

# The Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

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## Rev. William Francis Medley Appointed As Fourth Bishop For The Diocese Of Owensboro

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - His Holiness Benedict XVI has appointed William Francis Medley as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Bishop-elect Medley succeeds Bishop John J. McRaith, who resigned in January of 2009.

As thoughts and emotions ran high through the minds and hearts of all present, Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith sat beside Bishop Elect William Francis Medley as Diocesan Administrator Fr. Michael Clark presented him to the staff. I pictured one passing the baton to the other in the Olympic arena which is the life of the Church. One runner completes his mission as the other is just beginning. "You are very blessed," McRaith assured Medley wholeheartedly after telling him of the faith of the people and the good works of the Diocesan Staff.

It was by no coincidence that the Fourth Bishop of Owensboro was named on December 15th. On that very day, Bishop McRaith celebrated his 27th anniversary of ordination to the episcopate. In a lighter moment, Bishop-Elect Medley joked, "Make no mistake about it [Archbishop Kurtz and Archbishop Kelly] are here to honor him." Nevertheless, Medley's mother, two sisters and two brothers drove in to honor their son and brother. He was moved to tears as he expressed what that meant to him. Motioning to his family he said, "If I were an artist and could paint a picture of faith, that is what it would look like."

Bishop-Elect Medley exuded humility as he expressed his complete shock at Apostolic Nuncio Sambì's phone call inviting him to accept his new mission. He admitted that he had never thought or dreamed about being a bishop, but confessed that parishioners throughout the years had commented that he would make a good one. He related his calling to the Annunciation, when the Virgin Mary submitted herself to God's Will, despite her shock and feeling of unworthiness. "I've never said no to anything the Church has asked me to do," he told Sambì, "so my answer is yes." He



Above, upon being appointed Bishop-Elect, William F. Medley celebrated Mass for the first time in the diocese on Dec. 15, 2009, in the Catholic Pastoral Center chapel with Bishop Emeritus John McRaith, priests of the diocese, and the diocesan staff. Mel Howard photo

then related to the Diocesan Staff that the past year had been difficult and how he told himself he would be glad to turn the page on 2009. Never did he fathom what God had in store for him in 2010. "God has a sense of humor," he laughed.

His personable, open, honest, yet professional and confident nature evoked positive feeling and comments in both personnel and those present at the noon press conference in Brescia University's Campus Center. He opened with "To the greater glory of God," lauding the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph for their role in his Catholic formation. Moments later, he announced his Episcopal Motto, "Holy is God's Name," and expressed how he couldn't believe his ears when the Staff began singing the Magnificat at morning Mass. Even more indicative of his prayerful nature, the first thing he did when he came into the Diocese was pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Stephen Cathedral and reverence the altar.

When members of the media asked

In the picture at right, Bishop-elect William Francis Medley spoke at a press conference Dec. 15, 2009 at Brescia University. Photo by Lois Rutigliano

him about future changes and goals he portrayed his pastoral heart by responding, "I'm here to learn and to listen and to pray with the good people of Western Kentucky... My goal is to get to know the people... I learned to be a good Pastor because the people have taught me how. If I am to be a good bishop, it will be because you teach me well." Referring to Bishop McRaith, he stated, "His holiness, his goodness and his kindness will be the measure of my ministry as Bishop."

After a warm welcome from Brescia President, Fr. Larry Hostetter, Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Michael Clark also welcomed the Bishop-Elect. "Your curriculum vitae are just words on a page but they come to life when one is blessed to meet you," he stated. "We welcome you with great joy." After an official statement and a brief question and answer session, Bishop-Elect Medley closed with, "Thank you all. It's great to be home."

Bishop-Elect William Medley will officially begin his ministry as Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro on February 10, 2010 after his ordination at the Owensboro Sportscenter.



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## First Address of Bishop-Elect William F. Medley



### To Diocese of Owensboro

With heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God, I accept the call of His Holiness Benedict XVI to serve as the fourth Bishop of Owensboro. I am humbled that the Holy Spirit, through the Church, the Body of Christ on earth, has bestowed upon me this privilege of service to God's people.

On the day of my Baptism, I was commissioned by God to go and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to build up the Kingdom of God. From that font of grace and the grace bestowed upon me at my

ordination to priesthood, I commit myself anew to minister to the needs of the Church of Owensboro in collaboration with my brother priests. I look forward to meeting all the priests and those who minister to the faithful of the diocese and to love and serve them.

As a native Kentuckian, my own faith has been shaped by the practice of Catholicism in this commonwealth since pioneer days. It is now a privilege to be the shepherd and servant of others molded in this holy and rich tradition. May the Lord Jesus give me the grace to proclaim the Good News with vigor, to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, most especially the Holy Eucharist, with reverence, devotion and joy, and to provide pastoral leadership in truth and with pastoral charity.

I am thankful to Bishop John McRaith who has served the holy people of western Kentucky from 1982 until this year. He has expressed to me his warmest welcome and promised to teach and guide me as a bishop. His holiness, goodness and kindness will be the measure of my ministry.

In addition to Bishop McRaith, at this moment I call to mind two bishops I never personally knew: Bishop Francis Cotton, the first Bishop of Owensboro and also a native Kentuckian, and Bishop Henry Soenneker, the second Bishop of Owensboro. They too made profound contributions to the Church of western Kentucky.

I am thankful to Fr. Michael Clark who was chosen last January to serve this church as Diocesan Administrator. It is evident that he has served nobly and generously and his words of welcome and encouragement have been an immense support to me

Likewise, I am thankful to Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, the archbishop of Louisville, and his predecessor, Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O. P. . These two men have been shepherds to me and, with Bishop McRaith, will be my mentors.

I am who I am because of the love and support of my family and my debt to them can never be paid in full. It is a great joy to me that my mother, Dorothy Medley, is still with me to support me and pray for me. I thank God for her and for the wonderful Christian father that I had. My brothers and sisters and my large extended family have always been and will be a source of great faith and strength.

I wish to acknowledge the faith of the people I have been privileged to serve as pastor, the people of Saint Martin de Porres, the Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, and Saint Bernadette. If I have been a good pastor, it is because these faithful ones have taught me what that means.

With great anticipation I await my ordination as Bishop of Owensboro on February 10, 2010.

During this season of Advent, I reflect upon the young Virgin Mary when the Angel Gabriel announced to her that she had been chosen to be the Mother of God. Her response was simple, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done according to your word." Later, in encountering her cousin Elizabeth, she proclaimed, "God who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

My episcopal motto shall be, "Holy is God's name." With Mary, our Mother, may we all follow her humble way and bear Christ Jesus into the world. *"Holy is God's name."* Luke 1: 49

## Who Is Bishop-Elect William Francis Medley?



Diocesan Administrator, Father Mike Clark, right, welcomed Bishop-elect William Medley, second from right, to the diocese Dec 15, 2009, during Mass with the diocesan staff. Tami Schneider photo

OWENSBORO, Ky. - His Holiness Benedict XVI has appointed William Francis Medley as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Bishop-Elect Medley met the diocesan staff Dec. 15 in the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Who is this priest soon to become our fourth bishop?

William Francis Medley was born on September 17, 1952 in Marion County, Kentucky to Dorothy C. Hayden Medley and the late James Werner Medley. He was baptized at St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Francis, Kentucky and attended elementary school there. After attending St. Thomas Seminary High School, Bishop-elect Medley received a bachelor of arts in philosophy and psychology from Bellarmine University in Louisville and a master of divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana. Before his ordination in 1982, Medley served as a social worker for the Kentucky Department of Human Resources from 1974 to 1978.

Bishop-elect Medley was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1982 at the Cathedral of the Assumption by the Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., Archbishop Emeritus of Louisville. He served as a transitional deacon before ordination at St. Rita Parish in Louisville. After ordination Medley became associate pastor at St. Pius X Parish, Louisville from 1982-1985 while serving as chaplain at Assumption High School. In June, 1985 he was assigned associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, where he served until 1988. In June of 1988, he was assigned as administrator of Saint Benedict Parish, St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Holy Cross Parish, Louisville, and in 1989, Bishop-elect Medley was appointed director of the Office of Clergy Personnel. In 1990 he became the estab-

lishing pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, which was formed through the merger of the former parishes of St. Charles Borromeo, St. Benedict, and Holy Cross.

In September, 1993 Medley was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, Bardstown, Kentucky (the original See of the Archdiocese of Louisville). During his tenure at St. Joseph, the church was designated a minor Basilica. During this time, he also served as the administrator of St. Monica Parish in Bardstown.

In June of 2005 Bishop-elect Medley was appointed pastor of Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Louisville, Kentucky and in 2007 he became pastor of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Goshen, Kentucky. As part of the recent restructuring of parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Medley was appointed pastor of the new parish of St. Bernadette, which was formed by the merger of Mother of Good Counsel and Transfiguration of Our Lord parishes on April 8, 2008. Since the parish was formed, Medley has overseen the construction of a new school (St. Mary Academy) at the parish site and has been working on plans for a new worship space.

Bishop-elect Medley has served in a variety of positions in the Louisville Archdiocese, including on the College of Consultors, the Priests' Council, the Planning Commission of the Archdiocese, the Priests' Health Panel, and Priests' Personnel Board. He also has served as president of the Bardstown/Nelson County Ministerial Association and on the Nelson County Human Rights Commission.

Bishop-elect Medley's ordination will take place on February 10, 2010, 2:00 p.m. CST, at the Owensboro Sportscenter.



**Uwem Enoch**

The Diocese of Owensboro  
Announces with Great Joy  
The Ordination of  
Brandon Williams  
Called by God and the Church  
To the  
**ORDER OF DEACON**  
Through the imposition of hands  
and the  
Invocation of the Holy Spirit  
by  
The Most Reverend  
John J. McRaith  
Bishop Emeritus of Owensboro  
on Saturday,  
the ninth of January  
Two thousand and ten  
ten o'clock in the morning  
at Sts. Joseph & Paul  
Catholic Church  
609 E. Fourth Street  
Owensboro, Kentucky

**Brandon Williams**



**Steve Hohman**

The Diocese of Owensboro  
Announces with Great Joy  
The Ordination of Uwem Enoch  
Called by God and the Church  
To the  
**ORDER OF DEACON**  
Through the imposition of hands  
and the  
Invocation of the Holy Spirit  
by  
The Most Reverend  
John J. McRaith  
Bishop Emeritus of Owensboro  
on Saturday,  
the sixteenth of January  
Two thousand and ten  
ten o'clock in the morning  
at  
St. Leo Catholic Church  
401 N. Twelfth Street  
Murray, Kentucky



The Diocese of Owensboro  
Announces with Great Joy  
The Ordination of Steve Hohman  
Called by God and the Church  
To the  
**ORDER OF DEACON**  
Through the imposition of hands  
and the  
Invocation of the Holy Spirit  
by  
The Most Reverend  
John J. McRaith  
Bishop Emeritus of Owensboro  
on Saturday,  
the sixth of February  
Two thousand and ten  
ten o'clock in the morning  
at  
St. Anthony Catholic Church  
261 St. Anthony Road  
Utica, Kentucky

## St. Joseph School Rallies Around Teacher

Submitted by Karen Stringer, Kindergarten Teacher, St. Joseph School

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - In September, 2009, St. Joseph School (Bowling Green) first grade teacher, Anna Alexander, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Anna Alexander had been St. Joseph School's Relay for Life Team Captain for many years and this year the school's students and staff are rallying around her to support her as she fights this battle. The 2010 Relay for Life Team, nicknamed Mrs. A.'s Angels, has had fundraisers to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Saint Joseph Preschool Teacher, Christie Kaelin made pink ribbons to sell to students. Pictured from right to left is Kaylee Fields, Matthew Johnson, Canyon Miller, Mrs. Anna Alexander, Emily Feria, and Shane Shankar



Students paid to wear hats or wigs. Pictured from right to left is Trapper Whitney, Anna Moreno, Irvin Gonzalez, Kimberly Quintanilla, Campbell Mattingly, Anne Marie Knutson, Luke Overmohle, Tenzapa Wakombe, Clara Manning, Jake Wilson, Sam Vitale, and Carlos Quintanilla



## Meeting The Public With A Smile

The Saint Pius X Cooking Team, Volunteers and Staff volunteer on the parish's BBQ and Burgoo Stand during the Owensboro Apple Fest at Reid's Orchard, just up U.S. 60 East from the parish, outside of Owensboro, during the weekend of October 17 - 18. Picture by Byron Macias"

## OCHS Students Work To Bring Food To Owensboro's Saint Joseph Peace Mission

The OCHS student body hosted their annual Thanksgiving food drive during the week of November 16-20. Food was collected in homerooms and the entire student body participated in the drive, as well as other faculty and staff. Daily announcements served as a reminder to the students

which helped to make the drive a great success. The food was then donated to the Peace Mission and was delivered by Mr. Harold Staples, principal at OCHS, Martha Luckett, Religion teacher, at left, and Sherry Orth Religion Chairperson, at right. June Bell, second from left, Director of the Peace Mission received the donation. OCHS Photo



## Answered: Prayer For The Selection Of A Bishop For The Diocese Of Owensboro

*"Almighty God, giver of every good gift, You are our eternal shepherd and guide. In Your mercy, grant your Church in Western Kentucky, a shepherd who will walk in Your ways and whose watchful care will bring us Your blessing. Send Your Spirit of Wisdom upon those who are to select a new Bishop of Owensboro. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of Your truth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

God answered our prayer during Advent, Dec 15, 2009, as we received the news that Bishop-Elect William F. Medley from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky would be ordained as our fourth bishop on February 10, 2010 at 2:00 P.M., in the Owensboro Sportscenter. A Catholic blog decribed this event as "O, Wensboro: For West Kentucky, an Advent Medley."



Bishop-Elect William F. Medley

# High School Juniors and Seniors:



Looking for the deeper meaning to life? Need some time away from all the chaos? Looking for peace in all the wrong places? Come spend a weekend Encounter with Christ. Allow Him to reveal Himself so that you may experience what He has in store for you.

**TEC #162, February 13-15, 2010**  
**-- St. Charles, 6922 State Route 408, Bardwell, KY 42023**

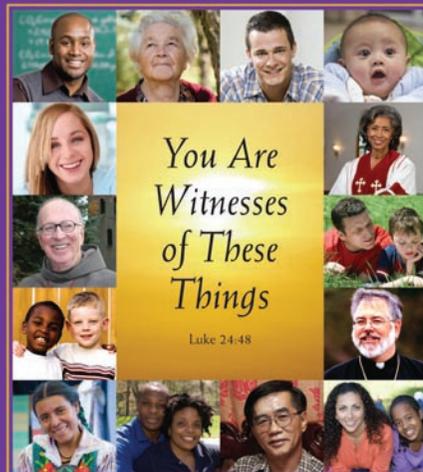
This TEC is for High School Seniors, Juniors, and Adult Observers.

Lay Director: Brandon Barnard; Assistant Lay Director: Angie Burgess; Spiritual Director: Fr Mike Williams; Assistant Spiritual Director: Fr Eric Riley

The weekend schedule begins on Saturday morning and ends on Monday mid-afternoon. This is the President's Day Holiday Weekend.

The **Hard Deadline** (applications must be in the Office of Youth Ministry) to sign up for this weekend is 12:00 Noon, Friday, January 29, 2010. This TEC weekends almost always fills up. Please sign up early!

For more information or TEC applications visit our updated website at [www.wkytec.org](http://www.wkytec.org) or contact [wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net)



*"Father, may they all be one"*  
*- John 17:20*

**Unity is the will and prayer of Christ and it must become our desire and our prayer as well in the Diocese of Owensboro.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity **2010**

DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO		2009	2009	2009	2008	DIFFERENCE
ANNUAL MASS COUNT -- 2009		POPULATION	ANNUAL MASS COUNT	% MASS COUNT	% MASS COUNT	2008 TO 2009
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2159	1388	64.29%	66.33%	-2.05%
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	112	97	86.61%	67.77%	18.84%
Christ the King	Madisonville	611	329	53.85%	52.96%	0.89%
Christ the King	Scottsville	130	87	66.92%	79.17%	-12.24%
Holy Cross	Providence	40	20	50.00%	48.94%	1.06%
Holy G. Angels	Irvington	282	174	61.70%	69.70%	-7.99%
Holy Name	Henderson	3899	1912	49.04%	50.95%	-1.91%
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	211	229	108.53%	117.06%	-8.53%
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	2866	1486	51.85%	50.18%	1.67%
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	61	64	104.92%	132.79%	-27.87%
Immaculate	Owensboro	2078	1133	54.52%	52.63%	1.89%
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	110	58	52.73%	35.53%	17.20%
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	441	126	28.57%	35.69%	-7.12%
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	2080	1173	56.39%	54.27%	2.13%
Precious Blood	Owensboro	941	526	55.90%	51.82%	4.08%
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	99	67	67.68%	62.11%	5.57%
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	139	93	66.91%	66.65%	8.26%
Sacred Heart	Hickman	92	41	44.57%	41.94%	2.63%
Sacred Heart	Russellville	386	165	42.75%	39.42%	3.33%
Sacred Heart	Waverly	211	125	59.24%	58.99%	0.26%
St. Agnes	Uniontown	810	574	70.86%	50.05%	20.81%
St. Alphonsus	St Joseph	522	321	61.49%	45.12%	16.37%
St. Ambrose	Henshaw	91	57	62.64%	63.16%	-0.52%
St. Ann	Morganfield	1062	513	48.31%	48.33%	-0.03%
St. Anthony	Axtel	398	266	66.83%	74.77%	-7.94%
St. Anthony	Browns Valley	386	230	59.59%	61.00%	-1.41%
St. Anthony	Peonia	189	149	78.84%	81.82%	-2.98%
St. Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	84	76	90.48%	62.90%	27.57%
St. Augustine	Grayson Springs	99	75	75.76%	73.74%	2.02%
St. Augustine 1	Reed	140	69	49.29%	46.38%	2.91%
St. Benedict	Wax	129	87	67.44%	71.67%	-4.22%
St. Charles	Bardwell	204	147	72.06%	69.19%	2.86%
St. Charles	Livermore	54	56	103.70%	108.51%	-4.81%
St. Columba	Lewisport	292	98	33.56%	24.47%	9.09%
St. Denis	Fancy Farm	175	96	54.86%	63.01%	-8.15%
St. Edward	Fulton	150	77	51.33%	43.51%	7.83%
St. Elizabeth	Clarkson	181	121	66.85%	89.77%	-22.92%
St. Elizabeth	Curdsville	180	84	46.67%	124.29%	-77.62%
St. Francis Borgia	Sturgis	160	94	58.75%	51.79%	6.96%
St. Francis de Sales	Paducah	1200	1014	84.50%	76.00%	8.50%
St. Henry	Aura	256	190	74.22%	87.14%	-12.92%
St. Jerome	Fancy Farm	1189	765	64.34%	53.98%	10.36%
Sts. Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1275	1065	83.53%	77.39%	6.14%
St. John Baptist	Fordsville	80	75	93.75%	92.50%	1.25%
St. John Evangelist	Paducah	832	452	54.33%	52.48%	1.85%
St. John Evangelist	Sunfish	60	51	85.00%	77.14%	7.86%
St. Joseph	Bowling Green	1874	1117	59.61%	57.05%	2.56%
St. Joseph	Central City	252	184	73.02%	66.67%	6.35%
St. Joseph	Leitchfield	485	348	71.75%	85.61%	-13.86%
St. Joseph	Mayfield	941	457	48.57%	56.54%	-7.97%
St. Jude	Clinton	92	45	48.91%	34.34%	14.57%
St. Lawrence	St Lawrence	384	195	50.78%	46.83%	3.96%
St. Leo	Murray	1035	654	63.19%	70.33%	-7.14%
St. Mark	Eddyville	118	133	112.71%	109.09%	3.62%
St. Martin	Rome	374	289	77.27%	182.39%	-105.12%
St. Mary	LaCenter	175	95	54.29%	60.59%	-6.30%
St. Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	677	481	71.05%	86.21%	-15.16%
St. Mary	Franklin	310	266	85.81%	88.09%	-2.28%
St. Mary of Woods	McQuady	152	117	76.97%	72.73%	4.25%
St. Mary of Woods	Whitesville	2295	1012	44.10%	49.89%	-5.79%
St. Mary & St. James	Guthrie	107	84	78.50%	119.74%	-41.23%
St. Michael Archangel	Oak Grove	826	473	57.26%	39.87%	17.40%
St. Michael	Sebree	299	118	39.46%	47.42%	-7.95%
St. Paul	Leitchfield	335	276	82.39%	62.14%	20.25%
St. Paul	Princeton	137	97	70.80%	72.26%	-1.46%
St. Peter 1	Stanley	282	186	65.96%	79.31%	-13.35%
St. Peter	Waverly	595	319	53.61%	52.20%	1.42%
Sts. Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1755	915	52.14%	57.00%	-4.86%
St. Pius Tenth	Calvert City	153	211	137.91%	168.24%	-30.33%
St. Pius Tenth	Owensboro	1765	829	46.97%	47.04%	-0.07%
St. Romuald	Hardinsburg	1500	671	44.73%	45.47%	-0.73%
St. Rose	Cloverport	430	181	42.09%	46.21%	-4.11%
St. Sebastian	Calhoun	207	120	57.97%	63.16%	-5.19%
St. Stephen	Cadiz	265	205	77.36%	75.29%	2.07%
St. Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1529	738	48.27%	37.47%	10.80%
St. Susan	Elkton	147	105	71.43%	42.68%	28.75%
St. Thomas More	Paducah	2258	1022	45.26%	45.11%	0.15%
St. William	Knottsville	1096	830	75.73%	63.69%	12.04%
St. William	Marion	166	84	50.60%	51.16%	-0.56%
<b>DIOCESAN TOTALS</b>		<b>50162</b>	<b>28952</b>	<b>57.72%</b>	<b>56.54%</b>	<b>1.17%</b>

1. Saturday PM Mass shared

## Body Language:

*Commentary  
on the Intersection  
of Faith, Sex,  
& Culture*

By Christopher  
West

### Immaculate Conception and Theology of the Body



Dec. 8 is one of my favorite feast days. Why? Because Mary's Immaculate Conception is the certainty that what Christ did on the Cross worked. It is the living hope of humanity's redemption. For redemption to be complete, it not only has to be perfectly given, it also has to be perfectly received. It has been perfectly given in Christ, and perfectly received in Mary, who, through "a singular grace and privilege" was "redeemed from the moment of her conception" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 491).

Volumes could be written about the connection between this feast and the "great mystery" unfolded in Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body (TOB). For starters, it's no mere coincidence that John Paul II began writing his TOB on this marvelous feast day – the handwritten date on page one of his original manuscript says Dec. 8, 1974. And above that he wrote this dedication: *Tota Pulchra es Maria* – "You are all beautiful, Mary" – a clear adaptation of the bridegroom's words in the Song of Songs, "You are all beautiful, my love, there is no blemish in you" (Song 4:7).

It's a long held tradition of the church to recognize Mary as the "unblemished" bride spoken of in the Song of Songs. As the perfect model of the church, Mary represents the mystical bride for whom Christ "gave himself up . . . that he might sanctify her" that she might be "without spot or wrinkle . . . holy and without blemish" (Eph 5:25-27).

Of course, it may seem odd to speak of Mary in some way representing Christ's "bride." Archbishop Fulton Sheen explained it this way: "Now we've always thought, and rightly so, of Christ the Son on the cross and the mother beneath him. But that's not the complete picture. That's

not the deep understanding. Who is our Lord on the cross? He's the new Adam. Where's the new Eve? At the foot of the cross. . . . And so the bridegroom looks down at the bride. He looks at his beloved. Christ looks at his Church. There is here the birth of the Church" ("Through the Year with Bishop Fulton Sheen," Ignatius Press, 2003).

The work of redemption was consummated on the Cross. And so, in a very real way, Mary was immaculately conceived – that is, she perfectly received the gift of redemption – not only in her mother's womb, but also at the foot of the Cross. In fact, the event that took place in St. Anne's womb is inexplicable without the event that took place at the Cross. As John Paul II once observed, "Spouses are . . . the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross" ("Familiaris Consortio" 11). Perhaps the spouses that reveal this most clearly are Sts. Joachim and Anne.

In the art of the East, the icon of the Immaculate Conception is actually an image of Joachim and Anne embracing. Behind them is their marriage bed, and behind that sacred mystery we see the gates into the holy city of Jerusalem. Through this "all holy" image (the Fathers of the Eastern tradition call Mary "the All-Holy"), we are led to contemplate a spousal love that not only cooperated with God in his power to create human life, but also cooperated with God in his power to redeem it. In this holy embrace of Joachim and Anne, we can truly speak of a love that was not only "pro-creative" but also, at the very same time, "pro-redemptive."

As we learn in John Paul II's TOB, authentic spousal love draws its deepest essence from the very mystery of creation and redemption. It's not only meant to bring new life into the world, it's meant to save us from sin and prepare us for heaven. Who by his own strength can live this divine kind of love? Only the grace of salvation makes it possible. It's not something we can muster up. It's only something we can receive. And this is precisely what we celebrate on this grand feast of the Immaculate Conception – the receptivity of the human heart (Mary's) to the saving love of God.

Mary, in all the joys and trials of life, teach us how to open our hearts to so great a love!

## Lourdes Associates Harvest Blessings for Patients and Co-Workers

PADUCAH, Ky. - When Kyle Alderdice's newborn son was transferred to a Louisville children's hospital earlier this year, he used all his vacation time tending to his son and wife. Without a paycheck, expenses began to add up for Kyle, a Cath Lab special procedures technician at Lourdes.

Thanks to the generosity of his Lourdes family and Lourdes Foundation's Associate Mission Fund, Kyle received financial assistance to get through the crisis and help his baby heal from heart surgery.

During Lourdes Foundation's recent Harvest of Healing Campaign, nearly 300 Lourdes employees pledged \$62,000 in gifts to assist co-workers like Kyle, who is a 5-year donor himself. The campaign also supports critical needs for poor patients, and upgrades to vital technology and healthcare services benefitting all Lourdes



**Davida French, Lourdes Hospital Corporate Relations Coordinator, filling out her giving form. Harvest of Healing Campaign 2010 - One campaign. One step. Many ways to make a difference. Photo by Stacy L. Puckett**

Earlier this year, our newborn son had to be transferred to a children's hospital in Louisville where he had surgery to repair his heart. I used all my vacation time to be with my wife and son, and our expenses began to add up. The assistance we received from Lourdes Foundation's Associate Mission Fund helped take care of our expenses so I could concentrate on what mattered most—my family.

- Kyle Alderdice,  
Special Procedures Tech/Cath Lab

patients. The annual employee giving drive affords associates the opportunity to give to various special purpose funds within Lourdes Foundation through payroll deduction, cash contributions and paid-time-off donations.

Funds like the Associate Mission Fund assist employees in times of financial hardship, providing aid with housing,

utilities and food. The Patient Mission Fund offers support to indigent patients who may need medication at discharge, clothing or a ride home. Other campaign options included heart and vascular care, Hospice, nursing scholarships, women's services, the Lourdes Childcare Center, and technology and facilities.

"The generosity of our Associates provides vital support for the assistance Lourdes Foundation can provide our patients, co-workers and to further enhance Lourdes' award-winning quality healthcare," said Tara Miller, Foundation Executive Director. "We will be able to help hundreds of people in need and support important projects for the hospital thanks to the generosity of Lourdes Associates during the Harvest of Healing Campaign."

And Kyle Alderdice? He has a lot to be thankful for this holiday season, including a healthy son who loved celebrating his first Thanksgiving.



## St. Gerard Life Home



Providing housing and services to pregnant women and their babies. If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis or unplanned pregnancy, call us at 270-852-8328; toll-free: 1-877-803-5064.



## 2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Our Common Witness to the Gospel

By **Father Tony Bickett,**  
**Diocesan Ecumenical Officer**

Every year, for the past 102 years, Christians around the world have gathered to pray for greater visible unity in the Body of Christ. This year, the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, will focus on the passage, "You are witnesses to these things." (Luke 24:28)

The ecumenical movement seeks to unite the People of God, reconciled in Christ, in common witness to the Gospel. As "witnesses" to the salvation of Christ, Christians seek to be united in their evangelization so that the world may come to believe.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was established between the feast days of the Church's great

apostolic witnessing evangelists, Sts. Peter and Paul. January 18, the start of the week, celebrates the confession of Christ by St. Peter. The week concludes on January 25, celebrating the conversion of St. Paul.

This year's theme emphasizes the connection between ecumenical unity and the mission of the followers of Jesus Christ. Unity is not an end but a means to bringing our faith to the world. Baptism calls all Christians to live in communion. We are already sisters and brothers in Christ. We are called to give credible and concrete witness to this reality.

Luke 24 recalls the story of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the frightened first witnesses followed by the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus before

the Ascension. It is Jesus, the Risen One, who defines the basic Christian mission to those who believe in Him in every age.

We know that there is strength in numbers. As the body of believers has grown from 12 to 1.5 billion we have greater resources to reach out to one another and to people of other faiths. The world-wide celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity helps build the grassroots dimension of ecumenism. Each new experience of prayer and gathering provides the Christian faith community with opportunities to grow in our understanding of one another as we celebrate our unity and common mission.

*Father Tony Bickett is Director of the Office For Ecumenism of the Diocese of Owensboro.*

## Catholics Overwhelmingly Want Christian Unity

By **Fr. Tony Bickett,**  
**Diocesan Ecumenical Officer**

At the November 30th meeting in Madisonville, the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission received the results of the Parish Ecumenical Needs Assessment. Throughout the month of November I conducted the Assessment at the request of the Commission. The Assessment was conducted by email and sent to every parish and priest in the Diocese. The response was excellent and very encouraging for the Commission. Responses were received from 42 of the 79 parishes, and from 21 of the 32 counties that make up the Diocese. They reported having 24 active ministerial associations, with 15 pastors and 17 other parish representatives who participate.

The Assessment revealed that a remarkable 74% of the parishes consider ecumenism to be very important, compared to 26% as unimportant. And even

more remarkable is the 89% of those who consider ecumenism very important in their ministry, compared to only 11% as unimportant. For the members of the Commission the desire for ecumenism is greater than anyone anticipated.

The most common ecumenical events are Thanksgiving, Holy Week, Easter Sunrise, Good Friday and Vacation Bible School. The denominations most engaged besides Catholics are Baptists, followed by United Methodists. There are ecumenical programs that serve the poor in each of our counties, the most common being food banks, clothing centers and financial assistance.

Specific requests from participants in the assessment for assistance from the Ecumenical Officer and Commission included (1) providing examples of ways to better promote ecumenism in the community; (2) getting more people involved; (3) having

someone speak at the weekend Masses; (4) provide resources for parishioners; and (5) continuing to raise awareness among Catholics of the importance of ecumenism.

Members of the Commission accepted and affirmed the findings of the Assessment. They asked me, as the Ecumenical Officer, to communicate the results to the parishes and the diocesan administrator, Fr. Mike Clark. At its next meeting, the Commission will discuss specific strategies to respond to the assessed needs of the parishes to advance ecumenism at the grassroots level of the diocese.

One very important way to assist the Commission in its work is by the appointment of Parish Ecumenical Advocates. These Advocates assist pastors in their role of promoting the ecumenical movement initiated by the Catholic Church at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). Pas-

tors and parishes are encouraged to appoint one or more parishioners to serve as their Parish Ecumenical Advocates and submit their names to the Office of Ecumenism.

Advocates can help in many ways to keep ecumenism on the minds and hearts of Catholics. In some places the Parish Ecumenical Advocates represent the pastor and parish at the local ministerial associations especially when the pastor cannot attend. Advocates can also encourage parishioners to attend ecumenical events during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity or those listed above from the Assessment.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on March 1 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Madisonville. If I can assist in any way please do not hesitate to contact me. And thank you again for all you are doing to promote the visible unity Christ prayed for at the Last Supper.



## Mass is Central Work for Catholic School Students Every Week

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Mass is the central work of the Church. It is what we Catholic Christians do in memory of the birth, life, and death of Jesus every week as a community of disciples living in imitation of Him. As well as participating at Mass in their local parish church on weekends, each Catholic School student in the Diocese of Owensboro also has the opportunity to participate at Mass with their school community during the week.

In the picture at left, Owensboro Catholic High School sophomore Nathan Lasley sings with the school community the opening song of the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Dec 8, 2009. Photo by Mel Howard



On Thursday, December 3rd, OCMS honored Grandparents with a Mass and a reception in Immaculate's Parish Hall. The Very Reverend Fr. Mike Clark celebrated the Mass. The OCMS PTO hosted the donuts and coffee at the reception. The attached picture shows Ben Englert, an 8th grader, with his grandfather, Bob Englert. OCS Photo

## OCMS Cheerleaders Purchase Gifts For A Family Less Fortunate

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Saturday, December 12th, the Owensboro Catholic Middle School cheerleaders held their Christmas party. After eating breakfast catered by Grandy's, the squad got to work wrapping presents for a family in need. The cheerleaders and their families donated money to purchase gifts for a family less fortunate than themselves. They wanted to do a community service project and de-

ecided that helping a fellow student would be a wonderful place to start.

"I talked with the squad about several options, and they were determined and excited to give to one of their peers," said Coach Beth Lowe. "Our middle school has a compassionate group of kids on this squad, and being the representatives they are, they make me and our school very proud."



The OCMS Cheerleader squad is pictured front row (L to R) Emily Paul, Tori Arnold, Beth Johnson, Scarlett Bickett. Back row (L to R) Sarah McCarthy, Coach Beth Lowe, Evan Todd, Emily Pate, Joelle Boarman and Sarah Boarman.

## Women's Retreat "Loved into Life" Feb. 12-14, 2010



Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

"Loved Into Life—Becoming a Reed of God" is the focus of a Feb. 12-14, 2010 Women's Retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The retreat will revolve around the spirituality of Caryll Houselander, her advice on how to be holy in everyday life, and her book, *The Reed of God*.

The Retreat leader will be Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, who holds a doctorate from The Catholic University of America with minors in women's theology and medieval church history. Retreat begins at 6 p.m. Friday and ends at 1 p.m. Sunday. Retreat fee is \$175 and includes materials, meals, and accommodations. The fee for commuters is \$120. Take 10 percent off if paid in full by Jan. 12. Contact Kathy McCarty, 270-229-0200 ext 413 or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org). A retreat brochure can be found at [www.mscenter.org](http://www.mscenter.org).

## Visit Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join Father John M. Thomas & Father Jose Carmelo for an amazing trip to Mexico to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe!



The Shrine at Guadalupe is considered the holiest place in the Western Hemisphere. Highlights of our five night journey include:

Pyramids Of The Sun And Moon, Temple Of Quetzalcoatl, Tulpetlac Church, Basilica Of Our Lady Of Guadalupe, Tilma Of Juan Diego, Blessed First Martyrs Shrine, Church Of San Francisco, San Miguel Del Milagro Shrine, Our Lady Of Ocotlan Shrine, Mexico City, Cholula, National Palace, Anthropology Museum, Coyoacan Famous Market, Casa Azul & Our Lady Of Guadalupe Shrine. Also, we will enjoy some shopping, a live mariachi band, and fine Mexican dining!

**From Monday, February 8, 2010**

**To Sunday, February 13, 2010**

**\$1,799.00, includes air, 4 star hotels, 12 meals, & transportation**

**Call Kenny: 270-389-1002**

## The Time is Now

By Sister Jan Barthel, OSB, Catholic Committee of the South, [janibosb@hotmail.com](mailto:janibosb@hotmail.com)

In a report to members of Congress (June 10, 2009), Lake Research Partners submitted poll data from around the country showing that the time for comprehensive immigration reform is now. In fact, their tracking shows that the current economic situation has actually increased the desire for quick action on immigration reform.

Voters see that the broken immigration system is a problem that has been neglected far too long. And their consistent choice is comprehensive reform that restores control and order, expands the tax base, and is practical, fair and consistent with American values.

In addition to securing the border and stopping illegal hiring, we need to require illegal immigrants to register, pass background, pay taxes, and study English in order to be eligible to apply for citizenship. This comprehensive approach will secure our borders, level the playing field, and stop dishonest business from gaining an unfair advantage. It will make illegal immigrants into legal taxpayers and bring needed money into the federal budget.

Persons have the right to immigrate, especially to feed their families and to flee persecution. However, the host nation has the right to protect its borders and to limit the number of immigrants. How can this conflict be resolved? To deport 12 million illegal immigrants, is simply not viable. To continue the status quo with their living in the shadows is simply unacceptable. Comprehensive immigration reform holds the key.

**Bishops call  
for comprehensive immigration reform.  
Add your voice: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>  
Click on the "Action" button.**

### What are the benefits of immigration reform?

- It is a common sense proposal that is fair, balanced and practical.
- It would secure the border and crack down on employers that illegally hire the undocumented.
- It would secure the future flow of immigrants.
- It would require illegal immigrants to register for legal immigration status, pay back taxes, and learn English to be eligible for citizenship.
- It would restore order and control the flow of immigrants.
- The Congressional budget office estimates it would add \$66 billion in revenue over ten (10) years in requiring more employers and more workers pay their fair share in taxes.
- It would add, over the next fifty (50) years, \$407 billion to the struggling Social Security system.

# Adult Student Promotes Ecumenicism

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - When Steven Kinnard was assigned a project in his Youth in Non-Profit Leadership class at Murray State University, he immediately asked permission to involve the youth at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville. Although the students were encouraged to conduct their projects in Murray, Kinnard wanted to involve the youth of his own parish and community. Permission was granted.

Needing a project supervisor, Kinnard approached the most logical choice, Libby Downs, who is not only the Pastoral Associate at Sts. Peter and Paul, but also the Youth Leader. "She had several ideas," Kinnard said. Between the two of them, they decided to host an Open House also involving Grace Episcopal Church, also in Hopkinsville. "It had been seven years since we'd had an open house," Kinnard explained. "It was a good venue to get the kids involved, and Libby explained that we had been building a relationship with Grace Episcopal over the past several years."

When Kinnard and Downs met with Fr. Bill Watson, Pastor of Grace Episcopal, he immediately agreed. "Yes! Absolutely," he said according to Kinnard.

Therefore on November 15, 2009, Grace Episcopal opened its doors at 3:00 p.m. to welcome anyone in the community interested in learning more about their building, their community and their faith. Members of Sts. Peter and Paul parish, of course, were most interested in learning the similarities and differences of both faiths. Those attending the tour were introduced to the different areas of the building, were told some history of the building and were able to learn aspects of their faith.

One area of special interest was the newly constructed labyrinth that is located directly across the street from the church building. According to John Watson, a member of Grace Episcopal who was conducting that portion of the tour, the labyrinth is "a gift to the community." An old abandoned building had previously rested on that plot of land that was eventually purchased by Grace Episcopal. "It was our way to help beautify the neighborhood," Watson explained.

During the tour of the sanctuary, Fr. Watson explained about several similarities between the Episcopal and Catholic traditions. "Much like in the Catholic Church, we have the liturgy of the Word and we share a Eucharist every Sunday," said Fr. Watson. In addition, he explained how they also repositioned the altar in their church around the same time the Catholic Church brought the altar forward and the



Fr. Bill Watson, Pastor of Grace Episcopal Church in Hopkinsville, explains various aspects of the sanctuary in his church during the All Saints Open House which was held on Sunday, November 15.

priest began facing the congregation.

At 4:30 p.m., the doors of Sts. Peter and Paul were opened, primarily to members of Grace Episcopal. At each station in the church, members of the high school youth group gave at least some portion of the presentation explaining aspects of the building. Christy Soldo and Jennifer Hanks both explained certain items in the narthex that had been saved from the previous church building. Jessica Hanks then explained about several items in church itself such as the Sta-



Chris Kinnard and Thomas Folz prepare to conduct their portion of the Sts. Peter and Paul tour held on Sunday, November 15. Kinnard and Folz are members of the parish's high school youth group who participated in the All Saints Open House project between Sts. Peter and Paul and Grace Episcopal.

tions of the Cross and the pews. When it came time to discuss the confessionals and the devotional candles, Chris Kinnard and Thomas Folz were well prepared.

"I really enjoyed visiting Sts. Peter and Paul," said Taylor Hayes,

Continued on page 16

## Miss Kentucky Visits Sts. Peter and Paul School

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Miss Kentucky, Mallory Ervin, stopped by Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on November 10, 2009, during a whirlwind tour of 20 schools while she was "home," according to Ervin's blog. While visiting her hometown of Morganfield, Ervin traveled "from Pride, to Madisonville, to Hopkinsville, to Earlington, to Dixon, to every other city in the West, then back to Morganfield," Ervin wrote in her blog.

As a graduate of St. Ann in Morganfield, Ervin feels strongly about visiting Catholic schools in the diocese to spread her message. "She spoke to the entire school for about 30 minutes," explained Sarah Kranz, Principal of Sts. Peter and Paul, who arranged to have Ervin visit the school. "She emphasized the importance of education, staying healthy and finding one's talent. She explained to the students that by pursuing these three avenues, anyone can realize his or her dreams," added Kranz.

At the end of her talk, Ervin sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" which is the song she will sing during the talent portion of the Miss America competition in January. According to Kranz, the song epitomizes Ervin's belief that anyone's dreams can come true with enough determination and hard work.



Mallory Ervin, the reigning Miss Kentucky, spent some time with the students of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on November 10, 2009, sharing her message of pursuing one's dreams. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Christian Barefield, Lauren Langhi, Anastatia Kunmann, Joshua Groves, Elaine Baker, Sarah Whitman, Adriana Romano, Jacquise Smith, and Karenna Chaudoin. In the back row are Fr. John Thomas the Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, Rachel Holmes, Miss Kentucky Mallory Ervin, Kolbe Langhi and Daniel Sweet.



## Simply To Glorify God

**“This time is given to me by God that I may live in it. It is not given to make something out of it, but given to me to be stored away in eternity as my own.**

**“But for this afternoon to be my own in eternity, it must be my own this afternoon, and I must possess myself in it, not be possessed by books and by ideas not my own, and by a compulsion to produce what nobody needs. But simply to glorify God by accepting His gift and His work that I myself may live.”**

- Thomas Merton, *Journals*, September 27, 1958, III.219.

This picture was taken by Jim Scott in October while on mission to Mandeville, Jamaica. These were people waiting to see visiting dentists at the clinic in Bull Savannah. Photo by Jim Scott

## Lynn Goines Named 2009 Lourdes Mission Award Winner

PADUCAH, Ky. - Lynn Goines was awarded the 2009 Sister Mary Eleanor Award during Lourdes' annual service awards banquet. She was voted on by her peers for exhibiting the core values and mission of Lourdes in helping extend the healing ministry of Jesus. Lynn received a plaque, a dozen roses and a travel voucher.

“Lynn is extremely responsive to requests and you can trust her information because she is so committed to accuracy. She is patient and kind regardless of how stressful the situation may be,” said Lennis Thompson, Lourdes controller. “Lynn is a model of what we all need to be.”

The Sister Mary Eleanor Mission Award, established in 1988, is named for Sister Mary Eleanor Rahig, a leader in the first group of St. Franciscan Sisters at Lourdes who set



Lynn Goines was named 2009 Lourdes Mission Award Winner. Goines was recognized for her service in the healing ministry of Jesus. Submitted Photo

the standard for patient care and employee relationships that truly continue the healing mission of Christ.

Beginning with their first day, September 19, 1959, the sisters inspired those employed at Lourdes to work to exhibit behaviors toward one another, patients, family, physicians, volunteers and visitors, that assure the mission of Lourdes is effectively and mutually experienced.

Each year the organization recognizes one leader who has been visible in exemplifying Lourdes' Core Values of Excellence, Human Dignity, Justice, Compassion, Sacredness of Life, and Service.

The award was announced and presented during the organization's Annual Service Awards Banquet held October 1. Goines is an eight-year associate of Lourdes. She is a life-long resident of Metropolis, Ill.



## Did Hagar get a bum rap?

Was Mary Magdalene really a prostitute?

Imagine being pregnant at 95!  
Come and find out the rest of the stories.

### Women in the Bible: Models for Today's Women

Ecumenical Day for women sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9:00 am to 2.30 pm  
Blessed Mother Catholic Church, 601 East 23rd St., Owensboro

Come to a gathering of Christian women to hear the stories of our Female Biblical ancestors and learn how their joys and struggles were not that much different from those of modern women. There will also be break-out presentations on topics of great interests to women of all ages, such as: Bereavement, Finances, Legal Issues, Insurance, Ethical Wills, and Leaving a Legacy.

Cost: \$10 per person—includes lunch  
Deadline for Registration is January 25, 2010

Send registrations to: Charlotte Hedges  
Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St.,  
Owensboro, KY 42301

For more information, contact Ginny Knight-Simon or Patty Blair, 270-683-1545. Sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro through the offices of Wisdom, Family Life, and Lay Ministry and Formation.

## Mary teaches people to treat others with respect, pope says

ROME (CNS) -- The statues, paintings and mosaics of Mary found not only in the churches of Rome, but also in its public squares and on street-corner shrines should help the city's visitors and residents treat each other with more respect, Pope Benedict XVI said. Marking the feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8, Pope Benedict rode in the popemobile from the Vatican to the heart of Rome's tourist and shopping district to pay homage to Mary at a statue erected near the Spanish Steps.

“The mother of God teaches us to open ourselves to the action of God, to see others as he sees them -- starting from the heart. And to look upon them with mercy, with love (and) with infinite tenderness, especially those who are most alone, despised and exploited,” the pope said.

Rome, like any big city, is filled with people who are invisible until some scandal lands them on the front page of the newspaper or the television news where they are “exploited to the very end, as long as the news and images attract attention,” the pope said. “It is a perverse mechanism, which unfortunately is hard to resist,” he said. “The city first hides people, then exposes them to the public -- without piety, or with false piety.”

But within each person, the pope said, there lies a strong desire “to be accepted as a person and considered a sacred reality because every human story is a sacred story and requires the utmost respect.”

## Air Evac Helicopter Lands at School



Students from Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville gathered around an Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter on October 19. The helicopter and its crew were invited to land on the school's property by Principal Sarah Kranz. "The kids were great," said John Davis, Air Evac Lifeteam Coordinator. "They were disciplined, cute and asked amazing questions." Photo taken by Sarah Kranz.

## A Patriot's Pen: Sts. Peter and Paul School Students Write About Honoring Military

Submitted by Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - In honor of Veterans' Day, VFW Post 1913 in Hopkinsville sponsored a "Patriot's Pen" essay contest inviting local schoolchildren to participate. Annie Arnold and Joseph Whitfill, both eighth grade students at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, earned first and third place honors respectively in the competition. Both students attended a luncheon on Veterans' Day at the VFW hall, and as top winner, Arnold read her essay to the crowd gathered.

Following is the essay Arnold submitted for which she won a \$500 savings bond and a chance to win at the next level of the competition.

### When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?

Our military secure our democracy. I believe we should honor our military heroes at all times. They fight for our country's freedom and independence every day. The military also work daily to ensure peace with other countries and to keep us safe and protected from danger. Being in the military is a very complex occupation because one never knows what will happen or when it will happen. Our service people must be ready to serve and ready to fight.

Whenever I see men and women in military uniforms, I do my best to smile and greet them with the utmost respect. We should give them little acts of kindness. I can't even imagine what it would be like to live the life of a military person. I have respect for each and every member because they are strong and brave in all endeavors, whether they go to the Middle East, Asia, or Europe. Veterans' Day is a very important in our country. It is a day to honor our former military heroes because it is a day of thanks to those who have defended our country. As students, we can honor our military veterans at school and at parades.

Some other good times to honor our military heroes are on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Flag Day. These are days to remember our military heroes because these days are dedicated to them and their service; they are days of thanks. One of the best ways to honor the military is to pray for them. We lift them up in prayer and ask God to keep them safe. We also pray for those who have paid the

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2010, www:redok.org 11

## Cancer Doesn't Take a Holiday, Neither Does The American Cancer Society's 1-800 Cancer Information Number

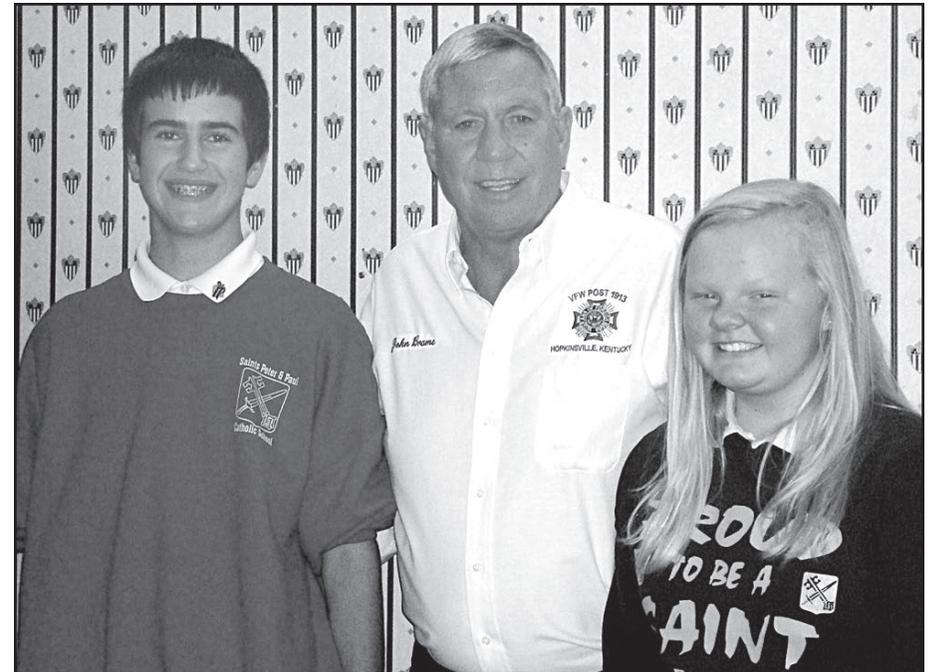
The Christmas and New Year's holidays are a time when most people get together with friends and family to relax and reminisce. Cancer, however, doesn't take a holiday. But fortunately, the American Cancer Society information line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – even on holidays.

The American Cancer Society offers information and support through its nationwide help line – 1-800-227-2345 – for cancer patients, family members, friends of cancer patients, and others who have questions about cancer – at anytime, day or night. By calling the National Cancer Information Center (NCIC) at 1-800-227-2345, patients can speak to an information specialist and receive information on various types of cancer, cancer treatments, how to manage symptoms, prevention and detection guidelines, and many other topics. The NCIC can then contact a local American Cancer Society office to provide local cancer resources, such as support groups, patient service programs, and social services.

The 1-800 number can also accommodate Spanish-speaking individuals. The NCIC uses a translation service to assist those who speak other languages, ensuring that all callers can access and receive accurate cancer-related information.

The American Cancer Society also offers a variety of support programs and various items on hand free of charge for those currently battling cancer. Free gift items include wigs and other head coverings, breast prostheses, prosthetic bras, and nutritional supplement beverages for cancer patients.

Call 1-800-227-2345 for more information.



Joseph Whitfill (left) and Annie Arnold (right) were congratulated by John Brame (center), the Hopkinsville VFW coordinator for the "Patriot's Pen" essay contest, on November 11 during a luncheon honoring the winners of the contest. Arnold earned first place honors for her essay while Whitfill earned third place.

ultimate price while protecting our country, and we ask God to let them enter the gates of heaven.

The military has a mission to keep our country safe and to serve it. In other words, they secure our democracy. We should always honor our military heroes no matter when it is or where we see them, and we should be thankful they are willing to fight for our country's freedom. It is our duty and responsibility to honor our military heroes for it is they who honor and serve these United States of America on a daily basis.

## Garden of Hope Memorial at Brescia University Shows Hope Written Large

Submitted by Diocesan Gospel of Life Committee

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Scripture and the teachings of our faith bring to our attention that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Because of this, we have great dignity before God, our fellow human beings, and they have great dignity to us. The Diocesan Gospel of Life Committee asked the question: how can we depict the value of each human being even in the face of great loss, and that healing and hope are possible even then? The answer that the Committee found, and brought to the campus of Brescia University, was the Garden of Hope Memorial.

The Diocesan Gospel of Life Committee takes its mission from Pope John Paul II's encyclical letter *The Gospel of Life* written in 1995 and the US Bishops' pastoral letter *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities* written in 2001. In both is the call to witness to "a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect,



A close up view of the woman holding her heart locket in the Garden of Hope Memorial. Mel Howard photo



A close up view of Jesus holding a baby while looking at the woman in the Garden of Hope Memorial in Brescia University's quad. Mel Howard Photo

protect, love and serve life, every human life" (The Gospel of Life, no. 5). Given such a lofty charge, the Committee has engaged in many activities to carry out its mission. One such activity is the Garden of Hope.

The idea for such a monument circulated for years in the Committee. It was not until January 22, 2005 that one of the best images produced to witness to the value of human life became known to them. It was at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., that two members of the Committee, Jim and Carolyn Mathieu, saw a display of a statue by the artist, Beverly Paddleford. The Mathieus stopped and talked with her and obtained information about the Hope Monument and brought it back to the Committee. The statue depicts a near life-size image of Jesus sitting with a young woman. He cradles her baby who has died before birth in His arm.

By May 2005, the Gospel of Life Committee voted to recommend the purchase of the statue. The matter was discussed with Bishop McRaith and he approved efforts to move forward. By November 2005, a subcommittee had reviewed several spots on which to locate the Garden of Hope and recommended Brescia



**New Memorial Placed in Brescia University Quad**  
Workers who placed the Garden of Hope Memorial in place at Brescia University on October 20 were from left to right- Mike Ward, Brescia University; Ward Pedley Sr.; Hubert Powers, Brescia staff; and Todd Millay, grandson of Ward Pedley Sr. Photo submitted by Richard Murphy

University's, the only Catholic university in the Diocese, as the ideal spot for locating the Monument. Both Presidents Sr. Vivian Bowlds and Fr. Larry Hostetter of Brescia University reviewed the proposed plans for the Garden of Hope and welcomed its location on the Campus.

Fundraising efforts resulted in receipt of one-half of the funds needed to order the statue in late 2007. It was completed and shipped to the Brescia campus on June 2, 2008 where it remained in the Campus Center till the statue itself was completely paid for. Concrete for the project was poured on 9-21-09 and the statue itself was placed in the Garden of Hope on 10-20-09.

There remains much to be done to complete the work at the site. The Committee plans to complete a wrought iron arch behind the Monument that will allow beautiful flowers to grow. New benches are planned for the site to allow those who wish, to rest and pray for a while. Lighting will be installed in the Garden and a place to store the Book of Life to commemorate loved ones is also planned. It is hoped that a Spring 2010 dedication of the Garden of Hope will take place.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Garden of Hope behind the west wing of the Administration Building in the quad on Brescia University's campus and see this beautiful tribute to Hope. Many may have an interest in taking part in the funding of the completion of the site and this is also welcomed. Contributions can be directed to the Diocese of Owensboro, Garden of Hope Memorial Fund, 600 Locust St. Owensboro, Ky 42301 and will be used to complete this great work.

### A Meditation on the Monument to Hope

In this quiet setting we see that we look like God's Son and He looks like us. We also see that we are called into relationship with the Son and to His Father as His children. God does not mind being with us, touching us or being touched by us. We are invited to talk long and linger in His company.

If we suffer loss, He is with us in it. He is there to comfort us with the reassurance that none are lost to Him and the eternal family to which we are called. Even in the face of the loss of our dear innocent ones, He reassures us of His care for them and us.

We are offered a ready refuge from the storms of life and especially those of our own making that devalue others, ourselves and the human family. We are invited to receive forgiveness, and restored relationship with Him and through Him, to the eternal Father.

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph celebrated the 475th anniversary of the founding of the Company of Saint Ursula by rededicating statues of Saint Angela Merici and Saint Ursula.

Before Morning Prayer on Nov. 25, sisters gathered around the wooden statue of Saint Angela that was recently delivered from Paola, Kan., and placed in the chapel. Among prayer and song, each sister extended her hand toward the statue as Sister Rita Lavigne, a sister formerly of Paola, sprinkled the statue with holy water.

Sister Grace Swift said, "Bless again this statue, O God. As it reminded the Ursuline Sisters of Paola to be true daughters of Saint Angela, may it now help us remember that all Ursuline communities are rooted in Italian soil and in the fidelity of Jesus, the Lover of us all." Sister Michele Morek, congregational leader, read from a plaque that will hang next to the statue. Following the ceremony, sisters proceeded to Morning Prayer, but before breakfast, the statues of Saint Angela and Saint Ursula in the dining room, which came from Belleville, Ill., following the merger with that community in 2005, were rededicated as well. Sister Catherine Kaufman, a former Belleville Ursuline, blessed the statues with holy water, as Sister Mary Patrick McDonagh, another former Belleville sister, read a prayer.

In the picture at right, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph filled the gathering space of the Motherhouse chapel to pray before rededicating the Saint Angela Merici statue. The ceremony took place on Nov. 25, the anniversary of the founding of the Ursulines. The wooden Saint Angela statue was moved from the Paola, Kan., Ursuline Motherhouse to the Mount Saint Joseph chapel on Oct. 6.



Sr. Rita Lavigne, OSU, blesses the Saint Angela statue with holy water.

## Fresh palette: Artists say they're ready to support church's mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Ask and you shall receive. The art world is ready to collaborate with the church in creating inspirational modern art, said some artists who took part in a landmark meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. After decades of disinterest or suspicion, the rapport between art and religion is ready to be restored. If the church wants art to support its mission, all it has to do is call. "The artist is really at the service of society, but to serve you have to be asked," said John David Mooney, a sculptor and installation artist from Chicago, Illinois. Polish film director Krzysztof Zanussi told Vatican Radio that the church has to take the first step in approaching artists and getting to know their work "because it's for sure that artists will never take that step." Mooney and Zanussi were among the more than 250 international artists invited by the Vatican in an effort to revitalize dialogue and collaboration between the worlds of faith and art.



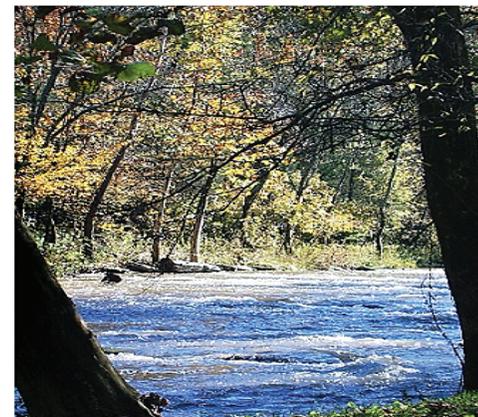
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- Stations of the Cross and much, much more!



## Mount Saint Joseph Alumnae Celebrate A Memorial Mass

Alumnae of Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Junior College gathered in the Motherhouse Chapel on Nov. 7, 2009, for a Memorial Mass to remember the deceased alumnae and faculty of the two schools.

Those whose deaths were reported since the 2008 Memorial Mass were:

- Sister Mary Clement Greenwell, A27
- Sister Mary deChantal Whelan, A33
- Mary Lillian Calhoun, A38
- Sister Dorothy Marie Willett, A40
- Jean McAfee Biedermann, A41
- Mary Celestine Horsman Pendleton A41
- Mary Rose Shoemaker, A41
- Rita Neel McPherson, A42
- Mary Naomi Clark Ebelhar, A45
- Sister Theresa Murphy, SCN, A46
- Margaret "Maggie" Thompson Scherm, A49
- Gertrude Kurz, A50
- Sister Theresa Marie Wilkerson, faculty



Carolyn Sue Cecil, A73, above, Alumnae Association, vice president, led the congregation in remembering those who have died.

At left, Sister Pauletta McCarty, A39, and Audrey Pierce Durbin, A39, reminisce over lunch following the Alumnae Memorial Mass. MSJ Photos



Nancy Mills, A72, Alumnae Association president, carries the processional cross.



At left, Sister Mary Eileen Howard, C47, plays the music for the Mass. Above, Liz Ruckriegel Berger, A55, (left) shares a laugh with Sister Lois Lindle, A56 (center), Sister Grace Simpson, A56, (right) and Sister Marietta Wethington. MSJ Photos



# The Priest

## A Good and Faithful Servant

By Mary Beth Bonacci

His name was Fr. Marcel Salinas. I knew him only briefly, but he taught me one of life's greatest lessons. He taught me how to die.

Fr. Marcel was in residence at my parish. He was in his early 60's, while I was in my early 30's, and caught between what the Lord wanted of me and what the world wanted of me. I very much wanted to serve the Lord. I also wanted the American dream – the white picket fence, the photogenic family, the late-model car. It was difficult for me to believe that God might have something different in mind for my life, and even more difficult to let go and entrust it all to Him.

Fr. Marcel reminded me of my Italian grandfather. He called me "Miss Chastity" and always had a warm, grandfatherly hug for me. I loved him, and I sometimes felt sorry for him. He had taken vows of poverty and chastity. He had no family, no "stuff" except a rickety car and a sparsely furnished room. I thought it must be a difficult, lonely life.

And then I heard that Fr. Marcel had been diagnosed with stomach cancer and wasn't expected to live long. Stunned, I rushed to the rectory to see him. I had no idea what to expect from a man who had just discovered his death is imminent. Would he be upset? Solemn? Morose?

The one condition I didn't expect to find him in was "absolutely normal." But that's what I found. He was smiling, joking. "I'm going to haunt you, you know." I saw no fear. Only calm confidence.

I figured the poor man was obviously in shock. In a day or two, he would get around to freaking out. But he never did.

Two short weeks later I received a call telling me that the end was near. Again I rushed to the rectory. I wasn't the only one. His bedroom was adjacent to an indoor courtyard where over 200 people had gathered. He was in and out of consciousness as the last rites were administered. We all sang, and then he opened his eyes and said in a strong voice, "Well, I'm obviously not in Heaven yet."

Over the next several hours, he met with each one of us there at his bedside. As I walked into the room for my turn, he smiled and exclaimed "Miss Chastity!" I asked how he was doing, and he said, "I had no idea dying could be so pleasant."

As I was leaving the room, I found an unobtrusive corner and lingered a while. I watched person after person come to his bedside. He chided one about his hair. ("So it took my dying for you to finally cut it.") He hugged and kissed and consoled. They thanked him for his impact on their lives, for leading them to Christ. And Christ was there in that room. His presence was palpable.

Marcel had children. There in that simple, sparsely furnished room, I saw literally hundreds of them. They were his joy, his treasures.



Pope Benedict XVI designated June 19 as the start of the special year, the Year for Priests, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney. The Pope has declared St. John Vianney, known as the Curé d'Ars, as the Universal Patron of Priests. Pope

Benedict XVI has designated the year, which runs from June 19, 2009, to June 19, 2010, to encourage a deepening of the spiritual life of those called to priestly ministry.

"It seems urgent to recover that awareness that has always been at the heart of the Church's mission, which impels priests to be present, identifiable and recognizable both for their judgement of faith, for their personal virtues as well as for the habit, in the contexts of culture and of charity."

- His Holiness Benedict XVI

And then I thought of what Marcel would see on the other side when he met his Maker. In that moment, when the Lord of the Universe asked him what he did with the gift of his life, Marcel could point down and say "I led them to You."

Let me tell you, I would have gladly traded places with him in that moment.

Fr. Marcel didn't die that night. He went on to live two

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more weeks, most of it in great pain. But I learned a great lesson watching him. I learned that the only way to really plan our lives isn't from this moment forward. It's from the deathbed backwards. In my last moments of life, what do I want to look back and see? What do I want to tell God that I did with the precious years He gave me? Do I want to point out the nice furniture in the room where I died, or the late model car my heirs are fighting over?

No. I simply want to be able to say that I did His will as best I could, and allowed Him to work through me to make a difference. That's a lot easier said than done. And I doubt that I could ever do it with the quiet confidence, grace and humility that I saw in my friend that night.

Rest in peace, Fr. Marcel.

*Mary Beth Bonacci is an internationally known speaker on chastity and faith in the modern world. She has written numerous books and articles, and is the founder of Real Love, Incorporated, a web based resource educating the faithful on growth in holiness and wholeness.*

**Editor's Note:** We want to once again extend to all Western Kentucky Catholic readers the opportunity to send in pictures and stories in the Year For Priests about priests you've known who have had an impact or influence in your life to help you come closer to Jesus and the Catholic Church.

## Christ's real presence brings people closer to God, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Eucharist is not a symbolic representation of the Lord because Christ is wholly and entirely present under the species of bread and wine, said Pope Benedict XVI. "Even today, there is the danger of reducing the reality of the Eucharist -- considering it almost as just a rite of communion or socialization, and we too often easily forget that the resurrected Christ is really present," he said during his general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall Dec. 9. The pope continued a series of talks on the Christian culture

of the Middle Ages by highlighting the work of Rupert of Deutz, a 12th-century Benedictine theologian and abbot.

"He forcefully defended the reality of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist" and underlined "the continuity between the body of the incarnated word of Christ and (the body) present under the eucharistic species of bread and wine," said the pope. The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist draws people out of their own narrow concerns and interests, "incorporating us in his immortal body, and in that way guides us toward a new life," he said.

## Play about St. John Vianney touring nation during Year for Priests

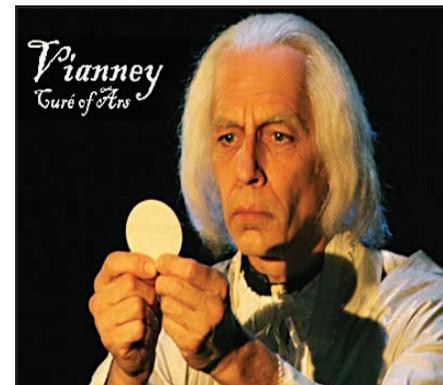
CHICAGO (CNS) -- On a recent evening in Chicago, Leonardo DeFilippis felt more edgy than usual. The veteran actor stood ready to perform a one-man play for future pastors, confessors, chaplains and bishops. His task was to bring one of the church's most ardent parish priests to life for an auditorium packed with seminarians: St. John Vianney.

The next day, he did the same for more than 400 Chicago priests. It's all for his portrayal in "Vianney," in which he plays the French country priest who in the early 19th century instilled an apathetic town with the desire to live the Gospel. Before the Year for Priests ends in mid-2010, DeFilippis will have performed his new play all over the nation.

In November, he staged it for the U.S. bishops gathered in Baltimore for their annual fall general assembly and he might do the play

at the Vatican for Pope Benedict XVI. "You want to do this right because it's kind of an awesome responsibility," said the actor, a 57-year-old member of Holy Rosary Parish in Portland. DeFilippis is known locally for plays and films in which he has played Jesus as well as saints Francis of Assisi, John of the Cross, Augustine and Maximilian Kolbe.

Interviewed online at Ignatius Insight, DeFilippis said, "... about a year and a half ago, I realized that his anniversary was coming up. I was thinking of opening the drama earlier in order to build up to Vianney's 150th anniversary. And I knew the Pope would do something because Blessed John XXIII did a huge encyclical [*Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia*, August 1, 1959] on John Vianney, so I knew Pope Benedict XVI wouldn't ignore him. But then he did something totally unusual in the history of the Church in declaring this year to be the year of the priesthood. This didn't surprise me too much, but I think it took many people by surprise, and I think



**The one-man drama, Vianney, produced by Leonardo DeFilippis and Saint Luke Productions premiered at Saint John Vianney Parish in Houston, Texas, on August 4, 2009, the feast day of the Curé of Ars. Photo from Ignatius Insight Scoop**

the reason is that the majority of people in the United States do not know who St. John Vianney is. I would guess that only ten to fifteen percent of all Catholics in the United States have ever heard his name."

## Adult Student Promotes Ecumenism

(Continued from page 9)

a member of Grace Episcopal. "I think we should do things like this more often. I especially liked the analogy about the candles. I didn't know that," he admitted.

When at the sanctuary, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul explained to those gathered, among other things, the reason for burning candles during Mass. "The candle itself, of course signifies the light of Christ," he explained. "When the candle melts, it demonstrates how we should be consumed by Christ and his word."

Fr. Thomas also pointed out what is necessary for a Catholic Church to be considered Catholic. "The three things necessary for a Catholic Church are the altar, which is primary, the crucifix and the presider's chair," Fr. Thomas explained. "Everything else is secondary," he added.

Kinnard set forth two primary objectives when planning his project. One was to get the high school youth of his parish integrated into the community and the other was to raise community awareness of parish activities. Kinnard believes both objectives were met. "It benefited the church and the kids and that's what we were striving to do," Kinnard claimed.

"It was a great time," Kinnard added. "The kids enjoyed it a great deal and they said they all want to do it again. Maybe down the road, something will come of it," Kinnard pondered.

## Practicing Catholic Social Teaching



WHITESVILLE, Ky. - On Saturday, December 12, the 7th grade Social Studies class from St. Mary's Grade School and Green Works Recycling Company hosted a recycling day in Whitesville. Many people took advantage of this day and brought many things that needed to be recycled. The 7th grade class sponsored this to help people learn to recycle, while also helping the environment.

All of the pictures were taken by 7th grader Jessica Henson. Texts written by 7th grader, Shawna Aud.

In picture above, left-right, back row: Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, Robbylyn Sanchez, Logan Goetz, Skylar Dickens, and Blake Ward. Left-right, front row: Shawna Aud, Hannah Bland, Taylor Johnson, Jessica Henson, Devon Howard, Noah Pike, and Corey Johnson.

In the picture at right: (in truck) Corey Johnson and Noah Pike. On the ground, loading the truck is Matthew Johnson, Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, taking a picture, right center, as Steve Johnson looks on.

Jessica Henson Photos



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For more information contact: Ginny Knight-Simon, Coordinator of Wisdom, 270/852-8326, or Kenny Trowbridge, 270-389-1002.



## Winning Logo Designer

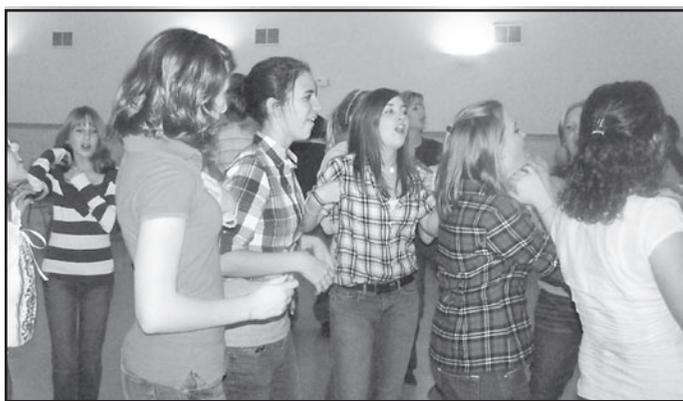
The Office of Youth Ministry held a logo contest for National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). Twenty-nine entries were submitted. The winning logo was designed by Grace Wright, a 5th grader at Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus. 173 from the diocese wore the jacket with the logo design and attended NCYC in Kansas City, November 19-22, 2009. Photo by Donna Mills

## Diocesan Review Board Members Ready To Respond To Calls

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Ms. Teresa Henry, (Chairperson), Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, and Rev. Pat Reynolds. Ms. Louanne Payne serves as the Diocesan liaison to the Review Board.

Any person who wishes to communicate with the Diocesan Review Board is asked to call the Catholic Pastoral Center at 1-270-683-1545 and ask to speak with a member of the Review Board. To speak with a particular member of this Board, tell the receptionist. In either case, the receptionist at the Catholic Pastoral Center will give the caller's information to the member of the Review Board for follow-up. Callers may choose to remain anonymous for the initial call to the Catholic Pastoral Center receptionist. The phone numbers of the members of this Board will not be made public.

You may also contact the Board via email at [reviewboard@pastoral.org](mailto:reviewboard@pastoral.org). Be sure to include your contact information. No direct response will be given by email because confidentiality is never guaranteed when using email. Follow-up will be made by telephone.



Submitted by Crissy Stevenson, St. Mary Magdalene Youth Minister

SORGHO, Ky. - A Fall Shin-Dig was planned by 3 young ladies at St. Mary Magdalene Parish for a CLI project. This was a dinner and dance put on for the adults of the parish.

The youth organized the whole event from selling tickets,

Pictured in these three photos are members of the Saint Mary Magdalene Youth Group: Above - back row left to right: Paris, Ryan Offerman, Clark Payne, Devin Fogle, Daniel Best, Blake Knott, Audrey Fogle; 3rd Row back: Landon Knott, Abby Thomas, Meg Bartley, Briget Payne, Jordan Payne, Jared McMaster; 2nd Row: Georgia McMaster, Katie Thomas, Marissa Elder, Tabby Payne, Haley; 1st Row: Allie Payne, Lauren Settles. Submitted by Chrissy Stevenson

decorating, preparing food, waiting on tables, babysitting, and clean-up. All profit went to benefit the youth ministry program.

## Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

Mary Louise Raleigh  
Holy Name of Jesus Parish  
Henderson

The first time I met Mary Louise Raleigh was at the office of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Henderson, Kentucky. I immediately knew who was in charge of the parish office! She knew everything, knew how to do everything, and was very kind in getting it all done.

I was writing an article for this very publication, on a Habitat house that had been built there in Henderson, and I told her I needed someone to help me find it, and she commandeered a son to take me there, and show me around.

Later on, as I got to know her and what a wonderfully wise woman she was, I asked her to be on the Diocesan Committee for Aging for my Office of Wisdom - that was in 1996. Of course, she said yes! As the years went by, I learned of Klee, her husband, the love of her life, and her eight children. I heard stories of many times in their lives, some that were funny and some that weren't. I also learned



that Mary Louise was quite a prankster. I remember something about a For Sale sign in front of the church one time when Fr. Bradley was on vacation!

I found Mary Louise to be a very faith-filled woman, a very giving woman, and a very loving woman. I enjoyed her "insight" for the needs of seniors. As a committee member, she was always very positive and welcoming of a new idea.

Mary Louise was 82 when she passed away on November 30, 2009 at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville. She offered her gifts and talents among the Altar Society, the Senior Hand Chime Choir, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Companions of Sts. Francis and Clare Fraternity. She worked in the parish office for 37 years. Mary Louise was the first recipient of the Sophia Award from Holy Name Parish in 1999.

I attended her funeral at Holy Name of Jesus Church on December 3rd, and I realize how many people will miss her. I know I will miss her. I feel blessed to have been her friend.

## A Bench for Caps Program



On the blessed bench in the playground: Amanda Royer, Jessica Bailey, Lindsey Risch, Hannah Furlong, Anne Beckert

**Submitted by Dan and Leigh Ann Hengen**  
HENDERSON, Ky. - Seven Holy Name Junior High Students started a Community Problem Solving (CmPS) team in April 2009. These students wanted to help their school live green. Live Green is Holy Name School's theme for the 2009-2010 school year. The CmPS team brainstormed for ideas on helping their school community become more aware of recycling and reducing the amount of trash generated by the school. The school was already recycling paper inside every classroom. The school also had a large collection unit in the parking lot for collecting newspaper, aluminum cans, plastic, and metal cans. After updating these programs, the students wanted to tackle other projects.

One project was "A Bench for Caps" Program or Green Tree Plastics' ABC program. Working with Green Tree Plastics, a company in Evansville that produces benches, landscaping materials and other products out 100% recycled

plastic, the students agreed to collect 200 pounds of plastic caps in exchanged for a playground bench made from 100% recycled plastic. The students spoke at parent meetings and to the student body to encourage people to bring to school the hard plastic lids. Ordinarily these lids would be thrown in the garbage as there has not been an opportunity to recycle this type of plastic locally. By having people take the lids off bottles and containers, everyone is becoming more aware of recycling. Holy Name families surprised everyone by collecting over 200 pounds in the first nine weeks of school. The CmPS team was aiming for a May completion date.

At left, building the bench: Amanda Royer, Rachel Tighe, Brianna Hengen, Hannah Furlong, Anne Beckert



Collecting 200 pounds of caps: Amanda Royer, Jessica Bailey, Lindsey Risch, Brianna Hengen, Rachel Tighe, Anne Beckert. HNS Photos

By November 15, 2009, America Recycle Day, Holy Name had received, built, and blessed their bench made from 100% recycled plastic. The students now have a daily reminder that we can help our environment doing a little thing like collecting plastic bottle caps. One extra step has reduced the amount of trash we put into landfills and given us a lasting useful bench to be enjoyed by all.

Now the Holy Name CmPS team is working with Green Tree Plastics to start a pilot program to allow other schools to educate their students about recycling. By May 2010, five schools should each earn a bench for their playground. If the program goes smoothly, in the fall of 2010, more schools will be invited to participate. Living Green works!

## Rachel's Vineyard Of Bowling Green Ky Retreat Experience The Power Of Resurrection

Rachel's Vineyard of Bowling Green KY is hosting a retreat for women and men suffering from the effects of abortion. The retreat dates are January 22 - 24 at the Passionist Nuns Convent in Whitesville KY. These retreats are held in a safe, non-judgmental environment, in complete confidence. This is a healing retreat to allow those women and men hurting from their experiences of abortion to experience the Love and Divine Mercy of our Lord, and a new beginning.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats are also for family members who have been effected by abortion; grandmothers, grandfathers, siblings, aunts and uncles are also welcome, to grieve the loss of a family member who died from abortion.

A Rachel's Vineyard weekend is a chance to get away from all the daily pressures of work and family and focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive and non-judgmental process. The time away provides an opportunity to deeply enter the grieving process and identify all the ways your abortion may have affected you.

Rachel's Vineyard has a number of powerful exercises which allow the soul to speak its grief and sorrow. The exercises help to connect participants to their inner voice, to each other, and to the love and compassion of God. The retreat exercises help participants to accept forgiveness for themselves and others. There is also an opportunity to re-connect with the children that have been aborted on a spiritual level, to give them honor and dignity through many special and creative spiritual exercises as well as in a memorial service.

The weekend is a lot of work, but those who are willing to journey through their grief will experience the power of resurrection in their own lives. They will find meaning in what has happened and allow God to transform the experience into something that gives hope, liberation, and peace.

Rachel's Vineyard belongs to those who intuitively sense that life is a precious seed which has

been given to us for cultivation. We acknowledge the loss of that irreplaceable life and the grief that comes from relinquishing one so intimately connected to us.

Rachel's Vineyard is meant to help those who are trying to fit the very normal epiphany of grief into a world that would rather have them feel numb and blind, so as to maintain a safe distance from the truth.

Its purpose is to allow the process of birthing, self, and faith to proceed, rather than to be squashed by rhetoric, denial, and avoidance. It provides a safe, loving, and non-judgmental environment to search the fabric of our lives, the innermost depths of the soul, an opportunity to be supported through bereavement and grief and a lighted path to discover forgiveness and reconciliation.

Mourning and grieving are necessary milestones which must be passed so that our lives can continue. When this process is complete there is re-birth and resurrection. There is new life within our spirit which gives us hope in the future. There is an opportunity to explore our lives, and appreciate our human fragility. Through a very personal and intimate encounter with the Living God, we come to know that God knows and loves us despite our many weaknesses and human failures.

For more information about the retreat, contact Debbie Ward at (270) 683-6933, or their website at [www.hopeafterabortionky.com](http://www.hopeafterabortionky.com).

# SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM

2010-2012

Registration is now open  
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The mission of this program  
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ministry of spiritual direction  
and to enhance the skills  
of experienced spiritual  
directors, in the spirit of Saint  
Angela Merici. Participants  
will meet for eight weekly  
sessions over a two-year  
period.



## TOPICS AND DATES

Spirituality .....	Oct. 18-22, 2010
Spiritual Direction .....	Jan. 17-21, 2011
The Inner Journey .....	May 2-6, 2011
Prayer and Scripture .....	July 2011 TBA
Theology.....	Oct. 3-7, 2011
Ethics of Spiritual Direction .....	Jan. 23-27, 2012
Supervision .....	April 23-27, 2012
Case Studies and Retreat .....	July 2012 TBA

Each weekly session will be led by a team of trained  
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to receive a certificate.

To register or for more information, contact  
Sheila Blandford

270-229-0200 ext. 427

sheila.blandford@maplemount.org

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**Deadline  
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Aug. 31,  
2010**

## St. Thomas More 2009 Confirmation Class

PADUCAH, Ky. - Sunday, November 15, 2009 Bishop John McRaith conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on thirty-one of our young people including Kristen Arnold, Joey Bender, Elliott Bray, Jordan Bucher, Nicole Burks, David Clark, Ches Cooper, Emily Curtsinger, Brando Villa Diaz, Jessica Villa Diaz, Andrew Durham, Shellie Elder, Alejandra Gonzalez, Seth Haygood, Caitlin Hodges, Jessica Lawson, Samantha Lawson, Tommy Lipford, Tanhia Rivera Lopez, Josh Lutz, Tyler Lynn, Colin Marshall, Joey Mayo, Matthew Rea, Kayla Sherron, Leslie Shockley, Katie Stewart, Antonia Serrano Vicencio, Savanna Whelan, Megan Wurth and Matthew Zakutney. The adults L to R - Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, Fr. Daniel Dillard, and Director of Youth Ministry, Danny Thomas. Photo Bob Dotson

## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY - APRIL 2010

### January

- 8-9 First Baptist/Praise Band
- 8-10 Grayson County Women's Retreat
- 15-17 Retrouvaille
- 18-22 **Spiritual Direction (Week 6)**
- 22-24 United Methodist Retreat
- 29-30 Henderson Presbyterian Church

### February

- 5-6 First Baptist/Celebration Choir
- 6 Yarn Spinners (open to all)
- 12-14 Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons: **Loved into Life-Becoming a Reed of God**
- 22-25 MSJ Center Quilting Friends

### March

- 5-7 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 12-14 **Gathering-Yarn Spinners**
- 16-19 Paducah Quilt Guild
- 19-26 St. Meinrad Retreat Week
- 31 Reitz Memorial High School Juniors Retreat

### April

- 8 Reitz Memorial High School Seniors Retreat
- 13-15 Theological Reflection - Glenmary
- 16-17 ICSC Confirmation Youth Retreat
- 16-18 Christian Women's Retreat
- 19-23 **Spiritual Direction (Week 7)**
- 24 **Center Annual Fundraiser Dinner - Hawaiian Luau**
- 30-1 Pleasant Hope General Baptist Church Women
- 30-1 Yoga Retreat

To register or to schedule your event, call Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)

The Center is located 15 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

Center-sponsored programs in bold.



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Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
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## Students Create Trade Fair Characters, Props, To Show Need For Career Trades

Submitted by Betty Anne Watt , St. Joseph School , Bowling Green, KY

Ms. Betty Anne Watt's 4th grade Social Studies classes, from St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, KY, hosted a Trade Fair on November 20th. Mrs. Terri Thornton and Ms. Watt's 4th grade classes studied the Northeast region, along with the 13 colonies, and life in the first settlements. After this unit of study, students were assigned a trade from the time period, dressed in costume, brought props related to their trades, and presented information about their trade. Students had to create a character, explain the trade and why it was needed, and explain other trades with whom they bartered for supplies. The 4th grade students, some of whom are shown in the picture at right, really enjoyed this experience and gained a better understanding of life in the colonies.

## Not Just Blowin' Smoke, OCHS SCRUBS Sponsor Turkey Giveaway for Great American Smokeout



As a follow up to the activities the OCHS SCRUBS group sponsored for the Great American Smokeout, the group officers were part of the morning show on WBKR. As part of the show, names were drawn from the "Go Cold Turkey" displays to win a free turkey. The members of SCRUBS in this picture are, from left, Amber Thomas, Kathryn Dueker, Jenna Riney, Kaley Robertson, Chase Carrico, and Luke Robertson. The two DJs are Moon Mullins and Chad Bennefield at WBKR, 92.5FM. OCS Photo

## Rockville Centre priest accused of abuse cleared, restored to ministry

NEW YORK (CNS) -- A Vatican congregation has cleared Msgr. Alan J. Placa, a Rockville Centre diocesan priest who worked closely with former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, of any wrongdoing related to sexual abuse accusations in 2002. Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre said in a recent statement that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the

Faith had instructed him "to restore Msgr. Placa to ministry and to do what we can to restore his good name." The bishop and the 65-year-old priest agreed, however, "that Msgr. Placa will not be given a diocesan assignment," the statement said. "Msgr. Placa's status is that of a retired priest in good standing." The Vatican congregation's ruling that Msgr. Placa was "not



## Little Flowers Blooming With Generosity

Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Little Flowers Girls Club made beautiful angel ornaments for their November meeting. They learned about Saint Katharine Drexel, the virtue of Generosity, and how to put this virtue into action. The Little Flowers leaders are Heather Clemens and Kathy Dixon. Submitted by Kathy Dixon

guilty of the allegation of sexual abuse of a minor which was made against him in June of 2002" confirmed an earlier decision by the tribunal of the Diocese of Albany, the home diocese of the complainant. No criminal or civil charges were ever filed in the case against the priest, who repeatedly denied the accusations. Calling the Vatican

decision "final and definitive," the statement said Msgr. Placa "is now permitted to exercise priestly ministry freely in the Roman Catholic Church." "We hope that everyone in the diocese will recognize that Msgr. Placa is a priest in good standing," Bishop Murphy said. "It is my hope and prayer that this decision will bring closure and healing."

## Catholic Conference of Kentucky Urges Legislature and Governor to

### Enact 36% Cap on Payday Loan Interest Rates

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - On Dec. 7, 2009, The Catholic Conference of Kentucky strongly urged the 2010 Kentucky General Assembly to pass bi-partisan legislation for the common good capping the interest rates on payday loans at 36-percent. We are encouraged that Governor Beshear indicated his support of a 36 percent cap earlier this year after the end of the regularly scheduled legislative session. The Catholic Conference of Kentucky calls upon the leadership of the House and Senate and its members to adopt the rate cap as a high priority issue for passage during the 2010 legislative session.

For the faith community, predatory interest rates approaching or exceeding 400 percent are immoral. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (Second Edition) condemns usurious dealings: "Those whose usurious and avaricious dealings lead to the hunger and death of

their brethren in the human family indirectly commit homicide, which is imputable to them." #2269

Payday loans are predatory loans because of the terms of the loan: interest rates approaching or exceeding 400 percent victimize those seeking temporary relief from difficult economic circumstances. Many individuals find themselves compelled to take out multiple loans to meet the obligation created by the initial loan resulting in a debt trap for the borrower. Current public policy in Kentucky permits usurious interest rates to be charged to consumers and must be changed. Public policy is intended to protect the public from outrageous practices. Kentucky's public policy must put an end to the egregious practices of the payday loan industry.

The Federal Government has recognized the debt trap created by the payday loan industry. In 2007, a new law passed by Congress went into effect limiting the payday

loan interest rates charged to military personnel to 36 percent. The U.S. Department of Defense prepared a report for Congress on predatory loans and indicated this issue is one of national security: "predatory lending undermines military readiness, harms the morale of troops and their families, and adds to the cost of fielding an all volunteer fighting force."

Since this issue is of national significance and recognizing that 15 states plus the District of Columbia have capped interest rates or prohibit payday loans, the Commonwealth of Kentucky should do likewise. The people of Kentucky deserve no less consumer protection than that afforded to military families. Capping payday loan interest rates at 36 percent is a matter of family security in the fifth poorest state in the nation. The payday loan industry must not be permitted to continue gouging the people of Kentucky.



### Is Your Marriage On The Rocks?

- Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 15-17, 2009 call 270-683-1545 ext 357 or email: [dpretrowens@aol.com](mailto:dpretrowens@aol.com) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

## New Regional Field KofC Agents Ready To Help Catholic Families



Pete Sturm

By Daniel Turnwald

VILLA HILLS, Ky. - Please join me in welcoming Mr. Pete Sturm as a new Field Agent for the Knights of Columbus Insurance & Financial Services, where he can help care for Catholic families. Pete has been a member of Msgr. Anthony Higdon Council 10962 in Paducah, KY for 10 years, where he has served as treasurer and chaired many fundraisers for his council. He is also a member of the St. John Evangelist Assembly 2338 where he served as faithful comptroller. Pete graduated from Reidland High School and attended Murray State University.

He is an active member of the St. John's Catholic Church. He is also the father of two beautiful daughters and is expecting his first son in December.

In 2003, Pete retired from the United Parcel Service after 19 years of service in Western KY. Due to his experience of running a small business for 6 years, he has learned valuable skills listening to customers' needs and getting results. He now has the ability to represent a great product he believes will help Catholic families.

Pete will be serving the Jackson Purchase Area of Western Kentucky. When asked why he would like to be a Field Agent, Pete stated "I believe 100% in the Knights of Columbus and their many charitable works. Being a Field Agent will allow me to reach out to brother Knights and their families to provide security and peace of mind without compromising our Catholic values and beliefs."

Pete will do well helping Catholic families with their estate planning and financial needs. When Pete contacts you, please take 30 minutes of your time for him to update you on the many fraternal benefits that the Knights of Columbus has to offer you and your family. Please contact Pete if you are an eligible Catholic family.



Bart Hulsmeyer

Bart Hulsmeyer is also a new field agent for the Knights of Columbus. Bart is a member of Msgr. Willett Council 7847 in Hopkinsville, KY, and has served as Recorder, Deputy Grand Knight, and Grand Knight. Bart graduated high school at St. Xavier in Louisville in 1982 and went on to graduate from the University of Louisville Speed Scientific School with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He serves as a Eucharistic and Liturgical minister at Sts Peter

and Paul Church.

Bart has a diverse background in manufacturing for the past 20 years. He started of as been a project engineer at a Paper Mill in Hawesville, KY and most recently held the position of maintenance and engineering manager at an automotive Tier 1 supplier to Ford and GM.

Bart will be serving the western Kentucky region and Louisville areas. When asked why he would like to be a field agent, Bart stated "I get great satisfaction from helping others. I like to listen to people and improve their quality of life. I believe in the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus as a truthful and stable organization. I can articulate these principles and feel I can really make a difference.

Bart will do well with helping Catholic families with their estate planning and financial needs. When Bart contacts you, please take 30 minutes of your time for him to update you about the Knights and how we can help your family.

Daniel Turnwald is the General Agent, State of Kentucky, Knights of Columbus Insurance & Financial Services, located in Villa Hills, Ky.

### Vatican official calls for 'new thinking' to address climate change

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (CNS) -- The world must confront its current moral crises, ranging from hunger to environmental destruction, with "discernment and new thinking," said the head of the Vatican delegation to the United Nations climate change conference. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's nuncio to the U.N., invited delegates during a plenary session Dec. 17 to "a new and deeper reflection on the meaning of the economy and its purposes, and a profound and far-reaching revision of the model for development, to correct the malfunctions and distortions." The archbishop's address in Copenhagen came as negotiations slowed on a climate change pact to build upon the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which obligated industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a specific amount every year through 2012. No agreement had been reached by midday Dec. 18, the conference's final day. "With realism, trust and hope we must assume the new responsibilities which call us to the scene of a world in need of a deep cultural renewal and a rediscovery of fundamental values on which to build a better future," Archbishop Migliore said. He called attention to efforts being made to reduce energy consumption around the globe. He said efforts should not only revolve around scientific and technical solutions, but must include changes in personal habits and lifestyle. "

## Gaspar River Retreat Time “was the first time I had really felt “at peace” in months.”

By Charlie Hardesty

Recently, the High School Youth went on Retreat to Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center outside of Bowling Green, KY. The theme of the retreat was “How Great is Our God” and focused in on the fact that all creation blesses the Lord. The youth were challenged to see that, as a creation of God, our lives too should bless the Lord.

Darin Lewis, a junior at Henderson County, shares his experience from the retreat:

“My relationship with God was slowly spiraling downward over the months leading up to the high school youth retreat to Gaspar River. I was forced to face a situation beyond my control that I never thought could happen to me. I lost a close friend to a car accident in August, and I made the mistake of not turning to God for help. Instead, I blamed God for taking my friend’s life and for making me go through that horrible pain. As weeks passed, I pushed God further and further away – partly voluntarily, partly unintentionally. I signed up for the Gaspar retreat simply because I knew it would be fun, and because I wanted to get away for a weekend. I had no idea how great of an impact it would make on me and my faith.

“Gaspar is an amazing and beautiful place: a quiet stream perfect for wading and skipping rocks, autumn leaves falling off their trees, and even the slightly hilly landscape all add to the tranquility and awe of nature every person at Gaspar experiences. On our first morning, we were told to go out and find a place to reflect upon a few Bible readings, then to sit and be silent and listen for God. Sitting under a small bit of shade in total silence was more powerful than I expected. After all, it’s hard to sit and enjoy silence in today’s world, with the busy schedule that every high school student seems to have. Listening to the wind, the rustling of leaves, the chirping of birds, and the current of the river was refreshing, peaceful, and calming. It was the first time I had really felt “at peace” in months.

“Fellowship is another thing we focused on, in addition to the beauty of silence. We were given plenty of free time, where we could go out and enjoy being with our friends at such a unique location. I became friends with people I had never even talked to before the retreat, and I became ever better friends with the people I already knew. All of us played games together, joked around with each

Continued on page 23



A group picture from Holy Name Youth’s High School Retreat to Gaspar River on Nov. 6-8, 2009. Submitted by Charlie Hardesty, Youth Minister for Holy Name Parish in Henderson, Ky.

## “It is fun to be able to help people.”

By Edie Keeney

The Paducah St. Francis de Sales Middle School Youth Group teamed up with the Social Concerns Committee to extend the Christmas hospitality to residents of the Irving Cobb apartments. The youth spent Thursday evening decorating the parish hall in preparation for a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. The middle school group made hand made decorations and Ed Fenton, a member of St. Francis, volunteered to deliver one to each resident. All was ready Friday evening when the guests arrived from the “Cobb” located across the street from St. Francis. Members of the Social Concerns Committee had arrived earlier to prepare the meal. The youth began arriving bringing the homemade deserts and eager to serve their honored guests. Fr. Bryan Roby welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. The meal were served and declared delicious by everyone. Several of the residents of the “Cobb” were unable to come across the street and their meals were delivered to them.

The names of the guests were put into basket for a drawing for the beautiful centerpiece that decorated the tables. A large Christmas tree covered with ornaments added to the holiday spirit and created



lots of attention when the guests were invited to take two ornaments home with them. Everyone had a great time and the evening was declared wonderful success.

Tina Hayes, an adult core member of the middle school youth group commented, “We wanted to extend the spirit of hospitality to our neighbors across the street. The kids were eager to do this and worked hard to make it a success.” Chrissy Newman and Helena Icke, two of the group members agreed, “It is fun to be able to help people.” Fr. Roby commented. “As the Pastor, I was extremely pleased with this idea and pleased that we have a place that makes it possible to be hospitable and serve our neighbors, it’s a wonderful opportunity to build bridges. I know some of them belong to St. Francis, some to other churches and some I don’t think go to church anywhere.”

By Phyllis Brown

HENDERSON, Ky. The Holy Name Class of 2010 recently completed the 12th annual Patron Saint Contest. Other saints in this year's competition were: Blessed Junipero Serra, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Hildegard, St. Thomas Becket, St. Damien, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Angela Merici. The competition consisted of a bulletin board and a skit. St. Francis took first place in both components. Thanks to our judges: Fr. Bradley, Fr. Shonis, Sr. Margaret Ann, Mrs. Rose Wheeler, Mr. Charlie Hardesty, Mr. Daryl Hagan, Mrs. Mary Caton, Mrs. Janet Barkley and Mrs. Connie McFarland. Students in grades 5-7 also influenced the outcome by voting for their favorite saint with a canned good. This activity kicks off the Co-Ed Y Club Thanksgiving Food Drive. Canned good votes resulted in St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Francis receiving bonus points. St. Francis, a patron of Italy, is also the patron of ecologists and all people who work to protect the environment. We celebrate his feast day on October 4th.



In the photo above, members of the St. Francis team are: Quint McGowan, Rachel Konsler, Brianna Hengen, Danielle Hancock, Bryan Konsler and Jackson Howell. HNS Photo

## Gaspar River Retreat Time *(continued from page 22)*

other, laughed with each other, ate with each other, learned more and more

about each other. There was one session, though, that really struck me. Half of us sat in a circle with our eyes closed, while the other half went around the circle and did three things: prayed silently over each person, gave an encouraging touch, like a hug or pat on the back, and told each person something encouraging or special that you have noticed about them. I absolutely loved the third part; some of the things said to me were so kind and heartfelt. I love making others feel that same way. Everyone reacted differently to things people said, whether it was a smile, a hug, or a tear. The bonds made through this session are extremely powerful and form some of the purest friendships.

"What affected me most about Gaspar, though, was what I realized on my own, when I was taking a walk along the stream at sunrise on our last day there. I can't explain exactly how it happened, but I truly felt God. I thought of how poor my faith had been preceding the retreat, and I real-

ized just how badly I wanted to change. I wanted to become more like God. I wanted to change how I was behaving and live how I was supposed to live. I wanted to give my life to God. But how exactly was I supposed to do that, and continue doing that for the rest of my life, without losing the enthusiasm I felt at that very moment?"

"I really try to include God in everything. I thank Him for my family, my friends, youth group, the house I live in, my education, the food I get too much of. I try not to judge people I don't know; rather, I try to love everyone, like God does. I sit in silence every night and listen for God. I go to church before school a few times a week to be reminded of my desire to be like God. I try to forgive everyone, especially people that are hard to forgive. When in doubt about anything at all, I pray. When I'm thankful for anything at all, I pray. The retreat to Gaspar River truly did strengthen my faith to stronger than it has ever been before; I know now more than ever that I want to live life and for God, always."

## Dan Chelstrom Named KY All-Star Coach



FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Kentucky Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (KTCCCA) named OCHS English Teacher and coach Dan Chelstrom Head Coach of the Boys and Girls West Region Senior All-Star Teams recently.

Chelstrom's squads will feature the top ten cross country runners per gender from the Western portion of the state.

OCHS Senior Skyler Glahn, fresh off of a 2nd Place Team Finish at the 2009 KHSAA State Championships, earned a spot on the West Region Boys All-Star Team.

Teams representing the Central, East, North, and West Regions will compete in the 2009 Kentucky Cross Country Senior All-Star Challenge on Saturday, November 21st at Masterson Station Park in Lexington.

## Healthy Living, Healthy Spirituality

By Fr. John S. Rausch

In the basement of St. Francis Catholic Church in Logan, WV, fitness enthusiasts bounce up and down, swing side to side and do curls with dumbbells five nights a week. At the improvised fitness studio one parishioner lost 40 pounds. Conversely, a 76-year-old cancer survivor who needed to increase her appetite, gained four pounds in less than two months.

The inspiration for the fitness studio came from a pastoral, *A Church That Heals* (available: 304-233-0880), promulgated in 2006 by Bishop Michael Bransfield of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese. He encourages a healthy lifestyle for the good of society and the spirituality of the individual. By broadening the understanding of health and linking it to faith, his pastoral offers some refreshing perspectives about personal responsibility and public accountability for the current health care debate.

We Americans enjoy the most technologically advanced health care in the world, but we experience income-tiered access to it. Health status frequently is related to education, income and employment. We have higher costs for health care compared to other industrialized societies, but we receive lower results. One sixth of our gross domestic product is spent on health care, yet about 46 million Americans still lack health insurance which discourages them from getting preventive medical check-ups. However, other important variables in the health care equation pay too little attention to both personal behaviors and commercial practices that impact our health.

Health experts find, aside from accidents and violence, that genetics account for 20 percent of premature mortality, while the environment accounts for 20 percent and medical care for 10 percent. The remaining 50 percent of premature mortality is due to lifestyle choices.

Excessive tobacco use, inactivity and a steady diet of fatty fast foods without the proper balance of fruits and vegetables lead to serious nutritional and health consequences. The results bring high blood pressure, obesity, high cholesterol and Type II diabetes, all of which raise the risk of early death.

However, besides personal responsibility and lifestyle choices, the social and physical environment also impact our health. The food industry promotes processed foods high in fat, salt and sugar. The movie, *Food, Inc.*, claims that 90 percent of processed foods sold in supermarkets contain either corn or soy products adding to the sugar content of food and ultimately contributing to society's obesity problem. The Center of Disease Control estimates that one-third of American children born after 2000 will develop diabetes as a result of poor diet and lack of exercise.

For rural residents and intercity dwellers other social factors can affect their health. Lack of adequate transportation to health facilities, distribution of health care providers, distance to supermarkets with healthier foods plus unemployment or underemployment all influence health care choices.

In addition the physical environment makes its impact. The American Lung Association claims that 46 percent of the U.S. population lives in areas that have unhealthy levels of either ozone or particle pollution. Unfortunately, coal-fired electrical plants as currently operated contribute the fine particle pollution that cause more than 20,000 premature deaths per year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The World Health Organization defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Working for a nutritious food system, adequate social services, a healthy environment and a stable economic base for

families becomes an act of health justice. Moreover, adding contemplation and reflection about our bodies with its gift of health from God deepens our spirituality and adds a missing dimension to health care.



## Get Walking

Mary Margaret Drury, left, and Donna Biggs, members of the Diocesan Staff, walk daily, here in an Owensboro park.

Mel Howard photo

Mary Margaret Drury and Donna Biggs both work for the Diocese of Owensboro as Administrative Assistants in The Catholic Pastoral Center. Mary Margaret started work at CPC June 10, 1966; Donna began working for the diocese June 1, 1975. Mary Margaret has walked during lunchtime since she started work; Donna joined her when she started at CPC. For 34 1/2 years now, they've shared this exercise routine.

"We walk," Mary Margaret said, "to maintain our weight and for the mental health benefits. It helps relieve feelings of seasonal depression." Donna said that both enjoy being outside in all seasons to enjoy the beauties of Nature. "We can leave work feeling all uptight or grumpy, and come back with smiles on our faces, ready for the afternoon's work," Mary Margaret said.

People along their route know the two walkers, and if one is absent, they ask where she is that day. "When we're walking," Donna said, "we're talking, sharing our day." Only one other CPC employee tried to walk with Mary Margaret and Donna, butm lasted only one day. "Walkers tell us that they admire our pace and our determination," Mary Margaret said.

Walking daily helps the walkers stay healthy and trim. "We can eat whatever we want," Mary Margaret said. "When we started walking," Mary Margaret said, "we were the only people we knew who wore skirts or dresses and tennis shoes. Now you see people anywhere doing that."

Asked what advice they have for others, both agreed, "When you get to feeling like a slug bug, get walking. It gets those endorphins working, and you just feel good after a good walk."



## Decking The Halls

On December 1st the Whitesville Trinity High School Y Club decorated school doors and hallways for the Christmas



season. In the picture at left, freshmen Kelsey Armes, Blake Knott and Lexie Hatfield trying to decide what to do next. Above, sophomores Tyler Isbill and Kalie Winkler decorating with freshman Cory Smith. Submitted by Lisa Armes

## In Paducah, Donnie Kerr is 2009 Volunteer Of The Year

By Edie Keeney

The Paducah St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store head its annual Christmas dinner Sunday afternoon December 13th at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Over 50 volunteers attended the dinner and everyone enjoyed the meal and the opportunity to visit with the other volunteers. Vicky Elliott, manager of the Budget Store, welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for the many hours of donated time that makes it possible for the store to help so many needy individuals. She said, "Without you all there would be no St. Vincent de Paul Store in Paducah." She gave everyone a Christmas card and a \$5 gift certificate to the store.

Then Vicky announced that Donnie Kerr is the 2009 Volunteer of the Year. Donnie has been a volunteer for almost 2 years. She is a florist and uses her talent to refresh, rearrange or create new floral arrangements from donated artificial flowers, arrangements and wreaths before they are put out and quickly sold. She does a little bit of everything including brightening the walls at the store with a new coat of paint.

Donnie explained, "I sure was surprised. I used to go to the St. Vincent Store



From left, Donnie Kerr, Vicky Elliott and Donnie's granddaughter, Abby Leidecker

and then I decided to volunteer there. I just love that place; it is one of the best things that has happened to me. I look forward to working there, I feel like I have a purpose. It means a lot to me, it really has helped me to see the world in a different way."

## St. Mary High School Paducah Academy Scholar Earning College Credits

Submitted by  
Nikki Fuller  
PADUCAH, Ky. - Andrew Rivadeneira from St. Mary High School was recently awarded the Certificate of Recognition from the Commonwealth Honors Academy. Andrew and 72 other students completed the three week Academy at Murray State between June 6th and June 28th, 2009. During the three weeks, Academy scholars took two college-level courses, attended multiple lectures, concerts, and orientations and participated in a tri-



Andrew Rivadeneira, center, with faculty of the Academy.

weekly personal development seminar. As a successful graduate of the Academy, Andrew will receive six hours of University credit, a \$2,000 per year Murray State housing scholarship, and the option to take six additional hours from Murray State tuition free.

The mission of the Common Wealth Honors Academy, currently in its tenth year, is "to challenge, educate, enlighten,

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2009, www.rcdok.org 25

## Minnesota family says prayers to Blessed Seelos cured teen's cancer

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) -- Not too long ago, 14-year-old Joey Schwartz had never heard of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. He could not have imagined making a pilgrimage with his family from Savage, Minn., to the New Orleans shrine of the Redemptorist priest, especially since he was extremely ill with a rare form of cancer that had returned after a short remission. Even less expected was the life-changing outcome of that visit to the National Seelos Shrine -- a testimony to the power of prayer and the possible intercession of Blessed Seelos. According to his doctor, Joey is now cancer-free and his family is eager to share the story of the apparent miracle. In March 2008, Joey was diagnosed with midline carcinoma after having a walnut-size tumor removed from his chest. "This kind of cancer is so rare that, by all accounts, Joey's was the 14th case worldwide," said his father, Paul Schwartz. "It has been classified as highly lethal and aggressive." Born in 1819, Francis Seelos was considered responsible for several episodes of healing during his priesthood. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Soon after getting the go-ahead from Joey's doctor, the family drove to New Orleans, where Blessed Seelos died. There, Joyce Bourgeois, the Seelos Center administrator, laid her hands on Joey's shoulders in prayer. Each member of the family felt "spiritually overwhelmed" by the experience, according to Paul Schwartz. Added Joey: "I don't know how to explain it, but I did feel different." After a new CT scan in September, doctors were unable to detect any cancer in Joey's lungs and said they believed the larger tumor spotted in July was likely scar tissue.



## Parish Hispanic Ministers Across Diocese Meet

Every three months, the Hispanic Ministers from parishes throughout the Diocese meet for a quarterly meeting. On November 9th, they met at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish to evaluate a retreat they had in August, plan a Youth Retreat at Gasper River in November and discuss Regional and Diocesan gatherings for 2010. Tami Schneider photo.

and nurture the next generation of academic, civic, and business leaders in the region." To qualify, students must have a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale and an ACT score of 25 (or equivalent SAT, PSAT, or PLAN scores). For more information or to find details on applying to the 2010 Academy, please visit the Academy website at [www.murraystate.edu/CHA](http://www.murraystate.edu/CHA).

## In Your Charity, Pray for the Repose of the Souls of Sister Mary Bertha Wethington, OSU, Sister Agnes Irene Bickett, OSU, and Sister Margaret Joseph Aull, OSU



**Sister Mary Bertha Wethington, OSU**

Maple Mount — Sister Mary Bertha Wethington, 103, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Dec. 2 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 83rd year of religious life. She was the oldest member in the history of the community. She was a native of Clementsville.

An educator for 59 years, she taught at St. Mary Magdalene School, Sorgho (1927-28), Sts. Joseph and Paul School, Owensboro (1950-51), and St. Joseph School, Leitchfield (1951-57, 1964-67). She was principal of St. Pius Tenth School, Owensboro, 1968-71. She also taught and served as principal in the Archdiocese of Louisville, and in Missouri. From 1972-88, she was coordinator of Saint Angela Educational Center, Louisville. From 1988 until her retirement in 2001, she was in residence at Saint Angela Convent, using

her talents as a gifted seamstress in a ministry of quilt making for the Ursuline community. She retired to the Motherhouse in 2001.

Survivors include a sister, Mary Louise O'Rourke, Creve Coeur, Mo., nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was Dec. 5 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

Gifts in memory of Sister Mary Bertha Wethington, and for Sister Agnes Irene Bickett may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



**Sister Agnes Irene Bickett, OSU**

Maple Mount — Sister Agnes Irene Bickett, 93, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Nov. 25 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 74th year of religious life. She was born Agnes Lucille Bickett in Uniontown, the daughter of the late James Henry and Mary Alma Steward Bickett. She entered the Ursuline Community in 1935 and made temporary profession in 1937 and perpetual profession in 1940.

Sister Agnes Irene was treasured for her sense of humor and her inspiring meditation and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. She delighted in talking about her many teaching assignments. She taught at St. Denis School in Fancy Farm (1937), ministered briefly at St. Denis Convent (1946), then taught at St. Romuald in Hardinsburg (1949-50), St. Joseph in Mayfield (1954-55), Blessed Mother in Owensboro (1955-61), St. Rose of Lima in Cloverport (1961-62), St. Peter of Antioch in Waverly (1962-63), and Mary Carrico in Knottsville (1968-71). She served as librarian at St. Romuald from 1989-96. She also taught and ministered for 25 years in the Archdiocese of Louisville, as well as in Missouri, Nebraska, and New Mexico. She was the Guest House coordinator at the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse until her retirement in 2001.

Survivors include one sister, Sister Blanche Rita Bickett, of Mount Saint Joseph, nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was Nov. 28 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the Motherhouse cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.



**Sr. Margaret Joseph Aull**

Maple Mount — Sister Margaret Joseph Aull, 87, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Dec. 7 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her

69th year of religious life. She was a native of Knottsville.

She was born Margaret Ann Aull, one

of 15 children to the late Michael Xavier and Mary Pauline Aull. She was known for her ready smile, her sense of adventure, her love of travel, and her deep prayerfulness.

Sister Margaret Joseph taught at Immaculate School (1967-68) and St. Pius Tenth School (1975-85) in Owensboro, and worked as a file clerk at Mercy Hospital from 1985-94. She tutored and ministered to the sick at Christ the King School and Parish in Madisonville (1996-2002). She also taught in Louisville and New

Mexico. She retired to the motherhouse in 2002, where she continued to minister as an information receptionist.

Survivors include six sisters, Mary T. Higdon, and Anna Carolyn Lyddane, both of Owensboro; Sister Naomi Aull, Maple Mount; Sister Marie Michael Aull, CP, Whitesville; Joyce Marie Dunn, Tarpon Springs, Fla., and Beverly Ann Clark, Fairview, Texas; three brothers, William Guy Aull, Robert E. Aull, and Joseph A. Aull, all of Philpot; nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was Dec. 10 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the motherhouse cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

Gifts in memory of Sister Margaret Joseph may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

# MARY CHOSE LIFE

CALHOUN, Ky. - The Parish Religious Education float that St. Sebastian and St. Charles parishes had in the Calhoun Christmas Parade on Dec. 5, 2009 carried the theme, "MARY CHOSE LIFE."

The children held white crosses for the unborn. Mary Ann Ellis portrayed Mary.

The children holding the crosses were Miranda and Felicia Miller, Lillie and Josie Pinkston, Luke and Josh Badertscher, Ashley and Kameron Vaught, Aaron Durbin, Bryce Durbin, and Sarah Anderson.

Submitted by Jerry Abney



## Preschoolers Collect Vegetables for Owensboro Food Pantry

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OWENSBORO, Ky. - The 133 students of the Cathedral Preschool collected canned goods and non-perishable foods from November 9 -19, 2009. Each of the 130 families with children in the preschool helped their children participate by bringing in sacks of the canned goods, placing them in the hallway outside their classrooms until the entire hallway was lined with sacks of food, two or three cans deep.

Then on November 19, 2009, the morning and the afternoon preschool student bodies, their teachers, and some parents who could make it, gathered up all the sacks of food and took them to the food pantry of the Daniel Pitino Shelter just across Cedar Street, each one stopping to look both ways before crossing. It was a long exodus.

They brought twelve red wagons filled with sacks and cans. The preschoolers carried all the rest to the Pitino Shelter's food pantry where the food is given to families and people in need who come into the shelter.

The Saint Stephen Cathedral Soup Kitchen in the basement of the Pitino Shelter serves a meal for anyone needing a good meal at 11:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday. The food pantry is a separate service for people of the area.

Anyone interested in the activities of the Cathedral Preschool, located on the west end of the second floor of the old St. Stephen Elementary School building, now known as The Catholic Pastoral Center, workplace of the diocesan staff at 600 Locust Street, Owensboro can contact Pam Weafer at 270-926-1652 or email Pam at pam.weafer@pastoral.org.



Kenlee Ackerman loaded a plastic sack with cans of food Nov 16.



Jamison Wall stacked canned goods on the Food Pantry shelves as Stephanie Frey supervised. Mel Howard photo



Luke Frey pulling his red wagon of food to the Pitino Shelter's food pantry Nov 16. Mel Howard photo



Phillip Laboy, Mrs. Neel, Miles Baur, Maddy Castlen, Abby Payne, Noah Robinson, Olivia Blondin. Fr. Joshua McCarty Photo.



Kole Parker placing a can of peas on a shelf of the food pantry in the Daniel Pitino Shelter. Fr. Joshua McCarty Photo



At right, standing inside the food pantry, preschool teacher Trudy Laumas, directed the four-year students inside the food pantry room as Jessica Piercy, a parent, Emily McNulty, and Stephanie Frey waited their turn in the hallway. Mel Howard photo

## Don't Give Up On Your Marriage Catholic Program Specializes in Saving Hurting Marriages

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust, and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 15-17 call (270)683-1545 ext. 357 or email: sherryvincent@insightbb.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

**By Lavidia Mischel**

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The stars shown bright over the parish hall Sat. Nov. 14th as many gathered for the 3rd Annual Night Under the Stars. This special event allows Sts. Joseph and Paul parish to celebrate the gift of stewardship and the sharing of our time, talent and treasure, through our community, as well as individually.

After a warm welcome from emcee, Wayne Naylor, the St. Joseph and Paul choir filled the air with songs of praise, followed by a steak dinner served by the ChrisTeens.

As is the tradition, the evening's entertainment was awe-inspiring. At the request of Fr. Carl McCarthy, Chuck Bolton, and Kathy Felong, previous parishioners of Holy Spirit Catholic Church - Bowling Green, accepted an invitation to be a part of this special night. Their talents seemed endless as Kathy shared her gift of song and Chuck performed his own composition. And so it was time for the main event; The Awards

The Father Howard Tucker Stewardship Award is given in recognition of a parishioner's service/ministry to the elderly and homebound.

This year's recipient of the Father Howard Tucker Stewardship award has lived a life of giving to others. For years she has served the needs of the seniors of Sts. Joseph and Paul parish...acting as a chauffeur for doctor visits, daily Mass, the Legion of Mary, and worked with Father Tucker visiting people who had left the Catholic Faith.

She was a true presence at Senior Citizen dinners, bingo and scripture study, always bringing someone who couldn't drive with her. She cared for her elderly Mother and also a neighbor taking her to the grocery whenever she wanted or needed to be taken. Until her own health failed her she was a Eucharistic Minister. For years she furnished and filled Holy Water bottles, a small task but one that needed to be done faithfully. She was active in St. Vincent de Paul, was a faithful Adorer at Adoration, and spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Often at her own expense she gave the framed photo of Christ to others. She has lived her life for others and has been faithful to her faith. The Fr. Howard Tucker Stewardship Award for outstanding ministry to our sick and elderly was presented to Mary Hinton.

The Sr. Agnes Catherine Williams, OSU, Stewardship Award is given in recognition of a parishioner's service/ministry to youth and education in the Catholic Schools and Parish.

This year's recipient of the Sr. Agnes Catherine Williams, OSU, Stewardship Award has dedicated her life to teaching in the Catholic Schools for 25 years and before that in the public school system. So strong was her desire to teach that she went to school at night while her family was young and earned her Master's Degree.

She has a special connection with children and tries to instill values and love of God in the hearts of her students. During the summer months she has been know to provide speech therapy to adults and children alike. She is truly one of those "little servants" who brings a special smile, spirit, and shine wherever she goes...be it at home, work, church or the community at large.

The Sr. Agnes Catherine Williams, OSU, Stewardship Award for outstanding ministry to our youth and their Catholic formation was presented to Nadine Trogden.

The Monsignor Braun Stewardship Award is given in recognition of a parishioner's service/ministry in outreach to the unchurched, the fallen away, and those whose country of origin was not the United States.

This year's recipient of the Monsignor Braun Stewardship Award is a very well-rounded person with gifts that reach the young and old as well as black, white, or Hispanic. She effortlessly crosses all boundaries. She is a mentor to many through the life lessons she shares. She is a fair and balanced person showing no partiality to anyone she comes in contact with. Everyone is a friend the moment she



**Mary Hinton.**



**Nadine Trogden**



**Carol Alvey**

meets them.

As most in the parish know she is a go-to person and her investment in Sts. Joseph and Paul runs deep and true. She has given her time to the Activities Committee, Art and Environment, Sacred Liturgy, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Liturgical Coordinator, Sacristan, Koinonia, and the Parish Pastoral Council. The Monsignor Braun Stewardship Award for Parish Unity was presented to Carol Alvey.

## Feb. 12-14, 2010 Women's Retreat



Retreat Director  
**Sister Cheryl  
Clemons, OSU**



To register, contact Kathy McCarty  
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org  
(270) 229-0200, ext. 413

Fee: \$175 for residents or \$120 for commuters.  
Deduct 10% if paid in full by Jan. 12, 2010

**Loved Into Life –  
Becoming a Reed of God: The  
Spirituality of Caryl Houselander**

The 20th-century English mystic Caryl Houselander's famous book, *The Reed of God*, offers Mary as the model for all Christians: We, like Mary, are to strive to become hollow reeds in order to be filled with God. Such emptiness draws God to pour out extravagant divine love upon us, a love that we mediate to the world. Houselander, who lived through two world wars, offers profoundly simple advice on becoming holy in the midst of ordinary life.



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999  
270-229-0200  
www.mscenter.org  
msj.center@maplemount.org

# Wisdom

by Ginny Knight-Simon

**Wilsie and Marjorie Ward  
St. Pius Tenth Parish  
Owensboro, Kentucky  
2009 Sophia Award Winners**

Wilsie and Marjorie Ward got married when he was 19 and she was 18 years old. Seven children and fifty six years later, they are still married. Wilsie said Margie told him, "If you ever leave, I'm going with you!"

"We met in high school," said Wilsie. "I was a basketball player, and I needed help with writing my senior paper. I wasn't really interested in it because I felt like I would be drafted right after high school. Anyway, she came to me and offered to tutor me. The topic was on atomic energy. It seemed I really needed help because I went to her house just about every night after that! She (Margie) basically wrote the paper for me. My teacher told her that she wrote a good paper!" Wilsie said, while they both laughed.

Wilsie was drafted into the Army and spent his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky as a welder at the Modern Welding tank park.

"We've had very few problems during our marriage," said Margie. "We are best friends, and I don't go anywhere with out him...other than work. We just put it all in the hands of the Lord and He's always taken care of for us. We just trust Him."



"We have been a sponsor couple for couples preparing to get married since the program started, I think," said Wilsie. "Fr. Jerry Glahn first asked us to help many years ago. "We have really seen changes over the last years dealing with morality and finances with couples. Most of the couples that come to us are already living together, and some are already in financial trouble," said Margie. "We try to tell them

that life is full of emergencies and they need to be prepared for them."

Wilsie was born Catholic in a large family with 11 siblings who said the rosary each night. Margie was raised by her grandparents who weren't Catholic but she was able to join the Catholic Faith at age 7. "I was captured by the Eucharist," she said. "I knew in my young heart that I wanted to be Catholic and receive the Eucharist." Margie's grandfather made sure she was able to do that.

Wilsie retired from Mary Kendall Home and now is employed as part time maintenance personnel at St. Pius Tenth church. Margie took care of 7 children at home and then worked at a pre-school for 10 years.

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Wilsie and Margie received the Sophia Award from St. Pius Tenth this past September. "We were flabbergasted," said Margie. We just know so many more people who are more deserving. We are very pleased."

Margie plays the organ at funerals for the parish, both are Eucharistic Ministers and a sponsor couple. Wilsie works at the parish picnic and volunteers for the Owensboro Bar-b-que Festival.

The Wards told me their greatest blessing so far in life was each other, their children and faith. Wilsie said he never lets Margie stick her finger in his coffee...because it would be too sweet! Awwwhhh, how sweet is that?!



## A Gift of Grace

By Millie Hidgon

Recently I was asked to share some reflections on the First Women's Cursillo weekend in May 1969, and the impact it has made in my life.

It was a powerful grace and blessing in the life for both me and my husband as we experienced Christian community for the first time. The weekend enabled us to come to a deeper knowledge of ourselves, God and neighbor. In listening and sharing our faith, we became more aware of the hunger and need for others with less individualism and more other-centeredness which is a step toward conversion and spiritual maturity.

It was a new beginning for us as we made some wonderful friends who helped us along the way. At the time I was 35 with six small children and at times fighting for survival. We all know the need for grace and encouragement in the pressure of raising a family. I can't describe in words the awakening discovered as I learned to listen to others stories. It was such a comfort to be able to feel as I was no longer alone. I soon realized that we all have our share of crosses and I witnessed faith-filled men and women doing it with courage and joy.

In attending School of Leaders weekly where scripture was the main focus, it became a powerful tool for my faith journey. I am often reminded of St Paul's words, "We walk by faith and not by sight." This scripture as well as others have been a healing source of strength enabling me to "Let Go and Let God", the famous motto for AA. Giving up control even to God is a hard lesson for most of us and in spite of the anguish it entails in the surrender and trust; I have found peace to be the reward.

In the early days of the Cursillo I often recall many joyful memories as we gathered in St Stephen's undercroft. It was a healing experience as we joined hearts and hands united in spirit singing, sharing our prayer and study, listening to the Christian witness of men and women who made sacrifices in the ministry of building up the Body of Christ. Cursillo taught us the meaning of living as Eucharist people and most importantly we didn't have to be perfect to be used by God. Father Charlie Fischer often said that God can use an old broken broomstick. That statement was quite a shock to most of us, until we realized that it can only happen if we are open to God's unlimited goodness and mercy. We can only give to others what we have received from God. For myself, the struggle for healing and wholeness is ongoing and I believe for most people it is the same.

God richly blessed me over 35 years ago with a group of fine women, loyal friends who have been a big support as we met weekly for many years. We have shared our prayer, study and action, our ups and downs in raising a family and living our faith. We were there for each other every inch of the way, some on call day and night to listen or simply chat. We became and have remained close friends - three of whom have passed on. How true the saying, "Friendship double our joy and divides our grief."

Mary Fulkerson who recently passed away was my table leader at the Cursillo and a member of my group. She was a dear lady, who knew the art of listening and had the priceless gift of unconditional love. She and her husband, Dan led the music for the Cursillo community for many years. The song we often sang will remain forever in my spirit, "They will know we are Christians by our love."



## Practicing Responsible Citizenship

*"The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight." - Theodore Roosevelt, 1902*

**Benjamin Conkright, son of Tracy and Kevin Conkright, gave his winning speech before the Kentucky Legislators on Monday, December 14th during their visit to Owensboro. Benjamin is a fourth grade student at the Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus and won first place in his age group in the 4-H Speech Contest during November, 2009. That's Senator David Boswell listening at right. Submitted by Maria Carr, Secretary, Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus.**



### St. Sebastian - St. Charles Christmas Program

Mrs. Pat Payne's St. Sebastian Kindergarten class provided a skit for the St. Sebastian/St. Charles Christmas Potluck, Sunday, December 13. Hunter Devin, Emma Hudson, Sarah Schutte, Addison Horn and Bryce Durbin enacted the birth of Jesus for all those present. Picture taken by Christina Hudson.

## Christ the King Church Has New Steeple

SCOTTSVILLE, Ky. - Our new church was completed and dedicated on November 23, 2009. It is a beautiful church and we all felt very blessed when this became a reality. But something was missing. The church didn't exactly look like a church from the outside of the building as there was no steeple. We decided against moving the steeple from the old church as its condition wasn't very good. We had put the expense of a new one on our "wish list" for the future.

But our wish came true by the generosity of Mike Murphy of Scott, Murphy & Daniel of Bowling Green. Mr. Murphy volunteered to donate a new steeple and its associated costs to Christ the King. The steeple decided on was manufactured by Campbellsville Industries, Inc. of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Bob Blencoe, Chair of our Building Committee, worked extensively with Dave Manning, Sales Representative of Campbellsville Industries, Inc. and Joe Meyer of Scott, Murphy & Daniel for several months in the planning stages of this important



and exciting project.

On November 20, 2009, just 2 days before we would be celebrating the one year anniversary of our dedication, the new steeple was placed on the roof of our church. Scott, Murphy also

## Keep Faith: Support The Church in Latin America

### 2010 Collection Date: Weekend of January 24-25, 2010

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean has a substantial Catholic population. The average ratio of priests to Catholics in the region is 8 priests for 10,000 parishioners. The pressures on church personnel are great, while the resources available for formation of leaders and the faithful are often lacking. A study commissioned in the late 1990s by CELAM, the federation of Latin American Catholic bishops' conferences, found that the Church was losing up to 8,000 Catholics every day.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America is supporting programs that promote leadership and membership in the Church in the region through an emphasis on catechesis and formation initiatives. Faith formation programs in rural areas and religious training are important components of the support provided by the Collection for the Church in Latin America in its efforts to encourage growth and strengthen the faith.

The national date for the Collection for the Church in Latin America is the weekend of January 24-25, 2010. Your diocese may take up



the Collection on another date.

You can make this year's Collection a success by using the ads, clip art, Web banners, and other promotional material available online at [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections). There you will also find other information about this Collection and the important projects it funds. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Mencarini Campbell, promotions director, at 202-541-3365 or [mcampbell@usccb.org](mailto:mcampbell@usccb.org).

We truly appreciate your support of the Collection. You are helping to keep faith with the Church in Latin America.

## Boulware Mission Celebrates Its Annual Donor & Volunteer Banquet

Submitted by Stephanie Kaelin for Boulware Mission  
OWENSBORO, Ky. - Bishop Emeritus John McRaith and Sister Joseph Angela Boone, together with other donors and volunteers, were honored during Boulware Mission's 2009 Annual Donor and Volunteer Banquet. The event was held on November 17th at the Settle Memorial Methodist Recreational and Community Center.

Guests enjoyed a meal prepared by Boulware residents as they viewed taped resident testimonies depicting how Boulware Mission had changed their lives. Keynote speakers addressed the latest happenings at Boulware. Boulware board member, Fred Miller, praised Sister Joseph Angela for her leadership of the facilities committee, responsible for the renovation of Boulware's extended campus on Wing Avenue, and for her dedicated service as a Boulware board member.

He added, "I would like to thank all of you for coming tonight because your donation, whether it be financial or volunteering your time, has made our job at Boulware Mission much easier. I would also like to thank the Lord for everything he has done to get us by another challenging year."

The most important message of the evening came from Boulware board members, staff and residents who expressed sincere gratitude to each guest for their time, talents and financial contributions. Boulware Board Chairman, Jim Hendrix, declared to banquet guests, "Your faith in us, your hard work, your valuable time, and your generosity is warranted because without you, we do not exist."

Accompanied by Heather Hayden on keyboard, St. Joseph Catholic Church choir member, Rhonda Hoffmann, sang a beautiful song, "Thankful." The evening ended with a closing prayer by Reverend Dr. Jonathan Carroll.



Bishop Emeritus John McRaith and Sister Joseph Angela Boone were honored during Boulware Mission's 2009 Annual Donor and Volunteer Banquet. Submitted Photo

# Sister Jean Madeline Peake Honored for 75 Years As Ursuline Sister

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On Nov. 22, nearly 200 family, friends, former teachers and students of Sister Jean Madeline Peake came to St. Bartholomew Church in Louisville, Ky., to honor Sister Jean Madeline on her 75 years as an Ursuline Sister. Sister Jean Madeline was a teacher and principal at St. Bartholomew from 1967-1985

In the picture at right, Sister Jean Madeline holds Olivia Madeline McCraw, who was named after her. In back is the baby's mother, Melissa McCraw, and to the left, Melissa's mother Jacinta Hamilton.

In the picture at left, Sister Jean Madeline arrived at the reception following Mass to a round of applause. She is flanked by Sister Vivian Bowles, left, her driver Sister Vickie Cravens, and Debra Noble, former development director for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.



Above, Sister George Mary Hagan and Sister Jean Madeline are joined by Patricia Keller and John Clark Keller. Sister Jean Madeline taught John Clark Keller at St. Andrew School in Hardinsburg.

In the picture at left, Sister Jean Madeline says goodbye and prepares to head back to Maple Mount.



At right, visitors could look at pictures of Sister Jean Madeline through the years on this board, and on a slideshow.



## Our First Minnesota Bishop: Henry J. Soenneker

### Part 2

By Father Benjamin Luther

After ordination in Columbus, Ohio, Fr. Soenneker was assistant to two pastors for six years, carrying out all the normal priestly duties, including teaching catechism in the parochial school. He recalled that “examinations were not so much to discern what the children knew, as it was how much the priest had successfully taught them!” Both he and his pastors taught catechism.

At the end of his sixth year, he was surprised to learn that his Bishop wanted him to be the chaplain at the Motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters. The appointment was surprising, for usually the priest designated for that spiritual duty was frequently older, presumably wise and mature spiritually. Evidently, his Bishop thought that he “fit the bill,” and also his pastor. Father Soenneker moved to the Motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters in Little Falls, Minnesota, in mid-1940. He was destined to exercise this ministry for eight years.

Being chaplain at a motherhouse was no small work. Besides the normal daily Mass, he also gave a spiritual conference on religious life to the professed Sisters, and on Sundays, to them and also to the larger community, including postulants, novices, high school students, guests from a nearby home for the aged, and nurses.

He also lectured the novices twice weekly for several years, on such subjects as the spiritual life, the prospectus of Christian doctrine, and the history of the Church.

What is more, he was also a teacher for eight hours weekly at a local Catholic high school. He also taught student nurses classes in medical ethics for five hours weekly. One can easily discern how much responsibility devolved to a young priest for all of these obligations. Evidently, he was successful in carrying out his duties, for the Sisters and others who had contact with him and benefited from his service, were grateful for his punctuality, careful preparation of homilies and classes, including sharing fraternity with local clergy. And, his Bishop was also pleased with his tenure, and decided, to his surprise and that of others, to send Father Soenneker to study canon law at the Catholic University of America in the fall of 1948, a course that would last for two years, ending with a Licentiate in canon law.

Near the end of his course in canon law, his Bishop sent him a letter of appointment to St. John’s Seminary, of the Diocese of St. Cloud, Seminary, “effec-



**Bishop Henry J. Soenneker seated in the episcopal chair in St. Stephen Cathedral in the late 1970s. Submitted File Photo**

tive July 1, 1950. He was designated to be the spiritual director for the over one hundred men studying for the priesthood. This was another demanding post, as being spiritual director for seminarians called for daily Mass, confessions, spiritual direction, and monitoring their sermon preparation. However, this was not all, for the Bishop of St. Cloud added on yet another responsibility on the shoulders of Father Soenneker — Director of the Diocesan Matrimonial Relations Office.

The Matrimonial Relations Office post called for dialogue with couples preparing for marriage, counseling couples who were experiencing difficulties in married life, and what is more, he also worked as he said “on the side,” in gathering testimony concerning the validity of marriages for individuals who were seeking a declaration of nullity and so freedom to marry.

Concerning the gathering of testimony for that purpose, I recall the summer I spent with Father Clement Busemeyer of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, a first cousin of Bishop Soenneker. I was appointed the first diocesan director of religious education for the Owensboro Diocese three years after my ordination, and one summer I lived

in Father Busemeyer’s parish as I attended a college course in preparation for my work. I remember his telling me about Father Soenneker’s zeal in tracking down testimony about marriage cases, even during his annual vacation! He told me how he would walk across fields during summertime to meet with farmers whom he suspected might have information about a matrimonial case. All of which is another testimony of the care he exercised in this special ministry in behalf of the Sacrament of Marriage.

In 1959, his Ordinary, Bishop Bartholome of Saint Cloud, appointed Father Soenneker to the office of officialis of the Diocesan Matrimonial Court, thus making him the presiding judge of that court, responsible to the Diocesan Bishop, and responsible to see that the proceedings of the court were carried out in accordance with the law of the Church. Most cases brought before that Court concerned the validity of marriage, but other cases as well.

At about this time, Bishop Bartholome of the Saint Cloud Diocese contacted the Holy See and asked that Father Soenneker be admitted to honorary membership in the Holy Father’s household with the title of “Right Reverend Monsignor.”

In 1959, his Bishop appointed Monsignor Soenneker to be the Diocesan Director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the Diocese of St. Cloud, in order to promote devotion to the Blessed Mother, as well as raise funds for our National Marian Shrine in Washington, D.C.

At about the same time, Monsignor Soenneker was designated by Bishop Bartholome to represent the Diocese of St. Cloud in Minnesota, at the 1,400’ annual celebration of the Diocese of St. Cloud in France. Monsignor Soenneker went to St. Cloud in France, with half a dozen other priests of the St. Cloud diocese in Minnesota, for the festivities, and Monsignor Soenneker gave an address, in English, about the relationship between the two dioceses, which was immediately translated into French for the church and state officials present at a banquet.

Divine providence had prepared Monsignor Soenneker for the most surprising of all appointments in his long and successful priestly life. He himself told the story.

Recall that he worked on cases for

**Continued on page 33**

## Celebrating Priestly Life in A Year For Priests: Father Joseph Miller

By H.J. Ramage, Jr.



**Fr. Joe Miller**

One of the most dynamic priests that I met in my lifetime is Fr. Joe Miller. Fr. Miller entered the Order of the Holy Cross (The Crosiers) in 1943, at Hastings,

Ne. He was both a pastor and teacher. He was the second in charge of the Order’s Seminary located in Onamia, Mn. While he was teaching at the Seminary, the Director of Vocations for the Dioceses of St. Cloud Mn., Father Henry J. Soenneker, would come often to visit with Fr. Miller and discuss the matters of seminarian education. Later, Fr. Soenneker became Bishop Soenneker and was assigned to the Diocese of Owensboro in 1961.

During the turbulent years following the Second Vatican Council, there were some teachings that appeared in The Crosier’s seminary that Fr. Miller thought were ill advised. Being unable to change the policies, he along with several other priests left the Order. He then made contact with Bishop Soenneker and the Bishop welcomed him into the Diocese of Owensboro in November, 1967.

His first assignment was Peonia, Wax and Grayson Springs. He served there until 1972 when he moved to St. Alphonsus at St. Joseph, KY. It was here that I first met Fr. Miller. He had a likable, congenial personality, and was liked and respected by all the congregation. He was a hard working pastor. One of the first items he tackled was to upgrade the school’s religion books. He hired the teachers, did the payroll, handled all parish administration and pastoral duties. He replaced the pews in the church which had been in place since the church was built. He was skilled at raising money for many needed projects for the parish. He was a very sharp investor, and had a talent for wise investments.

Though he never invested parish monies in anything other than a short term C.D., it was through his cooperation that the land where the St. Joe Fire Department stands was donated to the county. He was very interested in all the community activities. When the St. Raphael Church was fired by vandals, the Bishop opted not to rebuild the church. This parish had a farm, and the Bishop asked Fr. Miller to take charge of the farm and it’s administration which he did very successfully.

**Continued on page 34**

By Carol Hulsey

The Royal Order of Church Ladies has held court at my house during the summer for the last many years. Assessing the charm, wit, and panache of the assembled group, my husband chose the name for us some time back. Court is my summer's work. Each year a religious book is chosen to read, study, and generally hash out. In the past we have pored over St. John of the Cross and St. Therese of Avila as we sipped lemonade and munched on Ann Flaherty's fine desserts while all the kids romped through the woods. Now, the kids are grown and gone, and the Ladies of the Royal Order curl up on chairs and couches, with our little-bitty eyeglasses perched low on our collective noses.

Last summer we decided to read something on evangelization. I dutifully went to the two Catholic bookstores in town expecting to find a plethora of choices. Guess what? Not a single book at either store. Yes, there was material on apologetics, which is not the same thing at all.

In dire need of advice, I, of course, asked my hairdresser, Lana, for her opinion. Being a good Baptist, she had several recommendations. So off I went to a local Christian bookstore.

Well, let me tell you, the number of books on the subject was bewildering and bedazzling. These folks are into evangelizing! Not one section, not two sections, not three sections, but four whole sections. Even if I love those Baptists, no Catholic worth his or her salt wants to be eclipsed by them. Where the heck are the Catholics?

That led me to ask, "Are Catholics evangelizing, and if not why not?" What follows is my list of answers to that question.

10. They don't know what the word means. Evangelization, simply put, means sharing the gospel.

9. They don't see any advantage of Catholicism over Protestantism. These people have lost their Catholic identity.

8. They think that there are plenty of people already handing out Bibles. As the world is in the shape it is in, this one can't be true.

7. They think that faith is not as relevant on a daily basis as what is going on in the world. If everyone's faith were more relevant than the trash going on in the world, there would be less trash going on in the world.

6. They didn't know Catholics did that sort of thing. Spreading the gospel is called the great commission given by Our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 28:19-20). Pope Paul VI in *Evangelli Nuntiandi* stated that evangelization is "the essential mission of the Church," and "evangelization is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity." John Paul II called for "a new evangelization." You might think of it as a re-presentation of the message of Jesus Christ to all Catholics and a first presentation of the Gospel to the unchurched.

5. They don't have the slightest idea of how to evangelize. Really, how does one actually go about evangelizing?

4. They are uncomfortable witnessing their faith. Will people just think I am over the top, a fanatic? Well, maybe ...

3. They feel ill-equipped to share Scripture or Catholic teaching. I guess it is time to get a little education.

2. They have never had a real encounter with Christ one-on-one, or they have stopped growing spiritually. Perhaps there are people who do not know the depth of spiritual life that God wishes for them. There is plenty more holiness available for all of us.

Drum roll, please. The number one reason Catholics fail to evangelize....

1. We don't need to say anything about Jesus Christ because, through our good example, we are already evangelizing.

John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* concurs that witness is the first form of evangelization, but for most of us it cannot be our only form. St. Francis of Assisi did say, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." But, remember that he was pouring ashes over his tonsured head while he said it. He had also given up his inheritance,



The Royal Order of Church Ladies: from left, Carol Hulsey, Peggy Tichenor, Joan Perry, Mary Helen Nash, Ann Flaherty, Sue Borders. Submitted photo

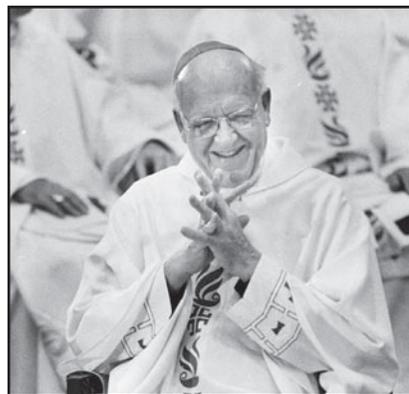
home, wardrobe, and steady supply of food. Very few of us live that sort of visible and radical poverty and holiness. So, instead of expecting to draw others by our holiness, maybe we should just state the truth. We are sinners, and Jesus loves us, and died for us so that we may live with him always. And that, in a nutshell, is the Good News.

Stay tuned for next month's installment: "Who am I supposed to be evangelizing?"

Editor's Note: Carol Hulsey has an undergraduate degree in biology, and a doctorate in den-

tistry, both from University of Kentucky. Carol was teaching at the dental hygiene school in Henderson, Ky., she wrote, "when I felt a call to evangelization. I left my job, and then entered St. Meinrad full time. I will formally graduate this May with an MA in Catholic Life and Thought. I am a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes, but am employed as the Director of Religious Education at Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro. I have been married to Tom Hulsey, an Owensboro dentist for 34 years. We have 3 adult children and one grandchild."

## Bishop Henry J. Soenneker (Continued from page 32)



the Marriage Tribunal of the St. Cloud Diocese.

Certain of these cases had to be sent to Rome for adjudication. Checking his mail, he was not all that surprised to see that there was a letter from the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office at the Vatican. He opened the letter and read its contents — Pope John XXIII had appointed him the Bishop of Owensboro. He fell to his knees and began to pray, asking the Lord to remove this appointment from him. It was close to suppertime at the seminary where he was residing. He went to the evening meal with the priests on the seminary faculty. Several of them recall how "distant" Monsignor Soenneker seemed to be at mealtime, which was unusual for him. He was still astounded at his appointment, but was not authorized to discuss it with anyone except one person of his choice.

So, he made an appointment with Bishop Bartholome for the following morning. The Bishop was grinning broadly as Monsignor Soenneker entered his office, and asked, "Henry, what do you want?" As if he didn't know! Monsignor Soenneker had the letter of appointment from Rome in his hand, and said, "What can I do to get out of this?" His Bishop replied, "nothing, unless you are not worthy, and you are. Accept the appointment!" He did and the matter became public. Monsignor Heninger, Administrator of the Diocese of Owensboro following the death of Bishop Cotton, was notified of the appointment, and the clergy of the Diocese of Owensboro were informed about the second Bishop of Owensboro.



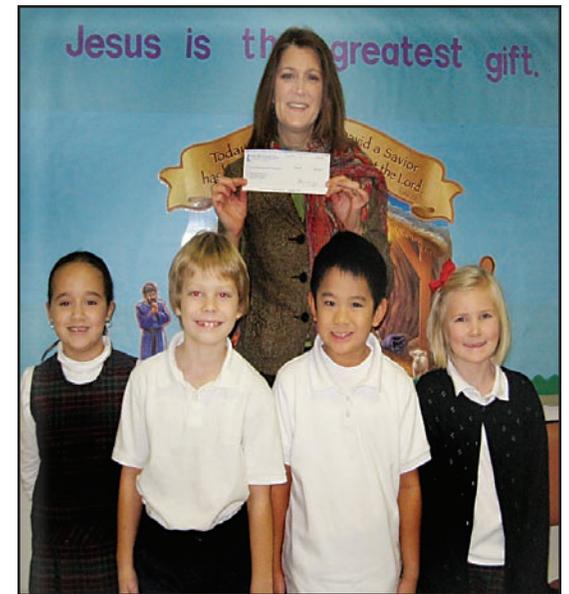
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*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. - Acts 1:8*

**You are invited to join us for a Pilgrimage Information Session Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley/Utica. Hope to see you there!**

Call: 1-270-683-1545, ext 377  
 Total Land Tour & Air from Louisville:  
 \$3,345.00 (plus air tax)  
 Includes breakfast daily, four dinners, and nine nights superior hotel accommodations.



## The greatest gift is ours to share

St. Mary Elementary, Paducah, Ky., 2nd Graders Abby Kuntz, Sam Whelan, Jerome de la Rosa, and Rylee Walk present a check in the amount of \$570. to Mrs. Melinda Watson. Mrs. Watson works with the St. Nicholas Clinic in Paducah. 2nd Graders chose helping St. Nicholas Clinic as one of their service projects for this school year. Submitted by Cecelia Farrell

## Saint Anthony, Axtel, Parish Planning 200th Anniversary Celebration

Are you or your family former members of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Axtel, KY?

We're in the process of compiling information for our 200th Anniversary Celebration in 2012 and are requesting copies of photos or other memorabilia.

Please submit to: Vicky Fentress, 9549 S. Hwy 105, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 or email to: fentwvam@att.net. Thank you for sharing!

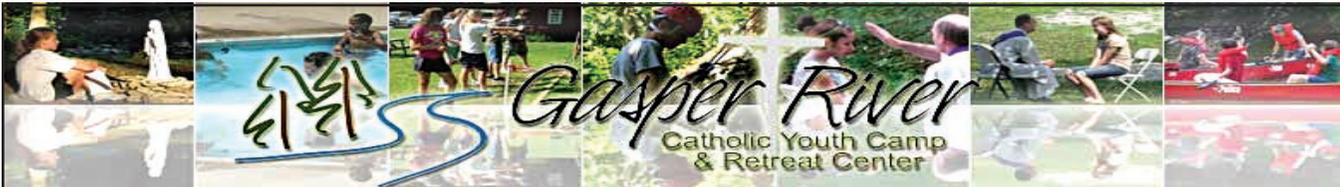
## Father Joseph Miller

(Continued from page 32)

He was a very knowledgeable of a wide variety of subjects.

I enjoyed many visits with him at the rectory and I always came away with a broader point of view regardless of the subject. Fr. Miller left St. Alphonsus in 1979, and went back to Peonia, Wax, and Grayson Springs. From there, he moved to Earlinton in 1984, and remained until 1986 when he retired and returned to his home in Mn.

I still talk with him on occasions and his mind is sharp and he still has a sense of humor. He resides in Nevis Mn.



Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center has some of the most affordable rates in the country for summer camp. One way we are able to offer such low costs is the generous support of so many in the Diocese of Owensboro. Please read through our wish list and if you are able, make a contribution for the camp. Thank you for your generosity. Please contact our office at 270-781-2466 or visit our website at www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org if you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit to the grounds.

### Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center Wish List

- Lumber-all kinds needed for bunk beds and other construction and maintenance before summer camp.
- A tractor with front end loader for hayrides and maintenance at the facility.
- Camp Angels-sponsors who will help cover the cost of camp for deserving youth.
- Nurses, Doctors or EMT's to help serve as Health Care providers for summer camp.
- Volunteer counselors for camp: must be safe environment certified, please contact our office for more information.
- Catholic items-statues of saints for a saints trail, crucifixes, etc. to help with our Catholic Identity.
- Work teams-many projects need to be completed here at camp and we need people to be involved and help out.
- Adirondack chairs, hammocks, picnic tables to help guests enjoy the outdoor beauty of camp.
- Haywagon-large enough to hold 40 young adults.
- Sound system-speakers, 2 microphones, wireless microphone, speaker stands, etc.
- Electric, plumbing and carpentry supplies are always in need.
- Tools of all kinds for maintenance-hammers, rakes, nails, screw drivers, wrenches, etc.
- Major financial donors or sponsors for large projects at camp.
- Batteries-D, AAA and AA.
- Office supplies-copier paper, stamps, pens, envelopes, etc.
- Sports equipment-basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, frisbees, volleyballs, etc.

# Vatican officials say church must improve service to deaf community

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2010,  
www.rcdok.org 35

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While the Catholic Church no longer considers deafness an impediment to ordination, there are only 13 priests in the world who were ordained deaf, said officials of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry. Msgr. Jean-Marie Mpendawatu, undersecretary of the council, said eight of the 13 work in the United States, two minister in Great Britain and one each serve in Brazil, Congo and South Korea. Father Savino Castiglione, a member of the Congregation of the Little Mission for the Deaf, said the problem is not one of barriers imposed by the church, but is a result of practical educational difficulties.

A deaf seminarian needs a sign language interpreter or tutor for his six years of philosophy and theology classes, something which is expensive, particularly because "it is difficult to use sign language to translate such abstract concepts" as those found in philosophy and theology, Father Castiglione said.

The lack of deaf priests was one of the topics discussed Nov. 17 when the pontifical council presented the program for its annual international conference, scheduled for Nov. 19-21. Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the council, said there are more than 278 million deaf people in the world, and at least 1.3 million of them are Catholic. "That is a lot and the church must act," he said.

Without adequately prepared priests and other pastoral workers and trained sign language interpreters, he said, the church is making it difficult, if not impossible, for its deaf members to participate fully in parish life and liturgies, to learn about their faith and to contribute to the life of the church.

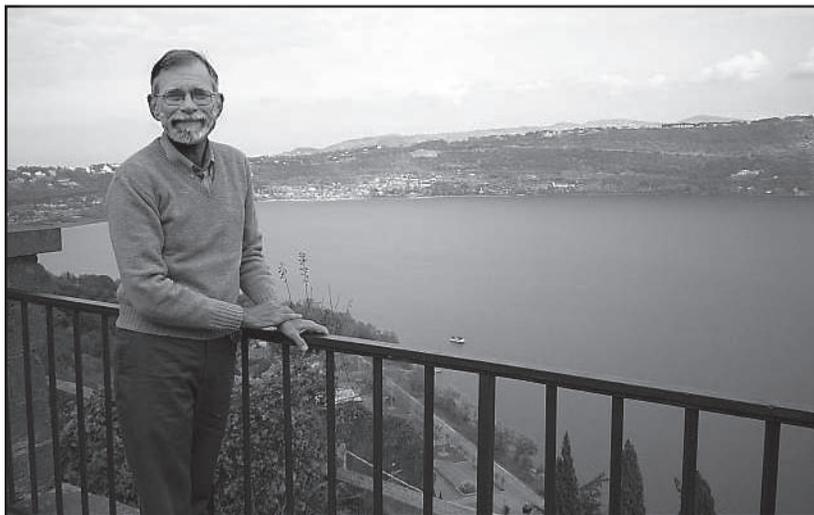


Here is a picture of the opening address of the annual international conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry. Notice the four sign language interpreters standing on the speaker's platform. Photo by Father Charlie Dittmeier.

good ideas today. I hope they can absorb what they're learning and translate it into action.

*Editor's Note: Fr. Charles Dittmeier (Charlie) is a Diocesan priest from Louisville, KY. Before joining Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 1987 he served at St. Aloysius parish in Louisville. He served in Hong Kong from 1987 until 2000. Since then he has served in Cambodia. Throughout Fr. Charlie's entire*

*ministry he has always worked with the deaf—beginning with his time at seminary in Baltimore. In addition, Fr. Charlie serves as Deafness Advisor to the National Disability Action Council. Charlie's lifelong experience working with the deaf offers invaluable insight and resources to the pioneer efforts being carried out in Cambodia. His pastoral skills provide an additional benefit for all whom he serves.*



Father Charlie Dittmeier standing next to the pope's residence, Castel Gandolfo, 30 miles or so outside of Rome, with Lake Albano right below. Submitted Photo

## Greetings from Rome, Italy ...

Special to The Western Kentucky Catholic, from Rev. Charlie Dittmeier [cdittmeier@maryknoll.org]

ROME, ITALY - Today, November 19, 2009, we had the first day of a three-day conference on The Deaf Person in the Life of the Church. It's really a significant meeting because this is the first time the Vatican has taken the initiative to talk about ministry to deaf people.

Our organizers who worked with the Vatican organizers are really pleased how well they have responded, e.g., in setting up the meeting room for 12-15 sign language interpreters. We are using the Synod Hall (the room the African bishops just vacated) which is upstairs above the big hall where the pope has his general audiences on Wednesdays. The crew installed closed circuit TV cameras and monitors so that the four major sign languages of the conference (Italian, American, French, and Spanish) each have their own camera and overhead monitors, and then there are voice interpreters for each of those languages. It's really professionally done.

We have 572 people from 60 countries participating, and some really high-level Vatican people including the cardinal prefect of the Pontifical Council for Health Care are attending and chairing the whole thing. They heard a lot of

## Catholic Committee on Scouting Plans Awards Mass

The Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Committee on Scouting will celebrate its annual Religious Emblems Awards Mass at Saint Pius Tenth Church, 3418 Hwy. 60 East, Owensboro, KY, on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. All Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Webelos, and Boy Scouts who have completed their award requirements, or will by January 30, 2010, must notify youth awards chairman, Jeff Hedges, at 821 Canterbury Road, Owensboro, KY, 42303.

Boards of Review for the Boy Scout awards, Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII, are scheduled for January 30, 2010. Boards will be conducted at The Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY and Saint Joseph Church, 434 Church Avenue, Bowling Green, KY from 10:00 a.m. until noon. A third board will be conducted at Saint Joseph Church, 702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY from noon until 2:00 p.m.

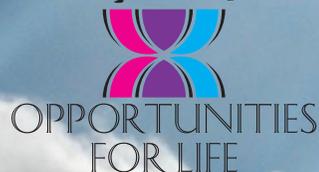
Nominations for the Saint George and Bronze Pelican Awards for adults are due immediately and should be sent to adult awards chairman, Dave Ashley, at 350 A.G. Daniel Road, Hartford, KY, 42347.

Please direct all inquiries to Jeff Hedges at 270-925-7254.



# ANNUAL COLLECTION

January 16-17, 2010



A ministry under the direction of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky



Life-Affirming Pregnancy Ministry • Financial Support Needed • Volunteers Needed

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Donations can be made through your parish's Opportunities for Life collection or mail to:  
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## Principal Needed

Christ the King School, located in Madisonville, KY is seeking a Principal. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have Master's Degree, have Principal's Certification, or be eligible for Principal's Certification for the 2010-2011 school year. Position requires a minimum of four years teaching experience. Successful candidate will assume Principal position at beginning of 2010 school year. Salary and Benefits based on Diocese of Western Kentucky guidelines. Send resume to [henning825@newwavecomm.net](mailto:henning825@newwavecomm.net) by April 1, 2010.

## St. Leo Preschool PSR class

MURRAY, Ky. -On Sunday November 1, 2009, our preschool class learned about saints in honor of All Saints Day. The children talked about superheroes and learned that Saints are superheroes. Each child drew a Saint's name out of a hat. The children learned about the Saints they chose from the hat. Then they dressed up as "Super Saints." The children had a wonderful time and were excited to learn that they too have an opportunity to be a Saint.

From left, Bryce Kough as St. Matthew, Chelsie Lortie as St. Anne, and Shane Stewart as St. Thomas



## Saint Gerard Life Home

*Providing shelter and services for pregnant women and their babies.*

St. Gerard Life Home is a residential program for pregnant women age 18 and older who are in need of housing.

The need for safe housing in a loving, nurturing environment is crucial to someone dealing with a crisis or unplanned pregnancy.

*St. Gerard Life Home is here to help.*



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## THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

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The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars. "Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God." -Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Please let us know politely if you find proofing or factual errors in items of this publication.

By Sister Ruth Gehres, O.S.U.

On November 2, a normal Monday morning at Casa Ursulina, a normal week was beginning with its usual mix of busyness and chatter. No one imagined that we were about to experience a great surprise that was going to bring a significant change to our lives.

As she was washing wool, someone called Sister Mimi to tell her that a pickup truck was sitting in front our house loaded with big cardboard boxes. When she arrived at the door, Mimi found our friend Juan Palavecino and his son, who had come to deliver an amazing gift to us . . . a solar water heater!



**Our generous friend, Juan Palavecino**

“You can’t do this!” Mimi told Juan. “I just did it!” Juan laughed. End of argument.

This open loop passive solar heater is exactly like the one Juan has on his sheep farm in the country, about 30 minutes south of Chillán. We had admired it many times, and Mimi had discussed it with Juan, hoping to be able to install one at Casa Ursulina “someday.” She also hoped to begin a movement in our area toward the use of more solar energy and less gas and electricity.

People in this area don’t have constant hot water . . . gas and electricity are just too expensive. When we need hot water for tea or coffee, or for washing dishes, we heat just enough on the stove and save any hot water left over in thermos bottles. Clothes are washed in cold water. There are devices for providing hot water on demand . . . electric showers, for example . . . but with these the water is warmed only when it’s running through a heated pipe. Even for such limited use, these devices demand a lot of gas or electricity.

Our solar water heater will store water



**The solar water heater installed on Juan’s farm.**

that passes through pipes in which it will absorb the energy of the sun. When there’s not enough sunlight, as in the rainy Chilean winter, an electric booster system will help to heat the water . . . as needed . . . to our desired temperature. With sufficient sunlight, this electric boost won’t be needed. A system like this, it is said, can save up to 4.5 tons annually of greenhouse gas emissions.

Our solar heater will probably be placed on our roof, toward the back of the house, where it will be safe from vandalism. Installation will take place after the reconstruction of a part of our house, which, thanks to a grant received earlier, will begin in mid December.

This gift is not the first that Casa Ursulina has received through Juan’s generosity. We first got to know Juan through his friend Sandra Cerda, one of the faithful and generous women at Casa Ursulina. Three years ago, when Mimi began programs in spinning and weaving, Juan began donating substantial amounts of wool from the shearing of his sheep. Sandra, who helps with the shearing, regularly delivers big bags of wool to the Casa.

We are grateful to Juan for his friendship and generosity, and for his concern for the environment, which we share. Juan is



**Weaving class at Casa Ursulina. Sister Mimi Ballard is at far right.**

now preparing to install a large windmill on his farm to generate electricity for pumping water from wells to provide water for his sheep and for watering trees and flowers during the dry Chilean summer.

## St Mary’s Newest Voyager Rated Overall Best Yearbook

Submitted by Nikki Fuller

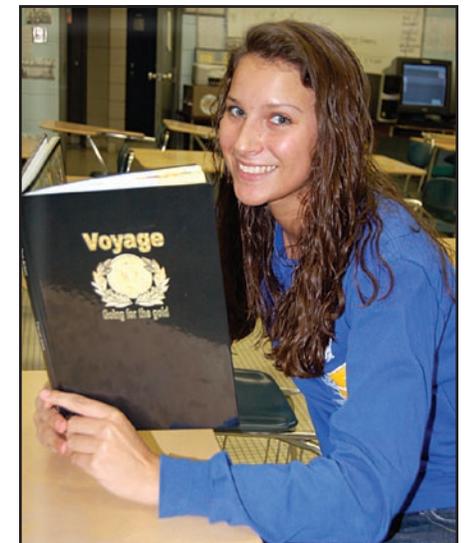
PADUCAH, Ky. - Regional yearbook competition for fall, 2009, left St. Mary’s Viking Voyage yearbook with 17 new honors, including the title of “Overall Best Yearbook” from Murray State University.

In addition to the best yearbook title, student editor Carly Dannemueller also took a personal first-place for her work on the book’s student life section. Her assistant editor, Henry Hunt, took first for sports section, and junior Chloe Wallace got the top honor for feature writing.

Adviser Dean Cossiboom said that the best yearbook award was the capstone to the 46 total awards his groups have won in his four years as adviser at St. Mary. “We really work to try to give the school the best yearbook that we can. We listen closely to comments from the school community and from competition judges to make improvements from year to year. Winning ‘best overall’ tells us that we have done a good job with every aspect of our book, and that’s what we want.”

Aside from the five awards from Murray State this year, St. Mary’s yearbook placed in 12 categories at the Mark of Excellence awards at Western Kentucky University, including first place in advertising and feature writing.

“Of course, we want to thank all of the



**Voyage yearbook staff member, Chloe Wallace, looks through the 2009-2010 St. Mary Voyage, rated by a Murray State University competition as Rated Overall Best Yearbook. Submitted Photo**

students, parents, and school employees who have contributed to and supported our book,” said Cossiboom. “We also want to thank the generous advertisers who make it possible for us to keep printing and selling the book at a reasonable price, offering students this record of all of the wonderful things happening here at St. Mary.”

## “Lovers of Jesus and Mary” Make Diocesan Marian Pilgrimage

Submitted by the Diocesan Archives; written by Joann Pais Bradford, Franklin, Ky  
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Each year in October, Catholics of the Owensboro Diocese are invited to make a pilgrimage to the Diocesan Shrine, “Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of All Christians.”

The 2009 pilgrimage took place in the setting of the 19th annual Marian Congress, the “Coming Together of Lovers of Jesus and Mary,” October 18, at the Shrine and at St. Joseph Parish Center and Church, 434 Church Street in Bowling Green. The theme was “Mary, Cause of our Joy.” Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith welcomed the pilgrims.

The speaker was Dr. Kelly Bowring, S.T.D. author of the new book, *The Secrets, Chastisement and Triumph of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary*. Dr. Bowring received his M.A. in theology and Christian ministry, with advanced certification in catechetics, from Franciscan University of Steubenville; his licentiate in sacred theology (S.T.L.) from Dominican House of Studies and the John Paul II Institute in Washington, DC, and his pontifical doctorate in sacred theology (S.T.D.) from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He has written many articles and his published books include *To Hold and Teach the Catholic Faith* and various prayer books. Dr. Bowring lives with his wife, Diana, and their seven children just outside Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to Dr. Bowring’s talks, the Pilgrimage includes a crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, praying the rosary during an outdoor procession with the statue and into beautiful historic St. Joseph Church, followed by ex-



At right, David and Josh Spears of Bowling Green, Ky. helped carry the statue during the outdoor procession and Rosary Oct. 18, 2009

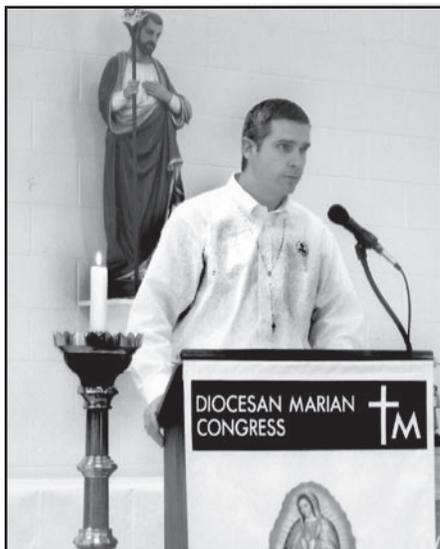
At left, Emma Cremens of Saint Mary Parish, Franklin, Ky. placed a crown on a statue of Mary during the 19th Marian Congress in Bowling Green Oct 18, 2009.



At left, Knights of Columbus Bowling Green Council acting as porters for procession. All photos used with permission of the Owensboro Diocesan Archives



Father Ben Luther, chairperson of the Marian Shrine Committee, welcomes the pilgrims.

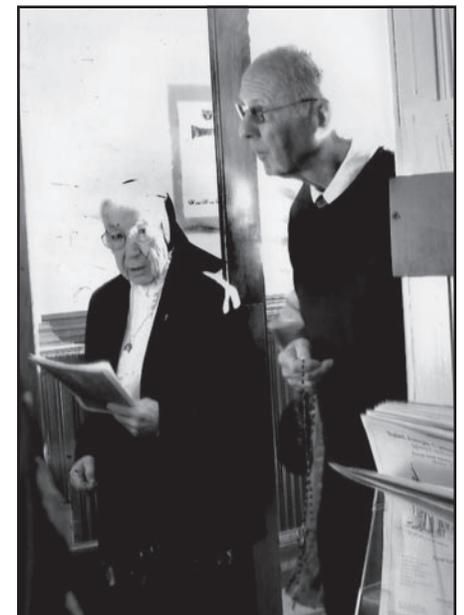


Speaker for the 19th Marian Congress, Dr. Kelly Bowring, spoke on the topic of “Mary, Cause of Our Joy.”

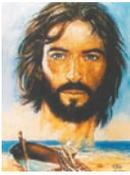
position of the Blessed Sacrament. A special part of the annual event was the blessing up and down the center aisle with the sacramental Jesus, for the sick and for the special intentions of the pilgrims. Confessions are available throughout the day.

After Benediction, pilgrims visited the Marian Shrine chapel and viewed the windows dedicated to the major apparitions of Mary over centuries. A partial indulgence was granted in years past and still in effect by Bishop Emeritus John McRaith of Owensboro for those who visit the Shrine and offer personal prayers there before the Blessed Sacrament for our diocese.

Fr. Ben Luther is Diocesan Director of the Marian Shrine Committee, the sponsoring group for the pilgrimages and that group planned this year’s event at their 30th semiannual meeting recently in Bowling Green.



Sr. Emma Cecelia Busam, OSU, Owensboro Diocesan Archivist participates in the procession and rosary. At right is Al Clark of Owensboro, Shrine Committee member.



# Vocation

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2010 39

Commit yourselves with every spiritual energy, to realize the heavenly Father's plan of salvation, cultivating in your heart the ability to be astonished and to adore Him.



Brother Austin Dominic Litke, OP stands with his parents, Fred and Nancy Litke after the Profession of Final Vows. The Litke family hails from Holy Name Parish in Henderson.

## Henderson Native Professes Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience Until Death within Dominican Order

By Brother Austin Dominic Litke, OP

"What do you seek?"

This was the question asked of us as two of my brothers in religion and I lay prostrate on the floor of the chapel at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC on November 14th. In this chapel, we have prayed five times a day for the last 3 years, asking God for his grace and his mercy in preparation for this day when we would dedicate ourselves to our Dominican life perpetually. On this day, we three responded in unison: "God's mercy and yours." After a homily was preached by our Prior Provincial, we prayed, prostrate again on the floor, as the Litany of the Saints was sung by a full chapel. We asked God and his saints to be with us in what was to come next.

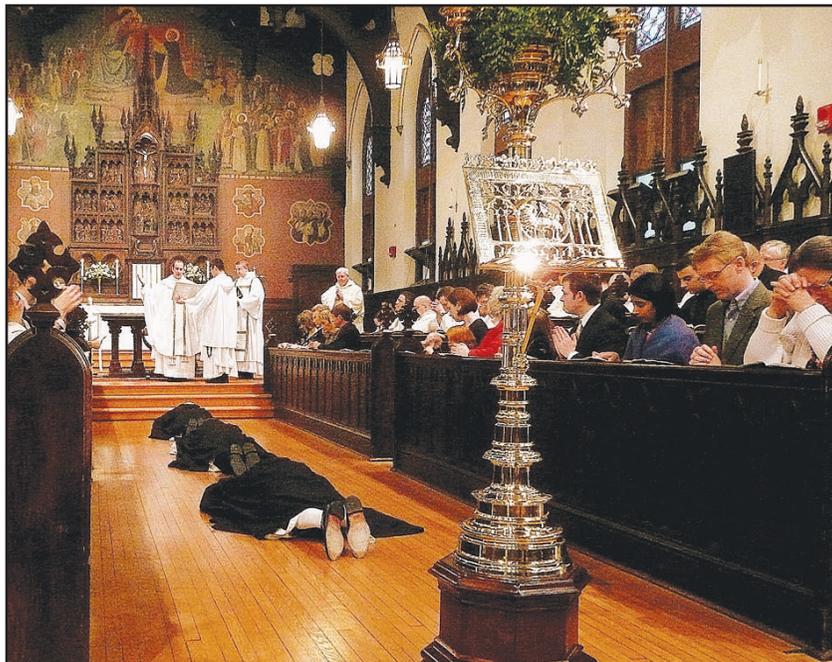
One by one, we then stood up and knelt at the feet of the Provincial. Taking the Constitutions of the Friars Preachers in our hands, we pronounced the formula of Profession: "I, Brother Austin Dominic Litke, make profession and promise Obedience..." The most dramatic part of the formula comes at the end where the one professing states that he will be obedient, chaste, and poor "until death." This has always been my favorite part of the vow formula, and in pronouncing it myself, I received a great peace, a peace that can only come from giving one's entire life to God and His Church.

By Solemn Profession, one becomes a permanent member in his or her religious order. From now until my dying day, I will be a Dominican, a member of the Order of Preachers. In a world where "talk is cheap," I uttered words that bind me forever. In a world where commitment means little, I committed myself until death. In a world that is not always so friendly to the Church and her ministers, I pledged my life to the service of the Church and entire People of God.

The next step in my path of serving God will be on January 9, 2010, when I will present myself for Ordination to the Diaconate. Although this is a huge day in the life of anyone called to such a life, for the Dominican it is all the more meaningful. For, we are officially called the "Order of Preachers," and St. Dominic founded us in 1216 to do just that: preach the Gospel. On the day of my ordination to the diaconate, I will receive an official mandate from the Church to "receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." I ask your prayers that I might be made worthy of such a call.



January 10-16, 2010



Br. Austin Litke, O.P., lies prostrate with two of his brother Dominicans as a full choir sings the Litany of Saints. During this time, all present asked for the intercession of all the saints upon these men.



Kneeling before the Dominican Provincial, Br. Austin Litke, O.P., professes perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a Dominican. He will be ordained a Transitional Deacon on January 9, 2010. Photos submitted by Nancy Litke.

## Catholic Conference of Kentucky Calls Catholics to Become Faithful Citizens Today

In-person informed consent for women considering abortion, poor persons and the budget, severely mentally ill, and the death penalty are concerns facing the Kentucky General Assembly in January, 2010. The first week of January brings legislators back to town to confront the many problems facing Kentucky.

The recent federal debate on health care demonstrated so clearly how important it is to have the voices of Faithful

Citizens speaking to their elected representatives. Over a week-long period, Catholics concerned about human life sent more than 200,000 emails to their representatives and urged them to reject any legislation that would require them to be participants in paying for the abortion of another woman's child. The House listened and overwhelmingly voted to keep the current prohibitions in place.

From January until April, the Catholic

Conference will be inviting your participation on issues related to human life and dignity: concern for the unborn, for persons needing health care, for children and their quality education, for those facing death at the hands of the state, and others.

If you are not already on our Faithful Citizen list, please sign up. If you are a member, please invite three others you know to join you. Also, join us in Frankfort in February for the annual Catholics @

the Capitol event. Details will be found at [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org).

Become a Faithful Citizen today. Send your name, home address, city, zip, phone, email, and name of your parish to the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) at 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Or you can sign up online at [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org). The CCK will sign you up so you can help us make a difference in Frankfort and Washington.

### SAVE THE DATE: Catholics @ the Capitol

## Monday, February 22—Tuesday, February 23, 2010

### Registration Deadline: Monday, February 15, 2010

Join Catholics from across the state for Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @ The Capitol, a 2-day legislative advocacy conference. Our Catholic faith calls us to be Faithful Citizens actively engaged in shaping a society that respects human life and seeks and promotes the Common Good.

**February 22 & 23, 2010 at the Good Shepherd Parish Life Center  
1050 Leestown Road, Frankfort, KY**

If staying overnight, call Best Western Parkside Inn, 80 Chenault Road, Frankfort, KY at 502-695-6111 to reserve a room at the special rate of \$66.00 plus tax (1-4 Persons). Be sure to mention "Catholics @ The Capitol" to receive this special rate. Registration Fee: \$40.00 per person – includes evening banquet and continental breakfast. There is no financial aid available through the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

Please mail completed forms along with the \$40.00 per person registration fee to: Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

(Please complete the following if known.)

My KY State Representative is \_\_\_\_\_ My KY Senator is \_\_\_\_\_

Additional or special needs you may have \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Deadline: Monday, February 15, 2010

- I will attend the Basic Lobbying Session at 1:00 p.m. on February 11th in addition to the Conference that begins at 3:30 p.m. - YES  NO
- I will attend Monday, February 22nd only \_\_\_\_\_
- I will attend Tuesday, February 23rd only \_\_\_\_\_
- I will attend both dates \_\_\_\_\_

For questions about registration, please contact Karen Chambers at 502-875-4345, or via e-mail at [kchambers@ccky.org](mailto:kchambers@ccky.org).



### Thanksgiving Food Drive

The BETA club members helped with the Owensboro Catholic Middle School Thanksgiving food drive.

They collected and delivered a van load of food to the Help Office on November 24.

Pictured are members of the BETA Club who assisted with the delivery, from left, Rebecca Gross, President; Alex Ross, Member representative, and Hannah Aull, Secretary. OCS Photo

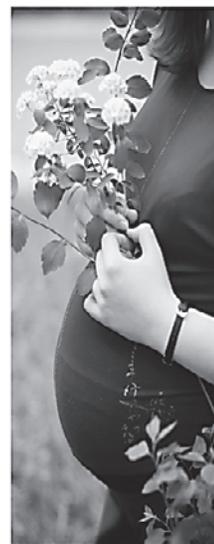
### St. Gerard Life Home

*Providing shelter & care for pregnant women & their babies.*

**For help with a crisis or unplanned pregnancy, call us at 270-852-8328;**

**toll-free:**

**1-877-803-5064.**



# National Vocation Awareness Week To Be Celebrated January 10-16

WASHINGTON—The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, January 10-16.

“This week provides the opportunity for parishes across the country to promote vocations through prayer and education,” said Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, chairman of the Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. “It is our responsibility to encourage young people to be generous in their response as they discern the possibility of a call to service in the Church. We must also ask parents, families and our parish communities to assist with this work, vocations are everyone’s business. As we pray for an increased number of seminarians and candidates for religious life, we recognize the importance of safeguarding the gift of vocations.”

Several initiatives to highlight priesthood and religious life are on-going in 2010. The Vatican-sponsored Year for Priests continues through June 2010 <http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/>. Dioceses are highlighting the role of priests in diocesan newspapers, on their Web sites and with other events.

An exhibit on the contributions of women religious in the United States, *Women & Spirit*, opens at the Smithsonian institution in Washington, January 14. The U.S. bishops have also named promotion of vocations to priesthood and religious life as one of their current five priorities and are deciding on efforts to promote vocations, for example, through their Website, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

Father David Toups, interim executive director of the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, added, “The church needs to help young people hear the Lord in prayer, so they can recognize him in their lives.

“This week reminds us that it is our responsibility to pray for vocations and to invite young people to consider a call to ordained ministry and consecrated life.”

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on January 10 in 2010, marks the initiation of Jesus into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the beloved Son of God. With this celebration the faithful recommit themselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. They are also initiated through their own baptism to be the Beloved of God, commissioned to proclaim Good News with their lives.

## Celebrating Family at Saint Pius the Tenth



Having fun singing karaoke (left to right): Katie Roberts, Corey Ann Roberts. Michelle Roberts Photo



Family Night: Having fun singing karaoke (left to right): Katie Roberts, Kathy Williams, Jessica Thomson and Michelle Roberts. Submitted Photo

### By Byron Macias

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Saint Pius Tenth Parish in the city of Owensboro offers many opportunities to celebrate faith and celebrate life. In the beginning of Fall, our parish hosted Trunk ‘n’ Treat at the parish

hall; also, we hosted a Karaoke/Dinner Family night. Trunk ‘n’ Treat was a success; young and adults in colorful costumes had a lot of fun going around the parish hall trick-or-treating, watching movies, making new friends, and enjoying of a good time.

The next family event took place in late November: Karaoke/Dinner Family Night. The people who attended have nothing but great comments about it. Several families came together to the parish hall for spaghetti dinner, fellowship, music and dance.

## Listening, Recording, and Sharing at Holy Name School



At the beginning of November, Holy Name School held their community input session where parents, faculty, staff, and students came together to listen, record and share their ideas on how to make our school better. At left, School Council Member Mike Galbraith listens to feedback from his table. HNS Photo

## She Won!

In the picture at right, Holy Name Fifth Grade Student, Kelsey Steinwachs won the Turkey Trot Design Logo Contest out of over 250 entrees. Kelsey’s design was placed on t-shirts for the Turkey Trot which happened on the morning of Thanksgiving Day. Congratulations to Kelsey! HNS Photo



Andrea Williams dressed as a Groovy Hippie during Trunk ‘n’ Treatin’ Michelle Roberts Photo



The Great Pumpkin (Father Richard) makes his entrance during Trunk ‘n’ Treatin’ as Sally Brocks, Nicole Hayden and Katie Roberts welcome him. Michelle Roberts Photo

## NCYC 2009: CHRIST REIGNS!

By Lesley Nash

The air was tense, excited. The crowd shouted and broke into spontaneous cheers as it surged up the packed city streets. As the mass of over 20,000 high school youth neared its goal, the excitement grew nearly tangible and the tension in the air seemed to crackle with climactic tension.

Was this a protest? A demonstration? A riot? Not quite. You see, each of the more than 20,000 high school youth marching in the streets were participants in the 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference, a three-day conference that was held this year in Kansas City. The spontaneous cheers were things like "I love Jesus, how 'bout you?"; the shouts were youth from various dioceses calling to each other to say, "I

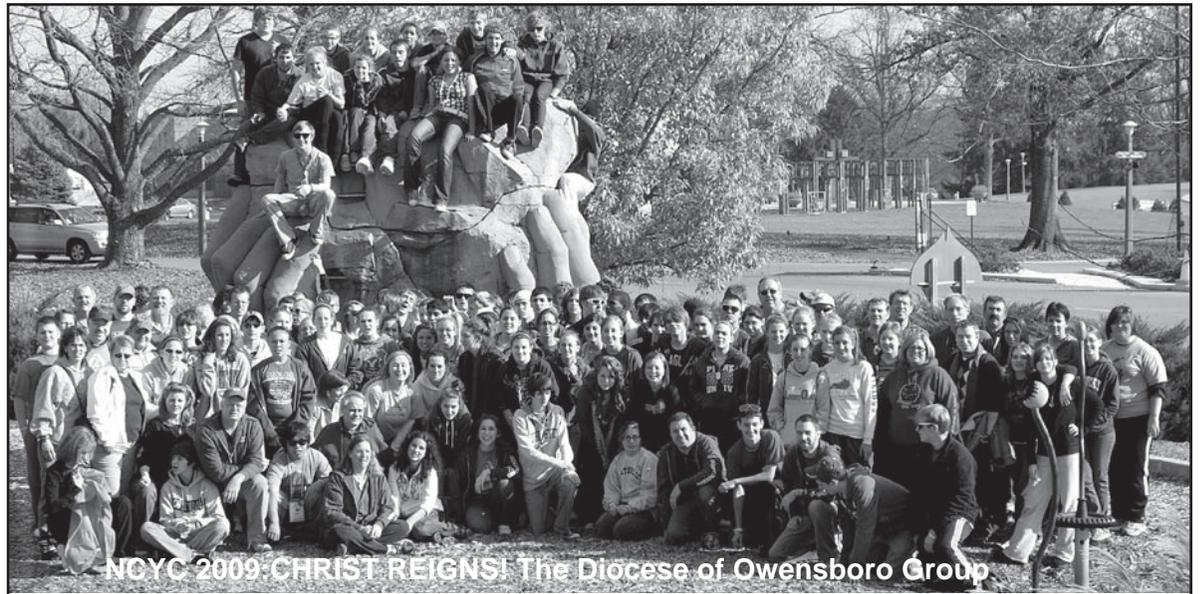
## Contemporary Woman Program Announces Programs for 2010

Brescia University's Contemporary Woman Program, directed by Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rose Marita O'Bryan, enters the winter/spring semester with a variety of programs.

The brochure lists new and continuing programs available to both women and men:

- Women and the Bible begins on February 1 and continues through March 15 on Monday mornings from 10:30-11:30.
- The Several-Storied Merton, exploring the life and writings of Thomas Merton, is presented from 10:30-11:20 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month beginning in January through April.
- The Canticle Group, using the DVD series Philosophy, Religion, and the Meaning of Life meets on Friday mornings from 10 till noon, beginning on January 22.
- The Partnership Group, in its 21st year, has chosen to focus its study and discussion on a book by Gregg Braden, entitled "Fractal Time." The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., January through May.
- Soul Gardening with Angela Merici, a special opportunity for four Tuesday mornings in April from 10:30-11:30, consists of guided reflections on the life and writings of Saint Angela Merici.
- The Return of the Global Sex Trade and How We Can Fight It, which begins February 4, continues for four Thursday evenings through February 25 from 6:30-7:30.
- Women Doctors of the Church, a program exploring the life and writings of the three woman doctors of the Catholic Church, is presented on five Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 beginning on January 13.
- Beauty: the Invisible Embrace, using the thoughts of John O'Donohue from his book Beauty: The Invisible Embrace, is offered on four Thursday evenings in April from 6:30-7:30 beginning on April 8.
- Christ in Evolution, a lecture by Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio, is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Taylor Lecture Hall located in Brescia University's Science Building. More details will be available later.

For a brochure and/or more information regarding programs, dates, and costs, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301; 270-686-4275; rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu. Participants are asked to pre-register at least two weeks in advance for each program.



LOVE your cow hats- wanna trade?"

Being in the midst of this excitement was almost too much for me- this was my first NCYC, after all- but the nearly frenzied joy was contagious, too. Only a block after leaving the Sprint Center, I found myself accosting complete strangers and asking them if they would like to trade some tattoos for a crazy hat.

The sense of freedom and the relaxed atmosphere didn't disappear after the march. Though the hours at the Convention Center were absolutely packed with sessions, discussions, and concerts, there was always someone to talk to, or someone new to meet. Whether you wanted to grab a bite to eat, snatch a few minutes of sleep while stretched out in a hallway (and I will admit to doing this myself), or just shop at any one of the multitude of religious-oriented booths in the Reign Forest, there was never any sense of being alone or left out. Everyone participating in the event was completely willing and ready to become friends with you, no matter if you were from a nearby diocese or from the other side of the country. It might seem odd that so many high school youth could gather together in the same place without causing huge conflict, but there were no problems among those at NCYC for one reason- the reason that everyone had come to Kansas City in the first place: Christ.

There was so much excitement, so much energy, so much noise. But there was also so much Christ apparent everywhere you looked, no matter when or where you looked. The theme for the 2009 NCYC was Christ Reigns, and, for three days in Kansas City, He absolutely did. Whether it was a concert given by a Christian band, a talk about the Bible given by Mark Hart, or a mass so large that it defies explanation, Christ's presence was real and very, very tangible.

It's difficult to describe this unique experience to anyone who wasn't present during this amazing weekend, simply because the entire

idea of the National Catholic Youth Conference is at such odds with the common perception of youth today. The normal view of high school youth seems to be that they are uninterested in their faith, yet NCYC proves that to be completely false. I was there- I saw more than 20,000 high school students singing and praying and worshipping Christ, and I can tell you that these youth, myself among them, are far from uninterested in God. Looking back on my time in Kansas City is like looking back on a dream- a frenzied, exhausting, exhilarating dream. If there is one thing I learned, though, it is that, though we leave NCYC, NCYC does not leave us. I brought a little of Christ home with me, and I intend to let Him reign in my life as He did in Kansas City.

## "Called by God to be A Community of Saints!"

The OCMS 7th Grade Retreat led by Mr. Philip Spurlock took place at the Immaculate Parish Hall on November 13, 2009. The theme was "Called by God to be A Community of Saints!" The talks centered on the Church as divided into the Church Militant, the Church Suffering and the Church Triumphant.

Fr. Richard Meredith spent half of the day with the 7th graders. He gave a talk on the 3 divisions of the Church, ate lunch and said the afternoon Mass for the 7th graders. Matt Hunt, Youth Minister from St. Pius X parish, joined the class to assist and share the day.

In the picture below, Beth Johnson participates in a retreat activity.





Raymond Hill and his wife, Ursuline Associate Carol Hill, enjoy spending time with Sister Lennora Carrico. Sister Lennora previously taught in Leitchfield and served in outreach ministry in Peonia.



Ursuline Associate Catherine Gawarecki of Leitchfield prepares refreshments.



Ursuline Associates Fr. Brian Johnson, pastor of Saint Augustine, and Jean Gutierrez of Clarkson, converse during the celebration. MSJ Photos

## After Hand-Off on the Mexico-US Border, the Final of Leg of the 50th “Running of the Silver Rose” Begins

Laredo, TX – Three silver roses were exchanged on the International Bridge on the border between the United States and Mexico, on Dec. 10, 2009. It is the first in a series of events sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to commemorate the 50th running of the silver rose and the 478th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

The “Running of the Silver Rose” began in 1960 as an initiative of the members of the Columbian Squires, the youth arm of the Knights of Columbus. The roses, symbols of unity among the peoples in the Americas, are also symbols of the pro-life movement of which the Knights is heavily involved. The program’s devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe stems from the fact that she is considered the patroness of the pro-life movement.

The roses began their journey in Canada last May, and spent the last six months traveling throughout the western, central, and eastern corridors of North America, with Knights of Columbus from Canada to Mexico carrying them from destination to destination.

On the morning of December 10th, runners carrying the roses began the final leg of the 50th “Running of the Silver Rose.” Their journey will conclude in Mexico City at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday where the roses



A Knight of Columbus stood on guard with Silver Roses. Photos submitted by Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Office, New Haven, CT

will be presented to Our Lady.

Each part of the bouquet has an important meaning. The five roses (one of the three is a bouquet of three roses) represent the five decades in which this tradition has been in place. The seven guides carrying the roses represent the sacraments of the Catholic faith and the ways to approach God. The thorns represent all the efforts and sacrifices of the Columbian Squires and Knights of Columbus along the way. And the strong stem represents faith.

Also in attendance at these events is Monsignor Eduardo Chavez, postulator for the cause for canonization of St. Juan Diego to whom Our Lady appeared on that fateful day in 1531. Msgr. Chavez recently



American and Mexican media reps swarmed the Knights of Columbus making the US/Mexico border crossing for the 50th “Running of the Silver Rose.” The event also commemorated the 478th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

co-authored a New York Times best selling book with Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson entitled: *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love*, which reached number 6 on the bestseller list this August. (For more information on the book, visit [guadalupebook.com](http://guadalupebook.com))

Last August, the Knights of Columbus also sponsored the first ever International Marian Congress devoted entirely to Our Lady of Guadalupe this summer in Phoenix, AZ. The congress was preceded by the Knights’ 127th annual convention and was followed by the Guadalupe Festival which brought more than 20,000 faithful to the Jobing.com arena (For more information visit [mariancongress.org](http://mariancongress.org) or [guadalupefestival.org](http://guadalupefestival.org)).

## Los Retiros Crean Una Experiencia Trascendental en la Vida del Joven

Por **Danny Hernández**

Una experiencia espiritual y didáctica como se dio en Gasper River Center este pasado 20 de noviembre tiene una relevancia de gran importancia entre el trabajo de los Ministerios Hispánicos y Ministerios Hispánicos Juveniles de las Diócesis de Kentucky. El trabajo por parte del equipo pastoral hispano de la Diócesis de Owensboro y colaboradores de otras regiones y diócesis se refleja en la satisfacción de los jóvenes participantes.

Es ahí, entre sonrisas y expresiones de amistad y agradecimiento que vemos reflejado el rostro de Jesucristo. Es en la tarea de evangelizar y de informar, proteger y salvaguardar las almas en nuestra juventud latina y en nuestras comunidades de la soledad espiritual y de la corriente anti-religiosa que esta experiencia de retiro triunfa ante la adversidad social y la indiferencia a la iglesia católica y sus principios por parte de la cultura contemporánea.

Sin duda alguna la Diócesis de Owensboro abre puertas y ventanas en la existencia de nuestros jóvenes hacia el camino de la salvación. La convivencia y la disciplina del retiro crean una experiencia trascendental en la vida del joven. Acompañados por la presencia espiritual divina, y en un ambiente de total respeto y comunión reflexiva se forjan vivencias que marcan la existencia de las almas en formación en nuestras comunidades juveniles.

Dicha experiencia no solo marca a sus participantes sino que también entrelaza el trabajo inter-diocesano y hace visualizar la importancia que nuestros ministerios hispanos profesan hacia los jóvenes hispanos, nos hace ver la gran necesidad pastoral juvenil en nuestras diócesis y región.

Nuestra realidad demográfica hispana conforma en su mayoría a jóvenes en busca de una identidad religiosa y una profesión espiritual. Retiros como este, ayudan a fortalecer la presencia de la Iglesia en la vida de los jóvenes y aclimata la jornada hacia la evangelización. Sin duda, al final de los dos días del retiro, queda una sensación nostálgica que invita la idea de repetir el encuentro próximamente y por más tiempo. Nuestros jóvenes anhelan oportunidades como estas donde practiquen un acercamiento a las cosas de Dios y su iglesia, donde adquieran armas para luchar contra el protestantismo y defender su fe.

Bien por la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano por reflejar una pastoral de conjunto a nivel parroquial y diocesana. Que sea un ejemplo para sus diócesis hermanas y la provincia regional de Kentucky y Tennessee. Seguimos soñando con un retiro que una a todas las diócesis de nuestra provincia y unifique y fortalezca nuestro trabajo y ambición evangelizadora.

*Danny Hernández trabajo en el Ministerio Juvenil Hispano para la Diócesis de Lexington. El y unos jóvenes vinieron a participar en el Encuentro Juvenil con la Diócesis de Owensboro.*



**El P. Carmelo Jiménez, el P. Juan René Kalombo, y el P. Al Bremer concelebran la Misa el 21 de noviembre para los Jóvenes del Retiro Diocesano. Fotos por T. S.**



**Danny Hernández (izq), de la Diócesis de Lexington, se prepara para pegar la pelota de voley durante un momento de recreo en Gasper River. Fotos por T. S.**



## Cardinal McCarrick Brings Catholic Bishops' Perspective To Senate Hearing On Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WASHINGTON—Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, testified today in Congress before the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security on Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The hearing sought faith-based perspectives on immigration reform.

“Our nation requires an immigration system that marries legal immigration with our long-term economic needs, the principle of family unity, and basic human rights. This will help restore the rule of law to our immigration system. Now, our immigration system accomplishes none of these goals,” said Cardinal McCarrick.

The cardinal also addressed concerns regarding the rule of law and how it applies to immigration. “In truth, the church position in favor of reform seeks to restore the rule of law and provide order and legality to an otherwise chaotic system,” said Cardinal McCarrick, a consultant to the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Migration.

Cardinal McCarrick outlined the key elements the U.S. bishops believe should be addressed in any immigration reform legislation.

- 1) Bring the undocumented population in this country out of the shadows and give them a chance, over time, to achieve permanent residency and citizenship.
- 2) Preserve family unity by strengthening family-based immigration.
- 3) Create legal avenues for migration, so that migrant workers, who labor in many important industries in our nation, are able to enter the country legally and in a safe and orderly fashion.
- 4) Give immigrants their day in court by restoring due process protections removed in 1996 legislation.
- 5) Work with neighboring countries and the international community to address the root causes of migration, so that immigrants and their families ultimately can remain in their home countries and support their families in dignity.

While recognizing that immigration has economic, social, and legal aspects which must be addressed in any reform legislation, Cardinal McCarrick expressed that, from the perspective of Catholic teaching, immigration is ultimately a humanitarian issue.

“In our view, our immigration laws ultimately must be judged by how they impact the basic dignity and God-given human rights of the human person,” Cardinal McCarrick said.

The cardinal also urged Senators keep the discourse “civil” and to refrain from “labeling and de-humanizing our brothers and sisters” nor “scapegoat them for unrelated economic or social challenges we face.”

Cardinal McCarrick also said the Catholic Church stands ready to assist the legislators as they “lead the nation toward a humane and just immigration system which both restores the rule of law and respects the inherent human dignity of the person.”

### Los Miembros del Comité de Revisión Diocesano Están Listos para Contestar Llamadas

Los miembros del Comité quienes tratan las alegaciones de abuso sexual abuse en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Ms. June Bell, Chair, Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Ms. Teresa Henry, Vice-Chair, Dr. Carroll Howard, Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Rev. Pat Reynolds, and Dr. Michele Thomas. Ms. Louanne Payne sirve como enlace Diocesano al Comité de Revisión.

A cualquier persona que quiera comunicar con el Comité de Revisión Diocesano se le pide que llame al Centro Pastoral Católico al 1-270-683-1545 y pregunte por un miembro del Comité de Revisión. Si quiere hablar con un miembro particular del Comité, lo puede mencionar a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso, la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico entregará la información de la persona que llamó al Comité de Revisión para seguimiento. Los que llaman pueden escoger mantenerse anónimos para la primera llamada a la recepcionista del Centro Pastoral Católico. No se harán públicos los números telefónicos de los miembros del Comité.

También pueden comunicarse con el Comité por email al: [reviewboard@pastoral.org](mailto:reviewboard@pastoral.org). Asegúrense de incluir su información personal. No les contestaremos directamente por email porque nunca se puede garantizar la confidencialidad al usar email. Nos comunicaremos con ustedes por teléfono.

## Cardenal McCarrick Testifica Ante El Senado Sobre La Reforma Integral Del Sistema Inmigratorio En Nombre De Los Obispos

WASHINGTON—El Cardenal Theodore McCarrick, arzobispo emérito de Washington, testificó hoy ante el Subcomité para Inmigración, Refugiados y Seguridad Fronteriza del Senado sobre la reforma integral del sistema inmigratorio estadounidense. El Subcomité invitó a las comunidades de fe a ofrecer sus perspectivas sobre la reforma de inmigración.

“Nuestra nación requiere un sistema de inmigración que case la inmigración legal con nuestras necesidades económicas a largo plazo, el principio de la unidad familiar y los derechos humanos fundamentales. Esto ayudará a restaurar el imperio de la ley en nuestro sistema inmigratorio. El sistema actual no logra ninguno de esos objetivos”, afirmó el Cardenal McCarrick.

El cardenal también expresó preocupación por la forma en la que la ley, actualmente, se aplica a la inmigración. “En verdad, la postura de la Iglesia a favor de la reforma busca restaurar el imperio de la ley y proporcionar orden y legalidad a un sistema de otro modo caótico”, dijo el Cardenal McCarrick, asesor del Comité de Obispos sobre Inmigración.

El cardenal enumeró los elementos centrales que, en opinión de los obispos, deberían ser abordados en cualquier reforma de las leyes que regulan la inmigración:

- 1) Sacar a la población indocumentada de las sombras y darles la oportunidad de que, con el tiempo, puedan obtener la residencia permanente y la ciudadanía.
- 2) Proteger la unidad familiar mediante el fortalecimiento de la inmigración basada en los lazos familiares.
- 3) Crear avenidas legales para la inmigración, para que los trabajadores inmigrantes que trabajan en muchas industrias importantes en nuestra nación puedan entrar al país de forma legal, segura y ordenada.
- 4) Restaurar el derecho de los inmigrantes a defender su caso ante una corte legal, mediante la restauración de las protecciones legales que fueron eliminadas en la legislación de 1996.
- 5) Trabajar con los países vecinos y la comunidad internacional para abordar las causas que originan la emigración, para que los inmigrantes y sus familias puedan permanecer, ultimadamente, en sus países de origen y sostener a sus familias con dignidad.

Aunque reconoció que la inmigración tiene aspectos económicos, sociales y legales que deben ser abordados en cualquier reforma legislativa, el Cardenal McCarrick afirmó que, desde la perspectiva de la enseñanza social Católica, la inmigración es un tema fundamentalmente humanitario.

“Desde nuestro punto de vista, nuestras leyes de inmigración deben ser juzgadas por la manera en la cual afectan a la dignidad fundamental y los derechos humanos otorgados por Dios a cada persona”, dijo el Cardenal McCarrick.

El cardenal también instó a los senadores a mantener el civismo en el debate y a evitar caer en la trampa de la “descalificación y deshumanización de nuestros hermanos y hermanas” ni tampoco convertirlos en “chivos expiatorios por problemas económicos y sociales a los que nos enfrentamos y que nada tienen que ver con ellos”.

El Cardenal McCarrick afirmó que la Iglesia Católica está lista para ayudar a los legisladores en su esfuerzo por “guiar a la nación hacia un sistema de inmigración justo y humano que restaure el imperio de la ley y respete la dignidad inherente en cada persona humana”.

### Calendario de Actividades del Ministerio Hispano

#### 1 de febrero 2010

- Reunión trimestral de los Agentes del Ministerio Hispano, Sto. Tomás Moro, Paducah, 10:30 - 2:00.

#### 2010

- Congresos Regionales y un Encuentro Diocesano

# Las Comunidades Hispánicas de Kentucky del Occidente Celebran a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Católico de Kentucky Occidental, Enero, 2010 **3**

Con júbilo las comunidades de la Diócesis de Owensboro celebraron la gran Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre. Uniendo a las comunidades y trayendo consigo sus tradiciones llena de riquezas espirituales, procesaron, cantaron las mañanitas, celebraron la misa, resaron el rosario y festejaron con comida, canto, música y baile. Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe! VIVA!



Procesión Guadalupana en Stos. José y Pablo, Owensboro. Foto por Luis Ajú.



Misa Guadalupana en San Miguel, Sebree. Foto por Patti Gutiérrez.



Procesión Guadalupana en Sto. Tomás Moro en Paducah. Foto por Hna. Quechol.



Obra Guadalupana en Holy Name en Henderson. Foto por Tami Schneider.



Baile tradicional en Holy Name en Henderson. Foto por Tami Schneider.

## Room for the Christ Child

By Deirdre A. McQuade

Every Christmas, people from Mexico and other parts of Central America celebrate Las Posadas, a nine-day novena of prayer, song, and hospitality built around Mary and Joseph's struggle to find lodging in Bethlehem. Families walk from home to home, singing their request for shelter. But owners reject their uninvited would-be guests, turning them away with excuses like: "we're not running an inn" or "you could be a thief."

The "pilgrims" are finally received humbly by the last home each night, where they often sing: "Posada os brindo / Santos Peregrinos, / y disculpa os pido, / no os reconocía" ("I offer you hospitality / Holy Pilgrims, / and for not recognizing you / I apologize"). They then host one of the nine nightly parties with more songs, a shared meal, and a piñata for the children.

Having received the hospitality of others, neighbors then offer it in turn. The nine-day vigil prepares the whole neighborhood to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion on Christmas, celebrating God's generosity to us.

The children – and by extension, all the family members – learn what it means to make room for the unborn Christ Child and his parents in their own lives: "Entren Santos Peregrinos, Peregrinos / Reciban este rincón, / que aunque es pobre la morada, la morada / os las doy de corazón" ("Enter, Holy Pilgrims / Take this little corner of our house, / even though it is a poor place to stay / we give it to you with all our heart").

Like Mary, some pregnant women today face many challenges and may need our hospitality. This is especially for mothers expecting an unexpected child. Whether rich or poor, they require welcome in an age when the unborn child is seen as an unwelcome burden – and, at times, even as a threat.

Tragically, abortion is often offered as a violent response to that perceived threat. But this "choice" is the ultimate failure to recognize a great gift wrapped in the living gift-wrap of a mother's womb! The Posadas invite us to welcome the unborn child as a precious guest "with all our heart," even when we may have little to offer.

Maternity homes for unwed or displaced mothers offer such hospitality in a tangible way every day. The Gabriel Project, a parish-based program, brings pregnant moms together with "angels" who befriend them, get to know their needs on a personal level, and offer ongoing support and care both before and after their children are born. Pregnancy care centers provide confidential services and referrals for women in need – some of whom are tempted to abort their children. All such organizations help women and their families realize that it is never impossible to do the right thing, and that the answer to a crisis pregnancy is to eliminate the crisis, not the pregnancy.

This Christmas, through the motherly intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may we and our families receive the Christ Child into our hearts, recognize all the vulnerable holy pilgrims in our midst whether born or unborn, and share the little we have "en el nombre del cielo" -- in the name of Heaven.

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A la izquierda, tres mujeres de la comunidad hispana de Sebree cantan afuera de una casa durante la posada el 16 de diciembre. Otro grupo se encontraba adentro de la casa y respondían cantando. A la derecha, dos niños de Sebree se paran con los imágenes de Santa María y San José. Durante las posadas recordamos la dificultad que tenían María y José en encontrar un lugar donde quedarse la noche en Belén. T.S. fotos.

## Un lugar para el Cristo Niño

Por Deirdre A. McQuade

Cada Navidad, muchos mexicanos y centroamericanos celebran Las Posadas, una novena de oración, canto y hospitalidad que se centra en los esfuerzos de María y José por encontrar dónde alojarse en Belén. Las familias caminan de un hogar a otro, pidiendo posada con un canto. Pero los dueños de casa rechazan a estos huéspedes que no invitaron, con excusas como: "esto no es una posada" o "cómo sé que no son ladrones".

Por fin, los "peregrinos" son recibidos con humildad en el último hogar que visitan cada noche, donde suelen cantarles: "Posada os brindo / Santos Peregrinos, / y disculpa os pido, / no os reconocía". Luego ofrecen una de las nueve fiestas de esas noches, con más cantos, una comida compartida y una piñata para los niños. Después de recibir la hospitalidad de otros, ahora la brindan. La vigilia de nueve días prepara a todo el barrio para recibir a Jesucristo en la Sagrada Comunión en la Navidad, que celebra la generosidad de Dios con nosotros.

Los niños –y, por extensión, todos los miembros de las familias– aprenden lo que significa hacerle un lugar en sus propias vidas al Niño Jesús que va a nacer y a sus padres: "Entren santos peregrinos, peregrinos / Reciban este rincón, / que aunque es pobre la morada, la morada / os las doy de corazón".

Igual que María, algunas mujeres embarazadas de nuestro tiempo enfrentan muchos desafíos y tal vez necesiten nuestra hospitalidad. Esto es especialmente cierto para las madres que esperan un hijo no previsto. Ya sean personas ricas o pobres, en esta época en que el niño por nacer es visto como una carga poco grata y, a veces, hasta como una amenaza, ellas necesitan ser acogidas.

Desgraciadamente, a menudo se ofrece el aborto como respuesta violenta a eso que se percibe como amenaza. Pero esta "elección" es el fracaso supremo de no reconocer el regalo maravilloso que está en la envoltura viva del vientre materno. Las Posadas nos invitan a darle la bienvenida "de corazón" al niño por nacer como huésped invaluable, aunque tengamos poco para ofrecerle.

Los hogares de maternidad para madres solteras o desplazadas ofrecen todos los días este tipo de hospitalidad de forma tangible. El Proyecto Gabriel, un programa parroquial que pone en contacto a las madres embarazadas con "ángeles" que les brindan amistad, se interesan en forma personal por sus necesidades, y les ofrecen apoyo y cuidados continuos antes y después del nacimiento de los niños. Los centros para el cuidado de las embarazadas ofrecen servicios confidenciales y orientación a las mujeres que los necesitan, algunas de las cuales están tentadas a abortar a sus hijos. Todas estas organizaciones ayudan a las mujeres y sus familias a darse cuenta de que nunca es imposible hacer lo correcto, y que la respuesta a un embarazo de crisis es eliminar la crisis, no el embarazo.

Que esta Navidad, por medio de la intercesión maternal de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, nosotros y nuestras familias podamos recibir al Niño Jesús en nuestros corazones, que podamos reconocer a los peregrinos que hay entre nosotros, sean nacidos o por nacer, y que podamos compartir lo poco que tenemos "en el nombre del cielo".

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## Bishop-elect William Francis Medley Nombrado Como Cuarto Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Por Tami Schneider

Se palpaba altas emociones y multitudes de pensamientos en los corazones y las mentes de todos los presentes con el Obispo Emeritus John J. McRaith sentado al lado del Obispo-Electo William Francis Medley mientras el Administrador Diocesano, el P. Michael Clark le presentó al personal diocesano. Me imaginé unos corredores pasando la batuta de uno a otro en una arena olímpica lo cual, en este caso, sería la vida de la Iglesia. Un corredor cumple su misión al mismo tiempo que la misión del otro a penas empieza. “Usted es muy bendecido,” McRaith le aseguró a Medley de todo corazón, después de contarle de la fe de los feligreses y las buenas obras del Personal Diocesano.

De hecho, no era ninguna coincidencia que nombraron al Cuarto Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro el 15 de diciembre, pues en ese mismo día, el Obispo McRaith celebra su vigésimo séptimo aniversario de su ordinación al episcopado. En un momento liviano, el Obispo-Electo Medley bromeó diciendo, “Que no se equivoquen, ellos [Arzobispo Kurtz y Arzobispo Kelly] están aquí para

festejarle a él.” Sin embargo, la familia de Medley, incluyendo a su mamá, sus dos hermanas y sus dos hermanos vinieron a la ceremonia para honrar a su hijo y su hermano. Se conmovió y hasta le salieron las lágrimas al expresar lo que significaba para él que estuvieran presentes. Señalando a su familia, dijo, “Si fuera artista, y pudiera pintar un imagen de la fe, así sería como se ve.”

Obispo-Electo Medley demostró su humildad expresando su shock completo cuando el Nuncio Apostólico Sambí lo llamó invitándole a aceptar su nueva misión. Dijo que nunca había pensado ni soñado en ser Obispo, pero confesó que, a través de los años, unos feligreses le habían comentado que podría ser muy buen obispo. Relacionó su llamado a lo de la Virgen María en la Anunciación, cuando ella se sometió a la Voluntad de Dios, a pesar de su shock y de no sentirse digna. “Nunca he negado nada que la Iglesia me ha pedido,” le dijo a Sambí, “entonces, mi respuesta es sí.” Luego relató al Personal Diocesano que el año pasado le había sido bien difícil. Incluso había dicho a sí mismo que le encantaría dar la vuelta a la página del 2009. Nunca se imaginó lo que Dios

tenía en mente para él durante el 2010. “Dios tiene un muy buen sentido de humor,” dijo con una sonrisa.

Su persona es tan amable, abierta, honesta, pero al mismo tiempo profesional y llena de confianza que provocó sentimientos y comentarios positivos tanto al personal como a aquellos que se presentaron en la conferencia de prensa a mediodía en el Campus Center de Brescia University. Empezó sus comentarios con “A la mayor Gloria de Dios,” dando crédito a las Hermanas Ursulinas del Monte de San José por su influencia en su formación en la fe Católica. Momentos después, anunció que su Lema Episcopal sería “Santo es el Nombre de Dios” y expresó que no podría creerlo cuando el personal diocesano empezó a cantar el Magnificat en la Misa de la mañana. Incluso más indicativo de su vida de oración, la primera cosa que hizo cuando llegó a la Diócesis era rezar ante el Santísimo en la Catedral de San Esteban y besar el altar.

Cuando algunos miembros de la prensa le preguntaron sobre sus metas y cambios, dejó ver su corazón pastoral respondiendo, “Estoy aquí para aprender, para escuchar, y para

rezar con la gente buena Kentucky del Occidente... Mi meta es conocer a la gente...Aprendí a ser un buen pastor porque el pueblo me ha enseñado. Si llego a ser un buen obispo es porque el pueblo me enseñará.” Refiriéndose al Obispo McRaith, dijo, “Su santidad, su buena naturaleza y su bondad serán la medida de mi ministerio como obispo.”

Después de una bienvenida cálida de parte del Presidente de Brescia, el P. Larry Hostetter, Administrador Diocesano, el P. Michael Clark también le dio la bienvenida al Obispo-Electo. “Su curriculum vitae solamente son palabras escritas pero se hacen vivas cuando uno tiene la dicha de conocerle,” comentó. “Le damos la bienvenida con gran alegría.” Después de un declarado oficial y una sesión breve de preguntas y respuestas, el Obispo-Electo Medley terminó con estas palabras: “Gracias a todos. Que bueno es estar en casa.”

El Obispo-Electo William Medley oficialmente inicia su ministerio como Cuarto Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro a partir del 10 de febrero, 2010 en adelante, después de su ordinación e instalación en el Sports Center de Owensboro.



Administrador Diocesano, P. Mike Clark, le da la bienvenida al Obispo-Electo, P. William Francis Medley en la conferencia de prensa en Brescia University a mediodía el 15 de diciembre. Foto por Larena Lawson.



Los sacerdotes y laicos del Personal Diocesano le aplauden al Obispo-Electo William Medley durante la Misa en la capilla del Centro Pastoral el 15 de diciembre. Foto por Tami Schneider.