Faith IN WV
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

A Call to Action Anchored in Love

The only thing we can bring to heaven is each other.

Take a moment to think about that.

Imagine you finally get to heaven, and someone comes running up to you to say, "I'm here because you helped me find my way back to Christ. "

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux wrote about this truly unimaginable joy.

"Who knows whether the joy we shall experience in seeing the glory of the great saints, knowing that by a hidden design of Providence we have contributed to it, will not be as intense—and perhaps even sweeter—as their own happiness?"

This Sunday's readings emphasize our responsibility on earth is to help others turn away from evil and seek the goodness of the Lord.

Jesus calls us to act alone, personally with someone we see choosing evil.

"Go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one," Christ said.

Keep your sight and heart on the goal of regaining our brother or sister.

We are accountable to God. Do we love him enough to help others reach him? Are we confident in our love that we can talk to each other from a place of love not anger when all faith seems lost?

It is one of the greatest expressions of love.

Hard? Yes!

Necessary? Yes, when it is guided by love.

It's not about winning an argument or humiliation. It's about Christ's love for all, and we are to share His love without destroying the bond of love and respect for one another. Not staged, not forced, but a compassionate dialogue because we care.

Saint Augustine reminds us to, "Rebuke in love… with an earnest care to amend."

Act out of your love of God, not to feel superior for selfish reasons.

"If from love of yourself you, do it, you do nothing. If from love of Him you, do it, you do excellently," St. Augustine said.

One of Pope Francis's homilies on Matthew 18:15-20 painted a realistic picture for us.

"When we see a mistake, a fault, a slip, in that brother or sister, usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others, to gossip. And gossip closes the heart to the community, closes off the unity of the Church.

"The great gossiper is the devil, who always goes about saying bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to separate the Church to distance brothers and sisters and not create community.

"Let us make an effort: no gossip."

He goes on to remind us that our attempts of fraternal correction may fail, but don't give up. Focus diligently in "silence and prayer for the brother or sister who has made a mistake but never gossip."

Be confident knowing that every act of loving correction, forgiveness,

encouragement, and prayer is a way of helping someone take another step toward heaven.

Refusing to gossip is love, preserving the struggling person's dignity.

Keep praying for them.

May He make our families and communities places where truth is spoken with love, wounds are met with mercy, and no one is abandoned on the journey home to God.

Editor's note: The print of Jesus embracing the lost sheep is by Alexander Geworkian of Peaceful Print For You based in Germany and available on Etsy.

A FaithInWV Series ~ Part Three:

A Welcome Remembered

International guests reflect on historical day, our new shepherd, and the WV welcome.

Editor's note: "A Welcome Remembered" is FaithInWV Q&A series presented to celebrate our shepherd and reinforce the joy when we the faithful of WV mirror Christ's love for all. With 29 dioceses represented from across the country, including Washington, DC., NYC, Boston, San Diego, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Kalamazoo; and the globe, including El Salvador, Albania, Guatemala, and the Virgin Islands the Installation Mass for Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala was a glimpse of his friendships, vocation, and mission to let others see Christ in you as, he has stated, "we walk this journey together."

Bishop Evelio is Known, Respected, and Cherished

-Bishop of Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap.

A native of Colorado Springs, Most Rev. Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap. Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, Florida, grew up playing baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. He made his first profession as a Capuchin Franciscan Brother in Pittsburgh in 1988, celebrated his ordination to transitional diaconate in DC in 1993, and entered the priesthood in 1994 at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington. He served in the Southern Highlands of New Guinea and then in Cuba, before returning to DC in 2019.

Nine days after his own, Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala was able to attend Bishop Agüero's installation as bishop of Venice.

How do you know Bishop Evelio?

I have known Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala personally for 7 years. Bishop Evelio is well known to our Capuchin brothers and priests from before he entered the seminary and throughout his ministry as a priest from the Archdiocese of Washington.

Bishop Evelio is known, respected and cherished by the Capuchins who ministered with him in Washington DC, and those who worked in West Virginia. He is known for his wholehearted commitment to Christ, the Catholic Church, and the people. He has maintained his characteristic closeness to the people, both as a priest and as a Bishop.

In Washington DC, he always made time for the people. He made time to come to know their cultures, traditions, and customs, and he grew to love them. The people noted this immediately. In Washington DC, the people felt very close to Bishop Evelio, they felt that he was their bishop and that he loved them.

Why was it so important to be present for this moment?

It was important for me to be present at the installation of Bishop Evelio in Wheeling, to pray and support him personally (as well as be) a representative of all those who could not fit into the Cathedral that day.

What was your experience like in West Virginia and particularly your impression of the people of the diocese you encountered?

I was very pleased to be at the Cathedral in Wheeling. The people seemed excited and happy to have been blessed with such a young, enthusiastic, and hardworking Bishop. It seems to mark a new period.

Insight to share with the faithful of WV?

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston is genuinely fortunate to have received such a young, enthusiastic Bishop. You will come to know a Bishop who is prayerful, sensitive to the needs of the people, and who will work tirelessly to preserve the Catholic faith intact by expressing the Catholic faith with charity and sure hope.

Celebrate The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Happy Mary Day!

The Church honors her birthday on **September 8th**.

We learn three great lessons from Mother Mary of God on how to live life. Pope Francis highlighted those for us on her birthday in 2014:

1. Share the joy of Christ with others.

2. Do not hard times make you quit – trust God.

3. Step up and help those in need.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori said Mary's love of God and compassion for all is immeasurable. We need to look at her as the ultimate example of how to love:

"Think of what the saints have done for their neighbor because they loved God.

But what Saint's love for God can match Mary's?

She loved Him more in the first moment of her existence than all the Saints and angels ever loved Him or will love Him!!!!!!!

Just as there is not one among all the Blessed who loves God as Mary does, so there is no one, after God, who loves us as much as this most loving Mother does. Furthermore, if we heaped together all the love that mothers have for their children, all the love of husbands and wives, all the love of all the angels and Saints for their clients, it could never equal Mary's love for even a single soul."

Oh, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love!

Wait... There's More to This Special Day

Also on her birthday, the Church honors her as Our Lady of Charity and Our Lady of Good Health.

Our Lady of Charity, Patroness of Cuba

The devotion to Our Lady of Charity (Nuestra – Senora de la Virgen de la Caridad), the patroness of Cuba, dates back to 1612, when three men, two local laborers and an African Cuban boy, were praying for protection from a violent and relentless storm in the Bay of Nipe while on their small boat. As they were praying, they saw and recovered a small wooden statue of Mary floating in the water. Inscribed on the statue were the words, "I am the Virgin of Charity."

The storm suddenly disappeared.

Mary became the symbol of hope and national identity for all of Cuba. Catholics from all around the world travel to Cuba's Basilica of El Cobre in Santiago de Cuba to honor this devotion with Mass, processions, prayers, music, dance, and traditional food as part of the religious rituals.

"Lift up your heart and do not succumb in the face of adversities, persevere in the way of good: tirelessly helping those oppressed by sorrows and afflictions," Pope Francis wrote in a letter to Cubans. "These are the important lessons taught to us by Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, useful both for today and tomorrow."

Our Lady of Vailankanni

Our Lady of Good Health, the Lourdes of India. This devotion dates back to the 16th century.

In August of 2024, the Vatican and Pope Francis officially recognized the devotion at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni as a major pilgrimage center and acknowledges the miraculous healings and solace experienced by millions of visitors.

In a letter to the bishop of Thanjavur, India, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, prefect for the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith wrote:

"The same Virgin Mary who manifested herself at Lourdes also manifested herself in India as the Mother of Health.

"It is not merely a matter of bodily health, but also one that touches the soul. Contemplating the image of Mary, we can all recognize the love of Jesus Christ that can heal our sadness, our anguish, and our fears. If we pause before Mary, even in a brief moment of faith and love, her maternal gaze restores peace to us.

"The first account, which is ancient, is filled with rich symbolism because the boy to whom Mary showed herself offered her the milk he had brought with him for the Child she was carrying in her arms. This was an expression of the generosity of those who are willing to give something to others, in their own poverty. You do not need to have much in order to be generous. May this call to share, to assist, to be close to those who need us always resonate in this place. Mary loves the generosity of her children, who put into action the words of Jesus: "What you did to one of the least of my brothers, you did to me" (Mt 25, 40).

"Through the centuries, Mary has continued to act in this place. Some Portuguese sailors told how the Virgin protected them from a storm at sea and thereafter they decided to build the church. How can we fail to remember the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004 whose destructive waters did not damage the church?

"The millions of pilgrims who travel here out of faith, and the many spiritual fruits that are produced at this Shrine, make us recognize the constant action of the Holy Spirit in this place."

Editor's note: the portrait of Child Jesus kissing the Blessed Mother is by Natalie Haydel. This painting and others are available through her Etsy shop, Colors by Natalie at: www.etsy.com/shop/ColorsbyNatalie

Marian Feast Day Honors Blessed Mother's Name

September 12th

"God the Father gathered all the waters together and called them the sea – mare. He gathered all his graces together and called them Mary – Maria." - St. Louis Marie de Montfort

Litany of The Most Holy Name of Mary

(abbreviated version)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Son of Mary, hear us. Son of Mary, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father, of Whom Mary is the Daughter, have mercy on us.

Eternal Word, of Whom Mary is the Mother, have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, of Whom Mary is the spouse, have mercy on us.

Divine Trinity, of Whom Mary is the Handmaid, have mercy on us.

Mary, Mother of the Living God, pray for us

Mary, daughter of the Light Eternal, pray for us

Mary, our light, pray for us

Mary, our sister, pray for us

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, pray for us

Mary, all fair, pray for us

Mary, light in darkness, pray for us

continue...

Mary, our sure rest, pray for us
Mary, house of God, pray for us
Mary, sanctuary of the Lord, pray for us
Mary, altar of the Divinity, pray for us
Mary, Virgin Mother, pray for us
Mary, embracing your Infant God, pray for us
Mary, Star of the Sea, pray for us
Mary, suffering with your only Son, pray for us
Mary, pierced with a sword of sorrow, pray for us
Mary, submissive to the law of God, pray for us
Mary, standing by the Cross of Jesus, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady, pray for us
Mary, Our Queen, pray for us
Mary, Queen of glory, pray for us
Mary glory of the Church Triumphant, pray for us
Mary, Queen of Mercy, pray for us
Mary, consoler of the Church Suffering, pray for us
Mary, exalted above the angels,
Mary, crowned with twelve stars, pray for us
Mary, fair as the moon, pray for us
Mary, bright as the sun, pray for us
Mary, distinguished above all, pray for us
Mary, seated at the right hand of Jesus, pray for us
Mary, our hope, pray for us
Mary, our sweetness, pray for us
Mary, glory of Jerusalem, pray for us
Mary, joy of Israel, pray for us
Mary, honor of our people, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Loreto, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of the Angels, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Dolors, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Victory, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of La Trappe, pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Divine Providence, pray for us

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord Jesus.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord Jesus.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Lord Jesus.

Son of Mary, hear us.

Son of Mary, graciously hear us.

I will declare your name unto my brethren.

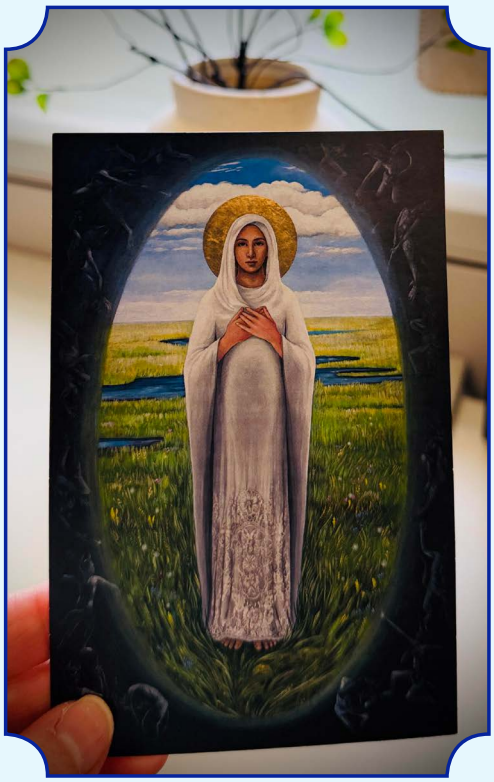
I will praise you in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Us Pray: O Almighty God, who beholds Thy servants earnestly desiring to place themselves under the shadow of the name and protection of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, grant, we beseech You, that by her charitable intercession, we may be delivered from all evil on earth, and may arrive at everlasting joys in Heaven, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Editor's note: the painting of Mary with Child Jesus (circa 1894) is by Polish artist Piotr Stachiewicz.

Mary Shield of Peace

Prayer and Image for Protection



Not many know of it, but those who do find great comfort, knowing our Blessed Mother is our constant protector. Sister Dolores Alexander Keyser, E.S.E.H., of our diocesan Social Ministries' Office, eagerly shares this devotion to those who walk with her to become closer to Christ through Mary.

It is the Mary Shield of Peace devotion. It began in 2015, as a private devotion given by the Holy Spirit. The prayer was written in 2021. Then the devotion grew quietly and bore fruit in various Church ministries. In 2023, artist Catholic artist Elizabeth Zelasko was commissioned to paint the image, and a prayer card was made.

It was promoted as a public devotion in August 2024 when Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, Bishop of Salina (Kansas), granted it his Nihil Obstat (noting the image and prayer are free of moral error). A year later on October 1, 2025, during the General Audience in Rome, Bishop Vincke presented His Holiness Pope Leo XIV with Mary Shield of Peace prayer cards in six different languages.

The portrait, by Catholic artist Elizabeth Zelasko, is described as, "Mary is young and visibly pregnant. She walks barefoot across a lush and sunny meadow. From her feet emanates a translucent shield, coming up like a rounded forcefield around her. The source of this powerful shield is the Prince of Peace in Mary's womb. On the other side of the shield is darkness and Satan's army trying to attack, but no evil can breach Mary's impenetrable shield."

Let us pray,

Mary Shield of Peace, Bearer of the Christ,
protect my soul from Satan's hidden attacks.
Keep me safe within your shield,
and preserve me in the tranquility
of Christ's peace.

When worry seizes my mind,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When anxiety disturbs my heart,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When fear assaults my soul,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When despair crushes my hope,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When images violate my thoughts,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When temptation overwhelms my strength,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When shame overshadows my dignity,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When lies distort my identity,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When discouragement poisons my joy,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When opinions consume me,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.
When noise distracts me from God,
Mary Shield of Peace, protect me.

O Mother Victorious, nurture in me
the transforming Peace of Christ.
Amen.

For more information go to: www.maryshieldofpeace.org

LET YOUR ACTIONS SPEAK

Let us all love like St. Peter Claver. Treat one another like we want to be treated. His feast day, **September 9**.

As a student and young priest St. Peter Claver was considered very intelligent, but also both shy and introverted. It was his compassion for humanity though that was great and could not be stifled. He was horrified and disgusted at how men and women from Congo and Angola were captured, transported, and paraded to be slaves in the Americas. He spent his religious life to help them.

St. Peter Claver was born in 1581 in Catalonia, Spain.

He followed his call to the priesthood in the early 1600s, entering the Jesuit order.

He was sent to Columbia – the New World - to care for its people.

When he was ordained in 1615, the slave trade had been in place for more than 90 years. Cartagena, where he served in Columbia, was the main port to receive slaves in the Americas.

Saint Peter Claver immersed himself in the caring of these people as best he could. After they arrived, they were divided in groups and housed like animals before being sold.

Peter rallied others to join him in caring for their health and spiritual needs, while they were there. The needs were overwhelming for these men, women, and even children. On average one-third of them died during the transport. The survivors were weak, ill, and distraught beyond comprehension. His group took medicine, food, and supplies to them. "We must speak to them with our hands, before we try to speak to them with our lips," he said.

St. Peter Claver referred to himself as a "slave of the slaves forever."

Later he would visit plantations and advocate for better conditions. It is estimated he served more than 300,000 people put into slavery before he died in 1654.

Saint Peter Claver, pray for us!

Editor's note: the digital art with this article is by Michelle Tatsumi of Chicago, Illinois. Available through Halo and Light Studios on Etsy.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

Make time this week to honor St. Peter Claver, by praying for the priests in our diocese, bringing hope to the hopeless.

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;

for your unfaithful and tepid priests;

for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for your tempted priests;

for your lonely and desolate priests;

for your young priests; for your dying priests;

for the souls of your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:

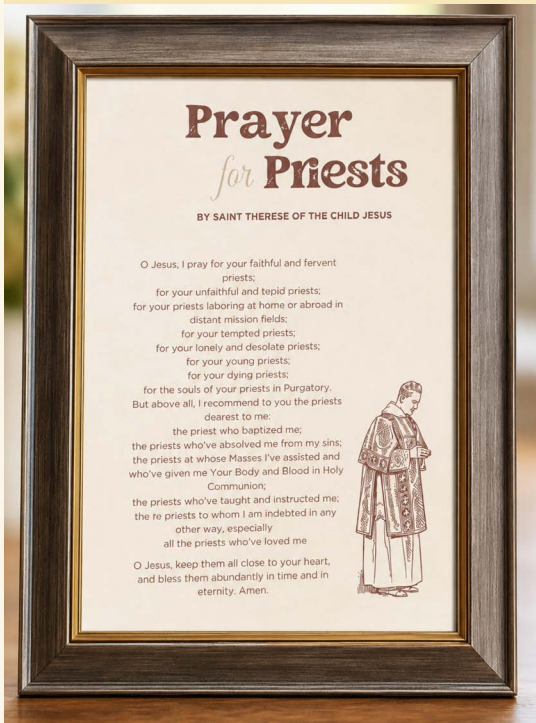
the priest who baptized me;

the priests who've absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I've assisted and who've given me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;

the priests who've taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, especially (name the priest).

Oh, Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

- This prayer was written by St. Thérèse of Lisieux and shared with FaithInWV readers by Fr. John DiBacco, retired after 53 years serving the WV faithful, but still keeps us all close in prayer.



FIND YOUR FAITH FAMILY!

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

STAY CONNECTED. YOU BELONG.

Hilltop Campus Ministry
West Liberty University & Bethany College

134 Van Meter Way, West Liberty

Marshall Newman Center
Marshall University

1609 5th Ave, Huntington

John Paul II
University of Charleston & WV State University

310 26th Street, Charleston

Your home away from home.
Stop by.
Check out our events!
Attend Mass.
Enjoy great food.
Bring a friend.
See you soon!

Mountaineer Catholic
St. John University Parish

1481 University Ave., Morgantown

Good Shepherd House
Shepherd University

101 W. High Street. Shepherdstown

Fairmont Newman Center
Fairmont State University & Pierpont College

1200 College Park, Fairmont,

Concord Newman Center
Concord University

301 Vermillion St, Athens

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Department of Faith Formation

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Work to lead others away from wicked ways. It's our responsibility.

Responsorial: Psalm 95

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

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

You shall love your neighbor has yourself. Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus is present in our midst wherever two or three are gathered in his name.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may respond with bold but gentle kindness leading others away from wicked ways, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who labor to make our lives and our world better, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we naturally respond to our neighbors with love, empathy, and compassion, treating each other as we wish to be treated, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who struggle to find the employment necessary to provide for themselves and their families, may they be guided and sustained by Christ, 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
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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~

Radio Luz de Vida streaming at www.rdo.to/WLOL2

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered by knowledge. Transformed by faith.

Register today

wvcatholicschools.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.