



## OCTOBER THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

### THREE EVENTS SHOWCASING THE MEDITATIVE PRAYER FROM MARY

Pope Leo XIII said, “The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.”

Today we highlight three stories of significant events in history, when Mary appeared to urge people to pray the rosary for peace – the vision of St. Dominic de Guzman; the apparitions at Lourdes, France; and appearances at Fatima, Portugal.



From 1206 to 1215, **St. Dominic de Guzman**, founder of the Dominicans (formerly the Order of Preachers) was sent to southern France to preach about the Church and convert people of the Albigensian heresy to the true Christian Church. During that time a civil war broke out to fight

the Albigenses, who murdered the pope. Saint Dominic refused to use force to evangelize and chose to be an elite Christian example.

This mission wasn't easy for St. Dominic. He desperately turned to God and Mary the Mother of God to come to his aid. It was Mary, appearing in a vision to St. Dominic, who gave him the Rosary as a spiritual weapon against evil for peace and to convert sinners. For the Dominicans it became “an instrument of personal and community mediation and prayer... a means of preaching.”

## Rosary Appeal Deadline is Here

One Million  
ROSARIES

The official deadline for submissions for the One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV is 11:59:59 p.m., Oct. 7th.

Nearly 1,000 individuals and groups from WV, all over the US, as well as Mexico and abroad have joined the prayer warriors in this mission for our diocese.

“As of our publication deadline we have more than 239,000 Rosaries that have been or will be said with the intention of increased vocations in WV,” said Joyce Bibey, Manager of Social Media and Writing for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. “While that number is just over a quarter of a million that we are hoping for, we are still celebrating that this appeal is stirring loving prayers for WV and the Church. From here in the state to more than 8,600 miles away in the Philippines, we have friends praying for a strong future.”

Father Roberto Sanchez is one of those friends. Father Sanchez met Bibey and appeal originator Sr. Martha Gomez at a Rosary group at St. Michael's Parish in Wheeling. The priest and 22 of his colleagues at Immaculate Conception Seminary and more than 340 students and teachers from Immaculate Conception Academy in the Diocese of Virac in Catanduanes, Philippines, are praying the holy rosary with special intentions for the priestly vocations of the diocese of WV.

“So not only are we seeing our Catholic schools, parish religion classes, seminarians, fellow parishioners, and local rosary groups praying for increased vocations in WV, but we are also feeling the love and prayer of those literally continents away – prayer partners that we most likely will never get to thank in person,” Bibey said.

The crusade to have One Million Rosaries for Increase Vocations in WV began on the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th, and has run more than 50 days through the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7th.

The final pledge number will be reported next week. Until the deadline more information, resources, and the pledge submission portal can be found at:

[DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES](https://www.dwc.org/onemillionrosaries)

Christians since the early centuries would use a prayer rope or chain to count psalms and prayers, but what the Blessed Mother gave Dominic was a way to meditate on the epitome of the Gospels through the mysteries of the rosary. This gift of prayer given to the friar has evolved into the meditative prayers we say today.

While many believe this story is just a legend without historical evidence, popes including Pope Leo XIII and Church scholars and saints have stated its validity.

According to *The Secret of the Rosary* by St. Louis-Marie de Montfort:

*“It was given to the Church by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners.*

*I will tell you the story of how he received it, which is found in the very well-known book ‘De Dignitate Psalterii’, by Blessed Alan de la Roche. Saint Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people’s sins was hindering the conversion of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse, where he prayed continuously for three days and three nights....*

*At this point our Lady appeared to him, accompanied by three angels, and she said, ‘Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?’*

*‘Oh, my Lady,’ answered Saint Dominic, “you know far better than I do, because next to your Son Jesus Christ you have always been the chief instrument of our salvation.’*

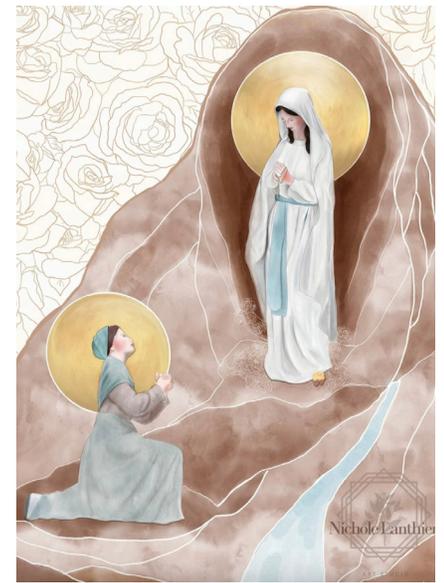
*Then our Lady replied, ‘I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the principal weapon has always been the Angelic Psalter (Rosary), which is the foundation-stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.’*

*So, he arose, comforted, and burning with zeal for the conversion of the people in that district, he made straight for the cathedral. At once unseen angels rang the bells to gather the people together, and Saint Dominic began to preach.”*

It was in 1569, Pope Pius V officially named the Rosary as a devotional prayer in the Church. He is affectionally remembers as “The Pope of the Rosary.” He is also the pope who established the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. He was a Dominican friar and was devoted to praying the standard 15 decades of the rosary (joyful, sorrowful, and glorious) as given through St. Dominic.

**In 1858, St. Bernadette of Lourdes, France,** was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather

firewood. It was then a very beautiful Lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle. The lovely lady was dressed in blue and white. During the vision the woman smiled at Bernadette and then made the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell on her knees, took



out her own rosary and began to pray.

The woman appeared to Bernadette seventeen other times and spoke with her. During one account from the earliest of apparitions, Bernadette threw holy water toward the image, fearing that she may be an evil spirit, but the woman simply smiled, Bernadette would report.

Many people did not believe Bernadette, when she spoke of her vision. Her parish priest Fr. Peyramale insisted Bernadette ask the woman only she could see to identify herself. On the Feast of the Annunciation the beautiful vision told Bernadette she was “the Immaculate Conception.”

The lady repeatedly told Bernadette that she should pray the rosary on behalf of sinners, do penance, and request she ultimately requested a chapel built there on that spot in her honor – the honor of Our Blessed Mother.

Father Peyramale oversaw the construction of a basilica at the apparition site.

*A spring of miracles* - During one of the apparitions Our Lady told Bernadette to dig in a spot where a trace of mud appeared. As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when people began to use this water.

In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions. Today Lourdes is one of the most traveled pilgrimages for Catholics, especially seeking healing and making specific prayer intentions. It is estimated there are more than two million visitors each year.

*(Note: the painting of Lourdes is by Nichole Lanthier).*

**Fatima** – Most know this story when Mary appeared to three children (Lucia de Jesus, age 10, and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, age 9 & 7) near Fatima, Portugal several times from May 13 to October 13, 1917. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world



peace. Today we share a news story of “the miracle of the sun,” as it was penned by a skeptical journalist, who also noted that the thousands of people present, who were previously drenched from the earlier driving rain, were suddenly dry.

It was documented by Avelino de Almeida, a journalist and editor of *O Século* (The Century) Portuguese newspaper. Like many non-believers, Almeida had previously mocked the three children –Lúcia Santos and her two younger cousins Francisco and Jacinta - who Mary appeared to on the 13th day of the month since May that year. However, his article “Amazing Things! How the Sun Danced at (midday) in Fatima” from Oct. 13, 1917, and published on Oct. 15, 1917, gave great credibility to the shepherd children’s accounts.

Almeida’s article is his chronological journey to the holy holm oak tree in the field where the apparitions took place. Most of the pilgrims were Christian believers, but some were skeptics there to joke and “laugh with pleasure, while the devout pilgrims” focused on the holy apparitions and the potential of witnessing one that day.

He described that dawn as, “the sun rises, but the sky’s appearance is threatening. Black clouds hover right over Fatima.” During the late morning when the pilgrims reached the site the weather worsened, and the people were “swept by rough winds, the heavy rains lash faces,” and so bad that “some women whose dresses cling to their bodies as a result of the violent and persistent rain, appearing as if they just got out of the bath!

“And the shepherd children? Lucia, ten years old, the visionary, and her small companions, Francisco, nine

years old, and Jacinta, seven years old, have still not arrived. Their arrival takes place about a half-hour before the indicated time of the apparition. The little girls are crowned with flowers and brought to the spot where the arch was erected. Rain falls steadily, but no one loses hope. Carriages with latecomers arrive. Groups of the faithful kneel in the mud, and Lucia asks them—orders them—to close their umbrellas. The order is transmitted, and obedience is immediate, without the slightest reluctance. There are people, many people, who appear as if they are in ecstasy; people emotionally moved, whose dry lips have become paralyzed in prayer, people stupefied, with folded hands and sparkling eyes—people who seem to feel, to touch the supernatural.

“The child claims the Lady spoke to her one more time, and the sky, still dim, suddenly begins to clear; the rain stops, and it appears as if the sun is going to flood the countryside with light that the wintry morning had made dreary.”

He wrote that Lucia indicated that the “miraculous manifestation, the visible sign that was announced is about to take place, assures many of the pilgrims. Then a unique spectacle is seen, unbelievable for those who did not witness it. From the top of the road, where the carriages were parked and where many hundreds of people stood who lacked courage to step in the mud, one could see the immense crowd turning toward the sun, which appears free from all clouds and at its zenith. The sun resembles a dull, silver plate and it is possible to look at it without the least effort. It does not burn, nor blind. It seems as if an eclipse is taking place. But then an immense clamor erupts, and one can hear the spectators who are closer, shouting: ‘Miracle, Miracle! A Marvel! A Marvel!’

“Before the dazzled eyes of the people—whose emotion takes us back to biblical times and who are fearfully pallid, their gaze fixated upon the blue sky as the sun pulsates [with] never-before-seen tremulous movements, defying all laws of gravity—the sun danced...”

It was estimated the event lasted about 10 minutes, afterward people began to ask each other what they saw. Witnesses said they watched a dancing sun, a sun zigzagging in the sky, a sun racing towards earth, and emitting brilliant multicolored light.

*(Note: the digital painting featured is by Michael Adams.)*

# LEGION OF ROSARY WARRIORS

## FACEBOOK GROUP IS AN EXAMPLE OF FAITHINWV

How many times have you heard, “I’m done with Facebook because of the toxic negativity”?

Cynthia Dimmey of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling was certainly frustrated, but instead of giving up the social media platform she chose to use it to create – the Legion of Rosary Warriors – a prayer space for like-minded people and those searching for an online prayer group.

She said the page is more than intentional evangelization, it is fostering lifelong catechesis.

“There’s no holier call, no holier accomplishment, than to bring people home (to the Church),” Dimmey said. “For our group, evangelization isn’t as much a focus as the idea of continuing conversion. To continue to get better in our prayer life. To be aware of intentions beyond our own bubbles, and to have heart for the Church at large. When you work on those, I think evangelization – and NEW evangelization – happens naturally. When your faith becomes a bigger part of you, it also becomes a part of your personality, and you can’t help but share it.”

When you become a member of the group your Facebook feed would then be filled with prayerful posts or inspiring images. As someone who struggles with ADHD, Dimmey said she needed a group of prayer warriors at her fingertips as a reminder to pray, especially the Rosary.

“If it shows up on my feed in bite size pieces, I can take 2 minutes when the post pops up to pray a half a decade,” she said.

Soon after the group was formed Mary Anne Cleavenger of Philippi and Mark Witzberger joined after being

invited by friends of Dimmey. Soon all three were administrators of the page, because of their evident passion for prayer, hope in God, positivity, and the Church. Between the trio posts blossomed, and prayers were reaching all over and outside of WV.

The fact that the group was started in October – the month of the Rosary – was guided by God not coincidental. The Rosary is Dimmey’s favorite prayer, bringing her balance and focus back to her Catholic faith.

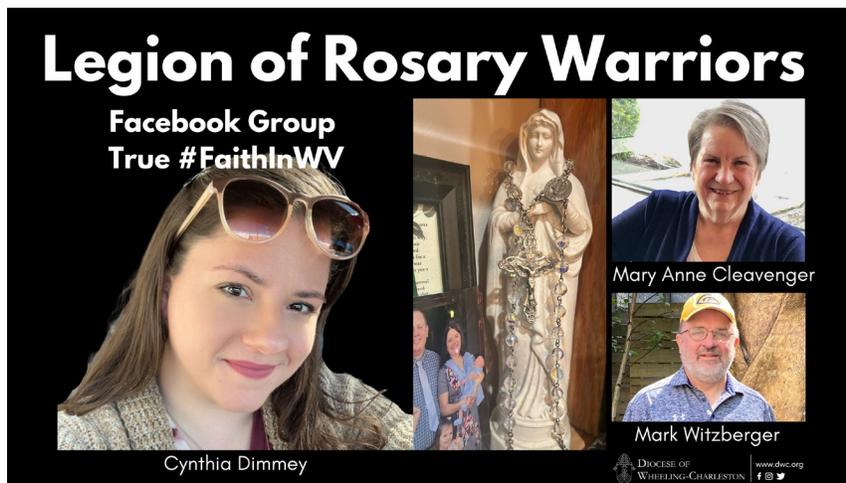
“The rosary is where I’m reassured in my faith,” Dimmey said. “(Like) the Eucharist, I’m most intimately reminded that I’m where Christ called humanity to be – within the Catholic Church. I struggle to grow my faith life, but the rosary has been the one constant that always

comes through. It really has been a weapon of faith, and a life preserver to hold out to the drowning.”

The Rosary became a treasured prayer for Dimmey after the birth of her first child.

“Late night nursing meant either doom scrolling, or dozing off,” she said. “So, I turned to Our Lady instead. I had a bad habit of putting our baby down before she was good and asleep. I discovered that praying 5 decades of the rosary was the perfect amount of time she needed. My hands were often full holding a tiny baby and my rosary app open on my phone, so I often used my daughters fingers to keep track. To this day (now 6 years old) she loves it when you gently tickle her hands and arms while she’s going to sleep.”

The first post on the Legion of Rosary Warriors page was on October 2, 2021. It detailed Dimmey’s prompting for the group:



*“Hello all and #welcome! This all started from a post by Fr. Patrick Hyde, OP, challenging us to pray the rosary daily. I shared the post, friends responded, and it became an opportunity to create an accountability group to spread the rosary.... Please spread the rosary and invite people!”*

The group remains a private group, meaning members invite their like-minded friends to join, or individuals searching Facebook for a Rosary group can find it and ask to be a member and wait for approval from the page administrators in an effort to keep the page authentic, positive, and Catholic.

Cleavenger said the page is not for debate or disrespect that would need moderating.

Keeping the page private keeps it, “safe and sane,” she said.

The Legion of Rosary Warriors page “is for real people seeking to be inspired and inspire with prayer,” Cleavenger said. Life is hard enough; the page is an effort to provide comfort through prayer.

“It’s not always been an easy life, but thankfully, God has stuck by me,” she said. “I’m a mom of seven (aged 41 to 53). I lost (a daughter) when I was five months pregnant. She is buried with my grandfather.”

Only two of her children are still active in the Catholic church. We all have “so many things to pray for,” she said, noting that her intentions lovingly surround her growing family, which includes 24 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She was raised Catholic and went to St. Joseph Catholic School in Lucinda, Pa., and Facebook allows her to stay connected with former schoolmates from Pennsylvania, people she has met in prayer groups, and those who like Witzberger and Dimmey, whom she has not even met in person but are firm believers in the power of prayer through the Rosary.

Sharing the group is an “opportunity to grow in our faith,” Witzberger said. “Anytime we have an opportunity to share our faith and reach out to others I think we should as we are called to do so. I may not be the strongest in praying the rosary, but I believe in its importance and pray it a lot more often than I ever have. It’s more than a repetition of words. Some people think that praying is only asking for something. But it’s much more. Sometimes it’s just as simple as being quiet and listening for a reply in a conversation. And I try to end every day giving thanks for something no matter how the day has gone. Not a day goes by when I am not praying or conversing with God.”

Cleavenger said that staying active on the page allows her to stay focused on faith, “to reflect Jesus and His love to the people I encounter every day.”

Witzberger hopes the page is a way to help others develop the habit of the Rosary and “to add weight to prayer intentions. I gain peace when praying it.”

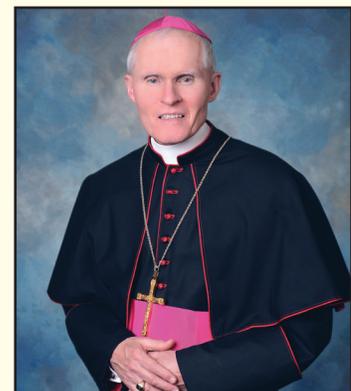


If you are interested in joining the page on Facebook, you can find it here:

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/LEGIONOFROSARYWARRIORS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/LEGIONOFROSARYWARRIORS)

## BISHOP MARK E. BRENNAN HAS RELEASED A LETTER ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO READ HIS LETTER.



# HOLY LIVES TO GROW IN FAITH

## **The Pope of St. Joseph with a Sense of Humor -**

On Oct. 11, we honor the Memorial of Pope Saint John XXIII - *Pope of St. Joseph!* Pope St. John XXIII was a pontiff who wanted to be as “ordinary” as possible. He was quite humble, but for the love of the Church he respectfully accepted the traditions called for in the Holy Father’s position.



The faithful lovingly called him “Good Pope John,” during his papacy, because he was a man who lived confidently by Christ’s teaching - faith over fear. His attitude was, no matter how many times you fail or what challenge you face, don’t let fear rule you, put your trust in God.

He was known also for having an appealing sense of humor not taking himself too seriously that he appeared out of touch with “real people.” Father Greg Friedman, OFM, recalled a story about St. John XXIII, “Once asked how many people work at the Vatican and he answered, ‘Oh, about half of them.’” The pontiff would also joke about himself, telling people, “God knew from all eternity I was going to be pope. Couldn’t God have made me more handsome?”

He kept a journal from his young teens until his death. It is available as an autobiography entitled, *Journal of a Soul*. Through his writings and his public addresses, it is clearly evident that the Italian born pope was so fascinated by the life of St. Joseph. He continually praised the Guardian of the Redeemer. He lovingly became known as the Pope of St. Joseph.

He was devoted to teaching and focusing on the human history of the Holy Family, and the fact that no one was closer to Jesus and Mary than St. Joseph.

He referred to St. Joseph as “a most powerful intercessor,” and “next to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph possesses a just title to a more sweet, more intimate and penetrating place in our hearts....”

On the feast day of Pope Saint John XXIII, pray the prayer written by our good “Pope of St. Joseph,” and shared on a radio broadcast from 1960:

*“Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor, and weariness. But amid the worries of material life, your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God’s Son entrusted to you, and, with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done. Obtain for us that in every family, every office, every laboratory—wherever a Christian works—everything may be sanctified in charity, in patience, in justice, and in seeking to do good, so that the gifts of heavenly predilection may come down on us in abundance. Amen.”*



**Blessed Carlo Acutis** - patron for the Eucharistic Revival - “The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of heaven. By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy.

“When we face the sun, we get a tan... but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints,” said the teen on the road to sainthood.

When you think of a saint you typically don’t think of a seemingly typical teenager in jeans and tennis shoes, who loved being in front of a computer, but Blessed Carlo Acutis was that typical teen. He loved the outdoors, video games, sports, and computers. He enjoyed school mainly because it was a chance to hang out with friends. Carlo was considered a computer expert for his age, having learned programming in elementary school and while as a preteen understood it at a collegiate level.

Carlo went to Mass every day, and was surprised, as

he grew older, that his friends did not have the same devotion and need for Christ in their lives.

When asked what his plans were for the future he would say, "To always be close to Jesus. That's my life plan," and noted, "The Eucharist is the highway to heaven."

At the age of 15, on Oct. 12, 2006, Bl. Carlo Acutis died from leukemia.

**A tangible legacy of Carlo** - From the time he was 11 he began compiling facts of Eucharistic miracles. He used his love of the computer to share his fascination with the world by creating a website still maintained today by his friends and family and presented in more than a dozen languages ([WWW.MIRACOLIEUCARISTICI.ORG/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.MIRACOLIEUCARISTICI.ORG/INDEX.HTML)). It is truly a virtual museum with facts, images, and maps of the miracles from across the globe.

**October 16th honor St. Margaret Mary and the Sacred Heart** - When you read the autobiography of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, you may furl your brow and scratch your head a few times. She journals quite a lot about



how she looks down at herself, how she is undeserving, and pretty much makes a reader assume she doesn't like who she is. However, despite how much she puts herself down, Jesus chose not only to appear to her, but also for her to share the message of his mercy and his Sacred Heart.

So, remember that no matter how broken we are, no matter how unworthy we tell ourselves we are, God loves us unconditionally.

Never lose sight of his Passion, suffering, death, and Resurrection. Never lose sight of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - His love for us!

Saint Margaret Mary's early life story is heartbreaking. Her father and sister died when she was eight or nine years old. Because of the extreme financial hardship this caused, the young saint and her mother had to move in with her father's family, who treated them like

unwelcomed servants, beat her, and prevented them from attending church. Historians note that she became ill and was bedridden for several years with a painful rheumatic disease. She was convinced she deserved the horrible circumstances that surrounded her.

When she recovered, her mother urged her to marry in order to escape their misery, but she was determined to enter religious life. She became a nun in the order founded by St. Francis de Sales - the Order of the Visitation.

She would spend long hours in prayerful meditation, kneeling before the tabernacle in the order's chapel. It was there when she received a vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "My Divine Heart is so inflamed with love for men, and for you in particular that, being unable any longer to contain within itself the flames of Its burning Charity, It must spread them abroad by thy means, and manifest Itself to them (mankind) in order to enrich them with the precious treasures which I discover to you, and which contain graces of sanctification and salvation necessary to withdraw them from the abyss of perdition."

Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary several times between 1673-1675. Sharing his love and revealing His Sacred Heart. When she told her congregation and religious of her visions, she was met with a lot of doubt, annoyance, and opposition. However, her testimony was believed and supported by Jesuit priest and now Saint Claude la Columbiere, her spiritual director and rector. Saint Margaret Mary approached St. Claude with confidence know, because Jesus told her to go to him, who was a "faithful servant and perfect friend."

There are many resources to learn more about St. Margaret Mary and the promises of the Sacred Heart, one you may enjoy is through Our Sunday Visitor - Lifelong Catechesis, you can access by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Consider making a pilgrimage to St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg. The parishioners there will be celebrating 100 years as a parish on Oct. 15th with a noon Mass.

# FAITHFUL IN WV PARISHES MAKING FLOOD RECOVERY POSSIBLE

## UPDATE ON FALL 2022 SPECIAL COLLECTION

It has been a little more than a year since severe storms ravaged parts of Southern West Virginia. And thanks to the generosity of faithful throughout the Diocese, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) has helped more than 60 families rebuild their homes and lives.

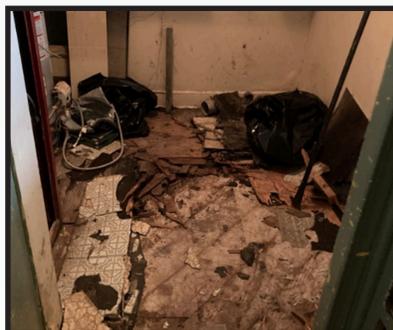
In August of 2022, more than \$370,000 was donated by the faithful in our WV parishes for Bishop Mark Brennan's special disaster relief collection to help WV and KY families. Nearly \$100,000 went directly to Southern WV recovery efforts including short- and long-term relief. The funds were used for homes in areas where damage did not qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid.

According to the WV Emergency Management Division, between May 6 and August 15, 2022, there were 858 reports of flood damage in eight counties of the state (Cabell, Mingo, Fayette, McDowell, Wyoming, Jackson, Doddridge, and Kanawha).

Parishioners who contributed gifts of prayer and funds greatly eased the burden of recovery and rebuilding. Following a disaster, there's an innate human desire to lend a hand, with many providing aid through cleanup efforts and donations of supplies, said Lora Pierce, CCWV Disaster Services Specialist said. While these immediate responses are essential, the next step is in addressing the long-term repair and rebuilding needs of affected families.

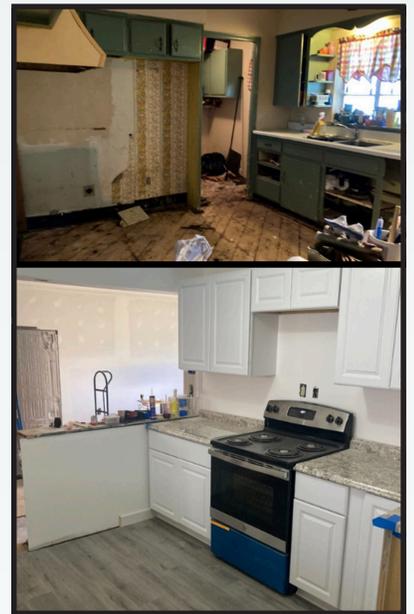
"Catholic Charities is committed to returning West Virginians to safe, secure and stable housing," said Pierce. "We will walk alongside flood survivors for as little or as long as they need us."

Despite more than a year of recovery efforts, there are still households in need of assistance.



The long-term recovery initiative is expected to last until the end of this year. Thanks to the generosity of the Catholic community, and with grant support from partner organizations, CCWVa Disaster Services has disbursed or committed over \$60,000, benefiting numerous individuals and families.

In addition to support from the Catholic community in West Virginia, Catholic Charities USA has been a huge asset in providing funding to the CCWVa Disaster Services program. In response to the May 2022 and August 2022 flood events, they awarded CCWVa two \$10,000 grants. Also, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster awarded CCWVa a \$5,000 Lowe's Reconstruction Grant for the May 2022 flood recovery efforts.



To date, 47 households comprising 32 individuals, including 16 seniors, 13 individuals with disabilities, 6 children, and 3 veterans have received assistance. While these figures illustrate the profound impact of CCWVa, it's vital to remember that each statistic represents a real individual or family.

Here are a few of the recovery stories made possible by the Catholic community:

- Mr. R, a disabled senior in Huntington, WV, faced severe flooding on May 6, 2022, resulting in significant damage to his home. Volunteers cleaned and removed damaged materials, and he received donations of furniture and household items. However, his electrical system was compromised, posing a fire hazard. Funding from the DWC special collection enabled us to hire an electrician, ensuring the safety of this senior gentleman.
- Mrs. E, a widow in Kanawha County, endured heavy

rains on August 15, 2022, resulting in significant creek overflow and damage to her property. Volunteer teams aided in clean-up, and her furnace was repaired, but two sections of her retaining wall were washed away. With limited income, she couldn't afford the repairs, leaving her anxious about future storms. CCWVa provided funding for a contractor to replace the retaining wall, contributing to flood mitigation efforts and safeguarding her home from future damage.

- Mr. S, a senior residing alone in Huntington, experienced severe flooding on May 6, 2022, which inundated his home with 36 inches of water. The initial estimate for his complete recovery amounted to \$33,000. The resources for his recovery were made possible through contributions from various organizations and individuals, including the Catholic Special Collection, Knights of Columbus, Society of St. Vincent DePaul, St. Joseph Catholic Church, WV Council of Churches, Episcopal Diocese of WV, WVVOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), as well as support from his family members and volunteers. It took a total of 13 months for the full

restoration of his home. During the repair process, Mr. S resided in a single bedroom with a recliner chair and a small refrigerator. With each donation and completed task, Mr. S was deeply moved by the overwhelming support he received, and he expressed his heartfelt gratitude.

The stories shared here reflect not only the tangible impact of CCWVa's Disaster Services, but also the unwavering resilience of individuals and families facing adversity. It is through the collective compassion and support of the Catholic community and dedicated volunteers that CCWVa has been able to help those in need rebuild their lives and find hope amidst challenging circumstances.

"As we continue our long-term recovery efforts, we are reminded that every statistic represents a unique life touched by your generosity," said Pierce. "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have played a part in this journey of restoration, reinforcing the power of community and the spirit of solidarity in times of crisis. Together, we demonstrate that, in the face of disaster, the bonds of compassion and assistance can truly make a difference."



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)

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**

Without faith in God, we produce unpleasing fruit – self-centeredness, selfishness, and self-destruction. Those who trust in God and put him first will have the sweetest blessings.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 80**

“The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel”

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9**

No interpretation needed for this reading: “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

**Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43**

Jesus shares a parable that is not about mercy and love, but about the truth and faith. We are to bear fruit for His kingdom – be faithful servants of the Lord with our words, actions, and evangelizing.

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**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

For the Church, that we do not hesitate to evangelize those around us in our day and proudly serve as a servant of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all elected officials work to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and motivate those who choose not to serve but be served, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who avoid work, are not contributing members of society, and abuse the system for self-gain that they turn from these fruitless ways and seek Christ to love and serve, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For a blossoming of ministries at our parishes, our Eucharistic Revival, increased vocations in WV, and the success of our Catholic Sharing Appeal, let each yield the finest fruits, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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