



MAKE PLANS TO COME INTO HIS PRESENCE THEN OUT TO THE WORLD

FINAL WV EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS SET FOR JUNE 2-3 IN CHARLESTON



The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's final Spring Eucharistic Congress will be held in Charleston on June 2-3. Christ will be present! Will you be?

The faithful of all ages from around the diocese

are invited to join Bishop Mark Brennan to celebrate Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist.

Hundreds of faithful have already experienced the previous two Spring Congresses held in Charles Town and Wheeling as part of the diocesan year for the Eucharistic Revival, enjoying breathtaking Taize prayer services, fellowship, dynamic speakers, inspirational break out presenters, Adoration, Mass, and more.

Bishop Mark Brennan hopes to see people from all over the diocese gather in Charleston for the last of the regional congresses before the Eucharistic Revival's Diocesan Year becomes the Parish Year for Revival. There will be something for attendees from school age on up. The whole family is encouraged to attend along with our seminarians, clergy, religious, Catholic organizations, PSR programs, and schools.



The Charleston event is sure to inspire the whole family. Count on inspiring prayer as a community, celebratory music, an impressive display of Blessed Carlo Acutis' Miracles of the Eucharist, Adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation, and the opportunity to get closer to Christ!

The Congress will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Admission is free. Registration is required in order to prepare for our reception, morning coffee/donuts, lunch, and materials.

Go to our DWC.ORG homepage and click on the Regional Eucharistic Congresses banner.

PARISHES, SCHOOLS, AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BE PART OF THE PROCESSION OF VICARIATES

While Friday evening at the congresses will feature a Taize evening of music and prayer before a reception, Saturday morning will open with a Welcome Prayer Service that celebrates our six vicariates uniting to strengthen our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. Parishes, schools, and other

Catholic organizations will bring their prayer intentions in a special Eucharistic Congress Book of Prayer. Each group will be announced as their Book of Prayer is formally presented to Bishop Brennan who will offer them in prayer throughout the Congresses and the remainder of the Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

WHO IS THE CHARLESTON KEYNOTE SPEAKER?

Father Joe Freedy will inspire us to recognize the Eucharist as Christ in person, wanting to be united with us. Father Joe is no stranger to faithful in WV. He was a featured presenter at our first regional Congress in Charles Town April 21-22nd; and has also inspired us at events sponsored by Mountaineer Catholic in Morgantown.





Father Joe grew up in Pittsburgh. He was the starting quarterback for the University at Buffalo for 3 years. After college he entered the seminary and was assigned to study in Rome at the Gregorian University and the John Paul II Institute.

He was ordained a Priest in 2008 and served as the vocation director for 8 years for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is currently the Assistant Director of Evangelization for his diocese and the Senior Assistant at Divine Mercy Parish. He is president of Dry Bones Ministries, a grassroots

evangelization ministry in the Pittsburgh diocese that re-evangelizes God's people with an emphasis on the treasures of the Church like Holy Mass, the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayers for healing (WWW.DRYBONESPGH.ORG).

For more details and to go directly to the registration go to: DWC.ORG/EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESSES/



Editor's note: the photos featured are snapshots of the Eucharistic Congresses held in Charles Town and Wheeling.

ST. JOHN OF AVILA ~ PRAY FOR US

Be grateful even in the midst of life's trials. That is the lesson of St. John of Avila. His feast day is May 10.

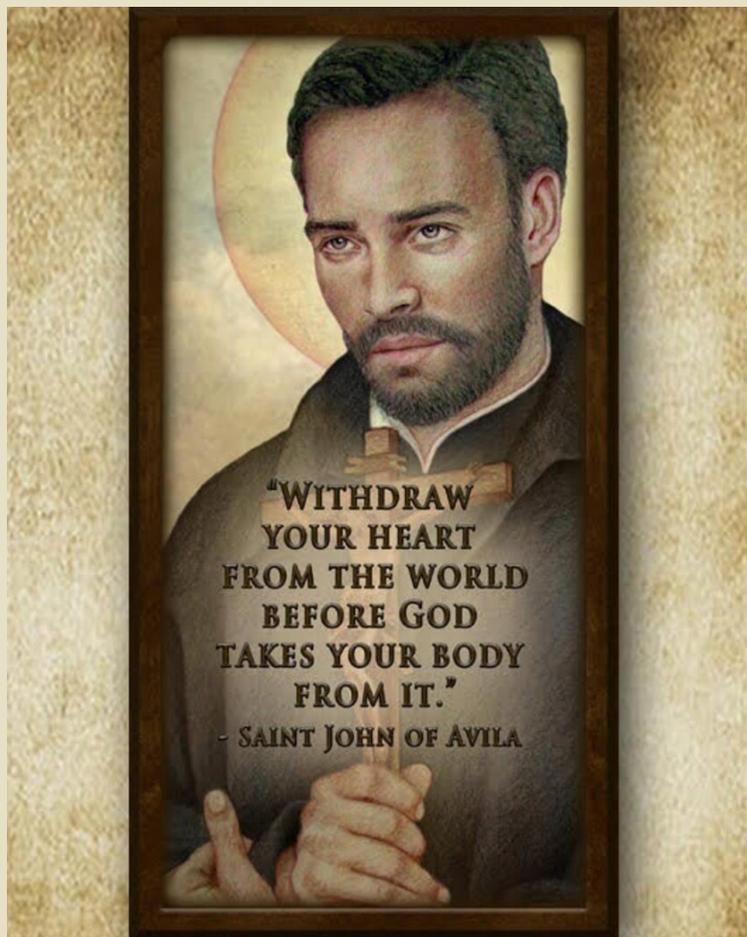
Saint John of Avila was a parish priest, and described in history as a powerful preacher. He considered the priesthood God's gift to the Church. He lived in the 16th century and was influential to several well-known saints including, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. John the Cross.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XIV named him Doctor of the Church - "His help and guidance were sought by great saints and acknowledged sinners, the wise and the unlearned, the poor and the rich," Pope Benedict said.

Saint John of Avila had an exceptional knowledge of the bible and would present St. Paul's letters with such emphasis and compassion that those who heard him would say they felt like it was St. Paul talking directly to them.

Even though his writings were from 400 years ago his sound advice still applies today.

"A single 'Blessed be God' in adversity is worth more than a thousand acts of thanksgiving in prosperity." - Finding Confidence in Times of Trial by St. John of Avila.



MORE THAN \$420,000 RAISED FOR WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Thank you to each of our *One Mission One Day to Make a Difference* donors! We applaud our school advancement directors and principals for their fun and creative online fundraising antics on May 2nd that generated a lot of buzz and more than \$420,000 for our 24 Catholic schools.

“One Mission One Day to Make a Difference isn’t only about raising money, it’s also about showcasing the greatness in our awesome Catholic schools in West Virginia,” said Assistant Director of Stewardship and Development Heidi Sforza.

All 24 schools participated, and more than 2,220 people donated to the school of their choice during the giving window. This is the most donors we’ve ever had participate, Sforza said proudly.

Each school announced before the event how the money would help them – for some it was tuition assistance and technology; for others it was security upgrades, and program enhancements.

“To watch the leaderboard and see so many social media posts from students, faculty, alumni and friends sharing what they love about their school and read about why it was so important for them to give was extremely heartwarming and exciting,” Sforza said.

The online giving day was created by our individual school advancement directors and principals with the help of diocesan stewardship, communications, technology, and finance teams.

The first state-wide, Catholic Schools Giving Day was held in May of 2020 and was a big success for our schools

who had to cancel so many of their end of the year fundraisers and events due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We raised \$244,000 the first year and have grown each year since.

Students, principals, pastors, and alumni had fun rolling out videos on their social media, many of which were then shared on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter platforms. Sforza said

that St. Paul’s “wiggled out” and powdered their principal when they hit their midday goal, and students at St. Francis of Assisi in St. Albans are looking forward to dunking their principal at their field day after reaching their OMOD goal!

Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston raised the most money in the 24-hour event with \$70,510, followed by St. Joseph Catholic

School in Huntington with \$49,389 and St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling with \$45,077, according to online leaderboards Wednesday morning.

For the fourth year in a row St. Paul Parish School in Weirton had the most donors (574), which shows a great community effort, Sforza said. They will receive an additional \$500 from the West Virginia Catholic Foundation as well as Sacred Heart Grade School for raising the most money.

Since launching the statewide giving day 4 years ago, we’ve raised more than \$1.6 million for Catholic schools across the state, she added, “So, in just four individual days - that’s a huge investment into the purpose and mission of our Catholic schools.”



MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA ~ MAY 13TH

PRAY THE ROSARY

Thursday, May 13th is the day we honor the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. 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 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. One resource is from The Communion of Saints: www.youtube.com/c/TheCommunionOfSaintsARosaryCompanion/Videos

Instead of thinking the rosary is a daunting task, put yourself in the mindset of St. Teresa of Calcutta. She always carried a rosary with her, because she felt when she held them it was like holding the hand of our Blessed Mother. What a breathtaking image that is!

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



WV HOPE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15

DON'T WAIT TO APPLY AT THE LAST MINUTE

All current pre-K students enrolled in one of the 24 Catholic school in the state, as well as anyone who is considering applying for enrollment in a Catholic school for the 2023-2024 school year should apply for the WV Hope Scholarship as soon as possible. The deadline for this state run program is May 15th and documentation needed to complete the application will take those applying more than a day to compile.

The Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston confirmed all 24 schools across West Virginia are receiving inquiries the Hope Scholarship program.

The West Virginia Hope Scholarship (WVHS) is run by the WV Treasure Riley Moore's Office and can be used towards tuition and fees for non-public schools and home schools in the state. This scholarship is not run, managed, or determined by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston or the Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese. The website created by the state for the scholarship is: HOPESCHOLARSHIPWV.COM

The site declares, "Hope Scholarship is the state's education savings account program that gives parents an opportunity to build an individual learning experience that works best for their child. The scholarship allows K-12 students to receive financial assistance that can be used for tuition, fees and other expenses."

According to Moore's office, under the current school aid formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,488.82 for the 2023-2024 school year to use toward private school, alternative instruction programs, or home school. The amount is for each student and is not determined by income.

The state stipulates that money in the Hope Scholarship

education savings account will be administered and through a third party and released by the parent/guardian for state approved expenses. All purchases would be pre-approved by the state. Beyond tuition, the funds awarded can be spent on special services, transportation, extracurriculars, tutoring, materials, supplies, textbooks, transportation, etc. To learn more about the Catholic Schools of West Virginia go to: WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG.

West Virginia Catholic Schools are prepared to welcome new students making use of the HOPE Scholarship. SPACE IS LIMITED!

Registration ends soon! REGISTER TODAY!

Studies found that Catholic Schools are outperforming their peers!

- The NCES and NAEP reported that math and reading results for West Virginia's public-school scores are lower than the national average.
- Catholic schools scores remain **higher** than the state and national averages according to the Nation's Report Card reported by NAEP.

U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

	*WV 2021	**WVCS 2021
Proficiency in Math	28%	46.9% or advanced
Proficiency in ELA	40%	60.2% or advanced

*Data Source: wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-WV-Summative-Assessment-Results-Release-FINAL.pdf
**Data Source: NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

To learn more about WV Catholic Schools visit WVCatholicSchools.org

The application and registration period is now open for WV Catholic Schools. We welcome you to be part of our school family.
APPLY BETWEEN MARCH 1-MAY 15, 2023

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP WEST VIRGINIA

To learn more about the HOPE Scholarship or to apply visit hopescholarshipwv.com or scan the QR code.



The WV Hope Scholarship Program is a state-run plan that allows parents and families to utilize the state portion of their education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them.

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.



NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: A SAFE SPACE

Brian Swoze lives in Wheeling without housing. To meet many of his basic needs, he comes to the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center.

“I come here because it’s a safe space,” said Brian. “There’s no judgment – just people here to help.”

The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center provides comprehensive social services, including: food and hygiene pantry services; meal delivery services to homebound persons; emergency assistance for rent, mortgage and utilities; and case management services.

The Neighborhood Center also provides a day shelter and on-site breakfast and dinner service, which have been crucial for Brian. He speaks fondly of his relationship with Betty Simeth, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center Food Program Manager.

“She’s [Betty] firm but nice. She doesn’t judge. A lot of people don’t do that for people like me,” said Brian.

Betty and our entire team at Catholic Charities are committed to meeting our clients where they are and walking alongside them in their journeys, living our Gospel call to serve one another.



Brian Swoze (left) says he appreciates the care and compassion he is shown from Betty Simeth (right) at Catholic Charities

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.*

RIISING JUNIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL THROUGH RISING SOPHMORES IN COLLEGE



JOIN US FOR TEC

JUNE 10-12, 2023

ST. MARY PARISH

SATURDAY MORNING THRU
MONDAY AFTERNOON

3346 University Avenue
Morgantown

COST: \$40/per person | Cost includes lodging, food & supplies

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT DWC.ORG/TEC

BISHOP CONTINUES TO PRIORITIZE YOUNG ADULTS IN THE CHURCH

NEXT STOP FOR AN EVENING WITH BISHOP MARK ~ CHARLES TOWN, MAY 23RD

Are you 18-35, Catholic, and going to be near the Eastern Panhandle on May 23rd? The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston invites you to an “Evening with The Bishop” for young adults (about ages 18 to 35). Bishop Mark has held several of these events within the last year and this time is eager to be you at St. James the Greater, in Charles Town, on Tuesday, May 23rd.

The evening will begin with a Mass at 5:30 PM, followed by a dinner and a Q & A discussion session between those present and the bishop. You can submit topics and questions on the diocesan website, when you register.

This is a free event! Please, register by May 19th in order to prepare for the meal.

To register go to: DWC.ORG/EVENING-WITH-BISHOP-BRENNAN/

Photo: Bishop Mark Brennan enjoys an informal discussion and meal with Students from Marshall University Catholic Newman Center, campus minister of West Liberty and Bethany universities Shirley Carter, and students from WLU and Wheeling University earlier this Spring.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

We learn about the growing pains of the infant Church. The Apostles with the help of the Holy Spirit summoned seven disciples to help serve the people. This passage teaches us the importance even in the early church of working together. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33

“ Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

We are chosen and precious in God’s sight. Jesus is our foundation and we are the bricks that form the Church – the Body of Christ.

Gospel: John 14:1-12

Jesus tells his disciples that he will make a place for them for He is the way, the truth, and the life. Those who believe in Him will do His works in order to claim a room in heaven.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/050723.CFM)
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/050723.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark, and all of our priests, may they continue to shepherd the faithful, working and sacrificing in order to carry the souls of Christ’s people to heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the leaders of nations, that they focus more on leading from the back - serving and working together for all people than seeking attention and praise while only helping a few, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful, that we place our trust in Jesus, and even when things don’t go our way or we feel like we are being overlooked for whatever reason, that we remain focused on doing good to gain God’s grace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our own hearts, that we never tire of doing the right thing in God’s eyes, making time for spiritual and religious growth, and praying for those who aim to divide us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer