



CONFIRMATION ~ A NEW BEGINNING

We become disciples of Christ in the holy water of Baptism; and our minds and will are strengthened in Confirmation for a new beginning - to go out into the world confident in our love for Christ. This is the message Bishop Mark Brennan shared during his Confirmation Mass homily at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling Monday.

When Spring arrives in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, so does an impressively long list of Confirmations in our parishes. From March until June, Bishop Mark will travel all over the state so he can be the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrant. This week alone he will be at parishes in Weirton, Hedgesville, Inwood, Charles Town, and Martinsburg.

“The Lord gives us new life with the sacrament, they strengthen us like the Word of God,” Bishop Mark said. “We learn from God how we are to live. Confirmation gives us the gifts we need to take on the challenges that are to come.”

He said the gifts of confirmation through the Holy Spirit “enlighten our minds to grasp the truth and strengthen your will to put the truth into action.”

“Trust the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you,” he said, naming five habits that will keep you on the right path:

Daily prayer - talk to God every day.

Liturgical prayer - assemble as a member of God’s people (Mass, sacraments, etc.).

Reconciliation - the sacramental gift of God’s mercy.

Scripture - Come to know Jesus and love Him more by reading the bible and putting yourself in it.

Service -As Jesus said there is more joy in giving than receiving.



So, while many consider Confirmation as a graduation

of sorts, it is actually a new beginning.

It is our own Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit comes upon us to courageously continue in our journey to show and share our love of Jesus. In our Confirmation we become closely united with Christ. Think of it as an exclamation point on Christ’s call for us to be missionaries of His word in our families, community, and the world.

During Confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens the seven gifts we received in Baptism:

Wisdom - the ability to look upon life as God does, trusting His plan.

Understanding - the ability to comprehend the teachings of the Church and being empathetic.

Knowledge - the ability to choose the right path on the journey towards heaven.

Fortitude - the ability to have confidence in your faith as a Christian soldier.

Counsel - the ability to have good judgement and sense to be faithful.

Piety - the ability to be reverent to God and serve for God.

Fear of the Lord - the sense of awe of God, not wanting to offend Him.

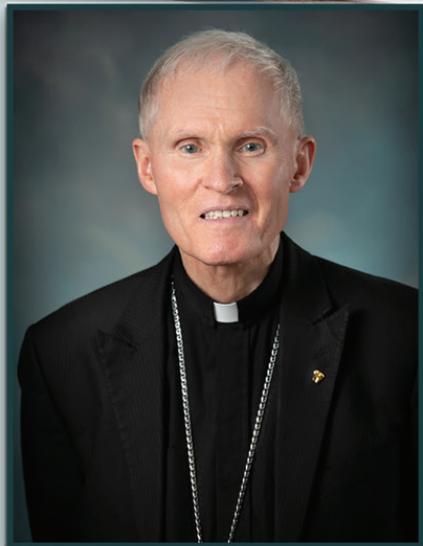
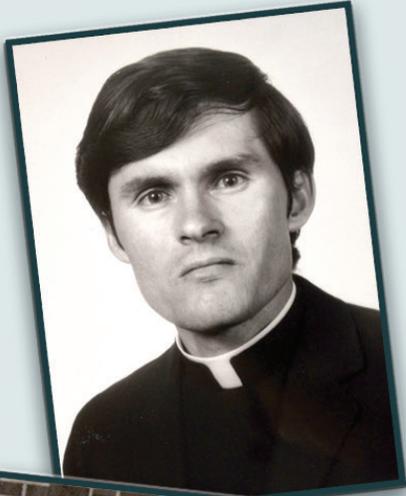
By possessing all of these gifts we the confirmed are able to help fulfill the mission of Christ and serve others in His grace. These same gifts enable us to get through anything.

It was St. James (1:2-4) who said, “Count it all joy, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Peace be with you!

*Happy 46th Anniversary
of your ordination to the priesthood!*

Bishop Mark E. Brennan



*We give thanks to God
always for all of you,
remembering you in our
prayers, unceasingly,
calling to mind your
work of faith and labor
of love and endurance
in hope of our Lord
Jesus Christ, before our
God and Father.*

Thessalonians 1:2-3



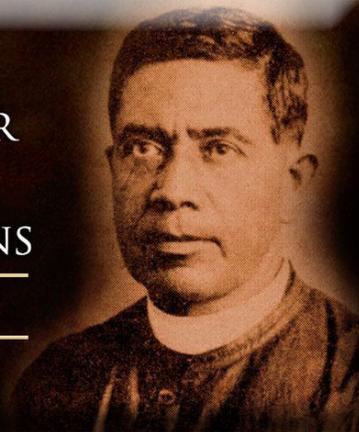
*From the faithful of the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

MARY IS OUR PROTECTOR

St. Cristóbal Magallanes

ST. CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES AND COMPANIONS

May 21st



On May 21, we remember St. Cristóbal Magallanes Jara and his 24 companions who were killed during the Cristero War of the 1920s in Mexico.

It was an era when Catholics literally put their lives on the line just to go to Mass. The Mexican government was violently anti-Catholic. Religious persecution began around 1914, when restrictions for religious and the Catholic religion came into law. The efforts to push out Catholicism from the country only worsened over the next decade. The government leaders believed the Catholic faith was a threat to their power. Religious were banned from wearing their clerics outside of church. Any Catholics who resisted or criticized the government were put in jail and often brutally killed. Catholic schools, monasteries, seminaries, and convents were all closed. Foreign priests were forced to leave the country. Prior to the war there were more than 4,500 priests in Mexico compared to the estimated less than 350 who remained during that time. Church property was taken over by the Mexican government too.

The saints we celebrate on this feast day were all priests like St. Cristóbal, except for three who were proud Catholic laymen. The 25 did not die together but in eight different Mexican states. The 22 priests were killed for offering the sacraments. Saint Cristóbal remained a faithful servant of God and not only continued to celebrate Mass and the sacraments in hiding, but was also secretly preparing seminarians for the priesthood after their seminary was closed. He did so within his parish in Totatiche (which still exists today). Historians note that he did not join the Cristeros rebels. He opposed a violent resolution.

The Cristeros were a group of more than 50,000 Mexican men who chose to fight for their religious freedom. Their name came from their motto, “Long live Christ the King (Viva Cristo Rey)!” They believed the only end to the hateful regime would have to come from a show of unity and physical resistance. It is estimated about 90,000 Catholics and their supporters died under the force of hateful government before it backed down from its total suppression of religious freedom.

Saint Cristóbal and his companions are examples of true martyrs for all of us who take our religious freedom for granted.

Saint Cristóbal, called upon Jesus, Mary, and the saints to come to the aid of Christ’s people. Even the Cristeros war cry in this time of persecution was an affirmation to her and her intercession:

“The Virgin Mary is our protector and defender when there is something to fear,

She will defeat the demons crying ‘Long live Christ the King!’

She will defeat the demons crying ‘Long live Christ the King!’

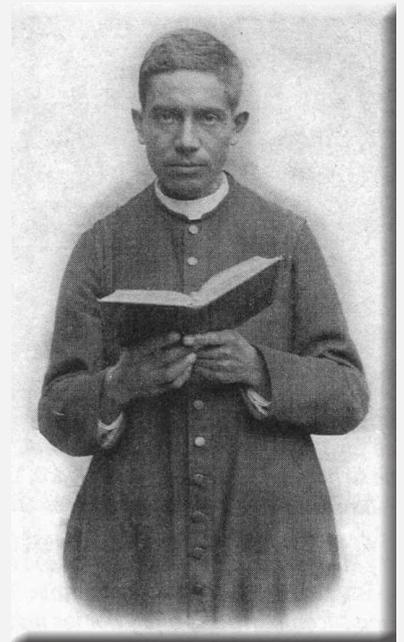
Soldiers of Christ let us follow the flag that the Cross shows the army of God!

Let us follow the flag crying, ‘Long live Christ the King!’”

Just before St. Cristóbal was murdered by his government he said, “I am innocent and die innocent. I absolve with all my heart who seek my death and ask God that my blood bring peace to a divided Mexico.”

Read more on [MY CATHOLIC LIFE](#).

The 2012 movie tells the story of the Cristero War -*For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristeros*.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas complete a long journey teaching the good news and establishing the early Church. We are encouraged to strengthen the church as they encouraged the people – open the door to faith, be evangelists and welcome those who have fallen away or those who do not know the love of Christ.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145

“I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.”

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a

John describes his vision of heaven and God’s message that there will be no more death, pain, or suffering for God alone will make things new. His love is everlasting.

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Jesus tells his disciples, as He has loved them, they are to “love one another.” By doing this all will know you are a true follower of Christ and His teachings.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/051522.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/051522.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Francis, Bishop Mark, and our priests and religious, that their love for Christ and His people is evident in their actions and conversations, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That nations come together to work toward overcoming evil, and create a world without pain or tears caused by the actions of the selfish and unjust, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are graduating this spring as they move forward in life, let them do so with the confidence of Christ’s love who will help them through every challenge and adversity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our parish families remain welcoming and respectful to those who have fallen away from the Church and inviting to those who do not know Christ’s love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



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Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
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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/)