



Happy Grandparents Day

We wish a happy Grandparents Day to all of our grandparents and those who love and nurture our faith like grandparents.

Pope Francis said, "God has a large population of grandparents throughout the world.... They are the indispensable link to educating children and young people in the faith." They pass down their prayers, stories, songs, and customs just like maternal grandparents Ss. Joachim and Anne did for young Jesus.

The reference makes you stop and think, imagining Jesus just for a moment with his grandparents. We can only imagine the immeasurable love and respect they have for one another - humbling and breathtaking.

Honor your grandparents and the elders in your parish and community who are a living example of Christ's love for us.

Let us pray:

Lord God almighty,
bless our grandparents
and those in our lives
who we love like our grandparents,
with a long active life, happiness, and peace.

May they remain constant in your love
and comforting protection,
and be living signs of your presence
to their children, grandchildren,
and all those around them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

#FaithInWV hopes to inspire you,
refresh your prayer life,
and help you grow in faith.

What's inside:

Schools Filled with Prayer
Strengthening Hope, Faith, and
Numbers

WV Catholic Schools Update

Feast of St. Peter Claver -Sept. 9
Let your actions speak!

**Glorious Greeting - Diocesan
Seminarian Michael Tupta meets
Pope Francis**

WV Knights of Columbus seek
sponsorships as they set goal to
pack another 60,000 meals for
those in need abroad and in WV.

Images of Mary Series

Follansbee parish focuses on one
of many diocesan lifelong
catechesis programs.

**Walk With One - Inspiration &
Resources** for the Year of
Mission, Year of Prayer, & the
National Eucharistic Revival.



SCHOOLS FILLED WITH PRAYER STRENGTHENING HOPE, LEADERSHIP, AND NUMBERS



The Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston reported that more families are choosing to send their children to West Virginia Catholic schools, where the focus is not only on academic excellence, but also the development of strong moral and ethical values in a faith-filled environment.

Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak shared that 75 percent (18 of the 24) of Catholic schools in the state saw an increase in enrollment from 2023-2024 to 2024-2025.

Overall, there are 4,706 students enrolled in WV Catholic schools for this year up from 4,579 last year.

"Parents and grandparents are entrusting us with their children and teaming up with us to develop the whole child academically, socially, and spiritually for today's world and tomorrow's challenges," Hornyak said.

Of the 4,700-plus students in Catholic schools this year more than 1,400 are receiving the state's Hope Scholarship (a state-run ESA program that allows parents and families to utilize a portion of their state education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience – public school alternative – that works best for their individual child.

Hornyak reported while the state ESA program has introduced more families to the possibility of a Catholic education, total enrollment has trended upward for the diocesan school system over the last five years with the largest jump post COVID year in 2021 (4,214 students in 2020-2021 and 4,415 students in 2021-2022). Hope Scholarship began for the 2023-2024 school year.

While the schools have been blessed with increasing enrollment, school administration and faculty remain true to the mission to be a blessing for families.



"Our focus is providing academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment for our students," Hornyak said and added, "However, it's more than that for us. Our focus is also to develop strong moral and ethical values, as well as to guide our children through the highs and lows life brings – ultimately

preparing them for a lifetime of strong virtuous decision making."



Faith and prayer are intentional realities in Catholic schools, where we seek to discover God in every part of life. More families are choosing our schools to support

the character and integrity they want for their children.

Students in WV Catholic schools that are in 13 counties learn about the Church and the world around them in a "Christ-centered supportive learning culture so they feel more positive and confident," she said.

Weaving prayer into the classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, and playgrounds, leads to prayer at home, community, and work.

"It is prayer that gives us balance and hope," Hornyak said.

As the Catholic Church around the world has celebrated the Year of Prayer in 2024, leading up to Pope Francis's 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, the Catholic schools in WV continues to celebrate the fact that it is prayer that unites and helps their students, faculty, staff, families, and volunteers be more empathetic to and respectful of others.



"Our students can see, learn, and know they make a difference through their hard work, prayer, actions, and service," Hornyak said. "By teaching them in the classroom, at Mass, and through the Sacraments we are giving them the skills to reach their full potential, navigate the future, and empower others – that's leadership."

Want to "experience the power of God's hope... begin with prayer," said Pope Francis when he emphasized the Year of Prayer back in January.

Want to "have a partner to help guide your child morally, civically, and emotionally to be the best version of themselves... begin by contacting your local Catholic school," Hornyak said.

Take Note: Sept. 15th is Catechetical Sunday

It is the day the Church honors those who teach the faith and fill the heart of young and old with a great love for Jesus Christ.

GLORIOUS GREETING!



Seminarian Michael Tupta of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish, Charleston, had the honor and privilege to meet Pope Francis. Michael's Father, Dr. Michael Tupta shared that Seminarian Michael greeted the Holy Father in Italian.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarian Michael and the North American College seminarians had an audience with the Holy Father on Sunday, August 25th.

Let these photos be a reminder to continue to pray for Michael and the formation of all 18 of our seminarians, Bishop Mark Brennan said.

As you pray your Rosaries do so with the intentions of an increase in strong Catholic vocations in WV.

Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us!

#FaithInWV #millionrosaries4wv



FOLLANSBEE PARISHIONERS FOCUS ON IMAGES OF MARY SERIES

Parishioners at St Anthonys Parish in Follansbee recently completed a 3~week series titled "Images of Mary" as part of the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) program offered in our diocese.

Facilitated by Shirley Carter, the series identified Mary as the Great Evangelizer who leads people of all backgrounds and cultures to her Son, Jesus Christ.

As St. Theresa of Calcutta once said, "No Mary, No Jesus"; or r taking it another step, know Mary, know Jesus, Carter said.

Throughout the series, participants reflected upon various titles and images of Mary.

"At the final gathering, each person brought their favorite image/picture/icon from home and shared how Mary draws them to her Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.," she said.

"During this Year of Mission of the National Eucharistic Revival, as we are encouraged to Walk With One and Invite



One Back, let's call on Mary, the Great Evangelizer, to help us," Carter added. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!"

The VLCFF program offers many online courses. Its *Images of Mary* presentation is a three-week e-seminar is to present the basic concept of Mary as Mother of God as seen in art, and some global perspectives for enrichment, as well as a deeper appreciation of the role she plays within other cultures.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is blessed to have several VLCFF instructors that offer a wide range of Catholic courses in person or online. Courses are underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis to cover the tuition, and the cost of any books associated with the courses.

For more information on life-long catechesis programs through VLCFF in the diocese watch for announcements shared in your bulletins or contact the Director of Catechesis and Evangelization Daniel Maul Daniel at dmaul@dwc.org; call (304) 233-0880, ext. 376.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission

Walk with One

Art Captures Essence of Revival

By Teresa Blaker, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Parkersburg

As I stood and looked at (the Mural of The Real Presence – Present and Future Saints in Adoration by Catholic artist Mike McCarthy), I thought how the people depicted were representative of what I was witnessing at the National Eucharistic Congress.

From children to the elderly; from laity to Cardinals - we were all there as one body focusing on Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, placing Him at the center of our lives.

If it wasn't for Fr. Steve's (Vallelonga) encouragement and support I would not have made this pilgrimage. I sent him a thank you card and included two-and-a-half pages of typed memories, experiences, feelings, etc.

I was overjoyed!

Editor's note: as we share personal experiences from the National Eucharistic Congress each week written by our fellow WV faithful, the purpose is to share the Light of Christ and how His Presence – this moment in our Church – has been and can be life changing for each of one of us.

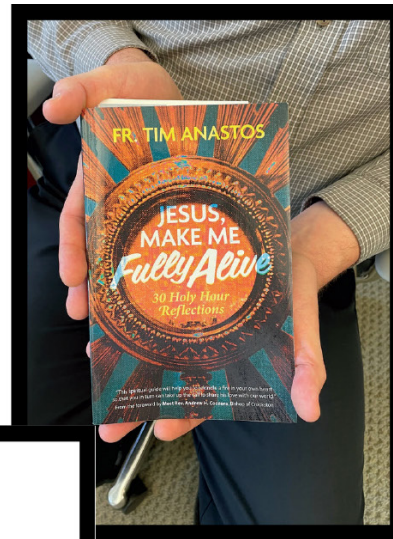
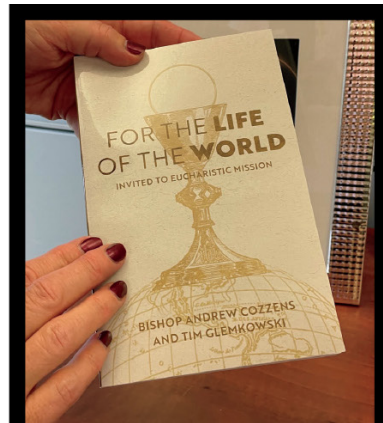
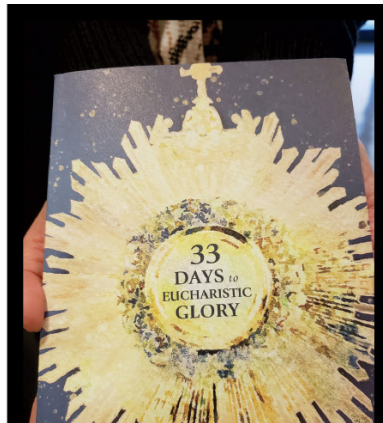
Teresa is one of about 270 from WV parishes and organizations that experienced this great moment in the Church and is now like all the faithful in WV, Eucharistic Missionaries invited to Walk With One during this Year of Mission for local parishes around the country.





NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival Year of Mission**

Walk +++
with One +++



PASS IT ON!

Last week the diocesan team for the National Eucharistic Revival held zoom meetings for all parishes, Eucharistic Missionaries, and Parish Point Missionaries (formerly Parish Point Person's) to continue to spread the fire within us from the Holy Spirit for the Revival in our parishes.

During the meeting team members – Director of Worship and Sacraments Bernadette Kime, Director of Catechesis and Evangelization Daniel Maul, Delegate for Consecrated Life Martha Gomez, Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center Director Gerri Wright, Lay-leader Dr. Michael Tupta, and Manager of Writing and Social Media Joyce Bibey – shared information, ideas, and resources to help our local churches in West Virginia to succeed in the call to Walk With One – invite one and unite as one.

Sister Martha Gomez encouraged the zoom audiences and encourages all faithful in WV to take ownership of their own catechesis and call to Revival evangelization, specifically by reading a book about the Eucharist.

“If we would all read a book about the Eucharist and then when we are done share that book – give

it to another – we will also be Walking With One,” Sister said. “Let’s keep the fire in our hearts growing then make a sparkle, be a spark for others. Let’s pass it on!”

Among the books Sister Martha Gomez and the team suggest are My Son Carlo – Carlo Acutis Through the Eyes of His Mother by Antonia Salzano Acutis; 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory by Matthew Kelly; For the Life of the World – Invited to the Eucharistic Mission by Bishop Andrew Cozzens and Tim Glemkowski; Jesus Make Me Fully Alive – 30 Holy Hour Reflections by Fr. Tim Anastos; and Pocket Guide to Adoration by Fr. Josh Johnson.

Website Development Director Rob Wickham, Graphic Designer Amber Chambers, and Bibey have posted step-by-step guides, links to printed materials to order, videos, podcasts, etc., to help the faithful of WV to be confident in their mission. Find them at DWC.ORG and click on the National Eucharistic Revival button.

ST. PETER CLAVER, PRAY FOR US!

Christ calls us to open our minds, eyes, mouth, and heart to God. Honoring Him and His love for each of us by how we treat others.

Saint Peter Claver, whose feast day is Sept. 9, is a great example of how we should care for, protect, and serve others.

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 that made him stand out. He could not stand idly by when others were mistreated. 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 dedicated his life – ultimately a religious life – to help them.

Saint 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 ordained in 1615, and sent to Columbia – the New World – to serve the people. By that time, slave trade had been in place for more than 90 years.

He was stationed in Cartagena, Columbia, the main port to receive slaves in the Americas. Saint Peter Claver immersed himself in the caring of these men, women, and children as best he could, rallying others to help him.

Not only were they stripped from their homeland and families, once they arrived, they were divided without any compassion into groups and housed like animals awaiting to be sold. On average one-third of them died during the transport. The survivors were weak, ill, and distraught beyond comprehension. They had been robbed of all their dignity. They had no voice – they were not heard.

Saint Peter Claver's group took medicine, food, and supplies to them. He is quoted encouraging his helpers by saying we can break the language barrier with actions not words.

“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.” His ministry spanned four decades, serving at the port, visiting plantations, and advocating for better conditions. He shared Christ's love and compassion with more than 300,000 slaves before he died in 1654.

FaithInWV Editor's note: The painting – El Esclavo de Los Esclavos (The Slave to The Slaves) – accompanying this article is by Raul Berzosa of Spain.

PRAYER FOR RACIAL HEALING

God of justice,

In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception.

Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family.

Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others.

Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change.

Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



WV KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASKING FOR SUPPORT FOR FALL MEAL PACKING EVENT ~ HOPE IN ACTION



WV Knights of Columbus member Scott Nale hoists a box of 216 meals as part of the Cross Catholic Outreach program. The WV Knights of Columbus will be packing boxes for the Dominican Republic and families in WV.

Once again, the West Virginia Knights of Columbus will gather this Fall in the Charleston Vicariate to pack meals for children and families in the poorest of countries and areas of WV. The event is part of the Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) program that supports the Catholic religious, laity, and relief organizations serving the vulnerable in 30 countries. Additionally, the Knights of Columbus will be serving the poor at home.

However, organizers need your support up front to enable volunteers to prepare 60,000 meals, said Will Dempsey, who serves on state Knights of Columbus, and is a member of the Hurricane Bishop Hodges Council #9483.

“In addition to the 125-plus volunteers we need to raise \$19,800,” Dempsey said. “That money will cover the cost of the 60,000 meals at 33-cents a meal.”

The Knight of Columbus in WV have held two such events each year packing 40,000-120,000 meals, depending on the funds raised for the events.

Dempsey has been involved in a leadership role for the events since 2021, when he attended training in Maryland for CCO.

The purpose of the event is to provide hope for hungry children and families. Last year at the Fall event 49,032 meals were packed and sent to poor and vulnerable families in the Dominican Republic. In addition to that 12,096 meals were given to WV families.

The meals are Vitafood formulated with a blend of protein, vitamins, and nutrients to improve health. Servings are

calorie-dense, are easy to ship and store, and can be seasoned to suit local preferences, CCO reports.

More than 3 million children worldwide die from hunger related causes each year. That is one child every 10 seconds.

“These meals are crucial to people who we can’t even begin to imagine their challenges,” Dempsey said. “This isn’t about an organization, a faith, a state... it’s about feeding people – families like our own who count on us.”

The WV Knights have teamed up with Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church in Hurricane to organize sponsorships and volunteers from other ecumenical groups, schools, families, and even the Army National Guard, who have volunteered their time in the past and will again for the WV Knights, Dempsey said.



An elderly woman in the Dominican Republic proudly lifts her family’s meals packed by volunteers at a Cross Catholic Outreach in the US.

“For now our goal is to raise the fund we have to have in order to get to our 60,000 meal goal,” he said.

Sponsorships are a significant act of faith in action, Dempsey added. Sponsors are the ones who empower our students, parishes, and organizations to spend a faith-filled day preparing the meals.

Contact Dempsey at WKDEMPSEY3@GMAIL.COM to make your gift or donate online at: CROSSCATHOLIC.ORG/FOOD-PACKING-EVENTS/DONATE/ and scroll down to the Oct. 19th WV event. The WV project number is code: **UCP24KWV9021**. All donations are tax deductible.

To volunteer for the Oct. 19, 8 am to noon event sign up at CROSSCATHOLIC.ORG/FOOD-PACKING-EVENTS/VOLUNTEER/

The event will take place at the Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church, 2848 Putnam Ave, Hurricane.

23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

The Prophet Isaiah promises the Lord will transform us and the world. The ears of those who are deaf will be cleared: and the tongue of those who are mute will sing.

Responsorial: Psalm 146

“Praise the Lord, my soul!”

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

Be mindful of how you treat others – God created all of us. None better than the rest because of his wealth or appearance. Did not God choose the poor to be heirs of the kingdom?

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Just as Isaiah foretold, Christ touches and miraculously cures the ears and tongue of a deaf man so the man will be open and receive to the Word of God.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds be opened to the Word of God and visible by our actions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may be generous in assisting those in need- materially and spiritually, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For grandparents and those who love and guide as grandparents, that they may be treasured by the younger generations and honored each day for nurturing faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That each one of us makes time to grow in faith by opening our ears to Christ’s teachings and the Holy Spirit’s guidance as we share our God while we Walk with One on our journey towards heaven, 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
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



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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.