

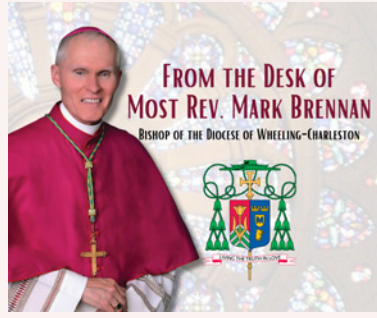
Faith IN WV

AUGUST 31, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



TRUE UNITY IS UNITY IN FAITH

– BISHOP MARK BRENNAN



On Tuesday, August 26th, Bishop Mark Brennan shared his pastoral letter, *Unity Among Catholics: A Way Forward – “Sentire cum Ecclesia”*, which means to think with the Church. (The letter is available at dwc.org and also as a

printed version for parishes that request it for their parishioners.)

Below is a summary to prompt us all to make time to read Bishop Mark’s letter in its entirety at: DWC.ORG (click on the Unity Among Catholics icon).

He began by asking: “Can a genuine unity exist among Christians?”

The Lord believes that we can be truly united as his followers, provided that our unity is founded on that of the Father and the Son. Our unity makes possible the success of our efforts to bring others to Christ, for it shows the world, divided in so many harmful ways, that faith in Jesus Christ leads to harmony and peace without erasing the varied expressions of human nature that so enrich us.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, used the phrase, “sentire cum Ecclesia,” to speak of each Christian’s personal relationship to the whole Church.... I believe that St. Ignatius’ insight can help us today to guard our unity and live within the Catholic Church in peace and friendship in accord with St. Peter’s words in his First Letter: All of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble [3:8].

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HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND

LESSONS FROM ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA



On this Labor Day weekend, we present a series of quotes and inspiration from St. Teresa of Calcutta - lessons on work, love, and faith and the importance of having them intertwined.

“Whether we are working for the rich or we are working for the poor, whether we are working with high-class people or low-class people, it makes no difference, but how much love we are putting into the work we do is what matters,” she wrote (*Love: A Fruit Always in Season*).

“You are God’s co-worker.... The talents God has given you are not yours. They have been given to you for your

use, for the glory of God.”

“I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this... or that, but now I pray that He will guide me to do whatever I’m supposed to do, what I can do.

“I used to pray for answers but now I’m praying for strength.

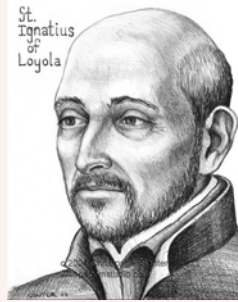
“I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things.”

In order to maintain a courageous focus in the face of difficulty, let’s concentrate on the poem “Do It Anyway.”

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Baptism joins us to one another.... The individual may err but the Church as a whole cannot; guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church's faith cannot fail in matters necessary for our salvation. [See Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, 12.]

St. Ignatius, for example, encouraged Catholics to esteem and practice particular devotions (for example, the rosary and prayers to the saints), to go on pilgrimages to holy sites, to treasure the relics of the saints, to admire sacred art and to respect the precepts of the Church. He also urged Catholics to value the work of the Church's theologians, both ancient and modern, in explaining and clarifying the faith, always in union with the highest teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium of the Pope and the bishops in union with him. To do all this is to accept and love the Church as a full-bodied reality with many dimensions.



"Sentire cum Ecclesia" is fundamentally a way of caring for the Church in all its dimensions and of loving one another and sharing faith as disciples whom the Lord Jesus has bound together as his Church.

Regarding matters of faith, "sentire cum Ecclesia" means that I accept what the Church teaches, whether by infallible conciliar or papal pronouncements, guaranteed by the Holy Spirit, whom Christ promised would lead the Church into all truth [John 16: 13]....

Having proposed "sentire cum Ecclesia" as a path to unity, I recognize that there is a danger lurking in the shadows: does it mean never questioning anything that is said and done in Church life? Is it a canonization of the status quo? What if I, as a thinking human being, have a problem with a particular teaching or activity of the Church? What do I do then? It is here that the attitude of "sentire cum Ecclesia" is especially helpful.

This requires humility and patience on my part – spiritual restraint, we might say – and reflects a strong sense of belonging to the Church rather than preferring to stand apart with my own view set in stone.

Faced with scandals, injustices, lack of charity and doctrinal confusion, "sentire cum Ecclesia" should motivate me to work for change while trusting to God for the outcome.

"(S)entire cum Ecclesia" means to love the Church with its warts but not to love the warts, while loving and fostering what the Church should be, working for her fidelity to Christ for the sake of our brothers and sisters in faith.

All that God wants to say to us, all that we need to know about Him and how we are to serve Him, is found in Jesus Christ.

Because of the Spirit's guidance, the Church's understanding of Christ's teaching and example has deepened. This enables the Church to grasp how to apply her perennial teachings to new situations and challenges and how to express her faith in language that the people of a particular time and place can understand.

From the beginning the Catholic faithful have believed that it was truly

Christ whom they received in the Eucharist, but it took centuries of theological reflection for the Church to find precise language to express its faith.

Authentic development of doctrine comes about by means of persons, either individuals or bodies of the faithful, who are open to the Holy Spirit, fully in union with the Church, faithful to other teachings not in question and humble enough to allow the Spirit to guide the whole Church toward the fullness of truth.

How does "sentire cum Ecclesia" apply to a Catholic who prefers the Tridentine Mass? First, he or she would acknowledge that the Church is the guardian of the liturgy and is blessed with the authority to adapt and shape the form of the Mass and other sacraments and how they are celebrated. Second, the novus ordo Mass would be accepted as valid and not rejected. Finally, a sense of gratitude would be appropriate because, acting as a solicitous Mother, the Church has allowed the Tridentine Mass to continue for those who love it. This would show the spirit of "sentire cum Ecclesia" by affirming the unity in faith and love that the Lord wants for his people. Does "sentire cum Ecclesia" apply to those who prefer the novus ordo Mass? Yes. They would be gracious toward those who love the Tridentine Mass and would recognize that both Forms of the Mass enable the worship of the same God, like two lungs, side by side, breathing in the same Body.

Another area where the principle, "sentire cum Ecclesia," is helpful is that of popular religiosity. What do I mean by that? Popular religiosity embraces a wide range of attitudes and practices through which the faithful express their belief in and love for the Lord and their belonging to one another. Festivals in honor of the saints, processions through the streets with the Holy Eucharist or the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe or a parish's patron saint, devotions such as those to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or the Infant of Prague, recitation of the rosary or the Divine Mercy chaplet by oneself or with a friend or the family or a larger group, are just a few examples of popular religiosity.

The principle of "sentire cum Ecclesia" would lead the progressive Catholic, who is committed to social justice and serves those in need, to respect the attitudes and practices of popular religiosity that manifest the people's faith and would not remain aloof from them.

I have elaborated on this subject because I want to encourage a growing unity in our Catholic Church in West Virginia.... I believe the principle of "sentire cum Ecclesia" helps us to be more united by fostering an attitude of genuine acceptance of the Church in its concrete reality as manifested in its doctrinal and moral teaching, liturgy and common life. It also leads us to greater affection for the Church, more patience with those who struggle in living their faith, a healthy respect for the authentic development of doctrine and a genuine openness to those who lead us to renewal and reform when needed.



It was not written by St. Teresa, but it was so important to her that she had it painted on the wall of her Shishu Bhavan Children's Home. (The poem was actually written by Dr. Kent Keith in 1968, when he was a student in Harvard).

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

In closing, if you are searching for guidance, pray for the intercession of St. Teresa, she vowed she would be your light!

“If I ever become a saint, I will surely be one of ‘darkness.’ I will continually be absent from Heaven to light the light of those in darkness on earth.”

Saint Teresa's feast day is Sept. 5.

Diocesan Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace, Sept. 4

Bishop Mark Brennan is calling the faithful in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to observe Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, as a day of fasting and prayer for peace and justice in our world especially in Ukraine and the Holy Land.

This is the second day of prayer and fasting in two weeks for this intention. The first being Aug. 22nd, as called for by Pope Leo XIV.

Additionally in our diocese, the Sept. 4th day of fasting and prayer, precedes the special collection to be held at all Masses in the diocese on Sept. 6-7 for Gaza Relief.

Both are a sign of our solidarity as a Church family with those suffering as an offering both spiritual and material support.

Let us open our hearts generously and compassionately mindful of all traumatized and displaced by war. Invoke the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, to take our prayers directly to her son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace.

A prayer for peace by Pope St John Paul II for victims of war, violence and refugees fleeing oppression.

Let us pray to our Almighty Father,

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.


Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace.

Amen.

Note: funds collected Sept. 6-7 will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Relief Services, both are Catholic charitable organizations working on the ground providing humanitarian assistance.

 DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

**FAST
& PRAY
FOR PEACE & JUSTICE
SEPT. 4**

This day precedes the special collection to be held at all Masses in the diocese on Sept. 6-7 for Gaza Relief.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1

A Prayer for Our Earth

By Pope Francis, 2015

All-powerful God, you are present in the
whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that
exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and
forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not
prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and
destruction.

Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each
thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love, and peace.

Amen!

Love one Another as God has Loved Us

From the desk of Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, Delegate for Consecrated Life

The psalm for this 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time is Psalm 68 - "God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor." The psalmist reminds us the God does not hesitate to make a home for the poor, the orphans, widows, prisoners, and the forsaken." We need to humble ourselves and embrace the virtue of humility that the psalmist illustrates and the Mass readings emphasize. On this Labor Day weekend, let us lift up those forsaken by society.

We need to be a voice of mercy - especially a peaceful, prayerful voice for those whose voice is afraid to speak.

Recently Bishop Mark Brennan shared with us his letter on the current immigration crisis. His commitment to those entrusted to his care, especially those who are most vulnerable is admirable and unwavering. He takes his responsibility seriously and this letter was no exception. I am quite sure he put pen to paper after much prayer and lots of thought.

Immigration isn't a current hot topic, immigration is woven into every part of our history in this state, in this country, and throughout the world. We are but one small part of God's great Creation.

Here in the US the immigration crisis has gotten worse with the presence of ICE in this matter. Let us be a voice and prayer of hope in a time of peril.

Our Bishop has taken a stand, reminding us that we need each other. His letter is like a prophetic voice loud and clear for us to hear and as true Christians respond with the mercy of Jesus. However, we have to expect response both in favor or against - we are entitled to our opinions because we are humans, but in that same vein let us respond respectfully, and without hate.

As an immigrant myself who came to this country as a teenager, not looking for the American Dream but to serve Christ, the Church and the people here in the United States,



Sister Martha Gomez is pictured in 2018 at El Refugio Center in Spain, an orphanage for children from birth to 18 years old. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd (RGS) cared for the children who were given up for adoption or in need of foster care.

I not only listen to Bishop Mark's words, but also feel the pain within them when he refers to those who are affected by this situation - people torn away from their families, their homes, and their belongings they worked hard to earn.

Unfortunately, our Immigration Laws are indeed broken, and sadly it has taken a turn for the worse.

A prophetic voice speaks and guides others to do the right thing. It also denounces any kind of unfairness. Bishop Mark knows the seriousness of the situation. If he as the servant leader of the Church in West Virginia is silent some of us may do nothing about it.

We are all companions on this journey. We are pilgrims, and this land is not ours to keep; but it is for us to enjoy, to care for and to share. Let us remember that our ancestors also were immigrants. Pray for one another. Advocate for the dignity and human rights of immigrants.

This world is filled with stress and tension, harsh and demeaning words, violence and wars, so many hurting, suffering,

and starving people. And more and more, genuine respect for human life, for the environment, and for the God of all creation seems absent. So let us be genuine to our bishop's invitation to care for one another, and in this way respond to the God's call: "Love one another as I have love you." Let us be present in this world, by serving those who are hurt and struggling, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

As a Catholic sister, I would like to support my bishop as he calls me to assist my brothers and sisters who are struggling to become legally recognized in this country. My upbringing gives me the assurance that whatever I do to the least of my brothers I did it to God.

My prayer for all is that we love one another as God has loved us.

WASH DC AND TO LIVE ONLINE

NEW CANCER CENTER NAMED AFTER GUARDIAN OF THE REDEEMER



Last week representatives from WVU Medicine Health System announced the name of the Cancer Institute to be constructed in Wheeling - ST. JOSEPH CANCER CENTER, honoring the Guardian of the Redeemer and Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Bishop Mark Brennan noted that St. Joseph is not only the patron saint of the universal Church, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and the cathedral in Wheeling, but he is also the greatest great example of how to be a dedicated, loving, and humble worker, father, and spouse. He worked with dignity in all those roles not only to provide, but for God. He tirelessly worked to honor Mary and protect her and the Son of God, especially when they had to escape danger time and time again.

“A diagnosis of cancer brings on great distress... so, to be under the patronage of St. Joseph and with God’s blessing this cancer center will provide hope, care, and compassion for all of us,” Bishop Mark said.

Sisters of St. Joseph

The naming of the WVU Health System’s northern regional cancer center in honor of St. Joseph is a profound tribute not only to the Catholic heritage of Wheeling Hospital, which is 175 years strong, but also to the lasting legacy and resolve of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Their faithful dedication and compassionate care have been the foundation of the hospital’s strength, without which it would not stand as firmly as it does today.

Bishop Mark Brennan spoke the partnership of the WVU Medicine leadership, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the diocese that has been and will continue to be a true lifeline in good health care for generations of people who call this Ohio Valley home.

Director of Pastoral Care Sister Mary Ann Rosenbaum, CSJ, preceded the announcement with prayer. Standing before the crowd of hospital, diocesan, and community members, Sister was a proud and humble representative of the first six religious

sisters - Sisters Anastasia O’Brien, Alexis Spellicy, Sebastian Reis, Agatha Guthrie, Mary Agnes Spencer, and Ligouri Leigh - who in 1853 came to Wheeling from the Sisters of St. Joseph Congregation of St. Louis, to run the hospital, care for the patients, and also provide for and teach orphans.

In 1850, Wheeling Hospital was the only hospital along the Ohio River between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. This latest move forward placed health care in West Virginia under the protection of St. Joseph - there is no better protector than the Terror of Demons, to guide workers, inspire great wisdom, and protect patients and families.

WVU Health System Applauds Bishop Brennan



“We are celebrating this significant day, but this has been in the working for years,” said Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System. “I want everyone to realize that this is all thanks to Bishop Brennan. (The naming the cancer center in honor of St. Joseph) was his idea, and my heart is full thinking about the generosity of Bishop Brennan and the diocese.”

St. Joseph Cancer Center will open in 2028 and is being constructed on the land that was home to the Ohio Valley Medical Center in Centre Market district of Wheeling.

Prayer for the intercession of St. Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father

and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.



“MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR AND MORE TO DO”



Bishop with his brother Paul and sister-in-law Patricia Brennan

Anniversary Mass Message

It was a GLORIOUS CELEBRATION of our 175th Anniversary as a diocese and the 6th Anniversary of Bishop Mark Brennan’s installation as our ninth bishop, on Friday, August 22, 2025.

Joining Bishop Mark concelebrating the Mass were Bishop Barry Knestout of the Diocese of Richmond, Bishop Edward Lohse, of the Diocese of Kalamazoo and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, and Bishop Adam Parker, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In his homily, Bishop Mark recognized the amazing accomplishments of the diocese’s 175 years, stating there is “much to be thankful for and more to do.”

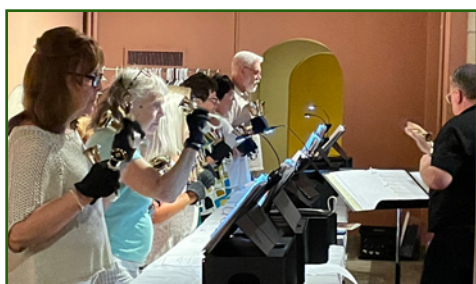
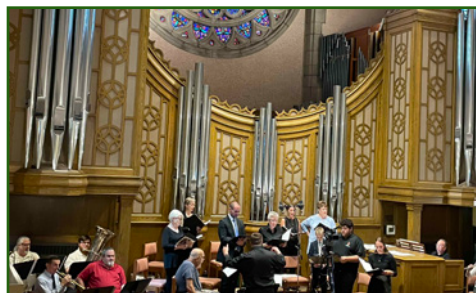
“Let us take our Catholic faith seriously. Mary is the star of the new evangelization - she prays with us... for us. She brings our prayers to her Son.”

“The groundwork has to be done. It can be done just as a tiny parish has in WV - St. Thomas in Gasaway, where 13 people entered the church this year. It is a small church in the middle of a food desert, but they are making a way. These 13 people who entered the Church did so because they see the Church - a church feeding and caring for the people.

“Go make disciples of all nations!

“Bring Christ to people as Mary did - implore Mary our Queen Mother to win more souls for her Son, for their good and the glory of God!”

Continue to read about stories and events honoring our 175th Anniversary in your FaithInWV e-bulletin, the dwc.org website, and The Catholic Spirit.



ANNUAL NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

SEPTEMBER 8 – NOVEMBER 3, 2025
NINE CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

Hope Does Not Disappoint



Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Wheeling, West Virginia

“The more you honor me, the more I will bless you.”

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

The more humble you are the greater you are in God's eyes.

Responsorial: Psalm 68

"God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor."

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Persevere in faith! Christ offers us a joyous encounter with God. Remain faithful and receive His blessings and peace.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

A lesson in humility - Jesus uses the example of the ultimate table manners at a wedding feast: consider yourself the least among the table, grateful for your position - God blesses those who are humble.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that like St. Teresa of Calcutta, we may always welcome the poor and forsaken, with genuine kindness and compassion; and let us all be the reassurance they need to know God loves all of us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they have the courage to prioritize the care of all of creation, making decisions for the benefit of the entire Earth - our shared home, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us whose labor contributes to the betterment of our families, the community, and the world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our faith community that we have the courage and humility to put others ahead of us, knowing that if we keep our focus on Christ we will be among the greatest in God's eyes, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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

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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.