



“Let the light of Christ be Brightly Visible in West Virginia!”

Installation Homily Revisited: Encouragement for our *Walk with One*



On Thursday, August 22nd we celebrated Bishop Mark Brennan's fifth anniversary as our WV shepherd. Today we share his homily from his Installation Mass referencing Isaiah 9:1-6, the prophecy of Christ's birth and presence on earth to bring the people out of darkness. He used the Old Testament reading to give West Virginians hope, validation, and the charge to remain focused on God in the midst of great challenge and suffering.

Let his words be encouragement not only for our faith journey but inspire us on the mission to *Walk with One* – inviting another into the Church and before Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist.

“Isaiah’s message to an oppressed people does not end in the darkness. Hear it again: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

“My friends, it takes no humility on my part to admit that I am not the light. The light is the child born to us; the son given us. The light is Mary’s child, Jesus, the Light of the world. Through Him God has acted to bring his people out of darkness into his marvelous light. During these dark times, many others have persisted in reflecting Christ’s light of faith and love, despite their own struggle to make sense of the crisis that confronts us. I think of the parents who have continued to pray with their children and teach them right from wrong; the parish priests who have continued to preach the Gospel and baptize, marry and conduct funerals; the Catholic Charities personnel who have never ceased reaching out to those addicted to opioids or who lack food and clothing; the teachers in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs who have continued to show-up each and every day to form young people and adults in our faith; teenagers whose youth reflects so much promise and whose vibrant faith fills us with so much hope....

“Christ’s light has been shining in the darkness through all of them.... I thank God for these faithful West Virginia Catholics.... It is my fervent hope and prayer that we can begin to find our way forward... in confidence that the Lord will supply us with the wisdom and strength to do things better, to live our faith with greater integrity and to reflect more brightly, as far as our human weakness and limitations will permit, his own enduring light.

“A painful reality we must confront is the fact that some of our people have been so outraged or discouraged that they have

stopped going to Mass or even praying. Others have certainly been tempted to do so.... I would urge all of us to recall Jesus' prayer for his disciples the night before he died: 'I pray that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me' [John 17:21-22).

"Unity with one another and with God is what the Lord wants for us — and what, in our hearts, we truly desire. One man told me not long ago that he stopped going to Mass in his parish because of the recent scandals but then he asked himself: who was he helping by doing that? No one. Who was he hurting? Himself.... As Simon Peter said to the Lord when some disciples were leaving Jesus because of hard teachings, 'Lord to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life.'

"My many years as a parish priest... have shown me that the work of healing and renewal is the work of us all. Every one of us must find ways to reveal the light that overcomes all darkness, even in our own personal struggle to make sense and understand....

"In the face of social ills and many others, we dare to offer

something better: good news, very good news in the midst of very bad news, news too good to keep to ourselves. What is it? 'God so loved the world that He gave his only Son that all who believe in him might not perish but might have eternal life' [John 3:16]. We who believe in the Son of God know that his grace upholds us in the trials and joys of this life and will lead us on to eternity. That experience of Christ in his Church we must share with others. We must invite them to put their faith in the Savior God has sent, the Savior who even now abides with us.... We can let God fulfill his purpose in us and not let the darkness return to cover the earth.

"West Virginia Catholics: cherish your faith and the holy Church that has nurtured it. Make Mary's "yes" to God your own and work with me and your brothers and sisters to let the light of Christ be a light brightly visible in the mountains and valleys, the city streets and country roads of this beautiful part of God's creation: West Virginia!"



Celebrate Five with 5

for Bishop Brennan's Fifth Anniversary

As we honor the fifth anniversary of the installation of Bishop Mark Brennan as the Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we call upon the faithful to **Celebrate Five with 5!** This is an opportunity for us to commemorate Bishop Mark's milestone year with gifts Christ taught us were the greatest to give – prayer and works of mercy. Starting Tuesday, August 6th and throughout the year faithful will be able to go online to DWC.ORG/CELEBRATE-FIVE and gift their five.

Let Saints Monica and Augustine Inspire Your Walk with One

As we are called to spend the next year focused on our *Walk with One* – Invite One initiative – the call to bring another closer to Christ and the Church as part of our National Eucharistic Revival, let us look to Saints Monica and Augustine as inspiration and hope.



August 27th is the Memorial of St. Monica, and August 28th is the feast day of her son, St. Augustine.

For all who have left the Church and all who we are praying for to be our *Walk with One*, call upon the powerful intercessor – St. Monica! It is through her we learn not give up hope, be persistent, and do not

hesitate to go to our Almighty God with our big asks.

Saint Monica prayed tirelessly for 17 years that her son, Augustine, would return to his faith - our loving Christ and the Church. Although he was raised Catholic and well knowing of a devout prayer life thanks to his mother, Augustine chose to turn away from God. Prioritizing everything else but his faith, he lived a selfish and sinful life, looking for immediate gratification.

Saint Monica argued with Augustine, and she cried countless tears to no avail.

It was her pastor that told her to take her grief and plead with God not her son. So that she did. She begged God to have mercy on her son. She prayed to have complete trust in God that His will be done, and Augustine would come back to the Real Presence of Christ in the Church and ultimately be with her in Heaven.

Not only did her prayer become fruitful and he returned to embrace his Christian foundation, but her son would also return to the Church, serve as the Bishop of Hippo, and be known by generations as St. Augustine one of the greatest saints of all time.

His prayers are among the most beautiful and relatable ever written, including this one of hope, echoing eloquently his own mother's heart- For Light in Dark Times:

“God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and

threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage.

“Flood the path with light, run our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so, quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory.”

May we all be persistent in our call by our bishops to *Walk with One* – Invite One. Like St. Monica may we not give up hope, but turn to God in all of our needs.

Take time to learn more about the story of this North African woman of 16 centuries ago; how she also converted her husband and mother-in-law; and how Augustine like Christ agonized in a garden for God's mercy and randomly turned to the Bible (Romans 13:12-14) to hear Christ's Word.

Editor's note:

This beautiful image of young St. Monica is by John Nava. St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown has it displayed inside the church. St. Augustine is featured in the center of the group image also featuring Saints Jurgis Matulaitis, St. Bernard, John the Baptist and St. Maria Venegas, also created by Nava. His art in tapestries are also magnificently featured in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels, in Los Angeles. OLACATHEDRAL.ORG/TAPESTRIES



Walk with One



The *Walk with One* initiative encourages each active Catholic to share their gift of faith and love of the Eucharist with another – to become an evangelist for Christ and His Church. We are each to pray God helps us identify one person we can pray for, support, and invite back or into the Church as part of the National Eucharistic Revival. *Walk with One* is genuine spiritual companionship. With the help of Saints Monica and Augustine, we can approach it with the mindset of being a blessing for another not a burden.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
 Revival Year of Mission**

Walk +++
 with **One**
 +++

A Changing Moment...

By Mary Malamisura, of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield

I was leaning on a road divider, when I felt a tap on my shoulder and looked around to see a young man standing on the opposite side of the divider. He asked: "Do you have something in your life that you need us to pray for?" I looked around in amazement, wondering how he could know how heavy my heart felt at that moment. Realizing what a gift this was, I said "yes, I do. The morning, I left home to come here, I had a biopsy, and not knowing the result, I fear that it will change my life drastically." He said he was a missionary, serving a youth group from Texas, and asked a young teenager, who was standing nearby, if she would like to pray for me. She shyly pulled away, saying she did not have the words. I reached out for the young woman and held her hand as the young missionary said a beautiful prayer that God take away my fear, and that I simply trust in Him, and His love for me. As I thanked them, I reached in my pocket for a pin, I had brought with me to give to someone I thought might need that message and handed it to the shy girl. The words, "Enjoy Being on a Journey" encircled a heart with a cross in the middle. She seemed elated to receive it, and I was moved to ask her if she wanted to know the story behind the words, and she eagerly came closer.

I told her that when my son was 20 years old, he drowned in a kayaking accident. I become numb with grief and could not make any sense of the world around me. We went to his college dorm and there we noticed two

words on his door. Enjoy Being. As I stared at those two words, I realized that it was exactly as he had lived his life: finding Joy. He found gratitude in everyday, even those that did not turn out the way he had planned. I felt something turn inside of me, in my heart, and I realized that I had not once said, "thank you to God for the incredible soul he had given my family to love for those 20 years". Enjoy Being became a reminder to find gratitude, even in the bleakest of moments.

When I looked at her again, she was crying as she stared at the pin. I told her to remember to simply find gratitude, no matter the circumstances that she finds her life encountering. I gave her several more pins and told her to pass them on to others, who might need that message. She embraced me, saying "I will pray for you, too".

As I turned back to my group, I noticed a remarkable peace that had enveloped my heart. That nagging fear had disappeared.

As we departed, joining the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, our eyes locked, and she nodded as she touched the pin she had attached to her shirt, knowing that each of us would continue praying for the other.



*Editor's note: Mary is a Eucharistic Missionary - one of approximately 270 faithful from our WV parishes, missions, schools, campus ministries, and organizations that took part in the National Eucharistic Congress, where all present began the Walk with One initiative - a commitment our US Bishops pray all 70 million Catholics nationwide take seriously.
 #FaithInWV #NationalEucharisticCongress #WalkwithOne*



Reflection for Our Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Our Eucharistic Revival Prayer in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston calls us to prepare the way for the Lord with deep spirituality and active love. As Pope Francis and our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guide us through this current worldwide *Year of Prayer*, take time to focus on your prayer life. Let this prepare us all for our mission in the US to *Walk with One* and our global mission to enrich the life of the Church and all people of God. Let us be a hope for the world as we come closer to the pope's Jubilee Year 2025.

Below is our prayer broken in sections, providing each with a reflection.

**Father in heaven,
you have made us for yourself;**

As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "God created us to spread His goodness and love."

He made the world and all that is in it.

He is the author of life and the creator of Heaven.

He has given each one of us assigned talents, passions, and knowledge.

Let us in return serve Him, glorify Him, and praise Him.

our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Saint Augustine articulated the restlessness we face in life. We seem to be continually searching, worried, anxious, and taking wrong turns in hopes to find fulfillment. But what we are ultimately searching for is You, God! Let us approach YOUR table with the confidence that You are the joy we seek. You are the Bread of Life. WE thirst.

**Fulfill this longing through Jesus, the Bread of Life,
whose sacramental Body
we receive in the Eucharist,
so that we may witness to him
who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family.**

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux described her First Holy Communion as "the most wonderful day" of her life -

"Heavenly happiness which words cannot express."

Saint Gemma wrote "Jesus shows all His sweetness in the Blessed Sacrament. Is it even possible that there are souls who do not understand what the Blessed Eucharist is? Who are insensible to the Divine Presence... to the mysterious and fervent effusions of the Sacred Heart of my Jesus? The Eucharist is a school of paradise, where one learns how to love."

Heavenly Father, YOU are the source of all life by your love.

When we feel deep true love, we are granted just a glimpse of the love Christ has for us.

Under the appearances of bread and wine He instituted our Holy Communion and the partaking of the true Body and Blood of Christ. Contemplating His presence is how we discover - His true love!

**By the power of your Spirit
lead us to the heavenly table
where we may feast on the
vision of your glory for ever and ever.**

Jesus Christ's presence in the Eucharist is the real heaven among us.

It is through the Blessed Sacrament He invites us to enter into the life of the Holy Trinity.

Blessed Carlo Acutis left us with these words, "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of heaven. By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy."

God, encourage us through the Holy Spirit to fully embrace and share the joy of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, with others. Through the Eucharist let us accept our mission - to be One Body - unified by Your love and mercy, servants who crave the Bread of Life. God's love for eternity.

Amen.

WRITE TO LET YOUR SEMINARIANS KNOW YOU'RE PRAYING FOR THEM

Mount St. Mary's Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727



Dominic Re
 Birthday:
 February 10



Bryan Tedeschi
 Birthday:
 October 17



Travis Moger
 Birthday:
 June 25



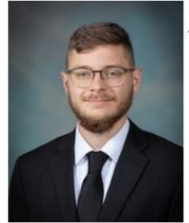
Michael Aiello
 Birthday:
 September 16



Nathan Schmidt
 Birthday:
 January 20



Christian Davis
 Birthday:
 October 4

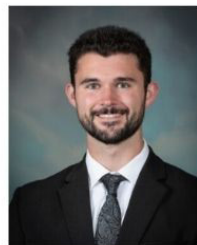


Andrew Dean
 Birthday:
 November 14

The Pontifical College Josephinum 7625 N High Street, Columbus, OH 43235



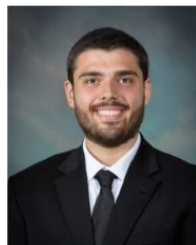
Timothy Kawash
 Birthday:
 July 22



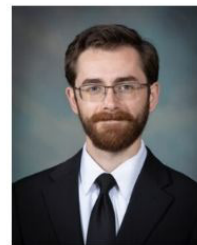
Peter Russman
 Birthday:
 April 16



David Hensler
 Birthday:
 July 29



Donvito Cortese
 Birthday:
 August 30



Reece Lopatka
 Birthday:
 June 5



Sebastian Lasko
 Birthday:
 September 18

Pope St. John Paul II College Seminary 145 Taylor Street NE, Washington, DC 20017



Joe Derico
 Birthday:
 February 16



Chris Nelson
 Birthday:
 December 4

**Pontifical North American College
 00120 Vatican City State
 Europe**



Michael J. Tupta
 Birthday:
 April 24

**Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
 558 South Avenue
 Weston, MA 02493**



Clifton Mastran
 Birthday:
 May 1



DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON



SAINT JAMES THE GREATER

END OF LIFE: CATHOLIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

August 31, 2024

8 am Mass & Gathering in the Saint James Social Hall

Continental Breakfast Provided

Now and at the Hour of our Death

We prepare for eternal life by choosing to love and follow God now, in our daily lives and decisions. For example, through prayer and regular reception of the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, we obtain grace to live in ever-deeper communion with God and with one another in lives of faith, charity, and justice. We ask for Our Blessed Mother's help now, and we entrust ourselves to her further as we "surrender 'the hour of our death' wholly to her care."

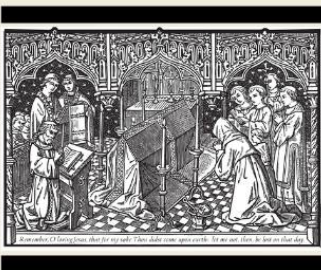
Forming Our Consciences

Our journey with Christ naturally includes equipping our consciences to make morally good judgments and acting accordingly. Learning about the dignity of human life and the indispensable respect for it, as well as applicable principles for medical care, is particularly important in preparing for our eventual passing.

Some bishops offer guides applying moral principles to local legal options. Parish and online resources are also widely available for careful and prayerful study, and the Ethical and Religious Directives from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops give direction for health care services to those who are seriously ill or dying.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/catholic-considerations-our-earthly-passing>

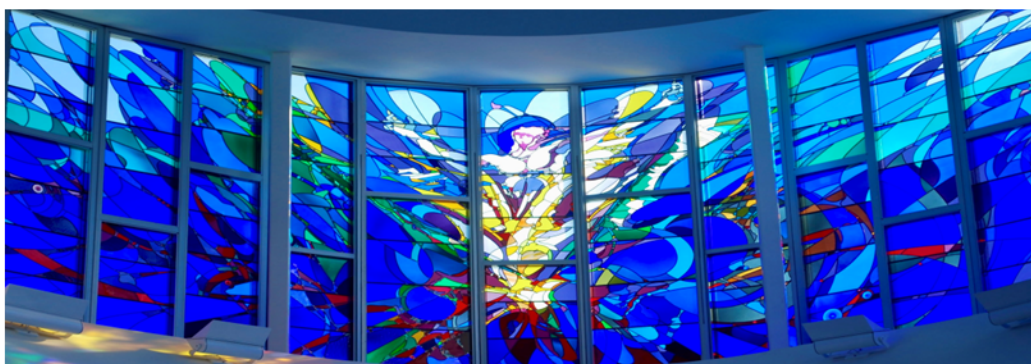
- PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & DYING
- CATHOLIC BIOETHICS: FORMING OUR CONSCIENCES
- FUNERAL & CEMETERY PLANNING
- CHARITABLE LEGACY PLANNING
- LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS



We will take questions on the day of the seminar. We also invite you to send in questions, thoughts, and concerns about end of life issues. Your submissions will remain confidential and will be answered during the in-person presentation. If you prefer to send them by email, please send your questions to stewardship@stjameswv.org

Praying the Liturgy

The Work of the Baptized



By our baptism we are called: called to gather, called to hear and proclaim, called to give thanks and praise, called to eat and drink in order to more deeply become ... the Body of Christ, the People of God. Through the prayer of the liturgy, we are transformed into this People ever more deeply. Together we will reflect on this most central communal action we, the baptized, pray as deep encounter with the Paschal Mystery.



Rodica Stoicoiu, MS., MA., Ph.D., is a theologian of liturgy. She has worked in pastoral ministry for over thirty five years, both as a liturgist and in adult faith formation. As an academic, Dr. Stoicoiu has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels for over thirty years. Her writing, teaching, and work in formation focus on liturgy, Church, Eucharist and the Reign of God.

DATE: September 21, 2024

TIME: 9:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Mount St. Joseph Chapel
Wheeling WV

COST: \$40.00 (includes lunch)
(Partial Scholarship Available)

RSVP: Call Anna Marie - 304-907- 0171
or email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

FACILITATOR:
Rodica Stoicoiu, MS., MA., Ph.D.



Co-Sponsored by: St. Joseph Retreat Center
and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Office of Worship and Sacraments



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

First Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!

Responsorial: Psalm 34

“Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Those who believe, like Simon Peter, follow Christ the Holy One of God - the one who has the words for eternal life.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

Prayer Intentions

For the Church, that we work tirelessly - energized through the Eucharist - as Christ's hands and feet to rescue the broken hearted and bring them close to Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of all nations, states, and communities, that they put aside ways of entitlement and work to be united with all in order to create a peace and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all married couples, that they continue to carry each other closer to Christ, nurturing a trust in God - the strongest foundation for their lasting commitment, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in consecrated life, who choose Christ every day and serve God through their work and prayer, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our family, friends, and neighbors whom we have chosen as our *Walk with One - Invite One*, may they hear and witness Christ through us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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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.