

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Vatican Releases New Document on Human Dignity

Being a Christian means defending human dignity and that includes opposing abortion, the death penalty, gender transition surgery, war, sexual abuse and human trafficking, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith said in a new document.

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being a Christian means defending human dignity and that includes opposing abortion, the death penalty, gender transition surgery, war, sexual abuse and human trafficking, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith said in a new document.

“We cannot separate faith from the defense of human dignity, evangelization from the promotion of a dignified life and spirituality from a commitment to the dignity of every human being,” Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, dicastery prefect, wrote in the document’s opening section.

The declaration, “Dignitas Infinita” (“Infinite Dignity”), was released at the Vatican April 8.

In the opening section, Cardinal Fernández confirmed reports that a declaration on human dignity and bioethical issues — like abortion, euthanasia and surrogacy — was approved by members of the dicastery in mid-2023 but Pope Francis asked the dicastery to make additions to “highlight topics closely connected to the theme of dignity, such as poverty, the situation of migrants, violence against women, human trafficking, war and other themes.”

In February the cardinals and bishops who are members of the

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Wheeling-Charleston is First U.S. Diocese to Host LOUDfence



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan hangs a message of support for those who have suffered abuse on the railing outside of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 7 as part of LOUDfence. Looking on is Antonia Sobocki, director of LOUDfence U.K.

By **Colleen Rowan**

WHEELING—Never underestimate what one small act of compassion can do. That was Antonia Sobocki’s message to the faithful gathered for Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on the morning of April 7. She was there to represent LOUDfence, a campaign of awareness and support for victims of abuse which began in a small, rural

English church and has now spread across the globe with its message of healing.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston became the first diocese in the U.S. to participate in LOUDfence, which began with Mass that morning celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan. Sobocki and the many survivors of abuse present were welcomed

See “LOUDfence” on Page 4

Diocese Names New Superintendent of Catholic Schools

WHEELING — Bishop Mark Brennan announced April 10 that Jennifer Hornyak has been named superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Hornyak has served as interim superintendent of Catholic Schools since July 1, 2023. She has

been a part of the Department of Catholic Schools in the diocese for nearly 23 years. Hornyak served as the Associate Superintendent in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for seven years. Prior to her role of associate superintendent, she served as the Director of

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Jennifer Hornyak

The Catholic Spirit's New Print Schedule for 2024

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

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

Ascension of the Lord

Feast Day, May 12

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is May 10

Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Month of June

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is June 21

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day, August 15

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Feast Day, September 14

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

Our Lady of the Rosary

Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

Advent

First Sunday of Advent is December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29

Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

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. 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. 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. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." 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 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.




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 and YouTube



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Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
April 12, 2024, Vol. 55, No. 14

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association,
National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



All print issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset 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 and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.



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Document...

Cont'd from Page 1

dicastery approved the updated draft of the document, and in late March Pope Francis gave his approval and ordered its publication, Cardinal Fernández said.

With its five years of preparation, he wrote, "the document before us reflects the gravity and centrality of the theme of dignity in Christian thought."

The title of the document is taken from an Angelus address St. John Paul II gave in Germany in 1980 during a meeting with people with disabilities. He told them, "With Jesus Christ, God has shown us in an unsurpassed way how he loves each human being and thereby bestows upon him infinite dignity."

The document is dated, "2 April 2024, the nineteenth anniversary of the death of Pope St. John Paul II."

Cardinal Fernandez said initially the dicastery was going to call the document "Beyond all Circumstances," which is an affirmation by Pope Francis of how human dignity is not lessened by one's state of development or where he or she is born or the resources or talents one has or what one has done.

Instead, he said, they chose the comment St. John Paul had made.

The declaration noted that the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World also listed attacks on human dignity as ranging from abortion and euthanasia to "subhuman living conditions" and "degrading working conditions."

Members of the doctrinal dicastery included the death penalty among violations of "the inalienable dignity of every person, regardless of the circumstances" and called for the respect of the dignity of people who are incarcerated.

The declaration denounced discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and particularly situations in which people are "imprisoned, tortured and even deprived of the good of life solely because of their sexual orientation."

But it also condemned "gender theory" as "extremely dangerous since it cancels differences in its claim to make everyone equal."

Gender theory, it said, tries "to deny the greatest possible difference

that exists between living beings: sexual difference."

The Catholic Church, the declaration said, teaches that "human life in all its dimensions, both physical and spiritual, is a gift from God. This gift is to be accepted with gratitude and placed at the service of the good."

Quoting Pope Francis' exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," the declaration said gender ideology "envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family."

Dicastery members said it is true that there is a difference between biological sex and the roles and behaviors that a given society or culture assigns to a male or female, but the fact that some of those notions of what it means to be a woman or a man are culturally influenced, does not mean there are no differences between biological males and biological females.

"Therefore," they said, "all attempts to obscure reference to the ineliminable sexual difference between man and woman are to be rejected."

Again quoting Pope Francis' exhortation, the declaration said, "We cannot separate the masculine and the feminine from God's work of creation, which is prior to all our decisions and experiences, and where biological elements exist which are impossible to ignore."

"Any sex-change intervention, as a rule, risks threatening the unique dignity the person has received from the moment of conception," it said. However, the declaration clarified that "this is not to exclude the possibility that a person with genital abnormalities that are already evident at birth or that develop later may choose to receive the assistance of healthcare professionals to resolve these abnormalities."

Members of the dicastery also warned about the implications of changing language about human dignity, citing for example those who propose the expressions "personal dignity" or "the rights of the person" instead of "human dignity."

In many cases, they said, the proposal understands "a 'person' to be only 'one who is capable of reasoning.' They then argue that dignity and rights are deduced from the individual's capacity for knowledge and freedom, which not all humans possess. Thus, according to them,

the unborn child would not have personal dignity, nor would the older person who is dependent upon others, nor would an individual with mental disabilities."

The Catholic Church, on the contrary, "insists that the dignity of every human person, precisely because it is intrinsic, remains in all circumstances."

The acceptance of abortion, it said, "is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense, which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil, even when the fundamental right to life is at stake."

"Procured abortion is the deliberate and direct killing, by whatever means it is carried out, of a human being in the initial phase of his or her existence, extending from conception to birth," it said.

The document also repeated Pope Francis' call for a global ban on surrogacy, which, he said, is "a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child, based on the exploitation of situations of the mother's material needs."

Surrogacy, it said, transforms a couple's legitimate desire to have a child into "a 'right to a child' that fails to respect the dignity of that child as the recipient of the gift of life."

Extreme poverty, the marginalization of people with disabilities,

violent online attacks and war also violate human dignity, the document said.

While recognizing the right of nations to defend themselves against an aggressor, the document insisted armed conflicts "will not solve problems but only increase them. This point is even more critical in our time when it has become commonplace for so many innocent civilians to perish beyond the confines of a battlefield."

On the issue of migrants and refugees, the dicastery members said that while "no one will ever openly deny that they are human beings," many migration policies and popular attitudes toward migrants "can show that we consider them less worthy, less important, less human."

The promotion of euthanasia and assisted suicide, it said, "utilizes a mistaken understanding of human dignity to turn the concept of dignity against life itself."

The declaration said, "Certainly, the dignity of those who are critically or terminally ill calls for all suitable and necessary efforts to alleviate their suffering through appropriate palliative care and by avoiding aggressive treatments or disproportionate medical procedures," but it also insisted, "suffering does not cause the sick to lose their dignity, which is intrinsically and inalienably their own."



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LOUDfence...

Cont'd from Page 1

by the bishop, who expressed his support of the campaign.

"We are deeply honored we are now here for the very first time in America," Sobocki told the congregation. "No matter where we are in the world, we are one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are the church which adores and glorifies God, who is perfect love; and he calls on us to love each other."

She explained that through the LOUDfence campaign, the faithful show compassion by tying ribbons and messages of support on a fence so that survivors will see them and take comfort.

Many ribbons and messages already adorned the railings to the entrances of the cathedral before Mass began. Inside, shoes repre-

When it comes to abuse of any kind, Sobocki stressed, silence and indifference are not loving.

"We are a church in need of healing and reconciliation. We must support and care for all who have been affected by safeguarding failures of the past," Sobocki said to the congregation at the cathedral. "I'm here to ask you to do that today by tying a ribbon of support and compassion for all who have been harmed. Never underestimate what can happen as a result of your one small act of compassion."

In his homily for the Mass, which was celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Brennan told the faithful that we practice mercy when standing in solidarity with those who suffer.

"We are all aware of the scandal of sexual abuse of minors in our church and in many other sectors of society," the bishop said, adding

joins with Pope Francis in insisting that the way of mercy is the only way to reconciliation and peace.

"The LOUDfence movement has helped to bring healing to many victim-survivors of abuse and brought some of them back to the church," the bishop said. "It's a small step that we are taking, but that's how you begin a journey. So, let's take it together."

Those present did just that as they followed the bishop outside after the Mass to write their messages and tie them with ribbons of support for abuse victims on the railing to the side entrance of the cathedral. After Bishop Brennan placed his message and ribbon, Sobocki presented him with a symbolic key to the church where LOUDfence began—St. Peter's Church in Kirkbampton, England, established in the year 1194. She also presented him with a ribbon blessed by Pope Francis.

Hanging on the railing among the ribbons was a message to Bishop Brennan from Rt. Revd. Dr. David J. Oakley, bishop of Northampton, England: "This message is sent with the hope and prayer that the LOUDfence event in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be a blessing for all survivor victims of abuse, and for all who are seeking to serve within safeguarding ministry. Here in the Diocese of Northampton, we have found LOUDfence to be a grace-filled vehicle of healing and reconciliation for many who have been hurt by abuse, either directly or indirectly. This message is accompanied by our prayer for a successful event."

Sobocki is a native of Cumbria, England, and has



Colleen Rowan Photo

Antonia Sobocki, director of LOUDfence U.K., presents Bishop Mark Brennan with a LOUDfence ribbon blessed by Pope Francis.

been organizing LOUDfence events since 2020. She is currently the director of LOUDfence U.K. Joining her for LOUDfence in Wheeling were Deacon Peter Collins of the Diocese of Northampton, who served as deacon of the word for the Mass, and Patricia Debney, an advocate for abuse survivors, who read a poem concerning abuse and healing.

Sobocki brought LOUDfence to West Virginia through her work with Nick Chancey, executive director of Youth & Young Adult Discipleship for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

In beginning LOUDfence four years ago in that small church, Sobocki said, the hope was to help a few people in a little village in Northern England. Following the event, she said, "I posted some pictures on social media with a question: 'Is anybody out there?'"

There was.

Responses came from Australia, the U.S., Germany, Poland, Portugal, and all over the U.K.

"The LOUDfence spread to cathedrals all over England," Sobocki said. "The outpouring of love spread from England to the Bishops' Council of France." Last year the bishops of France held a LOUDfence in Lourdes, she said, and the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors led by Cardinal Sean O'Malley held a LOUDfence in Rome.

"We are honored the LOUDfence has been recognized and welcomed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as a symbol of hope," Sobocki said. "One small act of compassion in rural England had the power to spread to the other side of Europe and touched the lives of countless people on its journey."

For more information about LOUDfence, visit <https://loudfence.com>.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Ribbons and messages of support for those who have suffered abuse hang on the railing outside of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling as part of LOUDfence April 7.

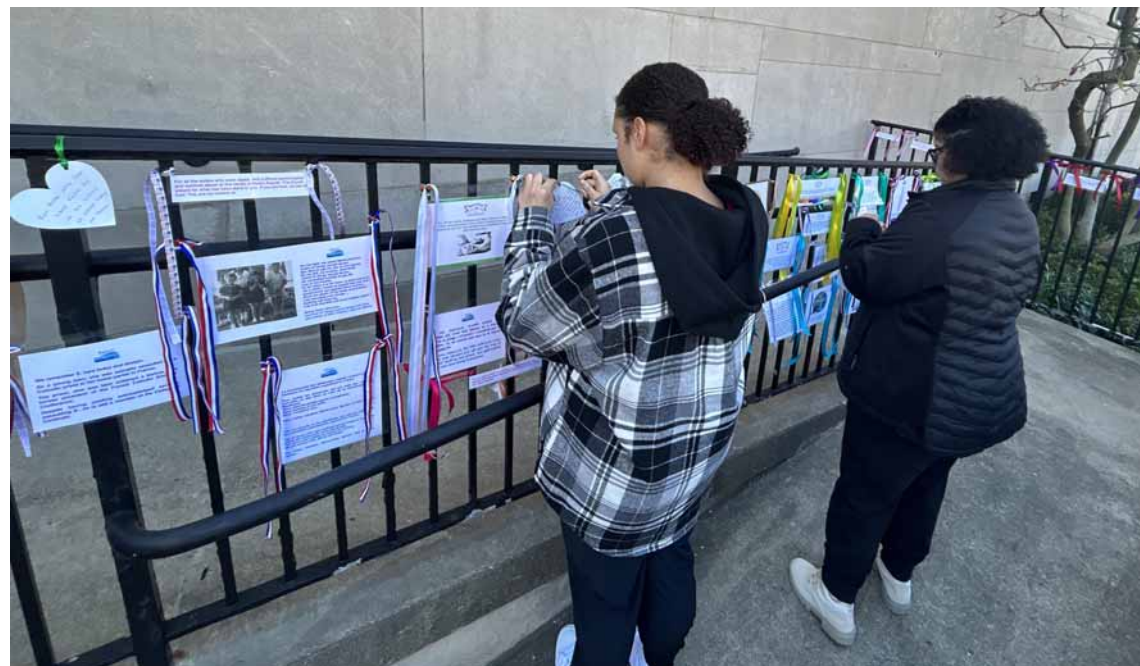
senting abuse victims were placed throughout the church. Children's shoes on the altar held tags that pleaded, "See Me." Adult shoes were placed around the baptismal font with the message: "Abuse can happen wherever there are two people and a power differential. Adults suffer abuse too. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility."

Shoes were placed for priests, deacons, seminarians, and religious who have suffered abuse. And shoes placed in front of the ambo carried a message for the majority of priests, "who are innocent and have devoted their lives to serving God by serving us. When people label you as an abuser, because of the actions of a minority, know that you are not alone. We are one church, and we support each other."

that the church has made great strides in more recent years in ensuring a safe environment for young people. However, he cautioned, "It's not a time to pat ourselves on the back. We still have work to do."

Part of that work is reaching out to those who have suffered abuse and offering help toward healing, peace, and a restoration of faith where it has been lost, he said. LOUDfence helps facilitate this through its message—"a loud declaration by church members that we care about our brothers and sisters who have suffered abuse, are praying for them, and encourage them to seek peace in God," Bishop Brennan said.

He invited all to join him in the effort to spread mercy in a world filled with hatred and violence and said that he



Colleen Rowan Photo

Catholic faithful place their ribbons and messages of support for those who have suffered abuse on the railing outside of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling as part of LOUDfence April 7.

Superintendent...

Cont'd from Page 1

Educational Technology. During her time at the diocese, Hornyak has worked with teachers and principals in many areas including educational technology, professional development, data analysis of assessment data, and school improvement. In addition to her work at the diocese, Jennifer is an adjunct instructor in the Educational Department at Wheeling University where she has taught both online and in-person education classes over the past ten years.

"I am pleased to appoint Jennifer Hornyak as superintendent of our Catholic Schools," Bishop Brennan said. "Since being named interim superintendent, she has shown a great love not only for our students, but also for the staff and administration of our schools. She has shown a great commitment to our Catholic identity and has worked very hard to create a nurturing environment where students can learn and grow in love of Christ."

Hornyak has earned two undergraduate degrees from Wheeling (Jesuit) University and a master's degree in educational technology from Boise State University. She also earned a graduate certificate in School Technology Coordination from Boise State University. In addition, she has earned a Certificate in Catholic School Management from Villanova University.

"I am truly grateful for this opportunity to lead the Catholic schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston," Hornyak said. "It is a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of guiding our schools in faith formation and academic growth of our students. I am very proud of the strong tradition of Catholic education of providing intense academic rigor within the context of our Catholic faith, here in West Virginia. Our Catholic schools are a true gift to all of us.

"I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our extremely dedicated principals, teachers, and staff to continue to make our schools the best that they can be. Working in partnership with parents, the primary teachers of their children, we have an important role to help each child recognize, develop, and share their God-given talents."

Hornyak added that she is excited to see continued growth in Catholic schools across the diocese—from enrollment to academic achievements to spiritual formation. "I look forward to continuing

to improve our schools for our students so that they are always part of a nurturing and supportive learning environment preparing them for academic successes and lifelong

moral development shaped by the Catholic faith," she said.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston provide a Christ-centered education to more

than 4,500 students in six high schools and 18 elementary/middle schools in 13 counties in our state. For more information, please visit <https://wvcatholicschools.org>.









May 7, 2024

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Photo Courtesy of Diocesan Archives

Burial of the victims of the 1924 Benwood mine disaster at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling is shown above.

By Joyce Bibey

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston invites the public to a special prayer service at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, 1685 National Road, Wheeling, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Benwood mine disaster.

The event will honor the lives of 119 men and boys, who lost their lives as a result of two explosions within the Wheeling Steel Coal Mine in Benwood on April 28, 1924.

While the miners were from the surrounding communities on both side of the Ohio River, the majority were immigrants from Poland, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Lithuania, and Ukraine. Notably many were also Catholic, belonging to St. John Par-

ish in Benwood and St. Ladislaus in South Wheeling.

The memorial on April 28 this year will take place at the site at Mt. Calvary, where the largest mass burial in Wheeling ever took place. In all 72 miners are buried at the Catholic cemetery. There are 65 buried at the mass grave, where the gravesite service was conducted in three languages. Seven other miners were buried in other areas, including three Hungarian immigrant friends, whose families chose to have them buried together. Their names were Istvan Vargo, Ignac Orban, and Sandor Horvath.

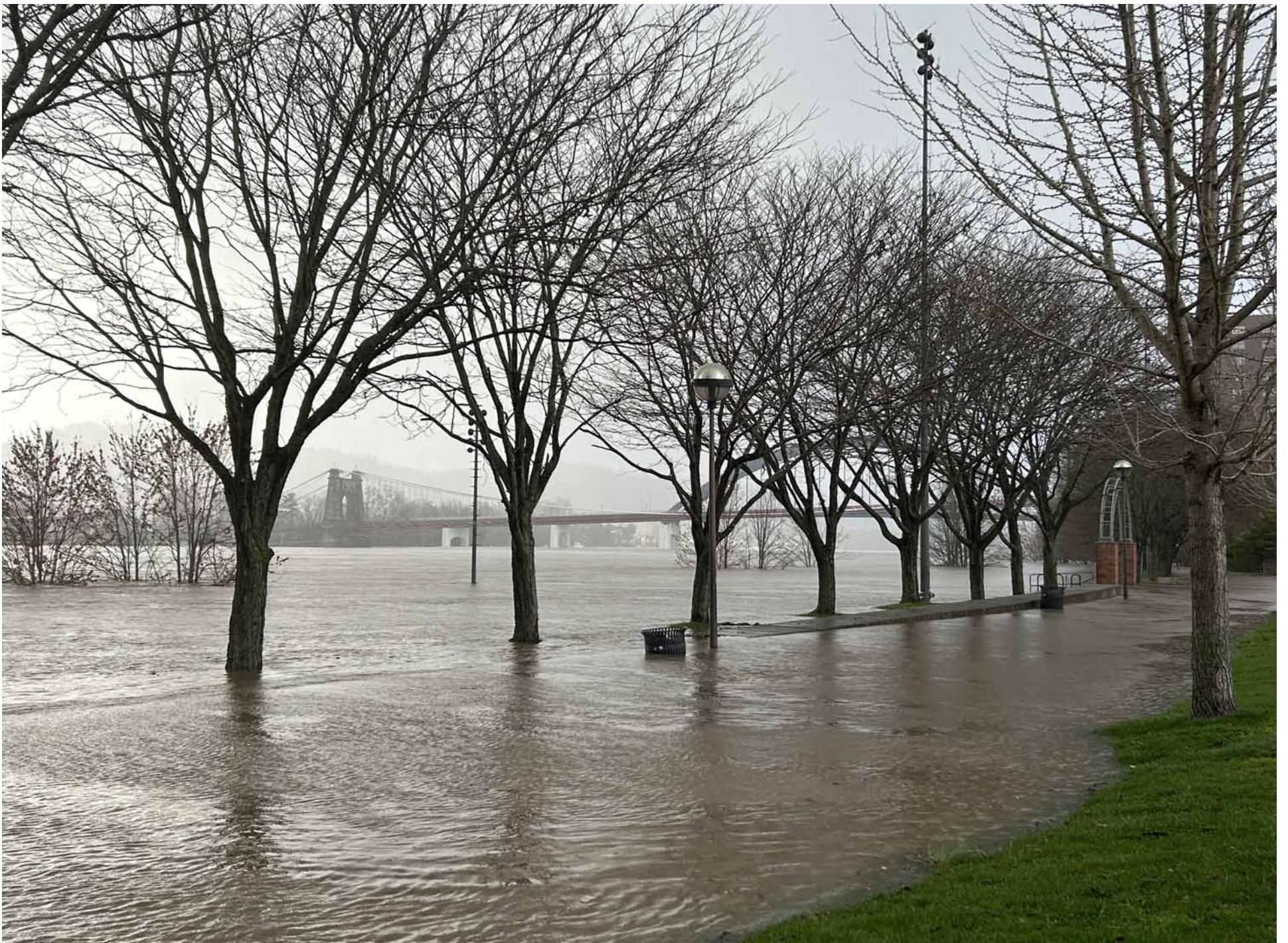
Victims of the disaster including those miners who were burned beyond recognition were buried in a mass grave at Greenwood Cemetery across the street.



Photo Courtesy of Mt. Calvary Cemetery

The commemorative marker of the Benwood mine disaster of 1924 stands at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling.

Special Collection for West Virginia Flood Relief to be Held April 20-21



Colleen Rowan Photo

The Ohio River engulfs Heritage Port in Wheeling during flooding April 4.

WEST VIRGINIA — Efforts continue across the Mountain State after the severe flooding that occurred earlier this month. West Virginia encountered tornados, microbursts, strong winds, heavy rains, and mudslides. Several counties have experienced moderate-to-substantial flooding, notably along the Ohio River and its tributaries. The National Weather Service has confirmed 5 tornadoes in West Virginia – Huntington (Cabell/Wayne), St.

Albans (Kanawha), Cross Lanes (Kanawha), Quick (Kanawha) and Lava Vista (Fayette). A State of Emergency has been declared in 17 West Virginia Counties.

Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of April 20-21, 2024, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. Checks should be made out to your respec-

tive parish with “Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

Proceeds from this collection will support the long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities West Virginia. Their offices assist families long after other organizations have moved out. The role of Catholic Charities will last months and years as they help families and individuals in the re-

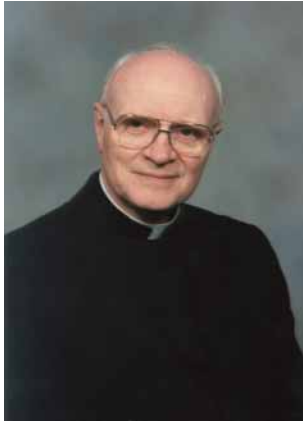
building process to restore safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions. All of the money raised will stay in West Virginia to assist our neighbors.

Please remember in prayer all those whose lives have been changed in the wake of these disasters. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.

Obituary

Father Jerome Mckenna

Father Jerome Francis McKenna, a Passionist priest of the St. Paul of the Cross Province of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, died on Sunday, April 7, 2024. Born on April 13, 1930, he was 93 years of age. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Francis Joseph McKenna and the late Gertrude Foley



City, New Jersey; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Preston County, West Virginia; Charleston, West Virginia; and Atlanta, Georgia. His Passionist service had significant positive impact on the lives of numerous individuals, groups, and dioceses, in particular the Diocese of Wheeling, Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Archdiocese of Newark, and the

Archdiocese of Georgia. During these many years, Father Jerome assumed varied leadership roles and duties including Provincial Secretary (1961-1965), Monastery Rector-St. Paul of the Cross Monastery (1965-1971), Director-Passionist Social Concerns Center (1971-1981), Director-Passionist Volunteers, Inc. (1973-1981), Moderator-Monastery Food Cooperative (1974-1978), Pastor-Catholic Churches of Preston County (1981-2000), Dean-Fairmont Deanery (1985-1994), Provincial Consultor (1990-1994), Vicar Forane-Vicariate of Clarksburg (1997-2000), Director-Diocesan Planning & Pastoral Services (2000), Vicar General-Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (2005-2009), Pastor-St. Paul of the Cross Parish (2009-until his death).

Father Jerome also served on numerous commissions and boards of directors during his years of Passionist and priestly ministry. These include the Synodal Commission for Religious-Chairperson (1970-1971), Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines-Chairperson (1976-1979), Province Task Force on Option for the Poor, Pastoral Concerns Committee-Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Presbyteral Council, Preston County Ministerial Association & Ethics Committee, Priest Mentor Committee-Chairperson (1993), Inter Province Committee on Corporate Responsibility (1994), Mission Fulfillment Task Force (1994-1999), Synodal Commission on Church (1997-2000), Province Pastoral Planning Committee (1999), Presbyteral Council, Diocesan Consultor (2000), Bishop's Cabinet (2000), Executive Secretary, Diocesan Pastoral Council (2001), Executive Staff of Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston (2005), and Vicar for Planning (2006). In addition, Father Jerome was a member of a number of Church and Civic Societies including the Catholic Theological Society of America, Amnesty International, Knights of Columbus, Priests Eucharistic League, National Catholic Evangelization Association, The Liturgical Conference, PAX CHRISTI USA, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. He was also engaged in various literary publications. He was publisher of the S.C. Alert, an editor

See "Obituary" on Page 9

McKenna. Father Jerome was pre-deceased by his brothers, Thomas, Jerome Matthew, and Patrick. In addition to the members of his Congregation, Father Jerome leaves his brother Joseph, (spouse: MaryLou Libell), Regis (spouse: Dianne Page), Brother Robert McKenna, CP, many devoted nephews and nieces, family members and friends.

A Memorial Mass for Father McKenna will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 23 at 12:05 p.m.

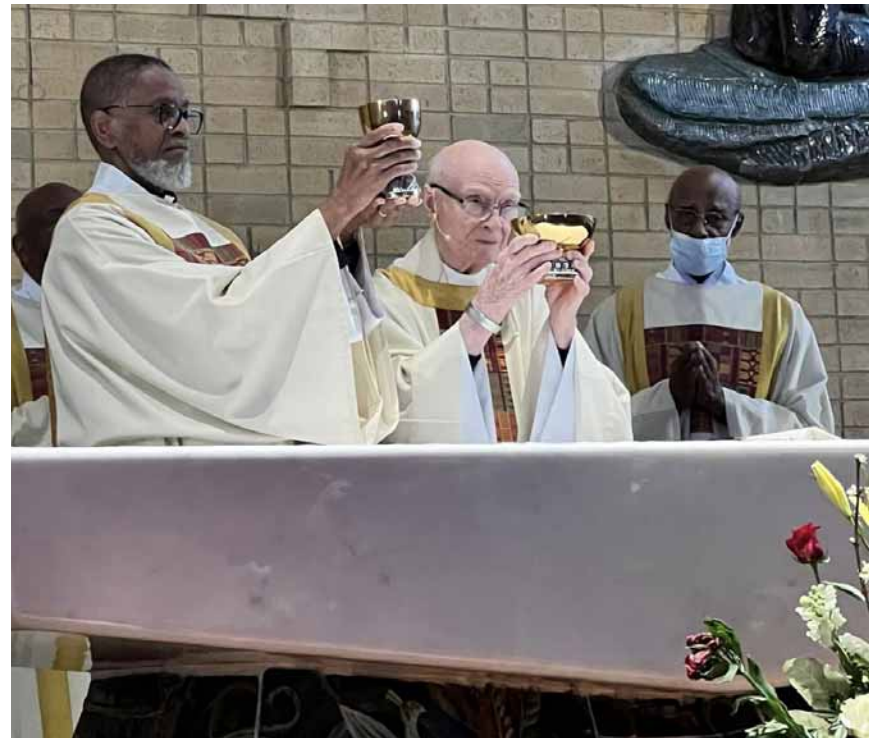
Father Jerome graduated from High School at Holy Cross Minor Seminary, Dunkirk, New York in 1950. Father Jerome's First Profession into the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ was on July 17, 1951 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His Final Profession was on July 17, 1954 in Brighton, Massachusetts. From 1951 to 1955 he completed undergraduate studies acquiring an academic degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from St. Gabriel's Passionist Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. Between 1955 and 1958 he engaged in academic studies at Holy Family Monastery, West Hartford, Connecticut and St. Michael's Monastery, Union City, New Jersey achieving an academic degree of Master of Arts in Theology. On April 25, 1958, Father Jerome entered into Holy Orders being ordained a priest by Bishop Cuthbert M. O'Gara, CP, at St. Michael's Church in Union City, New Jersey. In 1958, Father Jerome also completed his studies in Sacred Eloquence at Our Lady of Sorrows Passionist Monastery in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Father Jerome's final academic achievement was in 1961 when he completed an academic degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, Italy.

His Passionist ministry proclaiming the love of God in the Passion of Jesus Christ spanned more than 63 years and included official leadership responsibilities throughout the Province, including work in Union

Final Homily of Father Jerome McKenna Sends Message for Us All

"There is no greater joy than to go to bed at night and to know I've given God my best."

—From Father Jerome McKenna's last ever Easter homily, March 31, 2024



Courtesy Photo

Father Jerome McKenna celebrates Easter Mass March 31.

By Joyce Bibey

The 3 p.m. hour on Divine Mercy Sunday – the hour that is considered a privileged time, when Christ died on the Cross; and the Divine Mercy hour when we are to mindfully put ourselves at the foot of the Cross – this was the hour, six days shy of his 94th birthday, that Father Jerome McKenna, passed away.

Father Jerome McKenna was born on April 13, 1930, and died April 7, 2024. Although in his 90s, Father Jerome was very active in his ministry, serving as pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Roman Catholic Church in Atlanta.

A native of Pittsburgh, Father Jerome's First Profession into the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ was on July 17, 1951, and he was ordained a priest on April 25, 1958.

Those in West Virginia know Father Jerome as pastor of parishes in Preston County from 1981-2000. In 1987, he started a youth camp held in Huttonsville for the children of his parishes. The camp was later named Camp McKenna after him and his family, who helped with the funding for it. Camp McKenna is now in its 36th year.

In 2000, Father Jerome's Passionist ministry continued in an executive staff position, serving the entire Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as the director of diocesan planning and pastoral services. Then he served the diocese as the Vicar General from 2005-2009.

It was in 2009, his congregation moved his ministry to St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Atlanta, where he was loved beyond measure. In a letter late Sunday to parishioners announcing the padre's passing, the parish staff noted, "We have lost a wonderful person and pastor today, and we will never be the same without Father Jerome in our lives. May God's grace surround our congregation during this time of loss and may our pastor's legacy continue to inspire and guide us."

In what would be Father Jerome's last ever Easter Mass homily (March 31, 2024), his sincere words, tone of his voice, and

See "Message" on Page 9

Obituary...

Cont'd from Page 8

of Compassion magazine, a contributor to the Whole Earth Papers, and a participant and contributor for the radio series, The Catholic Perspective-Catholic Sound Bites (1990-1994).

Finally, Father Jerome was decorated by the Holy See on December 15, 2006 with the Cross of Honor-Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

At St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in Atlanta, a wake and viewing and vigil service were held April 10 with Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., of Atlanta presiding. A Mass of Transferal was celebrated April 11 with Auxiliary Bishop Bernard E. Shlesinger, III of Atlanta presiding. Concelebrating were Auxiliary Bishop Joel M. Konzen, SM, and Auxiliary Bishop John Nhàn Tr n of Atlanta. The homilist was Father Paul A. Burke.

In Pittsburgh, a wake will be held 3-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, 148 Monastery Avenue. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at the monastery at 10 a.m. Friday, April 19. Interment immediately following Mass in Passionist Cemetery. A Memorial Mass for Father Jerome will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 23 at 12:05 p.m.

rated in the life of the Risen Lord. We are members of the living body of Christ. God works through everyone. We through our calling – through our special bond of baptism – are to announce to the world that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We have to really proclaim that loudly and clearly by the way we live, by the way we act, and by the way we carry out the affairs of our life – not just our personal life, but our social life as well.

God wants to see in us – as we live in this world – a reflection of Jesus.

What a task we have before us! The Lord never leaves us unchallenged. The challenge is always there – ‘become the people God wants us to be.’ He needs our cooperation.

We are called to that renewal – recommitment of our baptismal vows.

It is really very extremely important to understand who we are, and what we are about, and what our task is. As long as we live in this world, we know we are children of God.

We can say ‘no’ to God because we are selfish. We’re concerned with ‘what I want – me, myself, and I.’ Selfishness is a strug-

gle of original sin. Get rid of selfishness!

Being here (at Mass shows) you want to be a better person. (You want to) share more fully in the Risen Lord.

God knows – there are far too many people that are less fortunate than you and me. They have not been touched by the Risen Lord. That is where you and I enter the picture. We are called to be Christ (for others). We can move mountains with the intent faith and power Jesus prayed with. (When we) gather here to offer supreme prayer – the prayer of Jesus – and join Him, (be) in union with Him. We can give God no greater gift!

We have to look at reality – what kind of society we live in today. It’s very divisive. There is a lot of hate, a lot of vengeance. There’s a lot of murder. There’s a lot of racism. You name it and it’s there. The world and especially our society today is changing – (unrecognizable) elements of even being human. The way we treat one another... There are so many people today that are the victim – victimized by the attitude of others who see themselves superior to a sister and brother in the flesh. We

can’t afford that! We dare not do that, because we are Christian. We sing it. It was said by the Romans, ‘They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. They will know we are Christian by our love!’ And that love is not exclusive! It’s total embracement and we have to show that love to our neighbor.

How are you going to teach them about God? (It’s) by the way we live – actions are louder than words. Be faithfully active in regard to our neighbor.

We have a duty to fulfill. We have a beautiful ministry to share with our neighbor. Let’s get to work!

There is no greater joy than to go to bed at night and to know I’ve given God my best.

Let’s do our part! Let’s all do our part to really be the people God calls us to be and to rely constantly on His grace and His blessing and the guidance of His spirit which never really guides us in the wrong direction in order that we might in our own time – whether we are young or whether we are old – fulfill the will of God and bring the world back to the Kingdom that God has planned for us all.

Message...

Cont'd from Page 8

accentuating gestures are certainly a lasting inspiration for all to hear and take heed.

The following are excerpts of his opening comments and homily from that Easter Mass at St. Paul of the Cross (the homily was shared with permission of the Georgia parish on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DioceeseofWheelingCharleston>):

Easter Mass! This is the greatest day of the Christian year – the greatest day in world history!

The Lord throws a challenge out to us not from the grave, but His glorious Risen Body. He calls us to share in His life as we travel our journey in life to really join him in the fullness of life that only God can offer us in and through Jesus.

The lord never really leaves us unchallenged.

God is patient with us. The word of God is always powerful. It’s always penetrating if we have ears to hear, eyes to see and a heart – really – open. The Word of God... makes us come alive, not through our own power, not through our own ability. All we have to do is open ourselves through Almighty God and allow the Spirit of God to enter in... to make us that new person God calls us to be.

We take life for granted. We live for what we see and hear and taste and touch. We always have to have proof of everything. (But) God didn’t create us for this world.

He never gives up on us. He sees all of us as His children whether we are old, whether we are young, and all in between. (Let us) focus on a life well lived for the Glory of God.

We are not here for nothing. You and I through our baptism are incorpo-

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Hazards of Marijuana Use Will be Focus of Community Discussion at Bridgeport Parish

BRIDGEPORT — The 11th Community Conversation on Substance Use Disorder will be held on Thursday, April 18, at All Saints Parish Social Hall, 317 East Main Street in Bridgeport. The focus will be on the hazards of marijuana use for adolescents, adults, and the community. A panel of experts will be addressing specific topics regarding this issue. This Community Conversation has been organized by the Healthcare Ministry of All Saints Catholic Church.

During a Resource Hour from 5-6 p.m., people will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with Substance Use Disorder Specialists, as well as having time to network and enjoy refreshments. Featured speakers will present from 6-8 p.m.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Mita M. Johnson, will share lessons learned specific to marijuana use in Colorado since the advent of medical marijuana and the legalization of recreational marijuana: the controversies that have developed in health care, the legal system, its effect on families, and socioeconomic impact.

The panel of speakers include: Dr. Jen Ran-

dall Reyes who will address the effects of marijuana use on the developing brain.

Information on the Catch My Breath prevention program will be presented by Dr. Denice Kirchoff.

Brian Perky, commander of the Greater Harrison County Drug Task Force, will speak about the hazards of cannabinoid vaping and Delta 8, 9, and 10.

The Opioid Settlement Disbursement will be the topic of special guest, J. B. McCuskey, audi-

tor of the State of West Virginia.

Jonathan A. Board, vice president of External Affairs for Vandalia Health, will speak about the vision he brings to his work as director of Region 4 of the WV First Foundation.

Over the past eight years of these Community Conversations, hundreds of attendees have obtained the most up-to-date information on Substance Use Disorder. Knowledge is power. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please attend . . .

Community Conversation #11 On Substance Use Disorder (It's NOT Just Pot!)

Thursday, April 18th, 2024

**All Saints Catholic Church Social Hall
317 East Main Street, Bridgeport**

**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Resource Hour
Speak with Substance Use Disorder Specialists**

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Featured Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Mita M. Johnson, Ed.D

LESSONS LEARNED FROM MARIJUANA USE IN COLORADO

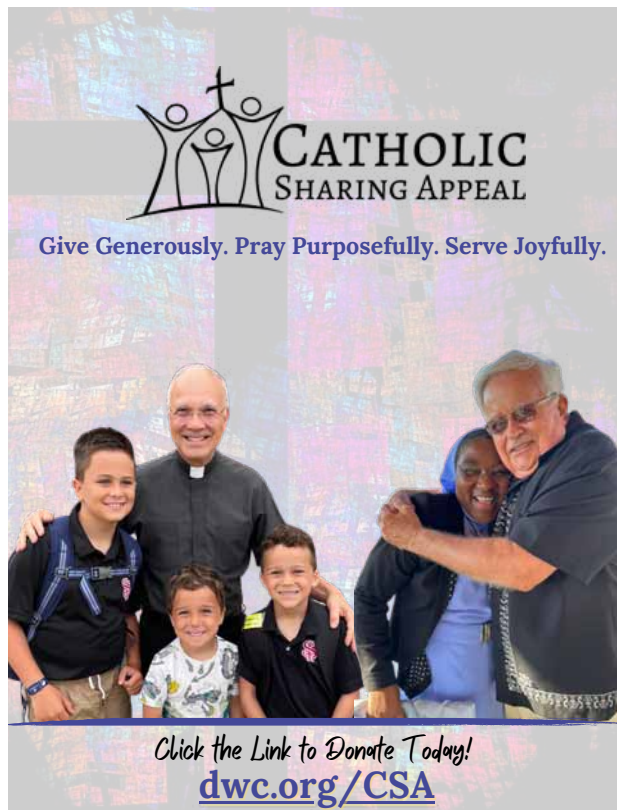
Jen Randall Reyes, Ph.D, ALPS, LPC, AADC
Marijuana and the Developing Brain

J. B. McCuskey, WV State Auditor
The Opioid Settlement Disbursement

Jonathan A. Board, Executive Director of WV First Foundation

Organized by the Healthcare Ministry of All Saints Catholic Church

Everyone is Welcome!



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St. George Camporee
hosted by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Catholic Committee on Scouting

The St. George Camporee will be held at Camp Mountaineer located outside of Morgantown, WV. **All Troops and Crews in Scouts BSA are welcome and encouraged to attend.** The camporee will feature the following activities: climbing, shooting sports, service, and Mass.

When: Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28, 2024
Where: Camp Mountaineer, Morgantown, WV
Cost: \$12 | \$25 after April 5
Includes: Saturday dinner, patch, and materials. All early-bird registrants will also receive a t-shirt, while supplies last.

Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/615-71430>



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Pope Francis Grants Plenary Indulgences for National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, Congress Participants

By Maria Wiering, OSV News

(OSV News) — Participants in the National Eucharistic Congress and related National Eucharistic Pilgrimage now have opportunities to receive plenary indulgences, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced April 9.

“It is with gratitude to the Holy Father that we receive his Apostolic Blessing upon the participants in the National Eucharistic Congress, and for the opportunity for Catholics in our country to obtain a plenary indulgence by participating in the events of the Eucharistic Revival,” he said in a USCCB statement.

According to the statement, Archbishop Broglio, who also leads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, had requested that a plenary indulgence be available to Catholics who participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and that “he or another prelate be designated to impart the Apostolic Blessing with a Plenary Indulgence” to the faithful joining the National Eucharistic Congress.

The requests were granted in two separate decrees by the Apostolic Penitentiary, an office with the church’s central administrative body known as the Roman Curia, which grants the use of indulgences “as expressions of divine mercy,” the statement said. Both decrees were approved by Pope Francis.

The congress and preceding pilgrimage are efforts of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. bishops that began in 2022 to inspire greater understanding of and love for Jesus in the Eucharist. Held in Indianapolis July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium, the congress aims to bring together tens of thousands of Catholics for liturgies, devotions and well-known Catholic speakers.

Beginning the weekend of May 17-18, 24 young adults in four groups are traveling thousands of miles to the congress from

starting points in California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Texas. Pilgrims in this National Eucharistic Pilgrimage plan to travel — often by foot — with the Eucharist in a monstrance, with stops along the routes for Mass and Eucharistic

adoration at local parishes and national shrines. The “perpetual pilgrims” anticipate thousands of Catholics from across the country will join them at pilgrimage events or journey with them for segments of the routes.

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chair of the board of directors of the National Eucharistic Congress, told OSV News that the “tradition of giving an indulgence for pilgrimages and important celebrations

is ancient.”
 “We are grateful to the Holy Father through the Apostolic Penitentiary that offers this blessing to those who are seeking to grow in greater purity of heart
See “Indulgences” on Page 12



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

Adult Pricing

\$919

Triple/Quad

\$1,119

Double

\$1,619

Single

Travel Insurance

Cancel for any reason (“CFAR”) travel protection is highly recommended
 See Travel Insured link:
www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47907&p=CTS21

LAST CHANCE!

Be part of our WV delegation! Come to the NEC with us!

“It is going to be invigorating to see the faithful of WV at the National Eucharistic Congress representing their local parishes. I’m happy we are partnering with Corporate Travel, a Catholic company that specializes in Catholic pilgrimages, to ease the travel logistics burden for us.”

-Bishop Brennan

Tour Inclusions

- NEC Congress Pass (5 Days)
- Four (4) nights’ accommodations in or near Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily (pending hotel assignment)
- Roundtrip transportation via deluxe motorcoach
- Daily transportation from hotel to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium
- Gratuities payable to motorcoach drivers

3 Step Registration Process

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information, select your rooming configuration, enter payment information, and acknowledge our terms and conditions.
3. Upon completion, you will receive a confirmation email with your diocesan code and a video tutorial providing instructions for finalizing your registration on the official National Eucharistic Congress’ website.



Payment Schedule:

\$750 per person deposit due upon registration
 Remaining balance due April 17, 2024

Travel Insurance: www.travelinsred.com/agency?agency=47907&=CTS21



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NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

Sister Therese Carew Celebrating 40th Jubilee

Sister Therese Carew was born in Aurora, IL. It was the Franciscan charism that resonated with her and eventually led her to the congregation. She said, "I love the spirit of St. Francis. I encounter God in creation and people."

Sister professed her first vows in 1987 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, IL. After her time of religious formation, she pursued a B.S. in Social Work from Governor State University in University Park, IL., and a M.S. in Social Work from the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign, IL. Her passion was working with people with special needs. Consequently, she accepted a position at ARC of Wabash County working for eight years with people having physical and mental disabilities. She would say, "I am a better person for knowing and working with these people."

Sister then moved to Kermit, W.Va., where for 13 years she administered Christian Help, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving the low to no income population in the heart of Appalachia. In addition to these ministries, she worked for eight years as a social worker in healthcare institutions in Illinois.

Sisters always brought her compassion and patience to those with whom she interacted and offered hope and new possibilities. When asked what advice she would give to someone considering a religious vocation she said, "Find a religious community where you feel at home. Join them and enjoy the journey and remember that 'God doesn't call the qualified. God qualifies the called.'"

Sister will celebrate her 40th jubilee on June 8, 2024, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort, IL.



Indulgences...

Cont'd from Page 11

through the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress," he said. "These events will be great moments of conversion which this indulgence points to as we seek to be free from the effects of our sins. We are grateful for the Holy Father's blessing on these events.

He added, "Pope Francis himself said that (the) 'National Eucharistic Congress marks a significant moment in the life of the Church in the United States' and he prayed that the National Eucharistic Congress would guide men and women throughout our country to the Lord who, by his presence among us, rekindles hope and renews life."

According to the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Indulgences are the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. The faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains the indulgence under prescribed conditions for either himself or the departed. Indulgences are granted through the ministry of the Church which, as the dispenser of the grace of redemption, distributes the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints."

One may obtain indulgences for other people, but can only apply them to the souls in purgatory. One may also obtain the indulgence for oneself. But one cannot apply an indulgence to another living person; that person (unlike someone in purgatory) can still obtain one for himself or herself.

The plenary indulgence for National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is granted to anyone who participates in the pilgrimage between May 17 and July 16, as well as to elders, people with infirmities and "all those who cannot leave their homes for a serious reason and who participate in

spirit with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, uniting their prayers, pains, or inconveniences with Christ and the pilgrimage," the USCCB statement said. To receive the indulgence, an individual must fulfill the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

In granting the indulgence, the Apostolic Penitentiary requests that all priests with appropriate faculties "present themselves willingly and generously in administering the Sacrament of Penance" to pilgrimage participants, according to the statement.

The second decree of the papal blessing with plenary indulgence for the National Eucharistic Congress empowers Archbishop Broglio or another prelate assigned by him to impart it, following Mass, to the faithful participating in the congress. As is the case with the previous indulgence, Catholics must be truly repentant of their sins, be motivated by charity, and meet the usual conditions of sacramental confession, Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

However, Catholics who "due to reasonable circumstances and with pious intention" cannot be physically at the congress may also receive the indulgence if they have participated in Mass and received the blessing through media communications.

"Through the efforts of the revival over the last two years, we have been building up to the pilgrimage and congress that will offer Catholics a chance to experience a profound, personal revival of faith in the Eucharist," said Archbishop Broglio. "Pope Francis continues to encourage and support us as we seek to share Christ's love with a world that is desperately in need of Him."

The National Eucharistic Revival continues after the congress through 2025 with a "Year of Missionary Sending."

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

Sunday, April 14: SS Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; 10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 15: Corpus Christi, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood; 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 21: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood; 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 28: St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 5: St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12: Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 13: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 22: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 25: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 25: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 26: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1: St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9: Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 15: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16: St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Be Part of this Historic Event!
*The pilgrimage comes to the Northern
Panhandle of West Virginia June 20-24*

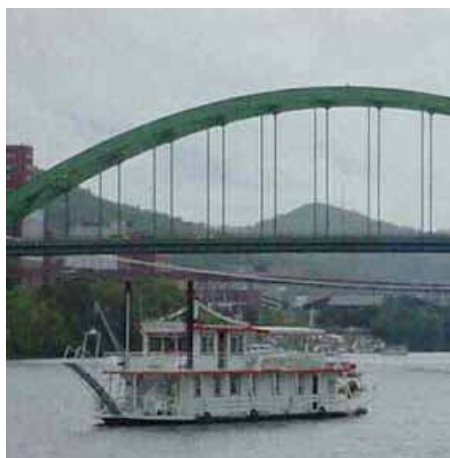


FROM THE EAST

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route

Welcome perpetual pilgrims to the Mountain State!

Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as they share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.



Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

Weirton:

St. Joseph the Worker
Sacred Heart of Mary
St. Paul's

Wheeling:

Cathedral of St. Joseph
St. Alphonsus



Pilgrimage Events

**Thursday, June 20,
National Eucharistic Pilgrimage
Kickoff in Weirton**

St. Joseph the Worker Church: Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.

Eucharistic Procession from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

Friday, June 21

Morning Mass with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 23

**“Put Out into the Deep” on the
Ohio River!”**

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil—8:30 p.m. (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

Monday, June 24

Mass at the cathedral celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

Solemn Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

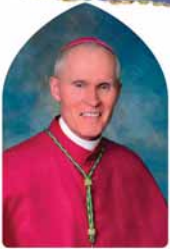
For more information, visit:

www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route

Peregrinación Al Congreso Nacional Eucarístico

INDIANÁPOLIS
17-21 DE JULIO, 2024

Con nuestro Obispo Monseñor Mark Brennan
de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston



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UN MENSAJE DEL OBISPO MARK BRENNAN SOBRE EL CONGRESO NACIONAL EUCHARÍSTICO

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

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

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

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

Prayer Service Recalls Lives, Love, Legacy of Six Workers Who Perished in Bridge Collapse

By Marietha Góngora V., OSV News

BALTIMORE (OSV News) — A large congregation attended a prayer service and vigil April 8 at Sacred Heart of Jesus/Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Church in Baltimore to accompany those who lost their loved ones in the March 26 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, in which six Hispanic workers perished.

During the bilingual prayer service, the flags of Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — their countries of origin — were placed in the sanctuary next to the flags of the Holy See and the United States.

“We’ve seen, since the tragedy occurred, the family of faith really coming together in a beautiful way,” Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori told the Catholic Review, the archdiocesan news outlet. “Certainly, this parish, certainly Catholic Charities, the Apostleship of the Sea, the Knights of Columbus are offering assistance as well.

“I think it’s not just the material assistance; it’s the spiritual assistance. It’s the accompaniment because these wives and moms and children have lost their husbands and fathers in the most tragic way, and we just have to surround them with love,” the archbishop said.

Redemptorist Father Ako Walker, pastor of Sacred Heart who has been accompanying the families hit by this immeasurable loss, said, “We have to have confidence and hope knowing the presence of Jesus in all this. There are questions and uncertainty, but we have faith and hope, and we know perfectly well that Jesus never abandons us; we have to walk in our lives trusting in his presence.”

Along with youths and families with children, the solemn service was attended by Lora Hargrove, Maryland’s interfaith outreach director, and Democratic Gov. Wes Moore. Hargrove recalled, one by one, the names of Miguel Luna, Maynor Suazo Sandoval, Dorlian Castillo Cabrera, Jose Mynor Lopez, Carlos Hernandez and Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes.

“This is a tremendous loss for the families of their six loved ones. We will not forget the impact of their lives on their own families within the Hispanic community, on the Baltimore community at large, and on the state of Maryland. Alejandro, Jose, Dorlian, Miguel, Maynor and Carlos will not be forgotten,” she said.

“They were not just hard workers; they were devoted husbands, loving fathers, caring



OSV News Photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review
Hundreds gather outside Sacred Heart of Jesus/Sagrado Corazón de Jesús in Baltimore following an April 8 prayer service and candlelit procession in memory of the six crewmen who perished in the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.

brothers and supportive uncles. We have come tonight to thank God for their lives, their love and their legacies that will remain forever in our hearts,” Hargrove said.

During the prayer service, songs in English and Spanish contrasted with six minutes of silence in memory of each of the victims.

At the close of the prayer service, Archbishop Lori stated that “a tragedy, such as our community has experienced often has a twofold effect.”

“First, of course, we were shocked and dismayed, and we struggled to come to terms with what happened,” he said. “But once that begins to settle, often another effect rises up. We band together. Tragedy can shake us out of our ways.

“We’re used to seeing things or doing things. It can make you and me shift our gaze, helping us to pay attention to the things that really matter, prompting us to let go of the little things that often consume our lives, moving our hearts to see the needs of those who are suffering in our very midst.”

“When this happens, we get a glimpse of how God’s grace is at work in our world, making possible their redemption of even the most terrible of events,” he continued. “This doesn’t take away our pain, nor does it ... answer all of our questions. But it does fill us with a deeper sense of hope. The light is not meaningless then, even if we cannot see it now, and even through the pain we are going through.”

Archbishop Lori noted the prayer service was taking place on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “remembering a moment that would change the course of human history, the moment when the word through whom all things were made.”

“Jesus Christ took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and came to dwell among

us. Gathered tonight is a family of faith, a family of mourning,” he said.

At the conclusion of the service, he said, “God is here with us. God has made a dwelling among us even in our deepest darkness. God is there to be with us, so we fear no evil because he is with us. And not only is he with us, he truly knows us. He loves us.”

Afterward, the vigil began with a walk along the streets surrounding the church. Those gathered, each with a lit candle, made six stops to remember these family men who lost their lives while doing their work. Carlos Sauzo Sandoval, brother of fallen bridge crewman Maynor Suazo Sandoval, was among family members who participated. He received the personal condolences of Archbishop Lori and Auxiliary Bishop Bruce A. Lewandowski.

The pilgrimage was led by several volunteers who carried on their shoulders a platform with six wooden crosses covered with reflective vests, with the flag of the country of origin and their names in front of each cross.

The religious music that filled the air and the passing of the pilgrims walking with their lit candles beckoned neighbors to their doors and windows to observe the vigil.

Delmy Ramos, a Catholic who participated in the prayer service and vigil, lives three blocks from the bridge.

“It has been very sad,” he said, adding, “We Hispanics are accompanying the grieving families and praying for them, too, because they died fixing the bridge so that we could pass safely. May God receive them with his open arms.”

(Marietha Góngora V. writes for the Catholic Review, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.)

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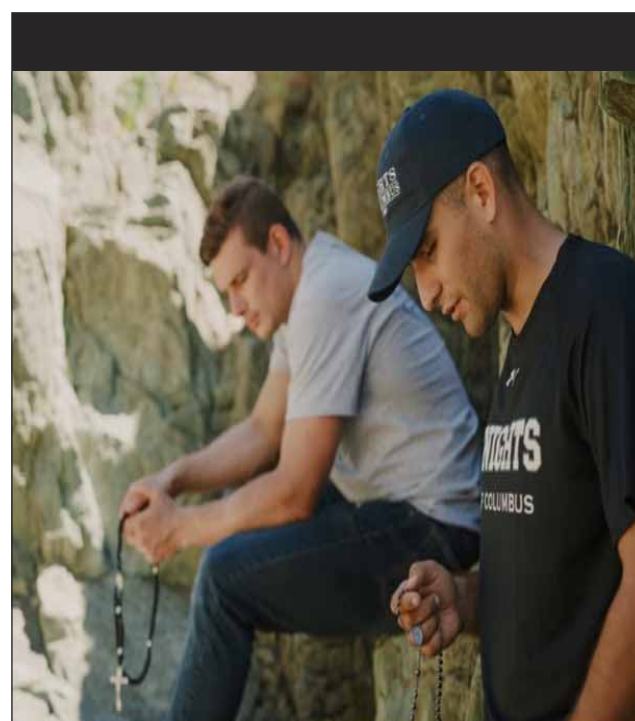


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