amounts of data and information should not be confused with the ability to derive meaning and value from it. The latter requires a willingness to confront the mystery and core questions of our existence," Pope Leo said in a December speech to participants in an AI conference. "It will therefore be essential to teach young people to use these tools with their own intelligence, ensuring that they open themselves to the search for truth."

(Courtney Mares is Vatican editor for OSV News.)

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


**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children**: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org).

### 2026 Print Dates:

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, July 7  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14  
Triumph of the Cross, September 11  
Month of the Rosary, October 9  
Advent, November 20  
Christmas, December 18

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	<p><b>Publisher:</b> Bishop Mark E. Brennan ..... <b>Executive Editor:</b> Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....<a href="mailto:crowan@dwc.org">crowan@dwc.org</a> <b>Advertising:</b> contact Colleen Rowan <b>Freelance Writers:</b> Martina Hart, John Sherwood, Pam Queen <b>Member:</b> Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc.</p> <p>Published every Friday by e-mail &amp; printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to each registered Catholics 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.</p>		

# Bishop ...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

witness they gave to their the Catholic faith. ... I thank the pastors from whom I learned much about how to serve God's people and the parishioners who corrected me when I needed it."

He shared a funny story of an older woman in his first parish who told him after Mass, "You're a little wet behind the ears father, but we'll dry them off for you," stirring laughter from the congregation.

Then, a few months shy of 70, he learned he would become an auxiliary bishop in Baltimore and a few years after that, the bishop of Wheeling-Charleston.

It was his two and a half years as auxiliary bishop in Baltimore, he said, that gave him a hands on education under the wise leadership of Archbishop William E. Lori and Auxiliary Bishops Adam Parker and Dennis Madden on how to be a bishop.

Bishop Brennan noted two verses from the second reading (2 Corinthians 4:1-2,5-7) for the Mass which were also on the invitation to the liturgy, in which Saint Paul writes: Having this ministry by the mercy of God we do not lose heart. What we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord with ourselves as your servants for Jesus's sake.

"So, in serving as a priest and now as a bishop I have strived to

keep in mind that the ministry I have received is for the benefit of God's people," Bishop Brennan said. "It's not for me. Although, I have been greatly enriched by the people I have known and the experiences I have had over the past 50 years. And I do not lose heart because I have trusted that God would always help me as he has often, showing me a better way to do things and forgiving my sins and my missteps."

Through the years, he said he has preached what Christ taught as transmitted through His apostles and he has written pastoral letters with that same intention. The bishop said he has tried to apply Christ's teachings to the actual situations in which people live.

"Because I believe that a faith that does not touch the ground will not help us rise to heaven," Bishop Brennan said. "Faith must bear good fruit and works of justice, peace, and reconciliation, or as St. James says, it is dead."

He hopes that some of his pastoral work has, in Isaiah's words: "brought glad tidings to the lowly, consoled the broken hearted, freed those held captive by sin, and given to God's people a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit." He emphasized the words of Saint Paul of his own work: "I do not pass judgment on myself the one who judges me is the Lord. He is the fairest and most merciful judge."

"In today's gospel," the bishop continued, "we hear that at the sight of the crowds Jesus's heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few, so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

As he prepares to step down as

bishop of the diocese, Bishop Brennan welcomes Bishop Menjivar, his successor, who he said has "a shepherd's heart." The new bishop will serve Catholics of the state and those who are not Catholic with love and truth, Bishop Brennan said, noting that his motto will be "Jesus, the Good Shepherd."

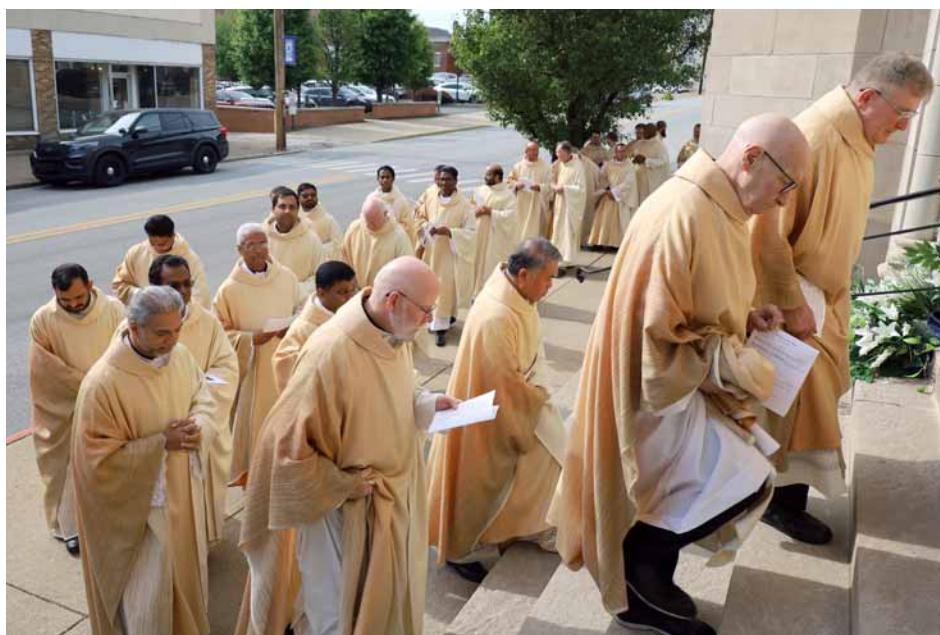
Bishop Brennan prays that the Lord may stir up in the hearts

**See "Bishop" on Page 4**



Colleen Rowan photos

Left: Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.E., (left) and Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, process into the cathedral at the beginning of the Mass. Right: Deacon John W. Yaquinta, coordinator of the Deacon Formation Program for the diocese (left), and fellow deacons prepare to process into the cathedral.



Colleen Rowan photo

Priests process into the cathedral at the beginning of the Mass.



Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan receives the gifts from his brother Paul and sister-in-law Patricia.

## Bishop ...

Cont'd from Page 3

of more young men to answer His call to priesthood, raise up candidates for the diaconate, and inspire men and women to embrace the consecrated life. Lay men and women, he said, are called to be harvesters too as parents first of all to their own children.

"We were blessed in this Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with 475 new Catholics at the Easter vigil, a record in recent years," Bishop Brennan said. "Many were drawn to our church through the faith and the good example of Catholic laity."

Each year in the diocese's Catholic schools, he said, non-Catholic students ask to become Catholic, "attracted by our faith in Christ and the sound formation they receive, and our devotion to Mary and the saints" and more. "All these things that we do," he said, "they are a rich embroidery, you might say, of Catholic life."

This is a credit to the principals and teachers in the diocese's Catholic schools who have inspired their students, he said.

"If we will all take up our role to share our faith in Christ with those who used to walk with us but no longer do and with those



Colleen Rowan photo

Faithful fill the cathedral for Bishop Brennan's anniversary Mass.

who never did, our church can bring many more people to the Lord and grow even in a state that has lost a lot of its popula-

tion," the bishop said.

When he was a vocation director for candidates for the priesthood, he told them that their sacrament

of Holy Orders is the only one that is primarily for others.

"We priests do receive much grace from the Lord

but it is given so that we might be good shepherds for His people," he said.

"So, I close by thanking  
**See "Bishop" on Page 5**

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# Bishop...

**Cont'd from Page 4**

the Lord for all the help he has given me over these past 50 years. I pledge to continue serving the Lord and his people in the time remaining to me. I intend to remain, as I said, in West Virginia and help out to the extent that health and stamina and the new bishop's wishes will allow. And regarding my successor, I make my own the words of John the Baptist about Jesus, 'He must increase; I must decrease' (John 3:30). May the Lord look on all of us with kindness and grant us his mercy."

A reception was held following the Mass.

Colleen Rowan photos

At the Mass, clockwise from top left: Bishop Mark Brennan (left) and Bishop Designate Evelio Menjivar-Ayala administer holy Communion; Bishop William Edward Koenig of the Diocese of Wilmington (left) and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, are pictured; seminarian Michael Aiello leads the procession out of the cathedral; bishops, clergy, seminarians, and altar servers are pictured with Bishop Brennan; and Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., administers holy Communion.





# *Feast of Corpus Christi*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION FOR IMMIGRANTS**

**"We are the body of Christ caring for the wounds of the world"**

**Sunday, June 7, 2026**

**12 Noon – 4:00 p.m. ET**

### **Mass**

12:00 noon

### **Shrine of the Sacred Heart**

3211 Sacred Heart Way NW

Washington, DC

### **Bishop Evelio Menjivar**

*Auxiliary Bishop of Washington*

Principal Celebrant

### **Procession**

1:30 p.m.

**From Shrine of the Sacred Heart to the  
Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle**

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW

Washington, DC 20036

For more information, contact Antonio Cube in the Office of Justice and Peace at (301) 853-4416 or [cubea@adw.org](mailto:cubea@adw.org).

*Hosted by the Secretariat of Evangelization and Synodal Renewal in collaboration with Season of Faithful Witness, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc, Jesuit Refugee Service and Network Lobby.*

For ASL interpretation, contact [deafcatholic@adw.org](mailto:deafcatholic@adw.org) four weeks in advance.



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Washington

# Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father Babu Joseph Elamthuruthil** is appointed Administrator of St. Brendan Parish, Elkins; St. Patrick Mission, Coalton; St. John Bosco Chapel, Huttonsville; and Davis and Elkins College, Elkins; with residence at the parish rectory in Elkins, effective June 17, 2026.

**Father Rusiri K. Wijewickrama, T.O.R.**, is appointed Administrator of St. Mary Parish, Petersburg, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Franklin, with residence at

the parish rectory in Petersburg, effective June 17, 2026.

**Father John D. Soplinski** is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale, with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 17, 2026.

**Father William J. Kuchinsky** is appointed Administrator of St. John Parish, Benwood, and St. James Parish, McMechen, with residence at the parish rectory in McMechen, effective June 17, 2026.

**Father Lusius Mite, S.V.D.**, is appointed Administrator of St. James the Apos-

tle Parish, Clarksburg; Sacred Heart Mission, Salem; and Salem University; with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 17, 2026.

Having consulted with Very Rev. Christu Raju Pachigolla, H.G.N., Provincial Superior of St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Upendra Rayapudi, H.G.N.**, is appointed Administrator of St. Augustine Parish, Grafton, and St. Elizabeth Parish, Philippi, with chaplaincy responsibilities at Alderson-Broadus College, Philippi, with residence at the parish rectory in Grafton, effective June 17, 2026.



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 WEEK 2: JULY 12TH – 18TH (GRADES 3-12)  
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# Welcome the Stranger Weekend

The West Virginia Council of Churches is inviting congregations and faith communities across our state to participate in Welcome the Stranger Weekend on May 22–24, 2026.

In a time when immigration and the treatment of immigrants and refugees continue to shape public conversation, we believe the Church has both an opportunity and a responsibility to respond faithfully, compassionately, and thoughtfully. Throughout scripture, God's people are repeatedly called to welcome the stranger, care for the vulnerable, and remember that we too were once wanderers.

This special weekend is intended to help congregations reflect prayerfully on the Christian tradition of hospitality and the biblical call to love our neighbors. We have prepared several resources that churches may adapt for worship, education, study groups, preaching, or congregational conversation.

In this Google file you will find:

- A litany prayer resource for worship
  - A pastoral cover letter introducing the weekend
  - "10 Things You Can Do" — practical and faithful ways individuals and congregations can engage the call to welcome the stranger
- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dYOpjVlrA8PWIkMKF1mNejOqWtSQj2UL?usp=sharing>

As one of the oldest ecumenical organizations in West Virginia, the WVCC remains committed to making visible the unity of Christ's Church while engaging in faithful witness and service for all West Virginians. We hope this weekend can serve as an opportunity for churches across many traditions to bear common witness to the Gospel's call to compassion and welcome.

We would be honored to have your judiciary and congregations participate and help share these resources broadly throughout your networks.

Thank you for your continued leadership and ministry. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there are additional ways the WVCC can support your participation.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Doug Dyson  
Executive Director

# High School and Middle School Aged Gentlemen, Consider Quo Vadis Discernment Retreat

To the guardians of our high school and middle school aged gentlemen, I would like to encourage you to consider registering them for the Diocese's Quo Vadis Discernment Retreat, taking place this summer Sunday, June 28th through Wednesday, July 1st at the Priest Field Retreat Center in Kearneysville.

Quo Vadis means "Where are you going?" This retreat is designed to help each young man receive the tools and support they need to better discern where God may be calling them to go, all within the peace-filled hills of

West Virginia. They will have the opportunity to experience prayer, daily Sacraments, outdoor activities, and service to the community. The retreat is led by our Diocesan Seminarians, the staff of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, and the Priest Field Center staff.

If your sons have interest in attending, you may sign them up at [wvpriests.org](http://wvpriests.org) or use the QR code in the ad at right. Any questions can be made by calling the Vocations Office at 304-233-0880, x298.



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# CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION 2026

**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> AFTER  
10:30AM MASS**

**Support Drivers will be offering water, food, and air-conditioning to those who join in on the procession. A cookout will follow after at St. Agnes down by the office.**

**We will process with Jesus from St. Agnes Parish all the way to the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.**

**Questions? Contact Fr. Szabo at [pszabo@dwc.org](mailto:pszabo@dwc.org)  
St. Agnes Parish, Charleston**

# Welcome Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala in a special issue of The Catholic Spirit

Parishes, Catholic schools, and Catholic groups and organizations are invited to purchase ads of welcome and congratulations to our new bishop in the July 7 print edition of The Catholic Spirit. All of the proceeds help provide The Catholic Spirit free of charge to all Catholics in West Virginia. **The deadline to purchase ads is Friday, June 26.** Ad sizes and prices for black and white are below. For color, add \$100. We can create the ad for you or you are welcome to send in your own design.

Eighth page - \$100

Quarter page - \$200

Half page - \$400

Full page - \$900

To purchase an ad, send e-mail to [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org) with "Welcome ad" in the subject line.



# Spotlighting W.Va.'s Sacred Heart Churches

In Anticipation of the Consecration of the U.S. to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

By Colleen Rowan

In anticipation of the U.S. bishops consecrating the nation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, The Catholic Spirit is spotlighting the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's 10 active churches named for the Sacred Heart. And these next few weeks are a perfect time to visit them.

In this issue, the spotlight begins on McDowell County's Sacred Heart Mission, located on US Route 52 in Powhatan. The church is part of a cluster with St. Peter Parish in Welch, Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Gary, and Holy Cross Chapel in Pineville.

Masses are celebrated at Sacred Heart on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and, during this month of May (dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary), the holy rosary is prayed after the liturgy.

Inside of the church, visitors will see a unique altar with is a depiction of the Last Supper on the front. And to the right is a beautiful statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The mission also has the Sacred Heart Food Pantry, established by Lori Bishop nine years ago, which provides 118 boxes of food for families and individuals in need every



*Sacred Heart Mission,  
Powhatan  
McDowell County*

Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan is located on US Route 52 in McDowell County.

month. The members of this vibrant Catholic community take great care of the church which received a new paint job last summer.

According to "Faith In The Mountains: A History of The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston 1850-2000", "Sacred Heart Church in Powhatan was dedicated on Nov. 3, 1895,

as a mission of Sacred Heart Church in Bluefield. Father Emil Olivier organized the community and oversaw construction of the church. Initial members came from Central and Eastern Europe and neighboring Pennsylvania to work in the region's coal fields. The mission became an independent parish in 1914 with

Father Gregory Sturm as pastor.

"The community continues to worship in the original church, which has undergone significant change over the years.

"Renovations have doubled the church's accommodations, including a Memorial Ramp and a back entrance to increase accessibility, new heat-



Above is a statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus that stands inside Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan.

Courtesy photo

ing and air conditioning systems, and a new classroom and parking lot. The parish's 100th anniversary was commemorated with two new stained-glass panels."

With the warm, sunny days of spring upon us, it is a great time to take a drive through the mountains of McDowell County and visit this lovely church just 30 minutes from Bluefield.

**See "Churches" on Page 12**

Colleen Rowan photo



Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant

Courtesy photo

## Churches ...

**Cont'd from Page 11**

For almost 80 years, Sacred Heart Church in Point Pleasant has served Catholics of Mason County. Today, it is a mission church of St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood and Mass is celebrated there on Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

On June 12, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held at 9 a.m. and at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart. Special readings and prayers will be said at both Masses.

"Faith in the Mountains" states "the first Mass offered in the Point Pleasant area is believed to have been celebrated on August 18, 1749, when Captain Céloron de Bienville led an expedition down the Ohio River for the French King. It would be another two hundred years, however, before a parish was established here. The first Catholics arrived in Point Pleasant after 1850 and were visited by priests from Mason and Charleston.

"Mass was celebrated in private homes until 1921 when the families had raised enough money to build a chapel. In April 1948 Bishop John J. Swint established the parish of the Sacred Heart and designated St. Joseph Parish in Mason as its mission."

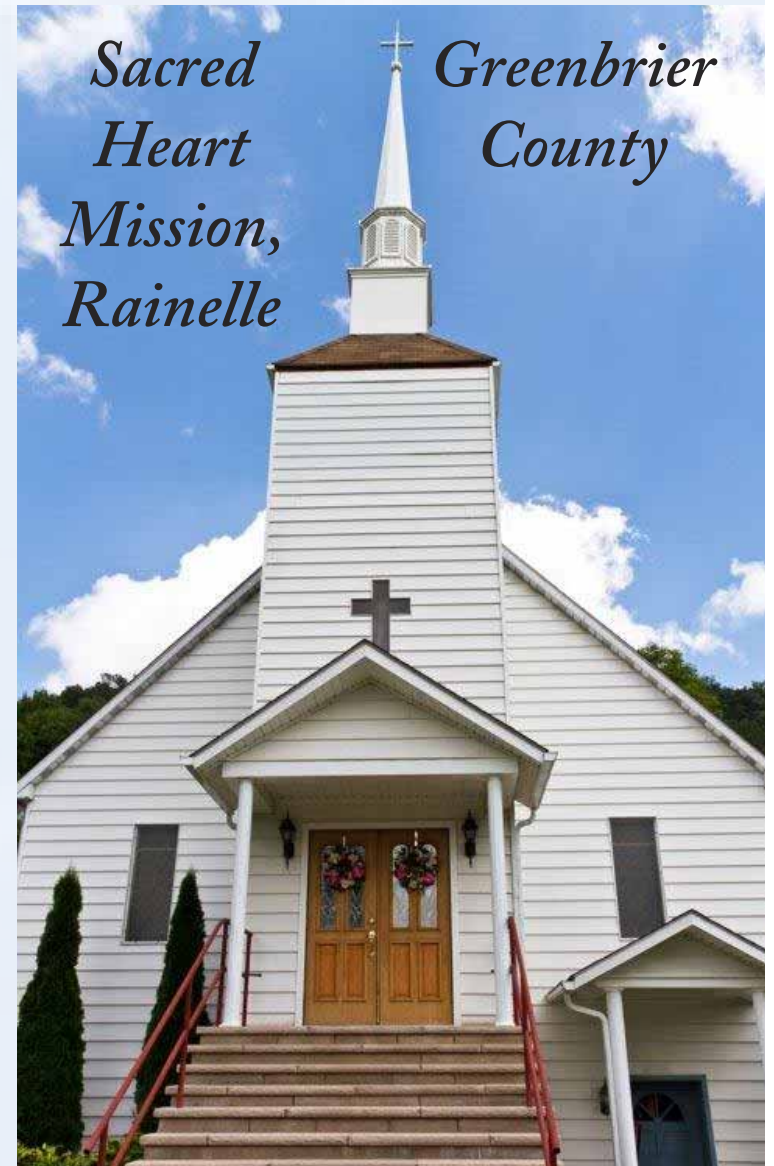
The church was built in 1961 and dedicated on June 29, 1962.

Take time to visit this beautiful church for a Sunday Mass or on the solemnity. The church is just 30 minutes from Ravenswood.

Another Sacred Heart Mission is nestled in the small, rural community of Rainelle, population 1,190. For 75 years the church has served not only Catholics of western Greenbrier County where it is located, but also those of neighboring counties. This Sewell Valley town is located at the base of Sewell Mountain and Sims Mountain and its Catholic community continues to be a spirited one. Members of Sacred Heart are active and involved in the community and outreach efforts, namely the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive which has successfully provided toys to children in need for over 10 years.

The church is a mission of St. Patrick Parish in Hinton with Mass celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m., and second Fridays of the month at 6 p.m.

"Faith in the Mountains" notes: "Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1951 to serve the Catholic families in the western part of Greenbrier County and parts of Nicholas and Fayette Counties. The families were organized



Sacred Heart Mission, Rainelle

Courtesy photo

into a community in the early 1940s and Mass was said in the private homes of members until they began to meet at the Wallace and Wallace Funeral Home in 1946. Property for a church was purchased in 1949 and construction began the following year.

"The church was dedicated on May 10, 1951."

There is also Sacred Heart/St. Kerrens Chapel & Cemetery in Spring Dale, which was a mission of the Rainelle church and suppressed in 1994. However, Masses are celebrated on Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, and the Sunday nearest All Souls Day at 11:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church in Rainelle is a 45-minute drive from White Sulphur Springs.

# Wheeling University Holds 68th Commencement

**WHEELING** — The Wheeling University Commencement speaker and alumnus Gerald F. Schroer, Jr., congratulated the class of 2026 while outlining key life lessons on integrity, friendship, failure, faith and understanding. He said these principles will help guide the graduates throughout their lives.

A self-proclaimed 'late bloomer,' Schroer said, "I am living proof that with a supportive family, a supportive environment, good friends, and certainly blessings in my own personal journey, anything is possible."

"Always and I mean always, take the high road, and do the right thing. Doing the right thing will not always be the easiest path, but it will always be the best path," he told the graduates.

A member of the class of 1986 and CEO of The Schroer Group in North Canton, Ohio, Schroer said the graduates should listen to individuals who have different beliefs than their own. "Talk and listen and be open to the thoughts of people who are different from you. Real understanding and respect only happen when we reach out and truly listen to each other."

He said it is important to stay close to God. "No matter where you are in your faith journey, try to maintain a relationship



Left to right: Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D, Wheeling University president; Gerald Schroer, Jr., alumnus and commencement speaker; Andy Schmidt and Cameron Zinn, co-valedictorians; David Hendrickson, chair of the Board of Trustees; and Chad Carter, member of the Board of Trustees.

with God. He's always there," Schroer said.

"My hope for each of you is that as you go through life, you experience the same love and support that I have received from family, friends, and fellow alumni. I hope you remember these brief thoughts. I hope you give

back to your family, friends, and communities in ways you never imagined. I hope you always take the high road. Serve others. Protect your friends and family. Keep your faith. And always remember, anything is possible," he said.

The University awarded Schroer an honorary Doc-

torate of Humane Letters during the ceremony.

Wheeling University President, Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D., said, "We are confident that Wheeling University has carried forth its mission to you. All of us are witness to your spiritual enlightenment, to your hard work and commit-

ment to your studies, to your striving to find God

**See "University" on Page 14**

Courtesy photo

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## University...

**Cont'd from Page 13**

in everything you do. We have no doubt that you are fully prepared to be tomorrow's leaders."

Andrew Schmidt, who graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and Sports Management, and Cameron Zinn, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing were the Wheeling University Class of 2026 co-valedictorians.

Schmidt, a native of St. Clairsville, Ohio, said the one word that summarizes the past four years at Wheeling University is dedication.

He said his faith has guided him the last four years at Wheeling University. "Colossians 3:23 reminds us: 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.' That verse has shaped my approach to everything I do. Dedication isn't just about achievement. It's about giving your whole heart to what matters most."

"Dedication has been like a compass, always pointing me in the right direction. On the soccer field, I learned that true success is rarely defined by a single moment. In the classroom, that same dedication led me through a double major in Accounting and Sports Management. Two very different worlds, with numbers on one side, and organization and collaboration on the other," Schmidt said.

"As we step forward, I encourage my classmates to carry this dedication into everything we do. Whether it is on the field, in the office, or in our communities, let us strive not just for success, but for meaning. Let us be leaders who inspire, thinkers who innovate, and

friends who support. The road ahead will have setbacks and uncertainties, but I have no doubt that the Class of 2026 will face them with courage, resilience, and integrity," he told his classmates.

Zinn, a native of McArthur, Ohio, said four years ago she had no idea the impact Wheeling University would have on her life.

"Each of us arrived here with different dreams, different goals, and different paths ahead. Yet through every challenge and moment of doubt, we have all found our way to this day and shared accomplishment," Zinn said.

Wheeling University, she said, emphasizes the importance of its mission to be men and women for life, leadership, and service. "Here, we are not only encouraged to

grow intellectually but also reflect on who we are and who we are called to become. We are reminded that success is not measured solely by achievement, but by how we use our gifts to serve and help others."

She challenged her classmates to use the values they learned at the University every day. "In your profession, strive to make a differ-

ence in any way you can. Stay grounded in your purpose, trust in your abilities, and remember that God is with you every step of the way."

During the 68th Commencement exercises, President Vargo, Ed.D., conferred degrees on nearly 200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate students.

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The cost of \$6,499 includes flights to and from Charleston WV, breakfasts and dinners, tours, hotels, motor coach, a farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome and memories to cherish forever.


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For Information & Reservations Contact:  
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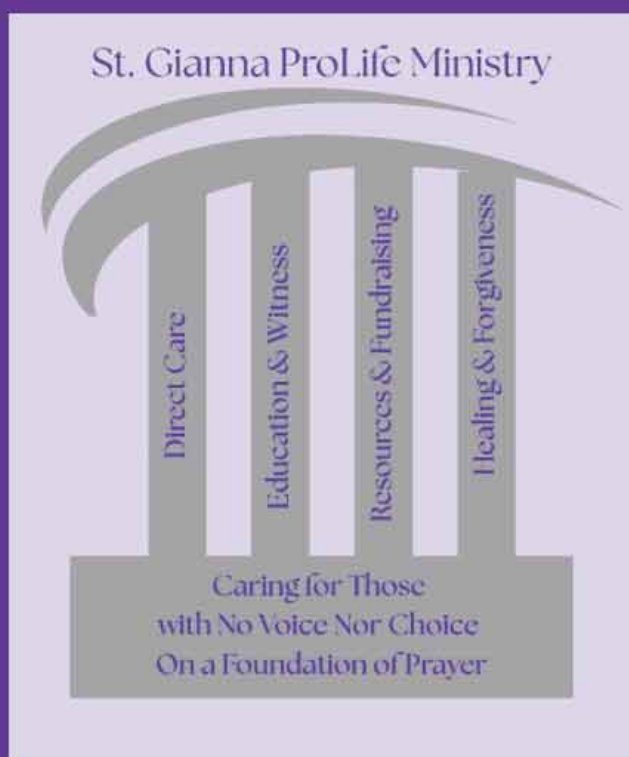
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## Obituary—Sister Elisabeth M. Heptner

Sr. Elisabeth was born on March 2, 1930, in Rudelstadt, Germany. Among seven siblings, she spent a peaceful, happy childhood in Hirschberg, Riesengebirge, Silesia, until, with the beginning of World War II in 1939, this idyll ended. By 1945, the end of the war, the Russian army had occupied Silesia, and in 1946, the Germans were driven westward; this displacement severed the family. Elisabeth found her new abode close to Hannover, where she worked and studied to make up for lost schooling.



On July 21, 1953, Elisabeth Heptner entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Limburg/Lahn. She made her first profession of vows on August 15, 1956, in Limburg. In 1957, she was sent to the Pallottine US Province for further studies and apostolic service. Sr. Elisabeth made her final vows on August 15, 1962, at St. Mary's Convent, Huntington, WV. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from Webster University, her Master of Arts in German/Theology from St. Louis University, and her Ph.D. in German from Washington University. Most of her early religious life was spent teaching at the high school and university levels. She also served briefly as assistant administrator at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon.

Sister was elected Superior General of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, headquartered in Rome, Italy, in 1980, and served in that capacity for twelve years. During her administration, two new missions were opened: one in India and another in Tanzania. After completing her terms as Superior General, she took a year off for theological studies in Washington, DC, and was subsequently assigned to St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon, WV, as Director of Mission Integration. A few years later, she was elected provincial of the US Province, a position she held for nine years. She served on St. Mary's Medical Center Board from 1995 to 2015. From 2004 onward, she worked in various capacities in the sisters' convents in Laurel, MD, and Huntington, WV, until last April, when her health started to decline significantly. The last weeks of her life, Sister spent in the Pallottine Infirmary in SMMC, surrounded by other sisters and meeting her beloved niece Nicola on the last evening of her life.

Sr. Elisabeth passed peacefully on Sunday morning, Ascension Day, May 17, 2026.

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Our Diocese is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve in prison ministry this summer. This is a powerful opportunity to walk with the incarcerated on their journey of faith, hope, and healing.

The Diocese of Wheeling–Charleston is preparing for its summer prison-ministry visits. Facility locations and dates will be announced soon.

We invite parishioners who feel called to this work of mercy to consider serving with us. Volunteers may participate in prayer services, spiritual support through prayer chain or simple presence with the incarcerated.

**IMPORTANT:** All volunteers are required to complete a background clearance before participating. Clearance details will be provided upon inquiry.

If you feel called to this ministry or would like more information, please contact:

**Sr. Dolores Keyser —[dkeyser@dwc.org](mailto:dkeyser@dwc.org)**

**Melinda Sanders — [msanders@dwc.org](mailto:msanders@dwc.org)**

*"I was in prison and you visited me."  
— Matthew 25:36*

# Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast Set for June 6

**MORGANTOWN** — Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, June 6, at St. John University Parish Hall.

Looking to deepen your faith? Join us at the next Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast. Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic women aimed at strengthening and sharing our faith.

Featured speaker is Karen Cecelia “KC” Archer, a native New Yorker who moved to West Virginia in 8th grade. KC will share her story from knowing about God to needing God; her whole life is a testament of how God turns ashes to beauty.

For Mail-in reservations, print up registration form at [Webpage-event-Reservation-Form.pdf](#) ([magnificat-ministry.net](#)) Mail to Morgantown Magnificat, c/o 12 Whites Run Court, Morgantown, WV 26508, by May 30, 2026.

Tickets \$25, Students \$13. Must register by mail by May 30, 2026, and online by June 1. Print registration form at [Magnificat-ministry.net](#). Or register online at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/morgantownwvmagnificat> and click on the Home tab.

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

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# El Papa León XIV publicará una encíclica sobre la inteligencia artificial el 25 de mayo

Por Courtney Mares

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (OSV News)** — La primera encíclica del Papa León XIV, "Magnífica Humanitas", se publicará el 25 de mayo y abordará la inteligencia artificial (IA) y la protección de la dignidad humana, según ha anunciado el Vaticano.

La encíclica, cuyo título en latín significa "Magnífica Humanidad", fue firmada por el Papa el 15 de mayo, en el 135.º aniversario de "Rerum Novarum", la encíclica social fundacional del Papa León XIII de 1891 sobre el trabajo y el capital, escrita durante la primera Revolución Industrial.

En un hecho sin precedentes, el Papa León XIV estará presente en persona en la conferencia de prensa del Vaticano con motivo de la publicación de la encíclica social, junto con el fundador de una de las empresas de inteligencia artificial de más rápido crecimiento del mundo.

Christopher Olah, cofundador de la empresa de inteligencia artificial Anthropic, que desarrolló la familia de modelos de lenguaje grande (LLM en inglés) de IA llamado Claude, hablará en un panel que presentará el documento en el Salón del Sínodo del Vaticano el 25 de mayo a las 11:30 a.m.

También se unirá al panel Anna Rowlands, una teóloga británica especializada en la doctrina social católica que ayudó a organizar el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad y Léocadie Lushombo, profesora de teología ética de la Escuela Jesuita de Teología en la Universidad de Santa Clara. El cardenal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefecto del Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe, y el cardenal Michael Czerny, prefecto del Dicasterio para el Servicio del Desarrollo Humano Integral, también participarán en la conferencia de prensa. El Papa León y el cardenal Pietro Parolin, secretario de Estado del Vaticano, pronunciarán unos discursos al término de la con-

ferencia de prensa.

El Papa León XIV ha manifestado interés en el tema de la inteligencia artificial y la dignidad del trabajo desde la primera semana de su pontificado, y dijo al Colegio Cardenalicio días después de su elección en mayo de 2025 que tomó su nombre papal en parte en honor al Papa León XIII, cuya histórica encíclica "Rerum Novarum" ha sido parte de la doctrina social de la Iglesia durante más de un siglo.

"Hoy la Iglesia ofrece a todos su patrimonio de doctrina social para responder a otra revolución industrial y a los desarrollos de la inteligencia artificial, que comportan nuevos desafíos en la defensa de la dignidad humana, de la justicia y el trabajo", dijo el Papa León XIV dos días después de su elección.

El Papa León --el primer pontífice estadounidense, quien tiene una licenciatura en matemáticas-- se ha referido una y otra vez al tema de la IA en discursos, mensajes y entrevistas durante su primer año, lo que llevó a la revista Time a incluirlo en su lista de 2025 de las personas más influyentes del mundo en inteligencia artificial, y la revista lo describió como un contrapeso espiritual a Silicon Valley.

El Papa León ha abordado el tema de la IA en escenarios que van desde un estadio deportivo repleto de adolescentes, a quienes les dijo que usaran la IA "de tal manera que, si desapareciera mañana, seguirían sabiendo cómo pensar", hasta una reunión de legisladores de 68 países, donde insistió en que la inteligencia artificial es una herramienta destinada a servir a los seres humanos, no a reemplazarlos. El Papa también ha advertido a los sacerdotes que no utilicen chatbots para escribir sus homilias y ha expresado su preocupación por el efecto potencial de la IA en el "desarrollo in-

telectual y neurológico" de los niños.

El mensaje del Papa para la 60.ª Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales de 2026, publicado en enero, ha sido su documento más contundente sobre la IA y la protección de la dignidad humana hasta la fecha. En el mensaje papal, subrayó que "custodiar rostros y voces humanas significa conservar este sello, este reflejo indeleble del amor de Dios" ya que revelan la "identidad irreplicable" de cada uno y que, al simular "voces y rostros humanos, sabiduría y conocimiento, conciencia y responsabilidad, empatía y amistad", los sistemas de IA "invaden el nivel más profundo de la comunicación, el de la relación entre las personas".

El Papa León también advirtió que los sistemas de IA "están asumiendo cada vez más el control de la producción de textos, música y vídeo", resultando en que "gran parte de la industria creativa humana corre así el riesgo de ser desmantelada y sustituida por la etiqueta 'Powered by AI', convirtiendo a las personas en meros consumidores pasivos de pensamientos no pensados, de productos anónimos, sin autoría, sin amor".

"La capacidad de acceder a grandes cantidades de datos e información no debe confundirse con la capacidad de extraer significado y valor de ellos. Esto último requiere la voluntad de enfrentarse al misterio y a las preguntas fundamentales de nuestra existencia", dijo el Papa León en un discurso de diciembre dirigido a los participantes en una conferencia sobre IA.

"Por lo tanto, será esencial enseñar a los jóvenes a utilizar estas herramientas con su propia inteligencia, asegurándonos de que se abran a la búsqueda de la verdad".

(Courtney Mares es editora del Vaticano para OSV News.)

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

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web [www.repostbishopabuse.org](http://www.repostbishopabuse.org). Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al

304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.



# La Fiesta Corpus Christi

## PROCESIÓN EUCARÍSTICA POR LOS INMIGRANTES

“SOMOS EL CUERPO DE CRISTO, CUIDANDO LAS HERIDAS DEL MUNDO.”

**Domingo 7 de junio de 2026**

**12 Noon – 4:00 p.m. ET**

**Misa**

12:00 noon

**Santuario del Sagrado Corazón**

3211 Sacred Heart Way NW,  
Washington, DC

**Obispo Evelio Menjívar**

*Obispo Auxiliar de Washington*

Celebrante principal

**Procesión**

1:30 p.m.



**Desde el Santuario del Sagrado Corazón**

**hasta la Catedral de San Mateo Apóstol**

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Para más información llamar Antonio Cube en  
la Oficina de Justicia y Paz al (301) 853-4416 o [cubea@adw.org](mailto:cubea@adw.org).

Organizado por la Secretaría de Evangelización y Renovación Sinodal en colaboración con *Season of Faithful Witness*, la Catedral de San Mateo Apóstol, el Santuario del Sagrado Corazón, *Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc*, *Jesuit Refugee Service* y *Network Lobby*.

Para la interpretación en ASL, póngase en contacto    
con [deafcatholic@adw.org](mailto:deafcatholic@adw.org) con cuatro semanas de anticipación.



Arquidiócesis  
Católica Romana de Washington

# Confirmation at St. Brendan Parish in Elkins



Dan Kelly photo

Confirmands from St. Brendan Parish in Elkins and St. Patrick Mission in Coalton are pictured with Bishop Mark Brennan at confirmation at St. Brendan's April 26. From left are Felicia Hendon (teacher, St. Patrick) Kolt Allen Crosston (St. Brendan), Grant Robert Morgan (St. Patrick), Evelyn Mae Wing (St. Brendan), Chloe Alexandra Ricottilli (St. Patrick), Bishop Brennan, Keira Kay Trivolette (St. Brendan), Samuel James Belan (St. Brendan), Luke Oliver Valentine (St. Brendan), Casey Hedrick (teacher, St. Brendan), and Father James O'Connor, pastor.

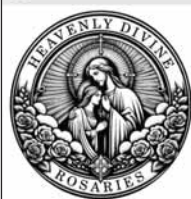
## Confirmation Schedule

*Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant*

Saturday, June 6: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14: St. Matthew / Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, June 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood, 6 p.m.



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### A Family Kept Warm

This past winter, a family in Mineral County faced the very real possibility of losing heat in their home. For a multi-generational household already managing serious health challenges, the loss of gas service would have made daily life unsafe.

The grandfather had recently lost his job and spent more than a month in the hospital, where he underwent a major surgery. His spouse had also lost her income earlier in the year and was still searching for work. Living with them is their granddaughter, who cares full-time for her infant son. Born months early, he depends on specialized medical equipment and constant attention.

Without gas service, the family would have had no heat, no hot water, and no way to cook. The situation was becoming urgent.

At a critical moment, a gas company representative encouraged the family to reach out to Catholic Charities West Virginia. Through the Romney office, support came together quickly. Funding from a special assistance program, a grant from Potomac Highlands United Way, and a contribution from a local community partner made it possible to keep their gas service connected.

For this family, it meant more than restored service. It meant stability during a difficult time and the ability to safely care for one another at home.

They shared their gratitude as first-time clients, but their story is also a reminder of what can happen when a community responds together.



[ccwva.org](http://ccwva.org)

Join in Our Mission to Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Scan to make a donation



[www.ccwva.org/get-involved/donate/donate-online](http://www.ccwva.org/get-involved/donate/donate-online)

**EXCITING NEWS!**

## QUO VADIS CAMP

for Middle School Boys

Due to high demand, we announce:

**Quo Vadis Camp** - a dedicated Middle School track. These boys and the high schoolers attending Quo Vadis Retreat meet at the same location, but middle schoolers will have activities tailored for them.

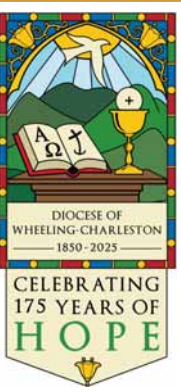
Deacon Dave Galvin and trained staff from nearby St. James the Greater Parish will guide them on an adventurous path to strengthen their relationship with God and the Church as they enjoy the amenities of the Priestfield Pastoral Center - hiking trails, the scenic Opequon creek, and 38 acres of beautiful cedar forest.

Priest Field Pastoral Center  
Kearneysville, WV

June 29 to July 2, 2026

**REGISTER NOW**

[WVPriests.org](http://WVPriests.org)



### Clarksburg Vicariate Gathering:

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Diocese

**Thursday: May 28, 2026**  
Immaculate Conception  
126 E Pike St. Clarksburg WV

Mass at 6:00pm  
Celebrated by Bishop Brennan  
and priests of the Clarksburg Vicariate

Reception to follow the Mass

*All are welcome!!*

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**Daily Living**  
with Fr. Chapin

**Sunday Mornings**

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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

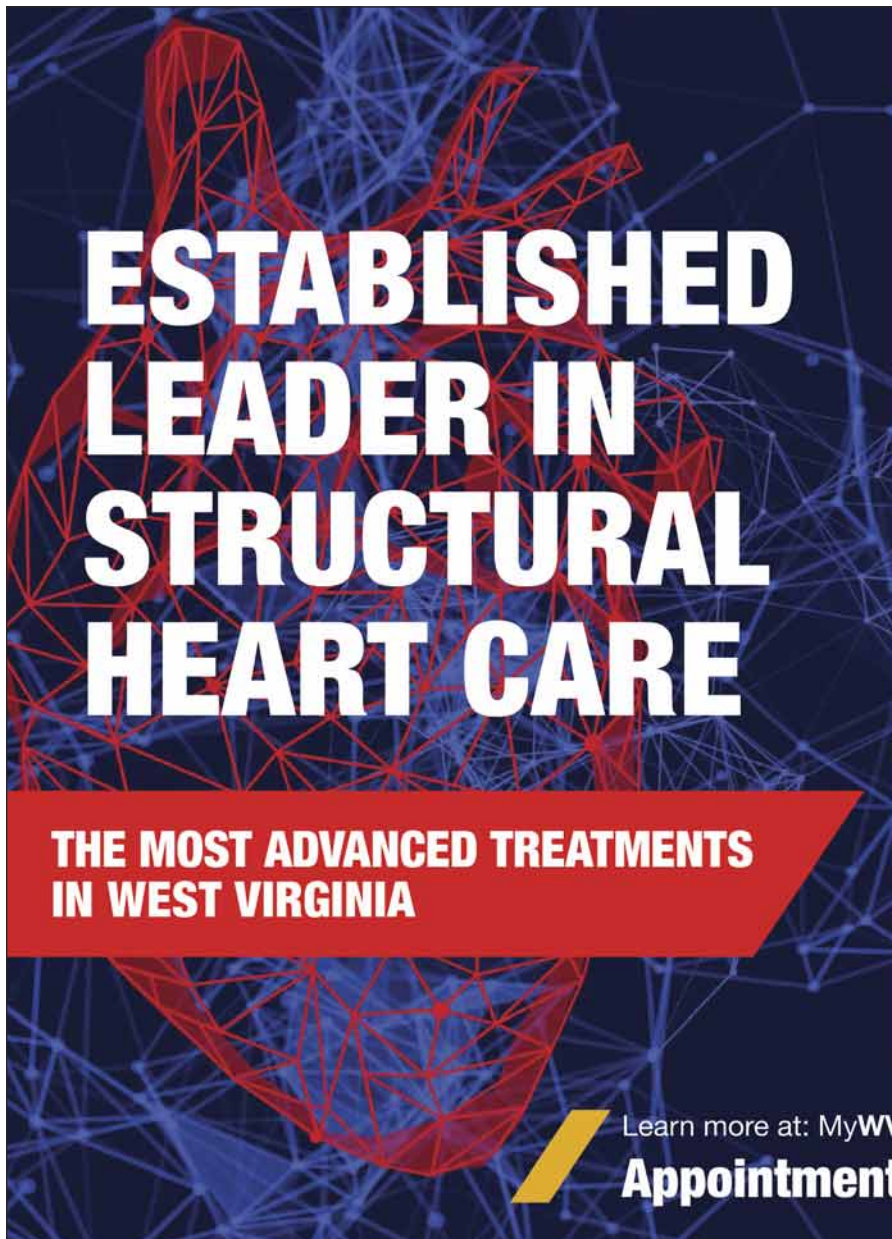


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We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common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

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

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

**OUR TEAM**



David Michael Campsey MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD  
Cardiology

