



## OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH AND THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

As we welcome October, we welcome Respect Life Month and a month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Today's FaithInWV honors both. Here on page one, we focus on Respect Life Month 2022, which is followed by a letter on Respect for Life and Human Development from Bishop Mark Brennan beginning on page 2. Information on the Month of the Holy Rosary is on page 5. God bless the Church and all the faithful, as we reflect on the gift of life and pray the Holy Rosary, calling upon the intercession of our Blessed Mother.



### RESPECT LIFE

October is *Respect Life Month*, a time the Church in the United States focuses and celebrates life at every stage from conception through natural death. During this moment in history the theme "Called to Serve Moms in Need" has been chosen to amplify the compassion and support needed for mothers before, during, and after the birth of their child.

God calls us to cherish, defend and protect the most vulnerable among us through all of life's stages. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36.

We need to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. We can recite words, but we need to perform deeds in order to live the Word and teachings Christ gave us.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you. - Jeremiah 1:5.

As a presenter for pro-life directors from dioceses across the country in July, Bishop Mark Brennan said we need to do God's work and not just speak pro-life, pro-baby, and pro-woman. We need to "give our sincere support to those who are in active areas, where we cannot be."

He quoted 2Timothy 2:3, "St. Paul said, 'Bear your share of hardship along with me like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.'"

"Let God move minds and hearts, but we must be the ones who now speak and work for Him."

## RESPECT LIFE LETTER FROM BISHOP MARK

Bishop Mark Brennan has released a letter (page 2) on respect for the lives of mothers and children. The letter is also in response to the recent law signed by Governor Justice which regulates the practice of abortion in West Virginia.

"My brothers and sisters, our Church is both pro-child and pro-woman. As the prolife movement long ago realized, seeking only to limit or eliminate abortions is not enough. We must also provide support to mothers before and after they give birth and to their families," Bishop Brennan says in the letter.

Bishop Mark has also recorded a video version of the letter available at [WWW.DWC.ORG](http://WWW.DWC.ORG).

Please join him throughout the month of October and beyond as we work together through prayer and support to uphold the right to life and promote the welfare of families.





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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### **Letter on Respect for the Lives of Mothers and Children +Mark E. Brennan Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston**

September 29, 2022

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as you likely know, the West Virginia legislature recently passed a bill regulating the practice of abortion in the State and the Governor signed it into law. The new law offers much greater protection to preborn human beings than was formerly afforded in West Virginia. It treats women who seek an abortion with commendable restraint while holding medical practitioners accountable for their actions, should they violate the law.

As Governor Justice said, neither those who support abortion nor those who oppose it got everything they wanted from the new law. Some on one side wanted no restrictions or very few on abortion and no consequences for those who practice the procedure. Some on the other side did not want the exceptions allowed by the law for cases of rape, incest and a serious threat to the mother's life. While acknowledging the genuine hardship of women in such situations, they saw a greater injustice in taking the life away from a baby conceived in those circumstances or caught in a tragic crisis the child could not avoid.

All in all, however, the new law makes life in the womb much safer for preborn children in West Virginia. We must remember that God Himself gave us the commandment, "You shall not kill," and that Jesus has taught us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, which is irrelevant if we stand by and let the smallest, most vulnerable human beings be killed. I applaud the national Knights of Columbus and our local Knights Councils for providing sonogram machines to pregnancy centers. Seeing their tiny child alive, many women have changed their mind about getting an abortion.

Be clear about this: abortion is a gruesome matter. While there are a number of ways in which a preborn child is killed, two are most common: either a painful surgical procedure, in which the child is dismembered within the womb, or a similarly painful, chemically induced expulsion of the preborn child from the mother's womb. What humane person, especially a God-fearing one, could approve of such a brutal act? My personal experience counseling women who have had abortions has also taught me how scarred their abortions often leave them, once they recognize that they have done the most unnatural thing for a woman to do: allow her child to be killed. We should spare women that trauma.

My brothers and sisters, our Church is both pro-child and pro-woman. As the prolife movement long ago realized, seeking only to limit or eliminate abortions is not enough. We

must also provide support to mothers before and after they give birth and to their families. Pregnancy centers around the nation have been doing that for decades, often helped by volunteers and money from Catholic parishes. The American bishops' program, "Walking with Moms in Need," will strengthen the connection between Catholic parishes and local pregnancy centers. Stay alert for more information about this initiative.

We must work as well to ensure that hospitals in our State provide quality prenatal and postpartum care, especially to those women who lack health insurance and other financial resources. Having checked with the administrators of Catholic hospitals in West Virginia, I can assure you that, as a matter of faith and respect for the dignity of the person, they will not turn away women who lack health insurance but need quality prenatal and postpartum care.

An inspiring example of what we can do together comes from St. Joseph's Parish in Martinsburg. Assisted by other Catholic parishes and other churches in the Eastern Panhandle, St. Joseph's is renovating a former convent to provide a place for pregnant women to live who have nowhere else to go. "Mary's Refuge" will be able to accommodate nine pregnant women, who can live there for up to a year while they work and receive counseling on healthy lifestyle choices and how to raise a child. Could not such a project go forward in other parts of our State?

The State, too, has a role to play. Our legislature and Governor have created a law that will shield many preborn children from an untimely and atrocious death, but the State can and should do more. Especially now, with large budget surpluses, but even in difficult times, the State should prioritize funding programs directed toward helping young families pay for quality childcare when both parents or a child's only parent must work outside the home. Paid maternity leave would help mothers in postpartum recovery and give them time to bond with their newborn children. Giving more support to adoption services, promoting adoption and reducing financial obstacles in the adoption process would benefit adopted children and their new family. More must be done to support women subjected to domestic violence, which often harms their children as well. Government cannot do everything, but these are some of the things it could do.

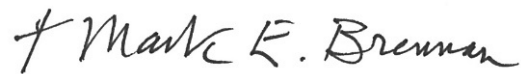
Pope St. John Paul II often spoke of "building a culture of life." That is the larger goal to which we Catholics must be committed. Building that culture includes all of the positive steps that the Church, other private groups and our governments can take to uphold the right to life and promote the welfare of families. But building a culture that respects all human life also means resisting evil, the "culture of death" that has gained a strong foothold in our country.

We see the culture of death at work now in attempts to discredit and damage pregnancy centers. We see it in attacks on Catholic churches that have occurred across the nation and in the vilification of Catholic Supreme Court justices for supposedly imposing their religion on the country by overthrowing the *Roe-Casey* abortion regime. We see it in programs advanced by major corporations that will provide funds for their pregnant employees to travel to states that make abortion readily available. We must defend and support pregnancy centers, speak out against attacks on churches, Catholic groups and individuals and others who support both child and mother, and challenge big companies who facilitate abortions but are less generous in supporting their pregnant employees who want to give birth to their children. In the latter case,

look up on the internet the names of those corporations. Do they deserve our patronage? We have to resist evil as well as do good.

These are tumultuous times. We cannot be certain of what may come from our efforts to build a culture of life. We can only entrust ourselves and our cause to the Lord and do our best. St. Teresa of Kolkata said that God has called us not to be successful but to be faithful. Yet we must trust that, in seeking to be faithful to the God who has given us life, we will be able to stem some of the evil that threatens human beings and accomplish some substantial good for them. St. Paul said, “Bear one another’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ” [*Galatians 6:2*]. Let us bear the burden of standing up for life and promoting the good of our brothers and sisters, the little ones and the bigger ones. As a contemporary song says, “Go make a difference. You can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.” Let us not shrink from the struggle but engage in it with confidence in the God who has made the ultimate difference in the world by sending His Son as our Savior. United to him, we can make a difference in today’s world for women, children and families. May God bless and guide us.

Sincerely 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

# PRAY THE ROSARY

Take time for yourself to pray the rosary. Consider it a time well earned – a moment to concentrate on your prayers, joy, sorrow, pain, and thanksgiving. As you recite the Our Fathers, Hail Marys, Glory Bes, and the Fatima Prayer – know that Mary is praying with you and for you. When you steal away time to reverently reflect on the lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, call upon the Blessed Mother to intercede for you to her son Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Picture yourself holding Mary’s hand as you hold each bead. That image is exactly what St. Teresa of Calcutta (Kolkata) lovingly and habitually did as she invited Mary Queen of Peace into her reverent prayer.

Let the rosary become your comforting devotion, a calming meditation. Don’t think of it as a spiritual chore. Welcome it as well-deserved time to set aside for yourself or with your loved ones. This gift of prayer is directly from our Blessed Mother.

Satan will try to influence your thoughts, so you believe you are too busy or that it’s too difficult. Think of it in the opposite way, it is a gift from Mary to you. She gave us the rosary through St. Dominic de Guzman.

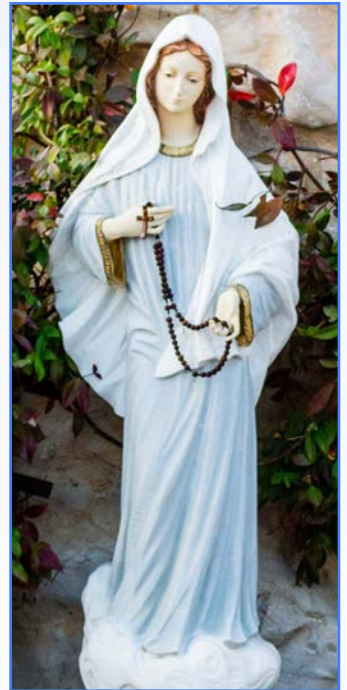
Just do it. Let the rosary bring you peace, comfort, grace, and hope. Listen to audio or video versions during your travels, your coffee break, a walk, etc. Resources online are endless. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has a rosary guide available at: [FAITHINWV.ORG/THE-ROSARY](http://FAITHINWV.ORG/THE-ROSARY) and a healing rosary with video/audio for survivors of abuse at: [DWC.ORG/PRAY-THE-ROSARY](http://DWC.ORG/PRAY-THE-ROSARY). Bishop Robert Barron has a series of videos about the rosary and the reciting of the rosary – one for each the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries of the rosary. They are available at [WORDONFIRE.ORG/ROSARY](http://WORDONFIRE.ORG/ROSARY).

Our diocese is also participating in the national Diocesan Rosary Congress to call upon Mary to intercede for us as we pray the rosary focused on the mission to bring souls to God through the Holy Eucharist. From October 1-8, faithful across the diocese and the nation will have Eucharistic Adoration and pray the rosary. For a list of events organized by the vicariates go to: [DWC.ORG/DIOCESAN-ROSARY-CONGRESS](http://DWC.ORG/DIOCESAN-ROSARY-CONGRESS).

## *October 7th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Victory*

The Church recognizes October the Month of the Holy Rosary, because of the 16th Century Marian devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Pope Pius V wholeheartedly gave credit to the Virgin Mary for the Oct. 7, 1571, victory for the Church and Christians of Spain and Venice over Turks, who waged war on all Christianity. The day of the battle at sea was the same day the Rosary Confraternity of Rome gathered to recite the rosary for the Blessed Virgin to intercede and go to Jesus to protect and empower the Christians at battle. Pope Pius V declared the day the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. A year later, his successor, Pope Gregory III, changed the name of the feast to Our Lady of the Rosary to emphasize the power of our Blessed Mother’s intercession.



# Diocesan Rosary Congress

During the week of October 1-8, 2022, parishes will participate in the national program of Diocesan Rosary Congresses. Each parish will host a service of Eucharistic Adoration including the praying of the rosary and concluding with Benediction.

Visit [DWC.ORG/DIOCESAN-ROSARY-CONGRESS](http://DWC.ORG/DIOCESAN-ROSARY-CONGRESS) for dates, times, and locations.

Let us come together in adoration and prayer before our Eucharistic Lord and to seek the protection and intercession of the Blessed Mother.



# GOD CALLED ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI TO “REBUILD” THE CHURCH

## CONTEMPLATE WHAT WE ARE BEING CALLED TO DO

God called upon St. Francis of Assisi to help rebuild the church. On his feast day Oct. 4th, pray for St. Francis to intercede for us, as we discern what God is calling us to do.

Like St. Francis we are called by the Holy See, our diocese, and our parishes to build up the Church – the House of the Lord. Pope Francis has urged the faithful to rebuild, renew, and reenergize the Church in many ways and most recently through the Synod process. Likewise, so has our US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), especially now in our three-year National Eucharistic Revival. Further, Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests invite us continuously to be fully alive not only in our parishes, but also to be sent out as Christ’s hands and feet in our communities and organizations that do God’s work.

In his search for happiness, St. Francis had to continuously be nudged by God before he understood what he was put on earth to do - make a difference for God’s creation, and rebuild the faith of God’s people by preaching the Gospel.

Much like our society today, Young Francesco Bernardone, who we know as St. Francis of Assisi, lived in a time splattered with religious hatred and division, social injustice, and political unrest. Foolish stubborn opinions seemingly prevailed over empathy and compassion.

St. Francis was born in the 12th Century into a wealthy family. He had everything he wanted pretty

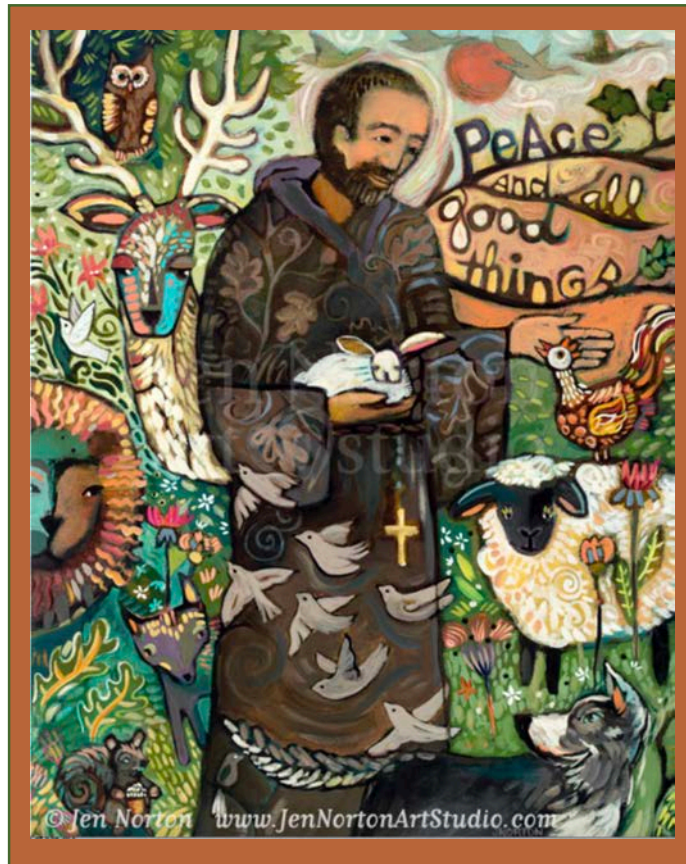
much handed to him by his parents Pietro and Picca Bernardone. However, what he wanted most was to be a famous knight, but that was not the plan God had for him. God would speak to young St. Francis, but he had a hard time listening until he was broken. His dreams of being a popular warrior were dashed, when he found himself a prisoner of war in Perugia, and then later falling severely ill during the crusades. As he recovered, he continued to recall a dream he had, when God was calling him to seek God in all people, even the lepers and outcasts, serving them as Christ would. St. Francis turned around his priorities and became a servant to God.

Later upon praying in San Damiano, a small church, he heard Jesus speak to him from the crucifix, “Francis, go and rebuild my church.” The physical church he was in needed countless repairs, so Francis believed God was speaking to him to fix up that church. Upon

completion his heart was not satisfied, so he sought to fix the churches all around Assisi. Still not satisfied with his accomplishments, St. Francis realized that God had greater plans for St. Francis – to rebuild the greater Church, humanity, and all of God’s creation.

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” – St. Francis of Assisi.

*Editor’s note - The painting of St. Francis is Jen Norton available at:*  
[WWW.JENNORTONARTSTUDIO.COM](http://WWW.JENNORTONARTSTUDIO.COM)



## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The prophet Habakkuk out of great agony watching injustice, evil, and suffering questions God about how long will He let the people suffer. God gives a reply that the prophet nor anyone would want to hear. God says he must wait. Habakkuk knows he must be patient and rely on faith.

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

### Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

St. Paul tells us in this letter to Timothy to bear our hardships with faith and strength that comes from God. Further, guard that faith confidently, knowing the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer.

### Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

When the apostles asked Christ to “increase our faith,” Jesus referred to the mustard seed – the tiniest of seeds – and the great strong rooted mulberry tree, illustrating that it is not the visible size but the power of your faith that has strength to make a difference. He tells them that even when we have completed everything we are supposed to do, we can and should do more.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

[BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/100222.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/100222.CFM)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church and dioceses around the world, that Christ will heal, renew, and unify us through the Eucharistic, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that the Holy Spirit enlightens their hearts to honor the dignity of human life from conception until natural death, and that St. Michael protects mothers from the wickedness and snares of the devil, seeking the ruin of souls, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful, that we look to you and only you God for wisdom in knowing our responsibility to walk with moms and families in need, respecting life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our habitual and special intentions we hold in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## ST. FAUSTINA, OUR MESSENGER OF MERCY

Call upon St. Faustina, to intercede, when the load is too heavy.

“When I see that the burden is beyond my strength, I do not consider or analyze it or probe into it, but I run like a child to the Heart of Jesus and say only one word to Him, ‘You can do all things.’ And then I keep silent, because I know that Jesus himself will intervene in the matter, and as for me, instead of tormenting myself, I use that time to love Him” (*Divine Mercy in My Soul, The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 1033*).

On Oct. 5th we honor the memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska of Poland. She was the first saint canonized in the new millennium, and although she had only three years of formal education, has taught millions about God’s mercy through her diary and a painting she had an artist create of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When she was a young nun in the beginning of the 20th century, she had experienced several stirring visions of Jesus. In them he told her to share His message of love and mercy in an image of Him for all the world to see. With the help of her spiritual advisor, St. Faustina found a painter to fulfill the request with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You.” In 1934, Eugene Kazimierowski created the original Divine Mercy painting under St. Faustina’s direction.

It is just as she saw Christ in her vision, “clothed in a white

garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the

Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, ‘paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.’”

Saint Faustina recorded all of her visions and conversations with Jesus in her diary. It was published I 1981. In it she wrote the words of Jesus about the graces that would pour out on anyone who prayed before the image:

“I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise

victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend [that soul] as My own glory.”

Saint Faustina is lovingly known as the messenger of Jesus’ unending love and mercy. Through her we have the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday, and the consecration to the Divine Mercy. She died at the age of 33, four years after the Divine Mercy Painting of Christ was completed.

*Editor’s note: The image of St. Faustina is from a photograph restored by John and Sue Johnson of Classic Catholic and available at: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/CLASSICCATHOLIC](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/CLASSICCATHOLIC)*



## PREPAREDNESS VITAL IN DEALING WITH DISASTERS



*CCWVa's Disaster Services program provides help to West Virginians when disasters strike.*

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Disaster Services program provides help to West Virginians when disasters strike. This includes both natural disasters, such as floods, and personal household disasters, such as house fires.

"Our primary role in disasters is providing support for long-term recovery," said Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services Specialist.

CCWVa Disaster Services provides support to all 55 counties in West Virginia. The program's goal is to return people to safe, secure, and stable housing.

"In addition to our recovery work, we also focus our efforts on preparedness, which includes connecting with and supporting parishes throughout the state," said Pierce. "Our partnerships and collaboration with parishes are vital to being prepared for and responding to disasters."

Ready, a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for disasters, promotes preparedness through public involvement.

The Ready campaign asks individuals to do four key things during National Preparedness Month:

- Stay informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.
- Make a family emergency plan.
- Build an emergency supply kit.
- Get involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies.

"Being informed and prepared is the key," said Pierce. "With over 100 parishes and missions throughout West Virginia, the Catholic community makes a difference."

CCWVa Disaster Services is available to provide information, training, and support to parishes and individuals.

For more information, contact Lora Pierce at [lpierce@ccwva.org](mailto:lpierce@ccwva.org) or (304) 559-1025.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and how to support your neighbors in need, please visit [WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG](http://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.*



“LIFE IS A GIFT AND WHEN IT IS LONG IT IS A PRIVILEGE,  
FOR ONESELF AND FOR OTHERS. ALWAYS.”



# RESPECT LIFE

FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH



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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](http://DWC.ORG).