

# Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

NOVEMBER 3, 2024



## National Vocations Awareness Week

November 3-9, 2024

*Build up the Church in the Mountain State.*



As the Catholic Church in the US celebrates National Vocation Awareness week November 3-9, Sister Martha Gomez, delegate for consecrated life in our diocese, and Fr. Brian Crenwelge, director of vocations encourage the faithful to take time each day to pray for increased vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

Through Baptism, we all receive the gift of being a child of God - called to be a disciple of Jesus. Our gifts and talents will be used by the Lord as we live out that vocation. By using our talents we are blessed with, we come to know and love Jesus more and more. Let us pray that each of us work to make our world a better place. Moreover, let us be open to the call of priestly, consecrated, religious, and diaconate vocations; and committed to praying for others' discernment.



### *Vocations Prayer by Pope St. John Paul II*

Lord Jesus, as once you called the first disciples and made them fishers of men, continue to let resound today Your sweet invitation: "Come and follow me."

Grant to men and women in our day the grace and trust to respond to Your voice.

Sustain our bishops, priests and consecrated souls in their apostolic work.

Give perseverance to our seminarians and to all those living a life of total consecration to Your service.

Enkindle in our communities a missionary zeal.

Send, Lord, workers into Your fields to feed and guide Your flock as Good Shepherds in imitation of You.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Model of Vocations, help us to say "Yes" to the Lord who calls each one of us to play our part in His plan of salvation. Amen.

### *St. Francis of Assisi's Vocation Prayer:*

Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our minds. Give us a right faith, a firm hope and a perfect charity, so that we may always and in all things act according to Your Holy Will. Amen.

# National Black Catholic History Month



November is National Black Catholic History Month.

Catholic University of America shares that November was selected for various reasons including:

- November 1st is All Saints Day and November 2nd is All Souls Day – both days are significant remember to honor African Americans who faced racism and unjust struggles in America.
- On November 3rd is the Feast Day of Martin de Porres - the first Black American saint. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII on 16 May 1962. St. Martin de Porres exemplified God's love for all people regardless of their level in society.
- St. Augustine was born on Nov. 13th in the year 354 AD. He was the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa.

Additionally, Nov. 8th is the birthday of Fr. Charles Randolph Uncles the first African American to be ordained in the US.

Interesting to note Nov. 21st is the Feast Day of Pope St. Gelasius I – the 49th pope, and one of three pontiffs of African descent.

The National Black Catholic Congress has a wealth of interesting facts and articles about our history and noteworthy men and women African American Catholics.

Go to: [NBCCONGRESS.ORG](http://NBCCONGRESS.ORG)

## Significance of Father Uncles



His name is not at all familiar to many, but it should be. Father Charles Randolph Uncles was the first African American Catholic priest ordained on American soil. There were a small number of others, but they were ordained in other countries: Fathers James, Alexander, and Patrick Healy (brothers ordained in Europe) and Fr. Augustus Tolton – the first African American Catholic to become a priest who was ordained in 1886 in Rome and in 2019 was declared Venerable by Pope Francis.

Father Uncles was born on Nov. 8th, 1859. He was ordained in 1891 at the age of 31. Two years after he was ordained, he co-founded the Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The community was made up of both black and white priests with the mission to minister specifically to the African American community.



Along with Fr. Uncles two other Josephites were African American - Fr. John Dorsey in 1902; and Fr. John Plantevigne, 1907.

Just because Fr. Uncles was a priest did not protect him from discrimination even among his peers. He experienced ugly racism during his life.

He was a member of the Colored Catholic Congress founded by Daniel Rudd in 1889. – an organization that Fr. Charles Uncles, and Fr. Augustus Tolton were members. Father Uncles was a seminarian at the congress's first Mass, which was celebrated by Fr. Tolton. The group was later revived as the National Black Catholic Congress as we know it today.

For more information on Father Uncles read the Catholic Standard article at: [WWW.CATHSTAN.ORG/FATHER-CHARLES-RANDOLPH-UNCLES-SSJ-THE-FIRST-BLACK-PRIEST-ORDAINED-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES](http://WWW.CATHSTAN.ORG/FATHER-CHARLES-RANDOLPH-UNCLES-SSJ-THE-FIRST-BLACK-PRIEST-ORDAINED-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES)

# FIND STRENGTH OF MIND AND HEART IN ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

November 3rd is the Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres – patron of racial harmony, those of mixed race, social justice, and health workers. His life teaches us to tune out the noise and any hatred toward us. In St. Martin we learn to not only focus on Christ, but also to be like Him – merciful and compassionate.

Saint Martin was born in Peru in 1579. His mother was a freed African slave, and his father was of Spanish nobility. Martin, his mother, and sister were abandoned by his father, forcing the family into poverty.

No matter the difficulty they faced St. Martin knew to honor God with his life. God was indeed St. Martin's Heavenly Father.

At the age of twelve, he took up the trade of barber, which also in that era included minor medical procedures and medicine/pharmacy roles, learning herbal medicines.

While he wanted to enter religious life, he was forbidden in Peru, because of his race. He persisted with his desire, and when he was 15, he was accepted as a volunteer for the Dominicans who assigned him the least favored tasks at the monastery – cleaning, laundry, and barbering. For that he was able to wear their habit and live inside their community.

Eight years later, his diligence, loving heart, and reverence paid off, Juan de Lorenzana disregarded the law discriminating against St. Martin, and allowed the young man to take his vows as a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic. That didn't mean life was easy for St. Martin, nor did it stop the racist and mean comments from some of his brother religious, who shamed him, called him degrading names, and mocked his presence.

Saint Martin kept his focus on his dream job as a religious brother, and did so with God at the center of his life, refraining on slinging hate and ugly actions back at the men, who despite their offensive behaviors proclaimed they were too living in honor of God, but obviously conditional.

He was assigned to care for the sick, diseased, and dying. He cared for them with great love and compassion – seeing Christ's creation in their very being. It is recorded that he had extraordinary abilities and truly miraculous knowledge.

His life on earth was the epitome of one living out Christ's mission. He was friends with St. Rose of Lima, who was

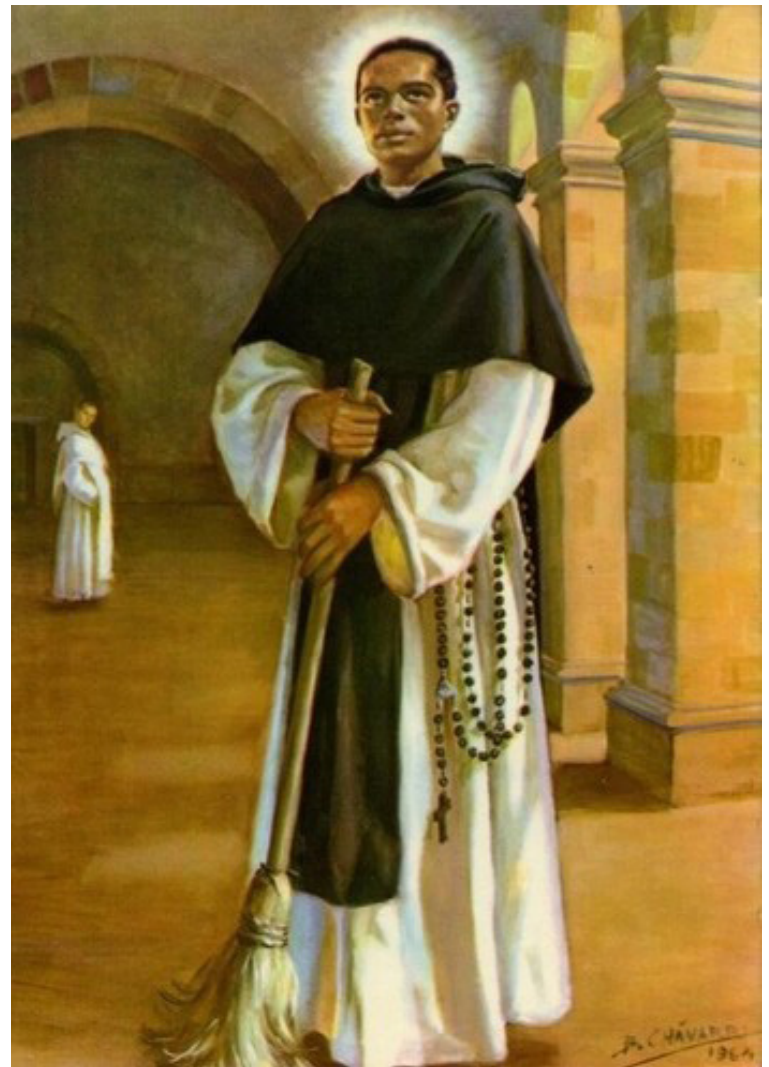
a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic, and Dominican friar, St. Juan Macias. Many miracles have been attributed to him both after his life and during it. He died in 1639

Twenty-five years after his death his body was exhumed and was completely intact and reportedly a beautiful fragrance filled the air around those viewing the incorrupt body.

You can read more about him at: [STMARTINSHRINE.ORG](http://STMARTINSHRINE.ORG).

He was canonized a saint in 1962.

Fun Fact: Wheeling was home to the Blessed Martin de Porres School from 1942-1955, providing a Catholic education for African American students in a time of segregation. Once laws were lifted the students were able to attend parochial schools, Central Catholic High School (for boys) and the old St. Joseph's Academy (for girls – later becoming part of Central Catholic).





## PREACH BY THE WAY YOU LIVE!

On Nov. 4, the Church honors St. Charles Borromeo. He as one who worked toward educating seminarians, reforming the Catholic Church, and creating the first catechism of the Church.

If he were of our world today, he may be mocked for nepotism. After receiving a degree in both theology and law by the age of 22, he was summoned by the pope – who happened to be his maternal uncle. Pope Pius IV made Charles a Cardinal Deacon – a position of layman administrator for the Archdiocese of Milan. He was ordained a priest at the age of 25 and became the bishop of Milan and later the archbishop.

As a young man, he was known for his organizational skills and ability to relate to all people. As Cardinal he served over several countries and religious orders before he helped organize the Council of Trent in 1562.

Despite his position of privilege, St. Charles remained focused in his positions, actions, and reforms to reflect Christ's love for the faithful. He wanted them to know that they are the Church and God listens to them – all of them not just the people of power.

In 1566, he was able to return to Milan to serve among the people of the Church and the streets. When the people were suffering from a devastating plague, he sold his possessions and even the curtains of his palace in order for the poor to have proper medicine.

“Charity knows no distinction... we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord,” he said.

He was known for not only preaching, but living out his faith with his loving heart and strong will to please God, bringing Christ alive within us.

He said, “Be sure that you first preach by the way you live.”

St. Charles Borromeo, pray for us, the Church, and all living and discerning religious life. Amen!

# FREE ONE THOUSAND SOULS

All through November we are called to pray for those who have died and especially for the souls in Purgatory. Church tradition has shared that Jesus appeared to St. Gertrude calling for prayer, invoking the mercy of God. Jesus promised St. Gertrude that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory every time the following prayer is said with honor and reverence:

*“Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.”*

The great mystic in the Church, St Catherine of Genoa, wrote about Purgatory, noting it isn't something to be afraid. It is a place “day by day... happiness grows as God flows into these souls, more and more....”

While we all want to be saints and live saintly lives to earn us an instant ticket to Heaven, the struggle on earth is real against sin, selfishness, and bad choices.

Our catechism teaches us that purgatory is a state of purification (CCC 1030-1037).

Saint Catherine of Genoa said these souls depend on our prayers for an end to any suffering involved in their purification.

Catholics are also encouraged to light candles for them, have Masses offered for them, and offer your Rosary for them.

For as we know from Revelation 21:4, God “will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

*Editor's note: Read your FaithInWV next week to learn more about St. Gertrude the Great. Her feast day is Nov. 16.*



# Prepare for Veterans Day Pray, Thank, Remember

November 11 is Veterans Day. Be mindful to check with your local parish and school for special events, making time to pray, thank, and remember our veterans.

Since 2016, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Huntington has been honoring veterans with a special Mass and booklet which features the names of the veterans in the parish (past and present) and a list of veterans who are the extended family and friends of the parishioners.

One of the special mementos of the day is a toy soldier and prayer card for those in attendance to place in their home or office as a reminder to pray for our veterans, their families, and all those who serve currently in our military.

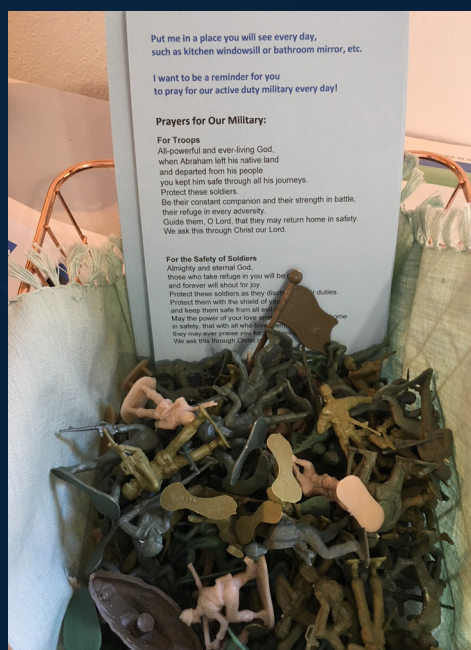
It is estimated that there are more than 18 million American veterans among us.

Services in our schools and parishes – like the one at Sacred Heart in Huntington – take place so we do not take granted the liberties and freedoms these men and women have defended.

Make time to attend an event to honor them. Pray for them and ask the Lord to surround our veterans and their loved ones, with legions of angels and a great cloud of saints to strengthen their days.

Sacred Heart's Eileen Farren noted that West Virginia has one of the highest per capita veteran populations in the United States. Our

state is served by four VA Medical Centers, one of which is only a few miles from Sacred Heart Church. This VA Medical Center opened in 1932, is affiliated with Marshall University School of Medicine, and in 2018 was renamed for US Marine Hershel “Woody” Williams, a Medal of Honor recipient for his heroism during the battle of Iwo Jima. Woody Williams died in 2022 at the age of 98, being the last Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.



# 31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

## First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said, "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your strength.

## Responsorial: Psalm 18

"I love you, Lord, my strength."

## Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

Christ is the high priest forever – holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He is perfect forever.

## Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

Mark shared the Jesus emphasized the greatest commandments. The first echoed from Moses "The Lord our God is Lord alone. You shall love the Lord with all your heart.... Christ said you must also love your neighbor as yourself. These are the two greatest commandments.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may act collectively in great and small ways to express our love of God and love of neighbor, putting God's commands into action, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our leaders within the continents of our world all the way down to the elected officials in our hometowns, may the Holy Spirit be the guiding force on how they govern – servant leadership, loving all of God's creation and people entrusted to their care, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may elect candidates for office who respect God's commands and stand up for all Christ taught us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we are open to, support, and encourage God's call in our lives and the lives within the Church, may the Holy Spirit energize in us the courage to dedicate our lives to God and neighbor through their service to others in the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and Catholic ministries, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

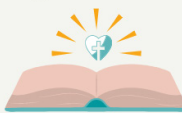
Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
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Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
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Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
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## *Liturgy of the Hours*

# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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).