



# The Catholic Virginian

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## US bishops call Catholics to unite in mourning retired pope Pope Benedict XVI remembered as theologian, teacher of the faith

JULIE ASHER, PETER JESSERER SMITH  
OSV News

WASHINGTON – Across the U.S., Catholic bishops called on the faithful to unite in mourning for retired Pope Benedict XVI, who died on the eve of the new year.

“While we grieve that he is no longer with us here, I join Catholics everywhere in offering my profound gratitude to the Lord for the gift of Pope Benedict XVI and his ministry,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “Together we beg our Lord to grant him eternal rest.”

Benedict XVI (1927-2022) passed away Dec. 31 at 95 years old, nearly a decade after resigning the papacy – an event not seen in 600 years. He led the Catholic Church as pope from 2005-2013, previously served under Pope John Paul II for more than 20 years as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and was one of the last living participants at the Second Vatican Council.

Archbishop Broglio, who also heads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, said Benedict’s passing “sounds contrasting notes of sorrow and gratitude in my heart.” The Dec. 31 statement noted the late retired pope was “a superb theologian” and “effective teacher of the faith.”

“As a priest, university professor and theologian, archbishop and cardinal, his voice in deepening an authentic understanding led all of us to a more profound love of truth and the mystery of God,” he said. “It will take many years for us to delve more deeply into the wealth of learning that he has left us.”

The USCCB president also praised Pope Benedict for his decision to retire from the papacy in 2013 – a move that “shocked the world” but “continued his teaching about courage, humility and love for the Church.”

“He recognized the great demands made of him as the chief shepherd of the Universal Church of a billion Catholics worldwide, and his physical limitations for such a monumental task,” Archbishop Broglio said.

Even in retirement, he said, Pope Benedict “continued to teach us how to be a true disciple of Christ, while still contributing to his legacy.”

### Love of Christ

From coast-to-coast, tributes to Pope Benedict from U.S. Catholic bishops kept pouring in, reflecting on his legacy, virtues, and his love of Christ.

“His long life included not only his ecclesial contributions, but his impassioned pleas for world peace, human understanding, and global solidarity,” Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, said in a statement praising Benedict’s distinguished and generous life in service to Catholicism and humanity.”

Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley of Boston, whom Pope Benedict made a cardinal in 2006, and president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors since its establishment in 2014, said in a statement that he always found the late pope to be “an engaged leader, thoughtful in his decisions and always committed to the mission of the Church.”

Cardinal O’Malley recalled Pope Benedict’s “deep pastoral care for the survivors” when the cardinal accompanied survivors of clergy sexual abuse to a meeting with the pope in Washington during the pontiff’s 2008 pastoral visit to the United States. He said it was “perhaps the most moving experience for me.”

The pope “recognized the pain experienced by survivors and all persons impacted by the abuse crisis,” Cardinal O’Malley said. “He was then, and at all times remained,

See *Benedict XVI*, Page 11



Bishop Barry C. Knestout meets Pope Benedict XVI at an audience for new bishops at Castel Gandolfo in September 2009. (Photo/Vatican Media)

### Bishop Barry C. Knestout Statement on the Death of Pope Benedict XVI

**B**ishop Barry C. Knestout issued the following statement on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, after the death of Pope Benedict XVI was announced by the Vatican:

“We grieve with the rest of the world at the passing of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. He will be remembered for many accomplishments in his papacy, but perhaps his most notable success we will look back and remember him for is his accomplishment as president of the Commission for Drafting the Catechism of the Catholic Church in which he immersed himself for six years of intense work.

“I have a special bond to the retired pope as much of my early formation of my episcopacy is linked to him. Pope Benedict named me an auxiliary bishop for Washington and my episcopal motto “Christ Our Hope” I chose was also the theme of his papal visit in 2008 to Washington. It was an immense honor for me to

meet him and co-chair the committee that planned his papal visit 14 years ago. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have met him.

“As I mentioned when I first came to the diocese, I found Pope Benedict to have been a witness to hope, a virtue that is especially needed in our present age.

“Although, he is known as an academic and theologian, his writings, especially those reflecting on the life of Christ, offered practical and widely appreciated pastoral reflections. His pastoral sensitivity and ability to communicate with a wide audience were gifts that went hand in hand with his theological and doctrinal expertise.

“I admired him for his gentle spirit and his dedication to the life and good of the Church, as well as his clear love for Christ. I ask all in the diocese to join me in prayer for Pope Benedict XVI and the repose of his soul.”

### Inside This Edition

Reflections on five years of leading our diocese  
Page 2

Bristol Catholics work toward ‘Safe Zone for Life’  
Page 5

Faith, family help artist recover from stroke  
Page 7

The Catholic Virginian  
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# Reflections on five years of leading our diocese



**CHRIST OUR HOPE**  
MOST REV. BARRY C. KNESTOUT

The beginning of a new year is often a time for reflecting upon the year concluded and the year ahead. For me, it was a time for reflecting upon the past five years as this Thursday, Jan. 12, marks my fifth anniversary as bishop of our diocese.

As with any vocation, when a bishop accepts the call to shepherd a diocese, he doesn't know exactly what to expect. He will draw upon the administrative and pastoral experiences he has had as a priest or as an auxiliary bishop to lead the diocese. However, in dealing with the unexpected, he will need a reliance of prayer as he depends upon and draws strength from the Paschal Mystery, inspired by the Holy Spirit in carrying out the mission of the Church. That is what I hope and pray has guided and sustained me these past five years.

As a result of my predecessor as bishop of Richmond, Bishop DiLorenzo's vision in establishing the Living Our Mission initiative, I was able to take what I consider a "victory lap" of sorts for him, visiting parishes and dedicating the renovations and additions completed because of that capital campaign. Other celebrations included anniversaries marking the establishment of the diocese, of parishes, and celebrating specific events for various Catholic organizations and entities.

One of the beauties of the celebrations and of visiting every parish at least once during my first five years in our diocese was being able to meet so many of you. You shared your concerns about the Church in general, but you also told me how immersed you are in the life of your parishes, giving of your time, talent and treasure so that every parish can thrive as faith communities. I am grateful for how you give witness to the Gospel in so many ways.

## Communion and mission

Another occasion to celebrate was the bicentennial of our diocese in 2020. We were off to a good start with our pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in October 2019, publication of our diocesan history "Shine Like the Stars," and planning for multiple events throughout the year. And then came COVID.

We could have abandoned our plans for



In February 2020, Bishop Barry C. Knestout visits the construction site of St. John the Evangelist, Waynesboro, a \$12.5 million project supported by "Living Our Mission." The new church was dedicated on July 4, 2021. "Living Our Mission," a historic capital and endowment campaign designed for the benefit of parishes, schools and larger ministries, was launched in January 2014 with 14 pilot parishes and concluded active solicitation in 2016. (Submitted photo)

marking this historical year. Instead, we adapted and stayed true to our theme of communion and mission. Rather than celebrating the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, we postponed it because of COVID shutdowns, and celebrated it instead on Friday, July 10. The next day, July 11, the actual 200th anniversary of our founding, we ordained two priests and a transitional deacon — ordinations that had been postponed due to COVID.

Although COVID altered our plans to bring the Catholic faithful together for a Eucharistic Congress in November, we came together virtually for the conferences planned for the Eucharistic Congress followed by Mass at St. Peter Pro-Cathedral, concelebrated by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, archbishop of Washington and keynote speaker for the congress; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore; and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington. A eucharistic procession on the streets surrounding the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart culminated our celebratory year.

The communion and mission we celebrat-

ed during the bicentennial resurfaced in 2022 thanks to two other initiatives. First was the initiation of the "Learn to Lead" campaign seeking support for Catholic Schools in the diocese. The second was the synodality process initiated by Pope Francis in preparation for this year's World Synod of Bishops. The theme chosen by our Holy Father? Communion, participation and mission.

Our diocese embraced that theme as more than 8,000 people from 123 parishes, Catholic entities and consultative bodies participated in the process. These gatherings were a practical experience for us all of intentionally listening to one another, fully expressing our discipleship and our appreciation for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in guiding the life and activity of the Body of Christ.

## Looking to the future

As I mark my anniversary, I am looking forward to what we will undertake this year and in the years beyond. In particular, we will continue to center our lives, as disciples, on the Eucharist and try to be less reliant on livestreaming of Masses as we invite everyone to more fully and devoutly celebrate the Eucharist in our churches.

At the same time, we will be intentionally focused on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, of understanding and embracing Christ as the source and summit of our faith.

What we as a diocese have accomplished these last five years would not have been possible without your openness to allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life, without your willingness to discern and to use the gifts the Spirit has given you. Thank you for that openness and willingness!

Please continue to work with me in "feeding the sheep" — by proclaiming the Word of God in your daily life, by celebrating the sacraments and by carrying out the Church's many charitable activities. Personally and communally, let these be the signs of Christ's presence among us and in the communities in which we live.

*Editor's note: Additional photos from Bishop Knestout's first five years in Richmond appear on Pages 8-9.*



Bishop Barry C. Knestout leads a eucharistic procession near the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, during the holy hour on Nov. 7, 2020, as part of the Eucharistic Congress celebrating the Diocese of Richmond's bicentennial anniversary. The procession included 80 bishops, priests, deacons and laity. The bicentennial celebration began in January 2020 with an opening Mass at Sacred Heart, Norfolk. Regional Masses were later celebrated in the Western and Central Vicariates. The culminating event of the bicentennial was the Eucharistic Congress Mass at the Pro-Cathedral of St. Peter on Nov. 11, which was concelebrated by Bishop Knestout, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, archbishop of Washington; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore; and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

# Renewal, return, revival — reasons to celebrate 2022

## A year free from pandemic restrictions sees resurgence of ministerial efforts

EMILY JANSEN

The Catholic Virginian

The first phases of the Synod on Synodality and the beginning of a National Eucharistic Revival: this is what happened to the Church on a national level in 2022. Yet, with an air of subsidiarity, it also happened locally, touching each Catholic as a member of the greater Church.

In March, the Diocese of Richmond concluded the local synod process, outlined by Pope Francis for the World Synod of Bishops, during which parishes discussed communion and mission.

Now, the diocese shifts its energy and focus toward the centrality of the Catholic faith: Christ made present in the Eucharist.

### Fraternity

Six months apart, two men were ordained as priests for the Diocese of Richmond. Father Dillon Bruce was ordained on June 25 and is continuing his studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Father Armando Herrera was ordained on Dec. 10 and is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese for Military Services. He was assigned to serve as parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg.

Along with now-Father Herrera, Deacon William Buckley and Deacon Christopher Weyer were ordained to the transitional diaconate on May 21 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond.

Six individuals who completed studies through the diocese's Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute (LEMI) were commissioned by Bishop Knestout as lay ministers on June 18 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. LEMI provides those involved with parish and school ministries further academic, human, spiritual and pastoral formation and has seen 53 candidates commissioned with 31 currently in formation.

Msgr. Walter Barrett Jr. was named interim director of the diocesan Office for Black Catholics



**Bishop Barry C. Knestout, assisted by Deacon Joe Badalis, celebrates Mass at the Diocesan Youth Conference and College Summit, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022. After a hiatus in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, hundreds of high school and college students attended the events this year. (Photo/Vy Barto)**

on Aug. 2, 2022, succeeding the late Deacon Charles Williams. Effective Dec. 31, 2022, Father Tochi Iwuji is the director of that office.

After a one-year absence, the Diocesan Youth Conference and Catholic Campus Ministry College Summit returned to the Richmond Convention Center the weekend of Feb. 11-13. More than 400 college students and nearly 600 youth gathered for prayer, breakout sessions and eucharistic adoration with Bishop Knestout.

On the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, Bishop Knestout joined the world and Pope Francis in consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Entrusting the human family to the Queen of Peace, the Cathedral congregation and parishioners across the diocese prayed for the Ukrainian and Russian people facing violence.

Taking a stand against further violence, seven parishes in the Diocese of Richmond held prayer vigils on June 17 in memory of those who were killed in Uvalde, Texas. Later in the year, parishioners and students across the state would gather again, this time to remember the three students killed in a University of Virginia shooting on Nov. 13, and those killed at a Walmart Supercenter in

Chesapeake on Nov. 22.

### Stewardship

As stewards of their common home, many parishes finished long-term construction and repair projects on their grounds, and communal and worship spaces.

The new year opened with the rededication of St. Joseph, Petersburg, on Jan. 8, after the completion of a \$350,000 renovation project that included restoring the high altar, repairing pews and more.

The 10 original oil murals that fill St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pocahontas, are over 100 years old and were restored this year by removing the coal dust and soot that had settled upon their surface.

Cristo Rey Richmond High School's new chapel was blessed on Jan 28 and dedicated to the patronage of Our Lady of Bon Secours. It was the second of a five-phase building project for the school, which will graduate its first students in 2023.

At the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, a new tabernacle was blessed on Feb. 20 as it was moved to its permanent home on an oak pedestal and platform behind the altar. At the same Mass, Bishop Knestout blessed the new cathedra (bishop's chair), which joins the tabernacle in the sanctuary.

In addition to new sights, new sounds continue to emerge with the installation project of three new pipe organs: a choir organ, a continuo organ and a gallery organ. The first two have been completed, and the gallery organ is scheduled to be installed in 2024.

A new worship space was dedicated by Bishop Knestout on Feb. 26 at Church of the Visitation, Topping. This is the first time in the history of this middle peninsula church that there is a space dedicated solely for worship — not serving a dual-function as space to be rearranged for social events and funerals.

For many parishes, it was a year of celebration. Blessed Sacrament,

Norfolk, turned 100 years old and closed the year-long celebration with 100 hours of eucharistic adoration in late February.

As part of the two-year sanctuary remodeling project at St. Joseph, Woodlawn, a new cross and corpus were purchased from a Mexican company as an homage to the large Hispanic community present in the parish.

Committed to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home," Immaculate Conception, Hampton, has undertaken many projects to foster relationships with communities around the world. One of these is a partnership with a parish in Kenya: every 1,000 trees planted in Kenya with funds raised by Immaculate Conception results in a single tree planted on the Hampton campus. On Oct. 15, nine more trees were planted, part of the parish's commitment to create as many carbon offset locations as possible and provide the Kenyan community with carbon credits.

### Peripheries

Multiple outreach ministries with centers in the Diocese of Richmond celebrated milestones in their work.

Madonna House, an apostolate of prayer, service and outreach to the poor, marked 75 years of service. One of its 18 locations is in Roanoke with three members living in community.

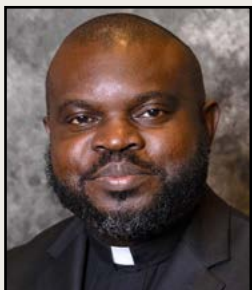
The Richmond chapter of Rachel's Vineyard, the world's largest post-abortion healing ministry, celebrated its 25th anniversary of helping men and women heal from the pain of abortion and pregnancy loss.

Cursillo of Central Virginia celebrated 50 years of providing one-time weekend spiritual retreats for parishioners in the greater Richmond area. Additionally, the chapter held its first Spanish Cursillo retreats in the summer.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* on June 24, it was neither the beginning nor the end of the fight for the unborn. The first Defending Life Day was held at the Virginia state capitol on Feb. 9 and gave attendees the opportunity to speak with their legislators about pro-life issues. On April 27, pro-lifers of all ages gathered in Richmond again for the fourth annual Virginia March for Life.

Amid the Supreme Court's decision, non-profits and ministries across the diocese continue to walk with women and couples facing unexpected pregnancies by providing housing support, counseling and more. This effort will continue, along with Virginia Pro-Life Day, which incorporates Defending Life Day and the Virginia March for Life, on Feb. 1, 2023.

## New director for Office for Black Catholics



Bishop Barry C. Knestout has appointed Father Tochi Iwuji to succeed Msgr. Walter C. Barrett Jr., who is retiring from active diocesan ministry, as director of the diocesan Office for Black Catholics. The change was effective Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.

While serving in his new role, Father Iwuji will continue as pastor of the Central Virginia Catholic Cluster, which includes the parishes of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone;

Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and St. Theresa, Farmville.

Born and raised in Nigeria, Father Iwuji was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Richmond in 2019.



## Office of the Propagation of the Faith continues support of parishes

### Diocesan participation critical to success of grant programs

JANNA REYNOLDS  
The Catholic Virginian

Many Catholics in the Diocese of Richmond might associate the diocesan Office of the Propagation of the Faith with the World Mission Sunday collection taken up every October.

Deacon Bob Young, director of the office since June 1, 2022, and permanent deacon at St. Joseph, Petersburg, wants the faithful to know that his office does a great deal more to support parishes and organizations.

“The Propagation of the Faith is just one little piece,” he said of the diocesan branch of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The office oversees and manages six programs – Mission Cooperative Program, Home Mission Grant, Fuel and Hunger, Respect Life, Rice Bowl and Bus Grants – that benefit parishes, ministries and Catholic organizations.

The lay faithful are integral to the success of these programs by participating in collections at their parishes and the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

“These types of collections are really important to the work that we do out of the office and the way that we help all of our mission parishes, parishes in need,” said Deacon Young.

#### Supporting one another

Respect Life grants are awarded to parishes and organizations that support the dignity of life from conception to natural death. Funds come from a collection taken in January.

The Bus Grant Program helps send parishioners in the Diocese of Richmond to the National March for Life in Washington and to the Virginia March for Life by covering a third of the cost of the bus.

Rice Bowl grants are funded through the Lenten Rice Bowl Collection. Monies go to Catholic Relief Services and also support local initiatives in caring for creation, economic empowerment, and promoting just and peaceful societies.

The Home Mission Grant is admin-

istered through the Office of the Propagation of the Faith in conjunction with a grant committee and the bishop. Funds come from the Annual Diocesan Appeal and an annual collection for home missions. The grant supports repairs and small construction projects in mission parishes and small parishes in the diocese. Mission parishes are usually those with less than \$250,000 in annual revenue.

The Fuel and Hunger Fund helps parishes and organizations provide direct assistance to families in need of food, utilities and shelter. Support for this program comes from the Annual Appeal and from special contributions.

The Mission Cooperative Program matches a participating mission parish with larger host parishes. The mission parish pastor visits the host parish to celebrate Mass, and during his homily makes an appeal for support that will help his parish meet its financial needs. The funds received through that collection go to the Office of the Propagation of the Faith, which then issues a check to the mission parish.

#### Increasing need

As economic challenges impact the diocese, Deacon Young said that the need for several of these programs has increased.

“Costs are going up, and our mission parishes are starting to suffer from the inflation and all the increases of cost,” said Deacon Young.

He said that as he noted the rising price of materials and goods that are directly related to the grant programs, especially the Home Mission Grant and the Fuel and Hunger Fund, he requested additional funds from the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal.

He said the applications for Fuel and Hunger grants in 2022 reflected a greater need for assistance.

“A lot of churches are increasing their ask based on the cost of fuel and every-

See Support, Page 12

## IN MEMORIAM

### Father Gaudencio “Gaudy” Pugat



A funeral Mass was celebrated for Father Gaudencio “Gaudy” Pugat, a priest of the Society of the Divine Word, on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in his native Philippines. Father Pugat, 64, died on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022.

Father Pugat served in the Diocese of Richmond for over 10 years. His first pastorate was at Holy Family in southwest Virginia (which consists of the parishes of St. Theresa, Tazewell; St. Mary, Richlands; St. Elizabeth, Pocahontas; St. Joseph, Grundy) from 2006 until 2011. He then served as pastor of Church of the Holy Family, Virginia Beach, from 2011 until his return to the Philippines in 2017.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Deacon Donald M. Hammond



A funeral Mass was celebrated for Deacon Donald M. Hammond at Sacred Heart, Bluefield, West Virginia, on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Jude, Christiansburg, at a later date. Deacon Hammond, 70, died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.

In December 2021, Deacon Hammond was assigned to St. Jude, Christiansburg, where he was serving at the time of his death. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in 2004 and served there for 18 years before moving to Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Loretta Hammond; daughters, Amy Hammond and Laura (Eric) Hubble; grandchildren Andrew and Natalina Hubble; siblings, Julie (John) Francisco, Lori (Craig) Dorencamp, Robert Stafford Jr., Sarah (Jay) Bosco and John (Donna) Hammond; uncle, James Hammond; stepmother, Linda Hammond; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John S. Hammond, and Carol and Robert Stafford Sr.; brother, Sean M. Hammond; sister-in-law, Heidi Hammond.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Ernest S. Sorady



A funeral Mass was celebrated for Ernest S. Sorady, father of Deacon Daniel Sorady, at St. Matthew, Virginia Beach, on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022. Mr. Sorady, 88, died on Sunday, Dec. 25.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. Sorady spent many years in Medford, N.Y., and Port St. Lucie, Fla., before moving to Virginia Beach. He served in the United States Navy and was a veteran of the Korean War.

Mr. Sorady is survived by his children, “Skip” (Joanne) Sorady, Deacon Daniel (Cathy) Sorady, Donna (Jeff) Fisher, Kevin (Debbie) Sorady, Thomas (Ada) Sorady, and John (Karen) Sorady; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Rosemary “Rosie” Sorady; parents, Anne and Ernest Sorady; brother, Jack Sorady; and son-in-law, Jeff Fisher.

# Bristol Catholics peacefully work toward 'Safe Zone for Life'

## Resolutions proposed to limit abortion clinics in Bristol, Washington County

KAREN ADAMS

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Bristol, Virginia, “the birthplace of country music,” is known for its thriving music culture, Appalachian mountain setting, and the state line that runs down its main street, separating it from Bristol, Tennessee.

Father Chris Hess, pastor of St. Anne, Bristol, since 2018, hopes the city remains famous for those things and not for the abortion clinic that moved from the Tennessee side of the state line, just a mile down the street from the parish, after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June.

The decision gave abortion rights decisions to individual states. Abortion is now illegal in Tennessee but remains legal in Virginia.

“We’ve had so much international media attention; everyone is talking about Bristol,” said Father Hess, who has spoken to journalists from Sweden and New Zealand. “But we don’t want to be known for this.”

Instead, he said, he and others are working to make the city a “Safe Zone for Life.”

In response to the opening

of the clinic, which drew an outcry from many Bristol residents, The Family Foundation of Virginia helped draft a proposed resolution that would limit the clinic from expanding or relocating; it also would prevent any future clinics that offer abortion services from opening in Bristol, an independent city. A similar resolution was proposed for surrounding Washington County soon afterward.

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, The Family Foundation organized a pro-life rally outside Bristol’s city hall before that day’s public city council meeting. The crowd of about 200 was orderly and respectful, Father Hess said.

“Our emphasis is on ‘peaceful,’” he noted. “We are keeping our distance from people – on either side of the issue – who are not peaceful.”

Speaking at the meeting, he addressed the health of the city beyond religious beliefs.

“You don’t have to agree with anything I believe to see that what’s happening right now is not good for this city,” he said, explaining that the clinic will likely attract out-of-state



Father Chris Hess, pastor of St. Anne, Bristol, speaks to a crowd gathered at the public city council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, in favor of the proposed resolution to limit the existing abortion clinic in Bristol and to prevent any new clinics from opening. (Submitted photo)

protesters on both sides of the issue, as well as clients.

Legally complex, both resolutions passed and were sent to their planning committees. As of this writing, they are awaiting decisions that likely will come later in January.

In an area where Catholics are a minority, and sometimes unpopular, it is especially important to have a Catholic presence among other Christian denominations and show what the Church stands for, and to do it peacefully and prayerfully, said Father Hess.

“This is an opportunity for the Catholic Church to step up and let

people know that this is our belief, this is our faith,” he said.

Because Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia have all passed bans on abortion, he worries that “beautiful Bristol” may become a multistate hub of the abortion industry.

“We are speaking out about it, even though some people are not happy about what we’re doing – even people on our own side,” he said.

### ‘Abortion affects everyone’

In 2020, after Dr. Jacquelyn Early

See *Bristol*, Page 13

# National March for Life planned for January 20

## 50th annual event will continue ‘changing hearts and minds’ post-Roe

KATE SCANLON  
OSV News

WASHINGTON – As the March for Life prepares to hold its 50th annual event later this month, the national organization is taking its first steps into a post-Roe landscape.

The March for Life first took place in Washington, D.C., in 1974 in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide the previous year. Pro-life advocates have gathered in Washington to march each year since then to protest the ruling, with a smaller-in-scale event during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

But the Supreme Court’s June 2022 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* that overturned *Roe* led some to question whether the national march would continue as a protest up Constitution Avenue ending at the high court itself.

Jeanne Mancini, March for Life president, told OSV News there was a “discernment process” about how the March would proceed, but it was clear they would continue the annual event.

“In a way, it was almost not a question because we have become the largest, longest running human rights demonstration worldwide,” Mancini said. “And the idea of shutting that down, while the human rights abuse of abortion is still sadly wildly rampant in the United States, just would make no sense.”

While the national event was tied to *Roe*, Mancini said, “the deeper foundation of the March for Life and its reason for being is to march in opposition to the human rights abuse of abortion and to witness to the beautiful, inherent dignity of unborn children and their

*“(Not marching) was almost not a question because we have become the largest, longest running human rights demonstration worldwide, and the idea of shutting that down, while the human rights abuse of abortion is still sadly wildly rampant in the United States, just would make no sense.”*

– Jeanne Mancini  
March for Life president

mothers.”

While some changes were considered, Mancini said, such as potentially holding the March at a different time of year, March organizers “ultimately decided that we’re right where we should be, and we will continue to march in January.”

The 2023 March for Life’s theme is a nod to the pro-life movement’s new landscape: “Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America.”

Speakers at the 2023 March for Life event,

scheduled for Jan. 20, will include actor Jonathan Roumie, known for his role as Jesus in the biblical television drama “The Chosen,” as well as the musical group We Are Messengers.

Mancini said the March’s next steps include “the need to continue changing hearts and minds,” as well as enacting legislation and other advocacy work at both the state and the federal levels, and “increasing the safety net for families that are facing an unexpected pregnancy.”

“We really have our work cut out for us,” Mancini said.

Mancini pointed to another Supreme Court decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) – which declared racial segregation legal under the U.S. Constitution – as an example of an egregious ruling the high court overturned decades later in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). Even then, she pointed out, more hard work remained to be done for racial integration following that decision.

“It puts some perspective on where we are with our human rights abuses and how it does take time to change culture,” Mancini said.

While pro-life leaders have hailed the *Dobbs* decision for overturning *Roe*, they have seen a series of ballot losses for the pro-life cause in its wake. During the Nov. 8 midterm elections, voters in five U.S. states with ballot measures concerning abortion either rejected moves to restrict abortion, or they voted to codify abortion access.

Winning hearts and minds, and the ballot box, requires making the case for pro-life policies with compassion, Mancini said.

“We want to do everything possible to be as loving and as compassionate, and yet as honest and clear, as possible,” she said.

# God is with us in every season of life

## GUEST COMMENTARY

GREG ERLANDSON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

There are a lot of joys about being a grandparent, but for starters, it lets us relive those first months and years of being a parent.

We've got a lot of mileage on our odometer now, but at one time, all of us grandparents held a precious new life for the first time in our arms when our own children were born. We wondered what he or she would become, what tales they'd tell, what adventures they'd have.

A grandchild lets us relive the same experience. It evokes the same dreams, yet now we know that whatever way forward, it is not without risk. This makes that grandchild in our arms even more precious, and our desire to protect even stronger, no matter how far away we are or how frequently we are able to visit.

This mix of feelings is the juxtaposition of the crib and the cross. Any parish Nativity scene is in the shadow of the crucifix. That shadow is the sword piercing Mary's heart even as she stares in plaster rapture at her new child. All of us can share that confluence of joy and

apprehension, knowing the promise and the pain that lie ahead. Like the Ukrainian babies born in bomb shelters or migrant babies born on perilous journeys to a new land, birth arrives with both promise and peril.

And yet knowing all those risks, we are still overcome by the birth of a child. As we gaze at this new human, this little creature with a whole lifetime before her, our thoughts may turn to our own life, to the roads taken and not taken, the "yeses" we gave, the "nos" we may regret.

Part of the aging process is that our long-term memory may feel as if it is getting stronger while our short-term memory may not feel as sharp. We can remember all the words to the Byrds' "Turn! Turn! Turn!" when it comes on the radio, but we can't remember the name of the actor whose movie we just saw.

Perhaps, as with the arrival of a grandchild, this is God's way of having us reflect on our lives, on our choices, our loves, our failings. Likewise, when we are gazing at our granddaughter and thinking of what is to come, our thoughts turn to what has happened in our own lives.

What is constant is change, both subtle and abrupt. Marriages start. Jobs end. Loved ones

are born and loved ones die. To everything there is a season, the psalm and the song say. Even that sweet baby we are holding in our arms becomes in a blink an energetic toddler racing around the living room with no time for embraces, and in another blink heads out the door.

This is the season of new birth. We celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child. We celebrate the arrival of a new year, a time of changes wished and fresh resolutions. In the darkest days of winter, we are filled with new hope, just as when we hold that new child.

And the lesson for all of us is Emmanuel: "God is with us." Amid the births and deaths, the losses, the changes, the new beginnings and the last chapters, God is with us. Some of us greet change with excitement, some with trepidation. Our faith tells us we are not alone.

And holding that little child swaddled in our arms, having her wrap her tiny fingers around our own finger, we tell her she is not alone either. Whatever the future holds, she is loved and welcomed and precious in our sight.

*Erlandson was director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service.*

### Remembering Msgr. Joseph Lehman

Reading the article about the Nativity set placed on the state capitol grounds (Catholic Virginian, Dec. 26) as well as the "In Memoriam" for my former pastor and boss at Our Lady of Nazareth (OLN), Roanoke, Msgr. Joseph P. Lehman III, reminded me of a homily he once gave during the Christmas season.

That day, Father Joe said this is how we keep Christ in Christmas. And he recited the famous poem by Howard Thurman from "The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations":

*"The Work of Christmas"  
When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,*

*When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.*

Later, in announcing his move to St. Bede, he told the parish that he would know we had listened to him if he heard OLN was continuing the good work we did when he was with us. We try, Father Joe, we try!

As a member of staff, I remember him often run-

ning out the office door to his next appointment, calling over his shoulder, "Love you." Our response was the only appropriate one, "Love you more!"

Rest in peace, Father Joe. Love you more.

**- Colleen Hernandez Salem**

### Advent lessons deepened

Over my lifetime, the season of Advent has evolved from childish anticipation of Christmas to the prayerful waiting for the incarnation of God in the form of a baby. Shockingly, Advent 2022 took on a much deeper meaning with the sudden illness of Msgr. Joe Lehman and the 10 days of hopeful prayer for his recovery. Despite some good

news of progress, he slipped from this world Dec. 13.

Father Joe's idea of Advent was no Christmas trees put up until Christmas Eve or later, and no Christmas parties either until ... later. Advent was preparation for the coming of our God at Christmas, not Christmas. We were to be still and listen and pray for the coming of Christ, while Christmas reminded us that God is among us in human form ... in our companions on the road.

This Advent, Father Joe got his face-to-face with God a bit earlier than we did, while we came to understand the meaning of his life in ours.

This humble, God-filled

man loved those he encountered in life and those entrusted to his care as pastor. He devoted himself to helping us connect with God, to facilitating our being in right relationship with our God and one another, and to showing us how to be one on the journey to eternal life. He was such an incredible gift - one to be cherished. We honor his memory by continuing to seek God in our lives as we help one another along the way.

As for Father Joe, we can be with him always in prayer as we wait for that joyful day of reunion in the life beyond.

**- Patti Peters Roanoke**



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# Faith, family, friends help artist recover from stroke

## Kathy Lynch focuses on 'what I can do'

KRISTEN L. BYRD

Special to The Catholic Virginian

**K**athy Boehling Lynch can't remember a time when she wasn't drawn to art. She jokingly declared a painting she created at the age 7 to be her first "masterpiece."

"One of my first art pieces was a very large frog holding a group of balloons," she said. "Underneath were the words 'Frogs can't fly.' This was painted on my bedroom wall, and my sisters and I still laugh about it."

A graduate of St. Bridget Catholic School and St. Gertrude High School in Richmond, Lynch said some of her most cherished memories are from the Catholic schools in which she was educated. She still has some of the same friends she met in class decades ago.

She was also a parishioner of St. Bridget Catholic Church, Richmond, who loved Sundays when she would dress up for morning Mass and then spend the rest of the day with her family, finishing the evening at her grandmother's house for dinner. Family, faith and art were constants in her life.

That changed in 2007 when Lynch, then 45, was diagnosed with a tumor on her brainstem. While the tumor was successfully removed during surgery, she suffered a hemorrhagic stroke while in the recovery room. The right side of her face was left paralyzed, and she became deaf in her right ear. She couldn't walk, turn over or swallow. She became dependent on a feeding tube and started a long journey of physical therapy.

"I was very discouraged, felt sorry for myself, and asked God, 'Why?'" she said.

Lynch explained that she leaned hard on her faith, as she had throughout her life, as well as on her loved ones to keep going.

"My family, friends, and belief in God played an important role in my recovery," she said.

Her husband, Joe, stayed with her every night of her four-week long stay in the hospital. Her children, sisters and friends often visited, all trying to make her smile.

Once simple tasks like opening jars or folding laundry became major undertakings that took all of her concentration and strength to conquer. After months of prayer and hard work, she was eventually able to walk again and had her feeding tube removed, but her right side and balance are still severely impaired.

The hand she had used to paint the world as she saw it could no longer hold a paintbrush. Canvases she would have filled with color were left blank. It would be years before Lynch would even try to create art again.

### Mouse becomes paintbrush

As she was painting rocks with her granddaughter one day, Lynch realized how much she missed art. She tried to draw some basic doodles with her left hand, but was frustrated that despite her best efforts, she still could not control her left hand the way she once controlled her right.

Seeing her struggle, Joe and the couple's sons, Brian and Kevin, bought her a computer with digital art programs.

"It turned everything around for me," she said. "The mouse became my paintbrush. It was much easier to control with my disabilities. I just dove in and, over time, got better."

Long before her stroke, Lynch created window displays for a small Richmond boutique. It was here that she met Grace Moore, who would



Above: A digital painting created by Kathy Lynch depicts the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. Lynch taught herself how to create digital art after a hemorrhagic stroke impaired her ability to use a paintbrush. Left: Kathy Lynch creates digital art on her laptop. She said she is inspired by things she sees or hears about from others. (Photos provided)

greatly impact Lynch's life. Moore suffered crippling arthritis from a young age but, according to Lynch, she never complained. She just kept going.

Moore encouraged Lynch to pursue her love of art in the face of any obstacles. Decades later, Lynch still thinks of Moore during particularly tough times.

"She was the angel sent to me," said Lynch. "Whenever I feel challenged, I think of Grace, appropriately-named, and how she faced problems with grace and dignity."

Lynch has been creating digital art for seven years but didn't start showing her friends and family her work until about two years ago.

She uses mostly bold and bright colors in her artwork. She said she is inspired by things she sees or hears about from others. Her subjects range from well-known landmarks like the Rotunda at UVA and the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, to wildflowers, trees and the sea.

"I think I am more creative now than earlier," she said. "I see things differently now."

### From ordinary to extraordinary

Lynch has her own shop on Etsy, called BoehStudio. There, she proclaims, "My journey began ordinary and became extraordinary."

Prints of Lynch's artwork are also for sale in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart's gift shop.

"I decided not to look at what I can't do, but what I can," said Lynch. "Art is my therapy. I love digital art. It gives me time to reflect and allows me to express myself and makes others happy. It

is so fulfilling."

Through her faith, Lynch said she was able to see silver linings in everything, even her stroke.

"My brain tumor and stroke kept my family close. My sons stayed in-state for college, met their lovely wives, and gave me beautiful grandchildren whom I adore," she said. "It made me see life is a precious thing and to appreciate everything around us."

Lynch's family continues to support her during her recovery.

Her grandchildren encouraged her to fulfill her lifelong dream of writing a children's book. "My Dragon Wears Red High-Tops" was recently published and is available on Amazon.

The whimsical book follows the footwear of a dragon as he journeys through different activities and seasons. Lynch dedicated it to her grandchildren, writing on the dedication page, "You inspire me every day. Don't try to fill someone else's shoes; yours are a beautiful fit." She has two more books in the works.

Lynch hopes her story will encourage others who have experienced similar situations to not give up on themselves. She said she is thankful for her past pain, as it helped create her now bright future.

"I believe God does everything for a reason," she said. "There are days I still get discouraged, but I remember all that I have that is beautiful, and I go on."

*Editor's note: To see Lynch's work, please visit <https://www.etsy.com/shop/BoehStudio>.*

# Five years of 'Christ Our Hope'

JANNA REYNOLDS  
The Catholic Virginian

**B**ishop Barry C. Knestout was appointed the 13th bishop of Richmond by Pope Francis on Dec. 5, 2017, and installed at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on Jan. 12, 2018.

In his first three years as shepherd of Richmond, the bishop visited every parish in the diocese at least once. In a May 2019 column, the bishop wrote, "One of the things with which these visits has provided me is a deepening appreciation and understanding of how pastors, staff and parishioners use their time, talent, energy and resources to enhance the life of the parish and its members."

Throughout his first five years in Richmond, Bishop Knestout has journeyed with the faithful. Here are some highlights:

### Leading through COVID

With the health and safety of the faithful a priority in the Diocese of Richmond, several restrictions for gatherings were implemented

in parishes and schools after the COVID-19 pandemic was announced in March 2020. In an effort to help the Body of Christ stay connected at a time when people could not physically be together, Bishop Knestout celebrated the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, livestreamed each week, through June 2021. Events such as ordinations and prayer services were also livestreamed during this time.

### Atoning for sins of the Church

On Sept. 14, 2018, Bishop Knestout published his pastoral letter, "From Tragedy to Hope," in which he outlined steps he would take to begin reparations for clergy sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. That evening, he celebrated a Mass of Atonement at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, which was followed by regional Masses of Atonement and listening sessions. A comprehensive timeline of the diocese's response to the abuse crisis is available at [richmonddiocese.org/diocese-response](http://richmonddiocese.org/diocese-response).

### Ordinations

Since his installation, Bishop Knestout has ordained 13 priests and 34 permanent deacons. At the time of publication, two transitional deacons ordained in May 2022 were anticipating ordination to the priesthood in 2023. Additionally, the bishop has celebrated World Day for Consecrated Life annually at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

### Ecumenical bonds

In November 2018, more than a year after a "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville turned deadly, Bishop Knestout joined leaders of Virginia's LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist) Conference to pray for peace. It was his first meeting with the conference and his first opportunity to sign the LARCUM covenant. The diocese remains active within the conference.

### Migrant, Haiti and prison ministries

In August 2019, Bishop Knestout celebrated Mass at a Cheriton migrant camp on Virginia's

## Installation



Bishop Barry C. Knestout holds the papal bull declaring him bishop of Richmond at the Mass during which he was installed, Jan. 12, 2018. (Photo/Jaclynn Lipplemann)

## Virginia LARCUM Conference



Bishop Knestout, Rev. Sharma Lewis, bishop of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, left, and Rev. Robert F. Humphrey, bishop of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA, right, attend a prayer for peace event in Charlottesville, Nov. 30, 2018. (Photo/Joseph Staniunas)

## Migrant



Bishop Knestout administers the Eucharist during a Mass celebrated for one of the 12 migrant camps on Aug. 18, 2019. (Photo/Jennifer Neville)

July 2018 – Henrico County Jail Visit

2018

2019

August 2019 – First Diocesan Pastoral

## Mass of Atonement



During the Mass of Atonement at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on Sept. 14, 2018, Bishop Knestout removes his episcopal ring, miter and crozier in an act of humility before lying prostrate before the cross. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

## Ordinations



Bishop Knestout ordained 19 men to the permanent diaconate at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, Sept. 15, 2018. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

## Diocesan



Bishop Knestout at the Diocesan Youth Conference in 2020. (Photo/Vy Ba)



# in the Diocese of Richmond



Eastern Shore, during which several individuals received sacraments of initiation. Volunteers involved with the Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry continue to support migrants. The bishop met with inmates at Henrico County Jail in July 2018 and has regularly participated in Haiti Commission meetings since his installation. The twinning relationship between the Diocese of Richmond and the Diocese of Hinche continues to flourish under his pastoral care.

### Supporting youth

Bishop Knestout continues to visit Catholic schools across the Diocese of Richmond to celebrate Mass and bless new or renovated learning spaces and chapels. He has attended the Diocesan Youth Conference and College Summit every year, and has visited various work sites and celebrated Mass during the annual Diocesan Work Camp in Wise County.

### Cultural diversity

Bishop Knestout often gives thanks for the diocese's cultural diversity by celebrating Mass

for various groups that compose the collective voice of the local Church of Richmond and by attending cultural events.

### Racial healing

Bishop Knestout said early in his service in Richmond that he wanted to ensure the continuation of the diocesan Office for Black Catholics. In November 2018, he met with Black Catholic leaders and priests who serve Black parishes to discuss how to achieve that goal. In December 2018, Deacon Charles Williams was named director and led the office until his death in January 2022. In July 2022, Msgr. Walter Barrett Jr. was appointed interim director of that office. He was succeeded by Father Tochi Iwuji in December 2022.

### Meeting with the lay faithful

Bishop Knestout embraced the voices of the faithful when he implemented the Diocesan Pastoral Council and met with the group for the first time in August 2019. The council provides consultation to the bishop on matters of policy, pastoral initiatives and pastoral plan-

ning. The first annual Heralds of Faith event for catechists was held at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, in September 2021. The event was held in Virginia Beach in October 2022, and an event for the Central Vicariate is planned for 2023. Additionally, Bishop Knestout has commissioned as lay ecclesial ministers 35 people who have completed formation through the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute since his installation.

### Pro-life witness

Bishop Knestout continues to be immersed in pro-life activities as bishop of Richmond. He has regularly joined 40 Days for Life vigils to pray the rosary. He has participated in the Virginia March for Life since its inauguration in April 2019 and has regularly attended the national March for Life in Washington. In February 2022, Bishop Knestout celebrated Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington for Virginia's first annual Defending Life Day, which brought together more than 300 Virginians to encourage legislators to defend life from the moment of conception to natural death.

## Confirmation Mass



...e sacrament of confirmation for approximately 300 people at Our Lady of the Eastern Shore, Virginia's Eastern Shore,

## Racial healing

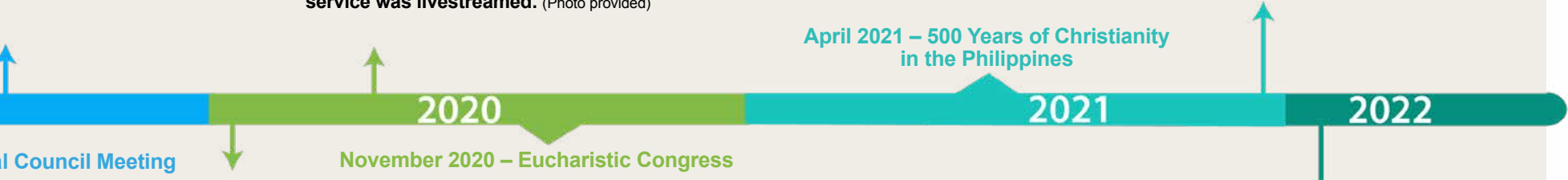


Bishop Knestout and the late Deacon Charles Williams are pictured at a prayer service for racial healing led by the deacon at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, June 11, 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, the service was livestreamed. (Photo provided)

## Heralds of Faith



Bishop Knestout distributes communion during the first annual Heralds of Faith event for catechists at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, Sept. 18, 2021. (Photo/Vy Barto)



## Diocesan Youth Conference



...ut helps package meals for Rise Against Hunger at the Diocesan Youth Conference held at the Richmond Convention Center, February 2022. (Photo/Janna Reynolds)

## Defending Life Day



Bishop Knestout and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington greet the faithful as they leave Mass at the Pro-Cathedral of St. Peter, Richmond, on the first annual Defending Life Day, Feb. 9, 2022. (Photo/Janna Reynolds)

# Speak and act with the intention of glorifying God



IN LIGHT OF FAITH  
BARBARA HUGHES

As a fun Christmas gift, I ordered socks with the image of Our Lady of Grace for friends who are members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary religious community. What I didn't expect from the website where I ordered the socks (catholiccompany.com) is that ever since, an email with the Morning Offering, a quote from or about the saint of the day, and a brief meditation arrive in my email inbox. It turns out that my little gift has become a gift that keeps on giving.

Each morning as I pray the Morning Offering, I am reminded that everything we do or experience can be efficacious when offered to God. Not only is it a wonderful way to begin each day, but it reminds me to pause throughout the day, and consider if what I'm saying and doing is a worthy gift.

When offered to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, every action has the potential to be holy because they have already been blessed early in the day. Intention is important because it's not about what we do, but the love with which we do them that glorifies God. This was at the heart of St. Therese's spirituality.

Intentionality also reminds me of advice that Thomas Merton offered to writers. He claimed that when writers write for the glory of God, their words reach many people and bring them joy. If they write

to impress others or for money, they might make a bit of noise in the world for a short while but are soon forgotten. However, and worst of all, is that if they write for themselves, they will be quite disgusted and even go so far as to wish they were dead.

I can't help but wonder if we couldn't apply the same mindset to what we say and do. So many of our words or actions may appear trivial or simply part of everyday life. However, when we offer them to God, all our intentions become a means of grace. On the other hand, if every word or action is performed for our own gratification, they are as good as dead because they add nothing to our spiritual life.

Jesus said we are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Obviously, it's impossible for us to achieve perfection on our own, but with God's grace, anything is possible. When we offer everything to God, he unites our thoughts, words and deeds with his saving grace and purifies us in the process in a way that only God can do.

If this sounds too good to be true, consider that the God of the universe became one of us to teach us how to live and love by dying on the cross.

When we begin the day by praying the Morning Offering and end it with an examination of conscience and a sincere act of contrition, they are bookends that hold together all we say and do for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls.

One of the quotes that appeared in my email inbox the other day is from St. Basil the Great who wrote:



iStock

"When you sit down to eat, pray. When you eat bread, do so thanking Him for being so generous to you. If you drink wine, be mindful of Him who has given it to you for your pleasure and as a relief in sickness. When you dress, thank Him for His kindness in providing you with clothes. When you look at the sky and the beauty of the stars, throw yourself at God's feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator."

We may not consciously lift our every thought, word and deed

to God as many of the saints have done, but it's certainly a goal worth striving for, and in the meantime, we can begin each day by praying:

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.*

Barbara Hughes is an author, retreat facilitator and spiritual guide. She lives in Virginia Beach and can be reached at brhughes16@gmail.com.

## Watch, look, listen and you will know God's call



BELIEVE AS  
YOU PRAY  
DEACON CHRISTOPHER COLVILLE

As we begin Ordinary Time, the Church gives us readings about the call of God. They speak to us about this calling and, as a result, our purpose in life.

Isaiah tells us he was called to be God's servant, not only "to raise up Jacob and restore Israel," but also "to be a light for the nations."

In the letter to the Corinthians, Paul identifies himself as one "called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God."

John the Baptist tells us he was called by God so "Jesus may be made known to Israel" (31). By giving an account of what he saw, the dove descending upon Jesus, and what he was told — that this is how he would recognize the Messiah — he is giving direct evidence of Jesus' identity.

We can't give direct evidence that Jesus was born, that he was baptized in the Jordan or that

a dove descended upon him. We haven't seen these things, but we have been called to testify to them, and the witness of John and the early Christians and Scripture show us the way. By virtue of our baptism, our lives are different.

Tim O'Malley, academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, wrote in an Advent reflection dated Dec. 18, 2022, "The birth of Christ gives new meaning to the daily lives of every man and woman...it changes everything."

The challenge is to find that new meaning. Maybe it became evident or reaffirmed during the Christmas season. Perhaps it will become evident over the next few weeks with our readings about being called. Be assured that the call is there, and if we look for it, watch for it or listen for it, we will

know it.

No one is so lost or so far from the Kingdom of God that they can't be called. In the reading from Acts of The Apostles on the feast of St. Stephen, we hear how Saul sat watching the stoning of Stephen. The line immediately after this reading tells us that Saul was in agreement with the stoning. I can't imagine being any fur-

ther from Jesus than concurring with the death of one of his most faithful followers.

No one is so insignificant that they don't have a role to play in sharing the message, the Good News of Christ. In the novel "A Christmas Carol," we see this clearly. Bob Cratchit relates to his wife what Tiny Tim said on their way home from church on Christmas morning: "He told me that he hoped the people saw him, because he was a cripple and so it might be pleasant for them to remember who made the lame walk and the blind see."

We are all called in some way to testify to the truth, to share the Gospel message. Regardless of our state in life or whatever category we fall into or put ourselves in, we are all called to be evidence of God's presence in the world.

The Psalmist proclaims the Lord doesn't look for holocausts from us, rather the Lord wants us to hear and do God's will. Each of us is called to testify to the truth, to do God's will through our actions and in our words.

How are we called testify to the truth, to give witness to the Gospel? How are we called to do God's will?

Deacon Christopher Colville serves at Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville.

### Second Sunday Ordinary Time Cycle A

Is 49:5-6; Ps 40: 2,4,7-10;  
1 Cor 1: 1-3; Jn 1:29-34

# Tens of thousands pay last respects to Pope Benedict

Faithful from across the globe visit St. Peter's Basilica before funeral Mass

CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Tens of thousands of people streamed through St. Peter's Basilica to pay their last respects to the late Pope Benedict XVI.

While Rome authorities had predicted between 30,000 and 35,000 visitors a day, some 65,000 people filed past the pope's body Jan. 2 – the first of three days dedicated to public viewing. More than 25,000 people were counted by midday Jan. 3 with another seven hours left to go and 12 hours of visiting scheduled for Jan. 4.

A damp chill hung in the air at 9 in the morning when the doors of the basilica opened to the public on the first of three days to view the pope's body. Outdoor souvenir sellers were well-stocked with rosaries Jan. 2, but they seemed to have been caught off guard with a plethora of touristy tchotchkes and few to no images or mementos of the late pope.

A quiet hush covered the vast expanse of St. Peter's Square each day even though it was filled with thousands of people slowly winding their way around the colonnade into St. Peter's Basilica.

Special accommodations, however, were made for cardinals, bishops, current and retired Vatican employees, and dignitaries who were allowed access from the back of the basilica and offered a place to sit or kneel on either side of the pope's body, which was laid out in red vestments on a damask-covered platform.

Before the doors opened to the general public, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, the archpriest of the basilica and papal vicar for Vatican City State, accompanied Italian President Sergio Mattarella and his entourage and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and



Left: People pay their respects at the body of Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 2, 2023. Right: Pope Benedict XVI leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 20, 2011. (CNS photos/Paul Haring)

other government ministers to pay homage to the late pope. Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán paid his respects early Jan. 3.

Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, said that by early afternoon Jan. 3 some 600 journalists, photographers and camera operators from around the world were accredited to cover the funeral.

The first people in line outside the basilica Jan. 2 was a group of religious sisters from the Philippines, who said they got there at 5:30 a.m.

People kept slowly arriving before sunrise, including a group from Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin, led by Father Richard Kunst of Duluth. The priest told Catholic News Service that he was leading a tour of Rome the day Pope Benedict died.

Being able to see and pay homage to the late pope made the group part of "a really incredible piece of history," he said.

Father Felipe de Jesús Sánchez, who is from Mexico and is studying in Rome, told CNS that he saw Pope Benedict as "a simple man, humble,

a model, who didn't have as much fame as John Paul II, but he was the mind behind him."

"For me, in my personal opinion, he was an authentic testimony of what it means to be Christian and a disciple of Jesus," he said.

Father Matthew Schmitz was with a group of 90 young people from ECYD, an international Catholic youth organization affiliated with Regnum Christi.

"We were praying while we were waiting, we prayed the rosary" and went inside the basilica in silence, he told CNS.

Daniela Romero, a member of the group from Guatemala, said, "to be able to come here and see that we are representing and supporting the church is a blessing."

Father Justin Kizewski happened to be traveling with a group of 45 seminarians and nine priests on pilgrimage from Madison, Wisconsin.

He said, "I've been privileged to accompany him through his pontificate: I was here in the square when he was elected, I was here in the

square when he resigned, and now here when he's lying in state."

"When we read his writings, or heard him preach, or saw him celebrate the Mass, we really saw a man that cares for his sheep and gives us an example of how to care for ours," he said.

Sugey Viramontes from Mexico told CNS that, "without a doubt, his example of simplicity, and above all how he spent his last few years, always in prayer, is a great example for us young people."

Inside the basilica, staff and security kept visitors moving smoothly and quickly, letting people stop before the pope's remains long enough to make the sign of the cross and take a picture or two before being asked quietly to "Please, move along."

However, many took advantage of the large nooks and niches in the basilica to press up against a wall or barricade and linger just a little while longer.

Pope Francis was scheduled to preside over his predecessor's funeral Mass Jan. 5.

## Benedict XVI

Continued from Page 1

committed to the Church supporting their journey toward healing and doing all that was possible to ensure the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults."

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, called on his diocese to both "unite in prayer" for the retired pope as they mourn and also give thanks to God for Pope Benedict's "example and witness."

"A devoted student of the Word of God and steeped in the Church's liturgical and theological tradition, he was able to engage the modern world with intellectual clarity and pastoral charity," Bishop Burbidge said.

As a scholar and churchman his whole life, Pope Benedict XVI "showed us what it means to fulfill the ancient command to love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind," said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago.

"As the last pope who attended the Second Vatican Council, he has served as a bridge to the future, reminding us all that the reform and renewal of the Church is ongoing," the cardinal said in a Dec. 31 statement.

### Intellect, humility

"The human family grieves the passing of this erudite, wise and holy man, who spoke the truth with love," New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a Dec. 31 statement.

Cardinal Dolan said the New York Archdiocese "remembers with love" the pope's pastoral visit there in 2008. The visit included an address to the United Nations; Mass at Yankee Stadium; prayers at Ground Zero, the site of the former World Trade Center's twin towers, brought down by the 9/11 terrorist attack; and a historic visit to a U.S. synagogue.

Many U.S. bishops also reflected on how Pope Benedict's intellectual contributions and humility went hand-in-hand, rooted in a life of following Jesus Christ.

Bishop Donald J. Hying of Madison, Wisconsin said one found in Pope Benedict "a remarkable convergence of the soul, intellect, heart and will of a man radically convicted of the truth of the Gospel and fully dedicated to serving the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church."

"He knew who he was before the Lord, without pretense or artifice," Bishop Hying said in a statement. "This humility grounded him through the trials, difficulties, and controversies of his varied and demanding life, poured out for Christ and the saving truth of our beautiful Catholic faith."

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego also reflected on Pope Benedict XVI's death with "sadness and gratitude," saying he served God "with sacrifice and courage, brilliance and wisdom, humility and kindness for his entire life."

"He was a theologian of immense depth, a caring pastor and a prayerful servant who unswervingly sought to follow the pathway to which God was calling him," Cardinal McElroy said.

"In loving Jesus Christ, he brought grace to the Church and ennobled or world."

**Support**

*Continued from Page 4*

thing that's going on right now, and food," Deacon Young said.

According to the deacon, higher prices for "building materials and all the stuff associated with repairs around a church" will also affect the Mission Co-op Program.

**Building relationships**

This program, he said, not only provides financial assistance to mission parishes so they can complete needed and necessary projects, but it also offers an opportunity for "connectivity" and building relationships.

"The Mission Co-op Program is an exciting program, I think, within the (host) parishes because they get the visiting priests," Deacon Young said.

Father Tochi Iwuji, pastor of the Central Virginia Catholic Cluster that consists of St. Theresa, Farmville; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone; and Sacred Heart, Meherrin, has participated in the Mission Co-op Program for two years. The cluster had been involved with the program before he was assigned there in 2021.

Through the program, he has visited St. Joan of Arc, Yorktown, in November 2021 and St. Edward the Confessor, North Chesterfield, in May 2022.

Father Iwuji said the program is "a good way to get people to participate" and "helps other parishes to know and understand how diverse the diocese is."

He also noted that both parishes benefit from participation in the Mission Co-op Program.

The parish for whom the second collection is taken up is able to "accomplish more than we could have if we're dependent on the resources that we have," he said.

For example, the generosity of the St. Edward parishioners helped all three churches in the Central Virginia Cluster make some needed improvements. At St. Theresa, part of the roof was replaced. At Immaculate Heart of Mary, three large trees that were a risk were removed. At Sacred Heart, materials to repair the pavilion were purchased.

Father Iwuji said the program also gives the host parish "an opportunity to participate in the universal mission of the Church by being supportive of those who are not as fortunate as they are."

He explained, "That establishes the universal nature of the Church whereby we pool our resources together to live the mission of Christ and the Church."

Father Iwuji had advice for parishes who may be considering participation in the co-op program.

"If you don't try, you won't know how beautiful it is," he said, "so just do it."

*Editor's note: More information about the grants overseen by the Office of the Propagation of the Faith can be found at [richmond.diocese.org/propagation-of-the-faith](http://richmond.diocese.org/propagation-of-the-faith).*

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH®**

**Gospel for January 8, 2023**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of Epiphany, Cycle A: The Magi visit the Holy Land. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HEROD	STAR	RISING
HOMAGE	CHIEF PRIESTS	PEOPLE
JUDEA	PROPHET	JUDAH
LEAST	SHEPHERD	SECRETLY
DILIGENTLY	CHILD	FOUND HIM
STOPPED	ENTERING	HOUSE
MARY	GIFTS	A DREAM

**A SEARCH**

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E C H I L D E P P O T S
A D R E A M A R Y J T H
E H I A N A G W K S F O
D E L L T A N L E J O M
U R Y A I S I I F G U A
J O C H O G R I S I N G
U D R E H P E H S F D E
D C H O F Y T N K T H L
A X U E I L N L T S I P
H S I J Y L E J F L M O
E H J S E C R E T L Y E
C L E A S T E H P O R P
    
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**POLISH NIGHT: AN IN-PERSON CELEBRATION OF FOOD AND DANCE**

**Saturday February 4, 2023 Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.**

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Bishop Barry C. Knestout incenses the Eucharist during Benediction at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on the feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 19, 2022. The National Eucharistic Revival opened that day. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

# National Eucharistic Revival will focus on parishes in 2023

## Will invite Catholics to 'a transformative encounter with Christ in the Eucharist'

MARIA WIERING  
OSV News

How can Catholics' experience of the Eucharist deepen their friendship with Jesus Christ and then inspire them to share that friendship with others? That question lies at the heart of the National Eucharistic Revival's upcoming Year of Parish Revival, said Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress.

"We're trying to be part of missionary conversion of every parish, every school, every university, every apostolate, every religious order in the United States," he told OSV News.

The three-year Eucharistic Revival is currently in its first year, the Year of Diocesan Revival. The second year, the Year of Parish Revival, begins June 11. While diocesan year efforts have focused on forming priests, diocesan staff and other Church leaders, efforts in the parish year will turn to Catholics in the pew, Glemkowski said.

"The full process of evangelization is about a ... personal encounter that changes our life – the invitation to a depth of discipleship," he said. "What we're inviting parishes to do is to follow a similar trajectory."

The revival opened June 19, 2022, on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, a feast that celebrates Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist. Many dioceses marked the day last year with Eucharistic processions.

Speaking to the media in November about the revival, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, said the beauty and diversity expressed in those processions "capture what is at the heart of this movement, which is a movement that we seek to invite people to a transformative encounter with Christ in the Eucharist that they might be healed, unified and sent on mission."

The diocesan year has included the launch of Heart of the Revival weekly e-newsletter, expanded content on the National Eucharistic Revival's website (eucharisticrevival.

org) and the training of more than 50 priests from around the U.S. to be Eucharistic preachers.

Following the parish year, the Eucharistic Revival's third and final year, 2024-2025, is the Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary Sending. A National Eucharistic Congress is expected to draw more than 80,000 people to Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024. Organizers have compared the event to World Youth Day, with prayer and liturgies, catechesis for individuals and families, and a festival-like atmosphere. Registration is expected to open in February.

The National Eucharistic Congress nonprofit, for which Glemkowski is executive director, formed in 2022 to plan the national event. Bishop Cozzens serves as chairman of its board of directors.

The idea for a Eucharistic revival was conceived while Bishop Robert E. Barron – then an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and now head of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota – was chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, and after a 2019 Pew Research Center survey found that only 31% of Catholics believed in the Real Presence.

When Bishop Cozzens became the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis' chairman in 2020, he continued with plans for the revival. In 2021, the U.S. bishops voted to approve the initiative. In November 2022, the bishops elected Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis, in whose archdiocese the National Eucharistic Congress will take place, to succeed Bishop Cozzens as chairman of the evangelization and catechesis committee in November 2023.

An unpublished study from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington recently found that 40% of Catholics said they believe the Church's teaching on the real pres-

See *Revival*, Page 14

## Bristol

Continued from Page 5

had to step away from her job as a Bristol emergency room physician due to a leg injury that is still healing, she was looking for a new purpose. A mother of two, she now leads the pro-life ministry at St. Anne Parish.

A cradle Catholic, she has always been pro-life, she said. "And as a physician, naturally I do everything I can to save a life, anyone's life. 'Do no harm' is what we promise as doctors."

She stressed the fact that abortion affects everyone, whether one is for or against it, she said, noting that not all people may realize this.

"When I was tending a patient in the ER who had taken the abortion pill and she was in so much pain and emotional distress, bleeding and crying for me to 'put it back,' it really affected me," she said. "And then I was handling this tissue that had been expelled. I am part of this."

Such situations can be personally traumatic for some medical professionals, she explained. She described a female colleague who asked to be excused from that case, as she had recently miscarried a baby she very much wanted and was distressed trying to care for someone who had ended her own pregnancy voluntarily.

Early said, "Lifesaving is my job, and I take it seriously, just like Father Chris," who was a paramedic and firefighter for 17 years before becoming a priest 10 years ago.

The pro-life ministry led by Early includes praying the rosary outside the clinic and on parish property, often with Father Hess, and a parish-wide "spiritual adoption" program in which parishioners pray for the unborn at risk for abortion and learn about prenatal development.

In December, the ministry also led a writing campaign that sent notes of love and encouragement to those seeking help at Pathways Pregnancy Center, a faith-based, interdenominational entity near the clinic but located across the state line that offers support to women and girls in crisis pregnancies.

"Like Mary, we must say 'yes' to life," Early said.

Although some Catholics may remain silent on the issue because they, too, have been affected by abortion in their lives – having had one or knowing of a loved one who did – Early said that women who regret their own abortions offer powerful voices to the discussion.

"Those who have learned how to talk about it are very

important," Father Hess added.

### 'Hope and help'

The path to reducing abortions must offer a way forward, said Joe Kerns, executive director of Pathways Pregnancy Center.

As head of a center that offers alternatives to abortion, Kerns supports the proposed resolutions.

Pathways seeks to advise clients about all their options when facing an unplanned pregnancy, including adoption, parenting and abortion. All services are free.

If clients are considering parenting, the center helps address such things as family support, employment and education opportunities, safe and secure housing, and financial stability. It also offers parenting classes.

Pathways serves women throughout their pregnancies and after birth for up to four years. The center provides baby clothes, diapers, wipes, cribs, toys, car seats and blankets. Pregnancy services include counseling, referrals for medical care, pregnancy testing and ultrasounds – with an ultrasound machine that was donated by St. Anne Knights of Columbus council.

The pro-life center does provide information about the different types of abortion and their risks, and offers post-abortion support, but it does not provide abortion services.

Kerns has a personal reason for recommending adoption in some cases.

"I was adopted myself at birth," he said, "and I am so grateful that my birth mother chose life for me. I tell our clients that."

Kerns said clients often come to Pathways feeling desperate, confused, afraid and hopeless.

"But we are here to offer hope and help," he said. "There is help no matter what their situation is."

Part of the strength of Pathways' work is the bond with the Catholic community, said Kerns, who is Protestant.

"The Catholic respect for life has brought a whole new vigor to this issue," he said.

Regardless of the outcome of the proposed resolutions, the compassionate movement of offering "hope and help" to those in crisis pregnancies has gained momentum in Bristol and beyond, Father Hess said.

"This is all about respect for life: the life being carried in the womb and the life of the mother who finds herself in a very difficult position," he said. "We want her to know she is loved, and she has options, and she has people who care for her."

## Knights providing buses to March for Life in DC

For the 39th year, the Knights of Columbus will provide free bus transportation for people in the Richmond metropolitan area to attend the 50th annual March For Life Rally in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023.

Seating on buses is limited and will be by reservation only. A registration fee may be required.

Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or approved temporary guardian with written permission.

Charter bus services are scheduled for the following locations:

**East End Pregnancy Center**, 4705 Nine Mile Road, Henrico, arrives at 7:30 a.m. for pick-up and departs by 7:45 a.m., then proceeds to the **Altria Theater**, 6 N. Laurel Street, Richmond (near the **Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**), for an 8 a.m. pick-up and departs by 8:15 a.m., then proceeds to **St. Paul Church**, Chamberlayne and Rennie Avenues, Richmond, for an 8:25 a.m. pick-up and departs by 8:35 a.m. Contact Jeffrey Gargiulo @ 804-836-9265 or jrgarg55@yahoo.com. Bus captain: Jeffrey Gargiulo.

**St. Joseph Church**, 828 Buford Road, Richmond, arrives at 8 a.m. for pick-up and departs by 8:30 a.m. Contact St. Joseph Church secretary @ 804-320-4932 or office@stjosephrichmond.org. Bus captain: Patrick Latimer.

**St. Edward the Confessor Church**, 2700 Dolfield Drive, Richmond, arrives at 7:30 a.m.

for pick-up and departs by 8 a.m., then proceeds to **St. Bridget Church**, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, for an 8:15 a.m. pick-up and departs by 8:30 a.m. Contact Tony Hackenberg @ 804-339-0267 or tjhack@hotmail.com. Bus captain: Tony Hackenberg.

**Columbian Center**, 2324 Pump Road, Henrico, arrives at 7:30 a.m. for pick-up and departs by 7:45 a.m.; then proceeds to **St. Michael the Archangel Church**, 4491 Springfield Road, Glen Allen, for an 8:15 a.m. pick-up and departs by 8:30 a.m. Contact Darius Yazdgerdi at 804-397-0754 or djyazdgerdi@gmail.com. Bus captain: Darius Yazdgerdi.

**Church of the Redeemer**, 8275 Meadowbridge Road, Mechanicsville, arrives at 7:30 a.m. for pick-up and departs by 7:45 a.m.; then proceeds to **Our Lady of Lourdes Church**, 8200 Woodman Road, Henrico, for an 8:05 a.m. pick-up and departs by 8:20 a.m. Contact Ed Gillikin Sr. at 804-397-9554 or EdGilli@msn.com. The bus then proceeds to **St. Mary of the Annunciation Church**, 10306 Ladysmith Road, Ladysmith; for a 9:20 a.m. pick-up and departs by 9:30 a.m. Contact Pat Brim at 410-336-9100 or pbrim01@gmail.com. Bus captain: Steve Gerloff.

Marchers must check-in at the pick-up location at least 30 minutes prior to the specified departure time and must bring a lunch, soft drinks, cell phone, KN-95 face mask, hat, gloves and suitable clothing for weather conditions. Buses will return by 6:30 p.m.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia has openings for the following positions:**

**Adoption program manager** to provide coordination, management, supervision and leadership to its adoption and post-adoption programs. Services provided will include supervision of adoption specialist and post-adoption case manager and student interns. The position will be responsible for completing home studies, searches, supervisory placement reports, court reports and coordination of post-adoption events and management of the post-adoption grant. Qualifications: Master's degree with five years of experience within a child-placing agency and at least one year in an administrative, supervisory or consultative capacity. Must be knowledgeable of Virginia's state licensure policies and procedures. Experience working with families with diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. Strong communication and interpersonal skills, knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching and adherence to a pro-life philosophy.

**Director of development & marketing** to lead its Development Department in overall development operations, manage fundraising activities and market the agency. Must be an experienced fundraiser knowledgeable of Catholic Social Teaching and adherence to a pro-life philosophy. We are ready for a committed, motivated individual, interested in working with a great group of individuals committed to moving families out of poverty, to market our services and take our agency to new heights! If interested, please send resume and cover letter to: hr@cceva.org. CCEVA is drug-free and an EOE.

**The Catholic Diocese of Richmond Office of Finance** is seeking a full-time finance project manager & auditor. This position is anticipated to last 18 months to support special projects. This position supports the Finance Office by providing monthly analysis of diocesan Catholic school financial statements, serving as financial analyst on parish and school specific projects and by performing parish and school internal audits on a cyclical basis as needed. This position will be an accounting resource and will

serve as ParishSoft subject matter expert.

The finance project manager & auditor is a full-time position (35 hours per week) scheduled for 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday. Occasionally, extra hours may be required. In state travel is required. Must maintain a good driving record. Hybrid remote telework is available after orientation period.

Interested candidates should provide a cover letter, resume and completed application (bit.ly/3GQsokh). For additional questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR generalist/recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org.

## SHORTTAKES

**All are welcome to join Father John Kazibwe** from the Church of the Epiphany on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan April 19-29, 2023. This 11-day tour to two countries for \$4,399 includes round-trip airfare, 4-star hotels, daily Mass, breakfast and dinner, and much more! A few places on the itinerary include the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Basilica of Agony, the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. We will spend two nights in Amman and visit Petra, one of the magnificent Seven Wonders of the World. For further information, please contact Alba Kim at 804-298-4035 or tours@albastours.com. You can also visit <https://www.albastours.com>. Reservations are available now. Spaces are limited.

**Single women ages 18-45 who may be hearing a call to a religious vocation** are invited to attend the Winter Mission for Peace, Jan. 13-15, held virtually and in Columbus, OH, New Haven, CT, and Great Bend, KS. The weekend will offer an opportunity to pray together and serve the community where they attend, as well as help virtual attendees find ways to serve in their own community. Attendees will also share their ideas for building peace and promoting justice in our troubled world. Participation is free, and some travel aid may be available. Register online at <https://bit.ly/319G8HD>. Contact Sister Mai-Dung Nguyen at 405-248-7027 or Mai-dung.Nguyen@opeace.org with questions.

## Revival

*Continued from Page 13*

ence, Bishop Cozzens told OSV News. While that's higher than the 2019 Pew study found, only 15% of Catholics surveyed by CARA said they go to Mass every Sunday, Bishop Cozzens said.

That 25% discrepancy shows there are Catholics who, despite their catechesis, "haven't encountered Jesus as a real, living person in the Eucharist," he said. "And that encounter is what changes everything."

Bishop Cozzens hopes the Year of Parish Revival starting in June particularly reaches those Catholics. "Maybe their kids go to a Catholic school or they bring their kids to religious ed. Maybe they come to Mass once a month. They think there's something here for them, but they haven't been fully brought in," he said.

That's one reason the parish year will emphasize small groups

"where they can begin to make friends, and they can share faith," the bishop said.

In November, Bishop Cozzens described the revival's goal as creating "a missionary conversion in the United States."

"What that means is that the average person in the pew sees that their job is not just to come to Mass and live their faith well," he told OSV News in December, "but their job is to look around at who's not coming to Mass and begin to ask, 'How can I help and begin to invite people into the Church?'"

"It's the cultural shift that the Church has to make from maintenance to mission," he continued. "We've been in maintenance mode for 500 years, and the culture walked away from us, and we're still in maintenance mode. ... So, the Eucharistic Revival isn't just about inviting people to renew their own relationship with the Eucharist. It's always renewal for mission. It's encounter leading to mission."



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# Últimas palabras de Benedicto XVI: “¡Señor, te amo!”

**M**onseñor Gänswein cuenta lo que dijo el Papa emérito en la noche pocas horas antes de su muerte. Precisamente la búsqueda de Jesús, “el amado”, fue el sello distintivo del servicio sacerdotal de Joseph Ratzinger, como recordó el Papa Francisco en 2016

ANDREA TORNIELLI, CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

Las últimas palabras del Papa emérito Benedicto XVI fueron recogidas en mitad de la noche por un enfermero. Eran alrededor de las 3 de la madrugada del 31 de diciembre, pocas horas antes de su muerte. Ratzinger aún no había entrado en agonía, y en ese momento sus colaboradores y ayudantes habían tomado el relevo. Con él, en ese preciso momento, sólo había un enfermero que no hablaba alemán. “Benedicto XVI -relata conmovido su secretario, monseñor Georg Gänswein-, con voz fina, pero claramente distinguible, dijo en italiano: “¡Señor, te amo! Yo no estaba allí en ese momento, pero el enfermero me lo dijo poco después. Éstas fueron sus últimas palabras comprensibles, porque después ya no fue capaz de expresarse”.

“¡Señor, te amo!”, casi un resumen de la vida de Joseph Ratzinger, que desde hacía años se preparaba para el encuentro definitivo, cara a cara, con el Creador. El 28 de junio de 2016, en el 65 aniversario de la ordenación sacerdotal del predecesor ahora emérito, el Papa Francisco había querido subrayar la “nota de fondo” que había recorrido la larga trayectoria sacerdotal de Ratzinger y había dicho: “En una de las muchas y hermosas páginas que dedica al sacerdocio, subraya cómo, en la hora de la



Foto CNS

llamada definitiva de Simón, Jesús, mirándole, le pregunta una cosa: ¿Me amas?. ¡Qué hermoso y cierto es esto! Porque es aquí, nos dice, en ese ‘¿me amas?’ donde el Señor funda el pastoreo, porque sólo si hay amor al Señor puede Él pastorear a través de nosotros...: ‘Señor, tú lo sabes todo, tú sabes que te amo’”.

“Esta es la nota -continuó Francisco- que domina toda una vida gastada en el servicio sacerdotal y en la teología, que ella no por casualidad definió como ‘la búsqueda del amado’; esto es lo que ella siempre

testimonió y todavía testimonia hoy: que lo decisivo en nuestros días -de sol o de lluvia-, lo único que une todo lo demás, es que el Señor esté verdaderamente presente, que lo deseemos, que interiormente estemos cerca de Él, que lo amemos, que creamos de verdad profundamente en Él y creyendo amarlo de verdad. Es este amar lo que verdaderamente llena nuestro corazón, este creer es lo que nos hace caminar seguros y tranquilos sobre las aguas, incluso en medio de la tempestad, como le ocurrió a Pedro”.

## Benedicto XVI: Mi testamento espiritual

Publicado el documento redactado por el Papa emérito el 29 de agosto de 2006

**BENEDICTO PP XVI**

**S**i en esta hora tardía de mi vida miro hacia atrás, hacia las décadas que he vivido, veo en primer lugar cuántas razones tengo para dar gracias. Ante todo, doy gracias a Dios mismo, dador de todo bien, que me ha dado la vida y me ha guiado en diversos momentos de confusión; siempre me ha levantado cuando empezaba a resbalar y siempre me ha devuelto la luz de su semblante. En retrospectiva, veo y comprendo que incluso los tramos oscuros y agotadores de este camino fueron para mi salvación y que fue en ellos donde Él me guió bien.

Doy las gracias a mis padres, que me dieron la vida en una época difícil y que, a costa de grandes sacrificios, con su amor prepararon para mí un magnífico hogar que, como una luz clara, ilumina todos mis días hasta el día de hoy. La clara fe de mi padre nos enseñó a nosotros los hijos a creer, y como señal siempre se ha mantenido firme en medio de todos mis logros científicos; la profunda devoción y la gran bondad de mi madre son un legado que nunca podré agradecerle lo suficiente. Mi hermana me ha asistido durante décadas desinteresadamente y con afectuoso cuidado; mi hermano, con la claridad de su juicio, su vigorosa resolución y la serenidad de su corazón, me ha allanado siempre el camino;

sin su constante precederme y acompañarme, no habría podido encontrar la senda correcta.

De corazón doy gracias a Dios por los muchos amigos, hombres y mujeres, que siempre ha puesto a mi lado; por los colaboradores en todas las etapas de mi camino; por los profesores y alumnos que me ha dado. Con gratitud los encomiendo todos a Su bondad. Y quiero dar gracias al Señor por mi hermosa patria en los Prealpes bávaros, en la que siempre he visto brillar el esplendor del Creador mismo. Doy las gracias al pueblo de mi patria porque en él he experimentado una y otra vez la belleza de la fe. Rezo para que nuestra tierra siga siendo una tierra de fe y les ruego, queridos compatriotas: no se dejen apartar de la fe. Y, por último, doy gracias a Dios por toda la belleza que he podido experimentar en todas las etapas de mi viaje, pero especialmente en Roma y en Italia, que se ha convertido en mi segunda patria.

A todos aquellos a los que he agraviado de alguna manera, les pido perdón de todo corazón.

Lo que antes dije a mis compatriotas, lo digo ahora a todos los que en la Iglesia han sido confiados a mi servicio: ¡Manténganse firmes en la fe! ¡No se dejen confundir! A menudo parece como si la ciencia -las ciencias

naturales, por un lado, y la investigación histórica (especialmente la exégesis de la Sagrada Escritura), por otro- fuera capaz de ofrecer resultados irrefutables en desacuerdo con la fe católica. He vivido las transformaciones de las ciencias naturales desde hace mucho tiempo, y he visto cómo, por el contrario, las aparentes certezas contra la fe se han desvanecido, demostrando no ser ciencia, sino interpretaciones filosóficas que sólo parecen ser competencia de la ciencia. Desde hace sesenta años acompaño el camino de la teología, especialmente de las ciencias bíblicas, y con la sucesión de las diferentes generaciones, he visto derrumbarse tesis que parecían inamovibles y resultar meras hipótesis: la generación liberal (Harnack, Jülicher, etc.), la generación existencialista (Bultmann, etc.), la generación marxista. He visto y veo cómo de la confusión de hipótesis ha surgido y vuelve a surgir lo razonable de la fe. Jesucristo es verdaderamente el camino, la verdad y la vida, y la Iglesia, con todas sus insuficiencias, es verdaderamente su cuerpo.

Por último, pido humildemente: recen por mí, para que el Señor, a pesar de todos mis pecados y defectos, me reciba en la morada eterna. A todos los que me han sido confiados, van mis oraciones de todo corazón, día a día.

# Pittsburgh high school prays for critically injured Bills safety

Former football coach describes Damar Hamlin as 'a great Christian gentleman'

GINA CHRISTIAN  
OSV News

The Central Catholic High School community in Pittsburgh is joining in prayer for NFL player Damar Hamlin, a 2016 school graduate, who was critically injured during a Jan. 2 game between the Buffalo Bills and the Cincinnati Bengals.

Hamlin, a safety for the Bills, collapsed after tackling Bengals receiver Tee Higgins during a routine play. According to a statement by the Buffalo Bills, the 24-year-old safety suffered a cardiac arrest following the hit.

Medics worked for nearly 10 minutes to restore his heartbeat as Bills team and staff members knelt in a tight prayer circle around Hamlin. Hamlin was then transferred to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, where he remains in critical condition. Players, staff and commentators were visibly shaken by the incident, and the game – the last Monday Night Football match of the regular season – was suspended.

The NFL has posted an image of Hamlin's team number with the words "Pray for Damar" across its social media accounts.

The Hamlin family released a statement online Jan. 3 asking supporters to "please keep Damar in your prayers," noting they were "deeply moved by the prayers, kind words and donations from fans around the country."

In a Jan. 3 statement sent to OSV News, Central Catholic called Hamlin a "highly respected young man" who "has been an integral part of our Catholic Lasallian Community and regularly returns to Central to speak with participants of our football campus."

A photograph provided by the school to OSV News showed Hamlin in his high school football uniform holding a poster that read, "Recruited by Jesus."

Central Catholic president Christian Brother Mike Andrejko asked in the statement that "the Lord be with (Hamlin) and hold him in the palm of his hand."

The school's recently retired head football coach Terry Totten described Hamlin in the statement as "a great athlete and a great Christian gentleman who is a man for others," one who is "an essential part of the community at Central Catholic."

Totten also pointed to Hamlin's "unparal-



Football fans pray outside the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in Cincinnati for Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, who was hospitalized after he collapsed on the field during the Monday Night Football game with the Cincinnati Bengals Jan. 2, 2023. Hamlin, an alum of Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, was in critical condition after suffering cardiac arrest following a hit by a Bengals player. (OSV News photo/Cara Owsley, USA Today Network via Reuters)

leled" work in the Pittsburgh community through the athlete's charitable foundation, The Chasing M's Foundation Community Toy Drive, which he started just before his selection in the sixth round of the 2021 NFL draft.

On its Facebook page, Central Catholic posted a message stating its community "is praying for the well-being and swift recovery" of Hamlin, adding: "May the Lord be with him and his family during this most difficult time."

As of Jan. 3, the post had garnered some 2,500 shares and almost 400 responses, which included a number of heartfelt prayers.

"We humbly pray to Thee, Dear God, in Jesus' Name, to heal Damar Hamlin," wrote Miran Liza Mientus. "And please, Dear God, provide comfort for his dear Parents and Family, the Bills, the Bengals, and All who love him. How beautiful to see countless people come together in prayer for him."

Amy Smyth Miller posted the text of the Memorare prayer to Mary, while others invoked the intercession of St. John the Baptist, St. Jude, St.

Sebastian, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos and the late Pope Benedict XVI.

One poster added a link to an undated video of Hamlin recorded during his high school years for the Pittsburgh Steelers Youth Football Show. As part of the interview, Hamlin shared that he had chosen the player number three because it was a "family number," one his own father had worn.

He also said that Central Catholic was "big on tradition," and that "the name and the school ... means a lot not just to the coaches, but the alumni. ... You know you're not playing for just yourself and your family; you're also playing for the name and the tradition."

Hamlin's Twitter timeline over the past two years includes multiple expressions of faith and gratitude, along with support for friends and fellow athletes.

"I see myself through God's eyes, not anyone else's," he wrote Dec. 8, 2020.

A post from the previous month read "from losses to lessons to blessings. Thank you, God!"

## Pope: Faith is a journey that must be walked with others

CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Christians should not seek the Lord by themselves without being part of a faith community and without spiritual accompaniment, Pope Francis said.

However, Pope Francis cautioned against forms of accompaniment that "can give rise to unrealistic expectations, misunderstandings, forms of dependence that leave the person in an infantile state."

The person who accompanies others in their spiritual life "does not substitute the Lord, does not do the work in the place of the person accompanied, but walks alongside him or her, encouraging them to interpret what is stirring in their heart," the pope said Jan. 4 at his weekly general

audience.

Speaking with visitors in the Paul VI audience hall, the pope concluded his series of talks about the process of spiritual discernment by focusing on the importance of spiritual accompaniment in helping and supporting this process.

Spiritual accompaniment is "important first and foremost for self-knowledge, which as we have seen is an indispensable condition for discernment," Pope Francis said.

"God's grace in us always works on our nature," the pope said, which is why "it is important to make ourselves known, without fear of sharing the most fragile aspects: where we find ourselves to be more sensitive, weak or afraid of being judged" with a person "who accompanies us on

life's journey."

"Fragility is, in reality, our true richness," he said, and it must be respected and welcomed. "Indeed God, to make us like him, wished to share our fragility to the utmost" as can be seen with his birth in poverty in a manger and his death on a cross.

When a person humbly recognizes his or her vulnerability and weaknesses, he or she tends to be more understanding toward others.

"Recounting what we have lived or are searching for in front of another person helps bring us clarity, bringing to light the many thoughts that dwell within us, and which often unsettle us," he said.

"False and poisonous thoughts," such as "I have done everything

wrong, I am worthless, no one understands me, I will never succeed, I am destined for failure," he said, can be "unmasked," understood and overcome better with the help of another person.

"We discover with surprise different ways of seeing things, signs of goodness that have always been present in us," he said, "so we can feel we are loved and valued by the Lord for what we are, capable of doing good things for him."

Spiritual accompaniment is about helping a person "better understand the signs of the times, the voice of the Lord, the voice of the tempter, the voice of difficulties that I am not able to overcome, and this is why it is very important to not journey alone," he said.