



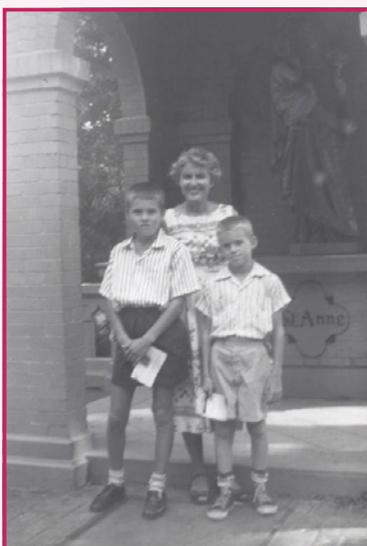
Happy Mother's Day

TREASURE THE WOMEN WHO SERVE AS YOUR CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE

Happy Mother's Day to all the women in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston that love, care, and nurture the roots of faith for our children young and old.

Mothers are invaluable and the role of a mother is challenging and daunting. Being a Catholic mom of God's miracles that are our children requires the additional responsibilities of professing our faith; teaching virtues, prayers, and Church traditions; and keeping Christ in the center of our lives, words, and actions - just like Mary our Blessed Mother did.

Among cherished family photos of Bishop Mark Brennan and his brother Paul is one with their mother Regina "Jean" Lonsway Brennan taken by their father Edward in front of the outdoor chapel of St. Anne the mother of our Blessed Mother Mary, holding her grandson Jesus. The statue is in the gardens of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, located in Washington, D.C.



Bishop Mark is about 11 years old in the photo. He remembers his family outings fondly, including being on the grounds of this monastery that has 42 acres of gardens and full-sized replicas of shrines from the Holy Land. The family had moved to DC just a year prior.

You can see how happy and proud his mother was in the photo. We can only imagine her thoughts as a young mother standing with her boys on a beautiful day set aside to bring life to their faith and understanding of the significance of our Catholic traditions, saints, and prayers.

"I remember my mother, Jean, as a gentle, quiet woman, capable of maintaining friendships over many years and great distances and imbued with the spirit of Catholic faith," Bishop Brennan said. "I also saw her achieve reconciliation with persons from whom she had been briefly estranged. Thank you, Mom, for giving me an example of true Christian living."

Do not underappreciate or take a mother for granted. Pope Francis eloquently expresses how women and mothers are true heroes and "key players in fighting against an individualistic, self-centered society."

"Not even the Christian community values them properly, despite the eminent example of the Mother of Jesus," he said in a January 7, 2015, address. "To be a mother is a great treasure. Mothers, in their unconditional and sacrificial love for their children, are the antidote to individualism; they are the greatest enemies against war."

It has been reported that the Pontiff keeps a prayer book with him with a note from his Nonna Rosa, that reads: "May my grandchildren, to whom I have given the best of my heart, have a long and happy life. But if there are days of pain or illness, or if the loss of a loved one fills them with despair, may they remember that a whisper of a prayer and a look to Mary at the feet of the cross, can be like a drop of balsam on even the deepest and most painful wounds."

Let us all show our love and appreciation to our mothers, grandmothers, and all the women who form our faith.

We pray for God's blessing on all mothers; our mothers both living and deceased, spiritual mothers, godmothers, foster mothers, stepmothers, women who nurture our souls like a mother, and women who long to be mothers or who have lost a child.

We entrust the care of all mothers to Mary, the mother of our Lord, who understands the joys and sorrows of motherhood.

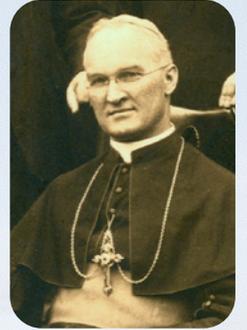
We call out to St. Anne, mother of our Blessed Mother, to strengthen all women, as they share the love of God through our words and example. Amen.

OUR LADY OF WEST VIRGINIA

In this month of May, honoring Mary, we share a tribute to her entitled "Our Lady of West Virginia."

Editor's note of interest:

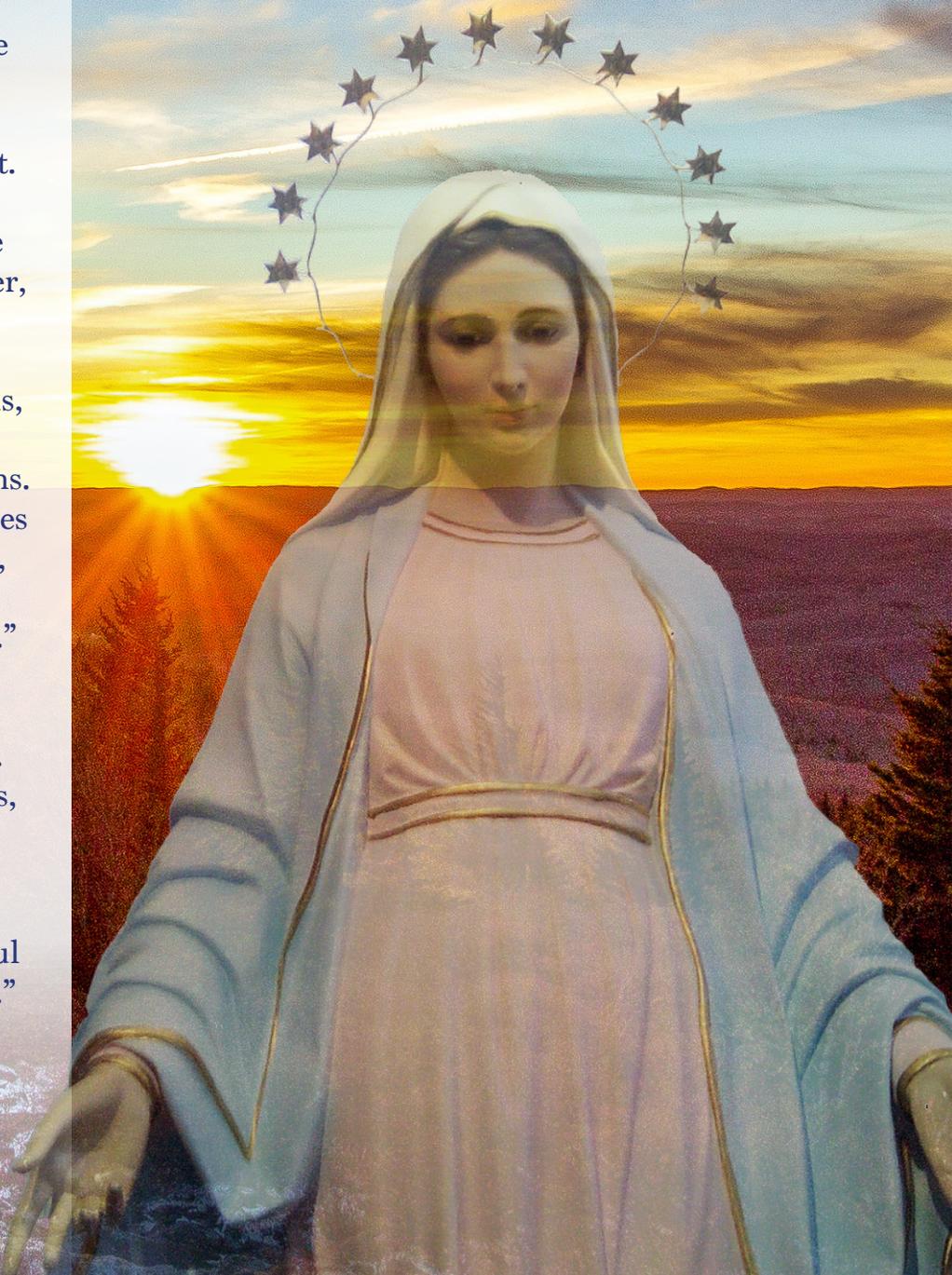
The author is identified as Mark Smith and the writing was "imprimatur" (granted permission of publication of any writing containing something of peculiar significance to religion, theology, or morality.) in 1953 by John J. Swint, Bishop of Wheeling, who dearly loved his West Virginia and Our Blessed Mother Mary.



Our Lady is a beauty
Of the West Virginia Hills.
From Spruce Knob's lofty towering
To where Kenova spills
Out of bounds, and seeks to share
Our wealth with sister-states,
Our Lady smiling sunshine
Forever radiates.

The bright blue of her mantle
Is in summer skies at Cheat,
Her golden tresses ripple
In Greenbrier's autumn wheat.
Romney's apple-blossoms
Bear the blushing of her face
As she heard the Angel-whisper,
"Hail, Mary, full of grace."
Our Lady is the music
Of our lovely lakes and streams,
"The beautiful Ohio,"
And the Tygart's dashing gleams.
Her low-voiced laughter tumbles
In Blackwater's clear cascade,
And echoes on Kanawha;
"Behold the Lord's handmaid."

Our Lady is the loveliness
Of all young, growing things.
She is the rapture in our souls,
The gaiety which sings:
"Lady of West Virginia,
Virgin Immaculate,
Reign over every heart and soul
Queen of our Mountain State."



SEMINARIAN JOHN SOPLINSKI TO BE ORDAINED DEACON



By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is delighted to announce that seminarian John Soplinski will be ordained a deacon by Bishop Mark Brennan at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 11 a.m. May 27.

“I have watched as John progressed through seminary and seen how the Lord has transformed him into the man to be ordained today,” said Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the diocese. “He is a great brother to his fellow seminarians who really look up to him. He has a tremendous love for West Virginia and its people. I am excited to see him give of himself as a deacon this year as he prepares to be ordained a priest next year.”

Upon his ordination, Soplinski will receive an assignment and will spend a year preaching the gospel. In these weeks leading up to this joyful day in his life and in the life of the church in West Virginia, Soplinski feels grateful.

“I could not have made it this far without the prayers and support of the faithful of West Virginia,” he shared. “I am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve them on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The faithful can continue their prayers for Soplinski and gather with him at an hour of Eucharistic Adoration the night before the ordination on May 26 at 7 p.m. at

St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling. “All are invited to attend to pray for John as he prepares to be ordained a deacon,” Father Crenwelge said.

Soplinski’s home parish is Sacred Heart of Mary in Weirton. He attended Sacred Heart of Mary Grade School and Madonna High School in Weirton, as well as St. Vincent College in Latrobe where he received a Bachelor of Science in public policy analysis. He is the son of Gary E. Soplinski and the late Mary Patricia Soplinski. His stepmother is Susan Soplinski. He also has a brother, Matthew Soplinski, and sister-in-law Loraine, nephew Parker, and niece Zoe; and a second brother, Todd and sister-in-law, Jessica. He previously worked for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources from 1997-2001, and then Pittsburgh public schools from 2001-2017. He has attended Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., since 2018.

In his ordination as deacon, Soplinski will promise obedience to the bishop and his successors and take on the vow of celibacy. He will be vested with the stole and dalmatic (vestments of a deacon) by his uncle, Msgr. Robert J. Saly, Jr., who serves as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Once ordained a deacon, Bishop Brennan will present the Book of the Gospels to Soplinski so that he may proclaim the Good News and model his life after Christ. The bishop will say to him: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”

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.

TWO FIVE-WEEK FAITH FORMATION COURSES OFFERED FREE TO YOU BY THE DIOCESE

The Office of Evangelization & Catechesis for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has announced two five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). The course titles are *The Mass and Images of Jesus*.



and its component parts. This course will be of value for liturgical ministers, RCIA Team members, and anyone interested in learning more about this most central celebration of all the baptized. All course materials are online, and we will meet for class lecture/discussion once a week on Tuesday evenings 7-9 pm beginning May 23rd.

These courses are hybrid models, meaning they are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF).

The courses are offered to you free by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu.

The Mass

In this course we will examine the core principles of the Eucharistic liturgy as found in the foundational documents of the Mass. We will consider its history and make connections between the modern liturgy and the historical context. Our central point of discussion throughout the course will be focused on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Over the course of the five weeks, we will take a deep dive into the elements of the Sunday celebration

Images of Jesus

Through this course the participant will have the opportunity to examine, from a variety of theological perspectives, what we know and believe about the central figure of the Christian faith and arguably the most influential person who ever walked the earth. After looking at many different resources, the student will be able to form a personal answer to "Who do you say that I am?"

We will look at the images of Jesus in the New Testament, as understood in theology today, as understood in the Paschal Mystery and as encountered in the liturgical life of the Church. All course materials are online, and we will meet for class lecture/discussion once a week on Wednesday evenings 7-9 pm beginning May 24th. This course is part of the sequence for the catechetical certification.

For more information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

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.
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NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Christ is Present! Will you be?

June 2-3 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral
of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Eucharistic
Congress
Grow in Faith
Exercise
your Spirit!

Friday:

7 pm - Taizé Prayer Service & Reception

Saturday:

9 am - Registration/Coffee and Donuts

10 am - Morning Prayer Service

- Keynote Address (immediately following prayer service)
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins (concludes before closing Mass)
- Tours of the church
- Lunch and Q/A session with Keynote

Afternoon - Two Breakout Presentations (10-12 sessions to choose from all to inspire our recognition of Christ's Presence in the Eucharist and our lives)

5:30 pm Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan as presider

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Fr. Joe Freedy



DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

www.dwc.org



It's FREE!

RSVP & more info:





NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

THE PATHWAY TO A NEW CAREER

Latasha W., Alyson H., Danae S., Amber R., Tabitha M., Melissa F., Sara D., and Jonah C. are the eight most recent graduates of West Virginia Welcome's Hospitality and Tourism program.

This is just one of the certifications offered through Catholic Charities Adult Education program in Huntington.

With guidance from their CCWVa adult education instructor, these individuals have worked diligently to prepare for their new careers. Now they are ready to welcome people traveling to and around the state.

Their new careers in the hospitality industry will enable them to participate in meaningful work while they provide for themselves and their families.



CCWVa adult learners display their certificates after graduating from the West Virginia Welcome's Hospitality and Tourism program

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: *Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.*

RISING JUNIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH RISING SOPHOMORES IN COLLEGE

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JUNE 10-12, 2023

ST. MARY PARISH

SATURDAY MORNING THRU
MONDAY AFTERNOON

3346 University Avenue
Morgantown

COST: \$40/per person | Cost includes lodging, food & supplies

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT DWC.ORG/TEC



TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST
WEST VIRGINIA

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip preached the love of Christ to Samaria, rid out demons, and cured the people. Peter and John followed and laid hands on the Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66

“Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Let others see and hear Christ within you. We may have suffering as we do good, but know Jesus will lead you to God in Heaven.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

If you love God, you will want to keep His commandments. The Holy Spirit will dwell within you, and you will have eternal life.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/051423.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/051423.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that the Holy Spirit makes clear our focus on the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all leaders of our communities, state, nation, and world, that they may remain focused on the mission and purpose of life – to serve and not be served, while leading their people to peace and eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, mothers-to-be, and those who love and care for us like a devoted mother, may they know they are perfectly made for motherhood, and our Blessed Mother loves them for nurturing their children to adore hers – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For Catholics of all ages, that we make time to look for opportunities to grow in faith and serve others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on Sunday, May 21st, the seventh Sunday of Easter.

The actual solemnity falls on Thursday, May 18 this year, the traditional 40 days after Easter.

We celebrate the Ascension, acknowledging when Jesus gave his disciples the great command to proclaim the Good News to all nations, teaching them that He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. He promised, “I am with you always, until the end of the ages” (Matthew 28:20).

