

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



JULY 16, 2023



One Million ROSARIES

FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

Will you be a part of the movement in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to pray one million rosaries for vocations between the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7th?

While a campaign of such magnitude has never been done by the diocese before in West Virginia with your help we can make it happen.

Promoted by Bishop Mark Brennan and originated by Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in the diocese, the One Million Rosaries for Vocations mission will have a lasting effect on all of us.

“We are the fruit of many prayers for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life,” said Sister Martha Gomez on behalf of the brothers, sisters, priest, deacons, and all in vocation formation in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Those called to these religious vocations are very appreciative of the love given to them through prayers, cards, letters, and recognition, she said and added that, “behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a faith community.... Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer: and only through prayer can we persevere and bear fruit.”

Gomez further noted the One Million Rosaries for Vocations are to include vocations to the Catholic married or Catholic single life, because we are all called to holiness

- to join Christ through our Baptism, serving God as we serve others.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS - YOU ARE #1

In WV we have 66,925 Catholics. We have 24 Catholic schools with nearly 5,000 students and staff; 110 priests; 12 religious communities of priests; five religious brothers; three religious communities of brothers; 82 religious women; 21 religious communities of sisters; 50 permanent deacons; 92 parishes; 20 missions; 18 chapels; 7,665 PSR/CCD students; five assisted living/nursing homes; nine Campus Ministries; and a strong community of Catholic organizations like Knights of Columbus, Serra Club, Rosary Altar Societies, etc.

Together we can reach our goal of one million rosaries and increase vocations for our diocese through the intercession of Mary through the Rosary, because it starts with one - you!

DWC TO TALLY PROGRESS

The campaign will release an online portal to pledge the number of rosaries you will say or have said for vocations during the eight-week mission. For those among us who do not have access to a computer they will be able to call the Chancery (304-233-0880 ext. 357) in order to have their prayer pledge added for them. Moreover, you are encouraged to reach out to this group who are part of our parishes and turn this mission into a moment to connect with them and offer to use your smart phone/device with them to log their commitment. Now that's living like a saint!

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MAKE TIME FOR PRAYER

Too busy? We all have so many pressing things to do, especially in our society where being “busy” is the norm. There never seems to be enough time, but we need to make time for daily prayer and in honor of the Blessed Mother and our plea to awaken among us the call to Catholic vocations through the gift of the rosary. The benefits of dedicated prayer time in your daily routine are endless.



RESOURCES TO MAKE IT EASY

Part of the campaign will bring the faithful a wealth of resources in order for success. These resources – free apps, prayer cards, prayer guides, coloring pages, videos, and more - will be shared via our diocesan website <https://dwc.org>, DWC social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), FaithInWV e-bulletins, The Catholic Spirit, your parish bulletins, and your Catholic school newsletters.

SHARE THE MISSION!

In addition to your commitment to the rosaries, faithful of West Virginia are asked to share this endeavor with their family, friends, and organizations outside of the state. If we do that, we will have beautiful souls all over the world praying for increased vocations in our diocese, Gomez said.

FINDING YOUR FAITH FULLY ALIVE INSPIRES GRIMSLAND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It was time! Time to do something.

Hank Grimsland of Martinsburg believes we all have the hands of Christ to reach out to those in need, and the love of God to bring hope to the hopeless. He is a man who cannot sit idly by – a man who wholeheartedly believes we need to stop ignoring the voice of the Holy Spirit, calling us to strengthen our faith and make a difference.

He was born in Norway and baptized Lutheran. In 1955 his father, a merchant seaman, had to leave the country to find work in the United States, because the Scandinavian economy was so bad. The family decided it was best to move to a Norwegian community in Brooklyn in 1957.

He met Kate when he was living in New Paltz, NY. She was a cradle Catholic, but had stopped going to Mass as a young adult.

Hank was drawn to the Catholic faith after the couple started dating and specifically when he had enrolled in Bible courses that looked at the first 1500 years of Christianity.

“It was all right there,” he said. “The Church Jesus created

is documented in history. The facts defend the faith. The Liturgy and the Sacraments celebrate Christ and His teachings. I truly wanted to receive Christ – Body and Blood – in the Blessed Sacrament. It was like lightbulbs turned on for me.

“I have always been pro-life, but I could see my denomination tolerating and even defending abortion...

that was the last straw,” he said. In February of 1998, he contacted the St. Joseph Parish in New Paltz, and began taking RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes with Kate at his side, and he entered the Church at the Easter Vigil in 1999.

“I was so eager to become part of the Church that Jesus and the Apostles began for us,” he said. “It

was a test of my patience and determination really. I didn’t want to have to wait so long, but then I thought, “This is smart. Nothing good or of great importance and value is just given to you, you have to wait, prepare, and then nurture it.”

Faith Fully Alive



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In 2001, he became the Catholic Campus Minister at State University in New Paltz. In that role he became even more in touch with his faith fully alive, evangelizing others through RCIA and also wanting to make a difference on a grand scale. He developed a friendship with Marina and Rafael Delgado, a family living in New York from the Dominican Republic, and learned about the great needs in the country – poverty, the need for neighborhood chapels, and lack of quality education for children.

“That’s when the Holy Spirit moved me to do something and not just sit idly by,” he said. “In my wildest dreams I could not have imagined the difference that we would make.”

In 2007, with the help of the Delgados and a parish in the DR the mission trips with university students began. Each year for 7-10 days, the mission teams have been working with the Salesians of Don Bosco in the rural areas of the Dominican Republic. The mission trip projects have included assistance with the construction of three chapels, a number of new or renovated houses and school renovation. Additionally, the mission teams have held faith and fun events for the children in the communities.

The chapels are a great benefit of the entire community, as in the St. Maria Goretti Chapel in Los Calabozos, Dominican Republic constructed in 2017-2018. In addition to being a place of worship and religious education, the chapel is also used as an elementary school.

It was during these mission trips, when children from the neighborhoods would flock to the missionary group to watch and interact.

“We looked forward to them coming around,” he said. “These little relationships we formed became the tangible and emotional reason we would go back each year.”

The mission team and the Grimslands recognized that these kids were not going to school. The main reason they were given was due to poverty, accessibility, and safety reasons.

“I couldn’t stop thinking about their situations, but the need was so overwhelming what was I to do?”

He said he kept thinking about a quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

In 2010, Kate and Hank decided they would personally sponsor the education of one child – to attend a Salesian missionary school in the DR. The Delgados introduced them to Haitian immigrant child in the DR, Josianne Baptiste.

“This was one of the greatest and most rewarding things we ever did,” he said. Each year the Grimslands made sure Josianne had what she needed to attend school. The families

kept in touch, visiting in the DR each year. Today Josianne is a school psychologist and a great role model for children who are just like her.

In 2013, the Grimslands officially founded the non-profit St. John Bosco Children’s Fund, “helping to break the cycle of poverty, one child at a time,” and opening the door for others to have the opportunity to sponsor children like Josianne. The organization was named after Bosco, a priest and founder of the Salesian Society of religious priest, brothers, and sisters. Bosco was a firm believer in Catholic education and doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way to honor God.



The organization today not only helps children in the DR, but also Haiti.

“Poverty is one of the major factors that will determine whether a child in the Dominican Republic and Haiti will finish his/her education,” he noted.

The SJBCF works in partnership with Catholic educational institutions whose goal it is to provide quality education while developing the concept of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. The cost for sponsoring a student to attend school for one year is \$300 which covers tuition, uniforms, school supplies, field trips, and meals.

The Grimslands are happy to share that SJBCF donors and sponsors are providing educational support for 51 students: 17 that are in grades K – 12 in the Dominican Republic; 21 students in Haiti; and 13 college students.

Hank retired from his job as campus minister in 2021, and the couple moved to Martinsburg in 2022 to be closer to their adult children Ryan, Erik, Kevin, and Kristen and their families.

Keeping the SJBCF going is Hank’s mission. He continues to visit the DR, monitoring the success of SJBCF. He noted that unfortunately the situation in Haiti remains too dangerous to visit the sponsored students there.

“It truly is the Holy Spirit working through me,” he said. “I could not do what we do if I wasn’t strengthened by the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass.

“Also, just as we learned from the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta, who gave up everything to care for those who had no hope, we can make a difference like Christ if we just decide to focus and act – not just have good intentions - on helping even just one child,” he said.

To find out more about the SJBCF go to: SJBCF.ORG or email Hank at HANKGRIMSLAND@GMAIL.COM.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11

God sends us what we need. Place all trust in Him and His word.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65

“The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.”

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23

The suffering we go through on earth will disappear as the glory of God shall reign eternal. All creation eagerly awaits the glory of God.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus spoke about the parable of the sower, illustrating to the crowd that we are to sow, nurture, be patient, and attentive to not only what is gifted to you, but also God’s word.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/071623.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may sow God’s word in our families, work, and communities; and through the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist our souls are strengthened to bring others to heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the leaders of nations of the world realize that caring for all creation is indeed caring for all peoples, sewing seeds of hope, joy, and love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who work to produce the food we eat, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are suffering from drought or flooding, and for those whose water is contaminated or unsafe, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.