

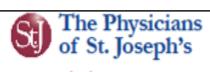
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FORMED

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.

September 15, 2019

The Lewis County Catholic Times

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Weekly Bulletin for the parishes of Saint Patrick Catholic Church, Weston, Saint Boniface Catholic Church, Camden and Good Shepherd Mission, Glenville, West Virginia Established 1848

he first reading is taken from All this infinite the Book of Exodus 32:7-11, mercy of God is 13-14. During the forty days there for our benefit that Moses spent on top of Mt. as long as we have Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments the breath of life in the people melted their gold and made a us in this world. The small effigy of the Egyptian bull, a whole of the Old golden calf. They declared this to be Testament is full of their god who brought them out of examples and proofs Egypt. They had returned to paganism of this mercy of God and idolatry. God decided to punish for man. It is in the them, but because of the intercession of New Moses He stayed His hand and forgave however,

The second reading is from the first almost incredible act letter of St. Paul to Timothy 1:12-17. of divine mercy, the The Apostle wrote two letters to Incarnation, that the Timothy, advising and encouraging him infinite mercy of to continue his great work for Christ. God for all mankind This First Epistle was written in 65 or 66 is seen in A.D. from Macedonia. St. Paul spent his fullness. Christian life regretting his sinful past coming of the Son and wondering at the infinite mercy of of God on earth in Christ, the Son of God, who not only our human nature, His teaching, His were, and He was only too ready to heal forgave all his past sins but showered sufferings and death, His resurrection them too if only they would let Him. His graces on him so abundantly. He were all accomplished for us, so that we Jewish converts to Christ, were caused God. by his own pride. Yet he blames himself pharisaical pride in him, while Christ on draws from this is that there is no sinner so wicked but can be forgiven, and will be forgiven, if only he listens to the call of Christ.

The Gospel is from St. Luke 15:1-32. The lesson that these stories, made clearly a lesson of hope and confidence grievously. in the infinite mercy of God in His dealings with us. We are all sinners in one way or another. We have all gone going astray from God again at any moment. If we had only the justice of During His life on earth, Christ dealt the rest. God to deal with we might well despair, mostly with sinners—he said he came to — Excerpted from The Sunday our chances of reaching heaven would be slight indeed.

God of infinite mercy, who loves us with were well. The Pharisees in their pride a love we cannot grasp or understand. thought they were not sick but they

Testament. which begins with that

God does not need us to make his for the ignorance which caused this existence happy. He is all-powerful, all- lesser degree. With this knowledge and perfect, all-happy in himself. Because conviction, which any true Christian the other hand excused him because of He is a God of love, a God of infinite must have, of the infinite mercy of God, this ignorance. The conclusion he rightly generosity, He wants to give us a share no sinner need ever, and should never, in His happiness. At times one must despair. No sinner was ever lost and no wonder how any man who knows of sinner will ever be lost, because of his God's generosity and of what that sins. Sinners are lost only because they generosity has led Him to do for us, will not trust and believe in God's mercy could ever think of abandoning that and turn to Him to ask for pardon. loving God, or get lost in futile earthly up by our Lord himself, has for us is folly. Yet that does happen when we sin Father sends out and calls to us His

He told the Pharisees that it was the sick Sullivan, O.F.M. We are dealing, however, with a who needed a doctor, not those who



its N.Losev. The parable of the prodigal son. 1882. Photo: pra-The voslavie.ru

Volume IV. Issue 37

He spent his days then among realized that his past crimes against could rise glorious from the dead and sinners, the tax-gatherers, the robbers, Christ, whom he judged as an impostor share the joys of heaven, to which we the adulterers, the usurers. The twelve who was perverting the Chosen People have no claim whatever, except the special friends He chose from amongst of God, and also his persecution of the merciful goodness and generosity of His followers had more than their share of human failings.

We are all sinners to a greater or

Not a day passes but our merciful erring children to return to our Father's God does not cast us out forever as household. Today, one of those calls is sinners unworthy of His gifts. Instead, in the very words of the parables you He foresees such folly on our part, and have heard. There may be another call astray, got lost like the sheep and the has left us lessons of encouragement, as for the sinners amongst us. There may coin in those stories, sometime or other, in today's parables, and set up in the not. Heed this one and the other call will What is worse, we are all capable of Church ways and means to carry on His not be necessary. Turn to God today work of mercy for weak, mortal men. with a truly contrite heart. God will do

save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Readings Cycle C, Fr. Kevin O'

St. Patrick Catholic Church 210 Center Avenue Weston, West Virginia 26452 www.spchurchweston.org 304-269-3048 304-269-1244 (fax)

Pastor:

Rev. James R. DeViese, Jr., J.C.L. pastor@spchurchweston.net

Associate Pastor: Fr. Cody Ford (304) 462-7130 cford@dwc.org

Secretary:

Sandra Mick, Parish Secretary secretary@spchurchweston.net

Parish Office Hours:

Sunday, 10:30 - 12:30 Monday, 9 - 4 Tuesday, 9 - 4 Wednesday, Noon - 5:00 Thursday, 9 - 1 Friday, 9 - 1

Prayer Chain:

Micki Snyder, 304 269-3688 or 304 476-8819

Weekend Masses:

Saturday, 6:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Latin)

Weekday Masses:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 8:15 a.m. Wed., 6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation:

Wednesday and Saturday, 5:00pm, Sunday, 8:45 & 11:45 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday, 5:00 to 5:45p.m.

(See Weekly Schedule for any changes to times or location!)

Bulletin Deadline

Announcements for the Lewis County Catholic Times must be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday. Email submissions to: secretary@spchurchweston.net.

Weekly Mass Intentions, Liturgical Calendar

Scripture

Readings

September 16

1 Tm 2:1-8

Ps 28:2, 7-9

Lk 7:1-10

September 17

1 Tm 3:1-13

Ps 101:1b-3b, 5-6

Lk 7:11-1

September 18

1 Tm 3:14-16

Ps 111:1-6

Lk 7:31-35

September 19

1 Tm 4:12-16

Ps 111:7-10

Lk 7:36-50

September 20

1 Tm 6:2c-12

Ps 49:6-10, 17-20

Lk 8:1-3

September 21

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13

Ps 19:2-5

Mt 9:9-13

September 22

Ps 113:1-2, 4-8

Lk 16:1-13

Am 8:4-7

1 Tm 2:1-8

Saturday, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

5:00 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Mass for Bishop Brennan by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Victory 379

Sunday, September 15, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary

8:45 a.m. Confessions

9:30 a.m. Mass for People of the Parish

11:45 a.m. Confessions

12:30 p.m. (Latin -Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost) Mass

for †Msgr. Angelo Amodeo

Monday, September 16, Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

8:15 a.m. Mass for Bishop Brennan

Tuesday, September 17,]; Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, **Doctor of the Church**

8:15 a.m. Mass for †Roberta Karp by Diana Thompson

Wednesday September 18, Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Confessions

6:00 p.m. Mass for Family of †Madison Jane Cunningham

Thursday, September 19, Saint Januarius, Bishop, Martyr 8:15 a.m. Mass for Dan and Sandra Mick

Friday, September 20, Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs 8:15 a.m. Mass for †Evaleen Gay Sweitzer

Saturday, September 21, Saint Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist

5:00 p.m. Confessions

6:00 p.m. Mass for †Rahlene Elder

Sunday, September 22, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary

8:45 a.m. Confessions

9:30 a.m. Mass for People of the Parish

11:45 a.m. Confessions

12:30 p.m. (Latin -Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost) Mass for †Rev. James McGourty

Mass Intentions

Having the Holy Sacrifice of Mass offered is more effective than flowers or memorial gifts for your deceased loved ones or as a special intention for a living person or special occasion. Mass Intentions can be placed in a "Mass Intention" envelope and placed in the collection basket or given to the priest or the appropriate person at your parish. Please indicate if the person is living or deceased and the date you would like the Mass to be said. Mass dates are filled on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning in memory of Peter Dorothy Flesher, September 15 - 28. If you would like to memorialize the sanctuary lamp in honor/ memory of someone for a twoweek period, please call the parish office at 304-269-3048.

Liturgical Calendar for Traditional Latin Mass

9/16 Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Martyrs 9/17 Stigmata of St. Francis

9/18 Ember Wednesday

St. Januarius, Bishop & Companions, Martyrs 9/19

9/20 Ember Friday

9/21 St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist 9/22

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer List

Of your charity, please offer prayers for...

Those who are sick: St. Patrick Church: Beth Griffith (SJMH), Rue Thompson (St. Joe's) Frank Angotti, Sam Aman, Nick Bakas, Jean Scott Chase, Paul Derico, Rose Determan, Larry Dodson, Robert Fealy, Theresa Francis, Brandy Freeman, Marsha Garton, Lori Hamrick, Robert Hamilton, Eddie Joe Hines, Ed Hubbs, Julia Marsh, Philomena Martin, Ed and Mary Ann Murray, Susan Murray, Delores Paugh, Raylee Rahming, Mike Riley, Brenda Riley, Shane Rowan, Sheila Sayre, Iris Simons, Kimberly Snyder, Micki Snyder, Dawn Dahmer Stafford, Mary Taylor, Karen Torres

St. Boniface Church: Norma Aman, Anna Crim, Sara Queen, Vicki Radcliff, Rose Anita

Good Shepherd Mission: T. A Corcoran, Jr., Tony Ford, Bonnie Klotz, Bettie Kritzer, Jean Ott, Betty Maddix, Denise Mitchell, Mary Jo Pulcher, Mitch Snider, Ben Timmer, Victims families of the El Paso Shooting

Those who have died: Mike Linger, May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The next meeting of the Catholic Daughters will be Monday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the St.

Patrick Church parish meeting room. All Catholic women are invited to join this organization.

- All Military Personnel: Alan Hamilton, Aaron Hamilton, R. Brody Springer
- Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
- Former priests and religious of our churches
- Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.

Scripture Group

The St. Patrick Church weekly scripture study group will resume meeting on Tuesday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the parish meeting room of the St. Patrick Church Office. Parishioners from all churches are welcome.

Join Us!

The Annual Homecoming Mass and Picnic at St. Bernard Church in Loveberry will be Sunday, October 6. Mass will begin at 3:00 p.m. followed by the picnic at 4:00 p.m. Meat, drinks, and paper products will be provided. Please bring a covered dish and enjoy the afternoon. While it is called a homecoming, EVERYONE is invited! If you have never visited St. Bernard Church—here is your chance. You won't be disappointed!

Weekly Attendance & Collection

100 Saturday: 222 Sunday: 50 Latin Mass:

\$6898.00 General: Loan: \$480 School: \$216 Loan: \$88,162.23

2019 Catholic Sharing Appeal:

Goal: \$21.345

Progress: \$4966 (09/12/19)

Second and Special Collections September 28 & 29: Catholic University

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration Beginning at St. Boniface Church

Beginning Tuesday, September 17, St. Boniface Church will have Eucharistic Adoration each week beginning at 5:00 p.m. with the opportunity for confession. Mass will follow at 6:00 p.m. As of that day, there will no longer be a 9:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesdays.

Public Square Rosary Rally

Saturday, October 12, Noon, St. Patrick Church

Each year, America Needs Fatima holds the Public Square Rosary Crusade, with thousands of rosary rallies in cities all across the country. In 2015, there were 14,108 rallies and in 2014, there were 12,629 groups simultaneously praying for our country and the world all across America! These Public Square Rosary Rallies take place on the closest Saturday to October 13, feast of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun. For more information, contact Judy Woodruff at 304-269-3455.

In The Secret of the Rosary, Saint Louis de Montfort said: "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering.'

St. Patrick

6:00 p.m., Mass

Confession

Sunday, September 15, 2019 DTS resumes, parish meeting room

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Boniface Church,

Our Neighbor Collection

September—Dish Detergent

St. Boniface/Good Shepherd

New Tuesday Mass schedule begins.

5:00 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration

Altar Society meeting after Mass

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Monday, September 16, 2019 6:00 p.m., Catholic Daughters meeting, parish meeting room

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 1:00 p.m., Tuesday Scripture resumes, parish meeting room

Attention All High School **Students**

The Dead Theologians Society will resume meeting on Sunday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. The Dead Theologians Society is a national organization that seeks to engage high school students through prayer, catechesis, and social activity that is rooted in the Catholic tradition and based on the Lives of the Saints. DTS meetings are open to all Catholic high school students and are held in the parish meeting room of St. Patrick Church in Weston. For more info, text @dts-weston to 81010.

St. Patrick Catholic School

Pre-School – 8th Grade 224 Center Ave., Weston, WV 26452 304-269-5547

www.stpatswv.org email: st.pats@stpatswv.org

Dr. Ian E. Scheu, Principal Regina Frazier, Secretary

The Morning Offering

- 1. How important it is to get off to a good start: in life, on a trip, in a game, at the beginning of each new day. What better way to begin than by offering our day to God, right from the first moment. "If you are a good son of God, your first and last thought each day will be for him, just as a little child needs to be assured of the presence of his parents when he gets up in the morning or goes to bed at night." (St. Josemaria Escriva: The Forge, n. 80)
- 2. Different forms we might use to express our offering:
- O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, and for all my intentions and for all the intentions of the Holy Father.
- "All my thoughts, all my words, all my actions this day I offer to you, O Lord: my whole life, and all for love." (St. Josemaria)
- "Lord, I thank you, forgive me and help me all the more." (Bishop Alvaro del Portillo)

Use some other prayer that you may have learned. Use your own words: the same every day or new and different every day, spoken from the heart.

- 3. Content of the morning offering. We want:
- -to give ourselves completely to God, knowing that we will be enriched by doing so.
- -to embrace his will: "Father... not my will but yours be done." (Lk 22:44)
- -to avoid all that is displeasing to God: selfishness, pride, greed, anger, envy, impurity, wasting time, offending others...
- -to give thanks to God for all the blessings we are sure will come today.
- -to accept the problems, difficulties, disappointments, sufferings and failures that come today.
- -to be convinced that "for those who love God, all things work together unto good." (Rom 8:28).
- 4. Other considerations as we begin our day:
- -thanksgiving for the blessings of the past day, weeks, years of our life.
- -gratitude for the chance to live one more day for God, with God, in God.
- -foster a great and noble ambition to accomplish a lot today: tasks well done, out of love.
- -be prepared to meet the Cross as we encounter delays, obstacles, problems, difficulties.
- -abandon all our concerns in the loving hands of our Father God.
- -invoke our Guardian Angel, asking for light and strength to say no to evil and to do good.
- -ask our Blessed Mother Mary to keep us focused on our true purpose in life: to be holy as God wants.
- 5. Briefly reflect back on the examination of conscience of the previous night.

Consider the resolution you made then for today and renew it at the start of this new day.

Resolve to avoid the pitfalls of yesterday. Foster the desire to make this the best day of your life.

6. Live the "heroic minute": "It's time to get up, on the dot! Without hesitation, a supernatural thought and... up! The heroic minute; here you have a mortification that strengthens your will and does not weaken your body." (St. Josemaria: The Way, n. 206)

To get up is not easy but don't let yourself be defeated in the first battle of the day (cf. The Way, n. 191). Don't touch the snooze button. Make the Morning Offering on your knees, if possible. Then get going! Let's roll!

As you get ready: repeat your Offering and focus your thoughts on worthwhile considerations (Cfr. nn. 3 and 4)

Show with your works that you really do want to do all things for the love of God.

Remember: God is counting on you. God is waiting for you. God is with you.

At times during the day, renew your Morning Offering, if not with the same words, at least with the same sentiments, the same desire to do what you ought to give glory to God.

Organ Renovation

Our organ at St. Patrick Church is in need of major repair. It was built in the early 1950's and has withstood building renovations, dust, a fire and periodic dampness. After nearly 70 years of service, it requires quite a bit of attention.

In the process of an assessment, organ deterioration was more than what was expected. The console is worn out while the internal leathers of the mechanism are dried and deteriorating. Other parts are rusted and weak. This is leaving dead notes where air is not passing into the pipes. Repairing just the worn out parts is not possible as the M. P. Moller Company that built the organ ceased operation in 1992. Manufacturing individual components for the repair is financially impossible.

After several proposals were submitted and considered, a plan was chosen to give the organ a complete rebuild using modern technology. The leather valves will be replaced with electro-mechanical magnet valves that will prevent further deterioration in the organ's wind chest. New stops (musical voices) will be added to increase the sounds to better compliment the music. When the project is completed, St. Patrick Church will then have one of the finest organs in West Virginia. This will give our parish a musical instrument that completes the renovation efforts of the parish and matches the beauty of the church.

The cost of the project will be \$150,000. Efforts are underway to raise money for the organ renovation. The campaign is expected to end by November 1, 2019. The goal cannot be reached without your support. The results will be worth the effort.

Fr. DeViese's 10th Anniversary Mass CD for Sale

The CD from Fr. DeViese's anniversary mass is available for \$25.00. Music by Giovanni Palestrina was sung under the direction of Maestro J. Melvin Collins during the Latin Mass. The CD was made thanks to the technological efforts of Leszek J. Fiutowski, MD. Dr. Fiutowski is the organist for Latin Masses at St. Patrick Church in Weston. Proceeds from the sale of the CD go to the organ rebuilding fund for St. Patrick Church. CD's will be sold in the vestibule after weekend Masses.

Ministry Schedule

	Server	Reader	ЕМНС	Cantor	Rosary	Linens
Saturday, Sep 14, 2019 6:00 PM Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Tom Derico Ian Droppleman MaKenna West	Jimmy Fealy	Margaret Blake Pam Thompson John Weber	Donna Lake	J. J. Jordan	Kathy Boyle
Sunday, Sep 15, 2019 9:30 AM Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Malea Clem Michael Riley Morgan Turner	Jeremy Garton	Steve Corley Judy Foster Jenny Garton	Jeremy Garton	Chasity King	Kathy Boyle
Saturday, Sep 21, 2019 6:00 PM Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Brady Jordan Jacob Riffle Ian Riffle	Debbie Rittenhouse	Anna Lee Determan Michael Determan J. J. Jordan	Diane Collins	J. J. Jordan	Kathy Boyle
Sunday, Sep 22, 2019 9:30 AM Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Payton Aman Kamryn Franklin Jack Paugh	Chasity King	Betty Hill Becky King Ethan Mehr	Dr. Ian Scheu	Chasity King	Kathy Boyle
September Funeral Greeters: Call the office	to volunteer!	Septembe	er Wednesday Rosary	Leader: To	m Ruppert	

Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be given you besides" (Gospel).

The castle (at the left) symbolizes earthly goods, about which some are too "anxious." The symbol of the Trinity (at the right) represents "the kingdom of God." We must serve either "the Spirit" or "the flesh" (Epistle), "God" or "mammon" (Gospel).

In the Epistle is a vivid account of the struggle between "the spirit," reborn in Baptism; and "the flesh" with its evil passions of the body, idolatrous outrages against God, crimes against one's neighbor.

The Gospel should be read and re-read, as the antidote to our twentieth-century cult of the body. To those who "seek first the kingdom of God," and who use material goods as a means of obtaining spiritual graces, Jesus promises that "all these (material) things shall be given... besides.

~"Excerpted from My Sunday Missal, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

Prayer for Missions

Eternal God, Creator of all things, remember the souls of unbelievers who are the work of Your hands and created in Your image and likeness.

Remember that Jesus Christ Your Son has suffered for their salvation a most cruel death. Do not allow that Your divine Son be despised by unbelievers any longer, but that He will be appeased by the prayers of Your chosen ones and of the Church, the Spouse of Your Most Blessed Son, who is our health, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and set free and to whom be given glory forever. Amen.

St. Francis Xavier

Introduction to Catholicism (RCIA) Classes

Join us on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for Mass followed RCIA classes at St. Patrick Church. Call or email the parish office for more information.

"Living to the End: Practical Issues at the End of Life"

We're coming together to learn and discuss a path forward that honors the dignity of all human life so that all West Virginians can "live to the end".

October 16, 11:30 am – 4:00 pm All Saints Church, Bridgeport Registration: \$10

For Families: We all want our loved ones to be treated with dignity throughout their lives. But lines of communication between family members and medical professionals can be clouded by grief at the end of life.

For Professionals: The needs of patients and their families are often caught somewhere between cultural expectations and the legal implications of caring for people at the end of life. Explaining the intricacies of palliative care to grieving families can be difficult.

Register online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/living-to-theend, or call Christy at (304) 380-0155.

Parish Membership & Benefits:

To be considered an "active" member of any parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the "Active Parishioner Rate of tuition" at a Catholic school), the parish takes into account the following things. First, to receive a discount at a Catholic School or to receive a sacrament, the children MUST attend weekend Mass. Second, family & individual involvement in parish life and ministries are taken into consideration. Mass attendance is only able to be tracked accurately via collection envelopes. If you are not receiving envelopes currently, please contact the appropriate person at your parish. Parishioners over 18 should register as a household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 Byron Street
Post Office Box 230
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

My Dear Friends in Christ,

First, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the warmth of your welcome, your kind and thoughtful words and gestures of support and assurance of prayer in these early days of my service among you as your friend, brother and new bishop.

I have been so impressed by the vibrant and active faith that I have experienced in my travels and visits across the Diocese and throughout this beautiful state. Suffice it to say, I have much more territory to cover and many more of you to meet. As I made clear in my first remarks following my appointment, it is my highest priority to get to know you, to listen intently, to pray with you and to work toward the healing and renewal that is so needed here in our Church in West Virginia. It has been such a joy to greet so many of our young people - elementary, high school and college students - as they begin a new year of learning and adventure in this new academic year; to also visit with those who spend their days working to alleviate the suffering of those in the grip of opioid addiction and to support their loved ones with understanding and assurance. I've enjoyed visiting with the senior members of our communities whose experiences and perspectives are so valuable, and whose lives reveal so much devotion and accomplishment. I've enjoyed visiting the southern region of our diocese, presiding at Liturgy at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston and getting to know the parishioners, priests, teachers, and lay ministers across our Diocese who are serving Christ by serving others each and every day. Thank you for your commitment and for all that you are making possible in the lives of others.

As I made clear in my Installation homily, among my first priorities is to fulfill the Holy Father's mandate to define the appropriate restitution that will be required of former Bishop Bransfield, in light of his lavish and inappropriate expenditure of Church funds for his personal comfort and enjoyment. I share your outrage that so much money was wasted on excessive luxury which is wholly inconsistent with Christ's spirit of humility, and the expectation by Pope Francis that bishops and priests live a life of simplicity and service.

In addition to requiring an extensive audit of Diocesan finances during Bishop Bransfield's tenure, I have engaged in extensive discussions with the members of our Diocese Finance Council, the priest Consultors, Chancery staff, lay professionals, parishioners, and also those who were victims of the former bishop's sexual harassment. It is my intention in the coming days to define the terms of Bishop Bransfield's required restitution for the harm he caused and the Church resources he squandered. It is my hope that the former bishop will see this as an opportunity to acknowledge his offenses and to truly make amends to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the good people across this State who have been so deeply affected by this scandal.

It is to be expected that the news media will continue to report on the details of the former bishop's abuses, which continue to be a cause of great scandal and shame for us all. In the meantime, we will continue to work toward a resolution that is not only fair but which begins to bring closure to this very tragic episode of our Diocese. You have my commitment to do so in a timely way and with the transparency that is required. I am pleased that we have been able to complete the sale of the former bishop's residence for the amount of \$1.2 million. The proceeds from the sale will be directed to establishing a special fund to provide for the professional counseling, psychological and spiritual support for victims of sexual abuse here in West Virginia.

It will be my constant determination to work with you - my fellow priests, religious, our professional staff and all of our Catholic faithful - to bring about true healing and to restore your confidence in those of us called to serve as leaders. Indeed, we are stewards who must use the resources of this Diocese to provide comfort and care, to educate, to alleviate hardship and suffering and enable those who need a helping hand, a meal or simply a place to rest.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves to the pastoral care of all God's children, entrusted to us through His son Jesus Christ. Please know of my constant prayers for you, even as I humbly ask that you keep me also in yours. May God is his infinite goodness and mercy keep us all in his loving care!

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Mark E. Brennan

+ Mark E. Brennan