



IS OUR LORD CALLING YOU TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD?

Heroic sacrifice can lead to pure joy ~ learn more at men's discernment retreat

In Sunday's reading, Luke 5:1-11, we hear about Jesus calling his first disciples after he produces a miraculous catch of fish. This is the vocation story of Simon Peter, James, and John. We like them are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ - teachings of God's love and mercy.

What is God calling you to do? Make time to pray and reflect. For men considering the priesthood, you are invited to begin to find the answer. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Vocation Office is hosting a weekend of prayer and discernment on March 5-6, at the Priest Field Pastoral Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville.

A life of "Heroic Sacrifice" can lead to a life of pure joy.

Fr. Phillip Szabo, who was ordained a diocesan priest in May 2021, said, "A big part of why I have been able to discover this new joy (of the priesthood) is because I have been getting a little better at accepting God's invitation to a life of self-sacrifice."

In a Vocation Awareness Week article, Szabo wrote, "My daily work as a spiritual father demands that I often surrender my own needs and desires in order to attend to those of the Church and of the faithful who are entrusted to me. Whether it is as simple as taking an unexpected hospital call or hearing a last-minute confession, or as complex as canceling my weekend plans in order to cover for a priest who has fallen ill, I have found that joy is not found in comfort, but rather in the process of becoming comfortable



**Do you want a life of
Heroic Sacrifice?**

Is God Calling YOU to be a Priest of Jesus Christ?

**Come join us
for a weekend of prayer
and discernment**

March 5-6
Priest Field Pastoral Center
4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430

To complete an application visit WVPriests.org

with being uncomfortable! God is always calling us to greater heights of holiness, and He will not stop until we reach the end of our journey here on Earth, so neither should we!"

Is God calling you to the priesthood? Know you are welcome to join or listen in on a conversation about responding generously to God.

In the meantime, make time in your day for quiet time - a time to listen to God through Sacred Scripture. Talk to a local priest or deacon you admire. Broaden your scope and check out testimonials online. Here are a few:

- Fr. Mike Schmitz, chaplain for Newman Catholic Campus Ministries at the University

of Minnesota, and Fr. Josh Johnson, a parish priest in Louisiana, share their honest and sincere vocation stories through an Ascension Press video you can see by [CLICKING HERE](#).

- Watch Father Michael David Moses, parochial vicar at St. Faustina Church in Fulshear, Texas in his video "[A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CATHOLIC PRIEST](#)."
- "Who is the priest?" video: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/I-9RoR6IRdG](https://youtu.be/I-9RoR6IRdG)

Father Brian Crenwelge, the vocation director for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown, encourages those contemplating the priesthood to register for the retreat at: WVPRIESTS.ORG and follow them on social media.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

February 3, 2022

Every Life, that of a Mother and that of Her Child, is Precious and Deserves our Respect and Help

A Statement on Pro-Life Issues by
Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

My friends, however the US Supreme Court decides the *Dobbs vs. Jackson* case, the Court's ruling is not likely to change the minds and hearts of the people of our country. We hope for a decision that provides the greatest possible protection for unborn children, but we will still have much work to do to move public opinion toward a genuine respect for all human life.

To show our true colors to our fellow citizens who are neither diehard supporters of abortion or diehard opponents, we must be as concerned for the welfare of mothers as we are for their unborn children. We must show we are both pro-child and pro-woman. Many mothers are in truly difficult situations and struggle over the decision to have or to abort their child. We need to understand that, without denying our principles. If we are judgmental in our attitude, harsh in our speech and unwilling to offer positive help, we will not win many people over to the side of protecting all life.

How can we change attitudes? We start with ourselves. We must recognize that a woman inclined to abortion or who procures one is still a person made in God's image and likeness. We are called to love everyone without exception. That does not mean approving or promoting bad behavior, but it does mean trying to understand why some women think their only viable choice is to abort their child. We must think and act in such a way that we come across as their allies in dealing with the pregnancies that are causing them distress. Many pregnant women face powerful threats, some from their own families.

What positive help can we offer? We have outreach centers for pregnant women all around this state. They not only counsel women to respect and cherish their unborn child but they offer concrete help, ranging from providing baby clothes, diapers and formula to giving parenting classes. We need to support them and ensure that their good work is widely known. A Catholic initiative called "Walking with Moms in Need" joins local parishes to pregnancy centers to mentor pregnant women and mothers with infants and offer them the assistance they need.

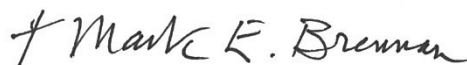
An effort to establish a safe, welcoming place for a woman to live while pregnant and for some time after the birth of her child is underway in the Eastern Panhandle. How can we establish more of these programs in our state to help pregnant women who need a place to stay?

Do we condemn or turn our backs on women who have had abortions? Does that do any good? We show the compassionate side of our movement when we offer post-abortion counseling, as some pregnancy centers do, and initiatives such as Project Rachel counseling and Rachel's Vineyard retreats. We can help post-abortive women move from remorse and guilt to forgiveness and peace.

Many of these efforts can be undertaken of our own initiative and without government assistance but government policy can also be a help to pregnant women, and those already raising children. We can continue to ask our state and local officials for relief from the housing and food insecurity that many women face, for resources for women experiencing domestic violence, for effective laws that forbid discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace, for adequate maternity leave, and for affordable child care options for working mothers. In these ways we may broaden society's support for pregnant women and those with young children. These things are consistent with the love, compassion and kindness that define our movement. This approach to women can indeed change the minds and hearts of West Virginians who are not strongly in the pro-abortion camp but sympathize with women who are desperate for help and struggling with an abortion decision. We can, and we must, be both pro-child and pro-woman.

Every life is a gift from God. Every life, that of a mother and that of her child, is precious and deserves our respect and help. We are grateful for signs that our West Virginia legislators want to strengthen our laws to reduce abortions in this state. Let us also show that we are committed to helping mothers deal with the challenges that a pregnancy can present. Mother and child should not be pitted against one another. They are not natural enemies. We can support both. I urge you to pray, fast and serve in whatever ways you can so that mothers and children in the Mountain State may live with dignity and thrive.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

HONOR SAINT JOSEPHINE MARGARET BAKHITA ON HER FEAST DAY FEBRUARY 8TH



Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita said she was grateful for her horrific life experiences, because they lead her to a full and joyous life of knowing Jesus Christ and His Church.

When she was only seven, she was captured by Arab slave traders in her Sudan village and spent 12 years being bought and sold more

than a dozen times by Arab and Turkish owners, who put her through excruciating circumstances. These traumatic experiences made her forget her birth name. Bakhita was the name given to her by her captors. She was traded several times and ended up in Italy, while there she served a kindhearted family and became their nanny. When that family traveled out of the country, they took her to the Canossian Daughters of Charity convent in Venice to care for her in their absence. She learned about God – the creator of all things, including the moon and stars to which she always loved.

When the family returned from one of their trips, St. Josephine did not want to leave. The sisters of the convent came to her aid and petitioned the Italian government to let her remain with the Canossian Sisters. She was declared a free person, and in 1890, she received her Christian initiation - baptism, first holy communion, and confirmation. She took that name Josephine Margaret Fortunata. (*Fortunata is the Latin translation for her Arabic name, Bakhita*).

In a Vatican article it is noted, “From then on, she was often seen kissing the baptismal font and saying: ‘Here, I became a daughter of God!’”

Saint Josephine became a novice with the religious order three years later and took her final vows in 1896. She was loved and cherished by her sisters, the children who attended the Canossian schools, and all she would speak to when she traveled to other convents to share her story to religious who were to depart to serve in Africa.

“Her humility, her simplicity, and her constant smile won the hearts of all the citizens. Her sisters in the community esteemed her for her inalterable sweet nature, her exquisite goodness and her deep desire to make the Lord known.”

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES FEBRUARY 11TH

Thursday is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, a poor French girl, 18 times in the course of five months.

From Feb. 11-July 16, 1858, the vision of a beautiful woman dressed in white with a blue sash around her waist and yellow roses at her feet and a rosary in her arm, as young Bernadette described, continued to appear in Lourdes, France, to St. Bernadette. People that heard about the events - as many as 20,000 people gathered at in Lourdes. Her parish priest Fr. Peyramale insisted she ask the woman to identify herself to St. Bernadette. On the Feast of the Annunciation the beautiful vision identified herself to St. Bernadette as “the Immaculate Conception.” St. Bernadette was the only one who could see the Blessed Mother and hear her voice urge for prayer and penance. She continued to tell St. Bernadette to “Go, tell the priests to bring people here in procession and have a chapel built here.”

Father Peyramale oversaw the construction of a basilica at the apparition site.

Today Lourdes is one of the most traveled to pilgrimages for Catholics, especially seeking healing and making specific prayer intentions. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures through Our Lady of Lourdes. It is estimated there are more than two million visitors each year.





DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

• PO Box 230, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003 •

Monday, January 31, 2022

Success of Catholic Schools Attributed to Culture of Collaboration and Shared Responsibility among Staff at Building Level

WHEELING – As the nation celebrates Catholic Schools Week from January 30 through February 5, West Virginia Catholic Schools' leadership and parents agree the success of the Catholic school system in West Virginia is completely reflective of the dedication of the individual school principals, teachers, and support staff.

The Catholic Schools of West Virginia made headlines last year with the announcement that academic achievement did not falter during the pandemic and remote learning, based on their national assessment scores across grade levels. Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., credits her principals, teachers, and support staff for maintaining a mission driven focus and continually enriching a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility.

“Without hesitation we completely attribute our successes to the phenomenal women and men, who work for our Catholic schools,” Deschaine said. “From the building administrators to the teachers, secretaries, advancement directors, custodians, and auxiliary personnel, each plays a significant role in carrying out the mission of Catholic education. When you are in our buildings it doesn't take long to recognize their genuine dedication and flexibility.”

It is no secret the pandemic has been hard on educators and the educational system across the board, she said.

“I firmly believe everyone who works in education, no matter if it is a Catholic school or not, are heroes in our society, right up there with health care workers and first responders,” Deschaine, who has worked in both the public and Catholic school systems as an educator and administrator, said. “When you consider what we ask our school staff to include in their objectives, and look at the sacrifices and demands they willingly take on for the betterment of our children, it takes that sentiment to another level. The impressive teams our principals and pastors have assembled in our schools are exceptional. They are living and leading with faith, Christian values, and respected morals. That is the environment that enables students to thrive.”

Carol McDonald, a parent at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, shares Deschaine's attitude.

“Over that past two years we have discovered many heroes among us,” McDonald said. “The SJS staff and teachers are definitely some of those heroes. As heroes they have superpowers, not to see our children for who they are today but see what they can become tomorrow and strive to help them achieve this. These powers are blessings from our heavenly Father. It has been challenging but they rose above these challenges by showing strength, love, and compassion for our children. This dedication helped our students weather the storm.”

Jocelyn Czapp, a parent of Corpus Christi School and Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, said she could cite “a million” examples of how school staff has helped her three children.

“The staff and principals at our catholic schools are fully invested in our children's education, spiritual growth, and successes. For that, my husband and I are forever grateful and feel very blessed for their catholic education,” she said. “The teachers go above and beyond to ensure that

our children are learning and working to their full potential. They do it with so much compassion, care and love that it makes me know that they are there for our kids and truly want the best for them. It is an amazing feeling that they celebrate our children's accomplishments and are just as excited for them, as we are as parents, when they hit milestones and goals."

Michelle Martin, principal of St. Paul School in Weirton, said the pandemic has placed a spotlight on the collaboration that has always been a part of Catholic education. Supporting one another as a staff or even filling someone else's shoes in order to get work done or reach an objective is second nature in the Christ-centered school system. Returning to a classroom to substitute for a teacher who is in quarantine may be challenging for administrators, but it is also rewarding and grounding, she said.

"It's definitely been challenging, but I do enjoy it," she said. "I get first-hand experience on the challenges the teachers face. I enjoy having the students see me as a teacher and not just the principal! Doing both jobs at one time can be a bit overwhelming, but I have a supportive staff that will pitch in, no questions asked. They work really hard to give the students a normal school year by keeping them engaged and challenged."

We expect a lot from our schools, said Jennifer Hornyak, associate superintendent for accreditation and technology. Hornyak oversees staff development for the diocesan schools, as well as technology enrichment.

"Our teachers are constantly challenged to learn new teaching and learning methods while balancing their everyday classroom work," Hornyak said. "Teachers and administrators put in a great deal of time and effort to learn new things and are true models of what it means to be a life-long learner. They continually participate in new professional development opportunities, not only in the changing landscape of education, but also, in the ever-changing world of technology."

Julie Link, office manager of the Department of Catholic schools, praises the individual schools' front office staff for gracefully handling the constant juggle of duties.

"Our secretaries in our schools don't get enough credit for the important role they have in the daily life of the school," Link said. "Their list of to-dos is constantly growing, not only from staff, students, and parents, but from our office, as well. They go the extra mile to assist their principal when our office requests documents or if we have specific requests. I always find that when I call a school, I hear a friendly, well-spoken voice."

Theresa DiPiero, director of curriculum and instruction for the diocesan schools, loves working with and for the 24 Catholic schools in the state. It is reaffirmed every time she gets to observe the principals concern and attention for their students as they constantly are "calming fears, extending a warm smile, calling students by their first names in the halls, and asking about a brother, sister or their parents."

She said there is nothing like watching "the way a student lights up when he or she is noticed and made to feel important. Catholic Schools are a gift."

"I reflect on my conversations with a guidance counselor and wonder how they remember every single detail about their students," she said, adding that it is her privilege "to work in a system where teachers and counselors are able to pray with and for a student when they lose heart."

To learn more about Catholic education in West Virginia go to: <https://wvcatholicschools.org>.

RECOVERING FROM A HOUSE FIRE: SUZANNE AND HER GRANDKIDS TURN TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) helps people across the state recover from disasters. While disasters are devastating for anyone impacted, people already struggling financially have an increased risk of sliding more deeply into poverty after a disaster. That's why our Disaster Services program is concentrated on finding resources for as many people as possible.

House fires are particularly heartbreaking. Over the past four months (just since October 2021), we have encountered six families who lost their homes to fire. "Suzanne" represents one such family. She is raising her three grandkids. They lost their home in May 2021 and were homeless for many months, relying on friends and family to sleep indoors. The family qualified for subsidized housing, and Suzanne could even afford the down payment. But she had no money left over to get utilities connected, so the family was stuck without a place of their own.

Luckily, the Disaster Services team was able to step in. "Our job was to make sure Suzanne and her grandkids had a safe place to call home," said Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services Specialist.

Suzanne's granddaughter had to sleep in a playpen after the fire and before family moved into their new home. "She is just so happy to have her own bed again!" said Suzanne.

"We have been through so much, one thing after another," said Suzanne. She is grateful for Catholic Charities staff, volunteers, and donors who made it possible to rebuild a life for the three kids who depend on her. "May God bless you so you may keep blessing others who need help like my family and I!"

Because donors give so generously, CCWVa can distribute funds to help families like Suzanne's get back on their feet after a tragic house fire. "In general, we offer up to \$500 per family to help them secure their next residence," said Pierce.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

Pope Francis has asked us all to participate in a "synodal process" in our parishes and Church organizations. Synod listening sessions are in full swing across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the faithful to engage in sharing about Church life. Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests encourage everyone to be alert to their parish's routine means of communication, such as bulletins, websites, social media pages, and emails, which will announce specific details about their local synod process.

In a recent letter to the faithful Bishop Mark wrote, "I am grateful to you for your interest in this synodal process. It speaks of your love for the Lord and for your Church. Let us keep the intention of a fruitful synodal process in our daily prayers. May the Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and St. Joseph, patron of our Diocese, guide us through his Holy Spirit to the fullness of truth and life."

Find a listening session near you at: dwc.org/synod-sessions/

Synod Listening Sessions Continue Across WV



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading ISAIAH 6:1-2a, 3-8

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above. They cried one to the other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember that he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it, and said, "See, now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

Responsorial PSALMS 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

R. (1c) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name.

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

your mouth; and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD:
"Great is the glory of the LORD."

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Your right hand saves me. The LORD will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 (or 1 Cor 15:3-8, 11)

I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, Christ appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective.

Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Alleluia MATTHEW 4:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Pope Francis, bishops, pastors, and everyone who ministers in the Church, that the Lord may bless them in their work and that the fruits of their labor may be known throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in legislative office, that they may have the wisdom and courage to write laws that promote justice, support the common good for all, and provide for the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may be attentive to God's call at any stage in our life, spurring us to ordained, religious, or lay ministry, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who actively support the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, that they may see the fruit of their efforts in a rich harvest of vocations, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122

UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at www.dwc.org.

Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC BLESSING



ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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/)