Faith IN WV
JULY 19, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

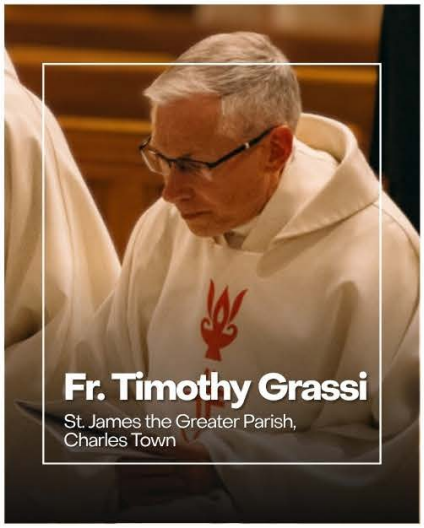
The Church is a Sign of HOPE

"The Church is a sign of hope. Like the stones under the cathedral are the foundation – you are the stones on which the Church stands. May we be signs of hope because God never abandons His people. His love and His mercy endure forever."

– Bishop Evelio Menjívar

Installation Insights

The Installation Mass of Bishop Evelio Menjívar as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling–Charleston carried the grandeur, sincerity, and awe of a renewed spiritual journey. The rite itself made visible the Church's apostolic reality as our new bishop stepped forward as our shepherd entrusted with Christ's mission. The moment was captured, from six different angles, by those who were there: Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi recalled the historic weight of the moment—door, procession, and proclamation—reading the whole ceremony as a living sign of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church; Claire Connelly spoke from the vantage of a young witness, noting the music, the differences that made the Mass feel special, and the heartfelt urgency of asking God for wisdom and courage for the new bishop; Bradford Stephan described a rare convergence of spirit and reverence, where the bishop's message of belonging was felt as well as heard; Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr. emphasized the bishop's calm sincerity, the smooth organization marked by staff smiling in their service, and the way the homily's "Country Roads" connection to home pointed hearts back to Christ; Rev. Brian J. Crenwelge highlighted how the liturgy moved from reception at the cathedral doors to the reading of the appointment and the bishop at the cathedra, explicitly teaching that episcopal installations are reminders of the Church's unity; and Deacon Bryce Timberlake was awestruck by the profound beauty of Christ's Church... from the symbolic knocking and opening of St. Joseph's Cathedral doors to the timeless proclamation of Pope Leo XIV and the majestic procession that made the day feel like a true "WOW" of Catholic unity, reverence, and hope.



"The Installation Mass of Bishop Evelio Menjivar Ayala as the 10th Bishop of the Wheeling -Charleston Diocese can proudly be added to the historic events for our Diocese. The closed streets and the full parking lots were indicative of how important this was for the people of our Diocese. The Hispanic Community from my own parish of St. James the Greater in Charles Town brought a bus load of people to make a joyful noise to welcome Bishop Evelio. It was very meaningful to experience the actual ceremony and the significance of his installation.

"The beginning on the steps of the cathedral with Bishop Evelio pounding on the door with the hammer, to the long procession of Deacons, Priests and Bishops, to the Apostolic Nuncio making the official proclamation to Bishop Evelio showing his letter of appointment to the Congregation and then taking his place on his Cathedra speaks of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Indeed, it was a day to remember and an event to celebrate for our Diocese.

"I give glory to God for the blessings of Holy Mother Church and the beauty of our Faith as we welcomed the Chief Shepherd of our Diocese!"

– Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, pastor of St. James the Greater, Charles Town, and Vicar Forane of the Martinsburg Vicariate.

"Inside the cathedral was beautiful, and (I was impressed) with all the priests and clergy in attendance.. I was happy to have been asked to represent the children of the diocese, but nervous during the Mass leading up to the time of (intercession) prayer. The music during the Mass and some of the instruments used were so different from a normal Sunday Mass."

Claire's intercessory prayer, "'For Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala as he begins his new ministry as the Tenth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, that God may grant him wisdom and courage as he shepherds the people of West Virginia, let us pray to the Lord.'

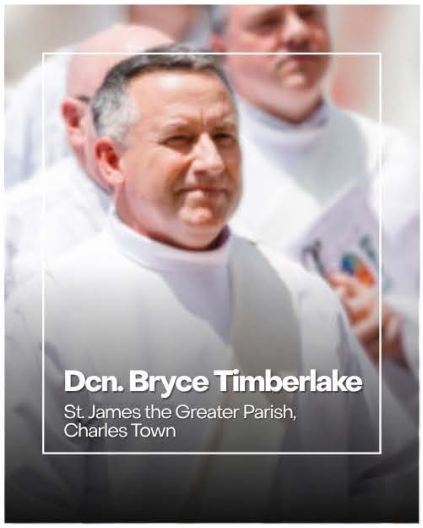
"I think it as important to pray for wisdom and courage for our new bishop, because it's an important job, and any leader needs to have those qualities."

– Claire Connelly, member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling, sixth grade student at Bridge Street Middle School, and daughter of Tom and Jenn Connelly.

"As a lifelong Catholic from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, student for 12 years of Catholic schooling, and parent to two faithful Catholic children, it was an honor to be present for the installation of Bishop Evelio. What struck me deeply was, that despite all the history with, and close participation in, Catholic teaching over the years, never had I been a part of an assembly that brought so much spirit and reverence into one single place.

"The gracefulness of Bishop Brennan in passing responsibility of the Catholic faithful in West Virginia to Bishop Evelio was so flawless, it reminded me of past Olympic quality US track and field relay events, with a patriotic crowd in support. Bishop Evelio's message of belonging, and the human longing to belong, was not just seen, but felt. Those in attendance at the Cathedral were deeply connected with their faith in God, in witness and celebration of an age of Catholic earnestness across West Virgina. As the choir splendidly lifted the spirit of all who could hear, closing with a rousing rendition America the Beautiful, it clearly ensured that the strong will and leadership of Bishop Evelio would guide the community for years to come."

– Bradford Stephan, Diocesan Finance Council and Investment Committee stewardship advisor.



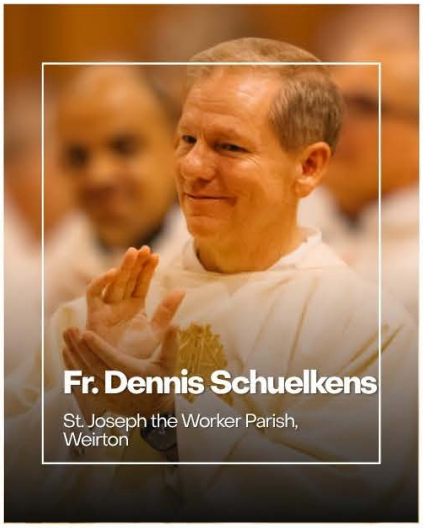
"As a convert to the Roman Catholic Church in 1989 and a permanent deacon ordained for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in 2024, I remain continually awestruck by the profound beauty and spiritual richness of Christ's Church.
"The installation of Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala was a joyous milestone in my journey and a tremendous honor to participate in as a cleric. While we said a grateful farewell to our beloved shepherd, Bishop Mark Brennan, after seven faithful years, the day overflowed with celebration as we welcomed our new bishop with open hearts.

"Arriving with my brother deacon, Dave Torlone, I was filled with awe and delight at the magnificent gathering of cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, and laity who traveled from across the United States and around the world to rejoice with Bishop Evelio on this historic day. The warm spirit of fellowship during the luncheon preceding the ceremony beautifully foreshadowed the unity and pastoral vitality we will experience under his leadership.

"Watching Bishop Evelio knock three times on the door of St. Joseph's Cathedral and seeing the delighted face of Bishop Mark as he opened the great doors to welcome his successor, was a truly inspiring moment. The majestic procession of clergy that followed seemed almost endless—a magnificent testament to the living Church in all her glory. The solemn introduction by Archbishop William Lori and the proclamation from Pope Leo, delivered by Apostolic Nuncio Gabriele Caccia, immersed us in the deep, timeless traditions of our faith, evoking the installations of bishops across the centuries.

"All I can say is WOW! I am profoundly grateful and truly blessed to be Catholic, and I look forward with great excitement to serving alongside and learning from our new bishop. Praise be to Jesus Christ, now and forever!"

– Deacon Bryce B. Timberlake, Permanent Deacon at St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town



"From beginning to end, it was an amazing and memorable experience.

"Before the luncheon, I happened to be standing at the entrance of the Great Hall when Bishop Evelio entered. He was approachable, welcomed a brief conversation, and was calm, kind, and truly present. I appreciated his sincerity.
"I enjoyed seeing a classmate and good friend from Mount St. Mary's who is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington and their Vicar General, Father Jamie Workman. I had not anticipated sharing the laughter and stories from seminary as a part of this event!

"Something that struck me was the level of organization and the involvement of the chancery staff in every facet of the schedule. I was quite surprised to pull up an hour early and see Pat Henry and Ken Staley out directing cars! They did it with a smile. I saw a lot of smiles throughout the day.

"I appreciated Bishop Evelio's connections which he made in his homily with the song, 'Country Roads'. We desire that experience of home, and we experience it fundamentally in Christ and where Christ calls us to be. I believed Bishop Evelio when he said he is home here with us. He explained well that he comes, not with all the answers, but with a desire to serve in the love of Christ.

"Again, the installation mass was well organized and ran smoothly. That's a testament to Bishop Brennan and the chancery staff as well as the parishioners of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. Well done!

"May God bless Bishop Evelio's leadership and service in West Virginia."

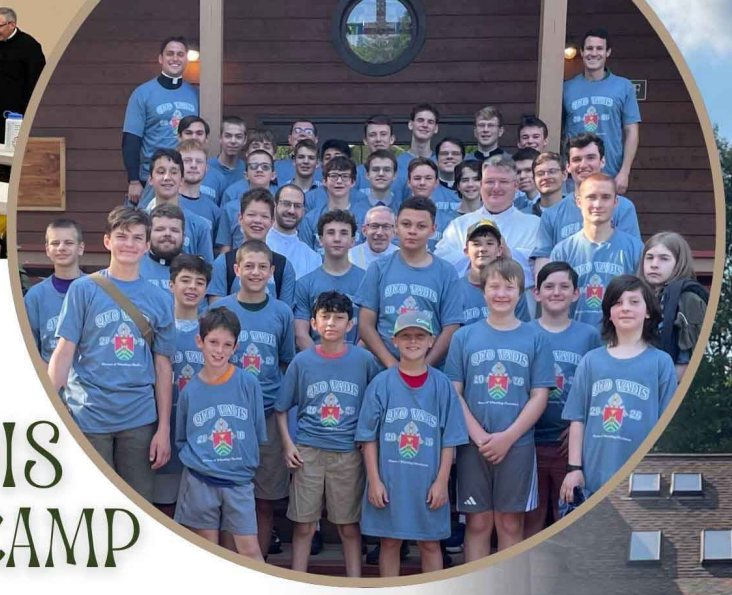
– Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., Pastor Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, St. Joseph the Worker Parish and School, Weirton

"The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston welcomed its new shepherd, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, during the Mass of Episcopal Installation held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. It was nice to see clergy, religious, and lay faithful from throughout West Virginia gathered for the occasion as well as many guests from around the country. The liturgy began with the formal reception of Bishop Menjivar-Ayala at the cathedral doors before the procession entered the church. Early in the Mass, the Apostolic Letter from Pope Leo XIV appointing Bishop Menjivar-Ayala as the 10th Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston was read publicly. Following its presentation, Bishop Menjivar-Ayala was escorted to the cathedra, the bishop's chair, signifying his assumption of pastoral governance of the diocese. In his homily, Bishop Menjivar-Ayala reflected on his gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve the people of West Virginia and emphasized the importance of unity, faith, and missionary discipleship.

"Episcopal installations are relatively rare occasions, and they remind us that every diocese is united with the universal Church through the ministry of its bishop.

"We continue to pray for Bishop Menjivar-Ayala as he begins his ministry among us. May the Holy Spirit grant him wisdom, courage, and perseverance as he leads the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and may the faithful of our diocese support him with their prayers and cooperation in the work of proclaiming the Gospel throughout our state."

– Rev. Brian J. Crenwelge, Pastor of St. John University Parish, Morgantown



QUO VADIS RETREAT & CAMP

A path to learning, discerning, and serving

From June 28 to July 1, diocesan seminarians and priests hosted the Quo Vadis Retreat for high school aged boys and, simultaneously, the Quo Vadis Camp for middle school boys at Priest Field Retreat Center, Kearneysville, WV.
Seminarian Michael J. Tupta, director of the high school retreat, shared the following about this year's Quo Vadis:

These days were a wonderful opportunity for a group of young men from various parts of our diocese to participate more concretely in the life of prayer and service that diocesan seminarians and priests do. From recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, daily participation in Holy Mass, Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of Reconciliation, a more focused prayer routine certainly gave these young men a greater sense of the expectations in seminary formation and priestly life.
Fr. Timothy Grassi, pastor at St. James the Greater in Charles Town, talked to the high school boys on Monday morning about the priest as "the father of the poor". He shared personal experiences of his own spiritual fatherhood and the priest's particular role in fathering those to whom he cares for, in all types of poverty. Then, all the retreatants split up into small groups to spend the day serving the corporal needs of those in the community. First being in relationship with the Lord in the Holy Eucharist at morning Mass so beautifully gives us the grace necessary to serve those that the Lord asks us to.
On Tuesday, the group went to Mount St Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, which is one of the four current diocesan seminaries that our diocese sends men to for priestly formation. The day included recreation and prayer at the seminary as well as the nearby National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.
All in all, these four days were for these young men to retreat from the normal routine of their lives, like separating themselves from distractions such as technology, so as to more intentionally let the Lord Jesus into their hearts.

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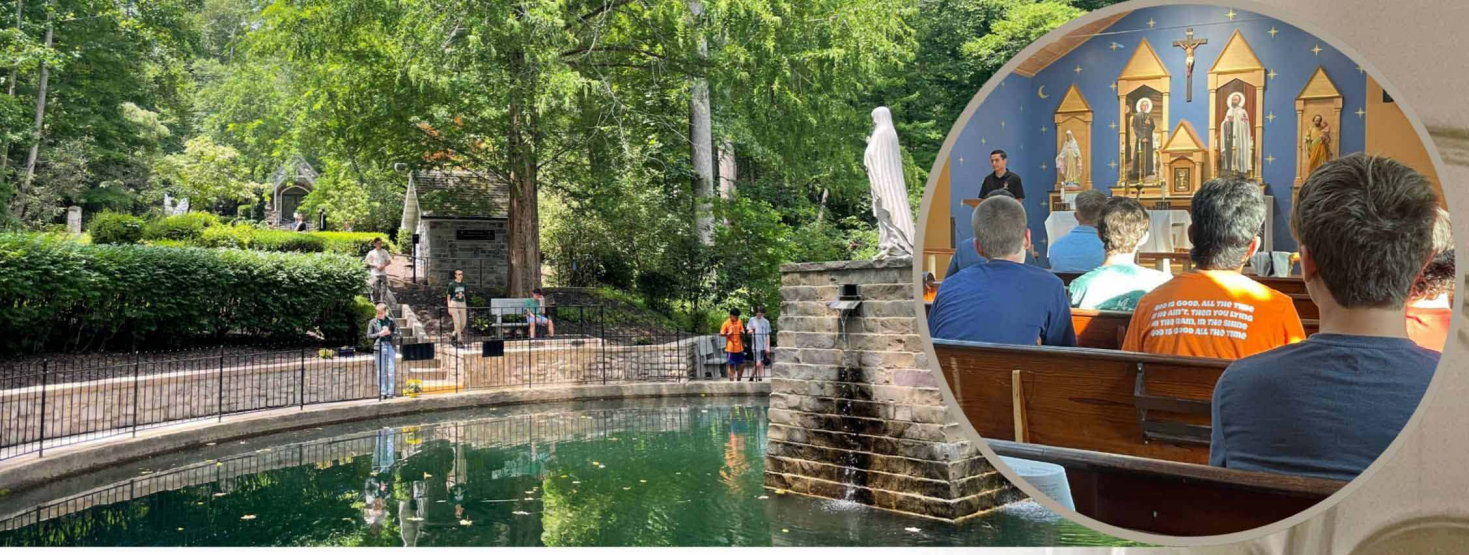
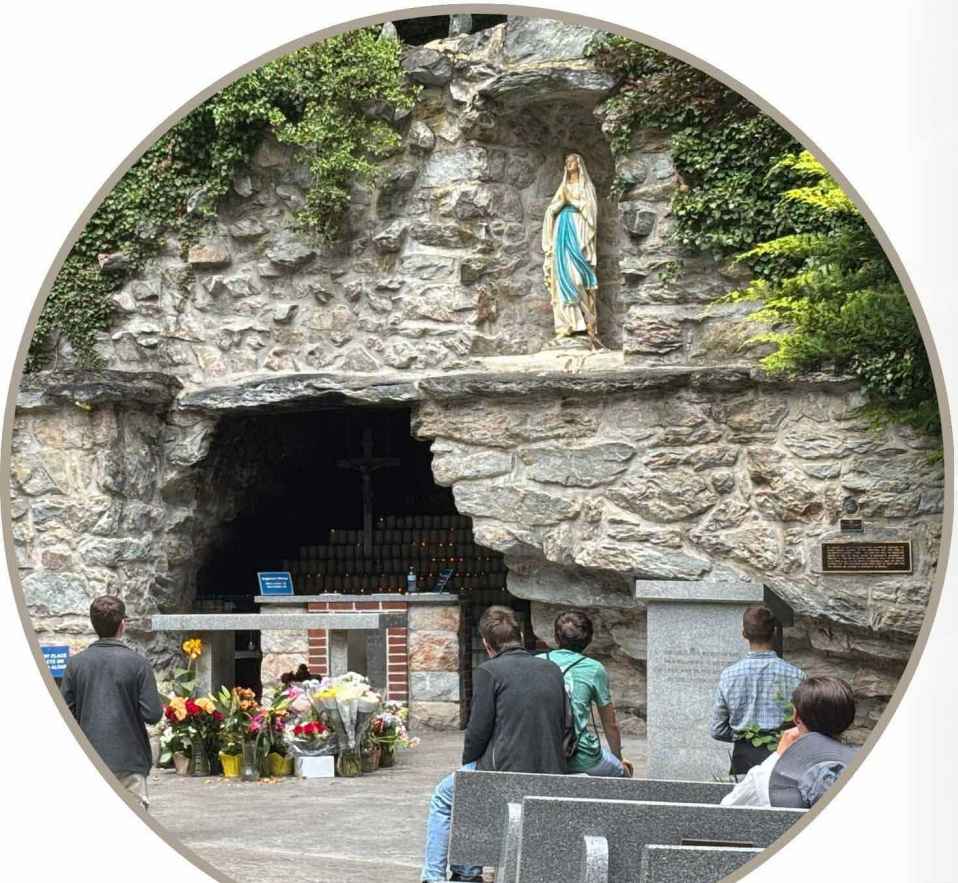


God has a beautiful plan for each of these young men.
And so, we, the priests and seminarians of the diocese, simply want to help them discern and follow where God is calling.
This importantly includes giving them practical advice from our own paths, as all of us have had our own unique experiences that can be helpful to them.
We were humbled to serve this role for them and appreciated their authenticity in sincerely desiring to know, love and serve God and His Church. We are grateful to God for this experience and the motherly care of the Blessed Virgin Mary in keeping us safe and focused on her Son.



ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Light Dinner Provided

Opportunity for Confession

BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to Basics

A faith-filled talk given by Seminarian Michael Tupta to start your school year right

Thursday, August 6th - 6pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Don't miss this! Invite a friend!

Please RSVP by August 3rd to help plan for food-Call the Parish Office, 304-267-4893 or call, text or email Linda Abrahamian, 304-279-2315, linda.abrahamian@gmail.com

BACK TO SCHOOLFAITH, AND HOPE,CONFIRM YOUR YEAR

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- MEDALS FOR 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE
- WINNERS RECEIVE RIBBON & STIPEND
- EACH PLAYER RECEIVES SHIRT FOR EVENT AND SWAG BAG
- EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

God is the source of justice, giving hope and permits repentance for sins.

Responsorial: Psalm 86

"Lord, you are good and forgiving."

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Saint Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and intercedes for us.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Let the seeds grow together until harvest – the angels like the harvester will know how to separate the weeds from the good.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as we conclude our yearlong 175th Anniversary celebrations, may God's mercy shine upon us strengthening us to proclaim the Good News like our founding bishops and faithful, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who work in the judicial system in this country, that they may work to ensure justice is applied equitably, with kindness and clemency, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the times we are quick to condemn others, that we may pause and exercise patience with what appears to be weeds, who may yet grow and bear fruit, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may be like yeast in our workplaces and communities, revealing the kingdom of God by the way we treat each other, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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.