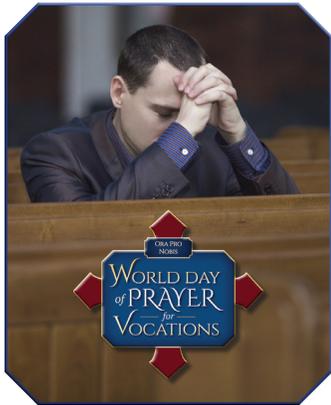




WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 30th is 60th World Day of Prayer for Vocations!

God is calling young men and women to vocations to honor Christ by our lives, words, and actions every day.



The Church concentrates this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

Let us be completely present on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, joining our voices in offering countless prayers around the world for an increase of laborers to the Church – laborers with Christ.

“The Lord’s call – is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch,” Pope Francis said.

St. Junipero Serra, canonized by Pope Francis on Sept. 23, 2015, is the patron saint of vocations to Church ministry. A group of lay Catholics, men and women of all ages and backgrounds, called Serrans, are dedicated to promoting and fostering vocations. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston we have three formal Serra Clubs around the state: Wheeling ([CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)), Charleston ([CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)), and Clarksburg (contact Immaculate Conception Parish and the Clarksburg Vicariate (contact Very Rev. Casey Mahone, Vicar Forane at 304-622-8243 for more information).

Check out these vocation stories:

- Father Phillip Szabo, who was ordained into the priesthood on May 29, 2021, was featured in a video posted in Spring 2020 by Saint James Church in Charles Town, which highlights his ordination to the transitional diaconate. Watch it here: [FB.WATCH/4_OIoVy8dT/](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4_OIoVy8dT/)
- Popular Ascension Media faces - Fr. Mike Schmitz, chaplain for Newman Catholic Campus Ministries at the University of Minnesota; and Fr. Josh Johnson, pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in the Diocese of Baton Rouge - share their honest and sincere vocation stories through an Ascension Press video you can see at: [YOUTU.BE/ETW5XG37QF0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETW5XG37QF0)
- Nationally recognized Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, shared her story in a series of videos presented by Franciscan University of Steubenville. Check it out here: [YOUTU.BE/3Gc41cN9eLA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Gc41cN9eLA)

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who will not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen.

MAY A MONTH TO CELEBRATE MARY OUR BLESSED MOTHER

May! What a beautiful month to honor our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven – Our Lady of Peace.



In West Virginia, the gorgeous colors of our hills and valleys come alive. Dogwoods, rhododendrons, sassafras, and sugar maples awaken. The sweet fragrance of lily of the valley, and peony fill the air.

We have been celebrating Mary during the month of May since the early Church. While there are beautiful formal prayers to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, this one-line, prayerful plea, recited habitually throughout the day by St. Teresa of Calcutta is beautiful and heartfelt in its simplicity:

“Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.”

Mary is perfect example of true and loving discipleship. As she offered Jesus and the disciples her prayers and motherly love, she offers us the same through her intercessions. We honor her and her role as being chosen to the Mother of God. We pray for her intercession through the Hail Mary, the rosary, novenas, and litanies among others.

Mary Altar

From May 1 to May 31, dedicate a small area of your home for a Mary Altar. Think of it as a little prayer spot, showcasing your favorite items that remind you of Our Blessed Mother. You can start with a sweet statue or artwork of Mary and then add flowers, your rosary(s), and a candle. If you have children, let them help direct

what to place in this space. Show off their drawings of her and maybe even write down a personal prayer asking for her intercession.

Let this designated area be one that is a visible reminder of the Holy Mother of God, her importance in our lives and in the life of the Church.

“Mary is close, she can hear us, she can help us, she is close to every one of us,” said Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Resources to Honor Mary this Month

The best way to celebrate Mary is to call upon her in prayer, formally with the Hail Mary, the Angelus, and the Rosary (all found at FAITHINWV.ORG).

Also think a little outside the box - step out in style! Wear blue in honor of Mary. Maybe donning some fun socks with her image or a graphic tee (see options below)? Maybe consider adding a hand carved Madonna statue made in our region. Have fun being creative in your Marian celebration this month.

- [TOTALLY CATHOLIC TEES](#), where you can snag retro t-shirts and more to honor Mary. The company is family owned. Sharing their enthusiasm for their Catholic faith, Sam and Tracy Bryant, created Totally Catholic Tees about 30 years ago dedicated to “spreading the Gospel through apparel,” and it’s still going strong.
- [THE CATHOLIC COMPANY](#) is a great resource for books, home goods, jewelry, and some super styling socks! The company began after the Sept. 11, 2001 horrific events that shook the US and the world, with the thinking, “The answer to all of our world’s problems is a deeper relationship with Our Lord and specifically with His Catholic Church.”
- Find a little bit of everything from holy cards to impressive statues, art, and gifts at [CATHOLIC TO THE MAX](#). The Steubenville, Ohio based store is owned by Mark and Gretchen Nelson, who opened their doors in 1994. Most everything they sell is handcrafted and made in their workshop, “focusing on the true and beautiful in our creations to help further God’s Kingdom.”

BISHOP GILBERT SHELDON, FORMER SHEPHERD OF THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE, REMEMBERED

STEUBENVILLE — The Diocese of Steubenville’s third bishop, Gilbert I. Sheldon died April 24 at the age of 96. Bishop Sheldon served as a bishop for 26 years, 16 as an auxiliary in Cleveland and 10 as diocesan bishop in Steubenville.



Diocese of Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton said, “Bishop Sheldon personified a shepherd’s generosity and compassionate heart. His love for the people of God was evident in his travels throughout the diocese as he shared the good news of Jesus Christ. As his episcopal motto illustrated, he was strong in the faith.”

Bishop Sheldon was born Sept. 20, 1926, in Cleveland, one of 12 children of the late Ignatius P. and Stephanie J. Olszewski Sheldon. He is survived by his sisters, Susan (Hans) Gossler of Munster, Indiana and Nancy A. Sheldon of Rocky River, Ohio.

He received his early education in Cleveland and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force, as an aviation cadet, upon graduation from high school in 1944.

Bishop Sheldon then went on to receive degrees from John Carroll University and St. Mary Seminary, both in Cleveland, and the Ohio Consortium of Seminaries,

Columbus, Ohio. In addition, Bishop Sheldon has been awarded honorary degrees from Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia, and Franciscan University of Steubenville.

He was ordained to the priesthood Feb. 28, 1953, by Diocese of Cleveland Archbishop Edward F. Hoban.

On June 11, 1976, he was ordained a bishop by Bishop, and later Cardinal, James A. Hickey. As an auxiliary bishop for the Cleveland Diocese, Bishop Sheldon was the vicar, Marriage and Family Concerns; vicar, Summit County; and vicar, Southern Region.

On April 2, 1992, he was installed as the bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville. During that time, he served on U.S. bishops’ committees for Latin America, Administration, National Advisory Council, Missions and Nominations, as well as a board member of the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus.

Visitation for Bishop Sheldon will be held at Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville, May 1, 9am-4pm and 7-9pm; vigil service is scheduled for 7pm. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11am, May 2 at Holy Rosary Church. Burial will take place following Mass.

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



TUESDAY = ONE MISSION ONE DAY

24-HOUR ONLINE FUNDRAISER FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Just a reminder for the 24 Catholic Schools in West Virginia. There are more than 4,400 reasons to motivate you to make a difference on Tuesday, May 2nd.

All 18 grade schools and six high schools will be participating in a 24-hour online state-wide giving day - *One Mission One Day to Make a Difference* to benefit their programs, facilities, and projects for more than 4,400 students.

The first Diocesan wide Catholic schools giving day was held in 2020 and since then, more than \$1.2 million has been raised for Catholic schools across the state. Each year the giving day has grown bigger and better and has become a crucial fundraising event each of our schools count on.

To help your local school or alma mater go to www.OMEDAY.org and select your school(s) that will receive your gift. Donations will go directly to the school or schools of choice. You can also text GIVE to 304-600-8123. Follow the hashtag #OneMissionOneDay on social media and check in on the leaderboard at OneMissionOneDay.org. You can also help your school by helping them spread the word - like and share their social media posts!

The event kicks off at 12:01AM May 2nd and continues

to 11:59 PM on May 3rd, but if you'd like to get an early start, donations have begun online. Organizers from the individual schools are eager too to see which school will raise the most money and which will have the most donors, because those schools will each receive a \$500 gift from the WV Catholic Foundation.

May 2, 2023
OneMissionOneDay.org
Support West Virginia Catholic Schools!
#OneMissionOneDay
Text GIVE to 304-600-8123
Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
ONE MISSION ONE DAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Just as Jesus said when he came out of the desert and John the Baptist preached, Peter tells the people, "Repent and be baptized!" And he added, "You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Jesus suffered for our sins and accepted the cross so we might live for righteousness.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus shepherds his flock to "have life and have it more abundantly."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/043023.CFM)
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/043023.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Pope Francis and all the bishops, that they may shepherd the Church as the Good Shepherd would, leading us all through dark valleys down right paths to verdant pastures of goodness and kindness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all leaders local and around the world, that they may find in the Good Shepherd an example to emulate as they lead their people with care and compassion, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious and concentrated life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For Catholics of all ages, that we make time to look for opportunities to grow in faith and serve others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



WV HOPE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15

The Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston confirmed its 24 schools across West Virginia are receiving many inquiries the Hope Scholarship program since the application process opened this spring. They are reminding interested families that the state's deadline for the program is May 15, cautioning that folks cannot wait until the last minute to apply because documentation is needed by the WV Treasure's office in order to process the applications.

The West Virginia Hope Scholarship (WVHS) is run by the WV Treasure Riley Moore's Office and can be used towards tuition and fees for non-public schools and home schools in the state. This scholarship is not run, managed, or determined by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston or the Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese. The website created by the state for the scholarship is: HOPESCHOLARSHIPWV.COM

The site declares, "Hope Scholarship is the state's education savings account program that gives parents an opportunity to build an individual learning experience that works best for their child. The scholarship allows K-12 students to receive financial assistance that can be used for tuition, fees and other expenses."

According to Moore's office, under the current school aid formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,488.82 for the 2023-2024 school year to use toward private school, alternative instruction programs, or home school. The amount is for each student and is not determined by income.

The state stipulates that money in the Hope Scholarship education savings account will be administered and through a third party and released by the parent/guardian for state

approved expenses. All purchases would be pre-approved by the state. Beyond tuition, the funds awarded can be spent on special services, transportation, extracurriculars, tutoring, materials, supplies, textbooks, transportation, etc.

To learn more about the Catholic Schools of West Virginia go to: WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG.

We are excited to have your PRESCHOOL student in KINDERGARDEN next year!

APPLY BEFORE MAY 15!

Studies found that Catholic Schools are outperforming their peers!

The NCES and NAEP reported that math and reading results for West Virginia's public-school scores are lower than the national average.

- Catholic schools scores remain **higher** than the state and national averages according to the Nation's Report Card reported by NAEP.

U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

	*WV 2021	**WVCS 2021
Proficiency in Math	28%	46.9% or advanced
Proficiency in ELA	40%	60.2% or advanced

*Data Source: wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-WV-Summative-Assessment-Results-Release-FINAL.pdf

**Data Source: NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

To learn more about WV Catholic Schools visit WVCatholicSchools.org

The application and registration period is now open for WV Catholic Schools. We welcome you to be part of our school family.

APPLY BETWEEN MARCH 1-MAY 15, 2023

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP WEST VIRGINIA

To learn more about the HOPE Scholarship or to apply visit hopescholarshipwv.com or scan the QR code.



The WV Hope Scholarship Program is a state-run plan that allows parents and families to utilize the state portion of their education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them.

Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.

BLESSED SANDRA SABATTINI ~ THE HOLY FIANCEE



Sandra Sabattini had a grateful and giving heart because she was grounded in Christ. She let others see Christ in her – a God that loves and shows mercy for all even those who feel unlovable. She is the first engaged woman to be beatified. We remember her on May 2, the anniversary of her death.

She was a medical student, engaged to the young man of her dreams, and was a member of a group, the Pope John XXIII Community, that served youth, poor, sick, and those with drug additions.

She kept a diary from the time she was 10. In it we learn her thoughts – “Life lived without God is just a way of passing time... boring or fun, time to be filled in while waiting for death.”

Blessed Sandra didn’t claim to be perfect by any means. In her own words she describes her struggles, and challenges with character and acceptance. She would often talk to her peers and others of the need to not only to avoid evil but also to aim for greatness.

“Today there are too many merely good Christians, while the world needs saints,” she wrote.

Her diary entries and miscellaneous notes were published by her priest friend Fr. Oreste Benzi after her death. Blessed Sandra died from injuries sustained after she was hit by a car on her way to her community meeting at the age of 22 on May 2, 1984.

Not long before she had told her mother she had a dream about dying. Two days before her accident she wrote this in her diary:

“This life is not mine that is evolving rhythmically by a regular breath that is not mine, enlivened by a peaceful day that is not mine. There is nothing in this world that is yours. Be aware of this! It is all a gift that the ‘Giver’ can act on whenever and however He wants. Take care of the gift you have been given, make it more beautiful and fuller for when the time comes.”

That quote illustrates Blessed Sandra’s belief that everything is a gift from God, who intervenes in his time and how he wants to. Our job is to take care of the gift of life and nurturing not only our souls, but also to make things better for others – when we do our best we are preparing for when the time comes that we leave this earth.



PROVIDING A STEP UP

Catholic Charities West Virginia is committed to providing comprehensive services to promote physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

Brittani is a wife and mother who found herself dealing with Substance Use Disorder. She was referred to Catholic Charities by our community partner, Jobs & Hope, as part of her personal development and recovery plan. Brittani came to Catholic Charities to help prepare for the High School Equivalency (HiSet) exam, utilizing the distance education option to study from home while raising her two small children.

Brittani is a self-motivated learner who moved through the preparation courses quickly after enrolling in our learning center at the Catholic Charities Community Center of Huntington. When ready to register for her high-school equivalency testing, she found that no testing was scheduled where she lived. The Catholic Charities team facilitated her registration at a site in McDowell County. Brittani drove over two hours to complete her testing.

Her efforts paid off! Brittani passed the High School Equivalency exam. She is continuing her journey and is now enrolled in Mountwest’s Radiology program.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.



SS PHILIP AND JAMES THE LESS ~ PRAY FOR US

The feast of Saints Philip and James on May 3rd is a day to celebrate two men who chose to be followers of Christ and upon the Resurrection went out into the world to preach the gospel.

Jesus chose both men to be his apostles. Philip is mentioned in the gospel of John. He tells us Philip was from Bethsaida (the same as Andrew and Peter) and was the third man approached by Christ to “Follow me.” He was also the apostle that went to Nathanael and affirmed Jesus was indeed the Messiah “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth (John 1:43-51).”

James, who was also called “James the Less,” was either younger or smaller than the other Apostle named James. His mother was close to our Blessed Mother and stood with her at the cross. Christ appeared to James after His Resurrection. After Christ’s Ascension it was James who went out to begin the Christian church community in Jerusalem. He was the author of the first Epistle and was then referred to as “James the Just.” St. Paul calls him one of the pillars of our faith.

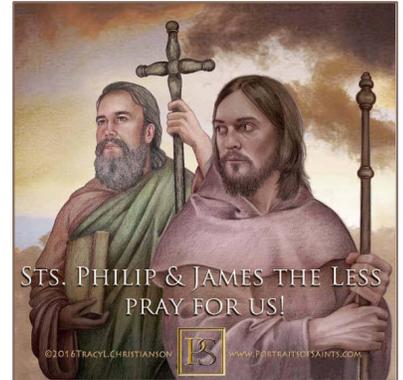
In his letter (James 5:13-20) he writes about the significance our role in the faith is by specifically addressing the power of prayer, confession, intercession, and conversion.

Both men were martyred for the faith.

Even though they did not die at the same time or place the Church honors these men together, because their remains/relics were moved and buried at the Basilica of the 12 Holy Apostles in Rome, on the same day.

Lord, give us the confidence and loyalty of these great saints in order to have a positive influence in your name in this world. AMEN

Editor’s note: the art with this article is by Tracy Christianson of Portraits of Saints.



SAINT DOMINIC A CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN

Saint Dominic Savio is a champion for children. The Church honors him on his feast day May 6. He died a month shy of his 15th birthday.

Saint John “Don” Bosco, who taught St. Dominic, wrote a book about his beloved pupil- *The Life of Dominic Savio*. In it he notes this quote that wraps up the mindset

of St. Dominic, “I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything. Even the smallest things for the greater glory of God.”

Bosco was St. Dominic’s teacher at the Oratory of St. Francis De Sales School and Youth Center. He said young Dominic took Bosco’s lessons and sermons seriously, specifically that we are all called to be saints. Bosco preached that, “Everyone is called to be a saint, and do you know, it is easy to be a saint. Just do this: diligently do the ordinary things of the day in an extra ordinary way.”

Saint Dominic responded to that by saying, “From now on, I am going to be very serious about becoming a saint.”

Advised by Bosco, Saint Dominic became a loyal “cheerful giver,” because Bosco would tell him, “Keep in mind that the Lord, Jesus is always with you and wants your happiness.”

About ten months before his death Dominic confided to Saint Don Bosco: “Father, I desire to do something for Mary, but I must do it at once. I want to share my love for the Blessed Mother with my companions. What can I do?” Together they agreed to start a group of students interested in promoting devotion to Mary, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus, and the good of the Oratory.

On December 6, 1876 nineteen years after his death Dominic appeared to Don Bosco. Dominic came to encourage and to advise Don Bosco about the future of his work for youth. In that vision Don Bosco asked his pupil, “Dominic, what gave you the most comfort at the hour of death?”

“What comforted me most at the point of death was the assistance of the powerful and loving Mother of God.”

St. Dominic Savio, pray for us.

Editor’s note: the art with this article is by Anna Morelli of Happy Saint Art is available on Etsy: www.etsy.com/shop/HappySaintArt

TEEN LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE WEEKEND SET FOR SUMMER 2023

West Virginians for Life have announced the 2023 Leadership for Life weekend for teens.

The second annual WV Teens for Life “Leadership for Life” weekend will be August 25-27 in Parsons, WV.

This event is open to all 13-17-year-olds (high school) Catholic or non-Catholic – and has the minimal fee of \$25,

The program will be led by WVFL Board Member Riley Keaton and his wife Sadie, Legislative Director for WVFL.

The *Leadership for Life* weekend will be focused on leadership skills mingled with traditional summer camping activities.

“Our passion for protecting life from womb to tomb brought Riley and I together,” Sadie Keaton said. “I can’t wait to share the beauty and purpose of the pro-life movement with young people.”

The Keatons have served the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in administrative roles for Camp Carlo Catholic adventure camp. Teens for Life leadership weekend will be held at Horseshoe Run in Parsons, WV. In addition to training and motivating peers to save lives in the pro-life movement, participants will also enjoy summer camping fun like rock climbing, campfires, hiking, swimming, archery, arts, and crafts, and more.

“First of all, we’re going to have an awesome time,” Riley Keaton said, and added that purpose and mission will be woven into all activities. “Our real focus is on the pro-life movement. What are the best strategies for changing hearts on abortion? How can we be pro-life every day? How can we contribute our leadership to build the culture of life from womb to tomb? It’s going to be an incredible experience for any young person.”

The Keatons said last year’s leadership camp was a great success.

“In between rock climbing, canoeing, and more, students dove headfirst into four concepts: Effective Education, Industry Impact, Public Policy, and Supportive Services,” he said.

Teens who attend the camp will focus on respect for life at all stages, but will also learn how important their role is, as well as how they can make a difference in their communities.

Like last year, the students will discuss and design projects they can do within their churches, groups, schools, etc. Further they will hear from the Keatons on their unique perspectives. Riley serves as a WV Delegate and Sadie will share her experiences not only as a legislative liaison for WVFL, but also how she got involved years ago with Teens for Life.

For more information and to register go to: WWW.WVFORLIFE.ORG/EVENT/LEADERSHIP-FOR-LIFE-WEEKEND/ or email questions to Sadie Keaton at sadie@wvforlife.org.



West Virginians **for Life**

At our annual Leadership for Life Weekend, teens experience a unique combination of traditional **fun-in-the-sun** summer camping activities and leadership training to SAVE LIVES in the pro-life movement.

PRO-LIFE LEADERSHIP
Weekend Retreat

August 25-27th, 2023
Friday, arrival: 4-6 pm
Sunday, pick up 9-10 am

- ROCK CLIMBING
- CAMP FIRE
- HIKING
- STRATEGIZING
- SWIMMING
- ARCHERY
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- AND MORE!

Address: 3309 Horseshoe Run Rd, Parsons, WV 26287 **Contact Info:** 304-476-9015 or sadie@wvforlife.org **Learn More and Register at:** wvforlife.org
Who: Youth ages 13-17 (High School)

