

Faith IN WV

JULY 5, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



Presenting
**MOST REVEREND
EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA**
10th Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



And I will give you shepherds
after my own heart,
who will feed you
with knowledge
and understanding.
~Jeremiah 3:15





I NEED YOU ALL!

TOGETHER, LET US CONTINUE BEING A CHURCH THAT RESEMBLES THE HEART OF JESUS.

-BISHOP EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA, THE 10TH BISHOP OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

As nearly 700 invited guests filled the Cathedral of St. Joseph and the overflow locations at Central Catholic High School and the Chancery, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston welcomed its tenth bishop, the Most Rev. Evelio Menjivar-Ayala. It was a day marked not simply by beautiful liturgy, but by profound joy, gratitude, and the unmistakable sense that the Holy Spirit was gathering His people together.

From the heavenly voices in the diocesan festival choir that were just as glorious as the majestic mountains of West Virginia to the greeting and final blessing of Bishop Evelio from the exterior pulpit of the cathedral the day told a story – “a Church that resembles the Heart of Jesus.”

Excerpts from Bishop Evelio’s homily:

“I thank God for the gift of my family, my faith, vocation, and my migration journey that allows me to stand before you today.... The risen lord has walked with me even in those moments when my eyes have been veiled and I could not recognize him. My soul rejoices in God my savior as I look upon all of you gathered here today.

“As John Denver’s popular song says – a song that everybody is singing these days – *‘Almost Heaven West Virginia’*, today truly feels like almost heaven as the Church gathers in communion in one another.

“So many of you have come from distant lands, from near and far... others join us through livestreaming and EWTN, because they could not travel or this beautiful Cathedral of St. Joseph simply could not contain everyone who wished to be here. To all of you I offer my heartfelt gratitude your gracious presence is a reminder that we never make a journey alone. So, thank you for being companions on the way.

“Denver’s song continues, *‘Country roads take me home to where I belong’* ... those words express something that is deeply present in every human heart, the longing for a home, the longing to belong. In many ways this desire to be at home, the longing to belong is woven into the American experience. It inspired generations of people who left their homelands in search of a place they could call home and settle in these mountains and hollers... creating a rich and unique culture marked by deep faith, hard work, and unwavering perseverance and neighborly care and support. Catholics have made tremendous contributions in all areas to the betterment and growth of WV (and) they were not exempt from hardships, discriminations, and prejudices. Yet throughout those struggles the Church and her shepherds stood beside them, walking with them, defending their God-given dignity and advocating for their rights.

“My prayer is that as we walk together in ministry not merely along country roads, but along the way of the Gospel that we may continue to make this local Church and this diocese a place where everyone feels at home, where every person knows that they belong and are loved.

“I come before you as your brother and shepherd not with all the answers but a sincere desire to love you and serve you the best I can.

“I need you all. I say it sincerely I need you so together we must build bridges by fostering dialogue and collaboration. We must work alongside families, educators, workers, civic leaders, faith communities, and all people of good will.

“Together let us continue being a church that resembles the heart of Jesus. A church that goes forth in mission of humility without fear knowing the Lord walks with us.”











THE MUSIC THAT TOLD THE STORY

“It was simply breathtaking.”

“I couldn’t hold back tears of pride and joy.”

“Words cannot describe the awe I was in.”

“Wow! The music not only set the stage for the glorious installation Mass perfect for welcoming our new bishop to Almost Heaven, WV!”

These were just a sampling of reactions of those who witnessed in person or on screen, the moment Bishop Evelio took his office of bishop of Wheeling-Charleston on July 2 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The music choices for the Mass reflected the heart of Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala. The hymns all selected by him and echoed his vision, the vision he shared upon the announcement of being named our tenth bishop of Wheeling-Charleston.

He painted a picture then and the hymns echoed it - his ministry will be rooted in obedience and attentive listening, a shepherd who guides by depending on God, and a Church on pilgrimage gathered in communion with the saints.

“WITH ALL THE SAINTS” MINISTRY IN COMMUNION

One of the processional hymns, “With All the Saints,” served as a quiet but profound catechesis.

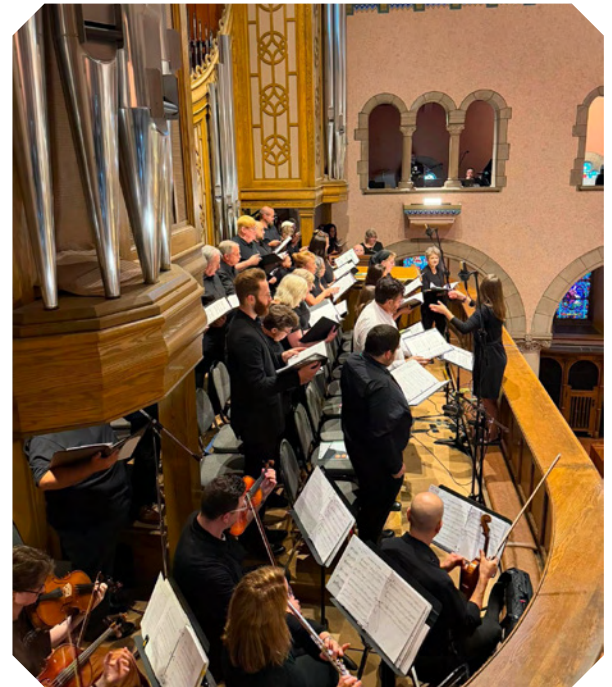
The hymn is fitting for one embracing episcopal leadership, a ministry that is the service of Christ to His people. It reminds us that the Church is not only the people gathered in a cathedral, but it is also a living communion. Our saints are not distant figures. They are our cloud of witnesses in union with us. Call upon them for their intercession.

“With all the saints, with prophets and martyrs, with holy Mary and Joseph, with those who came before and those who will follow, we gather here today, one body in the Lord, a sign and sacrament of Christ.”

“GIVE ME EARS TO LISTEN” THE FIRST STEP OF PASTORAL OBEDIENCE

For the preparation of the gifts, “Give Me Ears to Listen” highlighted how Bishop Evelio will remain grounded during his episcopal journey, listening to God and in turn the family He has created on put on his path.

The bishop aims to be a model of attentive listening, striving to
continue...



understand, through prayer and discernment, the will of God, and then be ready to dialogue with priests, workers, and the faithful.

Through the hymn we see Bishop Evelio's obedience to God as spiritual attention that will enable his effective and charitable leadership.

In that light, *"Give Me Ears to Listen"* becomes a pastoral promise: before giving orders, before making decisions, before responding publicly, he is calling on God to strengthen his will to enter in all ministry by listening. A shepherd who truly listens to God will be better equipped to listen to real needs in the people entrusted to him, the needs that surface in parishes, families, schools, and ministries across the diocese.

"Let me be your servant; let me walk your way.

Guide me on your path; give night the light of day.

Let me be a sure foundation, pure and strong.

Let me tell of your salvation all life long.

Give me ears to listen.

Give me eyes to see.

Give me words to speak

and show your face to me."

"LEAD ME, GUIDE ME ALONG THE WAY"

SHEPHERDS WHO WALK WITH THEIR FLOCK

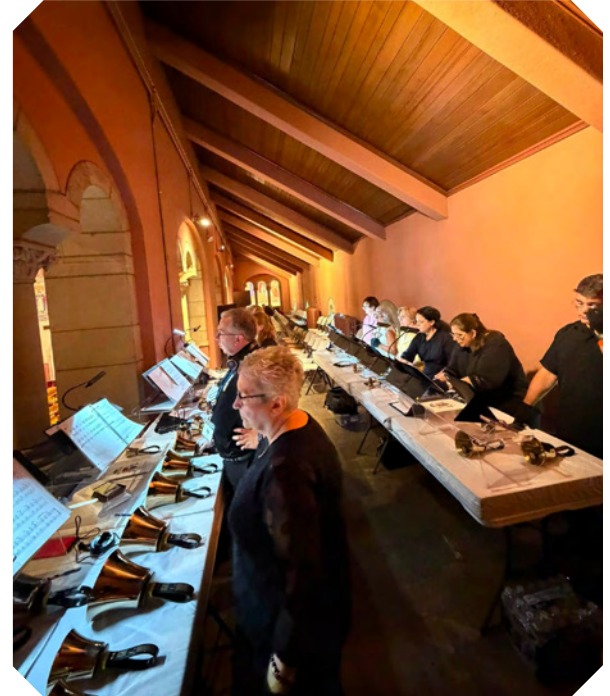
After holy communion, "Lead Me, Guide Me Along the Way" filled the cathedral with a message that every Christian needs—and that every good bishop must embody. When the path becomes difficult or dark, the faithful do not ultimately rely on human strength. They rely on God's guidance.

That is precisely how the Church describes the bishop's authority, leadership that is meant to be exercised as Christ's service—mysterious, holy, and practical. This is so the flock is led to Christ, not away from Him.

"Walking" is not only symbolic; it reflects the Church's insistence that bishops remain closely connected to the needs of the communities entrusted to their pastoral care, meeting people personally and listening with care as part of effective ministry.

A DAILY DISCIPLESHIP WRITTEN INTO PRAYER AND LIFE

Put together, these hymns formed a single pastoral thread. Give everything to God and trust His plan. We must build a relationship with God, letting the Holy Spirit guide us.





“GO IN PEACE, GLORIFYING THE LORD WITH YOUR LIFE.”

While these are the familiar words proclaimed by the deacon at the end of every Mass, Thursday’s dismissal carried special significance. It marked not an ending, but the beginning of Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala’s ministry among the people of West Virginia. This declaration calls us to active mission, honoring God in our words and deeds.

As our new shepherd, he walks with us - teaching, encouraging, and guiding us as we journey together toward heaven.

Accompanying him on this journey will be our 53 active deacons in the diocese. It was impressive to see so many of them present and in active roles during Bishop Evelio’s installation Mass.



Deacon Yaquinta

“The role of the deacon is to serve the Church,” said Deacon John Yaquinta.

Yaquinta, of Bridgeport, is the coordinator for the Permanent Diaconate Formation Office, in addition to his assignment at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Stonewood.

Above all things assigned and added to the deacon’s day, he must remain “an image of Christ - servant to the people by what he says and more importantly by what he does.”

“There are many ‘liturgical’ things that we all do the same, regardless of where we are,” he said. “But each one of us creates a unique identity within the parish we are assigned by the bishop. Unique in that it depends on the needs of the people of God, and of the pastor.”

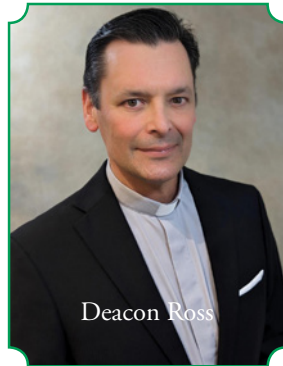
He gave the example of one WV parish with such a great number of shut-ins, the focus isn’t inside the church



Deacon Klug

building but sitting beside the faithful where they live.

“So, each day (the deacon) visits a different group of people, and both the pastor and the people he visits are thrilled,” Yaquinta said. “In another parish, the deacon leads the OCIA program, in another he may lead a home-repair group. So, the role of the deacon is to work with the pastor of the parish to which he is assigned to determine how the deacon’s gifts and talents can help the parish.”



Deacon Ross

In the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-7), we learn of the Apostles great need for help, so they chose seven men filled with the Holy Spirit for charitable work. They were chosen for “serving tables” while remaining “full of the Spirit and wisdom.”



Deacon Aiello

“There was a need in the church,” Yaquinta said. “The Greek speaking orphans and widow were not getting their fair share of food. So, they selected a group of men who had been with them (the Apostles) during the past three years to help them fix this problem. And the diaconate grew out of that. Service to help the bishops/pastors do the work of the Church.”

Saint Paul outlines the requirements of a deacon (1 Timothy 3:8-13) to be dignified, honest, temperate, selfless, and rooted and faithful.



Deacon Lim

“When a man becomes a deacon, his soul is marked with an indelible mark, and he will always be a deacon,” Yaquinta said. “Holy Orders, like all the sacraments, gives us a specific grace to use in our lives. In regard to the permanent diaconate, this grace is used to serve the people of God.”

It is not always easy, so keep your deacon and their loved ones close in prayer.

continue...

“There are times, after a weekend of three services, speaking to the confirmation class, doing a funeral vigil, and leading a men’s group meeting, and visiting the hospital that you come home and feel totally poured out,” he said. “You feel empty, (but at the same time) ready to be refilled with the Holy Spirit... to go out and do it all, all over again.”

We are blessed in Wheeling-Charleston, because in 2024, history was made as 20 men were ordained to the permanent diaconate at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral in Charleston.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations released “A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate in 2025” last week noting that we have nearly 15,000 permanent deacons serving Christ across the country.

While that number is impressive, we need to be most grateful for and mindful of is that the super majority are husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and working men who have answered God’s call to proclaim the Gospel, assist at the altar, and serve the poor. This quiet ministry is a powerful reminder that holiness often grows through faithful service in ordinary life.

Currently 12 men are in formation. Although no date is set yet for an ordination their classes conclude in June of 2028.

The diocese is now accepting applications for the next class, which will begin in September of 2027 and run through 2032. For those discerning to be part of the 2027 formation class – pray, talk, and listen for God’s call.

“Pray about it, talk to your pastor, and talk to me,” Yaquinta said. “The first two-years are called aspirancy and we spend a lot of time helping people discern if they are being called or not.”

Additionally, having the support of those closest to you is “critical.”

“If married, the candidate has to have his



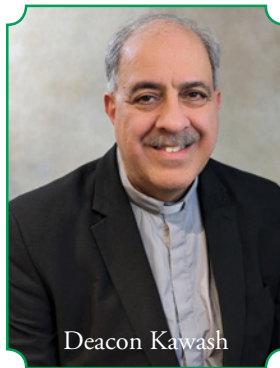
Deacon Manning



Deacon Krall



Deacon Torlone



Deacon Kawash



Deacon Murphy

wife’s permission to enter the program, and then again at the end before ordination,” he said. It’s a serious step. It is not only putting God first as we are all called to do, but it is also evangelizing, sharing the Word of God, and serving without seeking recognition.

In recognition of the year of St. Francis of Assisi, the most beloved deacon in the history Church, a deacon must be “the hands and feet of Christ.” is exactly what a deacon signs up to do. It is not about self, but selfless giving.

Let us pray for our deacons, those in formation, and those discerning the permanent diaconate. May they receive the grace to serve with compassion, humility, and unconditional love. May their families and friends support them in their vocation and be blessed for the sacrifices they all make for Christ and His Church.

Mass Roles for the Installation

Deacon William Klug proclaimed the Gospel reading as deacon of the Word.

Deacon Tommy Ross and Transitional Deacon Michael Aiello served as deacons of the altar. Ross also proclaimed the dismissal at the end of Mass, sending us to be fully alive in our faith.

Masters of Ceremonies for the installation were Deacons Paul Lim, Jacob Manning, John Yaquinta, Robert Krall, David Torlone, Michael Kawash, and Pierce Murphy.

Assisting as ministers of Holy Communion were Deacons Klug, Aiello, Ross, and Kawash.



In Celebration of
Bishop Evelio Menjivar's Installation
as the 10th Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

God Bless America

A Concert of Patriotic Organ and Vocal Music

to celebrate our nation's

★ 250th ★
★ birthday ★

SATURDAY
JULY 4

-12 NOON-



THE Cathedral
of St. Joseph

EOFF ST.
WHEELING, WV

JOIN US

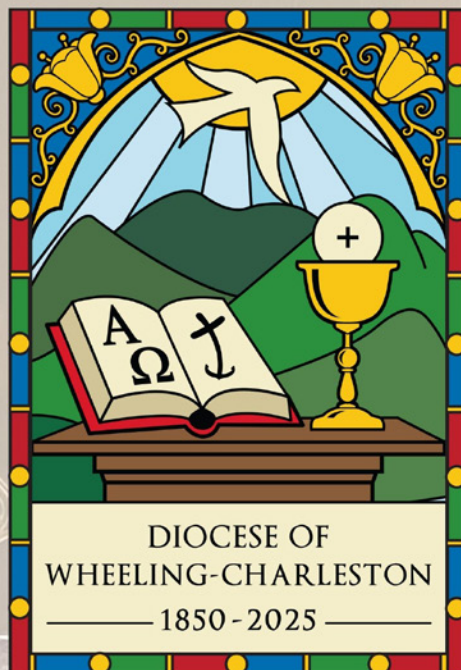
as we close out the
175th year of our diocese
with a Mass and reception.

July 19 | 10:30am

**BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL
OF THE SACRED HEART**

Charleston, WV

Bishop Evelio Menjivar
Celebrant



— DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON
— 1850-2025 —

CELEBRATING
175 YEARS OF
H O P E



Learn about our diocese by scanning
the QR code or visit dwc.org/175th

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Our Savior is a peacemaker, who rules to the ends of the earth. He is king of all not entering on a chariot but a lowly donkey.

Responsorial: Psalm 145

“I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.”

Second Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, for strength through God’s grace and mercy to lighten the load of all who labor and are burdened, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our nation as we celebrate our 250th anniversary of its founding, that we remain “One Nation Under God,” let us pray to the Lord. . .

For refuge from the summer’s heat for those who must work outside in the elements, those without adequate cooling, those who must rely on the compassion of others especially children and the elderly, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all facing hardships, illnesses, uncertainty, and loss, may they find Christ in the goodness of others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



WV CATHOLIC RADIO
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

Radio Luz de Vida streaming at www.rdo.to/WLOL2

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.