

SPECIAL EDITION

Faith IN WV

JUNE 28, 2026

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



As we, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, prepare to welcome Most Rev. Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, as our 10th Bishop on Thursday, July 2, FaithInWV presents this special edition as a guide to highlight the Installation Mass - essential details, key moments, and thoughtful context. As a diocesan family let us reverently honor this historic moment, unite in prayer for our new shepherd, and embrace with hope the future God is unfolding for the Church in West Virginia.



DON'T MISS IT!

KEY MOMENTS IN BISHOP EVELIO'S INSTALLATION

The Catholic Church has many beautiful traditions, each purposeful in the life, teaching, and sanctity of the Church Christ gave us.

On Thursday, July 2, the Most Reverend Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will be officially installed as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling.

The Liturgy will surely be breathtaking as we celebrate this special moment for the Church and all of West Virginia.

With that we wanted to highlight the significance of key moments not to miss.

THE ANCIENT RITUAL – THE KNOCK



Fr. Pen

At the beginning of the liturgy, the rector of the Cathedral Father Penumaka “Pen” Manikyalarao and the major concelebrants will be gathered in the narthex of the church. Priest and deacons of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be on the steps outside.

Bishop Evelio will be standing on the steps outside of the cathedral’s main door. He will knock three times, an ancient ritual based on a passage from Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.”

Father Pen will open the door to receive Bishop Evelio, a visible sign of the local church’s welcome, embracing his arrival as Christ’s ambassador and first step toward taking possession of the cathedral church.

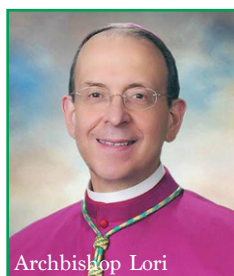
As Bishop Evelio enters, Fr. Pen will present him with a crucifix, symbolizing our salvation through Christ. As customary, Bishop Evelio will kiss the crucifix. He will then bless himself and those gathered around him with holy water, a reminder that we, brothers and sisters in Christ, enter the Church through baptism and are united in mission.

THE PROCESSIONAL

The processional hymn will begin and the myriad of cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians and altar servers will process to the sanctuary. The major concelebrants of the Mass are coming to mark this glorious occasion from all across the US and several countries.

Bishop Evelio will enter the church before Archbishop William E. Lori (of the Archdiocese of Baltimore that has jurisdiction over Wheeling-Charleston) who will be the principal celebrant for the beginning of the Mass.

Bishop Mark Brennan will welcome all to the historical moment for the Church in WV.



Archbishop Lori

Major Concelebrants for the Mass with Most Rev. William E. Lori, Archdiocese of Baltimore, and Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala:

His Eminence
Gregorio Cardinal Rosa Chávez
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of San Salvador

His Eminence
Wilton Cardinal Gregory
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington

His Eminence
Robert Cardinal McElroy
Archbishop of Washington

Most Reverend Mark Brennan
*Bishop Emeritus,
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

Most Reverend William C. Skurla
*Metropolitan Archbishop of the Byzantine
Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh*

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Archdiocese of New York

Most Reverend Michael Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Most Reverend John G. Noonan
Bishop of Orlando

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

Most Reverend John Stowe, O.F.M. Conv.
Bishop of Lexington

Most Reverend Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R.
Bishop of Providence

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown

Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick
Bishop of Greensburg

THE PAPAL BULL

Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, will then read apostolic mandate - the papal bull (Latin for “decree”) issued by Pope Leo XIV, officially declaring Bishop Evelio’s appointment to lead our diocese.

The papal bull will then be handed to Bishop Evelio. This is the moment he officially accepts the bishop’s office for Wheeling-Charleston. Holding it up, he shows it to the Diocesan Consultors (which include Msgr. Dean G. Borgmeyer, Fr. Sebastian E. Devasya, Fr. Donald X. Higgs, Fr. Carlos L. Melocoton, Fr. Gerald Muoka of the Diocese of Orlu, Nigeria, Fr. John Rice, Fr. Dennis R. Schuelkens Jr., and Fr. Leonard A. Smith) to inspect, and Chancellor Chad Carter to officially record.

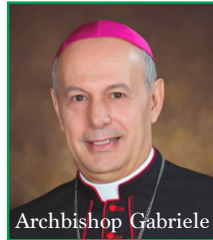


Chad Carter

Bishop Evelio is likely to walk around the cathedral to show it to all in attendance.

TAKING THE SEAT

Archbishop Gabriele and Archbishop Lori will then escort Bishop Menjivar to the cathedra, the bishop’s official seat. This custom is symbolic of Bishop Evelio’s authority which has been passed on from Jesus and the apostles. He will be handed his crozier (staff of the chief shepherd to guide and protect the diocese).



Archbishop Gabriele

At the cathedra he will be greeted by representatives of the diocese a customary sign of obedience and support of the new bishop. Additionally civic and ecumenical leaders come forward to welcome him.

THE TENTH BISHOP IS CELEBRANT

The Mass continues in the usual way with the singing of the Gloria. Bishop Evelio will be the celebrant (and homilist) for the rest of the Mass.

As tradition holds and like the installation Mass for Bishop Brennan, the readings of the Mass and the prayers of the faithful (universal prayers) will reflect a variety of cultures present in the diocese, including English, Spanish, Shona (Zimbabwe), Malayalam (India), and Tagalog (Philippines).

The Installation Mass concludes with a special episcopal blessing given by Bishop Evelio with three signs of the cross, and the final procession leaving the cathedral to a thanksgiving hymn, “Christus Vincit,” an ancient hymn proclaiming Christ’s victory, reign, and command as king of the universe.

GREETING FROM OUTSIDE THE CATHEDRAL

Bishop Evelio is also expected to greet everyone gathered outside the cathedral from the exterior pulpit, which is the small balcony on the left corner of the church.

Most Reverend Jerome Feudjio
Bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

Most Reverend William E. Koenig
Bishop of Wilmington

Most Reverend Mark Eckman
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse
Bishop of Kalamazoo

Most Reverend Michael Pham
Bishop of San Diego

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop Emeritus of Arlington

Most Reverend John J. McIntyre
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

Most Reverend Adam J. Parker
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore

Most Reverend Tulio Rivera
Auxiliary Bishop of Santiago de Guatemala

Most Reverend Juan R. Esposito
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Most Reverend Felipe Pulido
Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego

Most Reverend Cristiano G. Borro Barbosa
Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

Most Reverend Christopher R. Cooke
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

Most Reverend Pedro Bismarck Chau
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

Most Reverend Octavio Cisneros
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Brooklyn

Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell Jr.
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Washington

Reverend Emilio
Biosca Agüero, O.F.M. Cap.
Bishop-elect of Venice in Florida

Reverend Gary R. Studniewski
Auxiliary Bishop-elect of Washington

Reverend Robert P. Boxie III
Auxiliary Bishop-elect of Washington

Monsignor Ionut Paul Strejac
Chargé d’Affaires of the Holy See in Albania



BIOGRAPHY OF MOST REVEREND EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA

Bishop Evelio Menjivar was born August 14, 1970, in Chalatenango, El Salvador, to devoted Catholic parents Cándido Menjívar and Catalina Ayala de Menjívar. He migrated to the United States in 1990 and in 2023 became Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington, notably the first Salvadoran bishop in the country.

Bishop Menjivar attended St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami, Florida, receiving a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He attended the North American College in Rome and obtained a master's degree in theology from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome ("Angelicum") in 2002. He pursued licentiate studies at the Pontifical Scalabrinian Institute for Pastoral Theology for Human Mobility in Rome before his ordination. He was ordained to the priesthood for The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington on May 29, 2004.

Bishop Menjivar's assignments in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington have included posts as parochial vicar at Mother Seton Catholic Church in Germantown; St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Bethesda; the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington; and as pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Americas Catholic Church in Washington. From 2017 to 2023, he served as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Landover Hills. He speaks English, Spanish, and Italian.

He previously served as dean of Middle Prince George's County Deanery and was also a member of the Archdiocesan Child Protection Advisory Board. In 2023, Cardinal Wilton Gregory named him Vicar General of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. He currently is a member of the Priest Personnel Board, Administrative Board, the College of Consultors, and the Priest Council. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Catholic Conference, Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services. He is also the Episcopal Moderator of the National Catholic Ecclesial Movements and Member of the USCCB Committee on Communications.

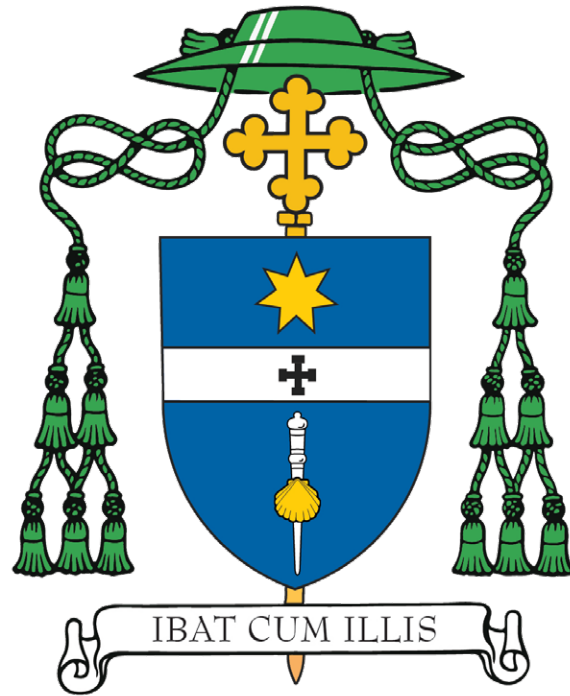
In 2024, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Georgetown University. Throughout his ministry, he has actively supported workers and continues to promote social justice for immigrants.

Bishop Menjivar was ordained as an auxiliary bishop of Washington on February 21, 2023, by Cardinal Wilton Gregory at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

The Holy Father Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop Menjivar to be the 10th bishop of Wheeling-Charleston on May 1, 2026.

The Mass of Installation will be celebrated on July 2, 2026, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling.





COAT OF ARMS OF MOST REVEREND EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA

Having a coat of arms comes from Church tradition dating back to the Middle Ages. This ecclesiastical shield is symbolic of the Catholic bishop's "signature" to identify his office, pastoral mission, and values.

THE BLUE FIELD symbolizes the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the United States. It also points to the color of the flag of El Salvador, where Bishop Menjivar-Ayala was born. The horizontal stripe in silver (white) symbolizes the desire for peace of all nations.

THE STAR symbolizes the gift of faith that leads us to Jesus Christ, the true light of the world. It also symbolizes Mary, often called the Star of the New Evangelization. Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, has been instrumental in the evangelization of the Americas, in the past as in the present.

THE CROSS represents Christ and the mystery of our redemption.

THE SCALLOP SHELL AND THE PILGRIM'S STAFF symbolize our baptism and the journey of faith of a pilgrim Church. They also represent the personal journey of Bishop Menjivar as an immigrant in the United States.

THE MOTTO, "Ibat cum illis," "He walked with them," is taken from the Gospel of Luke 24:15. While two disciples of Jesus were walking downcast and conversing about what has happened in Jerusalem, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them.

In virtue of his pastoral ministry as bishop, he has received from the Lord the special call to go out to the peripheries to encounter those who walk without hope, and to walk with them in the journey of faith that leads to a personal encounter with the Risen Lord. As it happened with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, this journey must open our hearts to the virtue of hospitality which finds its maximum expression at the celebration of the Eucharist and when we welcome the strangers amongst us.



THE EPISCOPAL INSIGNIA

MOST REVEREND EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA

The ancient traditional regalia of a bishop – ring, cross, mitre, and crozier - are visual signs to inspire respect for the office of bishop and the office’s authority.

What are the distinctive features of Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala’s symbols of office?

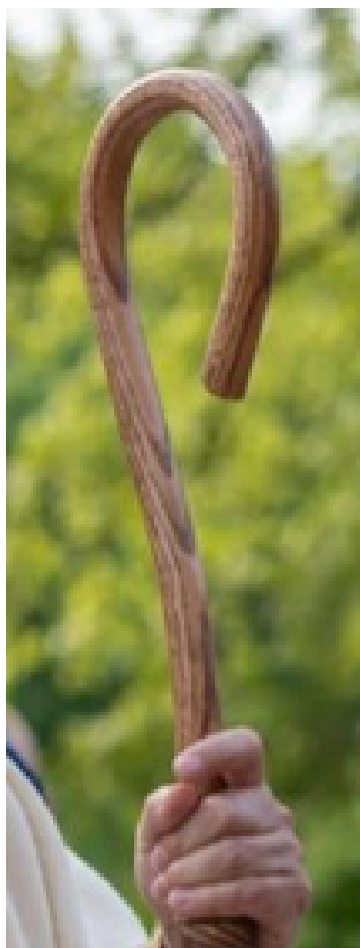
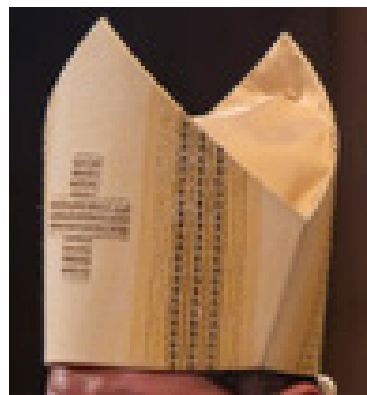
The **EPISCOPAL RING** is a traditional sign of love and fidelity that unites the bishop with Christ and His Church. It is also a symbol of the bishop’s office, worn on the fourth finger of the right hand. Bishop Evelio’s ring features the Greek letters for X and P, called the Chi-Rho (☩) – the initials of Christ’s name and one of the oldest sacred monograms representing devotion to Him.

The **PECTORAL CROSS** is a symbol of his consecration to Christ. In his formal photo Bishop Evelio’s cross is a crucifix and around the Redeemer is the phrase “Ecce lignum Crucis, in quo salus mundi pependi” translated: Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the Savior of the world.

The cross he wore with his clerical suit at the May 1st press conference featured a simple cross with a circular medallion of the *Agnus Dei* – Lamb of God.

The **MITRE**, the tall, pointed headdress worn by bishops as part of their formal liturgical vestments, is a sign of his authority in the Church. While not restricted to wearing just one design, Bishop Evelio was often seen in the Archdiocese of Washington wearing a cream-colored mitre embellished with a cross and gold accents.

The **CROZIER**, often referred to as the pastoral crook or shepherd’s staff, symbolizes that the bishop is to emulate Christ as a shepherd, guiding, protecting, reaching out to bring back, and walking along with the flock as a servant leader. Bishop Menjivar has been photographed carrying a deliberately simple wooden crozier as a traditional shepherd and a gilded staff for distinctively formal moments.



CHOSEN ESPECIALLY FOR JULY 2 INSTALLATION

Bishop Menjivar made a significant choice for the Thursday installation. The crozier he will carry and the chalice he will raise are special acknowledgments to shepherds who lead the diocese with compassion, love, and broadened empathy before him.

THE CROZIER



The staff of the “Immigrants’ Bishop.”

Bishop Patrick J. Donahue was known for fiercely defending rights of foreign-born workers, especially those who came to work in the state’s coal mines, steel mills, and factories. Many of these men were Catholics from Europe. Additionally, he was influential in getting legal protections and fair treatment for these laborers who were frequently attacked by secret anti-Catholic groups.

The crozier Bishop Evelio will carry was a gift presented to Bishop Patrick J. Donahue in 1919 on his episcopal silver jubilee by the clergy of the Wheeling Diocese.

Bishop Donahue was the third bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling, serving from 1894 until his death in 1922.

During his tenure in West Virginia Bishop Donahue became a champion for the struggles of the workingman and immigrants. Donahue fought against antisemitism, poor working conditions, and socialism, endearing himself to Catholics and Protestants alike.



Bishop Patrick J. Donahue, the third bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling (1894–1922), was a tireless advocate for immigrant workers in West Virginia’s coal mines, steel mills, and factories, championing fair treatment and legal protections while opposing anti-Catholic prejudice and antisemitism. The crozier Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will carry at his installation was a precious gift presented to Bishop Donahue by the clergy of the Diocese of Wheeling in 1919 to mark his silver jubilee as a bishop.

THE CHALICE & PATEN



A native son’s chalice, a symbol of unity.

During the years Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt served as the seventh bishop for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 1989 to 2004, he led a diocesan synod “On a Journey Together” to serve as a guiding pastoral vision for the faithful in WV.

Bishop Evelio’s episcopal motto shares that same spiritual path to unity - “Ibat cum illis” (He walked with them). Taken from the Gospel of Luke 24:15, which echoes the importance of listening to, waking with, and being empathetic to all, moreover, it reflects the bishop designate’s own journey that has brought him to WV.

It is Bishop Schmitt that holds the distinction of being the only American bishop born in Wheeling.

Bishop Schmitt was dedicated to the growth and development of Catholic parochial schools. He emphasized that parents are the primary educators of their children and that church schools serve as the ultimate support system for families. Additionally, he was a respected voice for interfaith harmony, focusing heavily on fostering open dialogue and collaboration between different religious denominations throughout West Virginia.

He was an auxiliary bishop for the diocese from May 31, 1988 – March 30, 1989. Upon his retirement he continued to serve the people of the Mountain State as a bishop emeritus. He died in 2011.



During the years Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt served as the seventh bishop for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 1989 to 2004, he led a diocesan synod “On a Journey Together” to serve as a guiding pastoral vision for the faithful in WV. This photo of our late bishop emeritus with his chalice was featured in an album gifted to him in 1985 (four years before he was installed as bishop) for his 30th Anniversary of his priestly ordination.





BISHOP EVELIO'S MISSION LOVE AND SERVE "ALMOST HEAVEN"

As Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala prepares for his installation on July 2, let us be reminded of the mission he shared with us from the beginning of his WV journey: he comes to love and to serve "Almost Heaven," a ministry grounded in listening first, and service always.

On May 1, at the press conference immediately following the Holy Father's pick for our tenth bishop, Bishop Evelio emphasized that his first step is to get to know the people of the diocese through attentive listening to priests, religious, diocesan offices, young people, the faithful who carry a voice in the Church, and also those often overlooked: "the poor" and those "in the margins."

The journey here began unknowingly decades ago. From the early days of his discernment and into the priesthood, Bishop Mark Brennan was an inspiration to the young man who risked his life to be able to serve God's people and shine the light of Christ.

Bishop Mark affirms Pope Leo's choice for Wheeling-Charleston, noting Bishop Evelio's integrity, intelligence, zeal, and love of all people.

So, as Bishop Evelio begins to shepherd the diocese he will focus on being first as a "brother in faith," and then as "your servant."

"Almost Heaven" is not used merely as a reference to the Mountain State's breathtaking scenery, but it is also the setting for his pastoral agenda: listen, accompany, and serve, until the diocese can truly experience that the bishop's authority is, at its core, authority in love.





THE TRANSITION

Understanding the Church's process for a bishop transition may be a little confusing. So, to help our readers understand here is a summary presented by FaithInWV Editor-Writer Joyce Bibey and Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L. Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Wellsburg.

According to Church law, bishops are asked to submit their resignation to the Holy Father when they reach the age of 75. The Pope then decides when to accept the resignation.

That is what has happened here.

Bishop Mark Brennan submitted his resignation after reaching the age of 75, and the Holy Father has now accepted it – four years later.

WHAT HAPPENED BEHIND THE SCENES?

Choosing a new bishop is a careful and prayerful process. The Apostolic Nuncio, who represents the Pope in the United States, gathered information and consulted with bishops, priests, religious, and lay faithful. This information was then sent to Rome, where the Holy Father made the final decision.

In our case, the Holy Father has appointed Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala as the next bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

With the acceptance of Bishop Brennan's resignation as diocesan bishop, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston became vacant. At the same time, the Holy Father appointed Bishop Brennan as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese.

This means that, although he has resigned as diocesan bishop, he continues to lead the diocese temporarily until the new bishop officially takes office.

Bishop Menjivar is already a bishop in the Archdiocese of Washington, but he does not officially begin leading the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston until his installation Mass on July 2nd.

At that Mass, he formally takes possession of the diocese and begins his ministry as the diocesan bishop.

At that point, Bishop Brennan's role as Apostolic Administrator concludes, and he then assumes the title Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.

WHAT DOES "BISHOP EMERITUS" MEAN?

The title "Bishop Emeritus" is given to a retired bishop who has completed his service as diocesan bishop.

Although retired from governing the diocese, a bishop emeritus remains a bishop and may continue assisting the Church through confirmations, Masses, ordinations, preaching, and other sacramental ministries as requested.

We remain deeply grateful for his years of service, his leadership, and his continued presence among the faithful of our diocese.





DIVINE PROVIDENCE

A STORY OF FAITH, MENTORSHIP, AND APOSTOLIC MISSION

When looking at the journey that led bishop designate Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston through the theological lens, it can be described as nothing less than Divine Providence.

“The human heart plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.” – Proverbs 16:9

On the day of the press conference when Bishop Evelio was announced to become the successor of Bishop Mark Brennan, the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington thanked Bishop Mark for “Opening the door” not only to the diocese per se, but “many years ago you opened the door of the Archdiocese of Washington while you were the vocations director. You welcomed me to the priestly formation program. Little did we know what the lord had in store for both of us. Thank you for being part of this journey from the very beginning. I hope you will continue mentoring me as I learn and adjust in this new mission.”

Both Gospels of Matthew (7:7) and Luke (11:9), put it eloquently: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”



During Bishop Mark’s time as the director of priestly vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington from 1988-1991, he encouraged and shepherded young Evelio Menjivar-Ayala’s discernment and early priesthood.

“He was a youth minister in a parish (in Maryland) and had showed a real interest in the priesthood,” he said. “So, I worked with him and we got him into seminary. We thought this guy has real potential, so we sent him over to Rome for theology. Did well there. Came back and I was still a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington, so we served as brother priests for a while. Three years ago, he was chosen to be an auxiliary bishop of Washington and ‘the angels rejoiced’ as I did too. I thought this is a good one, a good choice.”

As brother priests, the two worked together in the archdiocese from the time of Bishop Evelio’s priestly ordination in 2004 through 2017, the year Bishop Mark was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

On Feb. 21, 2023, Bishop Mark joined other bishops and archbishops, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., to celebrate and pray over Bishop Evelio when he was installed auxiliary bishop for the archdiocese.

The apostolic order and apostolic succession (bishops who hand on the apostolic ministry) is a way the Church continues the mission of the Apostles through ordered hierarchy and communion in truth and grace.

Just as the Church teaches, the Spirit works through us.

The photo with this article is a screenshot captured by Deacon Michael Kawash from the video of the 2023 ordination illustrating the concrete sign of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and God’s providential path to ministry.

Upon the May 1, 2026, appointment of Bishop Menjivar to the WV diocese, Bishop Brennan said, “Many faithful across the diocese and I have prayed to God for a true shepherd of the people to lead our diocese into the future. I truly believe God has answered our prayers with the appointment of Bishop Evelio Menjivar.”

Bishop Brennan will continue to serve the diocese as bishop emeritus. So with that, the bond and journey of these two spiritual brothers continue.



GIFT BEARERS REFLECT DIOCESE'S WELCOME, FAITH, AND UNITY

When three families present the bread and wine at Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala's installation Mass, they will carry more than gifts to the altar — they will carry generations of faith, love and welcome from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The role of the gift bearers holds special significance in the Mass. Since the early Church, the gift bearers represent the local faithful.

This ancient tradition is extra special at an installation Mass. The gift bearers are a visible welcoming of the new shepherd, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala. By handing the gifts of bread and wine directly to the new bishop, the group enacts the diocese's mutual covenant of support, obedience, and unity in Christ.

Presenting the gifts at the Mass will be three families – three generations – of faith, hope, and love.



Carrying the wine will be Doug and Theresa White of Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg. It is fair to say the Whites are pillars in their local church and community. The

Whites represent the many faithful parishioners around the state, keeping faith fully alive by thinking and acting like Christ beyond Sundays. So, expect to see this couple at Church events and service projects near and dear to parish life.

Doug is a veteran member of the Clarksburg Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Assembly, having held leadership position locally and statewide, while Theresa serves the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court (#334) and has been active in the parish's nursing ministry.

Familiar to many around the state will be the Severn family from South Charleston - Jeremy and Rosemary Severn with sons Caleb (9), and Levi (5).

Rosemary serves as the music director at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston



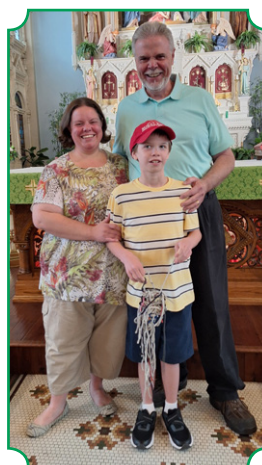
and sings with the diocesan festival choir made up of members from parishes across the state. Most recently she made the trip to Wheeling for the

May 30th ordination Mass, where she and the diocesan choir were accompanied by both Caleb and Levi.

“Our family converted to Catholicism when Levi was a baby, after Jeremy and I had been musicians in the Catholic church for over a decade,” she said.

Being asked to be gift bearers at such an important Mass for the new bishop, the diocese, and the state of West Virginia is an indescribable honor.

“As musicians, we're always busy playing and singing during the presentation of the gifts, so this will be our first time to bring up the gifts during Mass,” she said. “We pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen and guide Bishop Evelio as he shepherds our Diocese, today and into the future.”



Accompanying the Severns will be three generations of the Griffin family of Wheeling - Chuck Griffin, his daughter, Danielle Porter, and her son Daniel “Griffin” Porter (11). Like the rest of the group the Griffin family selflessly give their time, talents, and gifts to their parish, rolling up their sleeves to cook, organize, or whatever else is needed around the historic

church that was built by Catholic immigrants out of the strong faith, great love, and reverent respect.

Chuck has been a parishioner of St. Alphonsus Parish in the Centre Market section of Wheeling for decades. He fully entered the church more than 30 years ago, after attending the parish with wife Linda for years. Danielle and Griffin are lifelong members of St. Al's.

continue...

Chuck Griffin and family gratefully accepted Bishop Mark's request to be gift bearers for Bishop Evelio.

Chuck had met the bishop designate briefly after Mass on the day he was announced in May.

"I'm humbled," he said. "I am so thankful."

Chuck and his extended family host the ever-popular pancake breakfast for the St. Al's community. But maybe one of the most cherished members of the parish is Griffin.

Griffin is autistic. While spoken language can sometimes be challenging for him, he expresses himself well with the support of his family, especially "Pappap and Mom," Danielle said.

Those who get to go to Mass and St. Al's events with can see for themselves that he is a bright, curious, and determined boy who is happy to be among them – a sweet witness of faith and joy.

"God gave me the most perfect grandson," Chuck said, holding back prideful tears. "We understand each other as we are. And love each other unconditionally."

Wherever Griffin goes, he carries a ball of rope that brings him comfort and helps him feel secure. Its "A sign of a champion" a local coach who attends Mass with him often says, because of its resemblance to a basketball net.

"We call Griffin's special ropes his 'strings'. They are a knotted mass of clothesline, rope, lanyard strings, drawstrings, and shoestrings (that were confiscated from

his sisters' shoes, hoodies, and sweatpants!)," Danielle said. "The repetitive motion of twirling them is one of the many things that Griffin does to help him re-regulate his sensory system in this overwhelming and over-stimulating world."

Griffin lights up when interacting with Bishop Mark Brennan, Fr. Penumaka "Pen" Manikyalarao, and Fr. John Soplinski. He looks forward to getting fist bumps and high fives at the end of Mass from the priests and Deacon Doug Breiding.

Father John recently received a cherished gift from Griffin – a hug at Father's farewell dinner hosted prior to the Weirton-native pastor's departure for his new parish, St. Jude in Glen Dale.

"Griffin is a happy, bright, curious, adventurous, and sometimes ornery little boy," Danielle said. "He has opened my eyes and heart to the fact that life is perceived so very differently from one person to the next, regardless of a 'disability'. I would like Bishop Evelio to see that as well, and to know that Griffin is a most precious gift from God. Not just to his family or the church, but to the world!"

Together, these families will offer a living sign of the diocese's prayerful support for its new shepherd and a reminder that every member of the Church is a precious gift in God's hands.



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE!

Solemn Vespers

6pm | Wednesday, July 1
Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Mass of Installation

2 pm | Thursday, July 2
Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Livestreamed: dwc.org



THE HEART OF A GOOD SHEPHERD

THROUGH THE EYES OF HIS LOVED ONES

Editor's note: The following article cites a Feb. 21, 2023, article by Miguel Vivanco for The Catholic Standard, the official newspaper and website of the Archdiocese of Washington, with photos by Tyler Orsburn of TCS.

As the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston prepare to welcome bishop designate Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, we share a unique glimpse into his heart through the eyes of his family, cited from The Catholic Standard interview and feature article from Feb. 21, 2023, his episcopal ordination day.

From his historic roots as the first Salvadoran bishop in the United States to his upcoming installation here in West Virginia, as our tenth bishop, Bishop Menjivar's journey is rooted in a mother's prayers and a family's unwavering support.

Unable to make the 3,000 mile trip from Carasque, Chalatenango, El Salvador, for the installation Mass as the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, is Bishop Menjivar's beloved 91-year-old mother, Catalina Ayala de Menjivar. She like many faithful around West Virginia will be watching the livestream and EWTN broadcast of the celebration.

When he was ordained a bishop in 2023, Catalina told The Catholic Standard two days before, "Evelio was always a good son, respectful and very obedient to the word of God. Since my son chose to be a priest, every day I raised my prayers to ask the Lord to enlighten him, but I never dreamed that He would choose him as his bishop... God heard the prayers of a humble mother."

Miguel Vivanco of the Catholic Standard wrote, "Catalina Ayala said her son's ordination to the priesthood brought joy and hope to the neighborhoods of the municipality of Nueva Trinidad and throughout Chalatenango, and now people there are

celebrating, knowing that a son of the Carasque town is believed to be the first Salvadoran bishop in the United States."

One of his siblings attending the Wheeling-Charleston installation Mass on Thursday will be his sister Paula Menjivar, who described her brother to the Catholic Standard, as "not only a priest dedicated to his pastoral mission, but he is an example of life for the Salvadoran diaspora and the Catholic community in El Salvador."

"Everyone in the family remembers that since he was a child, he played at being a priest, that he used to wear a long shirt and used to say that it was his cassock, that God was his Father. Today he is a bishop, which is an immense joy for everyone," she said prior to attending the episcopal ordination Mass on Feb. 21, 2023.

Carasque Church, the childhood parish of Bishop Evelio, is near and dear to him. When he visits his hometown, he helps in every way he can at the church, including the future improvement plans.

Also traveling to Wheeling for the momentous occasion is his sister, Elva Menjivar, who shared in the Catholic Standard article the certain joy of their late father Cándido Menjivar.

"We all know that my dad is happy in heaven," she said, adding "When Evelio was ordained a priest in the United States, a well-known newspaper in El Salvador published a small article, and my father always asked us to read the news aloud again. His face of happiness was unique, his prayers of thanks to God were permanent, as well as his commitment to the Catholic Church. Today we are all sure that he is very happy to know that his son is a bishop."





LITURGY OF THE WORD

FOR THE

INSTALLATION MASS OF BISHOP EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3ab, 6a, 8b-9

God's anointed messenger brings good news, comfort, healing, and justice.

Responsorial: Psalm 96

"Proclaim his marvelous deed to all the nations."

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Maintain unity within the Church, rooted in one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God, Father of all.

Gospel: John 21:15-19

Jesus repeats three times to Peter, "Do you love me?" Then gives him the command – "Feed my sheep. Follow me." Abandon your ego and trust God.





BISHOPS OF THE *DIocese* OF *WHEELING*

Bishop Richard V. Whelan

First Bishop of Wheeling
July 19, 1850 – July 7, 1874

Bishop John J. Kain

Second Bishop of Wheeling
May 23, 1875 – July 6, 1893

Bishop Patrick J. Donahue

Third Bishop of Wheeling
April 8, 1894 – October 4, 1922

Bishop John J. Swint

Fourth Bishop of Wheeling
Auxiliary | February 22, 1922 – December 11, 1922
Ordinary | December 11, 1922 – November 23, 1962

Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell

(Coadjutor Bishop of Wheeling)
March 7, 1951 – February 25, 1961

Bishop Joseph H. Hodges

Fifth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
(Coadjutor Bishop of Wheeling)
May 24, 1961 – November 23, 1962
Ordinary | November 23, 1962 – January 27, 1985

Bishop James E. Michaels

Auxiliary Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
April 3, 1973 – September 22, 1987

Bishop Francis B. Schulte

Sixth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
June 4, 1985 – December 6, 1988

Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt

Seventh Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
Auxiliary Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
May 31, 1988 – March 30, 1989
Ordinary | March 30, 1989 – December 9, 2004

Bishop Michael J. Bransfield

Eighth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
December 9, 2004 – September 13, 2018

Bishop Mark E. Brennan

Ninth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
July 23, 2019 – July 1, 2026
Transitions to Bishop Emeritus July 1, 2026



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

Sincere kindness to a stranger is highly praised. Elisha declares the truly hospitable woman will have a son for she and her husband were kind to him – a disciple of God.

Responsorial: Psalm 89

“Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.”

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

The Resurrection gives us newness in life and death to sin. Live for God.

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

To be a disciple of Christ is to give yourself to Christ, take up your cross, and live a life of self-sacrifice.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we too are hospitable and generous to those in need, reflecting the love of Christ and sharing the Good New, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our leaders as we celebrate the 250th anniversary independence, that they work together to uphold the ideals of founding fathers of this nation – one nation under God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful, that we are filled with genuine kindness like the woman of Shunem, as we encounter strangers, refugees, immigrants, and visitors, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, as he is installed as our tenth bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, that each step of his journey brings us closer to heaven as he enlightens our world with his love of Christ and the Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours

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.