



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.

Around 1877, when she was only eight years old, 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. In 1883, she was sold to an Italian man stationed in Sudan. He did not mistreat her like the others, but that doesn't lessen the fact that she was considered a slave and property of another. When political reasons arose, he had to leave Sudan for Italy. St. Josephine convinced him to take her with him for he had been so kind to her. When they arrived in Italy, she went to serve another 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. While there, she learned about God – the creator of all things, and the Church.

When the family returned from their trip, 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. When the case was heard in the Italian



courts, St. Josephine was declared a free person, because it was discovered that slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before Josephine was born.

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). It is interesting to note that the Archbishop who was the celebrant was Cardinal Giuseppe Sarto, who later became Pope Pius X.

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."

Saint Josephine passed away in 1947 soon after seeing the image of Mary at her bedside and uttering, "Our Lady! Our Lady!"

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

Oh St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.

Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES ~ FEBRUARY 11TH

Thursday is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, who appeared to a poor French girl 18 times in the course of five months. As historians have recorded, the first occurrence was when St. Bernadette Soubirous was out gathering wood, when she heard a noise and felt a gust of wind. She turned toward the commotion and at the



opening of a cave she saw, "something white in the shape of a girl," she would tell. She saw her make the sign of the Cross. St. Bernadette was overcome with the need to pray. So, she fell to her knees and prayed the prayers she knew of the rosary. The faint image motioned for her to come closer, but St. Bernadette did not move, and the vision disappeared.



From Feb. 11-July 16, 1858, Our Lady dressed in white with a blue sash around her waist and yellow roses at her feet and a rosary in her arm continued to appear in the grotto

in Lourdes, France, to St. Bernadette. People that heard about the events and

often as many as 20,000 people gathered at the scene believed the image described by the child was our Blessed Mother Mary, but St. Bernadette was hesitant to assume it. 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.

One account from the earliest of apparitions, St. Bernadette sprinkled holy water toward the image, fearing that she may have been an evil spirit, but the Blessed Mother smiled, the young girl would report.

Saint Bernadette said the image would tell her "that she did not promise to make me happy in this world, but in the next."

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. It is estimated there are more than two million visitors each year.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

*O ever-Immaculate Virgin,
Mother of Mercy,
health of the sick, refuge of sinners,
comforter of the afflicted,
you know my wants, my troubles,
my sufferings; look with mercy on me.*

*By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes,
you were pleased to make it
a privileged sanctuary,
whence you dispense your favors;
and already many sufferers have obtained
the cure of their infirmities,
both spiritual and corporal.*

*I come, therefore,
with complete confidence
to implore your maternal intercession.*

*Obtain, O loving Mother,
the grant of my requests.
Through gratitude for your favors,
I will endeavor to imitate your virtues,
that I may one day share your glory.*

Amen.



AUDIT REPORT FOR THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Continuing his commitment to greater transparency, Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, is pleased to release the audited financial statement of the Diocese for the fiscal year 2020. This release includes the full auditor's report. Please click the link, WWW.DWC.ORG/2020-AUDIT/, to access a letter from Bishop Brennan which addresses the audit as well as the complete report available for download and a number of resources to help you better understand the audit.

REGISTRATION BEGINS

Registration is open to enroll your child or grandchild in a West Virginia Catholic school for the 2021-2022 school year.

Our 24 Catholic schools - 18 grade schools and six high schools - work together as a team of educators, faith leaders, and families to nurture high achieving and morally responsible young people.

While times have been uncertain our goals remain very clear. Whether in the classroom or remote we are steadfast in presenting challenging and engaging academics complimented with life and leadership lessons in empathy, responsibility, service, and faith.

- Our Catholic schools have gone above and beyond with safety protocols based on the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control, and state and local health departments, to maintain a five day a week plan.
- When remote learning was mandated by the state our principals reported full attendance with faculty requiring participation and accountability among students.
- Principals continued to have high expectations of their faculty; and in turn teachers did not settle for bare minimum work or ease grading to a pass-fail curriculum.
- Teachers administer standardized assessments not once, but three times a year in our Catholic schools to measure our students' growth, define areas that need improvement, and identify strengths in order

for our educators to develop the best course of continual action for student success.

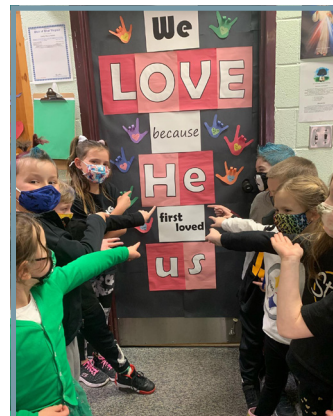
- The Class of 2020 in our six high schools were offered more than \$28.4 million in academic and athletic scholarships. That's nearly \$14 million more than the previous year thanks in part to the encouragement of our teachers, counselors, principals, coaches, and priests.

We are not only making history, but also writing our story of adaptability, perseverance, and unwavering faith every step along this journey.

As I have said countless times, I am inspired by our schools, their advisory boards, and parishes they love and value each one of our students. Go to WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG to learn more.

-Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

WV Catholic Schools Superintendent





DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

• P.O. BOX 230, WHEELING, WV 26003 •

“It is greatly desired that in each diocese a pastoral commission will be established over which the diocesan bishop himself will preside and in which specially chosen clergy, religious and lay people will participate. The duty of this commission will be to investigate and weigh pastoral undertakings and to formulate practical conclusions regarding them.”

Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church
Vatican II Document, *Christus Dominus* Ch II, Sec III, n 27

Diocese Increases Role of Laity through Diocesan Pastoral Council

WHEELING – Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, will be conferring with lay and religious representatives from across the diocese, as he has reestablished the Diocesan Pastoral Council that Bishop Joseph H. Hodges originally established in 1968.

The council will assist Bishop Brennan in outlining and developing priorities, initiatives, and plans to fulfill the mission of the Church. The full mission of the council is five-fold.

1) To assist the Bishop, through consultation and cooperation, in developing pastoral priorities, initiatives, and plans to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ within the Diocese in the light of its existing social, economic, demographic, and cultural circumstances and resources;

2) To act as an authentic and reflective voice of the people of God;

3) To provide an honest and open forum of dialogue and communication regarding pastoral affairs among the Bishop, laity, religious, and clergy;

4) To collaborate with the Presbyteral Council, Parish and Vicariate Pastoral Councils, Vicariate leadership, and Diocesan offices in furthering the mission of the Diocesan Church;

5) To be a visible sign of the unity of the people of God in the Church at Wheeling-Charleston.

Beginning in 1968, the council served a vital role in the life of the diocese and the spiritual formation of the faithful. Under the guidance of Most Rev. Bernard W. Schmitt, seventh Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, this council helped form the four major documents of the Ninth Synod of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Those documents are available [here](#).

Bishop Brennan noted, “I look forward to having a Diocesan Pastoral Council that can bring to my attention concerns and ideas to enhance the spiritual and apostolic life and work of the Diocese and react to plans and issues I may bring up.”

The Diocesan Pastoral Council includes three elected members of the laity from each of the Diocese's six Vicariates (regions) for a total of 18; plus the Diocesan Bishop, the Vicar General, the

Chancellor of the Diocese, the Vicar for Clergy, the Chair of the Presbyteral Council, the Delegate for Consecrated Life, and several appointed members.

The election process for lay membership is as follows:

—Each parish, with any mission it may have, elects two laypersons to form, with those elected from other parishes, a Vicariate Council.

—The Vicariate Council then elects three persons from its membership to serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council making each member an elected member from among the faithful.

Parishes and Vicariates of the Diocese conducted their elections late in 2020 with the following lay members being selected:

—Beckley Vicariate: Gina Boggess, Darleen Whelan, Jim Copolo

—Charleston Vicariate: Mac Bailes, Kim Enders, Susan Bossie-Maddox

—Clarksburg Vicariate: Jim Archer, Charlotte Vester-Velloso, Perri DeChristopher

—Martinsburg Vicariate: Paul Buede, Kathleen Brockett, Linda Abrahamian

—Parkersburg Vicariate: Denise Laurine-Klug, Linda Nedeff, Colleen Newhart

—Wheeling Vicariate: Kevin Britt, Jerod Buck, Denis Wilson

Additional members will be added by the Bishop and include a Deacon of the Diocese, a person from one of the religious communities serving in the diocese, and two young adults of the Diocese.

Monsignor Eugene Ostrowski, Vicar General and Chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, stated he is “eager to work with a representative group from the Diocese to plan for the future and address significant issues.”

The group will meet three times a year with its first meeting set for February 19-20. The Charter for the Diocesan Pastoral Council can be found on the diocesan website [here](#).

SUPPORTING RELATIVES AS PARENTS IN OHIO COUNTY

By: Susan Hollis, Catholic Charities West Virginia Diocesan Director of Catholic Campaign for Human Development



Christine Virelli-Kuhens's granddaughter Destiny hugs CCNC Coordinator Diana Bell at the 2019 Christmas party

Over 7,000 children across West Virginia are formally being cared for by a person other than a biological parent. When this happens, there are so many hurdles to cross for both the child and the new guardian. Physical, emotional, financial, legal, and cultural barriers to becoming successful new parents abound.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Relatives as Parents (RAP) program seeks to support these new families and give participants the resources they need to be informed, effective, and responsible parents. The RAP program is run through the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (CCNC) in Wheeling and is funded by the James B. Chambers Memorial Foundation and the Robinson Parlin Trust Fund.

Monthly meetings, prior to the coronavirus pandemic, included guest speakers, group support and sharing time for the adults, supervised crafts and conversations for the kids, and a catered meal.

"All of the speakers were so beneficial," said Christine Virelli-Kuhens. She and her husband Aaron care for their granddaughter Destiny. "So many of us didn't know the resources available, but RAP really guided us to it."

Among the guest speakers, Christine mentioned the representative from the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) seemed to have the greatest impact for the group; the representative gave an overview of DHHR processes and then took time with each family privately to answer personal questions about the system. These meetings also build community among the participants and allow time to open up and understand

their struggles together. "We all became parents from different circumstances and sets of issues," Christine said. After breaking the ice, "we came together as a group to support each other."

Material drop-offs and support over phone and email has sustained the program as COVID presented many difficulties.

CCWVa will continue the RAP program with a new set of families this year, using a mix of virtual and in-person meetings following proper social distancing, mask wearing and hand-washing protocols.

The program runs from February through December and accepts 10 families each year with no income guidelines for the participants. CCWVa is seeking participants in Ohio County for the 2021 sessions now. Contact Diana Bell at 304-232-7157 or dbell@ccwva.org if you are interested.

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



Catholic Charities West Virginia
*Shining a Light
on Hope*
VIRTUAL GALA
Save the Date
March 16, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading JOB 7:1-4, 6-7

Job spoke, saying:

Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

Responsorial PSALMS 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

R. (cf. 3a) Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Praise the LORD, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him. The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit. The LORD sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

Alleluia MATTHEW 8:17

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MARK 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may carry on the mission of Jesus Christ, caring for the sick and wounded, the burdened and broken, bringing the strength and comfort of the Lord to them and their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our leaders may respond with compassion and assistance to the needs of those who suffer, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who suffer alone, those without close family and friends for companionship and support, that they may know the warm and loving embrace of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are discerning their vocation in life, that they may open their hearts to a call to consecrated life and be given the courage to respond generously, 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



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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

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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/)