



MAY 8, 2022

Happy Mother's Day

Treasure the women who serve as your Christian example

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 young and old.



Bishop Mark Brennan shared a photograph taken by his father Edward Charles Brennan of him and his brother Paul with their mother, Regina "Jean" Lonsway Brennan in front of the outdoor chapel of St. Anne the mother of our Blessed Mother Mary, holding her grandson Jesus. The statue is in the gardens of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, located in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Mark is about 11 years old in the photo. The monastery has 42 acres of gardens and full-sized replicas of shrines from the Holy Land. The family had moved to DC from Boston just a year prior.

"I remember my mother, Jean, as a gentle, quiet woman, capable of maintaining friendships over many years and great distances and imbued with the spirit of Catholic faith," Bishop Brennan said. "I also saw her achieve reconciliation with persons from whom she had been briefly estranged. Thank you, Mom, for giving me an example of true Christian living."

It was Pope Francis' paternal grandmother, Rosa Margherita Vasallo, who was his great Christian model.

In a radio interview released 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."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta's mother Dranafle "Drana" Bojaxhiu was her pillar of strength, faith, and service. Her father, Nikola, a devout Catholic had died when St. Teresa was 8, leaving her mother to provide and care for her and her two siblings.

While the family struggled financially her mother often welcomed the less fortunate to eat with them, saying to St. Teresa, "My child, never eat a single mouthful unless you are sharing it with others."



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



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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April 29, 2022

Dear Catholic Parents in West Virginia:

As we continue these joyous days of the Easter Season, I am thinking about the decisions you and your families are making relative to the education of your young sons and daughters. As primary educators of your children, you are the ones who can lead young people to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Your witness to the faith and your commitment to Catholic values and traditions, including regular participation in the Sacramental life of the Church, form the foundation for their lifelong appetite for living their Gospel calling.

Another dimension to the formal development of your children is your choice of educational opportunities. While many Catholic parents turn to Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as partners in their children's educational journey, parents of students currently enrolled in public schools as well as entering Kindergarten students have a wonderful opportunity to participate in an innovative new program offered by the state. I suspect you have heard about it in the secular news media.

Thanks to the West Virginia Hope Scholarship run by West Virginia Treasurer Riley Moore's Office, the cost involved for West Virginia's public school alternative programs is being eased for these families.

While the Hope Scholarship is not run, managed, or granted by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston or the Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese, Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., has issued an important reminder the Hope Scholarship application window closes May 16th for the coming school year. Each of the 24 Catholic schools across West Virginia are accepting WVHS from families that have successfully applied and are enrolled in their school for 2022-2023.

Families who have hesitated to send their children to our schools because of the financial commitment now have an opportunity to join our Christ-centered school communities. We know that God is in our schools, where we develop students academically and guide them morally, civically, and emotionally to prepare each one to be the best version of themselves.

Principals in the diocesan schools have shared Hope Scholarship information and deadline with their current preschool 4 parents and directed families, who have inquired about transferring their children to their area Catholic school, to the state's Hope Scholarship website.

Those eligible for the Hope Scholarship program include all children entering kindergarten in the fall and any students currently in grades K-11 attending public school.

Those awarded Hope funding will be given approximately \$4,300 per child, which it to be used towards tuition, fees, and other approved expenses for non-public schools and home schools in the state.

Hope is a state funded education savings account (ESA) program. The ESA uses a portion of their state education funding to help West Virginians "tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them," according to www.hopescholarshipwv.com.

According to Treasurer Moore's, under the current school aid formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,298.60 for the 2022-2023 school year to use toward private school, alternative instruction programs, or home school.

The state stipulates that money in the Hope Scholarship education savings account will be administered through a third party and released by the parent/guardian only for state approved expenses. Beyond tuition, the funds awarded can be spent on special services, transportation, extracurriculars, tutoring, materials, supplies, textbooks, transportation, etc.

The application process for the Hope program is a multi-step process, so interested families need to start their application as soon as possible. Additional notes from Treasurer Moore's office for the WVHS:

- Parents/guardians must complete a letter of intent to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program. Families are responsible for sending it to the county superintendent in your county of residence. A sample is posted on the program's website.
- Applicants/Parents must also create an account through the Education Market Assistant (EMA) portal lined on the state site.
- Parents will also need your child's WVEIS ID#. This is assigned by your County Board of Education. (If you do not have a WVEIS ID# for your incoming kindergarten student, please contact your county board of education.)

For more information and to apply for the scholarship go to www.hopescholarshipwv.com.

Families who miss the state deadline of May 16 will only be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Hope Scholarship Board, according to the website.

According to the scholarship's website, WVHS will be available to current non-public school families (private, Catholic, and home schools) in 2026 if the total amount of WVHS recipients in 2024 is less than 5-percent of the state's K-12 enrollment.

Parents, please consider this once in a lifetime opportunity to send your children to a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. While there are other very viable educational choices in West Virginia, only our Catholic Schools have the combination of academic rigor, moral development, spiritual nourishment, service learning, athletic prowess and character development.

Please know that you and your loved ones remain in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



MORE THAN \$437,000 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 3rd that generated a lot of buzz and more than \$400,000 by the end of the day.

“One Mission One Day to Make a Difference 2022 wasn’t only about raising money, it was also about showcasing the greatness in our 24 impressive schools,” said Assistant Director of Stewardship and Development Heidi Sforza.

All 24 schools participated, and more than 1,440 people donated to the school of their choice during the giving window. Each school announced before the event how the money would help them – for some it was tuition assistance and teacher bonuses; for others it was science labs, facilities, 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 reassuring,” 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 idea was initially organized by the northern panhandle Catholic schools in 2019, after a regional community event - the Ohio Valley Amazing Raise/Giving Tuesday - event was canceled. Those eight schools raised more than \$54,000 in one day.

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling raised the most money in the 24-hour event with more than \$74,000, followed by Corpus Christi School in Wheeling with \$56,654 and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington with \$56,536.

St. Paul Parish School in Weirton had the most donors (296) for the third year in a row. They will receive an additional \$500 from the West Virginia Catholic Foundation as well as St. Vincent’s for raising the most money.

Since launching the statewide giving day 3 years ago, we’ve raised more than \$1.2 million for Catholic schools across the state.



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.

St. John of Avila. 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.

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.

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.

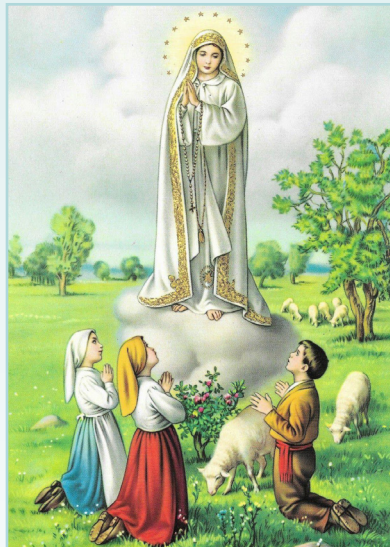
Even though his writings were from 400 years ago his sound advice still applies today.

“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.

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta 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!

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE SET FOR MAY 10

WHEELING - The community is invited to participate in an Ecumenical Prayer Service for Survivors of Abuse - a time to reflect, listen, and unite as we call upon God's presence, guidance, mercy, and peace. The service is set to begin at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Wheeling Park Amphitheater, next to the White Palace.

Faith leaders and survivor advocates will pray for survivors, for healing, and for forgiveness. These representatives will stand side by side, on behalf of eight various churches and temples, and four organizations, as one strong community of caring people - a source of compassion and hope. They come together to not only acknowledge, but to work as one through prayer and actions to help bring an end to the intense pain of sexual abuse, and to recognize the dignity of every human being.

Those in attendance will also have the opportunity to learn more about local organizations dedicated to assisting survivors of various forms of abuse and how they as community members can better advocate for survivors.

Local clergy participating include Most Rev. Bishop Mark Brennan, of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Rev. Darrell Cummings, of Bethlehem Apostolic Temple; Rev. Erica Harley, of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church; Rev. Ken Hardway, of First Christian Church; Pastor Marshall Davis, of Macedonia Baptist Church; Rabbi Joshua Lief, of Temple Shalom; Rev. Jacob (Jake) Steele, of Christ United Methodist Church; and Father Joshua Saxe, of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

Survivor advocates include Laurie Jones, Executive Director of YWCA Wheeling; Ashley Carpenter, Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center; Chris Frizzell, Victim Witness Coordinator for the US Attorney's Office- Northern District of WV; and Adam Marquart, Founder of the Confraternity of St. Nicholas, a group dedicated to pray and advocate for the protection of children.

The service is expected to last about an hour. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held on the Wheeling Park Ice Rink.



LOCAL SYNOD REPORTS PRESENTED

VOLUNTEERS TO COMPRISE DIOCESAN DOCUMENT

Parish reports from listening sessions held throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the Holy Father's Synod on Synodality are in the hands of the volunteer writers, who will summarize and present the voice of God's people in a document to be sent to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops by June 30.

Bishop Mark Brennan opened the synodal process with a Mass from the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Oct. 17th, joining with Pope Francis in asking the faithful to call upon the Holy Spirit to enlighten them as they discern, listen, and discuss how the Church can grow more fruitful in unity.

"I am grateful to our parish coordinators and participants for their commitment to this process, as I am certain the input will help us be a better Church, more faithful to God, more fruitful to good works, and more committed to share our faith," Bishop Brennan said this week as the local reports were given to the review and writing team on May 2.

As a model of transparency, the members of the review and writing team are not employees of the chancery, but members of the faithful in the diocese. They include Sister Carmella Campione, of the Congregation of St. Joseph; Jacob Manning, parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Joseph; and Dr. Tom and Kim Michaud, parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

"I look forward to receiving the report from the four laity, who volunteered to thoroughly review all of the collected documents and from them create a synthesis reflecting the local level contributions expressed by the faithful across the diocese," he said, adding it is important to continue our prayers in this synodal process. "Let us continue to let the Holy Spirit guide us as we journey together."

In our diocese reports were presented from 87 out of 92 parishes. The summation team will present a draft report not more than 10 pages to all parish coordinators at an event slated for June 3 in Clarksburg. At that time the coordinators will have an opportunity to provide input and suggest changes for the final report that will be presented to the USCCB and the faithful in the diocese on June 30. The bishops' conference will compile all input and feedback to formulate syntheses that reflect the hopeful vision of the faithful. The worldwide conferences will submit their summaries by Aug. 15, 2022. The continental phase will take place from September 2022 to March 2023. All of this information from around the world that began at the ground level in our parishes will ultimately be used by the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October of 2023. This Vatican council of bishops, selected from around the world, will counsel and consult the Pontiff on how the People of God with the Holy Spirit as their guide discerned the Church should journey together to carry out her mission and continue the work of Jesus Christ.



Synod 2021-2023

For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52

Remain faithful to God's grace, be a light to others, and an instrument of salvation.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100

"We are his people, the sheep of his flock."

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

John describes his vision of an immeasurable crowd from every race and nation standing before the Jesus. It is those who follow Him who will not hunger or thirst, He will shepherd them, leading them to life-giving water, wiping every tear from their eyes.

Gospel: John 10:27-30

Those who follow Christ will not perish, but will have eternal life. No one can harm Jesus' lambs.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/050822.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be a light of faith to others and an instrument of salvation as we proclaim our love of Christ Jesus in our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all those who model the example of our Blessed Mother, let us pray to the Lord. . .

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have wandered from the flock of our parishes, that they may be receptive to the voice of the Good Shepherd calling them back through our prayers, invitation, and example, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



WORLD YOUTH DAY

LISBON • 2023

REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 15, 2022

A \$300 deposit is due at time of registration.

[**CLICK HERE to learn more and register.**](#)



**10th WORLD MEETING
of FAMILIES**
JUNE 22-26 2022

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FaithInWV.org

Faith is a lifelong journey
It begins with prayer.

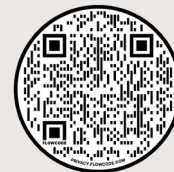


Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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.



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
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	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

ENROLL TODAY
WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



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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/)