

# Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



OCTOBER 15, 2023



FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Rosary appeal may not have hit the one million mark it was aiming for, but the progress made – a quarter of a million – is being celebrated.

“So many voices, reciting the rhythmic pattern of the Rosary; concentrating on the joys, sorrows, glories, and light of Christ’s life; while holding close the intention of increasing strong Catholic vocations in the West Virginia – that is definitely a great blessing,” said Joyce Bibey, of the diocese’s office of communications, who teamed up to promote the Rosaries for vocations mission with Sister Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in the diocese.

said. “Vocations are born in prayer (marriage, holy orders, single life, and religious/consecrated life), and only through prayer can we persevere and bear fruit.”

So, yes, the diocese is celebrating what did happen, Gomez and Bibey agreed.

“We can be totally honest sharing that when the deadline grew closer, and we saw we were not going to hit the one million goal, we were obviously disappointed, but we quickly refocused and talked about what we were most grateful,” Bibey said. “Groups young and old have been getting together to make Rosaries. Students in our Catholic schools are leading Rosaries with their peers. Our Chancery staff gathered every week to pray together and share Marian art, wearables, and special stories. Our parishes and schools are hosting Rosary rallies and processions. Campus ministries in our high schools and WV colleges emphasized conversations and activities to get their students more aware of Catholic vocations. Our seminarians sent messages that they felt energized by appeal, and we heard from family, colleagues, and friends from all over the country, Mexico, and as far away as India and the Philippines eager to help us here in WV.”



Perfection would have been one million, but coordinators Gomez, and Bibey are choosing to sing praises for the impressive 250,753 Rosaries from the 1,037 individuals that entered their pledge during the 54 days.

“It warms my heart to know even the smallest voices, like my two-year-old great nephew Leo, joined in our prayerful chorus to God through Mary with our intention,” Gomez said, referring to her family in Mexico who happily united with WV in prayer. “We sow the seed of praying the Rosary for our little ones in our hearts, homes, church, and schools.”

Praying for vocations should be instinctive for us Gomez

Not trying or just complaining would have been a failure, she said.

“Can you imagine how Mary must feel hearing these sweet souls, and how eager she is to take these prayers to Jesus,” Gomez said. “So many people prayed their first Rosary during our appeal, and it was for us here in West Virginia. So many others are hopefully now making the Rosary a habitual prayer. Hearts and minds are in the right place, when they pray, meditate, and concentrate on the Rosary.”

The Rosary resources from the campaign will continue to be available at [FAITHINWV.ORG](http://FAITHINWV.ORG).

# SAINTLY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

**Celebrate the Life of St. Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church, on Oct. 15th** – She is known as a force

to be reckoned with in the 1500's. To her credit she reformed or founded 17 monasteries for nuns and 15 for friars. She stood against corruptions of the Church and her Carmelite Order. While these accolades are impressive, they are not the reason she is so relatable. It is St. Teresa of Avila, whose prayer life reminds us that no matter how blessed or broken we are; God loves us.



In her words, “Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience gains all things. Who has God wants nothing. God alone suffices.” It is referred to as the Bookmark Prayer, because she reportedly carried with her in whatever book she had.

Her religious superiors insisted she write her about her insights, spiritual visions, and her relationship with God. These writings are considered classics in the Church, including *The Way of Perfection*, a guide to prayer, emphasizing the importance of having a deep love of prayer, great humility, and detachment of material things. Her book *The Interior Castle* is a mystical writing of the soul and union with God. Her autobiography *The Life – The Life of Teresa of Jesus* describes her life from childhood through her fifties, and how her experiences can “profit souls.”

The artistic photo featured is by Kristyn Brown – The Saints Project in Philadelphia and available at: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/KRISTYNBROWNPHTO](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/KRISTYNBROWNPHTO)

**On October 16th Pray St. Margaret Mary's Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:**



Lord Jesus,  
let my heart never rest until it finds You,  
who are its center, its love, and its happiness.  
By the wound in Your heart  
pardon the sins that I have committed

whether out of malice or out of evil desires.

Place my weak heart in your own divine heart,  
continually under your protection and guidance,  
so that I may persevere in doing good  
and in fleeing evil until my last breath.

Amen.

*Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary several times between 1673-1675, sharing his love and revealing His Sacred Heart.*

**October 16 is the Feast of the Mothers' Saint – Gerard Majella.** It is interesting

an story why a man, yet a religious, be known as “The Mothers' Saint.”

A few months before St. Gerard Majella died, he was visiting the family of a friend, when he left, he dropped his handkerchief. One of the daughters picked it up and handed it to him, but he said, “Keep



it. It will be useful to you someday.” She kept it as a treasure from her father's reverent friend. Years later when she was in labor doctors told her she and her baby were in danger of dying during birth. She retrieved the handkerchief and held it tight. Almost immediately her pain was gone, and the child was born alive and well.

Who was this holy man? Saint Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy, the youngest of four children of Domenico and Benedetta Majella. As a toddler, Gerard particularly loved a statue of the Madonna and Jesus in his church, once able to speak called it the “pretty lady with the baby.” He was so fond of it he would frequently run off to go inside. His mother said he came home several times and say, “See what I got from the little boy,” and then hold out his hands to reveal a small loaf of bread. Once his mother followed him and “what she saw stunned her because the statue of Our Lady of Graces apparently came to life and the child she was holding scampered down to play with Gerard,” according to a story in Liguorian Magazine by Alicia Von Stamwitz, October 2009 (see the story by [CLICKING HERE](#)).

He became well known for his genuine kindness and compassion for all people, especially the poor and ill. He served as a lay brother for the Congregation of the

Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists). The painting of St. Gerard is by Jessica Coe of The Living Heart Co. Available at: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/THELIVINGHEARTCO](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/THELIVINGHEARTCO)

**On October 17th be mindful like St. Ignatius of Antioch** and pray that Jesus Christ remains on our lips and in our hearts, and undeniably visible to all through our actions. In his writings and preaching, he emphasized the great need for all Catholics to believe in the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Not much is known about this early saint from the first to second century, but many refer to him as the Apostolic Father of the Church, because he was a follower of Apostle John. He wrote seven epistles during 110 A.D., just before he was fed to the lions for his faith.



It was St. Ignatius that said many can speak eloquently of the Church, of Christ, and of their faith, but it means accounts for nothing if you do not live it: “Do not have Jesus Christ on your lips, but the world in your hearts.

“We recognize a tree by its fruit, and we ought to be able to recognize a Christian by his action,” he wrote. “The fruit of faith should be evident in our lives, for being a Christian is more than making sound professions of faith. It should reveal itself in practical and visible ways. Indeed, it is better to keep quiet about our beliefs, and live them out, than to talk eloquently about what we believe, but fail to live by it.”

**Honor St. Luke on his Feast Day - Oct. 18th** - This author of the third book of the New Testament and

the Acts of the Apostles was not one of the original 12.



He was however one of the dedicated followers after Christ’s ascension.

Saint Luke left his profession as physician to become an evangelist with the other Apostles, after Paul inspired him. He was intelligent and loved being emersed in the life of Christ. His writings make it obvious that he enjoyed talking to countless

people who knew Jesus and witnessed his miracles. It is believed that the story of our Savior’s birth he presents, was based on St. Luke’s personal conversations with Our Blessed Mother Mary.

His first lines in Chapter 1 of his gospel he even notes he wrote it “after investigating everything accurately anew....” Luke 1:3.

His writings are descriptive and reveal Jesus’ mercy, healing, and compassion. He details how Jesus saved all people through the Passion and Resurrection.

His writings urge us to be Christian disciples and model ourselves after Jesus, and for us to seek salvation and peace through prayer. He even used Jesus as the example in Luke 23:34, emphasizing the moment when Jesus asked forgiveness of his crucifiers.

Let us all be inspired by St. Luke, seeking to know as much as we can about the life of Christ and want to share that good news with others through our actions and words.

The painting of St. Luke with this article is by European artist James Tissot.

## FALL HYBRID COURSES THROUGH UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON



Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) announces two Fall hybrid courses. Both courses - **Introduction to Catechesis** and **Ecclesiology: The Beginnings of the Church** are composed of both weekly

live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through VLCFF. The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at [rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com](mailto:rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com)

**The Courses will run from October 21- November 24**

# NATIONAL SPEAKER TO SHARE FAITH-BASED PROGRAM TO HELP RECOVER FROM ADDICTIONS

The Office of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston presents an evening focused on a national ministry serving those suffering from addiction - Catholic in Recovery - at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, October 17, at St. Michael Parish, in Wheeling.

If you know of someone struggling with an addiction or if your parish or mission has or is considering starting a ministry focused on those struggling with addictions attending this presentation is opportunity knocking.

Ministry founder and presenter Scott Weeman shares his personal story of when his life was completely falling apart. Thanks to an addiction program and an empowering young adult ministry at his parish, he found Christ picking up his pieces ready to make him whole again.



Years after his sobriety, Weeman began Catholics in Recovery to offer Catholic spiritual tools to help and heal those suffering from addictions, compulsions, unhealthy relationships, and worldly obsessions.

Weeman, now husband and proud father, earned a master's degree in clinical counseling and is an associate marriage and family therapist. His goal is by sharing his story and ministry he can help individuals, families, and church groups.

It is easy to say the popular phrase, "Let go, and let God," but when it comes to addiction and recovery from a dark place it can seem impossible to utter without accompaniment, and particularly a healing program that is faith-based.

Weeman will outline how the Catholic Church can help answer the call to those battling addictions in our community through the expert team at Catholics in Recovery.

The program provides individuals, family members, and parish social ministry teams with resources - that draw people closer God's graces even in hopeless cases.

Weeman is in West Virginia thanks to a grant from the WV Catholic Foundation, Director of Social Ministry Kathy Barton said. Through this partnership eight parishes in the diocese can apply through Barton's office to receive the Catholic in Recovery program materials for free.

"WV is ranked highest per capita in the country for overdose fatalities," said Director of Social Ministry Kathy Barton. "The impact that this has on our state, communities and families is devastating. Weeman's beautiful ministry offers renewed hope and practical spiritual tools to live a full life free from addictions of any kind. This program is designed to be a parishioner led ministry, with weekly assistance from Scott and his Catholics in Recovery team."

Learn more about Catholic in Recovery at [CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM](http://CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM)

Questions about securing the program for your parish Barton or AJ Emery at 304-233-0880 or email them at [kbarton@dwc.org](mailto:kbarton@dwc.org) or [aemery@dwc.org](mailto:aemery@dwc.org).



The Office of Social Ministry Presents



# Catholic in Recovery

**OCTOBER 17 • 6:30 P.M.**

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, WHEELING

**FREE EVENT**

Discover more about Catholic in Recovery and our speaker at  
[CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM](http://CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM)

# HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE

## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY IS OCT. 22

October 22nd is World Mission Sunday, when we are called to personally encounter with Jesus Christ alive in the Church, and to offer, through this Eucharistic celebration, our prayers, and our generous financial support to The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) - a worldwide network since 1922, including the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

A special collection will be taken in our parishes for this global effort to spread the message of Christ to the world, especially in countries where Christianity is denied, forgotten, or persecuted. The pontifical societies care for and support new churches until they can be self-sufficient, just as those in the US, which was considered a mission territory until 1908.

The theme for World Mission Sunday 2023 was chosen by Pope Francis and based on the gospel story of the road to Emmaus.

“For this year’s World Mission Sunday, I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): ‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move’. Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, their eyes were opened as they recognized him and, ultimately, their feet set out on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelization in today’s world.”

Through this special collection in our parishes around the world, we show our love and mercy - Catholic Social Teaching in action.



The Society for the  
Propagation of the Faith  
a Pontifical Mission Society

## World Mission Sunday 2023

October 22nd

**Were not our hearts burning within us?**

*Luke 24:13-35*



## A STORY OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE: A DREAM OF A HOMEMADE MEAL COMES TRUE

Many of us can empathize with the desire for a homemade meal. Levi shared this longing, but his aspiration went beyond that – he yearned for the opportunity to cook that meal in his very own kitchen.

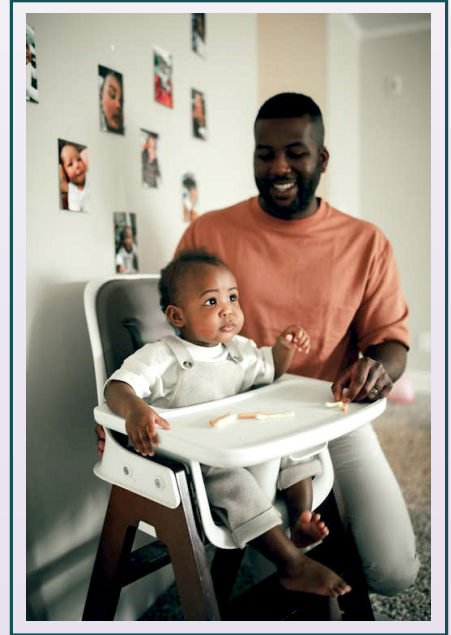
“I simply crave a homemade meal... the chance to prepare it myself,” Levi said.

Levi and Molly encountered a challenging situation, both having lost their jobs and lacking a place to live when their daughter, Katrina, was born.

“Dealing with all of this while welcoming a baby was exceptionally demanding,” Levi recalled.

Instead of choosing a homeless shelter, where they would have to share space with numerous others and potentially expose their newborn to viruses, the family opted to stay in a hotel.

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) intervened to support Levi and his family through its case management program, which aids individuals and families in pursuing their goals. Through this program, skilled staff meet with individuals to overcome barriers and determine actionable steps and available community resources, extending financial assistance when needed.



“Case management is a way we can walk alongside our clients in their journeys and support them in achieving their goals,” said Diana Bell, CCWVa Assistant Chief Program Officer. “It’s the beacon of hope that helps them transform longing into reality. Levi and Molly’s journey reminds us that, in times of challenge, the right support can empower dreams, even when life takes unexpected turns.”

CCWVa provided Levi and his family not only with the security deposit and first month’s rent, but also with kitchen utensils, blankets, and other household essentials. They were finally able to bathe their baby in a bathtub, a welcome change from using the hotel sink.

“I am immensely thankful that CCWVa helped us by covering the deposit,” Levi expressed. “I thank God for them. They instilled hope in me to persevere.”

Levi, Molly, and Katrina are thriving in their new home. Molly has been able to return to work, while Levi takes care of their daughter during the day.

Read about our Case Management Services and learn how you can help contribute at [CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG/CASE-MANAGEMENT-EMERGENCY-SERVICES/](https://www.catholiccharitieswv.org/case-management-emergency-services/).

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG](https://www.catholiccharitieswv.org).

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a**

As Isaiah paints a picture of a glorious feast given by God, he wants us all to rejoice in the the Lord who saved us.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23**

“I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.”

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20**

Saint Paul reminds us that no matter what situation we are in Jesus will provide and fill our needs.

**Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

God invites all of us to the heavenly banquet. All is prepared, we are only to prepare ourselves. Remain with Christ and come to the feast!

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

[BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/101523.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/101523.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we are generous to people from every corner of the world – good and bad alike, showing them the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our elected leaders, that they represent the voice of Christ’s people, working to see that those in need are treated with dignity and compassion, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are here at home and around the world that go hungry, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That as we receive Eucharistic we are strengthened and inspired to share the love and hope of Christ to all people, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



WV CATHOLIC RADIO  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

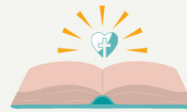
Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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by knowledge.  
Transformed  
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*Liturgy of the Hours*

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).