



# **2010 Directory Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston**

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2010 Directory, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,  
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**Information compiled as of January 8, 2010.**

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# Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Ordained to the priesthood May 15, 1971. Appointed Eighth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston December 9, 2004. Ordained to the episcopacy and installed Feb. 22, 2005.

**COAT OF ARMS:** Bishop Bransfield's personal coat of arms is impaled with the arms of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. These arms, the left hand side, are described under the General Information section of this Directory. For his personal arms, designed by Deacon Paul J. Sullivan of Providence, RI, His Excellency has selected a design composed of three elements reflecting his life and heritage. At the center, on a silver central bar are three red plates, each charged with a silver cross. This is a variant on the arms of William Penn, recalling the Bishop's home state of Pennsylvania; it is also part of the arms of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Bishop's home diocese. Above the bar is a manuscript "M" which is taken from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where Bishop Bransfield served for 25 years and recalls his deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the base of the design are five stalks of standing wheat. Recalling the "Year of the Eucharist" in which Bishop Bransfield was named, these stalks of wheat are used as a play on his name: Bran is the substance between the husk and the kernel of any of the cereal grains; by using several stalks, graphically, a field of bran is represented ... thus, "Bransfield." For his motto, His Excellency, Bishop Bransfield has adopted the phrase from The Lord's Prayer, "Thy Will Be Done." With this motto, he expresses the sentiments of Our Lady at the Annunciation which reminds all devout Christians of the duty to put God's Holy Will before our own desires. Externally, the heraldic insignia of a bishop can be found: a gold processional cross as well as the pontifical hat with six tassels, in three rows, on either side of the shield, all in green.



**Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston**

# Former Bishops

Rt. Rev. Richard Vincent Whelan, D.D. Consecrated March 21, 1841, Bishop of Richmond. Made First Bishop of Wheeling in 1850. Died July 7, 1874.

Rt. Rev. John Joseph Kain, D.D. Consecrated May 23, 1875, for the Diocese of Wheeling. Transferred June 15, 1893, to the Titular Archiepiscopal See of Oxyrynchia. Appointed July 6, 1893, Coadjutor cum jure successionis to the Most Rev. Archbishop of St. Louis. Succeeded as Archbishop of St. Louis May 21, 1895. Died Oct. 13, 1903.

Rt. Rev. Patrick James Donahue, D.D. Consecrated April 8, 1894, for the Diocese of Wheeling. Died Oct. 4, 1922.

Most Rev. John Joseph Swint, D.D., LL.D Appointed Titular Bishop of Sura and Auxiliary Bishop of Wheeling Feb. 22, 1922. Consecrated May 11, 1922. Appointed Bishop of Wheeling Dec. 11, 1922. Appointed Assistant at the Pontifical Throne June 14, 1929. Promoted to rank of Archbishop "ad personam" March 12, 1954. Died Nov. 23, 1962.

Most Rev. Thomas John McDonnell, D.D., LL.D.4-6 Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of New York June 21, 1947. Consecrated Sept. 15, 1947. Appointed Coadjutor cum jure successionis to the Diocese of Wheeling March 7, 1951. Died Feb. 25, 1961.

Most Rev. Joseph H. Hodges, D.D. Ordained Dec. 8, 1935. Appointed Titular Bishop of Rusadus and Auxiliary of Richmond Aug. 8, 1952. Ordained to the episcopacy Oct. 15, 1952. Appointed Coadjutor cum jure successionis to the Bishop of Wheeling on May 24, 1961. Succeeded to the See of Wheeling on Nov. 23, 1962. Died Jan. 27, 1985.

Most Rev. James E. Michaels, D.D., S.S.C. Ordained to the priesthood Dec. 21, 1951. Appointed Titular Bishop of Verbe and Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Kwangju, Korea, on Feb. 15, 1966. Ordained to the episcopacy on April 14, 1966. Appointed Auxiliary to the Bishop of Wheeling March 26, 1973. Resigned as Auxiliary Bishop to embrace a life of solitude and prayer on the grounds of a Trappist Monastery Sept. 22, 1987.

Most Rev. Francis B. Schulte, D.D. Ordained to the priesthood May 10, 1952. Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and Titular Bishop of Afufenia June 27, 1981. Ordained to the episcopacy Aug. 12, 1981. Appointed Sixth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston June 4, 1985. Installed July 31, 1985. Appointed 12th Archbishop of New Orleans Dec. 13, 1988. Installed Feb. 14, 1989. Retired Jan. 3, 2002.

Most Rev. Bernard W. Schmitt, D.D. Ordained to the priesthood May 28, 1955. Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston and Titular Bishop of Walla Walla May 31, 1988. Ordained to the episcopacy Aug. 1, 1988. Appointed Seventh Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston March 30, 1989. Installed May 17, 1989. Retired Dec. 9, 2004.



# Mission

## Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

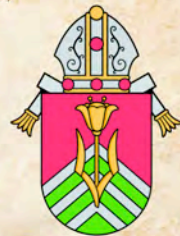
**M**s disciples of Jesus Christ in West Virginia, we the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in the heart of Appalachia, commit ourselves to furthering the Reign of God on earth and proclaiming the Good News to all people. ✠

**C**alled by God through Baptism, empowered by the Holy Spirit, nourished and formed by the Eucharist, we gather in our diversity as a community of faith, worship, and service under the pastoral guidance of our Bishop in union with the Bishop of Rome and all other local churches. ✠

**T**ested by an unstable economy, and lack of employment opportunities, and challenged by vast distances, we are a determined and family-oriented people of God nurtured by a land of remarkable beauty and abundant resources. ✠

**S**ent to be a sign of Christ to the world and guided on our journey by the Documents of the Ninth Diocesan Synod, we commit ourselves to:

- A deeper life of prayer and more vibrant liturgies
- The proclamation of the Gospel through the witness of our lives
- On-going conversion through education and formation
- The stewardship of God's gifts for the transformation of our society and world. ✠



October 14, 2001