

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



AUGUST 20, 2023



Let Sunday's readings give us faith & confidence to succeed.

One million is a huge number. Asking the faithful around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to pledge, pray, and promote the One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV is a huge ask.

However, Bishop Mark Brennan and Sr. Martha Gomez believe in you and the power of your prayers. They want us to have the fierce faith of the Canaanite woman in the Matthew's Gospel we hear on this twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Her faith was so great in Christ she did not hold back to ask great of the Lord.

Additionally, just as we hear in the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, "Observe what is right, do what is just." Heed these words, and as the reading directs us, welcome all people to prayer. Let us lift up our voices for all to hear as we pray and promote with confidence this mission to strengthen vocations. Let those voices be ones of praise as we hear in the psalms and as we make our petitions in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we hope to be.

You are the Church. You understand the great need for strong Catholic vocations in WV. With you we will be a great success.

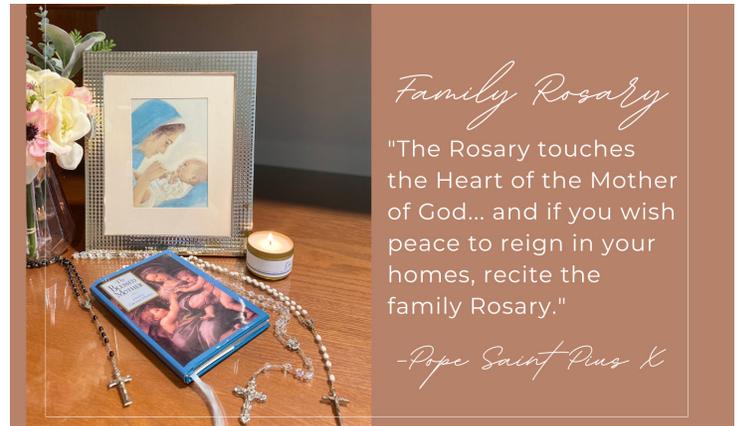
Prayerfully consider your personal prayer pledge - how many rosaries will you promise to say with vocations as an intention? Will it be 54, representing the number of days the campaign stretches? Will it be 365, promising to say a rosary for vocations every day for a year? It's your personal commitment.

We are keeping a running total, so it is important to get those pledges logged at DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES/.

Like Isaiah reminds us, let this be your reminder to welcome others to prayer- share this mission with those in and outside of WV and around the world. Please, keep

sharing through Oct. 7, the last day to make a pledge of your Rosary commitment.

Be mindful too that Catholics and non-Catholics say the Rosary. Bishop Mark shared a story from when he was a boy. "I knew of a Jewish lady who said she prayed the Rosary. I was confused, but then she said, 'It's just two Jewish women praying together. (Referencing Mary's devout Jewish faith)'"



One Million
ROSARIES
FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

PLEDGE YOURS!



dwc.org/onemillionrosaries

The Rosary campaign team in the diocese has organized many online resources under the printable resources, apps, web pages, and children's resources' tabs at: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES/

In closing, be mindful of the words from Pope Saint Pius X, whose feast day we celebrate Monday, "The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God..."

OUR LADY OF KNOCK

THE SILENT AND MOTIONLESS APPARITION

It was evening and a persistent mist turned to rain and the skies became dark on August 21, 1879, in the poor village of Knock in western Ireland. That is how the day was described when a miraculous vision occurred between 7-9 pm- the Our Lady of Knock apparition.

On the southern gable wall of the Catholic church of Knock appeared the Blessed Virgin Mary, wearing a white garment and spectacular crown, with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist behind her. Beside them was the Eucharistic Lamb, standing upon an altar. The lamb was whiter than the white altar and had a halo of gold stars. He stood at the foot of a cross and was surrounded by angels. Even when the rains became heavy, the holy vision remained dry and illuminated as if in the afternoon sun.

Men, women, and children as young as five were among the 15 villagers who were present before the vision.

Mary was breathtaking and “her hands were uplifted, and her eyes turned up toward heaven, as if in prayer, and she was dressed in a white cloak,” said Dominick Byrne, Sr., to Church representatives who were investigating the event. “To her right I saw St. Joseph, and on her left St. John.” He said St. John was wearing a short mitre-like hat, similar to what a bishop would wear, and looked like a statue of the apostle at Lecanvey chapel, another Catholic church in County Mayo, Ireland.

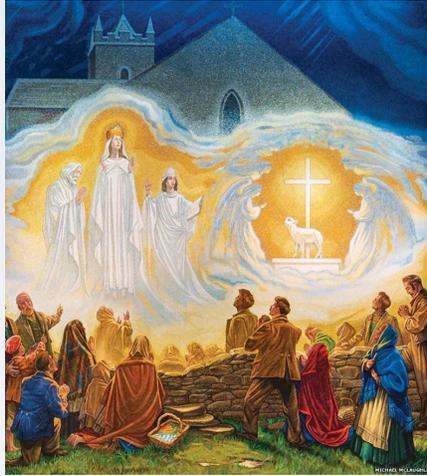
One of the 15 was 11-year-old Patrick Hill.

“I saw everything distinctly,” the young boy said. “The figures were full and round as if they had a body and were alive. They said nothing, but as we approached, they seemed to back a little towards the gable.”

According to the witnesses St. Joseph had “iron grey” hair and beard.

Church officials speculate that St. John the Evangelist was present because he was the apostle that refers to Jesus as “The Lamb of God” in his Gospel. Witnesses said he appeared as if he were preaching with an opened book in his left hand and his right hand raised with his index and middle finger pointing as if to make important reference. For more than two hours the vision remained. This apparition investigation by the Church was deemed trustworthy.

“I was filled with wonder at the sight I saw;” said 20-year-old



Dominick Bryne, Jr. “I was so affected that I shed tears.”

Moments of Regret Documented as well

The parish rectory housekeeper, Mary McLoughlin, initially dismissed the “beautiful figures” as radiant statues the pastor may have received from Dublin. She was leaving the rectory in a hurry to get to her friend’s house.

“At the hour of seven or so, while it was yet a bright day, ... I saw a number of strange figures at the gable, ... yet I passed on and said nothing; I thought the whole thing strange.”

However, later when she was returning home with a friend, the friend cried out in sheer amazement at the “beautiful figures.”

The two were mesmerized for a while and then summoned for more people to come. McLoughlin said she went to the rectory and told the priest, Very Rev. B. Cavanagh about the apparition. However, she said he “appeared to make nothing of what I said, and consequently he did not go.”

The next day the others confirmed the story to Cavanagh, who then visibly regretted not taking McLoughlin seriously.

An Apparition of Hope and Prayer

Many began to pray when they came upon the scene, including Bridget Trench.

“I threw myself on my knees and exclaimed, ‘A hundred thousand thanks to God and to the glorious Virgin that has given us this manifestation,’” Trench said. “I went in immediately to kiss, as I thought, the feet of the Blessed Virgin, but I felt nothing in the embrace but the wall, and I wondered why I could not feel with my hands the figures which I had so plainly and so distinctly seen.

“I continued to repeat the rosary on my beads while there, and I felt great delight and pleasure in looking at the Blessed Virgin. I could think of nothing else while there but giving thanks to God, repeating my prayers.”

For more information and testimonies from the witnesses go to: WWW.KNOCKSHRINE.IE

The art with this story is a giant mosaic at the Knock Shrine. It is based on an artistic representation of the Apparition by Irish artist PJ Lynch, and then created by Trivisanutto Mosaics of Spilimbergo, Italy.

SAINTS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SPIRIT THIS WEEK



On his feast day of **August 21**, let us remember the words of **Pope Saint Pius X**: “Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven. There are others: innocence, but that is for little children;

penance, but we are afraid of it; generous endurance of trials of life, but when they come, we weep and ask to be delivered. The surest, easiest, shortest way is the Eucharist.”

Born Giuseppe Sarto in 1835. He was affectionately nicknamed “Bepi” by his family - a modest but happy and faithful Catholic family in Italy. He was one of nine children raised on a farm in Italy near Venice. His father Giovanni Sarto was a mailman and his mother Margarita, a seamstress.

He was only 11 years old, when he told his family he wanted to be a priest.

Ordained in 1858 (after finishing first in his class at seminary), he was a popular young priest considered as reverent, loving, genuine, and inspiring.

In 1903 he was elected pope at the age of 68, taking the name Pius X. Even as pope, he taught catechism classes in the Vatican courtyard for children each week. He never lost sight of his calling. He loved his faith and wanted others to fall in love with Jesus. He knew children are the future of the Church.

Your family can read more about the life of this devoted saint in the book *Saint Pius X, The Farm Boy Who Became Pope* by Walter Diethelm, O.S.B.

August 23 is the Feast Day of **St. Rose of Lima**. Her beauty was breathtaking, but it was her heart that was awe-inspiring. Researching her you will discover she was known for self-imposed acts of penance like fasting,

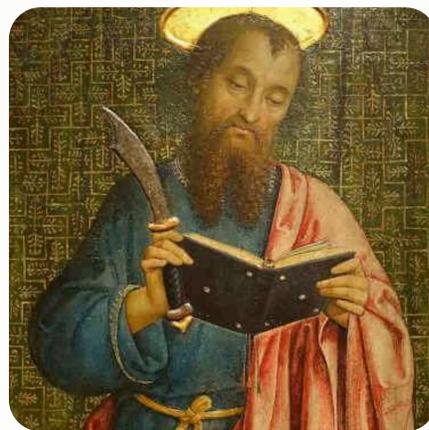


sequestering herself, and even chopping her hair and rubbing pepper into her face in an effort to diminish her striking good looks.

She was born in Peru as Isabel Flores de Olivia in 1586, but was called Rose or Rosa because of her beauty. Writers note she was so pretty people would stop in their tracks in awe of her. As a toddler, her mother would place a crown of flowers on her head to compliment her radiance.

Throughout her childhood she declared she wanted to become a nun and devote herself to Jesus. She had her own retreat space (some biographers refer to it as a hut, while others note it was an extra room in her parent’s home) that she would go to for solitude and prayer. Her parents wanted her to marry. When she was 20, her parents finally relented, and gave her their blessing to enter the Third Order of Saint Dominic. However, they did not want St. Rose to live at the convent. So as a compromise she secluded herself and resided in the space she had previously set aside for her reflections.

Saint Rose welcomed the poor and sick children and elderly into her humble residence, so she could care for them. She was known for her dedication to the lowly and admired by poor and wealthy alike for as she said, “When we serve the poor and the sick, we serve Jesus.”



August 24 is the Feast Day of **St. Bartholomew** one of the 12 Apostles. Although the biblical documentation of him is scarce, we can come to know him as a humble follower to whom many faithful can relate. He is someone who did not

need the limelight. His silence speaks volumes. He shows us that to know Christ is to love Him and to want to serve Him.

In John 1:47-51 we can see that Saint Bartholomew’s (also called Nathanael) character could be described as a faithful Jew, honest, innocent, a just man, who devotes much time to quiet reflection and prayer, awaiting the Messiah. It was Philip who took St. Bartholomew to see Jesus, said to him, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

continue...

Pope Benedict XVI has said St. Bartholomew answers Jesus “with a clear and beautiful profession of faith: ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ His heart is moved by Jesus’ words, he feels understood and he understands (God) knows everything about me, He knows and is familiar with the road of life; I can truly trust this man.”

Let St. Bartholomew’s example influence your thoughts and deeds. Instead of overthinking and questioning, choose trust and peace, knowing God is present, and He is always working for the greater good for all of the faithful.



On **August 25**, we honor the Feast Day of **Saint Louis IX**. He was the King of France in the 13th century, and so devout to Christ that he was considered a saint during his lifetime. He even built the grand

Sainte-Chapelle in Paris - a towering chapel of stunning windows and architecture to house the most precious relics of the Passion of the Christ - the crown of thorns and a piece of the holy cross. (The chapel is no longer used for worship. The reliquaries were melted down during the French Revolution and most of the collection relics disappeared. The crown of thorns, however, was preserved and joined the treasury of Notre-Dame Cathedral in 1806.)

There is much to learn from his life. Those lessons are contained in *Saint Louis’ Advice to His Son* printed in 1910. The words are from a letter to his eldest son, who would inherit the throne. His translated words are summarized for you:

“My dearest son, my first instruction is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength. Without this there is no salvation. Keep yourself, my son, from everything you know displeases God, that is to say, from every mortal sin.

“If the Lord has permitted you to have some trial, bear it willingly and with gratitude, considering that it has happened for your good and that perhaps you well deserved it. If the Lord bestows upon you any kind of prosperity, thank him humbly and see that you become no worse for it, either through vain pride or anything else, because you ought not to oppose God or offend him in the matter of his gifts.

“Listen to the divine office with pleasure and devotion.

As long as you are in church, be careful not to let your eyes wander and not to speak empty words, but pray to the Lord devoutly, either aloud or with the interior prayer of the heart.

“Be kindhearted to the poor, the unfortunate, and the afflicted. Give them as much help and consolation as you can. Thank God for all the benefits he has bestowed upon you, that you may be worthy to receive greater.

“Be devout and obedient to our mother the Church of Rome and the Supreme Pontiff as your spiritual father. Work to remove all sin from your land, particularly blasphemies and heresies.

“May the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity and all the saints protect you from every evil. And may the Lord give you the grace to do His will so that He may be served and honored through you, that in the next life we may together come to see him, love him, and praise him unceasingly.”



One Million
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FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
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PLEDGE YOURS!



dwc.org/onemillionrosaries

**MASS for the
CONVERSION of LOST SOULS**

Celebrating
SAINT MONICA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
6:00 P.M.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan
Celebrant & Homilist

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH
1300 EOFF STREET, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Welcome all nations to worship the Lord!

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67

“O God, let all nations praise you!”

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Paul tells us the call of God is irrevocable. His mercy is for all, who believe.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Do not hold back to ask great of the Lord when your faith is also indeed great.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/082023.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that together we may welcome all to know and worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit with us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in positions of authority, that they use their power to put God's mercy into action through the decisions they make and the policies they implement, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all students and school personnel as we enter this new academic year, that they learn to love Jesus more and make time to silence the world around them in order to pray for wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the success of our One Million Rosaries for Vocations in West Virginia campaign, that all the faithful not only participate in prayer, but also share with their families, friends, and organizations outside of WV, 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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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



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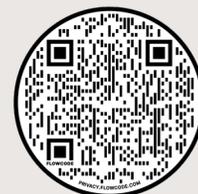
Liturgy of the Hours

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.