



# GOD BLESS, POPE LEO XIV

“Almighty Father, guide Pope Leo XIV with wisdom, strength, and compassion as he leads the Church. Jesus, instill in him a deep understanding of your love and truth. Holy Spirit, inspire his teachings and actions to bring hope for all people.

Amen.”



# GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY LORD, SHEPHERD ME!

On this the Fourth Sunday of Easter we hear John's Gospel, when Christ identifies himself as the Shepherd who will lay down his life for his sheep.

Good Shepherd Sunday is fittingly, World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

As a member of the Church, we all have a responsibility since baptism to foster vocations - priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life - male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity - missionary life, single life, and married life. At baptism we are called to holiness - to serve God and others. Strong marriages, where couples grow in faith and receive the Eucharist together; and the commitment to a single life without marriage and children (CCC 1658) and focused on living in the spirit of the Beatitudes - are important vocations to the Church.

Whatever our vocation we are called by Jesus to enter into it with the compassion, patience and love He taught us - see the good in others, forgive, serve without wanting something in return, and be the light of Christ in your actions and your words. Trust God, His plan, and His timing.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston we call to mind all those who have strengthened our faith throughout our lives, as well as

those who are shepherding us today. Together let us thank God for our bishop, our priests, consecrated men and women, missionaries, and lay faithful who are servant leaders for Christ's Church.

Individually let us dedicate ourselves to our own discernment and also encouraging young men and women to open their hearts and minds to Catholic vocations in the priesthood and religious life.

Sister Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in our diocese, calls all the faithful in WV to pray every week or every day for vocations, as the diocese focuses May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, for our Rosary Crusade for Vocations for WV.

"Be certain that behind and before every single vocation is the beautiful prayers of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a faith community.... Vocations are born in prayer," she said, adding that it was our Blessed Mother Mary who said, "When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess."

Editor's note: The art with this article is from Faith Art Creation on Etsy: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/FAITHARTCREATION](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/FAITHARTCREATION)



## Happy Mother's Day

*"The Most Important Person on earth is a mother.*

She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body....

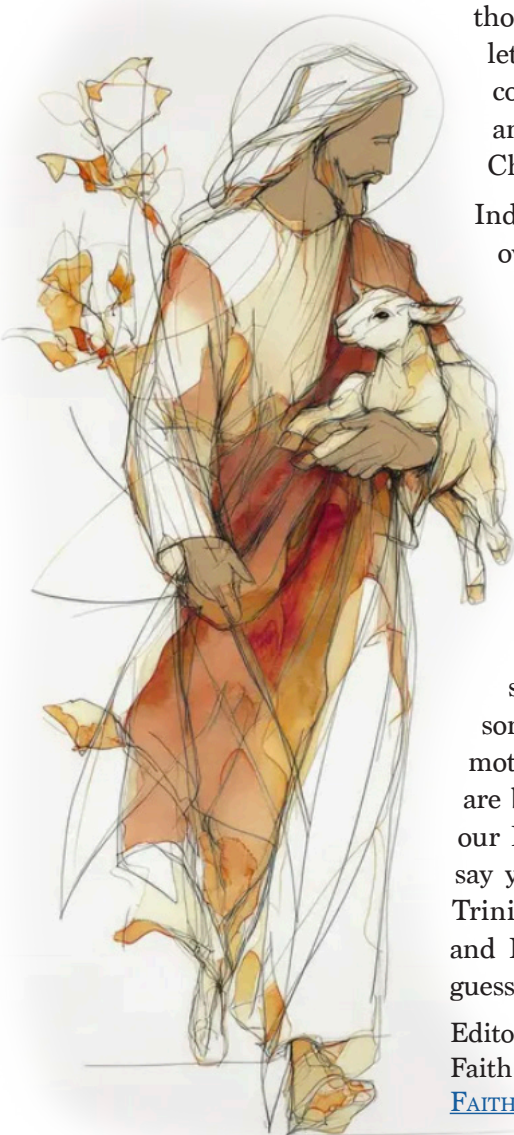
The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can.

Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature;

God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...

What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

—Cardinal Jozsef (Pehm) Mindszenty  
1852-1975



# GET YOUR ROSARIES READY

## OFFICIAL KICKOFF FOR ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA

*Tuesday, May 13th  
The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima*



Faithful from around WV and the Ohio Valley will come together on Tuesday, May 13th at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling for a Rosary Procession to kick-off the year-long Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

The procession will begin at 7:00 p.m. from St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market Street, and end with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff Street. This special event is an encore to the diocesan Rosary for Vocations from two years ago. The kick-off event also honors Our Blessed Mother on her feast day as Our Lady of Fatima. On that evening, faithful of all ages will be praying for vocations in WV, our Church, the world, and our families. Those children who have received their First Holy Communion are encouraged to come in their sacramental dress to help lead the procession behind Mary.

When Our Blessed Mother appeared to the three children in Fatima in 1917, she told them that she wanted to faithful to pray the Rosary each day.

In interviews years after the apparition, the eldest of the children to witness the Fatima apparitions, Lucia dos Santos, who became a Carmelite nun, said the Rosary is “a powerful means of helping us to preserve our faith, hope, and charity. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.”

Remember through the Rosary, Mary is an intercessor for us, taking our intentions directly to Jesus.

The Rosary is the perfect devotional tool – a significant gift of prayer for our intentions for an increase in Catholic vocations - more priests, consecrated men and women, deacons, and strong Catholic marriages – in the Mountain State.

This effort all starts with this one night, and our very special prayer – the Rosary.

*...continued*

# THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

MONDAY, MAY 13

On this day in 1917, the Blessed Mother chose to appear to Lúcia Santos, a young Portuguese girl, and her two younger cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, as they were out tending their sheep outside their village in Fatima, Portugal. Lucia, who was 10 but the eldest of the trio would often kneel in the open fields and pray the Rosary.

History has recorded it was about noon when a flash of light caught the children’s attention. They said they saw a “brilliant” figure over the trees. The vision told them to pray for the conversion of sinners and an end to the war (World War I), and she would come back every month, on the 13th. As foretold apparitions happened again on June 13 and July 13. However, the children were prohibited to return to the Cova da Iria, where the previous appearances were, but when they returned

*...continued*



Bishop Mark Brennan and Delegate for Consecrated Life Sr. Martha Gomez ask you prayerfully consider a personal Rosary goal for this crusade from May 13, 2025 to May 13, 2026.

As Sr. Lucia dos Santos said, “the Rosary is something everybody can do, rich and poor, wise and ignorant, great and small.”

While many may not be able to attend the Wheeling procession, Cathedral Rector Fr. Pen (Penumaka) Manikyalarao and those present will certainly call to mind the intentions of all the faithful in the diocese.

“Behind and before every vocation to is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a faith community,” Sr. Martha said.

To follow along with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV go to: [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG) and our diocesan Facebook page: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON). As we prayerfully contemplate our pledges and commitment to our Rosary for Vocations Crusade let us pray:

*Oh, my Jesus, listen to my prayer today.  
Bless more young people, more men, and more women  
here in West Virginia to say yes to your call  
to be religious brothers, sisters, and priests.  
Bless my family and my Church family  
so, we can support them, and remain close to you.  
We ask Blessed Mary and St. Joseph to come to you  
in our need to build up the Church in the great Mountain State.  
Amen.*

on August 19, again the image appeared. Famously on September 13, the vision requested recitation of the Rosary for an end to the world war. It was on October 13, the “Lady” identified herself as “Our Lady of the Rosary” and again called for prayer and penance.

Take time to pray the rosary to the Blessed Mother with requests for the world and the conversion of sinners. Whether you are a dedicated soul who prays this beautiful meditative prayer routinely or one who stumbles through it or hesitates for whatever the reason you can pray along with rosary audio and video presentations while sitting in silence or on a prayerful walk.

Find great resources for how to pray the Rosary, printables, Catholic apps, websites, how to make a Rosary, and more. Check it out at: [FAITHINWV.ORG/RESOURCES](http://FAITHINWV.ORG/RESOURCES)

Editor’s note: The art featured with this article Our Lady of Fatima by Charles Bosseron Chambers.

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

# WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



- **Cathedral of St. Joseph** 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** 1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg



Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer (at site):** Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: [dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025](http://dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025)



# Rosary Procession

Join us in prayer as we honor  
Our Lady of Fatima with a  
Rosary Procession for our Church,  
our world, and our families.

*Tuesday, May 13*

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

*7:00 pm*

Begins at  
**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH**  
Ends with Holy Mass at the  
**CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH**

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE

Runs from the Cathedral to St. Alphonsus (6:15 - 6:50 pm)  
and returns after Mass.



OFFICIAL KICKOFF

**Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV**

May 13, 2025 - May 13, 2026

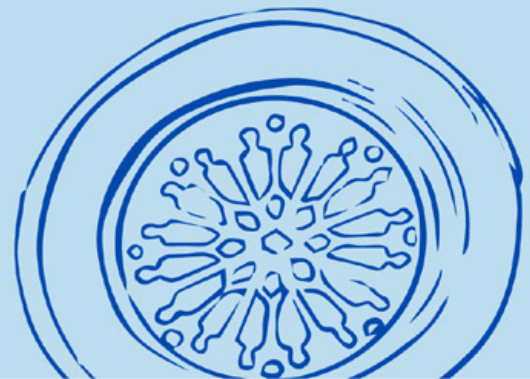
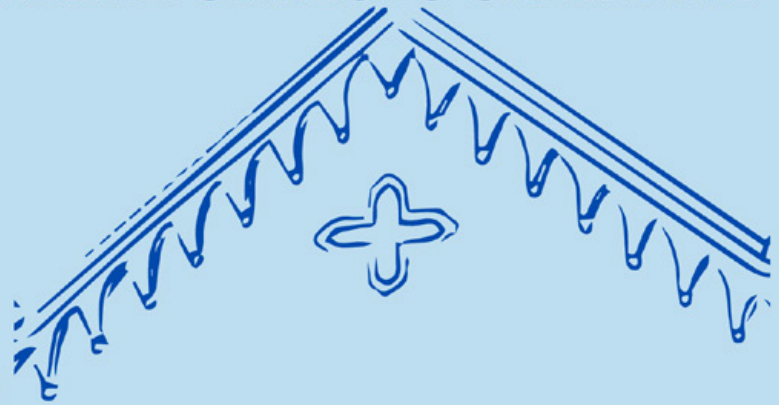
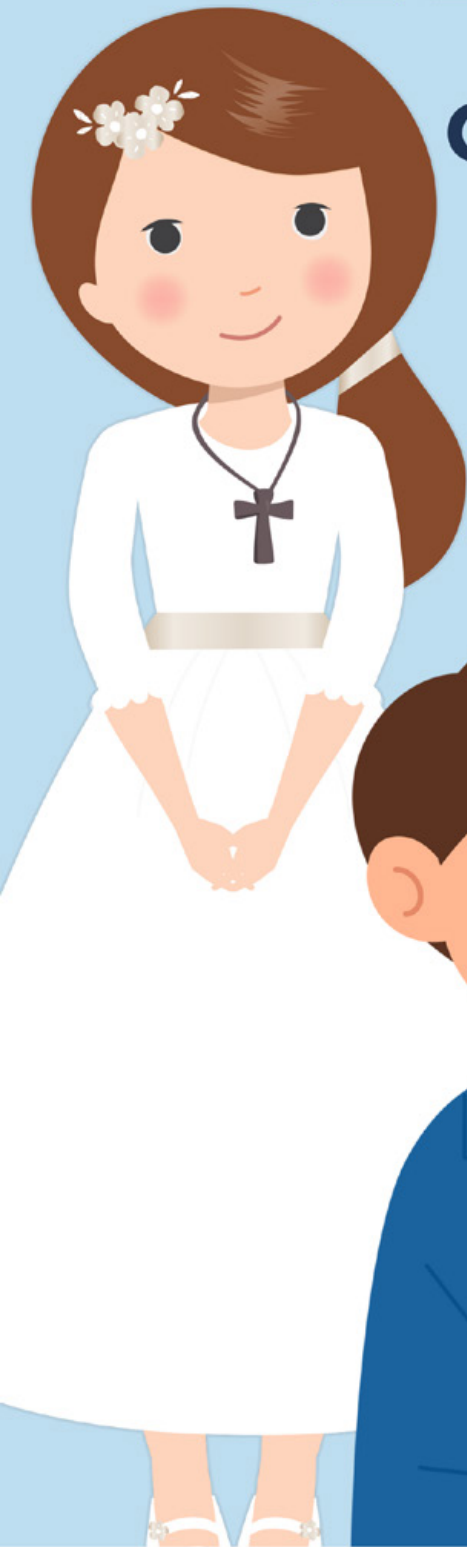
# WAIT!

**DON'T PUT AWAY  
YOUR FIRST HOLY  
COMMUNION CLOTHES YET!  
WEAR THEM & HELP LEAD...**

- The Rosary Procession to honor Mary, on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
- The Kickoff Crowd for the year-long Rosary Crusade for Vocations!

**WHEN: 7 PM TUES., MAY 13TH**

**WHERE: ST. AL'S TO CATHEDRAL**



**Procession begins at 7pm, Tuesday, May 13, at St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market St. and ends with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.**

(Shuttle available. Runs from Cathedral to St. Al's from 6:15-6:50pm. Shuttle to St. Als after Mass)

# OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Coinciding the first apparition of Mary at Fatima is the feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, May 13, 1856 – the day that Saint Peter Julian Eymard founded the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

He believed it was Mary who divinely inspired him, recognizing that Christ was recognized by so many mysteries and titles, but none to honor Him in the Eucharist.

He is the one who gave Mary the title Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. He was known as “The Priest of the Eucharist.” From further back than he could remember, his family said he was dedicated to the Holy Eucharist and Mary.

As a young boy, when his sister would return from receiving Holy Communion, he would sit super close to her and lay his head on her chest, saying, “I can feel His presence.”

Saint Peter Julian Eymard (pronounced A-mard) loved Christ and thrived in faith, because he knew the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist at a very young age.

His sister and half-sister were watching him one day, when he went missing. They frantically searched all over the house and neighborhood for their five-year-old brother before it dawned on them to go to the place he loved to be – their church.

There he was up on the sanctuary beyond the altar. He was standing on a step stool so he could be close to the



tabernacle. You can imagine their relief to find him, but their distress as well. When they reverently went up to the sanctuary to get him down and put the stool back, he told them matter-of-factly that he was there “listening to Jesus.”

When he was finally of age (12) to receive his First Holy Communion, he held both hands to his chest as if embracing Christ, and later wrote he did so telling Jesus, “I shall be a priest, I promise you!”

His Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament were dedicated in making sure the Blessed Sacrament was honored and guarded 24 hours a day. Lay people also became committed to this practice, which we now know as Eucharistic devotion – Adoration.

He was instrumental also in founding the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

In a letter to inspire Eucharistic Adoration he wrote, “Go to the good Lord very simply, with the surrender of a small child. Tell the good Lord what you are thinking, what you want, what is upsetting you. O how happy we become when we discover this interior conversation with our Lord! We carry our treasure everywhere. He becomes the center of our heart and life.”

Known as the Apostle of the Eucharist, St. Peter Julian’s feast day is August 2.

# ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

## FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF FAIRMONT CATHOLIC

By Sr. Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life



Spring is a great time to celebrate academic accomplishments. Today I want to applaud two very special teachers who just received their Master of Arts Degrees in Education Leadership from Wheeling University.

Sister Setsulu Mary Kezo, U.F.C., and Reeta Minin Lopis, U.F.C., are here from

India serving the children at Fairmont Catholic School and St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, in Fairmont.

We are very proud of these sisters who left their homes and country, responding to an invitation to come and serve the children in West Virginia. Coming from another country myself I know what it takes to respond to God's call to serve Him in a place thousands of miles from home. It is another level of answering the call and making sacrifices for God and His people. It is our vocation and commitment

we embrace for religious life. We do so freely knowing of God's promise. With Christ we know the work of our hands, hearts, and minds moves us forward in serving God with the talents that he provides us with. That is what motivated Sr. Setsulu Mary Kezo and Sr. Reeta Minin Lopis to work hard on earning advanced degrees, while fulfilling their service to the school and parish.

Their generosity will never be forgotten, and our appreciation needs to be known to them by supporting them in their achievements and endeavors. We might not know now about the great impact they have on our community, but the fruits will come later when we see our children succeed in life by been good people and citizens.



It is clear that Bishop Mark Brennan values Catholic schools and has supported Father Joseph Konikattil's effort to continue a strong Catholic education for the children in the Fairmont area. He is very much impressed with the work the sisters are rendering to the children in their surroundings.

Thanks to them and the support of their parish and school community, Fairmont has a total of five Ursuline Franciscan Congregation Sisters serving our Diocese in our Catholic School in Fairmont, and they are: Sr. Reeta Minin Lopis, who is responsible for the sisters; Sr. Setsulu Mary Kezo; Sr. Neetha D'Souza; Sr. Rita Miranda; and Sr. Shelma D'Souza.

It is a blessing to have such a young joyful, grateful group of Sisters.





# MORE THAN \$308,000 RAISED FOR WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

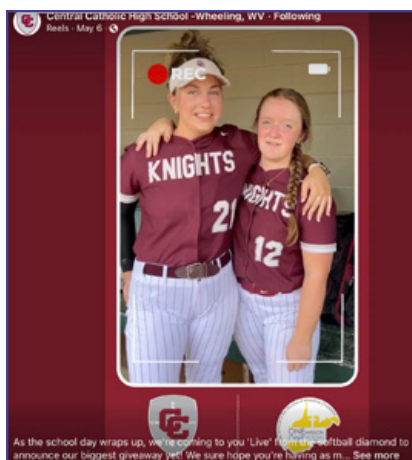
*ONE MISSION ONE DAY*



**THANK YOU** to each of our *One Mission One Day to Make a Difference* donors!



We applaud our school advancement directors, principals, pastors, and families for 24 hours of fun and creative online fundraising antics on May 6th that generated a lot of buzz and more than \$305,000 by day's end. That total climbed to more than \$308,000 as late donations were added May 7th.



“One Mission One Day to Make a Difference isn't only about raising money, it's about bringing our school families, alumni, supporters and friends together and highlighting the excellence in our Catholic

schools while we have some fun and make a real difference,” said Assistant Director of Stewardship and Development Heidi Sforza.

Each school chooses how they will utilize their gifts.

This year we saw a wide variety of projects including classroom upgrades, staff bonuses, and technology and curriculum enhancements, Sforza noted.

“It was truly a joy to follow along online and see our schools in action — from dancing students collecting donations with big smiles, to field trips, spirit days, and creative contests. The energy and excitement were contagious, and it was clear how much fun they were having while participating in something so meaningful,” she said.

The online giving day is run by our individual schools with the help of the diocesan stewardship and development and communications offices.

In May of 2020, when all Spring school fundraisers had to be cancelled, advancement directors and principals with the help of diocesan offices held the first diocesan wide online One Mission One Day Event was held and raised \$245,000. Since then, students, principals, pastors, and alumni have had fun getting involved with various contests, sharing pictures and videos, and donating to their favorite Catholic schools.



This year St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington raised the most money during the event with more than \$46,000, followed by St. Vincent de Paul Parish School and Central Catholic High School, both of Wheeling.

For the sixth year in a row – yep, every year since the fun and fundraiser began - St. Paul Catholic School in Weirton had the most donors at 251. They will receive an additional \$1,000 from the West Virginia Catholic Foundation.

Since launching the statewide giving day 6 years ago, we've raised more than \$2.3 million for Catholic schools across the state, Sforza said.

# Plans for Memorial Day Mass at Bishop's Chapel Announced

The Annual Memorial Day Mass at the Bishop's Chapel in Mt. Calvary Cemetery will be held at 10 am on May 26th in Wheeling.

All are invited to attend a special Memorial Day Mass honoring all military personnel who died while serving our country in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Also, during this Mass, a special recognition will be made to honor Bishop John Joseph Kain (the second bishop of our diocese for the years 1875-1893) acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of his Consecration as Bishop is May 23, 2025.

It was Bishop Kain, a Martinsburg native, who had the cemetery chapel built for the faithful at the cemetery.

Interestingly, upon the death of Bishop Richard V. Whelan in 1874, he was laid to rest at the center of Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling.

Soon after, plans were adopted to erect a mortuary chapel over his grave, today known as the Bishops' Chapel. The chapel serves as a memorial to Bishop Whelan and has become the burial place for many of his successor bishops of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The cornerstone of the Elizabethan stone chapel was laid by Bishop John J. Kain on August 27, 1876. Work was completed in three years, and the chapel was dedicated before a large crowd on November 2, 1879. Bishop Whelan's remains were transferred to one of several vaults recessed into the chapel floor.

More interesting history, Bishop Kain had intended to serve out his days in Wheeling, relocating his family to live in the city and transferring the remains of his father and sister to Mount Calvary Cemetery, so they might be buried together as a family. Instead, in May 1893 Kain was appointed coadjutor archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, succeeding Archbishop Peter Kenrick in June 1895. Kain administered the archdiocese for the following eight years until his death on October 13, 1903. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

Today, the Bishops' Chapel at Mount Calvary Cemetery serves as the final resting place for six diocesan bishops. The chapel is an intimate and sacred setting to celebrate Funeral Rites and for quiet prayer and contemplation. Mass is offered in the chapel on the first Friday of each month.





What is  
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asking of  
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August 29th -30th

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*4030 Middleway Pike  
Kearneysville WV,  
25430*

*Diocese of  
Wheeling-Charleston*

To sign up:  
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# Quo Vadis

DISCERNMENT

# Retreat

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Welcoming boys grades 6th - 12th!

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HIKING GAMES CHALLENGES



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CAMP IS STAFFED BY LAITY, PRIESTS, AND SEMINARIANS FROM THE  
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SEMINARIAN RETREAT LEADERS:  
Middle School Breakouts



Peter Russman

St. James, Charles Town  
*Pontifical College Josephine, Columbus, OH*

High School Breakouts



Dominic Re

Ss. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill  
*Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD*



Joe Derico

St. Patrick, Weston  
*Pope St. John Paul II, Washington, DC*



**IT'S FREE!**

Register now at [WVPriests.org](http://WVPriests.org)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

**First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52**

Paul and Barnabas preach to the Gentiles.

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**Responsorial: Psalm 100**

“We are his people, the sheep of his flock.”

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**Second Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14b-17**

The Lamb of God is our shepherd who leads us to life-giving water.

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**Gospel: John 10:27-30**

No one can harm one of Jesus’ lambs.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For all who shepherd the Church as we strive to follow Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may be a servant leader and shepherd their people with care and thoughtfulness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

On this Mother’s Day, may our mothers, grandmothers, and all those who have shown a mother’s love, that they may be blessed with confidence – never doubting – God’s love, mercy, and promises, let us pray to the Lord. . .

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations let us praise God for all Catholic vocations, those who minister to the Church; and those discerning their vocation in this life, may they continually find new joys each day, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
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Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
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LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).