



MAY 8, 2020

TO BE A MOTHER IS A GREAT TREASURE - POPE FRANCIS



Happy Mother's Day to all the women in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston that love, care, and nurture the roots of faith for our children.

Pope Francis has commented countless times to general and specific audiences on how mothers and grandmothers are often underappreciated. He eloquently details how they are true heroes and "key players in fighting against an individualistic, self-centered society."

"Not even the Christian community values them properly, despite the eminent example of the Mother of Jesus," he said in a January 7, 2015 address to his audience from various countries around the world, including Ireland, Finland, Indonesia, Australia, the United States, Spain, Mexico and Argentina. "To be a mother is a great treasure. Mothers, in their unconditional and sacrificial love for their children, are the antidote to individualism; they are the greatest enemies against war."

He said Mary's example provides an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the role of all mothers in society and the Church.

"All of us give credit to our mothers for life and many other things, but not always are they listened to or helped in everyday life. ... Their important contribution to the life of society, their daily sacrifices and their aspirations are not always properly appreciated," he continued.

"In this sense, motherhood is more than childbearing;

it is a life choice entailing sacrifice, respect for life and commitment to passing on those human and religious values that are essential for a healthy society," he said.

"It is they, mothers, who often give the first roots of the faith, the ones that permeate deepest; without them, not only would the faithful be lost, but also a good part of the deepest fire of our faith," he explained.

It was Pope Francis' paternal grandmother, Rosa Margherita Vasallo, who lit that fire in him.

In a radio interview released in November 2012, four months before being named Pope, he said, "It was my grandmother who taught me to pray. She taught me a lot about faith and told me stories about the saints."

He credits her, whom he called Nonna Rosa, for strengthening his calling to be a good priest. "Once, when I was in the seminary, my grandmother said to me: 'Don't ever forget that you're about to become a priest, and the most important thing for a priest is to celebrate mass.' She told me about a mother who advised her son - a holy priest - to celebrate mass, every single mass, as if it was your last."



Pope Francis and his grandmother, Nonna Rosa

It has been reported that the Pontiff keeps a prayer book with him with a note from his Nonna Rosa, that reads: "May my grandchildren, to whom I have given the best of my heart, have a long and happy life. But if there are days of pain or illness, or if the loss of a loved one fills them with despair, may they remember that a whisper of a prayer and a look to Mary at the feet of the cross, can be like a drop of balsam on even the deepest and most painful wounds."

Let us all show our love and appreciation to our mothers, grandmothers, and all the women who form our faith. May the dear Lord bless them, and may Mary's example continue to be the fire that strengthens their spirit.



Pope Francis and his mother, Regina Bergoglio



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

• PO Box 230, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003 •

Friday, May 8, 2020

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON RELEASES GUIDELINES TO RESUME PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS

WHEELING, WVa.—Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has released a set of directives for the resumption of public Masses in the Catholic churches in West Virginia. “When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, “the Bishop said, “we entered a Phase I, suspending the public celebration of Masses and closing our churches to protect the health and safety of our people. This new Phase II is a transitional phase, requiring the full cooperation of clergy and laity so that public Masses may be celebrated in the safest manner possible, until we can enter Phase III, the return to normal practice in our liturgical life.”

The directives were developed by a committee of clergy and lay leaders headed by Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, the diocesan Vicar General, with input from pastors from around the State. They respect Catholic liturgical and pastoral principles as well as the guidance given by the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and Governor Justice’s recommendations. They are formulated with great care to preserve the reverence due the Eucharist and its spiritual value for the faithful as well as our people’s physical wellbeing. The complete list of the directives is posted on the diocesan website: www.dwc.org.

Notable Directives

1. Public Sunday Masses are scheduled to begin with the Masses of May 23-24, 2020, if the parish plan submitted by the pastor in accordance with these directives is approved by the Bishop.
2. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect until further notice. Sick persons and those more susceptible to infection – the elderly, those already in frail health – are urged to remain at home and participate in televised or online Masses. Anyone who fears being infected by attending Mass should stay home.
3. Social distancing will be required at Mass. Those who live in the same household may sit together; otherwise, there must be six feet of separation between persons. Every effort will be made to accommodate the faithful who come but once the reduced seating capacity of a church is reached, no others may enter the church. Some parishes will be able to arrange for audio/visual participation in Mass from a hall or gymnasium.
4. The faithful are to wear masks during Mass, except in the moment of receiving Holy Communion. If at all possible, they should bring their own masks, which may be made at home.
5. Some common though optional practices of a Catholic Mass will be omitted: the use of hymnals, holding hands at the Our Father, the Sign of Peace, the offering of the Precious Blood of Christ to the faithful.
6. In churches with multiple Masses, the church (and hall or gym, if used) will have to be sanitized between Masses, as well as before the first Mass and after the last.

Bishop Brennan said, “I am grateful to Msgr. Ostrowski and his team for their careful work on this plan to keep our faithful and our clergy as safe and healthy as possible as they ‘go rejoicing into the house of the Lord’ to celebrate together the sacred mysteries of our faith.”

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MORE THAN \$226,500 RAISED FOR 19 WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Thank you to our *One Mission One Day to Make a Difference* donors! Thank you to our school advancement directors and principals for raising well over \$226,500 for 19 of our WV Catholic Schools in one day!



“One Mission One Day to Make a Difference 2020 wasn’t only about raising money, it was also about rallying our families, parishes, and supporters, while strengthening our community,” said Assistant Director of Stewardship and Development Heidi Sforza. “Our schools proved they are successful at doing both.

Nineteen of our 25 schools participated, and more than 1,200 people donated to the school of their choice. Each school announced before the event how the money would help them – for some it was tuition assistance and teacher salaries; for others it was textbooks; and others for facilities or program enhancements.

“To watch the leaderboard and see so many posts from students, faculty, alumni and friends sharing what they love about their school, and why it is so important to support them now more than ever was extremely heartwarming and reassuring,” Sforza said. “Having this much success, especially during a pandemic, goes to

show that our communities believe in our Catholic schools and believe in the value of a Catholic education.”

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 schools used the event to help make up for the fundraising events that had to be cancelled this spring due to COVID-19.

The idea came from the northern panhandle Catholic schools, who piloted the program in 2019, after the Ohio Valley Amazing Raise/Giving Tuesday event was canceled. They raised more than \$54,000 in one day.

Miranda Shaner Zambito, advancement director for Corpus Christi School in Wheeling, said the online giving day was an opportunity to “celebrate a rich Catholic history, a strong present, and a promising future as we prepare for our 105th year.”



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 and Twitter platforms.

“This has been so exciting for our school,” said Recheal Fuscardo, principal at St.

Joseph the Worker School in Weirton. “This day allowed us to showcase all of the amazing things that take place at St. Joseph the Worker Day School and Grade School.”

She said the school had 24-hours to post about the importance of each gift and what it means to the school.

“When you donate to our school you are making a difference, and you are helping us make a difference as well. Thanks to our students, teachers, parents, alumni community, and corporate sponsors - you make our school successful with all the extra you give.”

Corpus Christi Grade School raised the most money in the event with more than \$39,300, followed by St. Michael Parish School with \$38,200. St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington came in third with more than \$26,400. Other schools that participated included: Madonna High School, Weirton; St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling; Central Catholic High School, Wheeling; St. Joseph the Worker School, Weirton; St. Paul School, Weirton; Our Lady of Peace School, Wheeling; Fairmont Catholic Grade School, Fairmont; Charleston Catholic High School, Charleston; Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg; Our Lady of Fatima Parish School, Huntington; St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington; St. Joseph School, Martinsburg;

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School, Oak Hill; St. Francis of Assisi School, St. Albans; Sacred Heart Grade School, Huntington; and St. Mary’s Grade School, Clarksburg.

From the Desk of Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

Department of Catholic Schools • www.WVCatholicSchools.org

WORD OF GRACE FOR WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Our plans aren't always God's plans. That's pretty hard to accept sometimes, but we must cling to the fact, we are in good hands.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper and give you hope...." – Jeremiah 29:11

Right now, our principals are finalizing strategies for the end of this academic year, as well as the beginning of 2020-2021. Soon they will be rolling out that information to their staff, students and families. Graduation plans for our high schools and grade schools that celebrate sixth and eighth grade graduates are to be submitted to my office next week.

While this school year isn't ending how we anticipated, we can relish the fact that we are going to come out of this stronger, more appreciative, and more resilient than we ever imagined.

On May 7, our Church recognizes the feast day of St. Rosa "Rose" Venerini. She is a thoughtful example of resilience by overcoming adversity with grace.

She lived in Italy in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Her plans took several turns, because of unforeseen occurrences. She was to be married and hoped to have a family, but her fiancé suddenly died. She then entered the convent of the Dominican sisters, but months later had to return home to take care of her mother, because her father unexpectedly passed away. Not long after she mourned the loss of both her brother and mother. She questioned what her purpose was.

Driven by her endless love of God, she invited women and girls from her neighborhood into her home to pray the rosary together. With that interaction she realized that many of these girls were uneducated and not well versed in the Catholic faith. She began teaching them in her home, but her heart knew that was not enough.


With the help of two of her friends she opened Italy's first public school for girls. It was a success. The local bishop approached her, and she oversaw the opening of 10 diocesan schools to focus on academics and faith formation.

Obviously, God's plan was far greater than her own. Before her death she had opened more than 40 schools across Italy and Rome and created the Venerini Sisters, which still exists around the world today, including the United States.

Despite the time, hard work, and struggles St. Rosa faced, she, like our WV Catholic Schools' administrators and teachers, knew that no matter where and no matter when we need to talk to God, of God, and for God, so all things work out for the greater good.

It is in the spirit of St. Rosa that we thrive in our Catholic schools, when faced with adversity and change. Let us continue that flexibility and wherewithal to take whatever situation we find ourselves in as an opportunity to make us better.

Peace,


Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

MIXED MESSAGES IN MEDIA, BUT GOD IS STRENGTH

By Sister Ellen Dunn, OP

In these times, we are relying so much on our various electronics for whatever information we need to live our lives in our individual homes and work places. It goes without saying, that this opens the door to many and varied messages, ideas and opinions. Welcome to the human race, the human condition!

In keeping with our Creator's design, no two of us are exactly alike. That's the good news and it also makes our present reality what it is. God has also given us the capability of coping with variety and finding our unique individual ways in life.

While it's easy to recognize the mixed messages of these days—to open our town's economy or not yet; to provide testing for everyone or just those with symptoms; or to wear a mask on our walk in the out-of-doors, or not. It is also important to note the many common and unifying messages that are very present in almost each TV or radio segment we access.

Likewise, there are many good things being put forward on social media to enlighten and uplift us. Over all, there is a concerted effort to address us in their current situations. Of course, businesses are eager to maintain their clients and many are trying to assist and accommodate people so they can continue their business relationships. More important are the many messages about individuals who go beyond what is expected in serving all of us.

There is real unity in our shared efforts for our family, friends and neighbors, many reaching out in ways that have not happened before. We are both blessed and greatly challenged in these extraordinary times.

Let the graces of this Resurrection Feast continue to strengthen us.

MASS READINGS FOR MAY 10, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary: 43

First Reading: ACTS 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. (1) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. or R. Alleluia.

Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting. Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises. R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. or R. Alleluia.

Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. or R. Alleluia.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. or R. Alleluia.

Second Reading PETER 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to

shame. Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall. They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Alleluia JOHN 14:6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel JOHN 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

That those responsible for creating plans for opening up churches, businesses, medical offices, etc. may be guided by the Holy Spirit to make wise and prudent decisions that will best protect the health of all, we pray . . .

That parents, caregivers, and all those whose lives have been changed by the Coronavirus pandemic, may have patience and strength to persevere in protecting the ones they love, we pray . . .

That those seeking the sacraments of initiation and to be admitted to full communion, may be filled with confidence and hope that the day will soon come when they will be welcomed into the church, we pray . . .

That healthcare workers, first responders, essential employees, and all those on the front lines during this time of fear and uncertainty, may not lose heart and know of our respect and admiration for what they do we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



YOUTH MINISTRY CONTINUES

YOUNG WV CATHOLICS invites teens to be part of



Instead of feeling cooped up, encourage your teen to feel energized by participating in the PROJECT YM LIVE event and Young WV Catholics Zoom conversation. Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Interim Director, Shawn Madden, invites you to find out more and sign up at:

www.youngwvcatholics.com/ymlive.html

Project YM, a national youth ministry organization, streamed its first hour-long live youth night last week. It was attended online by more than 9,000 households! The event at projectym.com/live had games, prizes, a solid message, and engaging prayer. Help middle and high school students you know by sharing this opportunity.

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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You can find LoL Radio online at LoLRadio.org

ONLINE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK:

In addition to our diocesan website, DWC.ORG, check out:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, for resources presented in text, audio, and video formats. Daily Readings written: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS Daily Readings audio: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS-AUDIO.CFM Video Reflection USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/REFLECTIONS/INDEX.CFM
The usccb.org site will also give you tutorials on how to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, and other prayers and devotions.
- National Catholic Register for Catholic news, stories, blogs, etc. at NCREGISTER.COM
- The Catholic News Service for the latest headlines for Catholics WWW.CATHOLICNEWS.COM
- My Daily Living with Fr. John Chapin Engler at MYDAILYLIVING.COM
- Fr. James DeViese - Altar-ed State: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/FRDEVIESE
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