



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Editor's note: This article is the first in a series that will be published each month in the FaithInWV e-bulletin and The Catholic Spirit in honor and celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival - a three-year focus on the source and summit of our faith- Christ's real presence in the Eucharist.

In this first article in a series that will focus on understanding better the Holy Eucharist, so central to Catholic worship, let me begin with a human analogy.

When you offer a gift to someone, you are offering more than a material object or money: you are showing your regard, your care, even your love for that person. If the person seems indifferent to your gift or doesn't acknowledge it, you rightly feel disappointed. Even a gift which does not please the recipient should be acknowledged and the giver thanked – precisely because the gift represents the person who gave it, however trivial or unwelcome the gift itself might be.

In Holy Communion, Jesus Christ gives a gift to us. In his case, the gift does not merely represent the giver but is identical with him. In a mysterious way which we can describe but not truly explain, the risen Lord gives himself to us, transforming bread and wine in their deepest reality into his own Body and Blood. Because he said, holding bread, *This is my Body*, and has the power as the Son of God to make it happen, we join the Christians of the first and all subsequent generations in saying, “Amen, yes, it is Jesus whom I receive in Holy Communion.” This superlative gift of Jesus himself is meant to invigorate us with the Lord's risen life so that, individually and corporately, we produce good fruit in the world.

The reason we American bishops decided to inaugurate a Eucharistic Revival over three years is that we came to realize that many Catholics no longer believe that it is Jesus himself whom they receive in Holy Communion. Some see it as a symbol of the Lord but nothing more, others as simply a piece of bread which, for some reason, is given to them during the Mass. Surely some of the Catholics now absent from our assemblies on Sunday do not go to Mass because they look at the Eucharist in this reduced way. Even some who go regularly seem to have lost the full sense of the Sacrament's meaning.

Our concern as pastors is that, if the giver is not acknowledged in the gift, the one receiving it may not derive any spiritual benefit from it. The Lord gives himself to us in Holy Communion in order to build us up, individually and as a people, so that we may live as children of God in faith and love and bear him witness in the world. A lack of faith on our part does not diminish Christ's true presence in the Sacrament but it means we have closed the door of our heart to him even if we opened our mouth to consume the host. We will lack the grace, both as individuals and as a Church, to be faithful witnesses to Christ. The danger is that our faith may gradually wither and even die.

What has caused this lack of full Eucharistic faith among some Catholics? How is it that they no longer believe that Jesus truly gives himself to us in the Sacrament of the altar?

One cause is that many people today do not allow room in their lives for the transcendent, that is, for God and His action on their behalf. They live mostly on the horizontal level and ignore the vertical. They may believe vaguely in God but it doesn't lead them, for example, to put Sunday Mass first over other worthy activities such as soccer games, a community picnic or a trip to the beach. It is even easier to deny the Church's faith in Christ's gift of himself in the Eucharist because, lacking a robust faith, they see only the appearances of bread and wine and do not take seriously the Church's claim that the transcendent God changes those material elements into Christ for their benefit.

Some, if questioned, would likely say that science proves such a change is impossible. But that is confusing two spheres of investigation. The physical sciences seek to explain material creation but they cannot handle God's intervention in His creation. Their instruments cannot measure it nor their theories account for it. Through the ages people have turned to religion and philosophy to help them understand why anything exists at all, why a yearning for contact with the spiritual world persists in history, how it is that human beings possess an inner freedom, why we should choose good over evil, what makes people often capable of sacrificial love, what happens to us after we die. Some scientists reduce all of these non-material questions to material causes but that does not ring true to people's experience of them. Nor can the physical sciences grasp the reality of the Eucharist and its effect on people of faith.

There is another reason in the United States to account for a weak or absent understanding of the Church's faith in the Eucharist: our exaggerated individualism. Phenomena as distinct as transgenderism, abortion, gun use and getting vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus reveal that many of us prioritize our private opinion over other factors that might be more objective and deserve our consideration. With respect to the Eucharist, some Catholics apparently think that, since they do not see beyond the bread and wine to Christ, they are free to dismiss the Church's faith in Christ's sacramental presence – despite that faith's origin in Jesus' own words and actions, the continuous celebration of the Eucharist for two thousand years and the abiding belief of faithful Christians that Jesus gives himself to his disciples in that Sacrament. The courageous individual is rightly admired but the Christian, who sets him or herself against the whole tradition of the Church in order to adhere to a private opinion, stands outside the community of faith by denying the truth God has revealed to that community.

So, we have begun a Eucharistic Revival. This year is the diocesan phase, in which you will be hearing of talks and regional conferences on the Eucharist. Next year we will conduct the parish phase, in which more intensive catechesis on the Sacrament will be offered for adults and children. The third year will be the national phase, culminating in a great Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. Remember, the purpose is to strengthen and, for some, retrieve our understanding that Jesus gives his very self to us in Holy Communion. Like the householder praised by Jesus [*Matthew 13:52*], we want to bring out of the storeroom of our Catholic faith both the *old*: the Church's constant teaching on the meaning and purpose of the Eucharist; and the *new*: prayer and activities appropriate to our time and place for reinvigorating our appreciation of this admirable Sacrament. Please join me in praying for the success of this project.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR DISASTER RELIEF IN WV AND KY

WHEELING – Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of August 13-14, 2022, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of natural disasters that have occurred in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, resulting in dozens of deaths and the displacement of thousands.

“We have witnessed first-hand the destruction that flooding from severe weather has caused in our Mountain State. We have nearly 10 counties that have been under a state of emergency over the past month,” Bishop Brennan said. “I have spoken to my brother bishops in Kentucky who have detailed the destruction of entire communities in their dioceses. I urge the faithful to be visible disciples of Christ - significant examples of Him fully alive within us. Let us help our brothers and sisters in Christ through prayer and support, giving those who are suffering hope and peace as they rebuild their lives and, in many cases, honor the precious lives lost.”

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities

as well as their partner agencies in both states.

Catholic Charities West Virginia and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lexington are providing long-term recovery efforts. 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 rebuilding process to restore safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions.

“Catholic Charities West Virginia is committed to being responsive and compassionate after a disaster event, giving help and hope,” said Beth Zarate, Catholic Charities West Virginia President and Chief Executive Officer. “Our goal is to return people to safe, clean and secure housing. Our Disaster Services program is blessed to have many partners and supporters who come together to accomplish the daunting task of rebuilding homes and lives – for as little or as long as they need us.”

Checks should be made out to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with “Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations for this long-term disaster recovery effort can also be made throughout the month of August on the diocesan website at DWC.ORG/DISASTER-RELIEF/.



SPECIAL COLLECTION

August 13-14, 2022

Your gift will support long-term disaster recovery for southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

Please, hold them in prayer.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

LET THE SAINTS SPARK YOUR FAITH

Our Catholic faith unites us with a communion of saints that we can look to imitate and call upon in prayer to intercede for us. This week we highlight four in particular – St. Dominic de Guzman; St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr; St. Clare of Assisi; and St. Susanna. All are from centuries ago, but each one has a story to spark your faith and stir the soul.

On August 8th we remember **SAINT DOMINIC DE GUZMAN**. He knew actions are greater than words, so he not only talked the talk of the Church and Jesus Christ; he walked the walk. St. Dominic lived in the 1100's and best known for his tireless preaching, generosity, and knowledge.

He lived a solemn life, sleeping on the ground, giving up worldly possessions, and eating simple meals. He didn't choose misery. He chose purpose. He spent long hours praying and studying, so he was best prepared to share the word of God and the Catholic faith and able to do so in a way his audience would understand. He wanted to be an example of God's love and the love of God.

When his mother was pregnant with him, she had an amazing dream declaring "her child would be an eminent preacher" to be a light to the world for Christ. She made sure Saint Dominic was well educated in all subjects, especially his faith, understanding that his Catholic faith was not a subject to study, but a way of life.

Just as the dream foreshadowed young Dominic began his preaching about the teachings of Jesus before he was a priest. During this time in Europe there were many struggles and at the heart of most of them was religion. St. Dominic, who was opposed to warfare and bloodshed, chose to challenge the heresies with dialogue on an intellectual level. In doing so he converted many souls and brought more back to the Catholic faith.

On August 10th stargazers look forward to an annual celestial wonder known as the *Tears of St. Lawrence*. **SAINT LAWRENCE** a deacon serving widows, orphans, and the poor; was martyred in the year 258 by being roasted to death at the age of 33. Legend has it that each year on the anniversary of his death there would be a spectacular meteor shower so incredible it is visible without a telescope. During this time the night sky is illuminated with bright lights and what

appears to be shooting stars. Scientists today refer to it as Perseid meteor showers, which are sand-sized bites of dust and debris that race through the atmosphere.

St. Lawrence is the patron of deacons, chefs, firefighters, and oddly enough – comedians. It is believed that he shouted out to his Roman torturers who set fire to him that, "I am already roasted on one side and if though wouldst have me well cooked, it's time to turn me on the other."

On August 11, we celebrate Saints Clare of Assisi and St. Susanna both were stunningly beautiful, and both refused

to marry, desiring a life of prayer and service to God.

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI seemed to have it all – she had two loving parents, her family's wealth gave her many luxuries and privileges, and she was described as refined and gorgeous. However, she was not happy. Her heart ached over the fact that there were so many poor in

her town and surrounding communities. As a teenager, in 1211, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach about Jesus caring for the poor. After meeting St. Francis, she chose to be a bride of the Church, commit to unceasing prayer, and care for the poor and sick. Clare's long hair was cut off by St. Francis. Her gorgeous dresses and jewels were replaced with a humble grey robe and wooden sandals.

Her father was upset at her actions and tried to have her forcibly removed from the monastery, but her resolve was so steadfast her family conceded and let her be. She along with her sister Agnes founded a convent at the church of San Damiano in Assisi with the help of St. Francis. After her father died, St. Clare's own mother joined their community. They would later be known as the Poor Clares, embracing poverty, penance, and prayer in cloistered life.

SAINT SUSANNA died a martyr in the third century, after refusing to marry the son of a pagan emperor. Her love of Christ's example of how we should live our life to serve others and to teach the truth about God converted many of her relatives and acquaintances to Christianity. This infuriated the royal who was humiliated by young Susanna. It is believed she and her father, who refused to force his daughter into marriage, were beheaded in their own home. Today St. Susanna ad duas domos in Rome, a basilica named in honor of St. Susanna, sits on the grounds of where historians believe the house once stood.



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

The faithful wait attentively looking for signs of God, offering sacrifices in His name.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33

“Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be His own.”

Second Reading: rews 11:1-2, 8-19 (or 11:1-2,8-12)

Our faith is having complete trust in God on earth and eternity for He has plans for us.

Gospel: Luke 12:32-48 (or 12:35-40)

Where your treasure be so will your heart. What have you been entrusted? What do you value?

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/080722.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/080722.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that together as we place our complete trust in God, we serve others without hesitation like Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the seminarians in our diocese, that the Lord blesses them as His own, guiding their hearts, words, and minds to be confident and true disciples of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who work in education, let their hearts be renewed with tireless energy and wisdom to bring out the best in each child, parent, and colleague they work for and with as if they were serving you God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those suffering caused by the floods in southern West Virginia and the eastern regions of Kentucky, may the love and assistance of Catholic Charities and other genuine support agencies bring them peace and hope, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOSE WE SERVE



The CCWVa Martinsburg office now offers lockers for people experiencing homelessness to store belongings.

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Reginal Director

During the middle of last winter, our Martinsburg case manager was meeting with an unhoused client when she asked “Lori” if she would like one of the donated blankets Catholic Charities keeps on hand for such circumstances.

“I don’t have any place to store it,” was Lori’s response.

We realized that individuals like Lori need a safe and secure place to store items that they can access when Catholic Charities West Virginia and other organizations are not open. Our Martinsburg staff reached out to our partners and discovered that Faith Feeding Freedom had received a grant from Proctor and Gamble to purchase storage lockers for the unhoused. However, they had not found a location to put them.

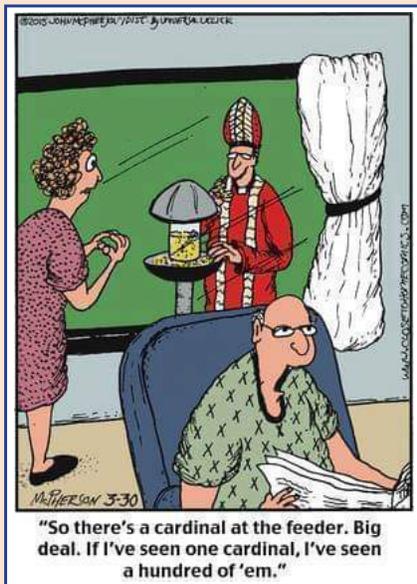
We reached out to Faith Feeding Freedom Founder Toni Weisberg and established a partnership. Faith Feeding Freedom purchased the lockers, awnings and security cameras and paid for installation. Catholic Charities provided the location and established guidelines and an intake process. This allows Catholic Charities to meet with individuals to identify other needs and help them access resources.

The lockers, which are located behind the Martinsburg office, are now available to those who need them.

For more information, contact Trina Bartlett at tbartlett@ccwva.org or 304-267-8837 ext. 8.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and how to support your neighbors in need, please visit WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



FaithInWV.org

Faith is a lifelong journey
It begins with prayer.



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.



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Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org		

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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.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)