



# A Father's Heart for God's People

## Following the Example of Fr. Charles Carroll

As we honor our fathers on Father's Day, let the love and light of the late spiritual father, Fr. Charles Carroll, be your guide. Let his legacy inspire us to be servant leaders, giving selflessly and tirelessly in order to be the light of Christ for others, so together we grow as children of Almighty God.



He will forever be an elite example of a local priest, so much so Bishop Mark Brennan highlighted this faithful servant in his homily at the ordination of Fr. Clifton Mastran and Deacon Michael Aiello, who God willing will be ordained a priest next year, the bishop said.

He said to be the ideal priest you must put pride aside and God's will first. So can you be like Fr. Carroll?

"Are you weak enough to be a priest?"

"Are you humble enough to rely on His grace to help you?"

"Do you recognize your need for the Lord's forgiveness, even as you strive to serve the people with integrity and love?"

"Will you pray daily for the strength to announce the Good News to people who often don't get much of it?"

"That was the spirit of Charles Carroll, and it can be yours as well," he told the ordinands.

Bishop Mark illustrated Fr. Carroll's devotion to God and to the Church in WV, serving faithfully for nearly 50 years in the north central part of the state.

"Father Carroll was ordained in 1933, and soon after sent by Bishop Swint to close little missions in north central WV that appeared to have no future. While

assessing the situation he asked the bishop to give him a chance to revitalize the Catholic presence in that area. The bishop wisely agreed.

"Over the years Fr. Carroll founded All Saints Parish in Bridgeport (it had formerly been a mission) and (strengthened nine) missions. He opened a Catholic school to which he brought students each day in his bus. And by his kindness and patience, he overcame much anticatholic sentiment in the area.

"(Under his guidance and example) protestant ministers became friends. This was before the ecumenical movement took root. Local people regarded him as a faith filled loving shepherd. Today some people who knew him when they were children or young adults are working to promote him to sainthood. (Noting "His spirituality centered on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the words, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life' (John 14:6).")

"He lived out in practice the words Isaiah spoke (Isaiah 61:1-3). He truly brought Good News to poor families. Helping them from his meager personal resources when they were in need. He received gifts, he passed them on to given them to people who had greater need. He spent countless hours consoling those who had lost loved ones or suffered tragedies. He freed thousands of people in the confessional. Consecrated in truth he taught the faith



Father Carroll's chalice is still used to celebrate Mass in WV. It was chosen by Fr. Phillip Szabo (of St. Agnes, Charleston) for his ordination to the priesthood. The solid sterling chalice features the inscription, "Misericordiam et Judicium Cantabo Tibi Domine" (Psalm 101) "I will sing of mercy and judgement unto you, O Lord" choosing to honor God and his infinite mercy.

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without compromise. He celebrated multiple Masses on Sundays (in Churches, missions, and even homes) to give his people the oil of gladness and revive their listless spirit through the Word of God and the Eucharist.

“His priestly ordination anointed him with God’s spirit to serve his people in truth and love. He held the treasure of the Gospel and the grace of God in his earthly vessel. And he knew that its surpassing power was of God and not of him.”

Father Carroll was born in Wheeling on November 25, 1904, one of nine children. He was baptized at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Ordained on June 10, 1933, he remained an active priest until his retirement in 1982. He died 11 years later in Wheeling on Dec. 6, 1993.

The diocesan imprimatur written a year ago on June 25, 2025, encourages the faithful in the diocese and those who learn about his humble holy life to pray for his path to sainthood.

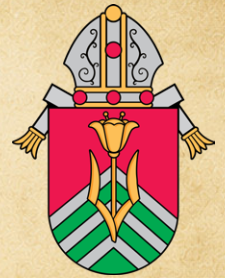
As part of this formal process, the Church seeks signs of his reputation of holiness—devotion and esteem among the faithful.

For more information go on Fr. Carroll go to: [FATHERCHARLESCARROLL.ORG](http://FATHERCHARLESCARROLL.ORG)



# CATHOLIC & AMERICAN

## *A Pastoral Letter on Faith and the Republic Where We Have Been and Where We Need to Go*



By Bishop Mark E. Brennan  
Apostolic Administrator of Wheeling-Charleston

As the United States prepares to celebrate the **250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026**, Bishop Mark Brennan invites Catholics throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to reflect on the meaning of freedom through the lens of our faith.

In his pastoral letter, Bishop Brennan examines the blessings of American democracy, the responsibilities of citizenship, and the vital role Catholics play in promoting the common good. He encourages the faithful to renew their commitment to prayer, civic engagement, human dignity, and the Gospel values that strengthen both Church and society.

*“Freedom reaches its fullest meaning  
when it is directed toward truth,  
goodness, and service to others.”*

Read the letter online:

[DWC.ORG/BISHOP-BRENNANPASTORAL-LETTER-ON-THE-250TH-ANNIVERSARY-OF-OUR-INDEPENDENCE](http://DWC.ORG/BISHOP-BRENNANPASTORAL-LETTER-ON-THE-250TH-ANNIVERSARY-OF-OUR-INDEPENDENCE)

# Saint Cyril of Alexandria

## *Guardian of Exactitude*

Pope Benedict XVI described him as the “guardian of exactitude” on the Church’s teachings and its continuity with the Church’s tradition.



Saint Cyril of Alexandria, pray for us.

He defended Christ was true man and true God, the real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the Virgin Mary’s title as Mother of God among other truths of the Church. He defended the Church and the Word of God.

When he heard of the Bishop of Constantinople’s controversial preaching, he began writing the bishop, Bishop Nestorius, warning him of the condemnation he would face, teaching untruths. Cyril pleaded for him to stop and that those who cause scandal, especially “to only one of the little ones who believe in Christ” would be punished. His words fell on deaf ears. Nestorius continued.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria refused to back down from Nestorius’s “mad folly” and radical views that continued to stir controversy within the Church. The debate resulted in the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D., officially condemning Nestorian and standing in support of Cyril’s letters that were not a threat, but in defense of the Nicene creed.

The council concluded St. Cyril of Alexandria’s letters to Nestorius included 12 anathemas (disputes to condemn/heresy) and clarified the Church’s teachings.

Those 12 were:

1. Jesus is God, and therefore the Virgin Mary is literally the Mother of God - Word made flesh. To teach otherwise is an anathema.
2. Christ is true God and true Man. To teach otherwise is an anathema.
3. Anyone who splits Christ into two separate existences after the Incarnation, let them be anathema.
4. Forbid anyone from assigning some of Jesus’ words strictly to a “separate human man” and other words exclusively to the divine Word.
5. Condemn the idea that Jesus was simply an ordinary holy man.
6. Reject the view that God the Father or the Word was the external “Lord” or “Master” over Jesus. Jesus is Himself the incarnate Word.
7. Condemn the teaching that the human Jesus was merely a separate vessel clothed in glory and mimicking the Word of God.
8. Reject the idea that the “man assumed by God” should be worshipped *alongside* but separate from the Word. Christ must be worshipped with a single, unified adoration as the Word made flesh.
9. Deny and stand against any teaching that Jesus worked miracles using a “power” from the Holy Spirit. Affirm, therefore, that the Spirit He used was His very own proper divine Spirit.
10. Condemn any view or speech that does not recognized Christ offering himself to suffer and die for our sins and the sake of our souls.
11. 11. Reject any claim that the flesh consumed in the Eucharist belongs to an ordinary man, for it is indeed the sacrament that is genuinely life-giving because it is the literal flesh of the Word who brings all things to life.
12. Anathematize anyone who denies that the Word of God truly suffered, was crucified, tasted death in the flesh, and was the Resurrection, defeating death.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria is honored on each year by the Church on June 27th for guarding the faith and maintaining our honor of Mary, the Mother of God.

# The Nativity of John the Baptist

June 24th

## Prepare the Way of the Lord in The Lives of Others

Saint John the Baptist was the transition between the two covenants - the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Nativity of St John the Baptist comes three months after the celebration of the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel told the Blessed Virgin Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy. John the Baptist would be born six months before the Jesus.

John was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, who although had prayed for children were childless and considered way too old for children. Despite the latter, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, telling him Elizabeth would give birth to a son, who will be filled with the Holy Spirit even in her womb, and they were to name him John.

In Luke's Gospel, we learn this great prophet was born to prepare the way for Jesus Christ.

The Nativity of John the Baptist is one of the oldest feasts in the Church, dating back to 506 AD.

## Look Closely to See the Story

The vintage prayer card featured with this article encircles infant St. John the Baptist tenderly hugging a lamb and a small banner around a cross, declaring "Ecce Agnus Dei" (Behold the Lamb of God.) Surrounding the portrait is a series of vignettes, each a glimpse of the saint's life. Starting on the top left the angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah declaring the elderly couple will have a son, John (Luke 1:11-13). The top right is the naming of John with Zechariah writing "His name is John" which was also the moment Zechariah's voice was restored (Luke 1:63-64). The middle left is Mary and infant Jesus visiting His cousin John. The right middle vignette is of John preaching to a crowd, calling for repentance (Luke 3:3-4). The bottom left and right illustrate his martyrdom and Salome's receiving the head of Saint John the Baptist on a platter (Mark 6:25-28).



## Faith in Action

In the spirit of the Great Baptizer, gently embrace the lost sheep wherever God puts you in life, and bring them into the love and light of Christ.

Let the Nativity of St. John the Baptist renew in us the saving grace of the Lord, encouraging us to share his love to others not only by our words, but also through our actions.

We were all built for that mission. By sharing God - who He is, how He loves, and your love for Him - you will receive many graces and your relationship with Christ will strengthen.

May we follow the example of St John the Baptist and prepare the way of the Lord in the lives of others.

# The Joy in Their Eyes Reveal Hearts on Fire for Christ

As Evelyn Ortiz and Marilena Morales watched the ordinations of Fr. Clifton Mastran and Deacon Michael Aiello at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, their joy reflected what was also in their hearts - God's calling.

Both serve as missionaries in Morgantown and the Clarksburg Vicariate while discerning religious life with the Missionary Sister Servants of the Word. Though not yet religious sisters, they are responding to God's invitation through prayer, service, and evangelization.

They shared their stories with *FaithInWV*.

Evelyn Zepeda Ortiz wrote, "I'm 19 years old, I was born and raised in California. Entering this community was the best decision I've ever made, and I'm entirely grateful for the calling God has made upon my life and for the fact that he continually makes the calling upon everyone's life.

"God shows his merciful and compassionate love each day that we wake up, but a lot of the time it's hard to hear or respond in such a noisy world like I experienced in my own life.

"Before deciding to join the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word, I was a high school student. Joining a religious community had never crossed my mind, my plan was to go off to college to study psychology and help others, but God changed my plans.

"I grew up in a catholic household but (until I was a junior) in high school my priorities were my friends and my future. . . . I dealt with difficulties with feelings of solitude, internal anxiety, spiritual

conflict. . . . I felt that nothing around me was able to satisfy this hunger for happiness; which confused me because I thought I had all the external things I could have wanted. I was missing something, so I began to look for that quietness in my life, not only external but an Internal quietness, where Jesus was able to come to me through a lady I had never met, who approached me with a gift which had the answer to all, a bible. My heart grew a strong desire to get to know who exactly Christ was, because though I knew his name, I came to realize I didn't know him truly and this devastated me. God, who is all good and died for us, gives to humanity His Word yet I never looked to open it.

"As I entered my senior year I was invited to a Vocational Retreat. I was afraid to attend because I had my whole life planned out. (However, I could not escape) my heart and a strong uneasiness that I had to attend. I (went) with the intention of only experimenting a vocational retreat, but (left feeling) strongly called to follow the Lord.

"This missionary experience has transformed my life for the better. Taking the word of God to the places where it seems to be most forgotten, by visiting homes to share the gospel and pray the rosary with families we experience how the Word of God is alive and has the power to bring light into a life of darkness.

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

Marilena Mazariegos Morales has been in the Servants of the Word community for more than two years.



Morales (left) and Ortiz (right) with Dcn Michael Aiello

"I'm 22 years old, I was born in Guatemala and moved here with my family when I was 9 years old. I grew up in a very Catholic family that was deeply committed to the faith and Gospel values. However, as I grew older, I began to lose those values; even so, (out of routine) I continued to attend Mass every Sunday, receive Communion, and participate in the sacraments. Yet, a great void began to open up within me—a void I tried to fill with external and material things, people etc.

"I asked God to help me, because I didn't feel fulfilled and lacked true happiness. God gave me the opportunity to get to know this community, where young adults do an experiment of a year and eight months serving God through his Word. I decided to do this experience, and through it, I discovered what I was missing - the Word of God.

"That was what I needed to fill the void that was slowly tearing me apart. Today, I want to bear witness to that Word, which has given me a new life."



Novena Prayer  
for  
Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala

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Leading up to the Installation  
as Tenth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston  
June 23- July 1, 2026

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

DAY 1: For Bishop Evelio to continue serving with a shepherd's heart, modeled after the Good Shepherd.

“A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away....I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.”

John 10:11-15

After daily scripture recite:

Prayer for our new Bishop

Heavenly Father, you have called your servant, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, to lead the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Bless him with courage, wisdom, and care as he leads your Church here in West Virginia.

May he be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be guided in words and actions with truth and love. Lord we ask you to keep him humble yet strong in faith.

May he be a shepherd like Christ, and work for unity and mercy, hope and justice, and care for all entrusted to him.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Our Father....

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

DAY 2: For Bishop Evelio to have strength and perseverance in his leadership.

“Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.” -Ephesians 6:10-11

DAY 3: For unity among the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in welcoming our new Bishop.

“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4: 2-6

DAY 4: For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.’” Matthew 9:37-38

DAY 5: For Bishop Evelio to have courage and wisdom in times of challenge or difficulties.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

DAY 6: For Bishop Evelio’s Ministry to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name - he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.”

John 14:26

DAY 7: For Bishop Evelio to preach the truth with love, grace, and charity.

“proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.” Ephesians 4:2

DAY 8: For Bishop Evelio’s health, well-being, and personal intentions.

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” Philippians 4:6

DAY 9: That Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala may be filled with a spirit of Evangelization to bring the Good News to every corner of our Diocese.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19-20

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13**

Jeremiah confesses his fear of those who would persecute him but reassures himself that God will protect him.

**Responsorial: Psalm 69**

“Lord, in your great love, answer me.”

**Second Reading: Romans 5:12-15**

By grace, the gracious gift of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, we have been saved.

**Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33**

“Fear no one.” Jesus assures the disciples that God will protect the souls who carry out His work. Receive God’s love as the most precious gift and love Him above all. God watches over you. There is no need to fear sorrow or death.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, when we are persecuted or discriminated against, let us stand confident and courageous, steadfast in our love of God and his mercy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may use their power to rescue those unjustly imprisoned, to serve the poor, and to unite our communities, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That people in every nation and every region may be able to worship God Almighty freely, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For fathers and all those who have taken on that role, may they continue to work tirelessly for those they care for, and be a strong example of Christ’s love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



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LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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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](http://DWC.ORG).