

Notice:

The January, 2011 *Western Kentucky Catholic* was shipped to the parish churches of the diocese in early January, 2011 and not mailed out to households due to an error in laying out the January edition.

There may still be copies of the January, 2011 edition in Western Kentucky Catholic churches for those who want one.

Also, *The Western Kentucky Catholic* can be found on the diocesan website. The WKC Online link is not on the site's front page, but look online at http://www.rcdok.org/_documents/wkc_online/2011/2011-1-%20January.pdf

- Editor



Diocese of Owensboro

St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Campus Center

World Youth Day

Pilgrimage

Madrid, Spain Travel Dates -

August 13-23, 2011

Estimated Cost- \$2,500 per person,

Open to young adults, ages 18-30.

Registration Deadline and
\$500 deposit.

For questions and registration,
contact Mary Reding, 270-872-7818
reding.mary@yahoo.com



The Beauty of Friendship

By Cecelia Hamilton

On my way home this evening, I was thinking about one of God's mar-

velous blessings in my life – friendship. In the hustle and bustle of today's world, it is easy to forget the value of true friends.

When we are young, our friends were more interested in playing games or sports and sharing some secrets, which may not have remained a secret very long. Often there would be someone new from one school year or summer to the next. As we advanced to high school and college, our attention turned more to the opposite sex as we began thinking of life after school. Then the responsibilities of adulthood took so much of our time that often we would forget about what we need as individuals.

Shortly before I made my Cursillo several years ago, I joined a prayer group in order to give my spiritual life a boost. This was deepened on the Cursillo weekend. It showed me that a group could help me through sharing piety, study, and action. We were there for each other through a liver transplant, death in the family, celebrations of special days, etc. The feelings we have for each other became like sisters.

As I left my group reunion behind tonight, I thanked God for helping us offer each other encouragement when needed, hugs always, insights with things going on in our life at that time, smiles in abundance, support to meet life's challenges, prayers for our family, sharing faith-filled books, and the courage to become better witnesses for Christ everyday.

In closing, I want to share tonight's close moment. We stood together with our hands joined praying for the needs mentioned and thanking God that He brought us together.

~ Soon to be Celebrating 125 Years ~

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish is requesting copies of photos for a 'History of Faith Photo Book'. If you have any photos of St. Joseph or St. Paul's Church or grounds, previous activities, priests, or a story of interest, please email them to Another125years@yahoo.com or call Laida Mischel 929-2740

Join The Diocese of Owensboro on a Pilgrimage to..

Italy

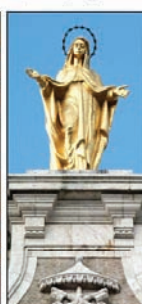
Under the spiritual direction of His Excellency: Bishop William F. Medley



October 3 -12, 2011

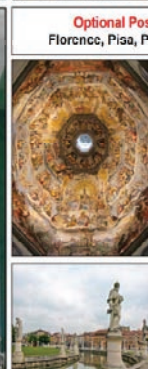
\$3,335 per person from Louisville

Optional Post Tour to **Florence & Pisa!** (\$465 per person, Oct 12 - 14)
Optional Post Tour to **Padua & Venice!** (\$531 per person, Oct 14 - 16)



Most Rev.
William Francis Medley

Optional Post Tours to:
Florence, Pisa, Padua & Venice!



www.pilgrimages.com/bishopmedley

10 Families say Thank You!



This is just a short note to say "Thank You!" The local Retrouvaille weekend just completed January 16, 2011 was attended by 10 couples. That's 10 families who now have a fighting chance. By praying about the Retrouvaille announcement which you saw in your parish's bulletin and with your continuing care and compassion for couples working to make their marriage better, you helped give them that chance!

Their journey has just begun. Retrouvaille is not just a weekend; it is a 3 month program. Please continue to keep these couples and their children in your prayers. The prayer warriors in the Diocese of Owensboro are just the best!

Thank you for supporting Marriage!

- Retrouvaille of Owensboro

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2 Bishop William Medley's First Anniversary Finds 2010 A Year Of Celebration, Learning And Prayer

On February 1, 2010, I moved to Owensboro in anticipation of my ordination as the bishop here. On February 10, 2010, in the aftermath of a storm that dropped nearly eight inches of snow across western Kentucky, almost 5,000 people assembled in the Owensboro Sports Center to participate in an event that has occurred only four times in the seventy-three year old history of the Diocese of Owensboro, the ordination of a bishop. What might the assembly have been had the weather been fair?

The Catholic population of western Kentucky is estimated to be about 51,000 people, although this number does not include thousands whose names may not be included in parish rolls. This means that perhaps one out of every ten Catholics may have gathered for this celebration. If Los Angeles, New York or Chicago were to assemble one tenth of their Catholic people, none of these cities have sites that could accommodate the tens of thousands. The Catholic Church of western Kentucky demonstrated on that day a vibrancy of faith and Catholic identity.

As we approach the first anniversary of this historic day, I want to speak to the many signs I have seen in this year of strong Catholic identity and vibrancy of faith. One of my first acts as bishop was to visit Carmel Home and celebrate Mass with our retired and infirmed priests there and in the Cotton Apartments. There were ten priests who joined me and they represented nearly six hundred years of priestly service. Since then I have visited with all the foundations of women and men religious across our area. The cumulative years of faithful ministry these women and men represent would total in the thousands many times over.

By this anniversary I will have celebrated Mass in 65 of the diocese's 79 parishes. I am already scheduled to visit several more of those I have yet to visit and hope within a very few months to assure that I have been in every parish. I have celebrated Mass in every Catholic school in the diocese, at Brescia University, and in the Catholic centers of both Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. My summation of these visits: we pray well together as Catholics. Our parishes and communities are vastly different, parishes of more than a thousand families and those with but a few dozen people. But whether in a grand church or a small chapel, when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we are one.

My encounters with children and



**Most Reverend William F. Medley
Bishop of Owensboro, Ky.**

youth across the diocese have brought me special joy. In a unique way their enthusiasm and welcome have helped me to grow into an understanding of my role as a bishop, as a successor to the Apostles, and a visible and personal connection to the universal church, and particularly to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict the XVI. I have had parents and teachers tell me more than once that children report after my visit that they have met the pope. Well, not exactly, but perhaps their intuitions and overstatements do tell us a lot about being Catholic and how we are connected.

I did meet Pope Benedict in September when he assembled all the new bishops of the world in Rome. In my few seconds of personal encounter I said to him, "Your Holiness, the Catholics of western Kentucky pray for you; please pray for all of us." In early 2012 I expect to visit Rome again to make my ad limina visit to the Holy See and deliver a report on our local church, a visit that is required of every local bishop about every five years.

In January I attended a retreat with the bishops of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The bishops of Kentucky and Tennessee meet regularly, in fact, in December I hosted seven bishops for one of our gatherings in my home in Owensboro. Twice in the year I have attended national meetings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. I learn a lot from these extraordinary men

of the church and look forward to future meetings.

Also in January, most of our priests gathered for four days for the annual priests' convocation at Lake Barkley. This time together for priests is an especially blessed time and marked another anniversary: I first met most of the priests at the 2010 convocation. These generous and holy men have welcomed me as a father, a brother and a friend. As I look forward to many years of service to the local Church, working with them I know will always be one of my greatest priorities and joys. Last summer I was privileged to ordain three of them to the priesthood. Some bishops of a small diocese may wait several years to have that honor. In 2011 I will ordain yet another young man to their numbers.

Just over a year ago I never dreamed that the Holy Spirit and the Church might call me to be a bishop. With a year of celebration, learning and prayer, I want to tell you: I am one very happy bishop! I pray for all of you every day and draw great strength in knowing that at every Mass celebrated across western Kentucky that I am prayed for by name. Thank you!

God bless you,
+ Most Reverend William F. Medley
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

Bishop William Medley's First Year as Our Diocese's Fourth Bishop: A Brief Review

By Mel Howard

Let's take a look at some of the record from Bishop Medley's Calendar.

Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Brandon Williams, Fr. Uwem Enoch, and Fr. Steve Hohman took place on Saturday, May 29. The Diaconate Ordination of Rev. Mr. Ryan Harpole was on August 4; 18 permanent Deacons received the Ministry of Lector in November, 2010.

The Carmel Home Chapel was dedicated on Thursday, April 29; on August 27, an Historical Marker Dedication at St. Romuald; Thursday, Nov. 4, dedication of new Parish hall at St. Charles Borromeo; Holy Spirit, Bowling Green new church dedication on December 12, 2010. A ground breaking of St. Leo, Murray construction was on Tuesday, July 27.

A rough estimate of the number of young people confirmed in the past year within the diocese would be 785, but the real figures won't be available until this fall.

Bishop Medley has visited every Catholic School in the diocese, some of them more than once, and has presided at Mass at all of our Catholic Schools. This includes Brescia University. He also presided at his first Rainbow Mass in May, 2010.

A Catholic Bishop is a servant and leader of prayer for all people in a diocese. Bishop Medley attended a Renaissance Fair at Highland Elementary School, (a Daviess County school) in December.

As of press time, Bishop Medley has visited 65 of our 79 parishes in the diocese. That is a lot of traveling! Many days we among the diocesan staff would ask, "Where in the Diocese is Bishop Bill today?" His Administrative Assistant, Kathy Rasp, always had the answer. In fact, this report has a lot of her touch in it.

The comments which diocesan staff members report that they hear the most is that Bishop Medley is a "people person," very warm, and easy to talk with, "approachable." He loves children and they are drawn to him. A poem written for him by students, a song performed for him on Dec. 17, 2010 from the K-3 Campus, the way that school students can approach him, the youth events he has attended like Youth 2000, CLI, Gasper River camps, ODYC: all are visible signs that Bishop Medley is very approachable for children and youth in our parishes and our schools.

Bishop Medley received hundreds of Christmas cards from parishioners, almost all of them commenting on his 2010 Christmas card with the children of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Sebree! It made a HUGE statement. We have also heard how much people of all ages love going to Mass when he is the presider. His love of the Church and the Eucharist is very evident. At the Catholic Pastoral Center, we do not receive many questions about him, just comments about how blessed we are to have him as our bishop.

Bishop Medley attended the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Timothy Doherty in Lafayette, IN. He welcomed and hosted visits by Bishops Neil Tiedemann (Mandeville) and Jose Luis Mendoza (Tuxla, Mexico).

Bishop Medley, with the help of the diocesan Priests Council, hosted the bishops and some priests of the Kentucky/Tennessee Province at a Provincial Meeting from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 2010.

Bishop William F. Medley's February, 2011 Calendar

- 1 9:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, St. Mary School System, Paducah
- 3 10:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, Owensboro Catholic Schools, Sportscenter, Owensboro
- 4 10:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, Christ the King, Madisonville
- 5 9:00 a.m. Red Mass, Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
- 6 10:00 a.m. Confirmation, Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro
- 9 8:00 a.m. School Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville
- 10 10:00 a.m. CCK Board Meeting, Louisville
Provincial Meeting, Louisville, KY
- 11 Provincial Meeting, Louisville, KY
- 13 3:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Joseph, Bowling Green
- 15 9:00 a.m. CPC Staff Mass and Meeting
- 15 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
- 16 Focus on Philanthropy Gathering, Louisville
- 16 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, Sts. Anthony, Augustine, Benedict, Clarkson
- 17 10:00 a.m. School Mass, Owensboro Catholic High School
- 8 5:30 p.m. Vocation Appreciation Dinner, Paducah
- 20 9:00 a.m. Confirmation, St. Elizabeth, Curdsville
- 21 9:30 a.m. Personnel Board Meeting
- 21 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting
- 22 9:00 a.m. School Mass, St. Mary School System, Paducah
- 11:00 a.m. "Senior Conversations", St. Mary High School, Paducah
- 12 – 3:00 p.m. Paducah Office, Lourdes Hospital
- 24 9:00 a.m. School Mass, Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus
- 24 2:00 p.m. Brescia University Board Meeting
- 25 9:00 a.m. Brescia University Board Meeting
- 27 10:30 a.m. Confirmation, Precious Blood, Owensboro
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Mary Magdalene, Owensboro
- 28 10:00 a.m. "Senior Conversations", Owensboro Catholic High School



Bishop's First Year In Review on TV First

Bishop William Medley was Jerry Birge's guest Dec. 22, 2010 on the "Around Owensboro" program on Time-Warner Cable 8, Owensboro. Jerry said that this was Bishop Medley's first local TV appearance and that he was a delightful guest. Bishop Medley commented, "It was interesting to talk about my first 'year in review.' While it is a cliché to say it, the year has flown by. Owensboro and western Kentucky very much feel like home now. By Christmas, I had visited and celebrated Mass in 62 of the 79 parishes of the diocese and have been in all the Catholic schools, many more than once." Submitted Photo

Diocese Begins Strategic Planning Process

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The Diocese of Owensboro is beginning a Strategic Planning Process. As a part of this process we want to hear what you have to say. In February, six Listening Sessions will be held in various parts of the diocese. These sessions will be open to anyone who would like to participate.

- Feb. 8 -- 10:00 - 12:00 am -- Parish Hall, Holy Name, Henderson
- Feb. 10 -- 1:00 - 3:00 pm -- Christ the King Parish, Madisonville
- Feb. 11 -- 10:00 - 12:00 am -- St. Martin Parish, Rome
- Feb. 16 -- 10:00 - 12:00 am -- Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
- Feb. 17 -- 10:00 - 12:00 am -- St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield
- Feb. 18 -- 10:00 - 12:00 am -- St. John Parish, Paducah

For any and all who are unable to attend a Listening Session, the Diocesan website will provide an opportunity for you to express your opinions electronically at <http://www.rcdok.org/spp>. This opportunity will be open following the last scheduled Listening Session on Feb. 18.

This is an exciting time for our diocese. The Holy Spirit is already accomplishing wonderful things and will reveal to us our direction for the next five years.



GIFT BEARERS

Mary Carrico Memorial School came to Bishop Soenneker Home January 17 bearing so many gifts they brought them in a wheelbarrow. Our "Little Wise men and women" chose to spend their money on our residents over receiving gifts themselves from each other. A true example of what this season is truly about. We wish all our young friends a safe and happy New Year. Submitted by Arlene Cecil

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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 must be signed and with contact information, may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and 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.

Please send all Western Kentucky Catholic address additions, address deletions or address changes to Cathy Hagan at cathy.hagan@pastoral.org.



4 **CAMP!!!** Welcome to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center



By Ben Warrell

What an amazing way to welcome in the New Year. Thirty-seven campers and several summer staff welcomed in 2011 with our brand new Christmas and New Year's Camp. New Year's Eve was spent meeting new friends, playing games, folk dancing and eagerly awaiting the New Year. As the clock struck midnight, the giant aluminum foil ball dropped and the celebration was on. Fr. Mike Williams celebrated mass with everyone at midnight to welcome in 2011. It was a joyous and wonderful moment, having gone to confession earlier in the night to leave behind all the junk that gets between us and God and then celebrating the Eucharist was an amazing start to the new year. The rest of the weekend was spent doing activities at camp, learning about our faith and having fun with old and new friends in a community centered on Jesus Christ. The response from the campers was wonderful and they helped create a new tradition that we will have at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center from here on out.

Many campers also were excited about the upcoming camp season. Well, here's the schedule for all of the 2011 Camps. Our costs are not rising and will remain the same for this summer. Explorer Camps (3rd & 4th grades) will remain at \$150 for Sunday to Wednesday. Expedition, Quest and Camp LIFE will all remain at \$250 for a Sunday to Friday experience. Financial aid is available for any families that need it.

The national average for a week-long summer camp experience is now getting closer and closer to \$600. We feel that the quality of the programming and the faith and fun that are experienced at Gasper River are well worth the cost. Our goal this summer is 400 campers so sign up now and don't miss out on the opportunity and adventure of a lifetime!

Please visit our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for additional information on the camps and for all the forms you'll need to sign up. We are also very excited about our new High Adventure Camp for high school aged students who have attended Camp LIFE before. This camp will be intentionally small (only 16, 8 boys and 8 girls) and intimate and will travel off site for caving, canoeing and other adventures. It will be a wonderful opportunity to push yourself in new adventures while diving deeper into your faith.

If you've attended Camp LIFE before and want a different camp experience, this may be the camp for you. We are so excited about this summer and we can't wait to see you here. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 270-781-2466. If you're not sure what to do with you children this summer, why not invest in their faith!

We are a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. Our 168 acre facility is located on the Gasper



2011 Summer Camp Schedule

Dates	Camp	Grade	Cost
May 30th to June 3rd	Eucharistic Life	18 and over	\$ 50
June 5th to June 10th	Expedition I	5th & 6th	\$250
June 12th to June 17th	Quest I	7th & 8th	\$250
June 19th to June 22nd	Explorer I	3rd & 4th	\$150
June 26th to July 1st	Expedition II	5th & 6th	\$250
July 3rd to July 8th	Camp Life I	9th - 12th	\$250
July 10th to July 15th	Quest II	7th & 8th	\$250
July 17th to July 22nd	Camp Life II	9th - 12th	\$250
July 24th to July 27th	Explorer II	3rd & 4th	\$150
July 24th to July 29th	High Adventure	10th - 12th	\$350

Please visit our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for additional information on each camp and for all the forms you will need to register. Grade indicates the class the camper will enter in the fall of 2011. Financial aid is available. Please contact our office at 270-781-2466 if we can be of further assistance.



River just 8 miles Northwest of Bowling Green. Although we are owned and operated by the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky, the facility is available to all denominations, schools, families and business groups.

Our goal is to bring people here, have them learn and grow in their faith and then take what they have learned back to their communities to put into practice. We will strive to follow St. Benedict's Rule that "all will be welcomed as Christ." If there is any way that our staff can assist you in your needs, please contact us to see how we can serve you.

WELCOME

The Four Bishops of Kentucky Oppose SB 6

5

By Patti Gutiérrez, Justice for Immigrants Coordinator, Diocese of Owensboro

Senate Bill 6 (“SB 6”) does nothing to solve the real problems of our outdated and broken federal immigration system and will make our Commonwealth less secure, less welcoming, waste taxpayers’ money and even criminalize the Gospel mandate. The Bishops of Kentucky oppose SB 6 and encourage all Catholics to learn more about the bill and let their legislators know this is the wrong approach for Kentucky.

Senate Bill 6 as it passed the state Senate on January 7th includes the following elements:

- Local law enforcement personnel must attempt to verify a person’s immigration status during any lawful contact if they have reasonable suspicion that he or she is an “unauthorized alien”.
- Upon completion of their sentence or payment of their fine “unauthorized aliens” shall be transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.
- The crime of smuggling is expanded to include anyone who transports or finds transportation for an “unauthorized alien” for remuneration regardless if any borders were crossed.
- A new crime of trespassing by an “unauthorized alien” is created for stepping foot on public or private property within the state borders.
- Assisting an “unauthorized alien” becomes a Class A misdemeanor and carries a \$500-\$1,000 fine. This includes transporting, concealing, harboring, encouraging or inducing or attempting to do any of these things. The only exclusion provided for in the bill is for employers who believed that their employee was “not an unauthorized alien” based on documents or the E-verify system.

The Catholic Church continues to actively advocate for fair and comprehensive reform of our country’s immigration system by calling for a broad-based path to earned legalization, a temporary worker program, a reduction in the backlog of family reunification visas and a restoration of due process. This bill, an enforcement only approach, fails to address the factors that drive illegal immigration. It does nothing to make our borders more secure. Even now those working to secure our borders are unable to focus their resources on fighting criminals and other security threats on our borders because of the pressure to spend so much of their time and effort on tracking down and detaining people whose only crime is to want to work, be with family or build a new life.

We can’t let this happen in Kentucky. Citizens deserve protection and good police work. And it is the local chief or sheriff who should set priorities to do this, not state lawmakers assigning duties that divert their resources from fighting serious crime and keeping us safe.

Without a highly trained police force, which has a cost all its own, it is likely that SB 6 will ensnare U. S. citizens and authorized immigrants, simply because they belong to a minority group or speak with an accent. In fact, the bill’s sponsor, when asked what might create a reasonable suspicion for an officer to question someone, said that not speaking English would be cause to investigate. If you were an immigrant and knew you might be detained for speaking with an accent or having to use a translator, do you think you would approach an officer to report a crime or call for help in an emergency? This affects the safety of the entire community.



Rep. Jim Glenn spoke at Catholics@The Capitol Jan. 15 in Owensboro; Fr Richard Meredith is at right.

The most appalling portion of SB 6 for the Church is that it would make it a crime to serve the needy without regard to their immigration status. The language is so broad that even transporting someone whom you know to be an undocumented immigrant to church services could be a Class A misdemeanor. Conceivably it could be applied to all levels of humanitarian aid and even first responders in an emergency. While this may not be the intent of the legislation, it is what the bill says and living the Gospel by helping someone could see you arrested, convicted, fined and even jailed.

Another aspect of SB 6 is that it is fiscally irresponsible. In these tough economic times when people across the Commonwealth are struggling, our legislators must be extremely careful about how they spend our tax dollars. The fiscal impact statement recently released states that just to detain one third of the estimated undocumented immigrant population and care for their children would cost the state nearly \$90 million a year. Even if you subtract the estimated \$50 that the state could potentially save on having less immigrant children in public schools or receiving any government benefit, it would still cost the state \$40 million a year. Money will also be needed to defend the law in court and if it is implemented the costs of training the police force in complex immigration law would be enormous. This does not even consider all that the state would lose in talent as well as sales, property and even income taxes as both



Patti Gutiérrez, left, and Bishop William Medley answering questions at the Jan. 15, 2011 Catholics@The Capitol in Owensboro. Mel Howard photos

documented and undocumented immigrants leave the state.

SB 6 fails to measure up to the ideals of the people of Kentucky and will have a whole host of negative consequences for our communities. SB 6 is currently waiting for a hearing in the House of Representatives in Frankfort. Please contact your state Representative today to voice your opposition to SB 6 at (800) 372-7181.

For more information contact me at Patricia.Gutierrez@pastoral.org or (270) 302-2782 and for more information about the issue of immigration visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org and www.ccky.org.

Senate Bill 6 is an ill-advised attempt to address a complex national problem

Bishop William Medley commented about Senate Bill 6 now in the Kentucky Legislature:

“It is always a challenge to address a current social or political issue in the Western Kentucky Catholic, as everything has to be ready for editing and publication several days before the diocesan newspaper arrives in homes throughout western Kentucky. This is particularly true now of the ongoing debate and dialogue unfolding over Senate Bill 6 regarding a proposed law to deal with immigration in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

“Patricia Gutierrez, the director of our diocesan office of Justice for Immigrants, has presented an excellent article articulating details of the law as it has passed the Kentucky State Senate and awaits action in the House of Representatives when the legislature reconvenes in February.

“Immigration law in the United States is in critical need of overhaul. But as Ms. Gutierrez’s article states, these are issues that must be addressed at the federal level. For a host of reasons the U.S. Congress has been unable to enact meaningful legislation in this area for many years.

“The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops calls for immigration reform. The bishops of the country understand that any nation has reason and right to enact laws regarding immigration and protect its borders. The Catholic Conference of Kentucky, speaking on behalf of the four Catholic bishops of the state, has been vocal that Senate Bill 6 is an ill-advised attempt to address a complex national problem. As written, the law could be interpreted to criminalize actions of church workers who assist undocumented immigrants. I call upon all Catholics and people of good will to assure that our voice in Frankfort makes clear to our legislators that we cannot accept any law that does not measure up to the gospel mandate to protect and assist “the least among us.”

God bless you,

+ Most Reverend William F. Medley, Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

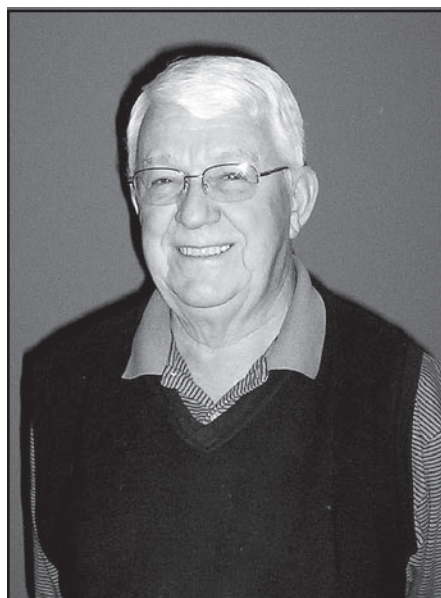
Wisdom *by Ginny Knight-Simon*

Ignatius C. Payne
St. Stephen Cathedral Parish,
Owensboro, Kentucky
2010 Sophia Award Winner

Recently, on a cold winter afternoon I visited Chuck Payne at his home in Owensboro. He told me something that you don't hear very often. I've never heard it before.

"I have been involved in two plane incidents... one caused by a malfunctioning landing gear in which no one was hurt, as we landed in Hong Kong. The other incident, much more serious happened when my plane, a DC-9, collided on take-off with an incoming plane, a 727. I remember it was on December 3, 1991, at the Detroit airport. I was on a business trip to Pittsburgh. As we taxied down the runway, I could see out the window that the fog was extremely heavy. Before I boarded the aircraft, for some strange reason, I pulled a business card from my wallet and placed it in my jacket lapel pocket, in case I needed to be identified. I had flown many times but never before thought about that.

"During the crash between the two planes, I was knocked senseless and was blinded. Since I always picked a seat located in the middle aisle, directly over the wing, I knew where the emergency exit should be. I finally worked my way to the exit window, and as I was trying to



Ignatius C. Payne

get through it, I got tripped up and went through the window, landing on the wing, but a long way to the ground. Still blind, I heard somebody yell for me to jump, and only then did I realize that I was on the wing. I jumped and two people on the ground caught me by the arms to stabilize my jump. The engines on the plane exploded and the plane burned rapidly. Eight people died immediately and I was later told that several others also died. The person setting next to me, and the person

sitting in front of me were two of the people who didn't make it."

Chuck still has several newspaper pictures and articles showing the results of the crash. Since these incidents, Mr. Payne resolved to do any future traveling by car, boat, train, etc.

"I worked at GE at several different locations until I retired in 1991 and then moved back to Owensboro. I grew up in Owensboro and was part of the second class to graduate from OCHS," said Mr. Payne.

Chuck is one of eight children of Agnes and Chester Payne, who were married for 69 years. They lived in the St. Stephen parish, and attended Mass at St. Stephens church. Mr. Payne is a past member of the Board of Directors for Brescia Alumini, and is a past President of the St. Stephen Conference of St. Vincent DePaul Society. At present, he serves on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities, and is the Diocesan Council President for St. Vincent DePaul, which covers the 32 counties of the Diocese. He is also involved in other areas of the Parish.

"I have two children, both adopted from Catholic Charities. I am proud of both of them. My son lives in Wyoming, and my daughter lives in Cincinnati," Mr. Payne said. He enjoys working with people; it helps him stay more active. His hobbies run from painting, music, to golf. I looked at some of his lovely paintings hanging on the walls. He told me, in the future, he plans to learn to play the keyboard, which

he recently purchased. "Oh, I like to cook too," he said with a smile.

Chuck says he is retired, but he spends many hours each week, doing St. Vincent DePaul work. "I enjoy working for St. Vincent DePaul," he said. "About six years ago, I missed a SVdP Conference meeting and later found out that I was voted in as the Conference President, during that meeting. But I like it and there is always something to do."

Mr. Payne asked me what comes to mind when I think of St. Vincent DePaul. "Charity and thrift stores," I said. He smiled, replying, "That's true, but there is a lot more to it than that." He explained that a SVdP volunteer is more than some one selling goods at a thrift store, or picking up used furniture. These people make house calls, provide financial assistance, pray with clients, and more. Many of these volunteers make themselves available in times of a crisis or disaster. Stores and conferences work together to make a successful team to provide assistance to the needy. He concluded, "I guess you could say that being a volunteer could be a selfish act, because it sure makes you feel good to help some one. I've always heard the being a volunteer has lousy pay, but the benefits are great."

Mr. Payne says there is always a need for volunteers, both in the stores and in the parish conferences. If anybody would like to learn more about the Society of St. Vincent DePaul, and its great benefits, please call Chuck Payne at 270-683-6525.

Join us for a Spinning Day Saturday, Feb. 12th

Whether you are an experienced spinner, knitter, crocheter, or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the "Arts at the Mount" spinning gatherings at Mount Saint Joseph (12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56). Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill. **Sessions begin at 10 a.m.** and usually end around 4 p.m. Lunch is \$12. The group plans to "spin, knit, and talk until we're done!"

Contact Kathy McCarty to register:
 270-229-4103 ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



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Sign
 up for the
 March 11-13
 spinners
 weekend
 retreat!

The Office of Wisdom invites you to Chicago!

If you are age 50 and over, please come and join the trip to Chicago and the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Indiana. We will depart from Bowling Green, KY on **June 21, 2011** stopping in Owensboro for pick up (departure times and locations developing). Returning to Owensboro and Bowling on **June 24th**.

The cost per person is \$714.00 per person based on double occupancy includes:

- Round trip motor coach transportation
- Three nights accommodation at The Indigp Hotel in downtown Chicago; Three dinners
- River Cruise, Tours, and all entrance fees.

We will visit the museum of Science and Industry, Navy Pier, cruise down the Chicago River, and go to the top of the Hancock Observatory, to name a few! On our way home we will visit the Shrine of Christ's Passion where we will walk Christ's Passion as depicted in the Stations of the Cross.



\$200 deposit due by 3/15/11
 with final payment due by 5/15/11

For information, please call Ginny Knight-Simon
 at 270-683-1545.

Ginny Knight-Simon

Catholic Extension Awards Two Nuns in Diocese Grant for Small Parish Ministries

7

\$20,000 will support the Dominican Faithweavers program in the Diocese of Owensboro

Chicago, Ill. – Father Jack Wall, President of Catholic Extension, has announced that the next grant from the Sister Marguerite Bartz Fund is awarded to the Dominican Faithweavers program in the Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky. Created in July 2010 and led by Sister Georgia Acker, OP, and Sister Geraldine Hoye, OP, both of whom are Sinsinawa Dominicans, the program builds faith and develops leaders among Catholics in dozens of communities across western Kentucky by providing onsite services to the most under-staffed parishes. The award will be used to supplement the sisters' living and travel expenses and develop their educational materials.

"One of the critical components that will contribute to the vibrant future of the Catholic Church in America is the education and effective training of lay leaders," Father Wall said. "As we witness so often with women religious in our country, Sister Georgia and Sister Geraldine have seen a pressing need in their diocese, and taken it upon themselves to creatively and energetically fill this need."

The economic recession has forced many small parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro to operate with little to no staff, limiting these parishes' capacity to provide Catholics' with faith formation options. The Dominican Faithweavers' program will fill the gap in professional support by traveling to local parishes to provide the following:

- Resourcing classes for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- Leading spiritual retreats and evenings of reflection
- Training liturgical ministers
- Training catechists for children and youth programs
- Training lay ministers and developing lay ministry projects
- Helping parishes establish other requested faith formation programs

"The Sister's work is focused on prompting Catholics into action and encouraging new leadership. It's not that idea of 'I come to church and get all my needs met.' That's not our mission. That's not what the Catholic Faith is about. It's about living life as Christ," said Sister Georgia. "When you whet people's appetite, they look for more."

Catholic Extension established the Sister Marguerite Bartz Fund in April 2009 in honor of the late Sister Marguerite, a spiritual leader, educator, mentor, activist and community builder for more than 40 years. She was murdered in November 2009 during a robbery in her



Sister Georgia Acker, OP

home on the Navajo Reservation in the Diocese of Gallup. The Fund supports the essential work of women religious, and the ministries they create and inspire in the most underserved regions of the United States.

To date, the fund has received generous donations totaling more than \$120,000. Catholic Extension has already awarded \$41,451 to the St. Michael Indian School in the Diocese of Gallup and \$16,000 to the Diocese of Little Rock to support Hispanic Ministry. The Fund supplements the \$1.7 million Catholic Extension is committed to distributing in 2010 to support women religious and their ministries in the country's most under-resourced and isolated dioceses.

Catholic Extension will award more than 1,000 grant requests this year to poor and isolated communities across the U.S. and its territories. Last year the organization invested \$14 million in America's 86 "mission dioceses," geographic regions of the country where the Catholic Church is growing and needs are great. Catholic Extension was able to do so through contributions from 47,000 individual donors who share its commitment to strengthen communities and sustain the Catholic faith throughout the country.

About Catholic Extension

Since 1905, Chicago-based Catholic Extension has been empowering Catholic communities by providing them funds to establish themselves; become self-sustaining; provide religious education and outreach ministries; build and renovate church buildings; and train the next generation of lay, religious and ordained Catholic leaders. Catholic Extension

has distributed nearly \$500 million to communities across America throughout its history.

The Western Kentucky Catholic asked Sister Georgia and Sr Geri to give a little background about their ministry among Western Kentucky Catholics and help us understand a little more about what this grant will facilitate in the training of lay people for volunteer church ministry in this diocese, and for providing opportunities for continuing lifelong religious education.

Sister Georgia commented, "We are Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI. We plan to work in any parish of the diocese who needs our services, whether providing a direct program or helping them train lay ministers, plan for adult faith formation programs, etc. Some of the parishes we served since July, 2010 are St. Thomas More, Paducah; St. Joseph School, BG, (faculty retreat); Holy Spirit, BG; St. Jerome, Fancy Farm; Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington; St. Rose, Cloverport; St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho. We also helped with retreats & RCIA at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center in Paducah. We have distributed our flyer to all the parishes."

"Sister Geri and I have served in this diocese for these years: 1999-2001: Adult faith formation programs; 2005-2009: Pastoral Associates for St. Leo, Murray, and Campus Minister MSU Newman



Sister Geraldine Hoye, OP

House (Sr. Georgia); 2009 - present: Dominican Faithweavers Project

"While we were in Murray, we worked with Fr. Tony Shonis in providing faith formation programs for the parishes of the Purchase Area.

"We will be doing the Roman Missal Workshops during Jan. & Feb., 2011 for Martha Hagan. We will also conduct the listening sessions in Feb. for the Bishop's long range planning project."

Join us for a Women's Retreat

**We Are The Body of Christ:
The Spirituality of Caryl Houselander**

March 25-27, 2011

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Houselander, an unlikely "saint" who lived through two world wars, offers profoundly simple advice on becoming holy in the midst of ordinary daily life. Her mystical experiences rooted in her the truth first experienced by Saint Paul on the road to Damascus: Jesus is present in every person.

**Fee: \$175 for residents (Includes retreat, materials, meals, and accommodations).
Commuters can attend for \$120 (Includes retreat, materials, meals).
Deduct 10% if paid in full by Feb. 25, 2011.**

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
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✚ Have you considered deepening your spirituality as a woman religious?
For information, contact Sister Martha Keller, OSU: 270-229-4103 ext. 212

8 The St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store in Paducah a Special Place with Volunteers Who Reflect the Love of Christ

By Edie Keeney

The St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store has a more than 20 year history in Paducah. The first store was located in a house located next to Rosary Chapel. It wasn't too long before it outgrew that building and moved to another larger facility which also became too small. The Store moved to the present location at 2025 Cairo Road in what had been a grocery store.

Vicky Elliot was a volunteer at the store for a year and then she was hired as the manager, a position she has held for 7 years. The only other employee is a part time bookkeeper. Vicky oversees the some 40 regular volunteers who keep the store open Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM and 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. The store has a large truck and a van that are used to pick up donations of clothing, furniture, household items, etc. from individuals, and clothing from 3 adult and 2 children consignment stores on a regular schedule. Donations from individuals who bring in clothing, household items, books, food etc. to the store happen everyday. The money received from the sale of all of these donated items is used to fund the Help Line activities and the food pantry. The Budget Store continues to receive support from St. Francis de Sales, St. Thomas More and Rosary Chapel. Donations of food from several annual food drives, such as Groceries For Good, the St. Mary School Faith Formation Food Drive, Mail Carriers Food Drive and an on going collection from the local Dollar Tree, are extremely helpful. Also, several times a month, volunteers drive the truck to

Mayfield to purchase food for 19 cents a pound from the Feeding America organization. St. Francis de Sales has an ongoing food collection for the Budget Store, and a few grocery stores have some food collections.

For so many families, the only income is unemployment benefits, and families not seen at the store before are coming to St. Vincent for food and to buy needed clothing. The Help Line is another ministry of the St. Vincent store. Individuals who qualify and need help to pay rent, utilities, doctor bills, car insurance, or to buy fuel oil can receive this help once in a 12 month period. The bill is shown to the volunteer, and after verification, the money to pay the bill is sent to the agency. Until recently, before the unemployment rate became so high and the numbers of people needing help increased, individuals were able to receive help once in 7 months. Free food and clothing can be received once every 3 months but needy families are not turned away. One to two families of 4 or more are given appropriate quantities of canned vegetables and fruit, pasta, rice, dry cereal, peanut butter, crackers, bread, canned soups, etc. received from food drives, individual donations, and the food and frozen meat that is purchased from Feeding America. Still, more food donations are needed. Four volunteers work with the Help Line and the food pantry.

Income from the sale of the various donations supports the ministries of the Help Line. On December 1, 2010, 36 clients received help for rent and electrical bills, 19 received



Some of the Paducah Saint Vincent de Paul Budget Store volunteers from left, Tammy Harris, Vicky Elliott and Jackie Harris paused for a picture recently from work in the store's food pantry. Edie Keeney Photo

food and 7 received clothing; the next day 25 received help. The number of clients who received assistance from the Help Line in 2010 was 10479 at a cost of \$111,761.44 with an additional \$9,037.62 spent to purchase more food for the food pantry that gave food to 3748 individuals.

It is amazing how much those 40 or so volunteers have accomplished. There is a very pressing need for more volunteers to help at the store. Jackie Harris and her daughter Tammy are there everyday the store is opened. They have been volunteers since 1992. They sort and price clothes and really anything that needs to be done. Several of the volunteers have been there for years and are having to decrease their volunteer time at a time when the store is being asked to help so many more people. Even 1 or 2 hours a week to help sort and hang clothes, to sort the donations and to help unload the donations that individuals bring to the store would be very helpful. Someone with computer skills to sell some of the really nice donations on e-bay would enable the Store to have more money to

buy food for the food pantry.

Men to drive the truck or van to pick up food or clothing donations would help St. Vincent to get more donations from individuals and from stores. Not all of the volunteers are from the local Catholic churches many are from other faith expressions and they are there because, as Ralph Klatt explained, "I work here because they need help." St. Vincent has so many wonderful dedicated volunteers; it is only because of them that many needy people are receiving the help they truly need.

The Budget Store provides more than food, clothing and help to pay bills. Betty Davis is an individual who has received food and clothes from the store. She said, "This is a wonderful store. There are good people here, always with smiles on their faces, the store is clean, the clothes are clean and cost little money. I love this store. I'm usually here everyday and when I didn't come for a few days they called to see what happened. I was in the hospital. They care about me; they are good friends."

Continued on page 9



Sign outside the building of The St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store in Paducah. Photo by Edie Keeney

The St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store in Paducah Serves Any in Need 9

Continued from page 8

John Orr is also a daily customer. "I get good bargains here, I collect glassware and I buy my clothes and shoes here. They help people who are in need and they treat everybody very nice. They are very beneficial to the community."

Many of these people do not have any family or anyone to provide things that they need. Irene gets what they need at St. Vincent. Not long ago she came to the store to find sweat pants and sweatshirts, thermal underwear, socks, gloves, etc. There were 4 or 5 boxes of donated clothing



Some of the customers at the Paducah St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store are John Orr and Betty Davis who posed while shopping one day last December. Edie Keeney Photo

that had not been opened over by one wall. When they opened the boxes volunteers discovered that were filled with everything Irene had on her list and everything was new. It was a miracle moment that brought many tears to her face.


The St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store is a special place where the love of Christ is reflected in the faces of the many volunteers.



Shoppers in the SVDP Budget Store in Paducah finding what they need.

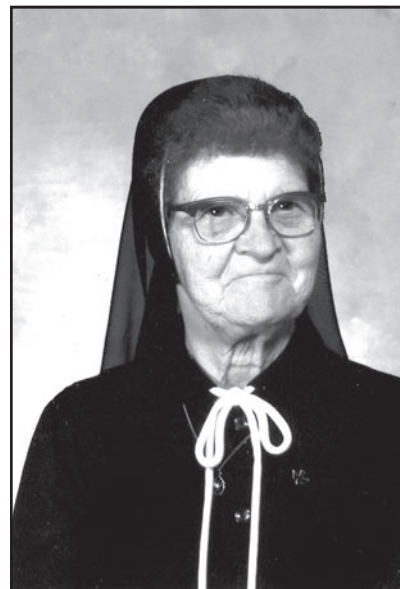
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In Your Charity, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Sister Blanche Rita Bickett, 98, Who Died Jan. 10, 2011



Sister Blanche Rita Bickett, O.S.U.

Sister Blanche Rita Bickett, 98, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Jan. 10 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 80th year of religious life.

A native of Uniontown, Ky., she ministered in the Archdiocese of Louisville, as well as in Nebraska and New Mexico, from 1933-52. From 1952-89, she ministered at the Ursuline Sisters Motherhouse, first as kitchen coordinator, then laundry coordinator for 45 years. During those years she acted as a mother figure for several young girls who needed a motherly presence. She was known for her sense of humor and being forever cheerful.

Survivors include nieces and good friends, and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was Jan. 14 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery.

Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial gifts for Sister Blanche Rita may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

10 The Spirit's Torch Lit A Fire In New Holy Spirit Church Planners

By Lyn Knepler and other TORCH members

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Gaudete Sunday, December 12, 2010, was certainly a day of rejoicing for the community of Holy Spirit in Bowling Green! We members of the TORCH (Transforming OuR CHURCH) team were filled with jubilant anticipation as we arrived at church on this bitterly cold snowy morning.

Jack Thomas, TORCH member, reflected that "the snow and 20 mile per hour wind were what God ordered to balance the fire in [his] soul." Crowds gathered outside the new front doors, awaiting the procession of priests and Bishop Medley. Pastoral Council chair Jane Wilson delayed the start of the ceremony when she noticed a long line of cars still arriving along Spirit Boulevard. As Father Jerry Riney later said, "None of us will ever forget the setting of the Day of Dedication," remembering forever how we huddled together to keep warm.

The Transforming Our Church team had been created in early 2003, and then-Pastoral Council chairman, Jim Dickens, remembered "a stroke of brilliance only the Holy Spirit could bring," even as the naming of the team occurred. A result of attending the Form/Reform conference in Houston in October, 2002, it was obvious that the idea of "formation" should definitely be included in the naming of this group, and so TORCH was born. As we stood in the blowing snow, TORCH members Cindy Jordan and Kathleen Berta exchanged the sentiment that we had

Continued on page 11



Bishop accepting the plans of the Church. Photo by Shawn O'Keefe



The doors of the Church are opened for the first time. Photo by Shawn O'Keefe



Bishop William Medley processing down the aisle of the new Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green on December 12, 2010 . Photo by Clinton Lewis



"The sun shined as the doors of the church were opened"
Second photo of the doors being opened, and the sun shines at that moment. Photo by Shawn O'Keefe

The Spirit's Torch Lit A Fire *(Continued from page 10)*

11

"never imagined this day when we started this committee. We thought we were going to renovate the old church. We barely knew what we were doing." Early skeptics even said that "Father Jerry already has the blueprints under his bed!" But we all felt the power and leadership of the Holy Spirit, and we relied on it consistently over the eight years!

The TORCH team members were always keenly aware that the bricks and mortar of the new building were only a shell to facilitate the ministries and worship of the true church, built of living stones. This strong awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit continued all day on December 12, especially as we participated with the whole community of 1500 'living stones' in the special rites of dedication. Pete Buser commented, "The Holy Spirit enjoyed the Dedication Mass more than any of us!"

After the receipt of various documents by the Bishop, and the blessing of the doors, the crowd exhibited their intense longing to be part of the new Holy Spirit, pressing through the doors, filling the nave and then the narthex. More than fifty voices of the Festival Choir beautifully filled the space beyond anyone's expectations.

The anointing of the new altar was an especially moving part of the Mass for most of us. Bishop Medley so piously and carefully rubbed the sacred oil into the four corners and all over the granite slab of the altar top, "imparting such love and respect." Mary Gaietto made the beautiful connection between this and the anointing of candidates in the Rite of Initiation, when the "head, eyes, ears, mouth, shoulders, hands, and feet are anointed to be used in service to God." Bishop Medley's words explained that the altar is representative of Christ, and that the sacrifice of the Eucharist is not just "another Happy Meal."

The altar servers brought out the braziers and smoke from the burning incense rose up, just like our prayers. I looked up at the legs of the roof-top cross, which come through the roof just over the altar, and remembered the community writing prayer intentions and placing them inside the longest beam of the cross before it was installed on the cupola. Four graceful young women



Bishop William Medley proclaimed prayers of blessing near the baptistry of Holy Spirit Church Dec. 12, 2010. Photo by Clinton Lewis



Bishop William Medley anointed with Holy Oil a wall of the new Holy Spirit church Dec. 12, 2010. Photo by Clinton Lewis



Bishop is anointing the altar. Photo by Clinton Lewis



Holy Spirit pastor Father Jerry Riney, right, Bp. William Medley, Deacon Ryan Harpole, and Father Steve Hohman prayed together at the altar during the dedication Mass Dec. 12, 2010 Photo by Clinton Lewis



Art & Carol Kunkel carrying the Chrism Oil. Photo by Clinton Lewis

**Continued on
page 12**

In The picture at right, former Holy Spirit pastor Father Joe Mills gave a blessing to a man during communion at the dedication Mass Dec. 12, 2010. Photo by Clinton Lewis



12 The Spirit's Torch Lit A Fire *(Continued from page 11)*

reverently carried the incense into the far corners of the nave.

The Dedication Mass lasted nearly three hours, but no one looked at a watch or fidgeted in their seats. Most of us had never participated in the dedication of a church, "let alone our church" (Jack Thomas), and there was such a feeling of reverence, love, and pride - as Jack said, "the right kind of pride, the pride of respect and thankfulness."

After the celebration of the Eucharist, when the Bishop placed the Blessed Sacrament in the new Tabernacle, he knelt before it in the Ruah Chapel, praying for several minutes. He was visible beyond the mysterious veil of the Breath of the Spirit, represented by wisps of wind and sparkles in the glass walls that enclose the new Eucharistic chapel.

The beautiful and joyful finale, as the service drew to an end, was the Hallelujah Chorus filling the entire volume of the nave, and penetrating the deepest corners of our hearts and souls.



Bishop William Medley greeted Holy Spirit parishioners after the Dedication. Photo by Clinton Lewis

Holy Spirit Catholic Church wishes to invite all Judges, attorneys and their families for a "Red Mass", a Mass celebrating the valuable work of those in the legal system. The service will be held on February 5, 2011 at 9:00 am CST on the campus of Holy Spirit, 4754 Smallhouse Road, Bowling Green, KY. 42104, across from Basil Griffin Park. A reception to follow.

If you have an questions please contact Judge Steve Wilson at 270-746-7412 or via email at steve@kycourts.net



After the celebration of the Eucharist, when the Bishop placed the Blessed Sacrament in the new Tabernacle, he knelt before it in the Ruah Chapel, praying for several minutes. He was visible beyond the mysterious veil of the Breath of the Spirit, represented by wisps of wind and sparkles in the glass walls that enclose the new Eucharistic chapel. Photo by Clinton Lewis



The Dec 12, 2010 Holy Spirit Church Dedication Mass lasted nearly three hours, but no one looked at a watch or fidgeted in their seats. Most of the assembly had never participated in the dedication of a church, "let alone our church" (Jack Thomas), and there was such a feeling of reverence, love, and pride - as Jack said, "the right kind of pride, the pride of respect and thankfulness." The beautiful and joyful finale for this Mass, as the service drew to an end, was the "Hallelujah Chorus" filling the entire volume of the nave and penetrating the deepest corners of our hearts and souls. Photo by Clinton Lewis

By Dawn C. Ligibel

The Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles of the World was brought to Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on January 8 and 9 by Sherry and Joe Hartz, who are members of The Body of Christ Outreach in St. Peters, Missouri. Although The Body of Christ Outreach was primarily created to organize speaker series in the St. Peters area. The Hartzes had traveled to Chicago as representatives of their group to visit the exhibit they now own and display in the St. Louis area. "Sherry and I traveled to Chicago and we liked what we saw," explained Joe. "We decided that we wanted to bring it into our local diocese, so we obtained permission to have a set printed."

Photographs of the display cannot do it justice. 140 poster-sized panels explaining 126 Church-authenticated miracles attributed to the Holy Eucharist is truly more than the mind can absorb during one visit. Yet, as people walked from one panel to another, their attention was drawn to the fascinating, sometimes seemingly unbelievable miracles related to the Eucharist.

The size of the crowd drawn to the exhibit at Sts. Peter and Paul each day was consistent with crowds in other locations, according to Joe. "It's not about the numbers," said Joe. "It's more about the Holy Spirit speaking to people," he explained.

The time people spent reading about the miracles greatly varied. "Some people spend ten minutes in here, while others will stay and read about every miracle," Sherry said. "We'd prefer that people read a dozen of them and meditate on those and be inspired," she added.

The members of The Body of Christ Outreach take turns volunteering to travel with the exhibit, primarily in the St. Louis and surrounding areas. One of the reasons they choose to stay close to home is because they work at full-time jobs in addition to volunteering for this ministry. While traveling with the exhibit is completely a volunteer effort for The Body of Christ Outreach members, they do accept donations to help with their traveling expenses. "The Lord always sees that we're taken care of financially when it comes to this program," said Joe.

As with most ministries, however, the Hartzes receive much greater rewards for their efforts. "We get great joy out of bringing Catholic-related information to other people," Joe explained. "We get more out of doing this than what we put into it. We appreciate the Lord calling on us to do this," he concluded.

Although traveling to Hopkinsville slightly stretched the distance they are

usually willing to travel, the Hartzes were convinced to bring their exhibit to Sts. Peter and Paul thanks to the persistence of the parish's pastoral associate, Libby Downs. "When she first called, Sherry told her that we'd think about it," Joe explained. "After she called back and twisted our arms, we agreed to come," Joe said with a laugh.

Downs, who had visited the exhibit a couple of years ago when it was in Owensboro, believed having the exhibit here in January of this year would be a fitting way to celebrate the parish's ninth anniversary of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. "It's very compelling," Downs recalled from her original visit to the exhibit. "When you start seeing these miracles, you think 'Oh my gosh!'" she exclaimed. "I brought the idea to our worship committee and after discussing it, we decided it would be a great way to celebrate the ninth anniversary of our Eucharistic Adoration," she added.

Not only was having the exhibit here as part of the anniversary celebration a good idea, it was also beneficial to many people from surrounding areas. "We've had people from Bowling Green, Murray, Russellville and Clarksville come through here," said Joe. "We had a lot of people from out of town here Saturday," agreed Sherry. "That's the pattern we see a lot. We usually get the out-of-towners on Saturdays," she added.

One individual who traveled from out-of-town chose to travel on Sunday morning. "I have wanted to attend Mass here," explained Mackdell Long, who lives in Russellville and is studying to join the Church at Easter. "I came to see the exhibit, so it was an opportunity to do both," he added. "It's very interesting. I'm looking at the highlights, the saints I'm familiar with."

"These are just unbelievable," exclaimed Helen Brown, parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul. "I guess that's why they're called miracles." In addition to enjoying the information in the exhibit, Brown was also impressed with the quality of the exhibit. "I'm just amazed that a little place like Hoptown can have an exhibit of this type," she said. "You wouldn't expect to see something like this in a little town, only in a big city," she added.

"I have enjoyed it very much," claimed JoAnn Spader. "The most fascinating one to me was about the Holy Grail. I've heard about it my whole life, but to be able to read about it and see it was very educational."

"It's nice to see all this," said Georgiann Svestka. "There are various things here that you could never even think of in



Sherry Hartz, of The Body of Christ Outreach from St. Peter, Missouri, explains one of the 126 Eucharistic miracles displayed in the Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles of the World which was on display at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on January 8 and 9. Sts. Peter and Paul parishioner Chris Stevens and two of his sons, Austin and Cole, listen intently to Hartz's explanation. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

your own mind," she added.

"It's just...there's no words to describe it," said Libby Easley, searching for words. "I'm glad that the Church has things like this. We take our faith for granted. It lulls from time to time and something like this uplifts it. It's very good," she explained.

One of the facts that drew the attention of several adults was how many miracles seemingly took place to dispel the doubts priests were having regarding the Eucharist. "Several of the miracles relate to priests who didn't believe," explained Sherry. "It amazes me that there were priests that didn't believe it was the real body and blood of Christ," wondered Brown. "It's hard to believe he would doubt his faith," Easley said referring to one priest in particular. "We doubt our faith. I guess we're all human. Nobody's perfect. We are all children of God," she added.

Clearly adults can appreciate and even be amazed by the information presented in the exhibit. Adults, however, are not the only ones impressed with the exhibit and the miracles it represents. "The children like the ones with pictures of animals. They really enjoy the miracle of the fish," claimed Sherry. "We have a game that we play with the children. It's like a scavenger hunt. Yesterday I was talking to a group of children about the miracle of the fish. I asked them what happens to a cracker when it's put in water. Of course they said it dissolves. Then I asked them

why the Eucharist didn't dissolve when it was dropped in water. One little girl, who wasn't even Catholic simply said, 'Because it wasn't bread,'" Hartz marveled at the child's perception.

Young adults, too, are impressed with the multitude of miracles portrayed in the exhibit. "It's amazing," said Abby Pace, who is 16 years old. "It brings it all in perspective for you. You have to live on faith. It's all about faith," she explained. Amelia Pace, Abby's 14-year-old sister agreed. "What she said," Amelia said with a laugh when asked what she thought of the display.

"It was very enlightening," said Curtis Easley, who is 24 years old. "I had no idea there were so many miracles. I wish it were more public. The public needs to be more knowledgeable by broadcasting this information more."

When asked which miracle stood out the most, Curtis quickly replied that he enjoyed reading about "that lady who tried to fry the Eucharist and blood started pouring out of her pan. That one shocked me," he admitted, referring to the miracle that occurred in Trani, Italy during the 11th Century. Reading about that miracle and others also strengthened his faith, he said.

"It blows your mind to think about the power of God," added Daniel Easley, Curtis' 21-year-old brother. "He tries to connect with us in a variety of ways. It's

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The First Year

of Episcopal Ministry of the Very Reverend William Francis Medley, Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, 2010, with the Hispanic Community.

By Luis Aju

As the Director of the Hispanic Ministry Office of the Diocese, my first encounter with Bishop Medley was a meeting to give him information about the pastoral plan for the Hispanic community of the Diocese, and documents from the Bishops (USCCB) regarding the Hispanic presence in the country.

That day, he also received the organizational chart of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese, the contents of which are the responsibilities of each of us who form the Diocesan Hispanic team as well as other information.

The second encounter was on March 24, 2010, when we met to get acquainted with each Hispanic Ministers of the Diocese at the beginning of one of our two annual retreats which took place in St. Ferdinand, IN in the Retreat Center of the Benedictine Sisters. Bishop Medley was there at the beginning and we had the honor of him joining us for lunch. Afterwards he was introduced to the team and each person had the opportunity to express to the Bishop their goals, concerns and hopes in the community where they serve, and ask for his support and openness to these communities.

The third encounter with Hispanics from all over the Diocese was the Diocesan Hispanic Encounter which took place on June 12, 2010 in the Parish of St. Thomas More, Paducah. It was one of the most significant moments for the Hispanics to meet and hear from the New Bishop with his words, in English and Spanish, and his willingness to serve the Hispanic communities of the Diocese through Hispanic Ministry and the particular parishes. During the talks in the morning and during the Holy Mass over which he presided, he expressed his good intentions to the entire community, which was well received by everyone.

The fourth encounter with Bishop Medley was his visit in the Hispanic Youth Retreat which took place in the Retreat Center of Mount St. Joseph in May, 2010. He met and shared with the youth, even though that time not many youth were there because many of them had activities related to the end of the school year. But 30 youth did attend the retreat and one of the moments that they most looked forward to was the meeting with the New Bishop of the Diocese.

These activities do not include the many encounters that he has had in parishes with many of the Hispanics, but they had the most impact from the beginning.

For this year and these key moments, as much for Bishop Medley as for the Hispanics, both adults and youth, we express our appreciation and support for him while at the same time congratulating him for his significant pastoral work and to carry on. May God bless him.

~ Soon to be Celebrating 125 Years ~

Saints Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, Ky. is requesting copies of photos for a parish 'History of Faith Photo Book'. If you have any photos of St. Joseph or St. Paul's Church or grounds, previous activities, priests, or a story of interest, please email them to Another125years@yahoo.com or call Lavida Mischel 929-2740 to arrange for delivery to the parish offices and also the return of your pictures and mementos.



Luis Aju

Primer Año del Ministerio Episcopal del Muy Rev. William Francis Medley, Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro, 2010, con la Comunidad Hispana.

Por Luis Aju

El primer encuentro fue la información que recibió de Luis Aju, como Director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis. En ese momento se le hizo la entrega del plan pastoral para la comunidad Hispana de la Diócesis documentos de los Obispos (USCCB) con relación a la presencia hispana en el país.

También se le entregó el Organigrama del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis. Cuyo contenido tiene contemplado la responsabilidad de cada uno de los que formamos el equipo hispano diocesano, y varias informaciones.

El segundo encuentro fue el 24 de Marzo 2010, al encontrar y conocer a cada uno de los Ministros Hispanos de la Diócesis al inicio de uno de los dos Retiros anuales que tenemos, que se desarrolló en St. Ferdinand, IN en el Centro de Retiros de las Hermanas Benedictinas. El Obispo Medley estuvo en el inicio y tuvimos el honor de tenerlo en el almuerzo. Seguidamente fue presentado al equipo y cada uno tuvo la oportunidad de expresar sus metas, inquietudes y esperanzas en la comunidad donde cada uno sirve, pidiéndole al obispo su apoyo y apertura a estas comunidades.

EL tercer encuentro con hispanos de toda la Diócesis fue en el Encuentro Hispano Diocesano, que se llevó a cabo el día 12 de Junio 2010 en la Parroquia de Sto. Thomas More, Paducah. Fue uno de los momentos mas significativos para los Hispanos conocer y escuchar al Nuevo Obispo con sus palabras, en Ingles y Español, y su buena disponibilidad de servir a las comunidades Hispanas de toda la Diócesis a través del Ministerio Hispano y de las parroquias particulares. Durante las conferencias de la mañana y durante la Santa Misa presidido por El, expresó sus buenas intenciones a toda la comunidad, lo cual fue bien recibido por todos.

El cuarto Encuentro con Obispo Medley fue su visita en el Retiro Juvenil Hispano, que se realizó en el Centro de Retiros del Monte San José, en el mes de Mayo 2010. Conoció y compartió con los jóvenes, aunque esa vez no hubo muchos jóvenes porque muchos de ellos tenían actividades para finalizar el año escolar. Pero asistieron 30 para ese retiro y uno de los momentos bien esperado fue el encuentro con el Nuevo Obispo de la Diócesis. Estas actividades no incluyen sus encuentros parroquiales que son muchas con los hispanos, pero a los inicios estos fueron los más impactantes.

Por este año estos momentos claves, tanto para el Obispo Medley como para los Hispanos, adultos y jóvenes, expresamos nuestro agradecimiento y apoyo a él, al mismo tiempo lo felicitamos por su gran labor pastoral y que siga adelante. Dios lo Bendiga.

Spirituality at Work: "Being a letter from God"

Retreat Director:
Sister Mary Matthias Ward, OSU

Wednesday, April 27th, 2011

Administrative Professionals Day

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Primarily for
Administrative Assistants
and Secretaries



Cost: \$15.00 (Includes lunch)



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103

We are located 12 miles west of
Owensboro on Hwy. 56.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty
(270) 229-4103, ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

www.mscenter.org

Mount Saint Joseph Annual Dinner ¹⁵ Will be April 30, 2011

It's been said that, "Antiques open the door to yesterday, and help to shape tomorrow."

Through the years, generous friends of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have donated wonderful items because of their great love for the sisters. Beautiful furniture, glassware, antique quilts, and collectibles, along with religious items, have found their home at Maple Mount for many years, some in the Mount Saint Joseph Museum.

On April 30, for this one time only, some of these items are being offered at auction so that others can share in these priceless antiques. Items for auction or sale are those which are not tied to Mount Saint Joseph history. These are one-of-a-kind pieces that have been loved by the sisters through the years, but now are deserving of a new

home with those who can cherish them anew.

"A Night at the Antique Auction" is a fundraiser to support the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Appetizers will be served at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30, and the auction begins at 7:15 in the Mount Saint Joseph Gymnasium. Some of the antiques will be available for sale as well as auction.

Dinner tickets are \$50 per person, or a table of eight is \$385. For dinner tickets, contact Sister Amelia Stenger, (270) 229-2008 or Tiffany Orth (270) 229-4103, ext. 278.

Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to purchase these antiques. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Our admiration of the antique is not admiration of the old, but of the natural."

Join us for Reflection Days

- Jan. 7, 2011
- Feb. 4, 2011
- March 4, 2011
- April 1, 2011
- May 6, 2011
- June 3, 2011
- Aug. 5, 2011
- Sept. 2, 2011
- Oct. 7, 2011
- Nov. 4, 2011
- Dec. 2, 2011



Time:
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$15 fee
includes
lunch

First Friday of the month - starts Jan. 7, 2011

There will be group prayer, quiet time, lunch, faith sharing, and a different presentation each month. On Jan. 7, the focus will be on "New beginnings as we enter into a new year."

Reflection days will be led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at (270) 229-4103, ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.mscenter.org

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

You are invited to A NIGHT AT THE ANTIQUE AUCTION

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint
Joseph Annual Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, April 30, 2011

6 p.m. Appetizers • 6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:15 p.m. Auction

(Some antiques will be auctioned and others will be for sale)

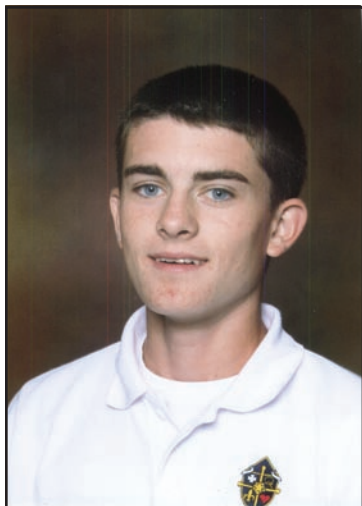
Dinner tickets are \$50 per person or \$385 for a table of eight. All proceeds support the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. For dinner tickets, contact Sister Amelia Stenger at 270-229-2008 or Tiffany Orth at 270-229-4103 ext. 278.



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999
270-229-4103 • Fax 270-229-4953
www.ursulinesmsj.org • info.ms@maplemount.org

St. Mary High School Student Raises Money for Bleeding Disorder



PADUCAH, Ky. - Derek Willett, a Junior at St. Mary High School in Paducah, recently held a fundraiser at his school to bring awareness to a bleeding disorder known as ITP.

In 2009, when Derek had his annual physical for cross country sports, he had a CBC blood test done and he was found to have low platelets. His medical doctor sent him to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital where he was diagnosed with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, more commonly known as ITP. ITP is a bleeding disorder in which the body's own immune system destroys platelets necessary for blood clotting.

Wanting to bring awareness to this bleeding disorder, and with the approval of the administration at St. Mary, Derek set up a donation jar, held a bake sale, and sold "platelet awareness" bracelets. He raised over \$600, with the money being donated to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital

for platelet research.

Derek hopes to encourage others to be tested. "I am encouraging people to go when they get my age, if not before, to go have a regular CBC done just because that is the only way you can find out through that if you have low platelets."

16 Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU: “A great gift to us all” To Retire Feb 16, 2011

By Dan Heckel

If something happened in the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., Ursuline Sister Emma Cecilia Busam wants to know about it.

It's not that she's nosy. It's her job to capture the important moments and preserve them for all of history.

Sister Emma Cecilia has been an archivist for 26 years, first for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, and now for the 32 counties that make up the diocese in the western part of Kentucky.

She's also been a teacher and principal, a musician, artist, and world traveler.

“She has a zest for life that few people have,” said her friend Sue Robert, of Evanston, Ill. “She comes to visit me every year, and she wants to do everything. She wears me out, and I'm 15 years younger.”

The two met at a workshop a few decades ago, and they still talk on the phone almost every night. When Robert was having health problems a few years ago, Sister Emma Cecilia was always present with encouraging words, cards, and prayers, Robert said.

“We always go to Chicago, and visit the Art Institute, the museum, Navy Pier, Millennium Park, and botanic garden,” Robert said. “We just go.”

Sister Catherine Barber worked on the Maple Mount Archives staff for a year in 1997, and is one of Sister Emma Cecilia's card-playing friends. “She's a very interesting person. She's an artist, and her flare was very evident in her archive work,” Sister Catherine said. “She's a wonderful friend. She loves to share her experiences.”

Living with the past

Sister Emma Cecilia spends most of her days on the lower floor of the Catholic Pastoral Center, near St. Stephen Cathedral. She is surrounded by glass cases featuring displays of the diocese's three bishops, and other information from monasteries and convents, parishes, organizations, and various artifacts reflecting the history of the diocese. Over her desk is a framed needlepoint motto saying, “Walk Humbly With Thy God,” made and given to her by former volunteers Claudine Blandford and Jewell Brown.

In an adjoining room are shelves full of documents and maps that chronicle the diocese that began in 1937. Down the hall is another office with photo albums, historic clothing, and other artifacts.

Before she had formal archival training, Sister Emma Cecilia accepted the invitation to be the archivist and museum curator for Mount Saint Joseph in 1983,

following a 38-year career as a teacher and principal. “I was told to learn how to do it, and do it right,” she said.

After contacting the state archivist for advice in 1983, she applied for and received a \$20,000 grant to begin organizing the Mount's archives.

“Prior to that we didn't have an archive, just a collection of papers,” Sister Emma Cecilia said. “Sister Eugenia Scherm (who wrote “Born to Lead”) did some organizing, and Sister Francesca Hazel arranged a lot of Fr. (Paul Joseph) Volk's documents,” she said. Fr. Volk is the founder of the Mount Saint Joseph Academy and recruited the Ursuline Sisters to this area.

“The leadership council became aware of the need for a community archive,” Sister Emma Cecilia said.

Religious groups are some of the best at preserving their important documents. “When the country was preparing to celebrate its bicentennial (in 1976), they could only find records in monasteries, convents, and churches,” Sister Emma Cecilia said. “That's when archives really began in monasteries and convents.”

She became a member of the Society of American Archivists in 1983, and in 1994, that group honored her with the Sister M. Claude Lane Award, for her significant contribution to the field of religious archives. Later in the 1980s, a sister from another religious community in SAA asked Sister Emma Cecilia if she were willing to help other congregations start their archives. Thus, she became one of the founding members of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious. She is also an active member of the Kentucky Council on Archives, the Owensboro/Daviess County Historical Society, Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists, and the local Stamp Club. She is a certified archivist.

In the 1970s, every bishop in America was asked to hire an archivist for his diocese. Fr. George Hancock is listed as the diocese's first archivist from 1976-78, but there was never any space designated for the office, and the post was vacant from 1978 until 1991. In January 1991, Sister Emma Cecilia was hired by Bishop John McRaith, through Fr. John Vaughan, the chancellor at the time, while maintaining her job at Maple Mount.

Sister Emma Cecilia credits always having great volunteers for her ability to handle both archives. Her current volunteers with the diocese are Bob Cinnamond, a professor at Brescia University, and Brett Mills, who has master's degree in history. Claudine Blandford, a volunteer for 10 years, calls the sister a “marvel.”



Sister Emma Cecilia stands next to the display of the Owensboro Diocese's three bishops, Francis R. Cotton, Henry J. Soenneker, and John J. McRaith. MSJ Photo

“She's very intelligent and studied hard,” Blandford said. “She absolutely loves the work.”

Blandford and Jewell Brown helped with organizing and filing materials, and answered genealogy requests. Blandford still takes Sister Emma Cecilia to lunch at times. “She's a sweetheart,” Blandford said.

After a sabbatical in 1999, Sister Emma Cecilia decided in 2001 to retire from her job at the Mount. “I knew the diocesan archives needed more work, and the community leadership said I could spend more time there,” she said. “Community archives are not under canon law, but the diocesan archives are.”

When she began working with the diocese, it had official papers from Bishops Francis Cotton and Henry Soenneker, but they were in no order, and thus unusable. Now, 18 years after she started, it is an Archive and Record Center, a place where she gets regular calls and e-mails from researchers, genealogists, clergy, the media, the diocesan staff, and other qualified archivists seeking information.

“She really got our archives up and going,” said Bishop McRaith, who retired as Owensboro's third bishop on Jan. 5 after 26 years. “She loves the work of archives. She's educated herself very well,” he said. “Her great dedication to her work and her church are her greatest assets. She's been a great gift to us all along.”

Growing up

Sister Emma Cecilia grew up in Ow-

ensboro, one of five children born to John William and Mary Cecilia (Bryan) Busam Sr. (pronounced “Boo-sahm”). Her parents met in Cannelton, Ind., a small Ohio River town that today is a 25-minute drive from Owensboro. John's father worked there as a lithographer in a prosperous cotton mill, and the father of Mary Cecilia -- known as “Sis” -- was a foreman at the mill.

“Daddy and Uncle Frank owned and operated a paint and wallpaper store, which still exists in Cannelton,” Sister Emma Cecilia said. “They did what we'd call today ‘interior decorating.’” They were offered a job decorating the first department store in Owensboro, McAtee's.

“Uncle Frank had a family, so Dad took the train to Owensboro each week until he finished the job,” Sister Emma Cecilia said. “By the time he finished, he had many jobs lined up, so he and mother decided to move to Owensboro.”

The family lived at 316 E. Seventh St., not too far from where Sister Emma Cecilia now works in the northern part of Owensboro. The family attended St. Joseph Church, the German-American church that was down the street from St. Paul. (The two merged in 1948 as Sts. Joseph and Paul). Sister Emma Cecilia has one sister living, Mary Agnes Vance. “She's my best friend as well as my sister,” Sister Emma Cecilia said.

“We had a close-knit family. I well remember a Model-T Ford, on Sundays we'd go driving to visit relatives and friends, or just for a drive through the countryside,”

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Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU: “A great gift to us all” to Retire

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Sister Emma Cecilia said. Her father was a skilled wood carver, and did hand carving that is still in many churches in the United States and overseas. “Daddy made us a miniature golf set to play with in the big yard, we’d play all afternoon. He made us many toys.”

Sister Emma Cecilia attended St. Joseph School from first grade through high school, and all her teachers were Ursuline Sisters. “Sister Angelica (Sisk) had dolls we could play with if we met certain standards,” she said.

During her school years, she treasured daily Mass, home prayers, May crownings and other church-related events, being a member of Sts. Joseph and Paul orchestra, spelling bees, social events, and civic projects.

Becoming a sister was always in the back of her mind, Sister Emma Cecilia said. After graduating from high school, she worked three years in the parts department at Ken-Rad in Owensboro, the precursor to General Electric, which made radio tubes.

She played the trumpet with a group of 18 employees called the “Tubeadours,” who played for civic programs, dances, and on a WOMI radio program. “I still occasionally play the trumpet,” she said.

A spiritual life

“Although I enjoyed my life at Ken-Rad, I decided to join the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in 1942,” she said. She was urged to stay close to home by her pastor, because of her father’s poor health.

She entered at age 21, and became a novice in 1943, making this her 66th year of religious life. Other sisters remaining from her novice class are Sisters Naomi Aull, Marie Bosco Wathen, and Annalita Lancaster.

While most sisters in those days changed from their baptismal name to one of their choosing in the community, Sister Emma Cecilia was allowed to keep her baptismal name. “When Bishop Cotton said my name would be ‘Emma Cecilia,’ mother said tears ran down from Daddy’s eyes,” she said.

All the sisters in those days became teachers. “I didn’t enter to teach, I entered to lead a more spiritual life,” she said.

Sister Emma Cecilia’s first mission was in 1945, to teach the first four grades at St. Joseph School in Central City, Ky., about an hour from Owensboro.

“There were a lot of non-Catholic children in my classroom. One converted



Sister Emma Cecilia gets help these days from Brett Mills, whose background is in history and museum work. MSJ Photo

in the second grade,” she said.

Her next move was to St. William School in Knottsville, a rural community in the same county as Owensboro. She taught first and second grade her first year, but also picked up a dozen third-graders, making it 67 students. The next year she was given the second and third grades, the following year third and fourth, and her final year, fifth and sixth.

“Some St. William students call every once in awhile and invite me to dinner,” she said. “It makes me very happy.”

From 1951-56, she taught third and fourth grades at St. James School in Louisville, which the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph began in 1906. One of her adventures there was taking her students on a train to Cincinnati to see the city’s first film in Cinerama.

One of her former students at St. James, Cissie Willets, wrote in January that it was because of Sister Emma Cecilia’s compassionate influence on her twin brother, Ben Martin, that he was able to overcome a learning disability and is today a doctor in South Carolina. Sister Emma Cecilia was surprised to read those comments (on the Ursuline Web site under “Memories With Faithful Friends”), and is quick to share the praise for Dr. Martin’s success.

“I’m only a mouthpiece, let’s give God the credit,” she said. “We don’t realize

what we do for other people.”

She next spent two years at Holy Cross School, a public school in Holy Cross, Ky., teaching middle and upper grades. One cold day in January, a teacher took some older students ice-skating on the pond. Sister Emma Cecilia was on lunch duty, and one young boy kept tugging on her sleeve, trying to get her attention. She was dealing with another student and asked the young boy to wait, but soon found out what he wanted to tell her – the school was on fire. No one was hurt, but the teachers had to teach in three different locations the rest of the year.

In 1958, she became a principal at St. Charles School in Bardwell, in far western Kentucky. She and one other sister (Sister Mary Colletta Drury) did everything at the school. In 1960, she moved to Blessed Mother School in Owensboro, where she could do part-time teaching at Brescia College. Later, she taught at Sts. Joseph and Paul School, the same school she had attended. By then there was no high school.

“I’d tell the students, ‘I went to school here for 12 years.’ Their eyes would get real big,” she said with a smile.

Sister Frances Miriam Spalding lived with Sister Emma Cecilia when they taught at Sts. Joseph and Paul, and the two have been friends ever since. “We’d have fun with her people, her older sister would

take us out to eat,” Sister Frances Miriam said. These days, the two ride together to Owensboro Medical Health System to take Communion to the sick, and play cards together in the evening.

In 1966, as she was about to start the year at Sts. Joseph and Paul, she was asked to become principal at St. Anthony School in Axtel, Ky., where the principal had suffered a heart attack. The school was two weeks late in opening, and it had to open the next Monday. “I was supposed to be there only two weeks, but I spent four years,” she said. One of the teachers she lived with at Axtel was Sister George Mary Hagan, and the two have remained friends ever since.

“She was a wonderful principal, right there when you needed her,” Sister George Mary said. “Her upbeat, cheerful attitude,” led to their friendship. “Even when we had snow days, we enjoyed them,” she said.

Friends loaned them pontoon boats to take rides on Rough River, Sister George Mary said. “We invited the (nearby) sisters out to Axtel for boat rides,” she said.

Artist and craftswoman

Sister Emma Cecilia returned to Sts. Joseph and Paul for a year in 1970, and then moved on to Owensboro Catholic High School from 1971-82, teaching art and history.

She received her undergraduate degree in art from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., then a master’s degree with an emphasis on sculpture from Notre Dame.

As part of her thesis at St. Francis, she carved the Ursuline Coat of Arms that hangs in the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center lobby, and followed that with the multi-piece carving of the Coat of Arms that hangs in the Brescia University Administration Building.

“My dad did hand carving, I had his tools,” she said. “He helped me with it.”

Her father, who died in 1960, built a solid walnut sick call table that he had patented in 1951. The table was used to administer the sacrament of Extreme Unction, or Anointing of the Sick. “He gave it to mother as a Christmas gift,” Sister Emma Cecilia said, although his poor health over the years actually caused him to use it more often.

Her mother, who died in 1967, was more a collector than a creator. “My mother collected slippers. People would bring them back from overseas or other trips,” Sister Emma Cecilia said. Many of the slippers are in the museum at Maple

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Mount, with each carefully labeled and dated when they were donated.

Sister Emma Cecilia enjoyed her years teaching art and history at Catholic High and is still in touch with some students from those years. “Several students told me they still have their sketchbook, and many pursued professional training,” she said.

Louis Szemethy was an art student of Sister Emma Cecilia’s while attending Catholic High in the late 1970s. Although he’s lived in the suburbs of Boston since 1984, he makes time to take Sister Emma Cecilia out to eat whenever he makes his yearly pilgrimage to Kentucky.

“I spent a lot of time in her classes, so we’ve just kept in touch,” Szemethy said. “You’ve always got to keep in touch with your roots and the people who took care of you.”

When Sister Emma Cecilia took a sabbatical in Dover, Mass., in 1999, she visited Szemethy and was present for his second daughter’s birth, he said. He doesn’t use his art training in his profession, but he dabbles in his spare time and encourages his three daughters to experiment with art.

“She’s been a good friend for a long time, and she always stays active,” Szemethy said. “Even when I was in the Navy, we kept in touch. She’s kind of like my mentor.”

In 1982, she decided to leave Catholic High and was approached by Bill Chandler with the Owensboro Public Schools Adult Education program. He wanted Sister Emma Cecilia to teach art classes to stay-at-home parents whose children were in school, or to professional people who needed to relax in the evening. She was also asked to teach art during the last year of Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

For a full year, she taught adult classes in the morning and at night, and taught at the Academy in the afternoon. Then she was approached to take the archives job.

Still going

Sister Emma Cecilia is the most senior sister still in active ministry, and she says there’s no secret to her longevity in the workforce. “The Holy Spirit and the grace of God keep me going,” she said.

How much longer she’ll continue working is unclear, but she’s begun

cutting back her hours.

“The bishop asked me to stay as long as he was bishop,” she said. Sister Emma Cecilia called working with Bishop McRaith “a delight, because I can still teach volunteers the responsibility of becoming a diocesan archivist.”

One of her great passions is traveling. She has been to Europe four times, the first of which came in 1975 as a gift from her family. She’s been to Great Britain, Italy, Mexico, Canada, and to the Holy Land. She’s traveled throughout the United States, first as a teacher, then as an archivist, often receiving fellowships and grants to pay for the trips because she used them in her arts teaching.

“I enjoyed this because I could stay a few days longer to enjoy the historical and educational places nearby, and meet interesting people,” she said.

She said there’s a difference

between working in a school, where she could get close to everybody, and working in archives, where she can give individual attention to those seeking help. Regardless, she wouldn’t trade any of her experiences.

When listening to Sister Emma Cecilia, it’s apparent she has too many interesting stories to record them all. “All those God permitted me to come in contact with have made an impression on me,” she said, “and I have made an impression on them. May God bless us all.”

Diocese of Owensboro Archives Volunteers Give Many Hours of Time Bringing Diocesan Past and Present Into The Future of this Local Church

Many people in the Diocese of Owensboro know the value of preserving our church’s story for the benefit of people living today and for those to come in the future. Though we may hear old bygone days’ stories of dump trucks being backed up to rectory windows and historical artifacts being dumped down wells, preserving church artifacts and documents is required by the Church’s Canon Law. There has always been an Owensboro Diocesan Archives, though not as complete as as accessible as the one we have now.

The present Diocesan Department of Archives rooms were begun January, 1991, and are located on the first floor of the Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Ky. One might say that the Archives rooms hold up the place!

Here is a list of the people who have volunteered for service in the Diocesan Archives: Sister Theresa Marie Wilkerson, 1991-2; Nancy Liddy, 1991; Carmel Wimsatt, 1991-5; Margaret Mitchell, 1992-3; Mary Louise Haynes, 1992; Sr. Jane Frances Donahue, 1992-3; Sr. Elizabeth Ann Ray, 1992-3; Mr. Robert Powers, 1994; Brad Johnson CLI, OCHS, 1994; Amy Abshire CLI, OCHS, 1996; Crystal Burnes CLI, OCHS, 1996; Joe Bob Jones CLI, OCHS, 1997; David Waldek CLI, OCHS, 1997; Ron Nicholas, Brescia History Dept. 1998; Elizabeth Imhoff, Brescia History Dept. 1998; Catherine Bell CLI, OCHS, 1998; Jeremy Ebelhar CLI, OCHS, 1998; Sommer Clark, KY Wesleyan, 1998; Claudine Blandford, 1998-2007; Jewell Brown, 1998-2005; Lori Wahl, CLI, OCHS, 2001; Corian Woodall CLI, OCHS 2001; Lenora Hicks CLI, OCHS; Sharon Boone, 2005-6; ; Joan Wells, 2005; Elizabeth Jeanne Lindow, 2008; Bob Cinnamond, 2005 - ; and Brett Mills, 2005 - .



Sister Emma Cecilia carved this Ursuline Coat of Arms in 1959, which hangs in the lobby of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, as part of her degree in art from the College of St. Francis. MSJ Photo



Soon after the Retreat Center piece, she carved this larger, multi-piece version that hangs in the Brescia University Administration Building. MSJ Photo

Editor’s Note: Sister Emma Cecilia retired from work as the Diocesan Archivist in February, 2011. This article is reprinted from the Mount Saint Joseph Ursuline Sisters website, http://www.ursulinesmsj.org/Printer_friendly_versions/sr.emma_printer_friendly.php

Kudos For Sister Emma Cecelia!



Ginny Knight-Simon

“I’m glad to have been a past student of Sister. She was a good teacher in that she tried to really teach her students and see their strengths. She knew I liked to read and she encouraged me in my reading. She let me be the class librarian. I thought she was a good teacher. She always tried to help the ones who had trouble with a particular subject. She was a gentle teacher. She never laid a hand on anyone.”

- From Ginny Knight-Simon, a former student of Sr. Emma Cecelia Busam, O.S.U. who taught her in 7th and 8th grades at Saints Joseph and Paul School, Owensboro.

Continuing the Work of Christian Unity

By Fr. Tony Bickett, Ecumenical Officer

Last month many communities around the diocese and beyond observed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for this year was from Acts 2:42, 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking

of bread and the prayers.' This theme recalled the origins of the first church in Jerusalem and the time when the church was still one.

The desire for Christian unity, however, cannot be limited to one week out of the year. We must continue working

for Christian unity throughout the year. We cannot rest until we have done all we can do to restore visible unity among all Christians.

One way to continue the work for Christian unity would be to gather a core group of interested people. Invite the group to consider other occasions in the year when interchurch or ecumenical events might

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take place. Here are some suggestions to help support the ecumenical movement in 2011.

1. Consider forming a study group to learn more about a particular denomination, how they are similar and how they are different for Catholicism.
2. Invite a protestant pastor to give a talk

Continued on page 22

Sister Beth renews her religious vows

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Beth Akins renewed her temporary vows of profession on Dec. 12, 2010 in the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount. Sister Beth is a native of Garnett, Kan., and entered the novitiate on Nov. 26, 2005, with the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kan. She made her temporary profession on Dec. 16, 2007. In October 2008, the Ursuline Sisters of Paola merged with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

Sister Beth will make her perpetual profession of vows in two years, but since her temporary vows were for three years, she needed to renew them until she is ready to make her perpetual profession. Sister Beth ministers as the director of faith formation at St. Alphonsus Parish, across the road from the Motherhouse. She was previously director of faith for-



Sister Beth signs her vows of temporary profession to the Ursuline Sisters.



Sister Beth lights a candle of unity with Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader. The candle was lighted from the Christ candle.

mation for St. Gregory Barbarigo Parish in Maryville, Mo. She has also ministered at parishes in Ottawa and Paola, both in Kansas.



Sister Beth receives congratulations from Sister Marie William Blyth, as Sister Rita Scott waits her turn. Sister Marie William was also an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan. MSJ Photos

A New Sign Blessed For These Times in the Life of Immaculate Conception Church, Hawesville



On December 9th Father Chrispin Oneko blessed the new sign for the Immaculate Conception church of Hawesville.

By Donna Reine

HAWESVILLE, Ky. - On December 9th Father Chrispin Oneko blessed the new sign for the Immaculate Conception church of Hawesville. The day turned out to be a very cold one which prompted many of the parishioners to stay indoors but for those who braved the cold, the blessing was very heart warming. Those who contributed money wish to remain anonymous but we would like to extend a special thank you to all the businesses who volunteered their materials, time and talent. Without them,



Father Chrispin standing with parishioners proudly showing their church's new sign to the public.

this would not have been possible. T G & H did the welding on the cross, which turned out beautifully. Hancock County Ready Mix donated the cement. Hayden's Body Shop donated the paint and also painted it. Kenny Woodward and Jeff

Bumm did the electrical work. Our gratitude goes out to each and every person who contributed in any way in this project. It is through acts of kindness such as this, that makes us realize how truly blessed we are!



OCHS FFA – Greenhands Conferred

The Owensboro Catholic FFA conferred Greenhand Degrees on the following members on December 8: In the picture at right taken in OCHS' Soenneker Hall, front row: Andrew, Hunt, Justin Krampe, Jared Millay, Jess Settles, David Mudd; 2nd row: Eric Thomas, Daniel Castlen, Will Mullican, Kevin Dorris; 3rd row: Pete Mattingly; Back row: Tyler Grant (Current FFA officer), Aidan Cardona, Michael Thompson, Ben Englert, Dylan Gaddis. The faculty advisor is Mrs. Susan Zoglmann. OCS Photo by Karen Gross.

Making Plans For Going To High School

Mrs. Maire McCormick, Owensboro Catholic Middle School counselor, met with the 8th grade students to discuss planning for high school. She reviews diplomas and class options.



At right, Mrs. McCormick meeting with 8th grade classes in December just before Christmas vacation started. OCS Photo by Karen Gross

The Peace of Christ

In the picture at far right, Participants in the Pax Christi of Lexington Women's Retreat spent time in the Mount Saint Joseph Gift Shop during their Nov. 19-20 retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Sister Ann McGrew, Center director, second from left, shares a laugh with the visitors. MSJ Photo

Singing Handel's Messiah Always a Joy

Five Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph sang in the choir for the 70th annual presentation of the Owensboro Choral Society's "Messiah" on Dec. 5 at Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. The 2:30 p.m. performance was a fundraiser to benefit the Goodfellows Club, which provides food, clothing, and toys to needy children. The sisters who sang were Sister Sharon Sullivan, Sister Michele Morek, Sister Cheryl Clemons, Sister Mary Henning, and Sister Susan Mary Mudd. Several other sisters attended the performance. Ursuline Associate Gloria Cecil of Owensboro also sang in the choir.

"Messiah" was composed by George Frederick Handel in 1741 and tells the story of the birth and life of Jesus in song. The performance consisted of a 65-member choir with a soloist alto (Allison Price), soprano (Lesley Wigginton Ferguson), tenor (Aaron Lundy), and bass (Clark Evans), along with a 15-piece orchestra ensemble and organist. The conductor was Shelia Ann Miller.

In the picture at left, Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, center, sings in the Handel's Messiah choir. The group practiced for weeks before the performance. MSJ Photo



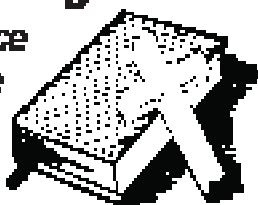


Father Ray Goetz, right, leads the prayer as part of the blessing of the Angela Oratory on Nov. 25. From left are Sisters Mary Eileen Howard, Susan Mary Mudd, Mary Henning, Elaine Burke, and Mary Matthias Ward. MSJ Photo

Join us MONDAYS at 11 a.m.

Lenten Midday Prayers

Stop by Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center and join us for these brief, meaningful prayer services in our chapel, led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU.



March 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 11, 18

Easter Midday Prayers

**April 25 and May 2, 9, 16, 23
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Sister Ann McGrew

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**Kathy McCarty at
(270) 229-4103, ext. 802, or
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org**

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Angela Oratory Blessing

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MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - The new Angela Oratory of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph was blessed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, following a Mass celebrating the 475th anniversary of the founding of the Order of Saint Ursula. The Oratory, on the north facing wing of Lourdes Hall on the motherhouse campus, offers books and presentations on Saint Angela Merici, Ursuline history, Saint Ursula, and Mere Marie of the Incarnation, the first Ursuline Sister to come to North America in 1639. On one side of the Oratory is a prayer room, featuring prayer books, easy listening music, low lighting, a small fountain, and a peaceful view of the piazza. The Oratory is open to all, and books can be checked out. Sister Diane Marie Payne, who organized the Oratory, will be working there Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sister Michele Morek to intern in New York with UNANIMA

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Sister Michele Morek, who concluded her six-year term as congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in July, will be spending the first quarter of 2011 in New York City as an intern with UNANIMA International.

Sister Michele was one of three sisters from member communities accepted for an internship with UNANIMA, the nongovernmental organization that works with the United Nations to shape international policy, particularly those promoting the welfare of women and children. The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are one of 19 congregations who are members of UNANIMA, and the only Ursuline members.

UNANIMA International is an NGO with affiliation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The UI office is in New York City about three blocks from the United Nations headquarters. UNANIMA has focused on human trafficking in recent years but has recently added other major areas, including earth care issues.

"I probably will be working with UNANIMA on UN issues involving global water resources and climate change (especially as they affect poor women and children throughout the world)," Sister Michele said in a letter to her sisters. "The internship will pay my room and board and provide a small monthly stipend for other expenses." The internship is for three months, but Sister Michele was invited to stay an extra month so she can attend a conference in May on sustainability. She will leave in mid-January and be gone through mid-May.

Sister Michele has a doctorate in biology from the University of Notre Dame and was a professor of biology at Brescia College/University for three stints totaling 19 years, wrapped around ministries that included being academic dean at the college, and eight years serving on the Ursuline leadership community in the 1990s, prior to her election as congregational leader in 2004.

She has been active in the Kentucky Water Watch program and the Tradewater/Lower Green River Watershed Watch program. She will begin her 49th year as an Ursuline Sister in 2011.

"This feels like the job of a lifetime for me," Sister Michele said.

UNANIMA International is a coalition of congregations of Roman Catholic sisters committed to work for peace and human dignity in response to the needs of our world. For information, look online at <http://www.unanima-international.org/welcome.php>



Sister Michele Morek, O.S.U.

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Eucharistic Miracle Display Traveled to Hopkinsville

(Continued from page 13)

connect with us in a variety of ways. It's like He opens our eyes. Everyone needs to open their eyes and look. He's showing us things. We just need to look," Daniel emphasized.

Looking toward the altar every day is the best place to witness a miracle, according to Sherry. "We don't have to believe all of these miracles, but we do need to believe what happens every day on the altar," concluded Hartz. "How wonderful it is to believe without the proof others have seen."



Bonnie Whitfill, parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, takes time to read about several of the Eucharistic miracles depicted in the Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles of the World which was displayed at Sts. Peter and Paul on January 8 and 9. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

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Begins Ash Wednesday

March 9, 2011

(Prayer Service with ashes will be at 10:30 a.m.)

- **Morning Sessions - 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6
- **Evening Sessions - 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**
Thursdays, March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7

Led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

Lunch at noon.

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10

To register, contact

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Continuing the Work of Christian Unity

(Continued from page 19)

at your parish to explain their church's traditions and beliefs.

3. Find a video on ecumenism to show to a group in your parish. The office of Ecumenism can give you some suggestions.
4. Observe the World Day of Prayer on March 4. This prayer day is annually celebrated in more than 170 countries around the world. More information can be found on their website at: www.worlddayofprayer.net.
5. Participate or plan a community weekly prayer service during Lent at a church in your area. Provide a light meal afterwards for a time of fellowship.
6. Plan a Good Friday community crosswalk in the streets in a joint effort to witness to our faith in the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Participate in an Easter sunrise service offered by a neighborhood church.
8. Celebrate Friendship Day on May 6 by inviting Christian women in your community to gather for a meal, prayer and fellowship. More information can be found on their website at: www.churchwomen.org.
9. On or around Pentecost, plan a festival of music and invite various choirs, soloists and musicians to perform.
10. Become an ecumenical advocate for your parish.

"In order to unite with one another, we must love one another; in order to love one another, we must know one another; in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another." These words are known as the "Testament of Cardinal Mercier." These words remind us that, in order for Christian unity to happen, we must begin to learn more about one another. We must become friends and pray for one another so that the Holy Spirit will help us reunite the Church.

The journey of promoting Christian Unity is central to our Christian identity. Ecumenism is central to the life of the Church and, therefore, must pervade all that she is and does. If you would like more information on how you and your parish can practice ecumenism, please contact me (Father Tony Bickett) at 270-745-2356 or email me at ftonyb@yahoo.com. Together we can make a difference.

ON CALL - from the greatest generation to the latest generation 23

By William "Bill" Kirst

"Today I went in a convoy to a very isolated little place in Afghanistan where we have 40 soldiers. It's a long, dusty, and dirty drive into a world you only see in National Geographic. These guys were living pretty hard but generally seemed happy — they had not seen a priest since their arrival five months ago. I think 22 of them went to Mass, and they seemed very appreciative of my coming."

- **Colonel William Willett (Army Chaplain) - July, 2010**

Over four decades ago in 1967 and 1968, William Willett, a young Army soldier from Kentucky fought on the battlefields of South Vietnam. Paratrooper trained, he spent a year with the famous 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division (Co. A, 2 BN 8th Cav.) and earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge. He served in various places in Vietnam — Bong Son Plain, Dak To (and was present the day Father Charlie Waters, Medal of Honor winner was killed — Oct. 1967), Khe Sanh, and the A Shau Valley. When he returned from Vietnam, there were no parades and no hero welcomes. As with many Vietnam veter-



Father William Willett

ans he enrolled in college and graduated in 1971 with degree in Agriculture and Business Economics from Murray State University.

In the months and years after returning from Vietnam and the Army, he felt God truly calling him to the priesthood. He had been drawn into the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement and other prayer groups and Catholic community activities. After attending St. Mary College in Kentucky (*Philosophy and Latin*) and then St. Meinrad School of Theology for five years. In 1979 he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

In 1981 Father Willett entered the Army as a military chaplain and served for 26+ years in the USA, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Bosnia, Poland, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, until his retirement in June 2005. He went into the Army Chaplaincy because he felt God's call and, having served in the Army and knowing the needs and the system, he felt he had something to offer the soldiers serving in the military. Owing to the severe shortage of Catholic chaplains, Colonel Willett, in mid-2009 volunteered to return to active duty for two years and was sent to Iraq again. One year later, he was sent to Afghanistan where he now serves as the Catholic Chaplain for the 4th Brigade of

the 101st Airborne Division at FOB Shahrana in the dangerous Helmand province.

At 64, Father Willett is probably the oldest chaplain serving in Afghanistan. During his military career which has spanned five decades, he has been on duty with troops from the "greatest generation to the latest generation." He is an outstanding example of a Catholic patriot and chaplain who has served and continues to serve God and Country.

"I have been at the FST (*Forward Surgical Team*) field hospital several times in the past two weeks - we have a lot of IEDs that blow up vehicles which is always a little dangerous. I travel out each day in an armored vehicle to the far throws of this rugged land to visit the 21 FOBS and COPS (Forward Operating Bases and Combat Outposts). A little more than half have not seen a Catholic priest in up to 139 days. It does not bother me a bit to crawl in the rig and start moving out."

— **COLONEL WILLIAM WILLETT (ARMY CHAPLAIN) — JULY 2010**

Reprinted with permission from SALUTE, the Magazine of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, Christmas, 2010, page 39.

KY sophomore leads nation in scoring

Posted online on January 3, 2011 by Jody Demling for the Courier-Journal

Owensboro Catholic sophomore Becca Greenwell is averaging 35.7 points a game after 12 games, which is tops nationally according to MaxPreps.com.

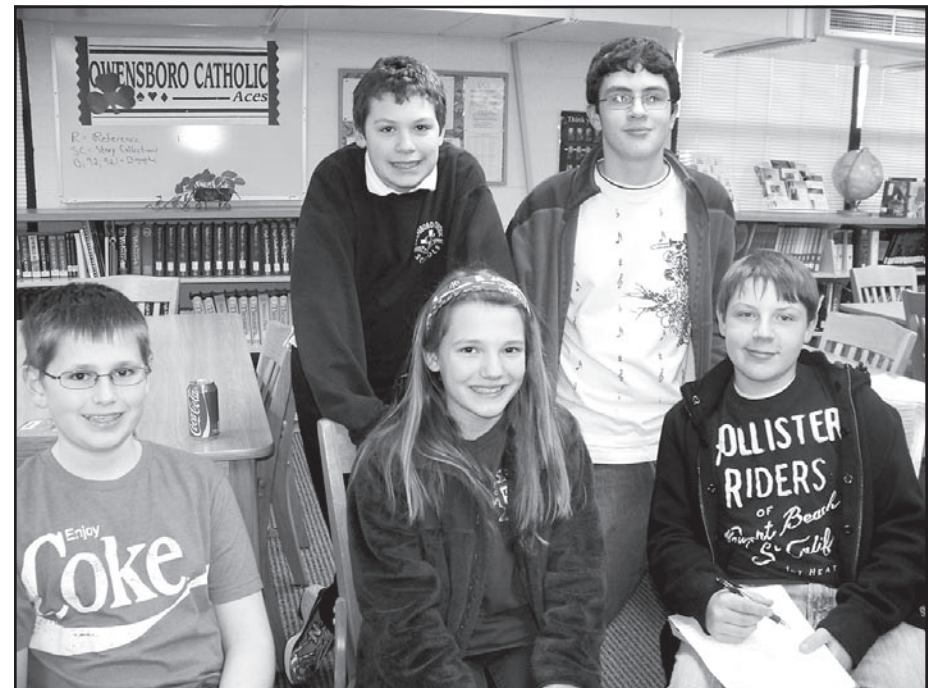
The 6-foot-1 Greenwell has scored 40 or more points six times already. She's also averaging 12.8 rebounds, 4.5 steals and 3.8 assists a game.

Becca Greenwell, considered one of the top prospects nationally in the Class of 2013, scored the 2,000th point of her career during the Lexington Catholic Republic Bank Classic event in December, 2010.



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Knowledge Masters

The OCMS Academic Team competed in the Knowledge Master Open. This competition includes teams from all over the United States as well as teams from other countries. OCMS was the only team to participate from the Owensboro/Daviess County area. The team really had a good time while they were competing. Those participating were front row: Matthew Caldwell, Lucy Kurtz, Sam Booth; standing: Jack Padgett, Mason Jackson. Coaches were Margie Ebelhar and Julie Renshaw. OCS Photo submitted Dec. 17, 2010 by Karen Gross



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24 Hopkinsville Christmas Program Ends Era for Some

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - The Christmas musical program held at Sts. Peter and Paul here on Thursday, December 16, 2010, closed an era for some parents of eighth grade students. While this marks the last Christmas program at Sts. Peter and Paul for several of the eighth grade parents whose children will move on to high school next year, it marks the end of many for some.

"We have been to 24 consecutive Christmas programs," stated Carol Kranz, referring to she and her husband, Bob. "I'm going to miss it," she added. "It's going to seem strange not going anymore."

"It's almost a relief," said Pam Sweet, with a laugh, who has been attending with her husband Bill for 21 years. "I'm not really sad," said claimed, "but I probably will be when he graduates."

"As a parent I won't be back," said Shannon Trogden, who has been attending the Christmas programs for 16 years with her three children. "That doesn't mean I won't be there," she added with a laugh. "After developing so many relationships with other moms and dads, the rest of those kids are like my kids, too," she elaborated. "I'm sad about not having any birth children there, but I will still have many children there."

While much has changed in society in all the years these families have had children at Sts. Peter and Paul, they believe the school has remained constant. "I don't think a lot has changed," claimed Sweet. "That's one of the things I like about the school. They offer top-notch academics, individualized attention. They keep in contact with the parents, and there's never any serious discipline problems," she elaborated.

Kranz agrees. "The school has pretty much stayed the same," she said. "The students and staff are more like family. The kids are more like brothers and sisters, especially by time they get to eighth grade. They love each other like brothers and sisters, and sometimes they fight like brothers and sisters," Kranz added with a laugh.

"The family atmosphere has never changed," agreed Trogden. "My eighth grader gets to mentor the little ones and sits with them at Mass. That's one of the things we've kept up over the years. It's a beautiful thing," she added.

Although the basic philosophy and academic expectations for the school have seemingly remained unchanged over the years, the extracurricular activities have changed the most. "By the time my oldest got into middle school, they had added sports, and the Governor's Cup started back then," explained Kranz.

"There were no sports at all when Billy started, and there wasn't a seventh or eighth grade class," agreed Sweet. "I think the sports help attract other kids to the school and maybe helps keep some here," Sweet surmised. Adding the seventh and eighth grade classes to the school was "important," according to Sweet.

Expanding the school to include seventh and



Several preschool children posed as angels and shepherds during the Christmas program at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on December 16, 2010. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

eighth grade was crucial, according to Kranz. "When Joseph was in the sixth grade, we were trying to decide where to send him, then they added the seventh and eighth grades," exclaimed Kranz.

"I just kept praying and praying that God would make it possible for us to have seventh and eighth grades before Steven had to leave the school," recalled Trogden. "Watching those grades added was a huge change."

One of the most dramatic changes over the years has most likely been tuition. Like everything else in society, the cost has progressively risen. "Sixteen years ago, tuition was \$80 a month," explained Trogden. "Now it's \$288 a month. How's that for inflation?" she asked.

While noting that tuition has obviously increased over the years, Sweet believes it's still a value. "For what you're getting, it's still really reasonable," stated Sweet, "especially compared to other Catholic schools. My kids have always said the education they received at Sts. Peter and Paul has helped them in high school and even in college. They use in college what they learned at Sts. Peter and Paul," she exclaimed.

Although there have been some changes to the school over the years, all agree that the Christmas programs generally remained the same. "We always sing religious music," explained Sweet. "It's always appropriate, and it's always good. It's always about Jesus, Mary and Joseph," she added.

"They've gotten shorter," Kranz said with a chuckle. "I think this year was the shortest. Some have lasted an hour and a half to two hours," she explained.



Virginia Cincotti and Anna Garnett, both in the sixth grade, sang a duet during the Sts. Peter and Paul Christmas program on December 16, 2010. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

Although this year's Christmas program was possibly one of the shortest, many were grateful that the tradition continued. Without a music teacher for the school, a parent who is currently serving as the school's art teacher, Melissa Murphy, stepped forward and volunteered to pull together this year's program. "It's hard to believe they pulled it off this year," remarked Trogden. "Melissa Murphy didn't have a lot of time or a lot of experience, but it was just beautiful," she added.

"I think they've all been beautiful," claimed Trogden. "They've remained the same because it's always all inclusive," explained Trogden. "The older kids get to stand out, which is good. It gives the little kids something to look up to, something to aspire to," she



Jonathan Kinnard and Mary Kranz played the parts of Joseph and Mary in Sts. Peter and Paul's Christmas Program on December 16, 2010. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel

added.

Taking it a step further, Trogden explained how the Christmas programs have helped shape the school's students into active members of the parish. "Allowing the older kids to stand out accelerates them into adulthood," she said. "The Christmas program is a good catapult for the middle school children to become active participants in the liturgy of the Mass. They have to try out for these parts and stand before the young ones and the audience to perform. It gives them a taste of what serving God is about, to stand in front of the church family and worship God as a lector, commentator or Eucharistic Minister."

When reflecting over the years and the many programs they've watched and enjoyed, one or two favorites do come to mind. "Joseph was one of the twelve drummers one year, and Melissa was Mary," reminisced Kranz. "I can still see him in his little drummer outfit and Melissa in her Mary outfit. That's what was neat about this year's program; Mary played Mary this year," Kranz said, referring to her youngest child.

"I'd have to look back at the programs to remember my favorites," Sweet said. "I keep all the playbills. I have a folder of them all," she admitted. Without referring to past programs, however, Sweet fondly recalled one program when her daughter played a part as a wheel chair-bound student.

"The one we had in the gymnasium when the church was being built, I believe, was the most reverent. I cried the whole time," Trogden said, struggling with fresh tears. "It was just special. There was so little they could do visually in the gym, but it was just so beautiful."

Besides recalling performances where their children had significant parts, all agree on one other program as their favor-

Continued on page 26

Year of the Priest Celebrated with Home Masses

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By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - The 'Year of the Priest,' which was officially celebrated throughout the Church from June 2009 until June 2010, was commemorated at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville from January 1, 2010, until December 31, 2010.

As a priest who prefers to deflect attention or praise, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, had an experience the day after Christmas in 2009 which gave him an idea how to celebrate the 'Year of the Priest' in his parish.

"On December 26 last year, Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Associate Pastor, asked me to preside at Mass at someone's home," Fr. Thomas explained during Mass on December 31, 2010. "It was somewhat of a special occasion. The family had relatives visiting from Peru and the grandfather of the family was not well, so everyone in the family made an effort to be there because it might be their last Christmas with him. Because so many family members were gathered, they asked Fr. Carmelo and me to say Mass at their home.

"Now I've never told anyone this before, but I will tell you today that when I received that request to say one more Mass the day after Christmas, inside I said, 'My Lord, another Mass?'" Fr. Thomas confessed with a laugh. "Before I could even speak, however, Fr. Carmelo said, 'Si, si, si!'" Fr. Thomas mimicked, drawing laughter from the congregation. "So I said, 'Yes, yes, yes!' eliciting more laughter.

This experience formed the kernel of an idea that became a way to celebrate the 'Year of the Priest.' "Several days later, Fr. Carmelo, Fr. Anthoni (Ottagan, Associate Pastor at that time) and I were talking about that Mass on the 26th. Then we started talking about the 'Year of the Priest,'" Fr. Thomas explained. "That's where these two ideas came together. We decided that during the year, anyone who wanted us to come to their home and celebrate Mass, we would."

Throughout 2010, the priests at Sts. Peter and Paul celebrated just fewer than 100 Masses in parishioner's homes. The only stipulation when scheduling a home Mass was that it not take place of the Sunday obligation. "At almost all of the Masses, all three priests attended. That means more than 240 Mass intentions were offered throughout the year during these celebrations," Fr. Thomas calculated.

Reflecting on the year during the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Fr. Thomas recalled his original thoughts. "In my mind, I had an understanding of how things would happen," he admitted. "But



Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, (left) poses with Michael and Rebecca Kunkel and Fr. Anthoni Ottagan after celebrating Mass in the couples' home on June 12, 2010. During the celebration, the Kunkels renewed their wedding vows in recognition of their 40th wedding anniversary which would occur the following day. Submitted Photo

so much more happened that I could never have imagined.

"We gathered and celebrated anniversaries. We gathered and celebrated birthdays. And we gathered and celebrated just because. We gathered with one couple while their children were at school because he was going to be deployed the next day. We also gathered at times that were very difficult. At least two times, we gathered after a family had experienced a death.

"Whether it was in great celebration or in grief, while gathering in your homes, we experienced the love, not only of each other, but also love for Christ which was directed toward us," Fr. Thomas claimed.

Fr. Uwem Enoch, one of the current Associate Pastors, was assigned to Sts. Peter and Paul half way through the calendar year in which the home Masses were taking place. "I came and I fit right into place," explained Fr. Enoch during the Mass on December 31. "Home Masses are not strange to me. We do that a lot at home," Fr. Enoch said referring to his native home in Nigeria. "It was a good way to say welcome to your parish by inviting me into your homes," he added.

"The gospel today said that Mary kept everything she heard and saw in her heart," said Fr. Jimenez during the same end of the year Mass. "She kept it so she could reflect on it later. I would like you to remember all the joy and happiness we celebrated in your homes, but also how the Eucharist strengthened us at all times," Fr. Jimenez concluded.

Holding the experiences of celebrating Mass in their homes is precisely what parishioners have done. "It was almost a tear-jerker," admitted Mike Kunkel, who asked Fr. Thomas to come and celebrate he and his wife's 40th wedding anniversary on June 12. Kunkel, who had about 15 to 20 family members and friends at his home for the Mass, called to reserve the day shortly after Fr. Thomas made the announcement last January.

"Unbeknownst to my wife, I called Fr. Thomas to set it all up. I asked if we could repeat our vows during the celebration, and he said we certainly could," recalled Kunkel. "When my wife got home from work that day (the day he made the arrangements), I said, 'If you had it to do all over again, would you marry me?' She said, 'You called Fr. Thomas, didn't you?' Kunkel remembered with a chuckle. "She said yes," he added.

Kunkel also remembered the guidelines Fr. Thomas offered to celebrate Mass in parishioner's homes. "All we had to do was provide a white table cloth on some sort of table for his make-shift altar. He brought everything he needed to perform the Mass and the ceremony," Kunkel explained. "It



Fr. John Thomas, right, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, reads the gospel during a home Mass on August 17, 2010. Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Associate Pastor, (left) co-presided at the Mass. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

was so special, so memorable for our anniversary," he added.

While some parishioners chose to celebrate wedding anniversaries, others chose to commemorate more somber anniversaries. Hilda Linares, whose husband died on February 5, 2010, selected to request a Mass in her home each month on the 5th. "For me and my family, it was a blessing for them to come to my house," Linares explained. "It was a very good experience for me," Linares continued. "It's really good to have the priests into your house and get to know them better."

In addition to getting to know her pastor better, Linares also experienced something unique through the home Masses. "It was very good for the healing process," she admitted. "My plan was to hold the Masses each month for the whole year. From here, I will probably just have a Mass said on his birthday or Father's Day."

Leigh Ann Johnson chose to celebrate Mass in her home along with other members of the St. Vincent DePaul Society. "We have a birthday potluck three or four times a year," she explained. "I hadn't entertained much in this house, so I decided to host the Mass and the dinner. It was wonderful," she continued. "My house is very small, so it made it very quaint."

In addition to the two priests, Fr. Thomas and Fr. Ottagan, the gathering of approximately 15 people in Johnson's home drew the attention of her neighbors. "One neighbor asked me later if we were doing an exorcism," Johnson recalled with a laugh. Later she learned that after seeing the priests enter her house, her neighbor and his friend pulled lawn chairs up to the fence to watch the entire Mass through the window.

Continued on page 26

26 High School Come & See Weekend

February 18 - 20, 2011 The Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana are holding a Come & See event for high school girls, freshmen to seniors. This is a chance to learn what it is like to be a nun in today's world. Pray, eat, and recreate with the sisters. For more information call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-738-9999, or visit our web page www.thedome.org, where you can also register online. Parent permission is required.

Celebrating 100 Years Saint Joseph Interparochial School Bowling Green, Ky.

St. Joseph Interparochial School in Bowling Green, Ky. will celebrate 100 years of its existence in the Bowling Green-Warren Co. community with a gala anniversary weekend scheduled for September 17 and 18, 2011. Currently, the development office and reunion committee are looking for anyone who has ever attended Saint Joseph School so they may receive information on the weekend activities. Alumni may visit the school website at www.stjosephschoolbg.org and go to the *Alumni* tab to fill out information as to where they are today. Former faculty and staff are also asked to contact the school. For additional information, contact Martha Simpson in the school development office at (270) 842-7462.

Hopkinsville Christmas Program

(Continued from page 24)

Craft was the teacher," Trogden said with emphasis. "When she had the sheep and the llama (representing a camel) and all kinds of animals walking down the aisle. Then they had all those beautiful banners carried down the aisle. It was spectacular!" she exclaimed.

"I liked the one with the llama because it was so different," Sweet said.

"It was good the year they had the animals in the church," agreed Kranz.

Besides the uniqueness of the animals the one year, the youngest children always please the crowd. "You just love to watch the little ones," Kranz said. "It's a special thing for them."

"I always liked it when the little ones sang their own songs," admitted Sweet. "They are so sweet."

Year of the Priest Celebrated with Home Masses

(Continued from page 25)

Aside from dispelling the notion of having an exorcism in her home, Johnson believes the Mass made a difference to her home. "My house has felt very calm and blessed and even safe since then," she concluded.

"We had a bi-lingual Mass," recalled Ernie Tuggle, who hosted ten friends and neighbors in her apartment in October, including Fr. Thomas and Fr. Jimenez. "Fr. Carmelo said the homily," Tuggle remembered. "His homily was beautiful. He said it in Spanish and I translated it. His homily was just beautiful."

Although Tuggle was not celebrating anything in particular, "I just wanted to have them into my home," she explained. She does recall, however, one particular prayer intention during the Mass. "My daughter was expecting at that time, so we prayed for a safe delivery," Tuggle reminisced. "And she did deliver safely," she added.

"It was nice, very nice," declared James Long. Long, who simply celebrated the Mass with his wife, daughter and the two priests remembers the Mass held in March, 2010, fondly. "It was a very humbling experience," he added. "We look forward to doing it again when they are available," Long anticipated.

"Formally, the 'Year of the Priest' is over," Fr. Thomas concluded. "Formally the year of home Masses is over. Just like I could not predict how these home Masses would unfold, I cannot tell you how this year will unfold. With our focus on the Eucharist and on Mary, however, I trust that God will see us through."

Boulware Update

Submitted by Boulware Staff

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Challenges and changes have faced Boulware Mission this year. We want to thank the parishoners in the Owensboro area for their continued support of Boulware and also to inform the community what we have done and are doing to navigate the challenges ahead.

As with most non-profits the recent economic downturn negatively impacted funding for Boulware Mission, including funding from both grants and private donations. With this economic climate Boulware also experienced an increased need for the essential services we provide.

To alleviate some of the financial pressure, Boulware made a strategic decision to consolidate its Hall Street and Wing Ave campuses and house all our services and operations under one roof. We are currently renovating Wing Avenue to make this a reality. The consolidation allows us to realize a substantial reduction in operating costs without reducing our services and compromising our mission.

In the past, Hall Street housed our female clients and support staff. Our male residents and case workers occupied our Wing Ave. campus. Soon our Wing Avenue campus will be consolidated, allowing our clients and staff one facility to accomplish our mission. When our renovation is complete, our first priority is to lease Hall St. to an organization with values in accord with Boulware's. Once renovations are completed at our Wing Avenue campus we hope to renovate and restore the Hall Street campus and utilize it once again as part of Boulware Mission.

We can't thank you enough for your patronage and partnering with us in this mission. We are striving to maximize our services to the homeless and to reduce the causes of homelessness in the same faith tradition that motivated Mitt Boulware in 1921.



Announcing: An 8 Week JustMatters Workshop

Who: Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro
Facilitated by Dr. Suzanne Rose & Richard Murphy

What: Engaging Our Conflicts: An Exploration of Nonviolent Peacemaking; Note: Book fee of \$25

When: Beginning Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 6:30-9:00 and each Wednesday till April 13, 2011
Note: excluding Spring Break week, April 6, 2011.

Where: Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St. Owensboro, Call by 2-14-11 at 270/ 683-1545 to Register

Why: To explore the power and potential of Nonviolent Peacemaking in our lives and in the world

A Letter to the Editor Asks for WKC in the Mail

Studying Catholicism

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

My name is William Blue, and I am locked up at Otter Creek Correctional Complex in Wheelright, Ky. I am also here with a friend by the name of Chris Luttrell who previously received your Catholic paper. I am studying Catholicism and am thinking about becoming a Catholic. If there is any way to get some sort of donation or material sent to me, I would greatly appreciate it. God bless you all.

P.S.: If it is at all possible here is the address.

- William Blue #229571, Wheelright, Ky

Editor's Note: Will Blue gave his address; interested persons may contact The Western Kentucky Catholic to write a note to him. Western Kentucky Catholics pay for the Western Kentucky Catholic through their parish assessment dollars. Sending our paper to an inmate in a Kentucky prison who asks for the paper to be mailed to him is one of the many ways in which we use your parish's assessment dollars to evangelize. We're mailing him a copy of this edition.)

A Saint Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Tradition Helps ²⁷ Many People Around Hopkins County And Madisonville



Dozens of food baskets along the back wall of Christ The King School gym ready for distribution!

Submitted by Patti Brown, with John and Anna Clark
MADISONVILLE, Ky. - On the weekend before Christmas, many families of Christ the King parish have made it a tradition to help other families in the community of Madisonville and Hopkins County by giving food baskets to those in need. The Christmas baskets program is organized through our St. Vincent de Paul Society. In early November applications are taken and families in need are identified. CTK School has a food drive each year and the children and their families donate can food and money (over 1400 cans collected this year). Christ the King and Immaculate Conception parishioners donated money through Angel Tree collections throughout December (\$5000 raised) for additional food required for the baskets and Barnett-Strother Funeral Home donated the hams.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society and Christ The King family showed a great effort and participation in this project. Approximately 45 people helped with the assembly and the distribution of the baskets. Parishioners met on Saturday morning to sort



Volunteers, Richard & Ruth Dale prepare to load cars. (Bill Stagner, Jim Allen, & Sarah Lutz shown in the background.)



More food baskets ready for distribution, and on their way out the door of the Christ The King School gym into cars!

At right, Jeannie Calhoun & Alan Lutz help load cars.



the can goods and then again on Sunday morning to assemble and distribute them. This year our St. Vincent de Paul organization gave away 193 baskets. Several men in the parish led by Gary Phillips volunteered to put together a great breakfast on Sunday morning, making it a time of celebration as well as service.

The family of Rae & Eddie Ballard has made this project a part of their family's Christmas celebration for many years. Now they are joined by their children's spouses and their grandchildren. The Ballards donate a large fruit basket to each family. They met early Sunday morning at the bowling alley, their family business, to assemble the fruit baskets and enjoy being together. When the Ballard family delivers the fruit baskets all activity stops at the parish hall and everyone forms a line to bring the baskets inside. It's almost like Santa Claus coming to town!

The need for help has gradually increased over the 15+ years that we have been distributing baskets. The first years, the organization gave away 60-70 baskets. Last year 153 were given away and this year 193. Many new people applied this year.

The Christ the King Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society oversees Madisonville SVdP store on Arch Street. This year, the store gave free clothing to over 400 families and the Conference, through money raised by the store, assisted 513 families (\$50,000) with utility bill, housing medicine,



Two volunteers--Archie Jungblom & Rita Jungblom



St. Vincent de Paul members, John Clark (president) & Meryl Clements wait for clients to pick up their baskets.

and many other life necessities.

John Clark and Anna Clark helped with this article. John is St. Vincent de Paul president at Christ The King Council and helped to edit; the photos were taken by Anna.

28 Sisters of Service Enjoy Christian Service Projects for the Community

PADUCAH, Ky. - The Sisters of Service, the girl's auxiliary of Daughters of Isabella Circle 258, enjoyed ringing bells for the Salvation Army at both doors at Wal-Mart as their December, 2010, service project. The Sisters of Service wore festive Christmas hats and sang carols for all of the holiday shoppers.

The Sisters of Service sponsor one major service project each month and have other opportunities for other projects. Several of the SOS members assisted with the Advent Wreath making party by helping children make Christmas crafts. They also helped with the annual Dofl spaghetti dinner in November.

Catholic girls from 10 to 18 years are welcome to help with SOS projects. Anyone interested in SOS may contact Big Sister Regent, Grace Babbs, or Little Sister Regent, Karina Romero at 270-832-0958.

In the picture at right, front row- Katy Crouch, Kayla Speis, Emily Osterhaus, Meghan Walker, Emily Meredith; back row-Olivia Petter, Alexandra Goreing, Grace Babbs, Olivia Romero, Abby Crouch, Karina Romero. Submitted by Sheri Babbs



PADUCAH, Ky. - The Daughters of Isabella, Circle 258, celebrated Christmas with the annual Christmas Tea at the home of Reagent, Sherri Speis. The Dofl along with the girl's auxiliary, Sisters of Service, enjoyed horderves and the traditional Dofl spiced Christmas Tea. Each of the members bring food and the circle assembles ten food baskets for families from the St. John's, Rosary Chapel, St. Francis de Sales, St. Mary of the Fields, and St. Thomas More parishes.

The monthly meeting time for the Daughters of Isabella has been changed. The meetings will now be held at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month.

In the picture at left, front row- Isabelle Speis, Kimberly Bosh, Hannah Speis; middle Row-Karina Romero, Alexandra Goreing, Emily Osterhaus, Grace Babbs, Olivia Romero, Meghan Walker; back Row-Beth Walker, Sherri Speis, Kayla Speis, Monica Osterhaus, Jennifer Bosh, Marianna Romero. Submitted by Sheri Babbs

High School Juniors and Seniors --

There will be a Teens Encounter Christ weekend at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp in Bowling Green 18-20 February. Go to wkytec.org for info. Registration Deadline: Noon, 4 February.

HAPPY ANNIVESARY

More January Anniversaries Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Harold & Anne Clark, 59

Joseph & Wanda Millay, 59

Robert & Dena Montgomery, 56

Christ the King, Madisonville

Greg & Becky McCabe, 25

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Ted & Barbara Brown, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Kenneth & Tamara Vogler, 25

David & Anna Jo Fenwick, 40

Basil & Joann Jones, 50

Harry & Constance Largen, 51

George & Barbara Powers, 51

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 57

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 52

Robert & Martha Bailey, 60

James & Lillian Bowlds, 52

James P. & Connie Hayden, 52

Anthony & Mae Kamalich, 57

Randall & Josie McBride, 52

Joseph R. & Frances Millay, 50

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Francis & Thomasine Clouse, 58

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Joseph & Jo Sheffer, 53

St. Leo, Murray

Raymond & Beatrice Jerge, 52

Robert P. & Simone Taylor, 61

Marriage Celebrations for February Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Daniel & Sandra Thomas, 25

John & Mary Medley, 50

Anthony & Mary Brown, 65

Paul & Beverly Cecil, 51

Thomas & Janice Foster, 55

Vince & Joan Frey, 52

Charles & Patricia Hamilton, 54

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Kenneth & Jean Higgs, 57

Christ the King, Madisonville

Charles & Donna White, 40

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Walter & Gail Clancy, 40

William & Martha Duncan, 57

Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 56

Lawrence & Darlene Smithhart, 40

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Bobby & Marry Belcher, 40

Edward & Sandra Schweiss, 40

Robert & Rita Otta, 54

Donald & Mary Jane Scarbeau, 51

Michael & Geri Durchak, 57

Fred & Rose Conti, 51

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Charles & Patricia Hagman, 40

Dennis & Martha Wheatley, 51

Adrian & Velma Wheatley, 57

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Michael & Kathy Christian, 25

John & Bonnie Popowski, 51

George & Martha Taylor, 55

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Ronald & Patricia Shelton, 40

James D. & Barbara Brown, 54

Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 56

Gary & Patricia Satterwhite, 51

Martin & Mary Ruth Bumm, 58

James & Patricia Krampe, 51

Earl & Betty Wells, 64

Silas E. & Catherine Simon, 64

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Guy & Linda Connor, 50

Jim & Donna Stuerzenberger, 56

St. Agnes, Uniontown

J. O. & Janet Thomas, 58

Wayne & Vicky Gough, 25

Wayne & Loretta Nally, 50

Darrell & Donna Thomas, 25

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

James L. & Dorothy Calhoun, 64

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Don & Eleanor Greenwell, 60

St. Ann, Morganfield

Gilbert & Pat Rudd, 50

John & Judy Moore, 40

Franklin & Agnes Hancock, 63

Joe & Florence Henshaw, 65

Willard & Joyce Greenwell, 58

Ronald & Mary David, 54

St. Anthony, Axtel

Ronald & Diana Henning, 40

St. Anthony, Peonia

Clifford & Margie Higdon, 62

Wendell & Mary Vincent, 60

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Wendell & Mary Vincent, 60

St. Charles, Livermore

Tony & Sherry Logsdon, 25

St. Columba, Lewisport

Mike & Judy Pate, 40

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Carl & Paul Ball, 54

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

James & Mary Millay, 50

Charles & Pat Gregory, 52

Gerald & Christine Quigley, 52

St. Henry, Aurora

Al & Patricia Kasten, 55

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Richard & Marie Johnson, 61

Thomas & Juanita Elliott, 53

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Kenny U Jeannie Spraggs, 40

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

H. C. & Gustava Thompson, 57

Donald & Betty McCormick, 57

Don & Irene Parker, 25

St. Peter, Waverly

George & Rita Gayle Nelson, 52

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Kenneth & Martha Pendleton, 50

James L. & Patty Settles, 40

William J. & Lillian Young, 57

James & Mary Keller, 54

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Jim & Becky Keenan, 40

Charles & Isabell Winchell, 71

Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 52

Jimmy & Mary Rita Whitworth, 52

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Richard & Jane Pauze, 52

William & Maxine Hobbs, 50

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

James & Evelyn Mattingly, 58

David & Bonnie Montgomery, 53

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Charles & Alice Bruce, 50

Robert & Rose Coplen, 60

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James M. & Frieda Payne, 53

James & Vanessa Tong, 25

St. Leo, Murray

Robert & Paula Beavers, 52

St. Martin, Rome

Bill & Jane Shelton, 60

Bernard & Jane Payne, 74

St. Mary, Franklin

Lewis & Helen Garst, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Fred & Sharon Coomes, 40

St. Peter, Waverly

Allen Ray & Carolyn Mackey, 59

St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City

William & Margaret Haines, 50

Margaret & Charles Crabb, 25

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Mike & Janet Schwartz, 40

Frankie & Betty Clark, 56

William & Martha Zoglmann, 57

St. Rose, Cloverport

James R. & Mary Ann Clouse, 51

Norman & Betty Coomes, 62

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Trent & Ann Bongiolatti, 40

Roscoe & Wanda Shoulta, 51

Bernie & Connie Herrmann, 58

Douglas & Elizabeth Edwards, 62

Harold & Elizabeth Connor, 65

St. William, Knottsville

James & Linda Hamilton, 53

Paul & Rhodie Melton, 56

John & Pamela Scott, 40

St. William, Marion

Allen & Arlene Summers, 53

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Charles C. & Bonnie Gray, 54

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Levi & Margaret Peterson, 52

Charles & Jean O'Reilly, 63

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Gary & Pusun Edwards, 40

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

John & Jean Carpenter, 68

Thomas & Lucy Neal, 50

Bill & Rosemary Payne, 50

Rick & Lizann Thompson, 25

Virgil & Colene Jennings, 64

Robert & Vurble Mahoney, 54

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jerome & Charlene Vandeven, 60

Thomas & Mary Frances Galvin, 61

St. William, Knottsville

James R. & Evelyn Cecil, 56

Robert & Ellen Edge, 52

Linus & Suzanne Murphy, 25

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

William A. & Betty Jo Payne, 55

William & Katherine Thomas, 56

Norbert & Nancy Crowe, 55

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Steve & Sharon Moseley, 40

John & Lillian Cotthoff, 64



Second Sunday in February

World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, when couples encouraged the mayor, the governor and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day." The event was so successful; the idea was presented to and adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's

National Leadership. By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day," designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February.

The Theme for WMD has been permanently adopted as "Love One Another". This phrase is the commandment given us by Jesus in John 14. It speaks to us in a simple but challenging way of how our Heavenly Father wishes us to live. Loving one another is a daily decision - simple, but challenging.

Websites: www.foryourmarriage.org, www.usccb.org

Contacts: Deacon Mario & Olga Lopez puffie@bellsouth.net. Fr. Joe DiMauro, OSFS jdimauo@juno.com

Celebrate the great gift of Marriage!

Wisdom *by Ginny Knight-Simon*



Ginny Knight-Simon

Betty Hamilton and Barbara Schell St. Martin Parish, Rome Kentucky Winners of the 2010 Sophia Award

Recently I visited with Barbara Schell and Betty Hamilton at St. Martin's parish office in Rome. As usual, they were there.

"Someone asked us ONCE if we had beds here because we are here all of the time!" said Barbara. This particular day was their day to clean the parish church.

Barbara is married to Eugene and they will celebrate their 41st wedding anniversary this May 2011. They have six children. Betty is married to Wayne Hamilton, who is Eugene's first cousin. Betty and Wayne have four children and have been married 45 years.

The Hamilton's are the contacts for the Golden Romans, the senior group at St. Martin's which meets on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. "We have anywhere from 50 to 70 people who come out. Of course, not all are from St. Martin's. Most are from other parishes that no longer have a senior group or some that have never had one. We have a donation basket to help off set some of the cost," Betty explained. "We have speakers and we do games. Sometimes we'll do Bunco or Bingo," said Barbara who is also very involved with the Golden Romans.

In talking with the ladies, I realized how much work goes into getting the monthly group together. Both Barbara and Betty agreed that the senior group really enjoys their gatherings. "It's a great time for fun and socialization, just getting out to be with people. Some people don't get out that often, and this is a good time for them," they both said.

Besides helping with the Golden Romans, they help with a huge church rummage sale each year,



the annual church picnic, fish fries, bereavement meals, and church receptions; both ladies are Eucharistic ministers. The Hamiltons also get bus trips together for the group. There is no wonder to me why these two ladies were nominated as the Sophia Award winners from St. Martin's in 2010.

"Honored" was the word they each used when describing how they felt about receiving the Sophia Award. (The Sophia Award is given to an outstanding senior or couple in the parish.)

Both grew up in Catholic families, attended Catholic schools and have always lived in this area. Betty and Wayne did live in Florida for a while and moved back here when he retired from his mining job.

"Why do you volunteer so much?" I asked. "Because it makes us feel good." Barbara said, "When you help others it's a great feeling. Betty was in complete agreement. "It does make you feel good."

I left them to their work, and on my way back to the office, I thanked God for them and all volunteers. According to national statics, over 6 million baby boomers volunteer in this country everyday through church, or community programs.



Announcing: An 8 Week JustMatters Workshop

Who: Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro
Facilitated by Dr. Suzanne Rose & Richard Murphy

What: Engaging Our Conflicts: An Exploration of Nonviolent Peacemaking; Note: Book fee of \$25

When: Beginning Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 6:30-9:00 and each Wednesday till April 13, 2011
Note: excluding Spring Break week, April 6, 2011.

Where: Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St. Owensboro, Call by 2-14-11 at 270/ 683-1545 to Register

Why: To explore the power and potential of Nonviolent Peacemaking in our lives and in the world



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Join us for a Women's Retreat

**We Are The Body of Christ:
The Spirituality of Caryl Houselander**

March 25-27, 2011

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Houselander, an unlikely "saint" who lived through two world wars, offers profoundly simple advice on becoming holy in the midst of ordinary daily life. Her mystical experiences rooted in her the truth first experienced by Saint Paul on the road to Damascus: Jesus is present in every person.

*Fee: \$175 for residents (Includes retreat, materials, meals, and accommodations).
Commuters can attend for \$120 (Includes retreat, materials, meals).
Deduct 10% if paid in full by Feb. 25, 2011.*

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
(270) 229-4103 ext. 802



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For information, contact Sister Martha Keller, OSU: 270-229-4103 ext. 212*





Sr. Ann Patrice Cecil at the base of the mountain path with some of Juliet and Benton Summers children. Photo by Suzanne Rose

By Suzanne Rose

A small, neatly tended shack perches on the ridge of a mountain overlooking Greenvale, in the diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. Here, Juliet and Benton Summers – one of the rare married couples in the diocese – try to eke out a living on the rocky hillside for their 10 children and 4 grandchildren who share their home. The household consists of 10 children below the age of 16.

Greenvale is the “ghetto” of Mandeville. While its poverty is difficult to distinguish from that found in other areas of Jamaica, Greenvale earns this title because those who find themselves in trouble with the law in Kingston take refuge with family members living in Greenvale. These outlaws do not wish to cause trouble for their families, thus protecting their place of refuge, so Greenvale is a fairly peaceful community. However, vacant lots throughout the area openly serve as fields for the cultivation of marijuana -- one assumes to supply the Kingston drug trade. The scent of “ganja” permeates the air. Young people cluster on roadsides with no obvious employment or evident prospects beyond the illicit activities which brought many of them here.

Juliet and Benton literally have an uphill battle to feed and educate their large family, bringing to the children opportunities beyond those now at the end of the mountain path from their doorstep. Benton has been unable to find employment, and the land he and Juliet try to farm is too rocky to yield much. In an attempt to help the family, Fr. Peter Gitumbu hires the couple’s oldest son, Babou, to tend his personal garden behind the rectory in Dunsinane. With their combined incomes, the Summers are able to send the school age children to school twice a week. However, the couple knows that without a solid education, the likelihood that the children will escape the trap of lawlessness in their community decreases. Juliet and Benton desire to earn enough money to send the children to school full-time.

With this in mind, the Summers family was chosen to participate in Pilgrims of Hope pilot project – “Project Chicken.” Pilgrims of Hope provided the materials the family needs to begin a small business raising chickens for market; startup for the business consists of 24 chicks, 6 bags of feed, a chicken coop, a feeder, a water dish, and 2 doses of vaccine. This startup allows the family to raise the chickens to the age of 6 weeks, at which time the chickens will be sold for butcher; the money earned will then be reinvested in new chicks.

Because of the mountainside location of the Summers’ home, materials to build the coop had to be carried up the mountain following a goat path. This was the greatest challenge in the project. Once the men – Jim Scott, Bill Butler, Richard Dale, and

“Skip” Schippers --trekked the materials up the mountain, they quickly assembled the coop. Benton Summers, who appeared to be a skillful carpenter, assisted in the construction of the chicken coop. After the coop was built, Fr. Stan Puryear and the remaining Pilgrims of Hope delivered the chicks and supplies to the Summers family at the base of the mountain path.

As of this writing, all of the families chosen for Project Chicken have successfully sold their chickens and reinvested the money in new chicks. Their businesses seem to be thriving at this point, and other families are inquiring how they, too, might receive a chicken business startup from Pilgrims of Hope.

A chicken business startup costs ap-

proximately \$385 per family. If you would like to donate towards Project Chicken, please send your donation to Pilgrims of Hope, c/o Jim Scott, Treasurer, 231 W. McElroy Street, Morganfield, Ky. 42437. For more information about Pilgrims of Hope, e-mail Suzanne Rose at wildrose@roadrunner.com.

Project Chicken Costs Per Family.

Chicken coop: Building materials - \$277 US. Chickens and supplies: 24 broiler chicks - \$17.40 US; 2 bags of fine feed (starter feed) - \$22.49 US; 4 bags of coarse feed - \$44.70 US - 1 waterer - \$4.93 US ; 1 feeder - \$11.95 US; 2 doses of antibiotic/vitamins - \$6.37 US. Total: \$107.84 US. PROJECT TOTAL PER FAMILY: \$384.84 US

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 2011

- 4 **Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 4-6 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 12 **Yarn Spinners Day**
- 11-13 Women's Prayer Group
- 21-24 MSJ Center Quilter Friends

March 2011

- 3-5 CCK West Area Ministers
- 4 **Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 5 Connect, Awake & Share
- 11-13 **Yarn Spinners Weekend**
- 14 **Lenten Midday Prayer**
- 15-18 Paducah Quilt Guild
- 19 Blessed Mother Confirmation
- 20 Precious Blood RCIA
- 21 **Lenten Midday Prayer**
- 25-27 **Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons**
- 28 **Lenten Midday Prayer**

April 2011

- 1 **Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 1 Reitz Memorial Juniors Retreat
- 2-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 4 **Lenten Midday Prayer**
- 5-7 Theological Reflection
- 8-15 St. Meinrad Retreat Week
- 11 **Lenten Midday Prayer**
- 15-17 Christian Women's Retreat
- 16 Sts. Joe and Paul RCIA
- 18 **Lenten Midday Prayer**
- 20 Reitz Memorial Seniors Retreat
- 25 **Easter Midday Prayer**
- 27 **Spirituality at Work: Being a Letter from God (for Administrative Assistants)**
- 30 **Annual Fundraising Dinner/Auction/Sale**

Bible Study - “Everything You Wanted to Know About the Catholic Church But Were Afraid to Ask” *(Suit your schedule – come when you can!)*
Day Sessions 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on **March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6**
Evening Sessions 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on **March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7**



Center-sponsored programs are in bold type. Please call to register.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.mscenter.org
msj.center@maplemount.org

To register or to schedule your event,
call Kathy McCarty
270-229-4103 ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



Have you considered deepening your spirituality as a woman religious?
For information, contact Sister Martha Keller, OSU: 270-229-4103 ext. 212



Measuring UP

Sixth grade students in Mr. John Calhoun's 6th grade science classes at the Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus tested a lever and fulcrum as part of their study of simple machines. They measured the force applied in newtons using a spring scale. They measured the distance the load moved using meters, then calculated the amount of work done using the formula $\text{work} = \text{force} \times \text{distance}$. Alyssa Ramsey (on left) and Hannah Garvin (on right) take measurements. OCS Dec. 8, 2010 Photo by Karen Gross

St. Stephen Cathedral

St. Stephen Cathedral is seeking a full-time business manager. Interested applicants should have professional accounting qualifications and be faithfully committed to the teachings of the Catholic Church. For more information, contact Fr. John Vaughan at 610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301, call 683-6525, or email John.Vaughan@pastoral.org.



Entering The Church

The Rite of Acceptance at Lourdes took place Jan. 8 at 4:30pm Mass. Pictured from left is Greg Bell (sponsor), Tim Hess (Candidate), Connie Hess (Catechumen), Virginia Zoglman (sponsor), Steve Smith (Catechumen), Freda O'Bryan (sponsor by proxy), and Sam Thrasher (Catechumen). 9 Candidates and Catechumens are studying the Catholic Faith in the RCIA process at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro. Submitted by Drew Hardesty, DRE, Our Lady of Lourdes Church.



The St. Mary Lady Vikings prepare to take the court at the Trinity High School Gym. (Sandy McManus photo)

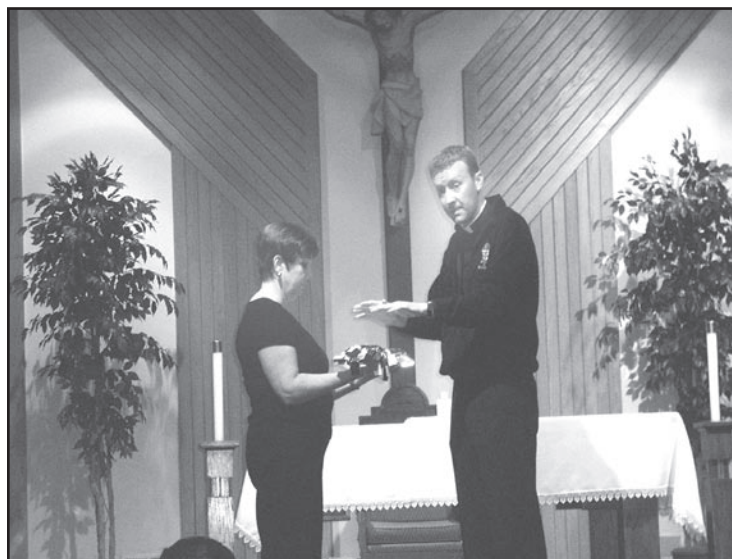
St. Mary and Trinity High School Play Diocesan Hoops

The annual match between the Trinity High School and St. Mary High School boys' teams now includes the girls' teams as well. For several years the St. Mary and Trinity parents have welcomed their Diocesan counterparts from three hours away. The evening included food, fellowship, worship, and the basketball game. This year the Lady Vikings team also became part of the tradition enjoying a dinner hosted by Trinity parents for the visiting team followed by Mass and the game. Regardless of the game outcomes, the tradition allowed a wonderful opportunity to gain an understanding of other Catholic families and parishes in the Diocese.

Where Can One Hear The Rosary With Bishop William Medley On Radio?

Currently, the rosary plays at 4:30-5AM and 8-8:30PM. On WIMM-FM 107.7. The three station which presently air this Rosary program are 107.7 WIMM-FM in Owensboro, 87.9 WEUC-FM in Morganfield, and WSPP-FM 93.5 in Hopkinsville. The station in Morganfield reaches to the edge of Daviess Co. and covers Henderson and Evansville. Fr. Baker, from St. Ann Church in Morganfield, invited Bishop Medley to come to Saint Ann School to do their own version of the Rosary with the Bishop. The RosaryWith Bishop Medley program recording can also be found on the WIMM website as a podcast also. Log On to www.wimradio.com

Turn to pages 36-38 of this edition of The Western Kentucky Catholic to read the story about Bishop Medley and OCS students taping radio programs praying the Rosary.



A Blessing of Brown Scapulars

Fr. Brandon Williams invested the 6th grade students at the OCS Elementary 4-6 Campus in the Brown Scapular. They also enjoyed his talk on this special sacramental. Fr. Brandon Williams is assisted by Mrs. Bonnie Marks, holding the scapulars for blessing. OCS Photo

BOOKS TO READ

"The End and the Beginning: Pope John Paul II -- The Victory of Freedom, the Last Years, the Legacy." By George Weigel, New York, Doubleday, 2010.



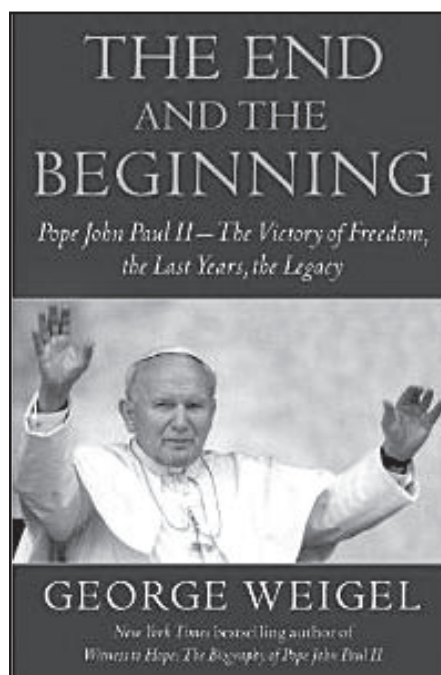
A Review by Sister Grace Swift, O.S.U.

Once in Italy's Adamello Mountains, Italian president Alessandro Pertini was amazed at the

skill of a fellow skier, who turned out to be Pope John Paul II. The Pope simply explained, "I am a son of the mountains." That was fortunate, for the Pope had to deal with mountains of opposition that are revealed for the first time in George Weigel's new book, "The End and the Beginning," which continues his "Witness to Hope," the exhaustive biography of John Paul which he published in 1999. From the first book, we thought we knew the salient facts of the Pope's life; this new volume proves we were dead wrong.

John Paul, born Karol Wojtyla, indeed faced mountains of opposition on many levels. The German invasion of Poland in 1939 cut short his chance for a university education in Krakow. To keep from being sent to slave labor he trudged each day in wooden shoes to laborious jobs in a quarry and a chemical factory. His beloved father died in 1941. When the Russians invaded Poland from the opposite direction, he kept a low profile by studying for the priesthood in the Archbishop's palace. A great blessing in his life was that along the way people in authority recognized the great intelligence and humanity he possessed and were able to help him develop these qualities. After ordination, while serving in parishes, he drew a circle of friends to his side, especially among the young, who took the place of the family he lacked and remained close to him for life. In his latter days as Pope, this tight circle of young people he had befriended in youth came to visit him at Castel Gandolfo with their children and grandchildren. The staff there had never seen anything like it.

When he was made Bishop of Krakow, Poland was a dangerous place for bishops. Everyone knew that in past decades Cardinal Mindzenty, the Primate of neighboring Hungary, had been jailed and beaten by the Communist masters. Cardinal Stefan Wysznski, the tough Primate of Poland, had also been jailed and put under house arrest. Fortunately for history, the archives



of the secret police of Poland have been opened and now provide astounding details of how Wojtyla, too, was treated by them. The first section of this three-part book reveals that he, along with some Vatican officials, were repeatedly bugged and shadowed by them. Some Polish priests were even engaged by the police to serve as "moles" to penetrate secret areas, conversations, and negotiations both in Poland and in Rome; their police code names and sometimes their real names are spelled out in detail. An attempt to smear Wojtyla's name was made when the police fabricated a diary purporting to link him in an affair with a woman he knew. It was such a crude job it was easily seen for what it was when discovered in the place where the police had planted it.

It didn't help the situation that for a number of years during Paul VI's tenure as pope, the Vatican had adopted the policy of Ostpolitik. In simplest terms, the papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, felt that communist governments were going to hold power for an undetermined time, so in dealing with them, in order to save what they could of the faith, Church authorities should avoid confrontation with the government. They should tread softly and not make waves. This policy lacked appeal both for Cardinal Wysznski and Wojtyla, but the former had learned from long experience just how far he could go in opposing the party's rulers. Sometimes his actions provided some good laughs. At one point, Wysznski wanted to bestir the faith of the Polish people by sending for veneration to different parishes the "Black Madonna" of Czestochowa. This

most revered icon of Our Lady normally resides at her shrine in Jasna Gora Monastery — the "Lourdes" of Poland. Communist authorities forbade the proposed pilgrimage of the picture, so Wysznski simply had only the picture's ornate frame sent around to the parishes for veneration. When Wojtyla became Pope and traveled to Poland, in his own way he made waves that swept away Ostpolitik, causing much anxiety to Casaroli and his associates. Of course, in the end John Paul's tactics, with the aid of men like Lech Walesa, caused the communist governments to fall not only in Poland, but set off a domino effect that tumbled them in other East European lands. All this is detailed in the first part of the book. After reading only this first section, I recommended it to a priest who had been an avid reader for most of his 91 years. After finishing it, his comment was, "I had no idea all that was going on"—both in the Roman Curia and in Poland.

The second part of the book deals with the last years of the Pope's life when, in spite of declining health, he traveled and developed an astounding parade of programs designed to enhance the faith of Catholics worldwide. His list of health problems is mind-boggling. In wartime, his shoulder was broken by a German army truck; the normal problems caused by his assassin's bullet in 1981 were abetted by an accompanying cytomegalovirus infection; a stomach tumor appeared in 1992, followed by another broken shoulder in 1993; 1994 brought a broken femur and a poorly fitting hip joint prosthesis; an appendectomy was necessary in 1996, and finally, and most cruelly, came the debilitating bout with Parkinson's disease that on the surface, changed his very personality. In the third section, Weigel attempts to make an evaluation of his reign as pope,

and is eminently fair. He points out some of his mistakes: he underestimated the depths of the priestly sexual abuse problem; some of his episcopal appointments were less than could be desired; he was bamboozled, like many people, by founder of the Legionaries of Christ Marcial Maciel, who while parading as a holy man, was living a life of sin. However, the good accomplished by John Paul far outbalances any such faults of judgment.

John Paul believed ardently that change for good in a society was not won by bloodshed. In his view, the culture of a people could be more powerful than military might. For democracy and a market economy to be successful, the people had to possess certain moral virtues. By reminding the Polish people of their Christian heritage, by urging them to remember their dignity and obligation to live as fearless, moral, human beings, he was able to accomplish what no armies could have done. He met powerful opposition in his work not only from outside forces, but even within the establishment in Rome. If anyone thinks the Pope is absolute master of Vatican policies, this book will be an eye-opener. It is far easier to read than Weigel's first biography. Polish names can be formidable, but he even gives a helpful little run-down of how to pronounce them at the book's beginning.

Ursuline Sister Grace Swift was a professor of history at Loyola University in New Orleans from 1966-1998, and has her doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in Soviet Area Studies. She moved to Maple Mount in 2009, following the merger of her former community, the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kan., with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

A+ For America
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools Week: January 30 – February 5, 2011
The National Catholic Educational Association and The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

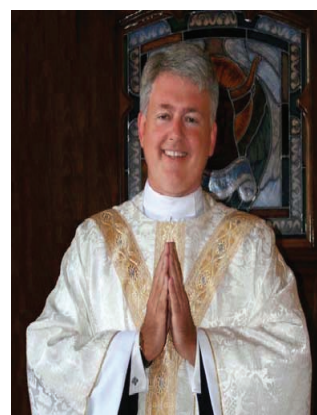
34 St. Mary Lady Vikings Basketball Team Provides Advent Gift of Service

PADUCAH, Ky. - The Lady Vikings cleaned the office, sorted groceries, and delivered gifts as they each provided three hours of service to the Paducah Cooperative Ministry. Senior, Sarah Hendley noted how good it felt when one mother was so appreciative of the gifts that were provided. "She cried and told us her children would not have had gifts for Christmas if PCM had not helped."

At right, The Lady Vikings - L to R - Coach Staci Averill, Michae Word, Peyton Vaughn, Rachael Guess, Lydia McManus, Alex Durbin, Leann Thweatt, Abby Powell, Haley Eck, Emily Curtsinger, Danielle Dome', Katie Gipson, Sarah Hendley, Casey Kupper, and Alana Miller volunteer at Paducah Cooperative Ministry over Christmas break. Photo by Missy Eckenberg



Bluegrass Music and OCS Teachers - They Got The Moves
Randy Lanham and the bluegrass band visited the Owensboro Catholic Schools Elementary K-3 Campus. Randy Lanham even had the teachers involved in learning to Square Dance! The children loved clapping to the beat of the music and playing their "air" fiddle, mandolin, and banjo! OCS Photo



Call 1.270.389.1002 today for details!

Price includes: Land tour, sightseeing, air from Nashville, Breakfast & Dinner daily.

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MEDJUGORJE & ROME

June 21st - July 4th, 2011

Enjoy 7 nights in Medjugorje with an optional trip extension of 5 nights in Rome! Experience the beauty and peace of Medjugorje. During your stay you will have the opportunity to share faith with pilgrims from all over the world! Next you can choose to travel on to Rome for 5 majestic nights.

Medjugorje only Price Based on Double Occupancy: \$2,498.00 plus air taxes.

Medjugorje & Rome Based on Double Occupancy: \$3940.00 plus air taxes.



Saints Peter and Paul School Students Sing Happy Birthday to Bishop-emeritus John McRaith

In the picture at left, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, posed with school children from the kindergarten, first and second grade classes on December 6, 2010. The children had made their own bishop mitres in honor of the Feast of St. Nicholas and Bishop Emeritus John McRaith's birthday. The photo was taken just after the group called to sing 'Happy Birthday' to the retired bishop. Photo taken by Sarah Kranz.

Grief Support Group - Helping Teenagers Cope With Grief

By Betty Medley

Teens Often Experience Sudden Deaths. The grief that teens experience often comes suddenly and unexpectedly. A parent may die of a sudden heart attack, a brother or sister may be killed in an auto accident, or a friend may commit suicide. The very nature of these deaths often results in a prolonged and heightened sense of unreality.

Sometimes we assume that teenagers will find comfort from their peers. But when it comes to death, this may not be true. It seems that unless friends have experienced grief themselves, they project their own feelings of helplessness by ignoring the subject of loss entirely.

There will be a bereavement teen support group ages 13-18 years of age who have experienced a death at any time of his/her life. This will be a four week support group and meet the following four Wednesday evenings from 6:00- 7:00pm

• **WHERE:** Owensboro Middle School (park in front),
2631 South Griffith Ave/Owensboro.

• **CONTACT:** Betty Medley @ Glenn Funeral Home, 683-1505

Feb 2	What Grief Is Really Like
Feb 9	Depression
Feb 16	Anger & Guilt
Feb 23	From Grief to Living Again/Memorial

Letting God Be Our “Mapquest”

I can see it now.

I can see my kids when they were little and just as soon as we told them we were going to town, one would yell, “I called shotgun!”

My brothers and sisters and I did the very same thing but we just said, “I get the front seat!” There was something special about being in the front seat with Mom or Dad while a sibling was in the back seat, and you thought you were hot stuff up front. At least, that is what I thought, being the 10th child out of 13 brothers and sisters. It was like I had my mom all to myself. At least she heard my voice first over everyone else’s.

When my children sat in the front seat they thought they could even maybe talk me into certain little extra perks, like maybe some McDonald’s or going shopping. They sure did know how to play me, especially if they noticed a really good mood in mom if she was acting silly along with them.

Let’s just for one moment imagine that God is calling out to us wanting to “ride shotgun” in the front seat of our lives, trying to get our attention any way that He can to lead us on the road to holiness. He wants to talk to us, he wants so badly to guide us, but we keep pushing him in the back seat because we keep tuning Him out. We want God in our lives, we need God when life gets too hard. When He gives us the answers we don’t like or understand we have a tendency to throw Him in the backseat.

I want very much to be a saint and be on that road to holiness, but those bumps on the road can sure put your faith to the test. There is nothing easy or smooth when you are traveling with God. Letting God ride shotgun will give us some direction that can make one’s journey a lot more pleasant. God is more than willing to be our “MapQuest.”

Have you ever felt like you just don’t have anything left inside of you to pray? It’s a feeling like your prayer life is dry, getting a little stale. I can have a whole month when I really feel close to God and I am pretty pleased with my prayer life. Then, I could have many days when I feel distant; then I get very frustrated that I am feeling this way. You know what? It is OK and perfectly normal to have those ups and downs in our spiritual life, but it is not OK to stay there. That is where we need our backseat driver (God), to move up front and help guide us out of our desolation. Even at those darkest times we can be given graces.

God gives this grace to help us appreciate our good times and to come to know Him in bad times, even when we feel that we don’t have anything to give back. Sometimes, just giving Him a special prayer, “Good morning, God. I love you!” Is perfectly OK when you feel dry with your prayer life for that moment. Just don’t give up!

+JMJ+ Julie Murphy



Betty Medley

Is There Anything Normal About Grief?

35

By Betty Medley

Grief is part of the human process of life. It begins when we, as infants, depart from the security of our mother’s womb. It continues until we journey into eternal life with God. Particular moments in life create a more intense awareness of loss and the change that is created in our lives as a result.

Grief is the normal response to any serious loss. It may come as a result of the death of a loved one or a friend. It could be the result of the ending of a relationship. Sometimes even losing a special possession, moving to a new neighborhood, starting school, or sending a child to school creates the same feelings that are associated with the grieving process. The unfortunate truth is that most of us are poorly prepared for experiences of loss and grief. When we experience it for the first time we often believe that the feelings, the physical and psychological symptoms, and even the spiritual pain are not normal. Grief is the healthy response to loss. It is the way that we as humans cope with losing someone whom we have shared ourselves.

- Each person grieves in his/her own way.
- No one can make grieving go faster or slower.
- We grieve for every loss, in some way, regardless of the way others evaluate the severity of the loss.
- Though experts describe stages of the grieving process, each person goes through the stages according to his/her own needs.
- The grieving process for a healthy person usually lasts from six months to two years or more depending on the individual’s own adjustment process and the support received from others throughout the intense period of grief.

Persons who are grieving need to identify what persons would be helpful to their recovery process and to determine when and how it is comfortable to spend time with them. Rely on your own instincts to determine when this will be. Just be sure to take the steps that are necessary to keep a relationship alive. Family and friends cannot know your needs unless you tell them.

Sts. Joseph and Paul 2011

Parish Mission February 21, 22 & 23

Led by Dominican Priest, Preacher and Musician
Fr. Jim Marchionda, OP

Fr. Jim will preach at the Sunday Masses and invite us to the Mission on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

The Evening will begin each night at 6:30pm

The Parish Mission will focus on

Every Day Holiness – a preaching that recognizes and celebrates the people of God as the “Living Saints of God,” naming the holy moments of everyday life.

Prayer for Healing – a beautiful ritual that assist our parish to name and pray for the healing: among us, among those we love, and in our world.

Prayer Concert – Music, story, prayer and preaching. These four methods of prayer will close out our parish mission and leave us with a renewed spirit of God in our lives.

36 OCS Students Record Radio Program, “Praying The Rosary With Bishop William Medley”

Submitted by Karen Gross, OCS School System

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Bishop William Medley approached the Owensboro Catholic Schools with a project to recite the rosary, one mystery with students from each of the school sites. He was very excited about initiating the project and to hear the final product. Bishop Medley commented, “I am pleased to present to the Owensboro community an opportunity to join me and the children of the Owensboro Catholic Schools to pray the Rosary. In inviting our children to lead the community in prayer speaks of the value in attending Catholic schools. This is a witness to the value in Catholic Education to the whole community.”

The Owensboro Catholic Schools jumped on this idea and scheduled Bishop Medley to record the rosary.

Each school site chose the students to be part of the project. Bishop Medley visited with the students prior to recording so they could review how to respond to the prayers. He used a special rosary, a beautiful and vibrant red rosary, he had purchased in Lourdes, France. The students introduced

themselves and their grade level.

Students from Owensboro Catholic Middle School recorded the Glorious mysteries. They were randomly chosen with some being from 7th and 8th grade.

Students from Owensboro Catholic High School recorded the Sorrowful mysteries. Those participating were the officers of the Right to Life club.

Students from the OCS Elementary K-3 Campus recorded the Joyful mysteries. Several students from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade participated. Third grader, Ben O’Bryan, asked Bishop Medley to bless his rosary. The Bishop was pleased to do it.

Students from the OCS Elementary 4-6 Campus recorded the Luminous mysteries. Several students from the 4th, 5th and 6th

grade participated.

The students really enjoyed the interaction with the bishop. He shared several stories with each group about reciting the rosary as a school when President Kennedy was shot and also about visiting the Pope and having his rosary blessed.

Each of the three local Catholic radio stations in the diocese will carry this broadcast. These stations are WSPP, Hopkinsville 93.5; WIMM, Owensboro 107.7; and WEUC, Morganfield (covers Henderson and Evansville, IN) 87.9. These recordings will air 4:30-5am and 8-8:30pm daily with the appropriate mystery. Currently, each recording last about 15 minutes so the rosary will be recited twice in each time slot. Matt Carrico of WIMM radio said, “We (WIMM radio) are very excited to offer our listeners a chance to pray with His Excellency.” Karen Gross of the Owensboro Catholic Schools commented on recording the rosary at the school sites by saying, “It was great to see Bishop Medley share his love of the rosary with the students and see him interact with students of all ages.”

Also these recordings are available on the WIMM website at www.wimradio.com and have been posted as podcasts of the Owensboro Catholic Schools at www.ocsaces.podbean.com The diocese is encouraged to listen and pray the rosary with the students.

Karen Gross works in Admissions/Marketing for The Owensboro Catholic Schools, www.owensborocatholic.org

• **ELEMENTARY K-3 CAMPUS**, below center photo: Lily Carol Moore, John Michael Frey, Alyssa Frey, Matthew Gray, Ben O’Bryan, Caitlyn Bell. (*Joyful Mysteries*) OCS Photos by Karen Gross



Students from the four Owensboro Catholic School System Schools who prayed the rosary for radio:

• **OCHS**, lower right hand photo: Carly Kaelin, Andrea McBride, Alex Dotsey, Brad Blincoc, Lindsey Whitehouse, Jack Wilson (*Sorrowful Mysteries*)
• **OCMS**, at upper left, : seated: Olivia Cason, Hannah Hagan; Back row (left

to right) Jacob Payne, Mary Eichholz, Zachary Haynes, Logan Buckman, Patrick Mills, Cecilia Crowe, Georgia McMaster (*Glorious Mysteries*)

• **ELEMENTARY 4-6 CAMPUS**, at lower left : Kelly Hayden, Meredith Stiff, Jade Flaherty, Jacob Johnson, Benjamin Conkright, Tricia Thompson (*Luminous Mysteries*)



In the picture at left, Kelly Hayden held her rosary while taping a recitation of the rosary at Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus on Dec. 8, 2010. Jacob Johnson is at right.

In the photo at right, at OCS 4-6 Campus: from left front, Tricia Thompson, Meredith Stiff, Jade Flaherty, Bishop William Medley, at back center, Benjamin Conkright, Kelly Hayden, and Jacob Johnson. Mel Howard Photos



At St. Mary's, Children Discover That There Are Many Ways To Learn 37



St Mary of the Woods School students singing carols at the Bishop Soenneker Home during the Christmas season: from left, Caleb Mills, Breana Murphy, and Mary Hardesty



Parishioner and Lions Club member, Pat Burch, prepares kindergartner CeCe Miller to have an eye test, courtesy of the Lions Club. St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School children 5 years and younger were the first in the area to have this free exam. Lion Club members attended special training at the Eye Institute in Louisville for this non-invasive procedure.

Submitted by Cindy Ward

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - The CSI (Community Solutions Initiators) and YDO-SA (Young Daughters of St. Angela) groups of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School sang Christmas Carols, visited with the residents, and presented gifts to the staff of the Bishop Soenneker Home in Knottsville.

Principal Sister Suzanne Sims, O.S.U., commented, "St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School children in Whitesville, KY learn to work together to help each other. They also learn ways to reach out to others as partners who have much to teach them. One family of four children learns how to manage family life with Mom while Dad serves in the nation's military in a foreign war. These children discover that there are many ways to learn."



Computer Partners

Saint Mary of the Woods School, Whitesville, 6th and 7th graders learned to develop a Powerpoint to help kindergarten and first grade students with math facts. Pictured at right above are Molly Beatty (7th grade) and Maggie Foster (1st grade); in the picture at left above, Jack Goetz (6th Grade) and Paul Rhodes (Kindergarten) learn together how to solve a Powerpoint task



Bishop Soenneker Activity Coordinator, Arlene Cecil, right, got a great hug from St. Mary of the Woods School 6th grader Sierra Valdez during the school's Christmas, 2010 program for the Home's residents and staff.



Ms. Cheryl Jones, St. Mary of the Woods School Kindergarten Teacher and Colsi Stauffer bearing Christmas gifts from the school.



Roberts Children: Good Managers

These children offer canned goods from home to help those who are hungry in our area. Zach, Zeke, Chassity, and Briar are sons and daughter of Stacy and Chad Roberts. Chad currently is in the military service in Afghanistan and is away all year.

Join Reverend Gerald Baker on a Pilgrimage to
 Lourdes & Shrines of France

August 30th - September 10th, 2011

"The only important thing is going to Heaven"

Follow in the footsteps of the devoted through France! On this twelve day faith filled journey we will spend five days in Paris and then board a train to Lourdes. After three days in Lourdes we will travel back to Paris while stopping in Paray-le-Monial, Nevers, & Chartres. Some sites we will visit include: Notre Dame Cathedral, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine, St. Vincent de Paul Shrine, the family home of St. Therese, the Carmelite Convent, the grotto, Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, St. Bernadette's family home, the Palace of the Popes, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and so much more!



For more information Contact 270.389.1002!

Per person price based on double occupancy: \$3,895.00(plus air tax)

Price includes: land tour, sightseeing, air from Nashville, round trip transfers, breakfast daily, six three-course dinners, and ten nights in superior hotels.

Catholic Radio Making an Impact

The numbers prove it: Listeners return to church because of what they hear.

RENO, Nev. — New survey results on the effect of Catholic radio show what Catholic radio operators have long known: The medium is having a positive impact on listeners, their parishes and the Church.

The survey, conducted in November, 2010 by MBA students at John Paul the Great Catholic University on behalf of the Immaculate Heart Radio network, showed that just over half the survey respondents are more active in their local parishes as a direct result of listening to Catholic radio.

"The results are overwhelming," said Doug Sherman, founder and president of Immaculate Heart Radio, which broadcasts on 24 stations throughout the American Southwest. "We knew we were having an impact on people ... but we had no idea what a profound difference our stations were having."

Among the survey's other findings:

- 94% of listeners said they are more spiritually engaged and inspired.
- 83% say they've learned a great deal about their Catholic faith.
- 69% are better able to teach their children the truths of the faith.
- 47% attend Mass more frequently.
- 31% have returned to the Church because of the programming.

For the rest of the story, look online at <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/catholic-radio-making-an-impact#When:05:46:06Z>

TEC Co-founders Received National Youth Ministry Recognition Award

NEW ORLEANS, La. - The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) Board of Directors honored TEC Co-Founders Fr. Matthew Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke with the National Youth Ministry Recognition Award. They received these awards because of their lifetime dedication and ongoing contributions to the TEC Movement.

Every two years, the NFCYM presents this award to those who serve as role models to other youth and young adult ministry leaders. Fedewa and Gereke received their honors at the 2010 National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry on Friday, Dec. 10 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center.

TEC leaders commend the co-founders on their service to the ministry:

- "Congratulations to Fr. Matthew Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke as they continue to spend themselves in loving service to young people in the Church."

- Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, TEC Conference Episcopal Moderator
- "As someone whose own faith and involvement in the Church was formed and supported by TEC from the time I attended my original retreat as a college freshman, it was an honor to have Fr. Matthew and Dorothy recognized in New Orleans at NCCYM. Since the Second Vatican Council, as well as the advent of comprehensive youth ministry with the publication of A Vision of Catholic Youth Ministry in the 1970's by the USCCB, the TEC Movement has demonstrated staying power as other ministries, outreaches, and retreats have come and gone. Rooted in the Paschal Mystery, TEC then and now seeks to bring adolescents and young adults to that encounter with the Risen Christ. Fr. Matthew and Dorothy, humble servants of Jesus, truly embody lifetime achievement."

- John Smestad, Jr., director of CYO/youth & young adult ministry, New Orleans Archdiocese

- "Every day of their lives, Fr. Matt and Dorothy seek to live what they have come to identify as 'Paschal Mystery spirituality.' They are authentic witnesses to lives lived in Christ, open to the promptings of the Spirit, and willing to let go of what is 'too small' so that the new life of Christ can continually emerge. They do not cling to what is comfortable and familiar, or to successes of the past, but continue to learn and grow and allow God to work in their lives."

- Janet Drey, Des Moines, Iowa, former TEC Conference executive director

TEC is a Catholic movement of spirituality for older adolescents and young adults founded in Battle Creek, Mich. in 1965. Focusing on the Paschal Mystery, TEC helps thousands of young people each year deepen their relationship with Christ and discern their vocation within the larger Church. TEC is affiliated with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry; National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association; and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Episcopal Moderator, Most Rev. William Callahan, OFM Conv., La Crosse, Wis.

OCHS Football Players Visited OCS Elementary School Sites

The day prior to the OCHS Football Aces playing in the State Title game in Bowling Green, the junior and senior players visited the OCS Elementary School sites. At the OCS Elementary K-3 Campus, the students lined the hallways and chanted 'We Are...OC' as the players came through and gave each student a high-five. It ended with a cheer of 'Give me an A....C....E....S!'

At the OCS Elementary 4-6 Campus, the players visited classrooms, thanked them for their support at games and encouraged them to attend the game or listen on the radio. It was a great way to pump up the team!

In the picture at right, Ryan Hogg (#4), Zach Brett (#11) and Isaac Hardesty (#13) introduce themselves and answer questions in Mrs. Luttrell's 4th grade class. Dec. 8, 2010. OCS Photo by Karen Gross



Michal Horace posed with TEC Co-Founders Fr. Matthew Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke Dec. 10, 2010 in New Orleans as they received their National Youth Ministry Recognition Award. Photo courtesy of the national TEC Conference Office.

A CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE LOVE AND LIFE IN THE DIVINE PLAN AND IN REAL LIFE

Love and Life in the Divine Plan

Marriage and Family Conference

"Love and Life in the Divine Plan and in Real Life," is a conference based on the Pastoral Letter of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops on marriage, "Love and Life in the Divine Plan." The bishops identify **four threats to marriage:** contraception, divorce, cohabitation and same sex unions. The conference will feature lectures on each of the four threats to marriage, as well as on Christian anthropology and the real gift of God's love.

Featuring Janet Smith, Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, Sam Gregg, Sister Jane Dominic, O.P., and other noted scholars.

This conference is for everyone, especially students, clergy, and pastoral workers. All religious traditions are welcome.

A modest **fee of \$25**, includes continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials. Scholarships are available for students, clergy and members of religious orders.

FEBRUARY 25TH & 26TH, 2011

www.ruthinstitute.org/loveandlife



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AQUINAS COLLEGE, NASHVILLE, TN \ FEBRUARY 25TH & 26TH, 2011



Welcoming the Roman Missal third edition

All life leads to, and from, the Mass

On Sunday, November 27, 2011, all Catholic parishes across the United States will begin using a new translation of the Roman Missal.

Ask a Catholic liturgist where Catholics find their identity, and the answer comes without hesitation: the Mass.

"It's where we are most 'church,' if you will; where we are most the body of Christ," says Msgr. John Burton, chair of the board of directors of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. "The Mass is at the very heart of our Christian experience."

For Precious Blood Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman, director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry in Dayton, Ohio, the Mass is far more than a Sunday obligation or even a mere ritual.

"We cannot be Roman Catholic without Mass," she says. "Mass actually defines for us who we are as baptized members of the body of Christ."

And that, the two liturgists say, is why the Mass is so important to Catholicism.

Sister Joyce Ann notes that the Mass is where Christ gives himself to us in word and sacrament, offering his "total self-giving love" that marks his divinity and humanity. "That total self-giving is what our life as baptized people is also all about," she says. At Mass, "we enter into and rehearse who we are to be and how we are to be as the visible presence of Christ in the world today."

Catholics' participation in the celebration of the Mass is a celebration of salvation, says Sister Janet Baxendale of the Sisters of Charity, a professor of liturgy at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers.

"This is one of the primary reasons that the Mass is at the center of our life as Catholics," Sister Janet says. "The bread and wine offered on the altar truly become the body and blood of Christ which was sacrificed for our salvation. This Eucharistic food nourishes us spiri-

tually. It is our food for the journey of life."

The three liturgists note that upcoming changes to the English translation of the Roman Missal will likely cause concern among some because of the deeply personal way in which the Mass touches people.

Some tend to become very protective in the face of change, Sister Joyce Ann says. But the liturgy is a communal gathering and not an individual event. When a person comes through the church doors and enters the sacred space, they leave the individual self outside and join the gathering as members of the body of Christ, becoming "we" instead of "I," she says. The realization that the "liturgy isn't about me" should help us prepare for the changes, she says. We have to "let go" and place our trust that the Spirit and the teaching office of the Church will be moving us forward.

The new changes are not being made for the sake of change but to be as "faithful as possible to the Latin texts from which they were translated," Sister Janet says. While they may take some getting used to, "they can be for us a way to grow in a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the power and beauty of the great treasure we have in our Mass."

Msgr. Burton likes to look at the Mass from a monastic perspective, where the Mass is at the center of the day and everything leads to it and flows from it.

As Catholics, all of life leads to the Mass, he says, and "all of life leads from it."

Questions or comments may be directed to: Fr. Larry McBride (fatherlarry@bellsouth.net) or Martha Hagan (martha.hagan@pastoral.org) in the Office of Worship.



Catholic Schools Week Theme Says Catholic Schools Are A+ For America

Annual observance scheduled Jan. 30 through Feb. 5, 2011

Arlington, Va.--The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2011 celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value ("a plus") for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a definite contribution to American society.

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally the last week in January. For 2011 the dates are Jan. 30 through Feb. 5. Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, administrators, faculty, school staff, the community and families.

The logo designed for the week displays the words "A+ For America, Catholic Schools" beneath a stylized banner of stars and stripes in red and light blue.

"Historically, Catholic schools are known for their high level of academic achievement, moral values and high graduation rates," said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). "What may not be as widely recognized are the outstanding successes recorded by students of low-income families and students from the inner city. That's certainly a plus for many portions of the American population."

Marie Powell, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted: "This year nearly 30 percent of the nation's 2.1 million Catholic school students come from minority populations. Enrollment of students who are not Catholic has increased to 14.5 percent, an indication that many diverse families seek the benefits of a quality education with moral underpinnings."

The 7,094 Catholic elementary and secondary schools make up 44.4 percent of all private schools in the United States.

A Catholic-school education is available in all regions of the nation. Urban schools represent 30.7 percent of the total, suburban 36.5 percent, rural 20.5 percent and inner-city schools 12.3 percent. The five states with the highest student enrollments are California, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio.

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of NCEA and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about Catholic Schools Week, visit the NCEA Web site at: www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolsWeek.asp.

40 The Paducah Serra Club Encourages Religious Vocations

By Missy Eckenberg

The Paducah Serra Club was organized under the chaplaincy of Father Bruce McCarty in 2007. It supports the same mission as the Owensboro and Henderson clubs and Serra International: the encouragement and promotion of religious vocations to the ordained priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life. The club meets at St. Mary High School Chapel on the first Monday of each month to pray together for vocations. There is a lunch meeting at the Pasta House on the third Monday of designated months to consider projects and activities to promote the mission.

The current officers are James Shumaker, president; Jeanine Cudd, secretary, Martha O'Neil, treasurer, and Father Pat Reynolds, chaplain. Along with the officers, the board members include Monica Kim and Marietta Haas.

The Paducah Serra Club notes that there are at present 18 men in the seminary for the Diocese of Owensboro, 18 men the diaconate program, and at least two women in preparation for the consecrated life.

In the picture at right are Paducah Serrans, from left, James Shumaker, Monica Kim, Jeanine Cudd, Michael Alexander, John Shumaker, Camilla Shumaker, Marietta Haas, and Martha O'Neil. Photo submitted by Missy Eckenberg



Sisters Spread The Word about Lamb of God Sisters During Vocations Awareness Week 2011



Sr. Audrey M. Gold, A.D., above, moved among the students at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, answering their questions, handing out information about the Sisters of the Lamb of God, and speaking to the students about the Sisters' ministries in the diocese.



The Sisters of the Lamb of God, Sr. Audrey and Sr. Deborah Ann Bailey, A.D., shown above, visited the students at Owensboro Catholic Middle School on Friday, January 14th. This week was Vocations Awareness Week and the sisters shared their religious calling with the religion classes of Mrs. Renshaw and Mr. Woodward. The students were also treated to a piece of candy, a pen, a homemade prayer card and a video featuring religious vocations.

Pictures by Julie Renshaw



+ Monseñor William Medley, Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Mis queridos hermanas y hermanos,
En su carta pastoral del 2003, los Obispos de los Estados Unidos y de México, en comunión con el Santo Padre, en su Mensaje para la Jornada Mundial del Migrante de 1995, afirmaron que:

“en la Iglesia nadie es extranjero, y la Iglesia no es extranjera para ningún hombre y en ningún lugar. Como sacramento de unidad y por tanto, como signo y fuerza de agregación de todo el género humano, la Iglesia es el lugar donde también los emigrantes indocumentados son reconocidos y acogidos como hermanos. Corresponde a las diversas diócesis movilizarse para que esas personas, obligadas a vivir fuera de la red de protección de la sociedad civil, encuentren un sentido de fraternidad en la comunidad cristiana. La solidaridad es asunción de responsabilidad ante quien se encuentra en dificultad.”

“Así pues, la Iglesia debe acoger a toda persona de cualquier raza, cultura, lengua y nación, con alegría, caridad y esperanza, recibiendo con especial cuidado

a aquellos que se encuentran en situación de pobreza, discriminación, marginación o exclusión.”

Tal vez este mes de enero haya sido un tiempo que les ha llenado de frustración, miedo o aún desesperación por la propuesta de ley “SB 6” aquí en Kentucky. Si usted no ha escuchado sobre la propuesta SB 6, observe la información contenida en esta página referente a la propuesta. Es una propuesta que traería muchas consecuencias negativas tanto para la comunidad inmigrante como para cualquier persona de una minoría o quienes les asistan. Sin embargo, mi propósito de escribirles hoy, no es para causarles temor, es más bien para animarlos y recordarles que yo como su Pastor obispo de esta diócesis y la Iglesia Católica está de su lado.

Aunque estén pasando por un momento difícil de gran preocupación por un futuro incierto en el cual podrían sentirse menospreciados o discriminados por cosas fuera de su control, les recuerdo que siempre tendrán un lugar en la Iglesia Católica. Aunque no apoyo el ir en contra o quebrantar las leyes, si entiendo las muchas razones y presiones que los migrantes indocumentados enfrentan. Lo que estamos haciendo es luchar para que reformen todo el sistema de inmigración para que algún día, ya no tengan que tomar esas decisiones tan difíciles y puedan vivir aquí en este país tranquilamente y con todos los mismos derechos de los demás. Y hasta que no se dé pues una reforma migratoria exhaustiva, no dejaremos de luchar en contra de propuestas anti-inmigrantes tales como la SB 6.

Manténganse pues firmes en la fe y no se olviden de las palabras que Jesús exclamó tantas veces cuando estaba en el mundo: “No tengas miedo”. Jesús nos ama, nos acompaña y ya ha vencido la muerte. Por medio de Él lo podemos superar todo. También no olviden que la Santísima Virgen de María nos protege nos cubre con su manto y nos acompaña de una forma especial en todo momento. Encomiéndense siempre a ella y no teman.

+ Monseñor William Medley
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Greetings from Bani (Continued from Catolico page 7)

\$40 per week that the budget allows (with occasional gifts from the US being used to splurge on a cheeseburger, a pizza, or an occasional bottle of wine). A goat is on order to “assist” with cleaning up the brush in the back yard. And my schedule of celebrating Mass in 11 different communities has become established, along with visits to the beach and to the mountains.

Fortunately, Lent arrives late this year (Ash Wednesday this year is March 9), so I’ll have a full two months to enjoy Ordinary Time with ordinary activities. And the welcome mat is officially out, for those who would like to enjoy Dominican rum, hospitality, and traffic. Have a blessed month, and please don’t forget to contact your congressional representatives about the situation in Haiti. They may not be able to do that much, but at least let them know that you are aware of the plight of women and children there and that you care about our neighbors who are in need.

“SB 6”: LO QUE USTED DEBE SABER

SB 6 ES SOLAMENTE UNA PROPUESTA DE LEY
¡NO ES UNA LEY TODAVÍA!

(Tendría que pasar en la Cámara de Diputados cuando regresen después del 1 de Febrero)

Información Básica Sobre la Propuesta “SB 6”:

- SB 6 es una propuesta que da autorización a los policías locales de verificar el estatus migratorio durante cualquier contacto legal si tienen “sospecha razonable” que esa persona no tiene autorización de estar en este país legalmente. Esta parte de la propuesta es parecida a la ley de Arizona SB 1070. Contacto legal puede ser el parar alguien que va manejando por no pararse o por ir en exceso de velocidad, o puede ser cuando alguien llama a la policía porque fue testigo de un crimen o es víctima de, o por una emergencia.
- SB 6 amenaza a cualquier persona que no habla bien el inglés, o que parece no haber nacido en EEUU. Unos de los promotores de esta ley dijo que la falta de capacidad de una persona de hablar inglés proveerá “sospecha razonable” que la persona es “un extranjero sin autorización.” Esto puede traer la detención de individuos que residen en EEUU legalmente, tales como personas con visa, residentes permanentes, o aún ciudadanos. Los policías no están informados de los varios estados legales que existen entre personas que no son ciudadanas. Bajo esta ley habrían detenciones ilegales que ocurrirían con frecuencia.
- SB 6 amenaza a cualquiera persona (incluso ciudadanos o residentes permanentes) quienes “asistan o apoyen” a un inmigrante indocumentado o a niños indocumentados. Incluiría a un trabajador religioso que transporte a un inmigrante indocumentado a alguna iglesia, o un amigo que transporte a un niño indocumentado para ver a un médico. Además, cualquier ayuda a una persona indocumentada para que “resida en Kentucky” sería prohibida. Esto podría incluir a una organización que provee alimentos a familias indocumentadas, o a un profesor de inglés que da clases a niños indocumentados. El “ofensor” sería multado de \$500 a \$1,000. A la persona que se encuentre transportando a un inmigrante indocumentado se le quitaría su automóvil.

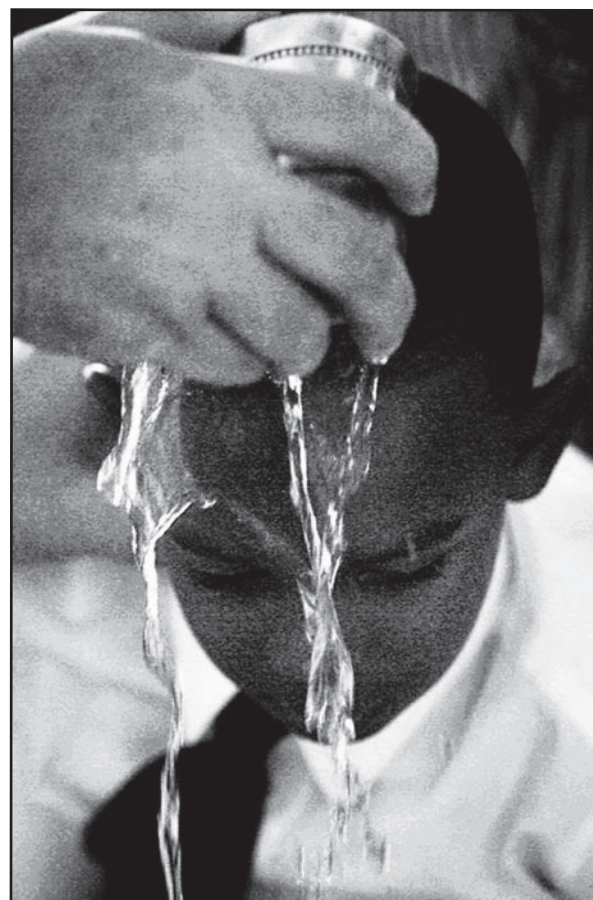
¿QUÉ DEBEN HACER? - Llamar a su Representante Hoy para decirle que diga NO a SB 6

LÍNEA DE TELÉFONO
EN ESPAÑOL: 1-866-840-6574

LÍNEA DE TELÉFONO
EN INGLÉS: 1-800-372-7181

(Solamente tienen que decir su nombre y dirección que quieres que diga “NO” a la SB 6, la dirección es solamente)

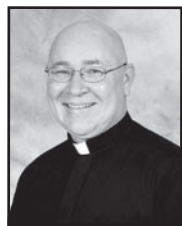
Para más información favor de contactar a Patti Gutiérrez a (270) 302-2782 o Patricia.Gutierrez@pastoral.org



Baptism in Paya on the Feast of Holy Family. Photo by Faye Lash
Bautismo en Paya en la Festividad de la Sagrada Familia. Fotografía por Faye Lash; Submitted by Father Stan Puryear from Bani

Greetings from Bani

By Father Stan Puryear



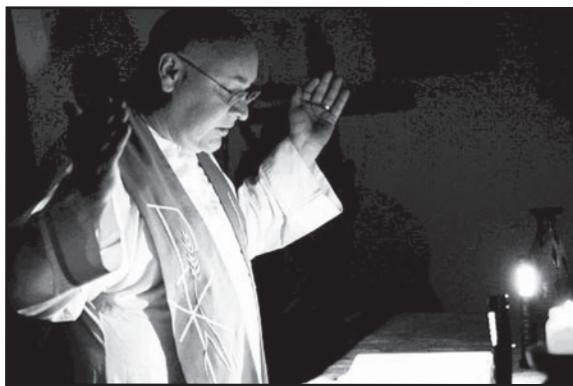
I pray that all of you have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are enduring the dreary days of Kentucky winter. According to the news reports that I read, western Kentucky enjoyed a white Christ-

mas for the first time in quite a number of years. Not to be too mean, but I too was able to enjoy a bit of the white stuff for Christmas. Except, instead of snow, mine was the white sand of Palenque Beach.

Celebrating my first Christmas away from Kentucky and as a missionary in the Caribbean was certainly a surreal experience. As I just gloatingly mentioned, white sand takes the place of white snow. Palm trees, however, do not take the place of a freshly cut pine tree – or, as sometimes happened in some friends' homes, an artificial tree decorated with pine scented car fresheners. Now that I know what to expect and how to plan accordingly, I'll be making a trip to the supercenter for some of those car fresheners in September when I am back in Kentucky.

The week of Christmas also saw me hosting my very first visitor from Kentucky. Faye Lash, a professional photographer and wonderful friend from St. Joseph's Parish in Bowling Green, came to take lots and lots and lots and lots of pictures while also taking a break from winter's chill. Even though her Spanish is limited to half of the first CD of the Rosetta Stone, she experienced Dominican hospitality and Santo Domingo traffic. Fortunately for her, the Dominican government had followed through on its pledge to have most of the stoplights in the capital working in time for the holidays (for reference, read my column that appeared in the December issue of the Western Kentucky Catholic).

In a bizarre turn of events, the week before Christmas saw two people in my life, people who never met each other and had absolutely nothing in common other than their knowing me, die tragically. Three days before Christmas, I learned via a phone call from my father that in Kentucky my former brother-in-law had died tragically at the age of 44. And on the day before Christmas, I was shocked to receive a phone call from parishioners here telling me that a leader of the youth group had died at the age of 24 from injuries received in a traffic accident. Christmas is never a good time to mourn, yet as I grow older in years, I better understand how the birth of



Celebrating Mass by flashlight: electrical outages are common. Photo by Faye Lash

Celebrando la Misa por linterna: interrupciones eléctricas son comunes. Fotografía por Faye Lash

Emmanuel leads to the promise of eternal life.

With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, I knew that the Mass schedule was going to be hectic, but I found myself nearly overwhelmed. From Friday, December 24 to Sunday, December 26, I celebrated ten Masses in eight locations, one being a funeral and one including a Wedding, along with 18 baptisms and numerous Confessions. At the same time, I changed a flat tire, made sure that my fledgling turkey flock did not make an unscrupulous contribution to anyone's Christmas dinner, and entertained a visitor who does not speak Spanish but who loves to take lots and lots and lots and lots of photographs. And the entire time, I knew somehow that I was exactly where God wants me at this point in my life.

This month of January marks the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti with such horrible consequences. I remember the earthquake well because I was in a third-floor hotel room in Santiago when the earth moved. More than 230,000 are estimated to have died in the quake itself, and the death toll from cholera has now exceeded an additional 3,000. As if all that wasn't bad enough, the Organization of American States has announced that it will be unable to certify the first round of the presidential voting, thus preventing a second round, thus preventing a new president from being able to take office on February 1, as the Haitian constitution mandates.

Even worse, a report issued by Amnesty International is detailing how single women are being routinely victimized by criminals roaming through the tent cities in which live those left homeless by the earthquake. The earthquake, it seems, destroyed the prison, with violent criminals escaping. The government does not have the resources to police the camp cities, and women whose husbands or fathers died in the quake or the cholera epidemic

are especially vulnerable. Every night brings fear to women and girls, as individual and/or groups of armed men roam the makeshift shelters seeking victims. Most of the victims don't even bother reporting the sexual assaults because the police honestly tell them that they are powerless to assist. Without courts or prisons, arrest is pointless. I am not sure what the solution is, but I encourage all to write, email, call or fax their congressional representatives so that perhaps the international community might step in.

On the eastern two-thirds of the island, life is much more peaceful and routine. 2011 brings with it the 500th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Santo Domingo. January brings the establishment of parish and diocesan goals for the year. And the post-Christmas rush brings welcome monotony to my own life. The turkey flock has begun, as is the same with the compost pile that will be used for the garden. I've learned how to shop for food at the local marketplace, thus being able to eat on the approximately

Continued on page 41

Saludos de Bani.

Espero que todos celebraron bien la Navidad y el Año Nuevo y que ahora están soportando los días tristes del invierno kentuckense. Según los reportes noticieros que encontré, el área de Kentucky occidental disfrutaba una Navidad blanca por la primera vez en años. No quiero ser malito, pero yo todavía disfrutaba una Navidad blanco. La diferencia es que el blanco navideño mío se celebraba en la arena blanca de la Playa Palenque.

Celebrando la Navidad fuera de Kentucky como misionero en el Caribe fue una experiencia distinta. Como acabo de mencionar, la arena blanca toma el lugar de la nieve blanca. Los arboles palmas no pueden tomar el lugar del pino recién cortado. No se puede reproducir el olor exactamente, aun conozco algunos que trataban decorar su árbol navideño artificial con unos refrescantes del aire para carros que parecen arbolitos de Navidad. Ahora que sé como se celebra la Navidad aquí, la próxima vez que visito a los Estados Unidos, voy a comprar unos de esos arbolitos odorantes.

La semana de la Navidad fue una celebración especial porque recibí mi primera visitante de Kentucky. La Srta. Faye Lash, fotógrafa profesional y buena amiga de la Parroquia San José de Bowling Green vino y sacaba muchísima fotografías – y se escapaba del frío invernal de Kentucky. Aun solamente puede hablar unas palabras del español – lo que aprendió por los primeros 5 capítulos del programa Rosetta Stone – ella pudo aprovechar de la hospitalidad dominicana y experimentar el tráfico de Santo Domingo. Afortunadamente, el gobierno dominicana había cumplido su promesa de reparar la mayoría de los semáforos en la capital para el tiempo navideño. (De eso escribí en la columna que apareció el mes de diciembre del año pasado.)

La semana antes de la Navidad trajo dos ocasiones tristes por las muertes trágicas de dos personas. Tres días antes de la Navi-

dad, mi padre me llamó de Kentucky para decirme que el ex cuñado se había muerto con solamente unos 44 años de edad. El día antes de la Navidad, me llamaron los miembros del grupo juvenil de la parroquia para decirme que uno de los líderes del grupo juvenil se había muerto con solo unos 24 años de edad por un accidente del tráfico. La Navidad no es bien tiempo de perder un ser querido, pero con el pasar de los años, crezco en el entendimiento de cómo el nacimiento de Emanuel nos trae consigo la promesa de la vida eterna.

Como el Día de la Navidad cayó un día sábado este año, sabía que el horario de Misas iba a ser difícil, pero casi no podía sobrevivir. Del viernes, 24 de diciembre al domingo, 26 de diciembre, celebré diez Misas en ocho diferente lugares, una de ellas un Misa de Funeral y uno incluyendo boda, bauticé a 18 niños, y confesé a un montón de personas. En el mismo tiempo, cambiado una goma pinchada (en las palabras dominicanas), cuidaba a mi rebaño de pavos para que no hiciera una contribución inesperada a una cena de Navidad y entretuvo a un visitante que no hablaba español, pero que ama a sacar michisisisísimas fotografías. Y todo el tiempo, yo sabía de alguna manera que no puedo explicar que yo estoy exactamente donde Dios quiere que esté en este momento en mi vida.

El mes de enero es el primer aniversario de terremoto que destruyó el país Haití con consecuencias tan horribles. Yo mismo recuerdo bien el terremoto porque estaba en el tercer piso de un hotel en Santiago cuando se movía la tierra. Más de 230,000 personas se murieron en el terremoto, y otros mas que 3,000 se murieron en la epidemia de cólera que todavía afecta al país. Como si todo eso no fue suficientemente malo, la organización de Estados Americanos ha anunciado que no se ha podido certificar la primera ronda de la votación presidencial, lo que impide una segunda ronda, evitando así que un nuevo

Continue en la pagina 5 Catolico

Celebrando la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

La Misa bilingüe celebrada el pasado 12 de diciembre en la parroquia Santos Pedro y Pablo contó con la participación de la comunidad Hispana y la comunidad Anglo en donde tuvo una alta asistencia tanto en la Misa como en el convivio después de esta.

Puede ver varios vídeos visitando youtube en la internet y entrando la clave COLJimC en el buscador de vídeos.



En la foto arriba ,
Obra representando
las apariciones
Guadalupanas:
Emmanuel - Juan
Diego; Celeste - Virgen
de Guadalupe; José
Jiménez.



En la foto de la izquierda
- Padre Thomas, Padre
Carmelo, Padre Uwem.

Action is Urgently Needed to Oppose SB 6

Senate Bill 6 would mandate enforcement of immigration law by local law enforcement personnel as well as criminalize transporting someone who is an "unauthorized" alien. This not only fails to address the true factors that drive illegal immigration or solve our broken immigration system, but it also makes following the Gospel mandate illegal and our communities less secure.

Please take action to oppose Senate Bill 6 today! You may call your legislator and leave a message at 1-800-372-7181 or e-mail them using the action alert at www.ccky.org. For more information please contact Patti Gutiérrez, Justice for Immigrants Coordinator at (270) 302-2782 or Patricia.Gutierrez@pastoral.org

¡Actúen Hoy para Oponerse al "SB 6"!

Los legisladores de Kentucky están en el proceso de votar para una propuesta de ley peor de la que pasó en el estado de Arizona (SB 1070). La propuesta hace que todos los agentes de la policía pueden detener alguien se sospechan que no tienen documentos y también hace ilegal que cualquier persona transporte a alguien sin estatus legal. Es urgente que todos llamen lo más pronto posible a sus Representantes para decirles que se opongan a la propuesta "Senate Bill 6". Pueden llamar en inglés a: 1-800-372-7181 o en español a: 1-866-840-6574. O pueden visitar a www.ccky.org para mandarles un correo electrónico.

Si quieren más información sobre la propuesta llame a Patti Gutiérrez a (270) 302-2782 o e-mail: Patricia.Gutierrez@pastoral.org

¿Como esta tu salud?

Feria de Salud 2011

No pierdas esta importante oportunidad para saber más sobre tu salud y la salud de tu familia.



Henderson



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**Después de la Misa de Sanación
en Español el 27 de Feb. del 2011**

Para mayor información llame al 270-826-0273 Ext. 310



Iglesia del Santo Nombre de Jesús
511 Second Street, Henderson

Feria de Salud 2011

Por Abraham Brown, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para invitarles a todos a nuestra Segunda Feria de Salud que se llevará a cabo este próximo Domingo 27 de Febrero. Contaremos con más de 20 agencias locales, doctores y enfermeras que estarán prestando sus servicios e información en español para toda la comunidad Latina de nuestra área, y desde luego, todos están invitados. Te adjunto también un poster con la promoción de este evento para que pueda ser publicado en los comunicados en Español de la Diócesis.

Carta del Monseñor William Medley

**Por favor Dé vuelta a la página 8
de Catolico para ver el mensaje espe-
cial del Obispo William Francis Medley
a todos los Hispanos que viven dentro
del área geográfica de Kentucky occi-
dental.**

Productos de la Oración y Reflexión del adviento recién celebrado.

Después de Navidad y Año Nuevo

Se dedica esta reflexión a todos a quienes les gustan leer y pensar sobre sus propias vidas y la vida de los demás a quienes servimos y con quienes convivimos, compatriotas o no, todos por igual.

Tuvimos como meta, iniciar las Novenas a la Santísima Virgen Maria de Guadalupe, y luego prepararnos espiritualmente para el recibimiento de la Navidad, donde el Nacimiento de Jesús se nos da.

Al inicio de las Oraciones se acordó, pedirle a la Virgen la gracia de seguir adelante con todas nuestras dificultades, no solo nosotros los que vivimos en los Estados Unidos sino de toda la America Latina, particularmente los ciudadanos de México por haber sido la sede de las apariciones de la Virgen Maria. Rezando, y cantando le hemos pedido fuerzas, gracias y bendiciones para que no nos deje solos, tenemos Fe, de que ella siempre nos seguirá diciendo con su voz celestial, Juan Dieguito(o nuestro nombre personal) ¿acaso no estoy yo aquí tu madre? Fe y esperanza de que nuestras luchas como personas o como comunidad tengan un sentido y un valor.

Las Posadas, son oraciones especiales para preparar una posada digna a Jesús y a sus padres en nuestro corazón y en nuestro hogar, preparándonos para la gran celebración de la Navidad, eso mismo nos llevó a unirnos en familia, celebrando a Dios en medio de nosotros, por el nacimiento del Niño Dios, es muy cierto que es la celebración de su cumpleaños después de 2 mil años pero aun día a día, llama a nuestra puerta y muchas veces le negamos la entrada a nuestra casa hoy en día a los otros, celebraremos muchas navidades pero sin conciencia y amor será como cualquier fiesta comercial, un intercambio de regalos, Dios no es un juguete, es Señor de Señores. De alguna manera nos ayudo el ambiente del hogar, abra sido por nuestras decoraciones que la Navidad merece toda nuestra atención. La estación del tiempo, la cercanía de los amigos, familiares que de alguna manera caminan con nosotros. Sentimos que todo era una fiesta como se ha dicho en alguna ocasión que todo Diciembre es fiesta para la Comunidad Hispana Católica, no solo nosotros los hispanos sino todas las personas de otras culturas para que alguna vez pudiéramos sentirnos como hermanos.

Habrà que mencionar, ¿como habrán pasado la Navidad los verdaderos pobres alrededor del mundo, qué no tienen comida, agua, ropa, casa, enfermos, encarcelados por alguna causa injustificada? Niños de la calle, seguros de que Jesús estaba presente. ¿Serà que no debemos de mencionarlos para no ofender nuestras conciencias?

Después de todo esto, la preparación no se quedó en las fechas, sino que van con nosotros, ahora nos sentimos más fortalecidos y con más ganas de seguir con el trabajo para servir en la mejor forma a los demás y a Dios. Hermano lector, usted sabe que nuestra realidad pasa momentos difíciles por eso se hace esta clase de meditaciones. Hasta la próxima.

Saludos de Bani (Continuacion de la pagina 42)

presidente asuma el cargo el 1 de febrero, como manda la Constitución haitiana.

Peor aún, un informe publicado por Amnistía Internacional detalla cómo mujeres solteras son rutinariamente víctimas de delincuentes en las ciudades de tienda en las que viven los que quedaron sin hogar por el terremoto. El terremoto destruyó la prisión, y miles de criminales violentes se escaparon. El gobierno haitiano no tiene los recursos para poner policía en las ciudades de campamentos, y las mujeres cuyos maridos o padres murieron en el terremoto o la epidemia de cólera son vulnerables. Cada noche trae miedo a las mujeres y las niñas, como individuos y/o grupos de hombres armados recorren los refugios improvisados buscando víctimas.

“En Nombre de Dios”



Luis Ajú

After Christmas and New Year

This reflection is dedicated to all of those who like to read and reflect on their own lives and the lives of others that we serve and with whom we live, fellow countrymen or not, everyone equal.

We had as our goal to begin the Novenas to the Most Holy Virgin Mary of Guadalupe and then to prepare ourselves spiritually to receive Christmas, where the Birth of Jesus comes to us.

At the beginning of the prayers it was remembered to ask the Virgin to ask God to give us the grace to carry on with all of our difficulties, not only those of us that live in the United States but all of Latin America, particularly the citizens of Mexico as the location of the Marian apparitions. Praying and singing we have asked for strength, grace and blessings so that we may not be left alone. We have faith that she will always continue saying to us in her heavenly voice, “Little Juan Diego (or our own name) am I not here, your mother?” We have faith and hope that our struggles, both as individuals and as a community, have meaning and value.

The Posadas are special prayers to prepare us to give hospitality to Jesus and his parents in our hearts and in our home, preparing ourselves for the great celebration of Christmas. This brings us to come together as a family, to celebrate God in our midst, for the birth of the Child Jesus. It is very true that it is the celebration of his birthday after 2 thousand years but even still, day by day, he continues to knock on our doors. Many times we deny him entrance into our house by refusing to receive others. We will celebrate many Christmases but without awareness and love it will be like any other commercial holiday with an exchange of gifts. God is not a toy; he is the Lord of Lords. In some way the atmosphere of the home helps us, maybe all our decorations show that Christmas deserves all of our attention. We are helped as well by the time of year, the closeness of friends, loved ones that walk with us in some way. We felt that it was a celebration, as has been said: all of December is a celebration for the Hispanic Catholic community. But it is not only for us, but rather all of the people of other cultures so that we may one day feel that we are brothers.

It should be mentioned: how was Christmas for the truly poor around the world that have no food, water, clothes or home, or that are sick or imprisoned unjustly? Or for the children that live on the streets sure that Jesus was present. Shall we not mention those as to not offend our consciences?

After all of this, the preparation has not gone away with the season, rather it goes with us. Now we feel stronger and with more motivation to serve others and God as best as we can. Brother reader, you know our reality and that we are going through difficult times and it is for that reason that these reflections are made. Until next time.

bendita a la vida mía. El trabajo con los pavos ha empezado, y ya están en planes el jardín de comida. He aprendido hacer compras de alimentos en el mercado local, por lo tanto, ahora soy capaz de comer por aproximadamente 40 dólares por semana, lo que permite que el presupuesto (con regalos ocasionales de los Estados Unidos utilizadas para una hamburguesa, una pizza o una ocasional botella de vino). Una chiva está en orden para “ayudar” con la limpieza del patio trasero. Y mi horario de celebrar la Misa en 11 diferentes comunidades se ha establecido, junto con visitas a la playa y a las montañas.

Afortunadamente, la Cuaresma llega un

Products of the Prayer and Reflection of the recently celebrated Advent

poco tarde este año (el Miércoles de Ceniza de este año es el 9 de marzo), por lo que voy a tener dos meses completas para disfrutar el Tiempo Ordinario con actividades ordinarias. Y la puerta de la bienvenida es oficialmente abierta, para los que quisieran disfrutar de tráfico, hospitalidad y ron dominicano. Que tengan un mes bendito y por favor, no olvide ponerse en contacto con sus representantes del Congreso sobre la situación en Haití. Es posible que ellos no son capaces de hacer mucho, pero a lo menos, que ellos sepan que sus pueblos están conscientes de la miseria de las mujeres y los niños allí y que ustedes mismos están preocupados por nuestros vecinos necesitados.

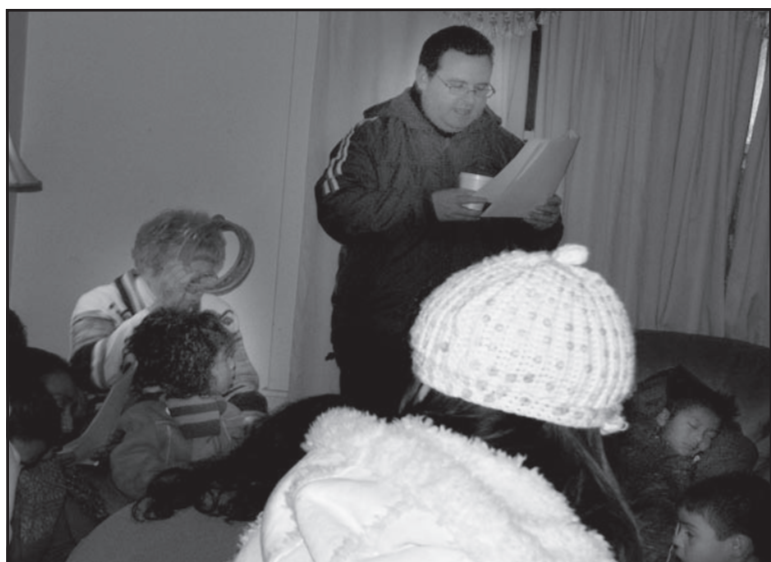
16 de diciembre, las posadas en Owensboro



Virgen María y San José, representados por dos niños de la Comunidad de San José y Pablo, salen a pedir posada para recibir a Jesús, para su nacimiento. Foto de Luis Aju



La comunidad en oración, reflexionando acerca de lo que significa este acto piadoso que se repite cada año. Foto de Luis Aju



Cristóbal Gutiérrez, como Ministro Hispano comparte una reflexión, con la comunidad, El es quien organiza las novenas y posadas y otras muchas actividades de la parroquia, lo animamos para que siga adelante con su Ministerio en bien de la Iglesia de Owensboro.



La Hermana Panchita, como siempre acompañando a la comunidad con su tradicional música con la guitarra, como podemos ver la alegría de los miembros de la comunidad disfrutando de las oraciones y cantos en la posada. Foto de Luis Aju



Momentos en que María y José, entran a la casa que les brinda la posada, después de cantar el canto dividido en dos partes, primera parte cantan los de afuera y la 2da. Parte lo cantan los de adentro pero llegan un momento en que todos juntos cantamos y la canción se vuelve solo una. Foto de Luis Aju



El día 18 de Diciembre la Familia Barajan, hospedo la Posada de la Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro.



El P. Jane Rene K. acompaña a la comunidad para celebrar las posadas, es un gesto muy grande que el Sacerdote va con la Comunidad a seguir con las posadas, le animamos al P. Jane R. que siga adelante en cuidar su rebaño.



Niños, jóvenes y adultos, esperando para iniciar las oraciones, cantos apropiados para este acto de fe que los Hispanos traemos, como parte de nuestra tradición en seguir con las posadas como parte del adviento.

18 de diciembre 2010 en Owensboro Posadas



Paducah, Ky. -

En la foto abajo a la derecha - En esta fotografía se aprecia las varias familias quienes rezan las novenas para la celebración de la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe, en la parroquia de Santo Thomas More en Paducah, animamos a estos hermanos para que siguen adelante apoyando a la comunidad.



Una familia de la comunidad, entreteniendo a los demás antes de iniciar las oraciones de la posada.



Al fondo se ve la entrada de la casa, donde el grupo entra con una luz, simbolizando la entrada de la Sagrada familia.



2 El Primer Aniversario del Monseñor Medley: 2010 un Año de Celebrar, Aprender y Orar

El 1 de febrero del 2010 me mudé a Owensboro en anticipación a mi ordenación como el Obispo de esta diócesis. El 10 de febrero del 2010, tras una tormenta que dejó casi ocho pulgadas de nieve alrededor del occidente de Kentucky, alrededor de casi 5,000 personas se congregaron en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro para participar en un evento que solamente ha ocurrido cuatro veces durante los setenta y tres años de la Diócesis de Owensboro: "La ordenación de un obispo". ¿Cuántos habrían llegado si el clima hubiera estado bonito?

La población Católica de Kentucky occidental se calcula entre los 51,000, aunque este número no cuenta a las miles de personas quienes nombres no se encuentran incluidos en el registro de las parroquias. Esto quiere decir que tal vez uno de cada diez Católicas se reunieron para esta celebración. Si Los Ángeles, Nueva York o Chicago se juntaran diez por ciento de sus Católicos, ninguno podría acomodar tantas personas. La Iglesia Católica de Kentucky occidental demostró aquel día una fe vibrante y una identidad Católica.

Ahora que se acerca el primer aniversario de este día histórico, quiero hablar de las muchas señales que he visto en este año de la fuerte identidad Católica y esta fe ferviente. Uno de mis primeros actos como obispo fue visitar el asilo de ancianos dirigido por las hermanas carmelitas y celebrar la Misa con nuestros sacerdotes enfermos y jubilados que viven allí y en los Apartamentos del Obispo Cotton. Asistieron diez sacerdotes y representaban juntos casi seiscientos años de servicio sacerdotal. Desde este día he visitado todas las fundaciones de mujeres y hombres religiosos en nuestra área. Los años acumulados del ministerio fiel de estas mujeres y hombres representarían la suma de miles de años.

Para cuando cumpla el aniversario, habré celebrado



Monseñor William F. Medley

la Misa ya en 65 de las 79 parroquias de la Diócesis. Ya está programada mi visita a varias parroquias más que no he visitado para asegurar que dentro de unos meses más estaría en cada parroquia. He celebrado la Misa en cada escuela Católica de la Diócesis, en la Universidad de Brescia y los centros Católicos de las Universidades de Murray State y de Western Kentucky. Mi suma de estas visitas: rezamos bien juntos como Católicos. Nuestras parroquias y comunidades son enormemente diferentes, parroquias de más de un mil de familias y otras con sola-

Calendario del Monseñor Medley para Febrero 2011

1 de Febrero	9:00am Misa de la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, Santa María, Paducah
3 de Febrero	10:00am Misa de la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, Escuelas de Owensboro
4 de Febrero	10:00am Misa de la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, Cristo Rey, Madisonville
5 de Febrero	9:00am Misa Roja, Santo Espíritu, Bowling Green
6 de Febrero	10:00am Confirmación, Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Owensboro
9 de Febrero	8:00am Misa Escolar, San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville
10 de Febrero	10:00am Reunión de la Junta Directiva del CCK, Louisville
10-11 de Febrero	Reunión Provincial, Louisville, KY
13 de Febrero	3:00pm Confirmación, San José, Bowling Green
15 de Febrero	9:00am Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano
15 de Febrero	6:00pm Confirmación, San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
16 de Febrero	Enfocarse en la Filantropía, Louisville
16 de Febrero	6:00pm Confirmación, Santos Antonio, Agustín y Benedicto, Clarkson
17 de Febrero	10:00am Misa Escolar, Owensboro Catholic High School
18 de Febrero	5:30pm Cena de Agradecimiento de las Vocaciones, Paducah
20 de Febrero	9:00am Confirmación, Santa Isabel, Curdsville
21 de Febrero	9:30am Reunión del Comité del Personal Sacerdotal
21 de Febrero	1:30pm Reunión del Concejo de los Sacerdotes
22 de Febrero	9:00am Misa Escolar, Sistema Escolar de Santa María, Paducah
11:00am	Conversaciones con los Estudiantes del Último Año, Owensboro

mente unas docenas de personas. Sea que estemos en una gran iglesia o una pequeña capilla, cuando nos congregamos para celebrar la Eucaristía, somos uno.

Mis encuentros con los niños y jóvenes a través de la Diócesis me han traído una alegría muy especial. En una manera única, su entusiasmo y bienvenida me han ayudado a crecer en el conocimiento de mi papel como obispo, sucesor de los Apóstoles y una conexión personal y visible a la iglesia universal, particularmente a nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Benedicto XVI. Más de una vez me han dicho los padres de familia y los maestros que después de mi visita los niños dicen que han conocido al papa. Bueno, no exactamente, pero tal vez sus intuiciones y su exageración nos dice mucho sobre ser Católicos y como todos estamos conectados.

Conocí al Papa Benedicto en Septiembre cuando convocó a todos los nuevos obispos del mundo en Roma. En los pocos segundos de mi encuentro personal con Él le dije, "Su Santidad, los Católicos de Kentucky occidental rezan por ti; por favor ruega por nosotros." A principios del 2012 tengo planeado otra visita a Roma para mi visita ad limina a la Santa Sede para entregar un informe de nuestra Iglesia local, una visita que se requiere de cada obispo cada cinco años.

En enero asistí a un retiro con los Obispos de Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi y Louisiana. Los Obispos de Kentucky y Tennessee nos juntamos regularmente, de hecho, en diciembre fui anfitrión de uno de estas reuniones en mi casa

en Owensboro. Dos veces este año asistí a las reuniones nacionales de la Conferencia Episcopal Católica de los Estados Unidos. Aprendo mucho de estos extraordinarios hombres de Iglesia y tengo ya ansias de asistir a las reuniones futuras.

También en enero, la mayoría de nuestros sacerdotes se juntaron por cuatro días para la convocatoria anual de sacerdotes en el Lago Barkley. Este tiempo con los sacerdotes es un tiempo especialmente bendecido y marcó otro aniversario: A la mayoría de los sacerdotes los conocí por primera vez en la convocatoria del 2010. Estos hombres generosos y santos me han dado la bienvenida como padre, hermano y amigo. Viendo el futuro de servir por muchos años a la Iglesia local, yo sé que trabajando con ellos seguirá siendo uno de mis prioridades y más grandes alegrías. El último verano fui privilegiado de ordenar tres de ellos al sacerdocio. Algunos obispos de las diócesis pequeñas pueden en ocasiones esperar varios años para tener este honor. En el 2011 ordenaré a otro hombre joven al sacerdocio.

Hace poco más de un año nunca hubiera imaginado que el Espíritu Santo y la Iglesia me llamarían a ser un obispo. Con un año de celebrar, aprender y rezar, les quiero decir: ¡Soy un obispo sumamente feliz! Ruego por cada uno de ustedes todos los días y me fortalece también saber que en cada Misa celebrada a través de Kentucky occidental me nombran y rezan por mí. ¡Gracias!

+ Monseñor William Medley
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

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: Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kay Castlen, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Mike Flaherty, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, (Chairperson), Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, y Rev. Pat Reynolds. Ms. Louanne Payne sirve como enlace del obispo 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. 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.



Fiestas de Navidad

Queremos agradecer a todas las personas que hicieron posible el evento, a quienes nos ayudaron a decorar, a Reyna Toribio por coordinar la comida, a Alma y a Ana por coordinar los bailables, a la familia Solorza por ayudarnos con la representación de la Virgen en conjunto con la familia Gómez que también participaron en la Obra. Un agradecimiento especial al Padre Antonio Shonis por una bellísima Misa.



Coro Hispano que alegremente amenizó la Misa de Navidad

Fiestas de la Virgen de Guadalupe



En la foto de arriba, Mario Sanchez Sonriendo a la cámara durante la Misa del 12 de Diciembre.



En la foto abajo a la derecha, Christopher Zamora preparándose para bailarle a la Virgen de Guadalupe



A la entrada de la Iglesia del Santo Nombre esperando para entrar en procesión, niños hispanos de nuestra comunidad vestidos de niños jóvenes indígenas: Jennifer, Melany, Jordan, Jaqueline, Cassandra

En la foto abajo a la izquierda, Ofreciendo su baile a la Virgen los niños de la Comunidad de Holy Name.



La Familia Nevares fueron los encargados de encender la Vela que simbolizó el primer día de Navidad. Foto por Abraham Brown.



Familias que nos acompañaron en la Celebración de la Misa de Vísperas de Navidad el 24 de Diciembre.

