

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



NOVEMBER 5, 2023

FROM THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

People often tell me as a priest, “Father, I don’t want to bother you—I know how busy you are!” Busyness is assumed of the priesthood. And there is much truth to that—if a priest is living his priesthood, he is going to be busy. He will give of himself to his people. Even in a small country parish, he will find ways to further the kingdom of God, albeit at a slower pace. That said, if a priest is not living his priesthood, like anyone, we priests can easily live a life of comfort. Yet a life of mere comfort is not compatible with the sacerdotal office. After all, Christ did not lead a comfortable life.

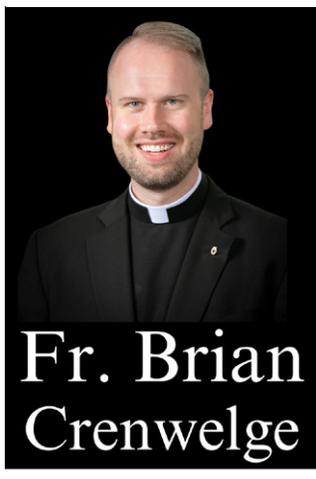
Christ was being pulled in all different directions that even his own extended family accused him of losing his mind (Mark 3:21). What they failed to see at the moment was that he was pouring himself out for his people. He was living out what he would ultimately complete in his Sacrifice on the Cross—the complete self-gift of his life. And because of the demands that his disciples were putting on him, he was considered to be crazy.

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen famously wrote about how a priest is “not his own.” He is to be another Christ, which means he is not only to be a priest, but a victim as well. This victimhood is one of frequent self-gift. Though every vocation involves sacrifice, the priestly vocation is a sacrifice of unique importance—it is a sacrifice of being available at the beck and call of those in need. There have been times when after Mass ends and I am greeting my people, someone asks me to hear a Confession. As I’m walking to the Confessional, I am stopped by another person and asked to bless a few items. As I finish blessing the items, someone informs me that there is no toilet paper in the bathroom. As I’m leaving the bathroom, someone else asks to go to Confession. Before I even make it to the Confessional to begin with, I’ve been in at least four separate conversations.

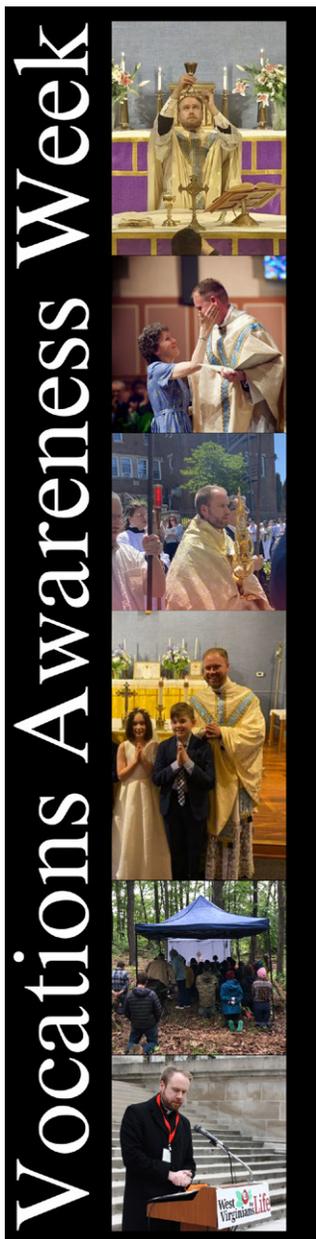
On my busiest of days as a priest, I’ve often wondered how I was going to complete all my tasks. I have found myself praying to St. Anthony to find me more time in the day. Yet, each time I think I am too busy to accomplish whatever the Lord has asked me to do, I find things always work out in the end. And no matter what, no matter how busy I am, there was always time in the day for intimate prayer with Christ. That’s a necessity.

Though there is a temptation to get frustrated with the busyness, this is actually a beautiful annoyance—in a small way, these signs remind us that the priest is so needed. When a priest makes himself available to his people, the people respond. Sure, it might take time for them to trust him, but very soon, the priest becomes a common part of their lives. I love when one of my parishioners will introduce me to their friends, “This is my priest!” There is a relationship there. A spiritual father and his child.

I pray more men may be willing to respond to Christ’s call to follow after him as his priests. Will you be busy as priest? Yes, you will be, if you give of yourself to your people. Yet the busyness is a reminder of the role and necessity of the priestly vocation. We priests offer sacrifice both in Sacrament and through our lives. We are to imitate what we celebrate. And at the end of the day, whenever the busyness has subsided, I am reminded that it is not really about me at all. The day was ultimately about living out the life of Christ—with all its busyness.



Fr. Brian Crenwelge



Vocations Awareness Week

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, we earnestly ask you to bless our diocese and our world with many priests who will love you fervently, and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to your Son's Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray that their lives may be always centered on our Eucharistic Lord, that they may be always faithful to the Holy Father, and that they may be devoted Sons of Mary, our mother, in making you known and loved; and that all may attain heaven. Bless our families and our children and choose from our homes those whom you desire for this holy work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION

O God, Who enlightens the minds and inflames the hearts of the faithful by the Holy Spirit, grant that through the same Spirit I may know my true vocation in life, and may have the grace to follow it faithfully. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON SEMINARIANS



DEACON JOHN SOPLINSKI
Fourth Theology
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton



CLIFTON MASTRAN
Third Theology
Pope St. John XXIII Seminary
St. John, Wellburg



MICHAEL AIELLO
First Theology
Mount St. Mary's Seminary
Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Charleston



DOMINIC RE
First Theology
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
St. Peter and Paul, Oak Hill



BRYAN TEDESCHI
First Theology
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
St. James the Greater, Charles Town



TIMOTHY KAWASH
Second Philosophy
Pontifical College Josephinum
Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Charleston



NATHAN SCHMIDT
Second Philosophy
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling



MICHAEL J. TUPTA
Second Philosophy
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Charleston



PETER RUSSMAN
Propaedeutic Year
Pontifical College Josephinum
St. James the Greater, Charles Town



JOSEPH DERICO
Third College
Saint John Paul II Seminary
St. Patrick, Weston



DONVITO CORTESE
Second College
Pontifical College Josephinum
St. James the Greater, Charles Town



BISHOP MARK E. BRENNAN
Bishop of the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



REV. FR. BRIAN J. CRENWELGE
Director of Vocations
bcrenwelg@dcwc.org



MR. ROSS SEMLER
Assistant to the Director of Vocations
rsemler@dcwc.org



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

304-233-0880 ext. 442

WVPRIESTS.ORG



*"He made them the vicars of His love."
- St. Ambrose*

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK ACT OF KINDNESS

Take a moment to send some snail mail to our seminarians!

Share a card, prayer, or note of encouragement with our 11 seminarians.

We have them organized by seminary complete with addresses.

Seminarian Joe Derico
John Paul II College Seminary
145 Taylor Street NE
Washington, DC 20017

Seminarians Deacon John Soplinski, Dominic Re, Bryan Tedeschi, Nathan Schmidt, Michael Tupta and Michael Aiello
Mount St. Mary's Seminary
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Seminarians Timothy Kawash, Donvito Cortese, and Peter Russman
The Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 N High Street
Columbus, OH 43235

Seminarian Clifton Mastran
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Avenue
Weston, MA. 02493



**“BE WITNESSES
OF GOD’S LOVE....”
- SR. MARTHA GOMEZ, RGS**

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Nov. 5-11

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSECRATED LIFE

For our vocation awareness week, I would like to recall and address the courageous men and women who precede us, as well as our brothers and sisters who are still in mission.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to talk to the Serra Club members. As I was thinking of a subject that would be of interest to these men and women whom I consider partners in mission, what came to mind was what Pope Francis said about vocation:

“The Journey forward—hearing God’s call. When we speak of vocation then, it is not just about choosing this or that way of life, devoting one’s life to a certain ministry or being attracted by the charisma of a religious family, movement, or ecclesial community. It is about making God’s dream come true, the great vision of fraternity that Jesus cherished when he prayed to the Father “that they may all be one” (John 17;21). Each vocation in the Church, and in a broader sense in society, contributes to a common objective: to celebrate among men and women that harmony of manifold gifts that can only be brought about by the Holy Spirit. Priests, consecrated men, and women, lay faithful: let us journey and work together in bearing witness to the truth that one great human family united in love is no utopian vision, but the very purpose for which God created us,” Pope Francis

So, as we celebrate vocation awareness my deepest heart desire is that we continue to be witnesses of God’s love, which it has been our heritage, our legacy, and our vision. And as we move forward into the unknown; we remind ourselves that we are part of what is to come, and that our thoughts and actions reflect the world we live, and the one we would like to leave behind.

I would like to close this with another quote from Pope Francis (The Joy of the Gospel):

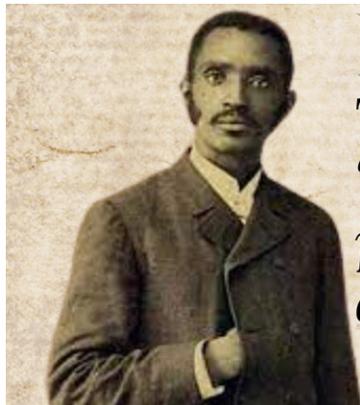
“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.”

God continues to call us to pray, to speak, and to act for the sake of humankind, and we want to respond to this call with **“Corde magno at animo volenti”** (With a great heart and a willing mind)

Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, consecrated, marriage and single life.

SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O God, Who will not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.



Black Catholic History Month

The Catholic Church...

“the only place on the continent, where rich and poor, white and black, must drop prejudice... and go hand in hand to the altar”

American Catholic Tribune.

- Daniel Rudd, Aug. 9, 1890

Daniel Arthur Rudd

Courageous Catholic Journalist and Activist

Editor's note; As we honor Black Catholic History Month, we share excerpts of an article by Sarah Ater of *The Catholic Telegraph*.

Daniel Rudd can be counted as one of the most influential Catholics during his time in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Indeed, his influence reached throughout the U.S. A man of deep faith, zeal for justice and untiring activity, Rudd founded the American Catholic Tribune (ACT), the first Black Catholic newspaper, and the National Black Catholic Congress. His Catholic faith influenced his world view - he saw the Church as the vessel of truth, justice, and equality of all people before God.

He wrote, the Catholic Church was “the only place on the continent, where rich and poor, white and black, must drop prejudice at the threshold and go hand in hand to the altar” (ACT, Aug. 9, 1890, 2).

Born into slavery in Bardstown, KY, in 1854 to Robert and Elizabeth Rudd, Daniel and his family were devout Catholics and served as sextons at St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral. He would later reminisce about receiving instruction from the parish priest. As a young man, Rudd moved to Springfield, OH, to live with his brother, Charles. There he completed high school and attended St. Raphael Church. While there, he began his work in newspapers and established the forerunner of the ACT, the Ohio State Tribune.

Rudd began publishing ACT in Cincinnati in 1886. His main audience for the newspaper was Black Americans, but Rudd knew that a large number of subscribers were white. He used the newspaper to share the Catholic faith, asking his readers to give the teachings of the Church a fair hearing.

In ACT, Rudd also advocated for the recognition of the equality and the dignity of Black Americans; that no race is better than another, and that all are brothers and sisters before Jesus. Rudd was a hopeful and optimistic man, but he acknowledged how the stain of racism seeped

into the Church, and he considered those Catholics who would separate people based on skin color as “less than Catholic.” In the pages of ACT, Rudd promoted the rights of African Americans on a practical level. He advocated for desegregation, and he wrote passionately for higher education opportunities and vocational schools. ACT published through 1897.

When Rudd founded the Black Catholic Congress, his goal was to mobilize the laity into action. He was convinced there were more Black Catholics than what was known, if only an organization would rise up to give them a voice.

We remember Daniel Rudd for his deep faith and commitment to truth. He encountered many obstacles in his work, the persistent racism of people from within the Church, and saw the growing reality of Jim Crow laws. But he also saw the good in his fellow man and the potential for what humanity could be. His hope remained because he did not leave it with man, but placed it all in Jesus Christ.

To read this and other articles on Rudd go to: WWW.THECATHOLICTELEGRAPH.COM/DANIEL-RUDD-BLACK-CATHOLIC-HISTORY/70267

HONOR BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY

Take time this month to honor our Black Catholic history. Learn from our past, through awareness and education open our eyes and hearts to those real struggles, fears, and unjust treatment, so we continue to become a better people - a better Church.

Dear Jesus, as we observe Black Catholic History Month, we call upon your saving grace to help ensure that the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters of color is honored, celebrated, and respected in our parishes, communities, schools, and homes.

Help us to not only open our eyes and our hearts as we not only speak unity, but also think and act like you.

Amen.

CALL UPON OUR SOLDIER SAINTS THIS VETERANS DAY

According to Veterans Affairs analysis there are 18,592,457 American veterans among us today. On Saturday Nov. 11, we honor them, their service, and their sacrifices.

Let us not take for granted the liberties and freedoms these men and women defended. They were willing to lay down their lives for our great nation. Pray for them and ask the Lord to surround our veterans, as well as the men and women still serving, with legions of angels and a great cloud of saints.

When asking the saints to intercede, call to mind the soldier saints of the Church. Their service to their countries strengthened their faith and led to countless conversions and miracles.

A few of the most notable and courageous soldier saints include:

- **St. Martin of Tours, whose feast day we celebrate on Veterans Day**, grew up in the 4th century in Rome. Born to pagan parents. By the age of 10 he knew he wanted to be Christian. He served in the Roman army at 15. He is famous for a moment when he was guarding a gate, when a poor naked man asked for help in the name of Jesus Christ. St. Martin had nothing to give but his mantle, a cape. He took his sword and cut his cape, giving the beggar the larger cloth to clothe him. The following night Jesus appeared to St. Martin in a dream, wearing the cloak saying, "Behold, here is Martin, an unbaptized Roman soldier: He has clothed me." Martin was baptized the following Easter at the age of 18. He continued to serve in the army for more than 20 years. Afterward he was ordained and later became bishop of Tours.



- **St. Ignatius of Loyola**, a Spanish Catholic priest, who happily fulfilled his boyhood dream to become a soldier. After he was injured in battle he read about Jesus and the lives of the saints.



He believed they had greater valor and spiritual nobility than he would ever have. From that moment on he vowed to be a soldier for Christ.

- **St. Joan of Arc**, a farm girl from France, went into battle in her teens against the English, conquering Orleans, Patay, and Reims. She had a deep love for her Catholic faith and was inspired to fight for her country by the voices of St. Michael the archangel, St. Catherine and St. Margaret.
- **St. George** was an imperial guard for the Roman Emperor. He outrightly disobeyed commands not to pray and converted other soldiers to Christianity.



- **St. Francis of Assisi** before answering the call to religious life he served two tours fighting in the army and was held captive for one year. He understood the sacrifice and torment of loyalty to God and Country.
- **St. Maurice**, as a leader in the Theban legion, he encouraged his soldiers to disobey orders to harass Christians. His legion saved many Christian lives.
- **St. Sebastian**, an early Roman Christian, took advantage of his position of guard for the Emperor Diocletian, and converted many prominent people in his day to Christianity during an anti-Christian reign.



LET US PRAY ON VETERANS DAY

God of mercy, we pray for those who have served our nation, protecting and defending our freedoms.

We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war.

We pray for those who serve us now, shield them from danger and bring them home safely, when their duty is complete.

Turn the hearts and minds of all Americans to respect and honor their courageous, selfless work toward peace. Amen

HARVESTING HALLOWEEN JOY CCWVA'S RELATIVES AS PARENTS PROGRAM UNITES CAREGIVERS AND KIDS FOR A SPOOKTACULAR CELEBRATION

This October, our Relatives as Parents Program held a Halloween party, bringing together costumed kids and caregivers over pizza.

“It was a fun time for parents and kids to get together and celebrate the holiday,” said Diana Bell, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Assistant Chief Program Officer.

CCWVa's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) serves families in which caregivers other than the biological parents are raising children. We often see grandparents or aunts or uncles stepping in to raise children when their biological parents are not in a place to do so.

RAPP provides a variety of supports and interventions for these children and families. The program gives participating caregivers the resources they need to be informed, effective, and responsible parents.

While the children did a Halloween craft, the caregivers learned about parenting topics from the monthly guest speaker.

“As much as our parents learn from the guest speaker at each meeting, they also learn from each other,” said Bell.

In that way, group members engage and support one another.

“The common aspect of raising other peoples' children – for whatever reason – brings the parents together,” said Bell.

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.*



Families from Catholic Charities' Relatives as Parents Program gather for a Halloween party.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Malachi 1:14b-2:2b

The prophet Malachi reminds priests not to act too superior or set a poor example, but to live fully alive, serving the people and worshipping the one true God - the creator of all.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 131

“In you, Lord, I have found my peace.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9,13

St. Paul shares that the apostles gave their lives to serve God and bring Christ to the people. Emphasizing our God is as a gentle mother caring for her children.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus teaches that God created us in His own image, not one less than another.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/110523.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

That Church leaders and all those who represent the Church may by word and example cause many to recognize God's grace in their lives, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those in exalted positions may exercise their power and fulfill their responsibilities with humility, recognizing that they did not achieve their status on their own, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we all may make the effort to listen for God's call, no matter the stage of life we are in, and may be open to serving God in a special way, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who care for those who are dying, that they may be granted the strength to persevere in their ministry and may always be aware of the holiness of their work, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who struggle mentally or emotionally, who feel overwhelmed or adrift, that in God they may find peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

November 20, 2023

*Mass of
Gratitude*

celebrated by
Bishop Mark E. Brennan

12:05 P.M. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph
1218 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV

Livestream available at dwc.org/CSA

In celebration of all YOU do for your local parish and the Church, please join us for the **Mass of Gratitude** on Monday, November 20th at 12:05pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Mass will be livestreamed for all those who are unable to attend. You can offer your prayer intentions on the CSA website for Bishop Brennan to pray over during the Mass.

#CatholicSharingAppeal

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



FAITH IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY!
 Strengthen yours through FaithInWV,
 our weekly e-bulletin in the
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Visit FAITHINWV.ORG/CONTACT-US
 to receive this FREE weekly e-bulletin.

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
wvcatholicsschools.org

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.