

Advent Prayer Retreat at Maple Mount



Monsignor Bernard Powers had a simple message to share with the 28 people who participated in the Advent Prayer Retreat Day at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Dec. 8, 2011 – “God is coming.” Monsignor Powers asked if the participants had changed their lives any during the first two weeks of Advent. MSJ Photo

National Vocation Awareness Week Set For January 9-14



National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated in our country January 9-14, 2012. Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God’s gift of a vocation.



Western Kentucky Catholic
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
Volume 39, Number 1, January, 2012

Coming soon!
*A journey of spiritual renewal
centered on Jesus Christ*

ARISE
Together in Christ

Meet New Friends • Pray and Read Scripture • Deepen Faith • Encounter Christ Today

Presented by the Diocese of Owensboro and RENEW International

ARISE/Levántate Information Session Schedule				
DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	SPANISH
Sunday	February 12	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Holy Spirit BOWLING GREEN	SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH PRESENTATION
Monday	February 13	10 AM to NOON	St. Joseph LEITCHFIELD	
Monday	February 13	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Our Lady of Lourdes OWENSBORO	
Tuesday	February 14	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Holy Name of Jesus HENDERSON	
Tuesday	February 14	6:30 – 8:30 PM	St. Francis de Sales PADUCAH	SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH PRESENTATION
Wednesday	February 15	6:30 – 8:30 PM	St. Pius X OWENSBORO	SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH PRESENTATION
Thursday	February 16	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Christ the King MADISONVILLE	

Celebration marks 200 years at Nazareth



Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Carol Clasgens, left, and Margaret Spalding Wathen watched their congregation’s bicentennial celebration from a pew in St. Vincent Church in Nazareth, Ky. Louisville Record Photo by Marnie McAllister.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth opened their year-long bicentennial celebration Dec. 3 with a narrative chronicling their history in Nelson County and around the world. *Please turn to page 40* of this edition to see the article, “Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Celebrate Bicentennial.”

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Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., Awakened To See The Face Of God



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

My dear sisters and brothers,

Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. died in his sleep on the morning of December 13 at Holy Trinity rectory in Louisville. He had lived there since 2007 when he retired after twenty-five years as the Archbishop of Louisville. From the earliest years of his priesthood he had been called into the ministry of administration within the church, first working in the office of the Papal Nuncio in Washington, D.C., and later for the United States Catholic Conference and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, these two institutions later becoming the singular United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

When appointed Archbishop of Louisville in

1982 he came among us with an apology that his ministry had never included the work most common to diocesan priests: that of a simple parish priest. But he had by nature a pastor's heart and any deficits from his training were more than offset by his prudential art of listening, accepting the wisdom of others, and above all a love for the Lord Jesus and the Church.

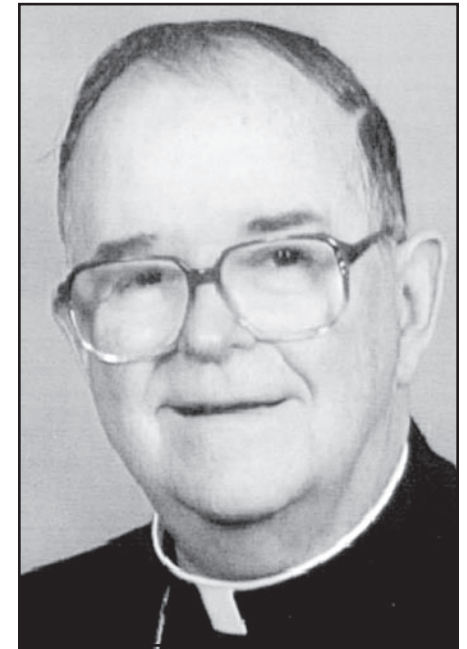
Along with my three deacon classmates, I met Archbishop Kelly at his installation on February 18, 1982 and we informed him that we would be his first local priesthood ordination class. He quickly learned and rehearsed our names amid the thousands of people he met that day. In May of that year he ordained us and we learned an important lesson. He had great recall and was very likely to repeat some story or quip in his homily that you had shared with him.

Among a list of great joys in my years as a priest was the opportunity to live with Archbishop Kelly for three years when I was an associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Assumption. I also worked very closely with him for five years as the director of the Office of Clergy Personnel.

I will miss his humor, his keen theological intellect and his humility. But most I will miss his dear friendship. I take great comfort in the manner of his death. On Monday afternoon, December 12, he celebrated Mass in the parish, then had supper, and, as was his custom, went to bed early. He awakened to see the Face of God.

This month I will achieve yet another milestone in my short ministry as a bishop. On January 21 I will travel to Rome for the ad limina apostolorum visit. Every five years bishops from throughout the world are required to travel in pilgrimage to Rome to pray at the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. While there they must present themselves to many of the congregations and dicasteries who assist the Pope in their spiritual and temporal administration of the Church.

In anticipation of this visit each diocese submits in advance a Quinquennial Report presenting the pastoral work of the diocese over the previous years. Our diocesan staff prepared this report over the past year and it was submitted in November.



Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.

I will travel with the bishops of Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. It is anticipated that we will have a small group gathering with Pope Benedict XVI and I understand that he asks many questions and is very interested in learning first hand of the work of the local Churches.

Pray for our Holy Father and for our bishops. While I pray for the people of the diocese of Owensboro every day, I assure you that you will be centermost in my thoughts and prayers as I pray at the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

William F. Medley

+ Most Reverend William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro



Giving Back To Our Community

On Dec. 14, 2011, Owensboro Catholic High School NHS members took gifts to Boulware Homeless Shelter, Oasis, and Pitino Shelter as part of the Giving Tree at Owensboro Catholic High. This is sponsored by SCRUBS, NHS, and Student Council and over 200 tags were taken by students and staff. This project is done every year as a way of giving back to the community. The students in the picture are from top to bottom, Erica McFarland, Katelyn Orth, Megan Tigue, Kaite Brown, and Kaleb Caceras. Bev Howard Photo

Bishop Medley's Calendar for January 2012:

- January 3 9:00 a.m. Staff Mass and Meeting, CPC
- January 9-12 Priest Convocation, Lake Barkley
- January 15 Mass and Blessing of Narthex, St. Henry, Aurora
- January 16 9:30 a.m. Priest Personnel Board Meeting, CPC
1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting, CPC
- January 17 9:00 a.m. Staff Mass and Meeting, CPC
- January 18 8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, CPC
- January 19 8:00 a.m. School Mass, Trinity High School
9:00 a.m. Senior Conversations, Trinity High School
- January 20 – February 1 Region V Ad Limina Visit, Rome, Italy

Join us for a Women's Retreat



Seasons of a Woman's Life:
Lessons from the Book of Ruth

March 23-25, 2012

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

The Biblical Book of Ruth has it all—age, youth, grief, financial ruin, marriage, widowhood, living as a foreigner in an alien country, childbirth and second chances. Perhaps above all, the Book of Ruth is a story of friendship, a story of women supporting women in all of life's sorrows and joys. During this Lenten weekend, retreatants will be invited to reflect on their own lives against the background of the story of Ruth and Naomi.

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. 23, 2012. Limited scholarships are available.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org or (270) 229-4103 ext. 802. Find a brochure online at www.mscenter.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

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



Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky

Saturday 11 February 2012

The first Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky will be held at Brescia University Science Lecture Hall, 717 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301

8:00 a.m. Doors open
8:30 a.m. Conference begins
11:45 a.m. Lunch served
11:45 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
1:00 p.m. Conference resumes
4:00 p.m. Mass with Bishop Medley
*fulfills Sunday obligation
5:00 p.m. Conference ends

Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky, 2159 Sheffield Ct., Owensboro, KY 42301

Check out the website www.kycatholic.com for more details.

For information, call (270) 316-5067



Join us for a
day of worship
and fellowship
as we listen to
nationally
renowned
Catholic
evangelists
and celebrate
Mass
with Bishop Medley

Catholic Young Adult Information Meeting!



"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Please join us at the Catholic Pastoral Center
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY
on Thursday, January 19, 2012
Gathering and refreshments @ 6:30 p.m.
Meeting starts @ 7:00 p.m.

The first meeting will consist of getting thoughts and ideas about activities for a Young Adult Group. The group will be open to ages 18-40.

For more information please call Sarah Patterson or Robin Tomes at 270-683-1545 or email the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at robin.tomes@pastoral.org.

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Check out the WKC Online at

http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC_online.php

Subscription Cost: \$10.00 per year

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.



Western Kentucky Catholic Graphic by Jennifer Farley Hunt

4 January, 2012 *The Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Owensboro* Beautiful Moments and Blessings - Acceptance of God's Call

By Donald R. Adams

I am blest in the fact that God has always been in my life. Raised and baptized in the Baptist Church, I was looking for more of what God had given His people.

I began going to Immaculate Conception in Earlington, Kentucky. It was the sixth grade, and in those days we attended daily Mass. After a few weeks I found what had been missing in my spiritual life. The Eucharist, Jesus there with us, right in our midst. I was envious of my fellow classmates who were Catholic, and received communion daily. Did they really know what a privilege it is to receive Jesus body and blood?

Two years went by and on Easter Sunday, 1961, my younger brother Murf and I were baptized at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Our Godparents were there. There was no big celebration with our family. Then, the moment I had waited all my life for, Monday morning Mass. For our first communion I went up to the communion rail with my classmates. I received our Lord Jesus Christ. What a glorious moment! The celebration was milk and donuts after Mass and before



Donald and Bonnie Adams

class.

The reason I was baptized the second time, was because it was before the Second Vatican Council. I still reflect on the baptism, and am thankful for being baptized and not just received into the Church. I have been a practicing Catholic for over fifty years now, and God has blessed me in so many ways.

Bonnie and I have been married for forty years. What a beautiful blessing from God! We have been active in many ways in our parish church, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Central City. We have four wonderful children, each gifted in their own way, with special talents from God. We are expecting our first grandson on December 26, which happens to be Bonnie's birthday, and our

forty-first wedding anniversary.

God calls all of us at his own time, and in his own way. Father Ben Luther said, "We should pray for the

You Can Help Your Marriage



– Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 13-15, 2012 call 270-683-1545 ext 346 or email: sherryvincent@insightbb.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org. Find us on Facebook: search Retrouvaille of Owensboro.

acceptance of vocations, in addition to vocations."

All eighteen of us men studying to be Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Owensboro are of late vocations, we never know what God has planned for us in this life. He called and my fellow candidates and I have answered. I must say it is a blessing to be with these fine Catholic men. We all come from different walks of life with our own gifts.

In Kentucky, it is proper to say we are coming down the home stretch nearing ordination on Saturday September 15, 2012 at Holy Spirit, Bowling Green, Ky. Considering the fact we met for the first time, January, 2007, it has been a long stretch. With God's help, we will cross the finish line and become the first class of Deacons in the Owensboro Diocese.

Our goal as Deacons is to serve God, you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our families.

Please pray for each of us, our families and vocations as we continue our preparations to ordination.

May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Diocesan Review Board Members

Ready to Respond to Calls

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett, Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kay Castlen, Chair, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Mike Flaherty, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Ms. Louanne Payne serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Review Board.

Any person who wishes to communicate with the Diocesan Review Board is asked to call the Catholic Pastoral Center at 1-270-683-1545 and ask to speak with a member of the Review Board. To speak with a particular member of this Board, tell the receptionist. In either case, the receptionist at the Catholic Pastoral Center will give the caller's information to a member of the Diocesan Review Board for follow-up.

Callers may choose to remain anonymous for the initial call to the Catholic Pastoral Center receptionist. The phone numbers of the members of this Board will not be made public.

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



Scouting Religious Awards Are Due In January, 2012

By Jeff Hedges

The Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Committee on Scouting is requesting that all Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts who are completing work on their respective religious awards submit their applications by mid January. The Annual Scout Awards Mass will be celebrated with Bishop William Medley at St. Pius Tenth in Owensboro on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Applications should be sent to Jeff Hedges at 821 Canterbury Road, Owensboro, Kentucky, 42303.

Boards of Review for Boy Scouts completing work on the Pope Pius XII and Ad Altare Dei Awards are set for Saturday, February 4, 2012. The locations for the boards will be at St. Thomas More in Paducah, St. Joseph in Bowling Green and the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro. Boards at the Catholic Pastoral Center will be conducted in the conference room on the second floor. The Catholic Pastoral Center is located at 600 Locust Street next to St. Stephen Cathedral's parish office building. The time for the boards is 10:00 a.m. until noon. A snow date is set for Saturday, February 11 at the same locations and times.

For additional information contact Jeff Hedges at 270-925-7254.



Hancock Co. Senior Chooses Lay Ministry for Senior Project

January, 2012 5

By Marcella Henderson

HAWESVILLE - Nick Henderson from Immaculate Conception Parish here decided to do his senior project on something that would help bring others closer to Christ: doing a mini-vacation bible school afternoon for grade school children in his county.

With the advice of his mentor, Denise Long, he worked many weeks pulling it all together. Choosing the bible story of Jesus taking loaves and fishes, blessing it and feeding five thousand, the theme was Loaves and Fishes.

He contacted many to volunteer their time and talents to help bring the day together. Lunch was provided; the children made bread, listened to the bible reading, did crafts and sang songs lead by Clint Campbell. Special thanks to the women who prepared the food, the teens and young adults who helped throughout the afternoon and to Denise for mentoring Nick and Clint for taking the time to lead everyone in music.

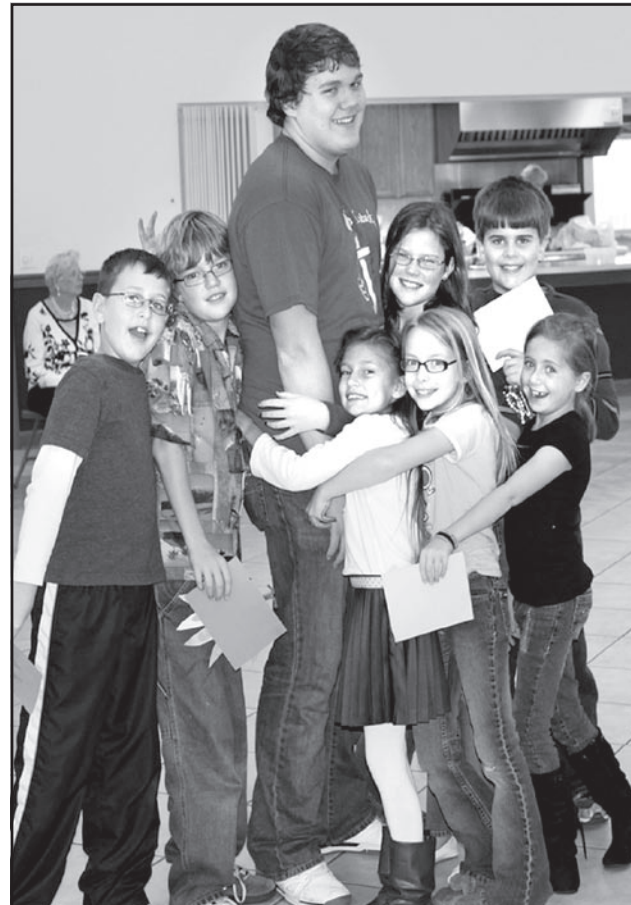
The price to attend was non-perishable food items to help provide a meal for the Saint Benedict's shelter in Owensboro. The children learned how we are all called to feed the hungry and care for those less fortunate than us. Both the teens and adults attending had a great time.



Adults in back row are: Nick Henderson, Ethan Reine, Kristen Emmick, Megan Gross, Jessica Burk, Luke Booty, Shelby Stokes and Denise Long



Father Chrispen and Nick take time out from reviewing the day for a photo opportunity



Children attending Loaves and Fishes finished out the day giving Nick a "Big Thank You with a Group Hug."

In photo at left, Clint Campbell, Nick Henderson, Megan Gross and Ethan Reine get into the spirit of the song by getting down on the ground while singing "God's Love is so Big"

National Black Catholic Congress Releases "National Black Catholic Survey"

The National Black Catholic Congress, Inc. (NBCC) released an unprecedented national study of African American Catholics.

The study was commissioned by NBCC in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame's Institute of Church Life and the Office of the President. Notre Dame social scientists Dr. Darren W. Davis and Dr. Donald B. Pope-Davis co-authored the report.

The NBCC aims to use this survey to better serve African-American Catholics and their religious needs.

The data from the study will be used by the National Black Catholic Congress as it prepares to develop its five-year plan for pastoral priorities at the meeting in Indianapolis July 19-21, 2012. About a thousand participants are expected to attend the national convention.

According to Bishop John H. Ricard, president of NBCC, "The study includes important findings about African American Catholics today. It also provides direction for setting pastoral priorities nationally and also in dioceses and parishes. The survey is a superb resource for improving evangelization efforts."

"Close to 900 Black Catholics were surveyed which makes this a historic study," said Dr. Darren Davis. "African Americans in general are rarely surveyed and traditionally aren't studied. This survey is the first of its kind and the largest sampling of African-American Catholics in academic history."

The survey was conducted July 7, 2011- August 1, 2011, and the report was presented to the NBCC board on November 11, 2011. The survey compares the religious life of African-American Catholics, white Catholics, African-American Protestants and white Protestants. Areas examined were parish engagement, reasons of faith and satisfaction with the Church.

For more information about the survey, an executive summary can be found by clicking on this link to the NBCC website. <http://www.nbccongress.org/special-report/2011-black-catholic-survey.asp>

For additional information, contact Daniel Medinger, NBCC Media Representative, 410-740-5077.

The National Black Catholic Congress, Inc. is an umbrella of support for organizations that share the same purpose of providing spiritual guidance to African-American Roman Catholics. They represent African-American Roman Catholics for the purpose of the evangelization of African Americans, and are committed to the freedom and growth of African Americans as full participants in church and society.

Erika's Miracle Journey

From <http://erikasmiraclejourney.blogspot.com/> Friday, November 25, 2011, by Erika Vandiver

"2 years ago...

"I was bald and 9 months pregnant. After our pre-meal, Andrew & I returned home. Around 10:30 that night (the 25th), Andrew & I were rushing to Labor and Delivery because I was terrified that Rachel wasn't moving. They reassured me she was OK, but kept me anyway.

"It was a sleepless night for me (Andrew fell asleep on the chair). By about 4:30 am, I felt the absolute worst contractions ever (MUCH worse than my 'induced' ones with Simon). Around 7:30 am Andrew's birthday present, Rachel Eleonore, made her arrival. Her big brother Simon came to see her along with my mom & dad, Andrew's mom, & Andrew's dad.

"I repeatedly asked the doctors to check her very thoroughly to make sure my worst fears weren't fact. I was repeatedly assured that my bundle of joy was absolutely healthy & perfect. She had a little trouble maintaining body temperature & a touch of jaundice, but everything was well within normal limits. The chemotherapy that had saved my life hadn't affected her at all! As a matter of fact, she had as much or more hair as I did! We wore our matching hats (hand crocheted by me) for photos & even news stories.

"Now it's been 2 years... So hard to believe. I'm cancer-free, but still not pain-free. Rachel is still amazing everyone: only now it's based on what she can do, not what she survived. Simon & Andrew are still pleased with their girls!

"On their birthday, we are going to celebrate Andrew's 31 years & Rachel's 2 years. We're having a Cowboy & Cowgirl themed birthday lunch. It's been a wild ride, but we've stuck out past the timer. Yee-haw!"

Erika's mother, Birgit Jones, filled in some background for Erika in an e-mail to The Western Kentucky Catholic:

"As Erika's mother, I suppose I have an inside 'scoop' on her story. She has a blog that she keeps as an update to those who might wish to follow her journey to complete wellness (we hope and pray). She also uses it as an outlet for the words she cannot say out loud.

"What many people may not be aware of is that Erika is the sole provider of her



Erika and Andrew Vandiver with their two children, Simon and Rachel; the family attends St. Elizabeth Church, Curdsville. . In a Nov. 29, 20911 post on her blog, Erika wrote: "It's been exactly a month since my last surgery & 21 months since my first surgery. What a long time to still feel un-normal. :-/ However, I am healthy for the most part. I am also very hopeful that this last surgery combined with physical therapy will resolve the pain issues." Photo submitted by Birgit Jones

little family and her ongoing health concerns have necessitated her being away from work for many, many weeks. This is not something that a cancer patient wants or needs - this ongoing trail of trials. After her chemo, pregnancy, bi-lateral mastectomy, oophorectomy, hysterectomy and follow-up reconstruction, her/our hope was that she could continue on with her new 'normal' life. This is what I have been able to do, as a 6-year breast cancer survivor. Erika has not been as fortunate as I, however. Long after the outward signs of her struggle were gone (bald head, pregnant belly, gaunt chemo 'look'), her invisible tormentor continued to attack her.

"She has been in constant pain for these past two years...sometimes to the point of not being able to drive to work or wash her hair without great distress. Outwardly, she looks healthy so we must forgive those who simply do not understand that she is still in the grips of the enemy. Fortunately many friends and family members do understand. Unfortunately, some who have quite the impact on her life, do not!

"Erika had another surgery last month,

to reconstruct her reconstruction (her 5th cancer related surgery) and hopefully this will have been her last. I pray, also, that the three-times-per week physical therapy she is undergoing now will help with the day-to-day pain. Her need for support by prayer, kind words and by monetary gifts, is great.

"Her surgeons are in Houston, TX at MD Anderson Cancer Center. I know from experience that this trip is quite taxing fund-wise. The reason we have to go to these lengths is that we suffer from the worst type of breast cancer gene BRAC-1 Triple Negative. As the 4th and 5th generation (that we know of) Erika and I are the only ones who have survived. The ones who went before us died in their 40's and 50's shortly after diagnosis."

For more information about Erika's Miracle Journey, look online at <http://erikasmiraclejourney.blogspot.com/>

For information about offering help to Erika and her family, there are also two Facebook support pages for her: <https://www.facebook.com/Erikas.Miracle>; and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Breast-Cancer-While-Pregnant-Life-for-Both/279865652043581>.

WANTED:

MEN WHO COOK

Mardi Gras!!!

We're looking for a few good men who can cook.

We're inviting you to put your best dish forward and cook up a storm for the

Fifth Annual

MEN WHO COOK

Benefit Gala


Saturday, February 25th, 2012
7 p.m. - 11 p.m.


The Hines Center—Owensboro, KY

[Go to www.glenmarysisters.org for details.]

Live music by:
Charlene Blay and the 2nd Edition

Tickets now on sale!
Call 270-686-8401







By Rev. Patrick Delahanty

A new year always promises hope and offers opportunity for improvement in our personal and public lives. On such opportunity is available to us in our state capitol. Our lawmakers—those we elected to represent us—are already in Frankfort, this time for the “long” session, 60 days of opportunity to create public policies that benefit the common good and reflect the teaching of Jesus, or 60 days to cater to special interests and ignore the “cry of the poor” as did the ancient Kings of Israel. Or 60 days to do a little of both.

How much good and how much harm comes out of any legislative session depends, to some extent, on our own actions. Do we engage in the process, as our church leaders encourage us to do, or do we “sit this one out” and hope someone else does the work?

Catholics @ the Capitol

To help the Catholic community be “Faithful Citizens” the Conference is sponsoring Catholics @ the Capitol (C@C) in Frankfort on February 6 and 7, 2012. The event takes place at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 405 Wilkerson Boulevard in downtown Frankfort. A special room rate of \$86 plus tax for a single or double occupancy room is available. Call 502.227.5100 to reserve a room at this rate by mentioning the C@C event.

The fee for the two-day event is \$40. This fee includes materials, a banquet on Monday and a continental breakfast on Tuesday.

On Monday evening Bishop Ronald Gainer of Lexington will celebrate Mass and Fr. Larry Snyder, Executive Director of Catholic Charities USA, will deliver a keynote address on poverty issues.

On Tuesday, participants will head

to the Capitol and meet with their State Senators and State Representatives about three or four of our highest priority legislative issues. With more than 300 parishes and missions in Kentucky, it would be a wonderful demonstration of faithful citizenship were each of them to send at least one member to this event. Early planning to encourage attendance and finding ways to help defray costs could lead to our most successful C@C Frankfort event. Last year more than 800 participants took part in C@C at diocesan events statewide. This provides a great pool of interested persons from which to draw.

Registration information and a more detailed agenda is available on our website.

Faithful Citizens Advocacy List

The Faithful Citizens Advocacy list is another important tool available to the Catholic community for use in persuading lawmakers and other government leaders to implement policies that uphold the right to life, respect human dignity, and promote the common good. To be even more effective, this list needs to grow significantly.

There are more than 400,000 Catholics in Kentucky, nearly one-tenth of the total population. And, guess what, not all of them have signed up to become Faithful Citizens.

And so, we encourage you—pastors, educators, lay leaders and others—to find at least five new persons who agree to add their names to the Faithful Citizen list and take action on important public policy matters.

Anytime is a good time to add names, but it strikes us that the Roe v. Wade anniversary in January of each year is a time when the Catholic community is especially conscious of matters regarding human life and dignity.

Parish bulletin announcements or

MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT CATHOLICS @ THE CAPITOL 2012



2012 Catholics @ The Capitol

Monday, February 6, 2012

- 1:00 p.m. **Basic Lobbying Techniques Session (Kentucky Room)**
Principles of communicating, dialogue and practical aspects of talking with legislators with role play and opportunity for questions.
- 2:30 p.m. **Registration** (Capital Plaza Hotel, 405 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, KY)
- 3:30 p.m. **Many Gifts, One Spirit Opening Prayer**
- 3:35 p.m. **Welcome – Rev. Patrick Delahanty**
- 3:40 p.m. **Issues you are discussing with your legislators on Tuesday.**
(15 to 25 minutes for each issue)
- 5:00 p.m. **Summary of Legislative Issues**
- 5:45 p.m. **Break**
- 6:00 p.m. **Eucharistic Celebration – Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Lexington**
- 7:00 p.m. **Dinner (provided)**
- 7:45 p.m. **Reverend Larry Snyder**
President, Catholic Charities USA
- 8:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks – Rev. Patrick Delahanty**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast (provided)**
- 8:15 a.m. **During Breakfast:**
Driving Directions to Capitol – Harry Borders
Questions/ Further Discussion – Rev. Patrick Delahanty
- 9:00 a.m. **Travel to Capitol: Meetings with your Senator/Representative**
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m. **Meet to discuss de-briefing reports on meetings with legislators.**
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch (on your own) in Capitol Annex Cafeteria**
- 2:00 p.m. **House and Senate Convene @ Capitol (Attendance Optional)**

YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE AT <http://bit.ly/vYtTpe>

pulpit announcements about the list are helpful. Including sign-up opportunities online during regular parish events also yield positive results.

CCK staff is certainly available to help you develop your own ideas about increasing participation in this important ministry.

A Website for the 21st Century

The Catholic Conference has updated its website, <http://www.ccky.org>. What was a wonderful 20th century site is an excellent 21st century site. It provides for more interaction between the Conference and those who visit the site, while still hosting our special publications and other documents important to the work of the Conference. CCK also urges visitors to use the site to sign up to become Faithful Citizens and to check back frequently for new materials.

The new site allows staff to keep visitors updated about topics of special interest to Kentucky Catholics by blogging regularly on issues of public policy importance.

We have also joined many other Catholic conferences in providing a Facebook page. Use this link to visit the page and become a Catholic Conference Friend: <http://tinyurl.com/3ewwxms>. Thanks. We hope to see you there. And please follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.

Please Become a Faithful Citizen Advocate

If you are a Kentucky Catholic, please become a Faithful Citizen Advocate and invite other Kentucky Catholics to join too. Look online at <http://capwiz.com/ccky/mlm/signup/> to sign up for the faithful citizen list through the website. There are links for sending messages to Elected Officials, getting updates on Issues, facts about upcoming Elections, and finding an up to date Media Guide for sending messages to Media in your area as well as seeing the Latest News.

Make <http://www.ccky.org> be your guide for being active in the public square.

Owensboro Habitat for Humanity Celebrates 100th House



Virginia Braswell, Owensboro's Habitat Executive Director and about 50 volunteers and city leaders didn't let a little rain bother the celebration of Habitat for Humanity of Owensboro-Daviess County's 100th house dedication Nov. 21, 2011. Mel Howard Photo

In the photo below, Owensboro Mayor Ron Payne, at center, applauded with Virginia Braswell and a houseful of Habitat for Humanity volunteers and friends of Lanny Chambers and his four children, at right rear, as the community dedicated Hospice's 100th house in Owensboro on Nov. 20, 2011. Mel Howard Photo



A Drum Corps of the Marching Aces from OCHS and OCMS led a procession around the block of West 4th St. in Owensboro as Habitat for Humanity of Owensboro celebrated its 100th build on Nov. 20, 2011. The Owensboro Catholic Schools System students are from left, Kyle Alvey, Eric McBride, Clayton Roberts, Evan Christodoulou, Dylan McKay, Logan Buckman, Megan Alvey. (Clayton and Evan are OCMS students, the others are OCHS). OCHS Band Director Ed Hauser directed the drum corps. Mel Howard Photo



Lanny with his children showing the symbolic key of his home. The real one is turned over when he closes on the house and signs all the papers. Photo by Marian Bennett

Consider Making A Cursillo Weekend

By Brett Mills

Before I coordinated a Cursillo weekend in March, 2011 – even before I attended my Cursillo weekend in March of 2005 – I knew that God had a sense of humor. My ongoing experiences in relationship with Him have taught me that God also has a sense of irony. What's really impressive is how He uses both.

As a case in point, I'm sure many former school-mates of mine (faculty and students), from my days at Our Lady of Lourdes School all the way beyond Brescia, could attest to demonstrations of my temper. What they would mean is that all I seemed able to do with temper was to completely lose it on a regular basis. Given that, no one is more ironically surprised than I am – or more delightfully amused than God -- to find myself drawn to becoming a source of good temper anywhere God puts me.

I believe that God wants me to witness to my Catholic Faith in my secular involvements as a way of gently increasing the spiritual temperature of those environments. Hopefully, this warms the lives of my friends who share those involvements with me. I call it tempering -- after the process of gradually applying heat to substances to build up tolerances. I'm tempering when I tell my friends at Theatre Workshop of Owensboro about the ministries that dictate my availability to volunteer. I'm tempering when I remind the members of political campaign committees I work on that politics should be about good government doing the most good for the most citizens. I'm tempering at Owensboro Oilers baseball games by reminding our players and fans that hostile attitudes toward the competition, the umpires, or each other can't be good sportsmanship.

I am consciously employing this practice of spiritual tempering to serve the mission that the Catholic Church baptized me to and confirmed me in – a mission that my Cursillo experience echoed, and now sustains. That mission is to transform the world into a Christian environment by witnessing to the vital Christianity that an active Catholic practice fully invites.

The Cursillo Movement embraces winning the world for Christ one friend at a time. So friend, whether you're spiritually tepid or feel a burning desire to evangelize – consider making a Cursillo weekend. Spark your Catholic Faith, and then gradually kindle the spirit of goodness in others without scalding their sensibilities.

The next opportunity will be April 12-15, 2012 for men and April 19-22 for women. The chances are good that you are already friends with a Cursillista in your area that can sponsor your application. Cursillo has made a difference for me in appreciating that my temper is too important a spiritual aid to risk losing like I used to.



Camp Elf

January, 2012 9

Submitted by Diane Willis

Immaculate Parish, Owensboro held it's first annual Camp Elf Saturday, December 3. The camp was for pre-schoolers through sixth graders. Campers rotated between 8 stations and made crafts, played games, watched a video and had lunch with the elves. The eighth grade Confirmation students and several high school students were the hard-working elves. Parents appreciated the extra four hours to prepare for Christmas.



One of the many happy campers.



Christmas Bingo!



At Right,
Elf Katelyn
helps the
campers
make
reindeer
treat cups.



First Reconciliation

On Sunday, November 20th at St. Romuald Catholic Church, 27 second-graders received their First Reconciliation. That Friday, the children had their Prayer Day and ended the evening with cake & punch with their families.

In the picture at left, 1st row LtoR: Lily Tabor, Justin Brown, Carmen Whitfill, Darrian Flood, Madison Carwile, & Grant Paris; 2nd row LtoR: Jillian Kennedy, Alyssa Masterson, Isaiah Perks & Sean Morton; 3rd Row LtoR: Christian Wheatley, Martin Anthony, Madison Anthony, Madysen Young, Emma Foran & Wil Eskridge; Back Row LtoR: Logan Walz, Alaina Taul, Daniel Shain, Lily Critchelow, Morgan Tabor, Lauren Autrey, Chloe O'Donoghue, Cohl Proctor, Paige Apperson, Gabe Carwile & Benjamin Brown. Submitted by Kim Brumfield, St. Romuald Parish CRE K-6.

"I just think there are so many kids doing great things. We have good ideas, too. I want people to notice." Ramsey Ramage, Second-grader, St. Mary Elementary School

Life lessons learned through pumpkins

BY CORIANNE EGAN

cegan@paducahsun.com

PADUCAH, Ky. - October 30, 2011 - Ramsey Ramage is like every seven-year-old kid. He is in second grade at St. Mary Elementary school and likes to read and shoot his BB gun. The only difference between Ramage and other kids his age is he's got big ideas.

"I just think there are so many kids doing great things," Ramsey said. "We have good ideas, too. I want people to notice."

This fall, it was Ramsey's idea to grow a pumpkin patch. The idea was to plant a pumpkin patch on the family farm in McCracken County, then put all of the proceeds from pumpkin sales into a savings account. The money wouldn't be used on toys, clothes, or other things that normally concern 7-year-olds; it would be used for college.

"This started out as something to do as a family," said Lisa Ramage, Ramsey's mother. "We knew we weren't going to make much, but Ramsey knows that getting good grades and going to college is important for him, and he was genuinely interested in the project." Pumpkin sales didn't bring in much for the Ramage family, partly due to Ramsey's big heart. Anyone who walked by the pumpkin patch did not escape without a pumpkin. It was his philosophy that every kid who came by needed a pumpkin, so he gave them away for free to those who didn't have enough money.

The family also gave pumpkins to those who had helped them throughout this year's flooding, when their land was under water.

On Friday, Ramsey and Lisa Ramage brought five of their best pumpkins, hand selected by Ramsey himself, to McCracken County Judge-Executive Van Newberry's office to thank for the help this past spring.

Last week, Ramsey made the decision to split his earnings this year 50/50 between himself and his school. He is interested in science, and most of the books in the elementary school's library are non-fiction, so he decided to donate about \$150 for the purchase of books. The other half went into his savings account.

People at the school heard about the pumpkin patch, then the idea was hatched



to bring the pumpkins to the school, sell them for \$1 a piece, and host a pumpkin decorating contest. Pumpkins were decorated by students of the school, and now line the floor and shelves of the library.

This year is the fifth straight year the Ramage family has planted a pumpkin patch at their farm in McCracken County. They planted close to 5,000 seeds in late June, and nearly 1,000 came up.

Ramsey calls himself the project manager of the pumpkin patch. He helped throughout the entire process, from battling squash bugs and mildew with his father Matt while the pumpkins were growing to deciding whether he should take cash or checks in payment. He also came up

Ramsey Ramage, 7, sits on one of the pumpkins he grew in his McCracken County pumpkin patch this year. Ramsey used the proceeds to buy science fiction books for his school, as well as to help his parents save money for college. He calls himself the project manager of pumpkin patch. Photo: CORIANNE EGAN | The Sun

with a marketing plan centered around the biggest pumpkin he had in the patch. He nicknamed the pumpkin "Big Betty" and drew people in with hand-painted signs.

Once the visitors came in, they were free to pick their own pumpkins, which sold at about \$1.50 a piece. Lisa Ramage says that although the family has had fun growing and nurturing the pumpkin patch, they are more impressed with Ramsey's will and understanding of such grown up topics. She said he completely understands what hard work.

"There is nothing more rewarding than watching your kid do something like this," Lisa Ramage said.

"Getting to see your child work this hard, at this age, is absolutely incredible."

Reprinted with permission from The Paducah Sun, October 30, 2011

Sts. Joseph & Paul Enters in Parade Float with Replica of Church



As part of Sts. Joseph and Paul's 125th Anniversary Celebration, master builders, Kelly Ward and Eddie Mattingly, created a replica of their church and entered a float into the

Owensboro-Daviess County Christmas Parade. Jeannie Lindow enjoyed the ride while sitting in a rocking chair and reading to children of the parish. Strolling behind the float, church choir

members dressed in period clothing carolled, as other volunteers handed candy to the waiting children. Photo by Lavida Mischel

In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Repose of the Soul of Mary Gemma Harlow, SCN



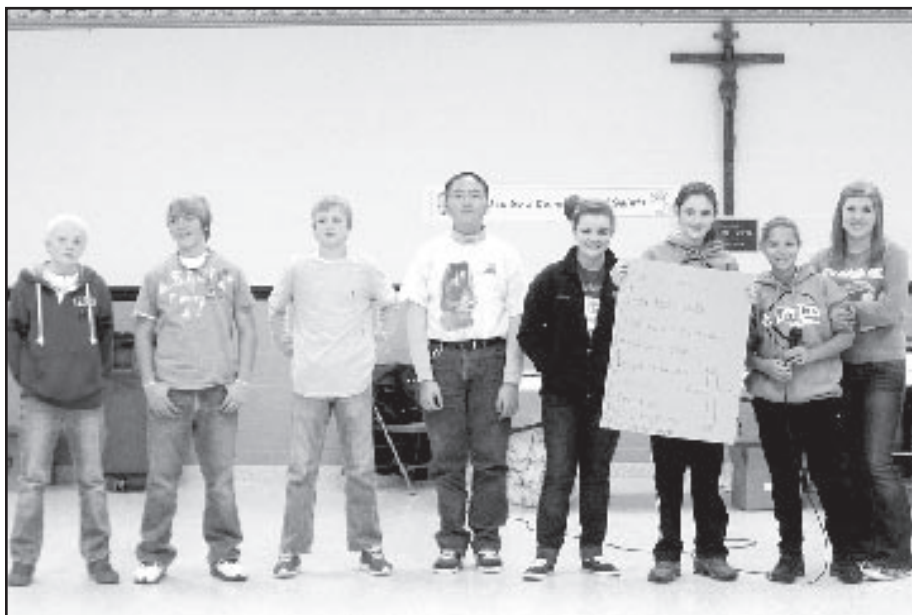
Sr. Mary Gemma Harlow, SCN

Mary Gemma Harlow, SCN, 92, a native of Harrodsburg, Ky., died at Nazareth Home, Louisville, Ky., on November 25, 2011. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 71 years.

Sister Mary Gemma served in the apostolate of education as teacher, principal and supervisor in Kentucky and Tennessee for 44 years. In the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister taught at Fancy Farm Grade School (St. Jerome Parish) from 1942-43 and again from 1950-57; at St. Joseph Grade School, Bowling Green, Ky. from 1957-61; and served as principal of Holy Name Grade School, Henderson, Ky., from 1961-62.

Survivors include a niece, Barbara Kincaid of Lexington, Ky., cousins and her religious community.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on November 30, 2011, followed by burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.



Prayer Day - Grade 7 – Owensboro Catholic Middle School: *“Called to be a Community of Saints”*

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The seventh graders from OCMS attended a day long retreat on Friday, November 11. The overall theme of the retreat was “Called to be a Community of Saints.” During the day, students heard presentations and participated in activities on the Community of Saints: The Church on earth, the Church in Purgatory, and the Church in heaven.

Each group presented their activity results to the rest of their classmates. As a special guest speaker, students heard Sr. Francis Theresa of the Carmel Home speak about the Community of Saints and the love we share with God. Sister even performed a “rap” for the students.

At the end of the day, students participated in a special liturgy presided over by Fr. Mark Buckner. It was a day of both fun and learning for our 7th graders at OCMS.

The picture is a group of 7th graders displaying their group project on purgatory. OCS Photo

SS. Joseph & Paul Parish Gives Five Service Awards

OWENSBORO - The Sr. Agnes Catherine Stewardship Award was presented to Donna Goetz. Donna is an excellent example of the kind of person that Sr. Agnes Catherine would celebrate and recognize as a witness to faith sharing to children. She brought energy and life to the Faith Formation program; the masses held by Faith Formation students are well done and meaningful for all who attend. Her work with the Block Party is just awesome!

The Father Howard Tucker Stewardship Award was presented to Gary Trogden. Fr. Tucker was known to be caring, kind, compassionate and sacramental. This parishioner as well is a reflection of all that Fr. Tucker stood for. In addition to providing food through the community garden, this parishioner feeds those he has contact with through faith and knowledge of God’s Word. His life and actions are a reflection of the Risen Christ that he follows. His special gift is sharing the lives of the Saints with all of us.

The Msgr. Braun Award was presented to Pat & Birdie Wedding. Pat & Birdie are cornerstones of the church. They assisted in allowing Sts. Joseph & Paul to have the reputation of one of the strongest St. Vincent de Paul societies in the diocese. Their hearts have been called to serve those in need.

The Stewardship as a Way of Life Stewardship Award is a new award and was presented to Mike Hagan. Mike serves the whole church and her every need, he is the definition of “Washing one another’s feet”. Mike is a “Yes Man” – Can you? “Yes” Will you? “Yes”. And all the while he allows you to share in his service and allows you to feel served.



The Sts. Joseph and Paul parish gave awards to five parishioners, from left, Mike Hagan, Donna Goetz, Gary Trogden, Pat & Birdie Wedding. Submitted by April Dickens

KCs Assist Sts. Peter and Paul School With New Language Reference Books

Mrs. Vicki Luckey, fifth grade teacher at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville, identified a need to replace a conglomeration of decade’s old dictionaries in her classroom and a need for thesauruses. Members of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Willett Council 7847 were approached with a request for assistance. Jerry Brockman, a long standing council member, has spearheaded similar educational endeavors for the past five years and readily agreed to procure the needed items. Mr. Brockman navigated the process of obtaining council blessing and support, financial procurement, ordering process, and two months later an eagerly anticipated classroom presentation conducted on December 14, 2011. The fifth grade class now has 20 sets of the newest Merriam-Webster 4th Edition Dictionaries and 3rd Edition Thesauruses. Mr. Brockman humbly accepted on behalf of the council the thanks and gratitude expressed by Mrs. Luckey.

12 January, 2012 Reflections: The Trip of a Lifetime

My name is Lauren Reynolds and I am a junior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, Kentucky. I recently traveled to Italy with a group of students from THS, all members of the Traveling Classroom. About a year ago we were submitting recommendation letters, being interviewed, and fundraising for this awesome opportunity. Now we're back and ready to share the exciting experiences of our adventures!

My trip to Italy has had a huge impact on me. It was not at all what I expected; it was greater than that! Italy is much prettier than I had imagined, and the culture is different; that is what made the trip such an awesome adventure. We toured with a group of high school students from Canada, and getting to know them and learning about their country and education system helped make the trip even more of a learning opportunity.

Our first stop was Venice, one of my favorite places. The only two ways we could get around were by walking or taking a Gondola. The buildings are beautiful in Venice, especially on the inside. The walls of the Doge's Palace are covered in frescos. (Frescos are paintings done on wet plaster; when the plaster dries, the

painting and plaster are one piece.) Most of the palace's ceilings had small sculptures attached.

Art is everywhere in the city! One of Venice's specialties is glass blowing. Our tour group attended a demonstration in Venice, and a man crafted an exquisite blue pitcher in less than 5 minutes! St. Mark's Basilica, the major church in Venice, has breathtaking frescos on the outside. It's made of white stone so the colorful frescos really stand out.

Our next stop was Florence, my favorite city on the tour. Florence had the most beautiful buildings and scenery, the best food, and the best terrain for walking. The Duomo is Florence's main church, and its architecture is gorgeous. It's made of white, green and pink marble stones. The Giotto bell tower stands next to the cathedral, and the view from it is amazing! I could see all of Florence! In front of the Duomo is the Baptistry where people are now baptized only once a year, during the Easter season. At one time, all the Catholics in Florence were baptized there. The ceiling of the Baptistry is a huge and magnificent mosaic. The pictures in it illustrate major stories from the Old Testament. It made my head spin to look at them.

The Trip Nine Years in the Making

By Joe Bland

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - Believe it or not this Trip started in July 2002. This is when I was hired as Coordinator of Youth Ministry for St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. During my talk with then pastor Fr. Richard Powers, he spoke of his desire to broaden the horizons of the young people of Whitesville/Knottsville. His words were, "Joe, I want you to get them out of Whitesville and show them the world." I have never forgotten those words.

In the next nine plus years since I set out to do just that through mission trips and eight trips to Washington DC for the March for Life. However, I still longed to take them farther. My duties and responsibilities have changed over the years and I now am head of the Religion Department at Trinity High School and still work with the parish. We have a history in this parish of international travel with young people. We have sent several groups to World Youth Day in Rome, Toronto and

Germany. In October 2009 I had the opportunity to travel with Fr. Andy Garner on a nine day trip to Rome. My mind was set; this was where I wanted to take my students. My travel and experience with Fr. Andy convinced me that I needed to bring my students to the cradle of Christianity were saints and Caesars walked.

This year's World Youth Day in Spain just wasn't in the cards to go, but I did talk with our current pastor Fr. Dave Johnson and he agreed to let me pursue a trip to Italy. After clearing all the hurdles with our principle and pastor I was set. This brings us to August of 2010 and the start of a new school year. I approached Christina Rhodes who teaches English at Trinity and I asked her if she would be interested in helping me organize a trip to Italy. I didn't have to ask a second time, she jumped at the chance. We chose a company called EF Tours, because they specialize in educational touring and they specialize in doing it rather inexpensively for students

Continued on page 13



Students in St. Mark's picture: (back) Cory Smith, Kasey Gilmore, Luke Merritt, Max Lanham, Hailey Roby, Katie Scott, Bet Millay, Kayla Barr (front) Seth Bland, Jill Graham, Jessica Beyke, Kacey Jo Roby, Rachel Russelburg, Lauren Reynolds. THS Photo

The view from the Ponte Vecchio is beautiful as well. The Ponte Vecchio is the only bridge in Florence that survived the World War II bombings. In the Piazza Vecchio there are a lot of statues. There is one of Neptune, a copy of Michelangelo's David, and many others.

While we were in Florence near the Duomo, there was a street performer playing a hang (pronounced hung) drum, and the music was beautiful. There are many street performers in Florence. It's nice to stop for a while and listen to them.

The Traveling Classroom members attended Mass, in Florence, at the Church of Santa Croce. Not understanding the readings or the sermon was awkward, as we couldn't respond in the appropriate language, but we could still follow along with the rite of the Mass by watching the priest.

In Assisi, our next destination, we visited St. Clare's Basilica. It was a small church, and under it is the tomb of St. Clare, a woman of great faith who was greatly influenced by St. Francis. We toured St. Francis's Basilica. The church is divided into three levels: the tomb, which represents his death; the first floor, which represents his earthly life; and the second floor, which represents his heavenly life. My favorite was the second floor because it was especially bright and colorful.

We toured Rome on the following day. We visited the Colosseum and the Roman

Forum. The Colosseum was much bigger than I'd expected, and we walked all the way around it. The Roman Forum was interesting, though a lot of it was broken down and required more imagination when trying to visualize its significance. It had been the center of activity in Rome, where triumphal processions took place, elections were held, and the Senate assembled.

On the same day, we visited the Vatican, though we were a little too late to see the Pope during his Wednesday morning General Audience. We breezed through the museums first. There were too many awesome paintings and sculptures to begin to count and describe to you here. We toured the Sistine Chapel, which was crowded and uncomfortable, though it was really beautiful. Michelangelo painted the ceiling, which took four years, and the famous "Last Judgment," which took six years. In between the larger pictures on the ceiling are paintings of little angels that look like statues. I had to shake my head to focus on whether or not they were painted; they had so much depth. Last, we walked through St. Peter's Basilica. I was rather upset that we went through it so quickly. I couldn't even get a good look at the many works of art, much less good pictures. I guess that's what happens when you are in the smallest country in the world.

Lastly, we toured Pompeii, the ancient city that was completely buried in ash after

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Reflections: The Trip of a Lifetime

(Continued from page 12)

the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. This part of the trip was one of my favorites because the city and what we saw and learned differed quite a bit from what we saw in the rest of Italy. It was sad to see the plastered casts of the bodies of the people who died there so many years ago, but it was amazing to see the artifacts (clay pots, statues and marble tables) that those people had actually used. The buildings were cool, too. A lot of the houses had frescos in them. I was surprised that the frescos weren't completely ruined after being buried for so many years. I was impressed and surprised by the conveniences that the ancient city afforded: the baths and the shops and the many tiny restaurants scattered throughout for its citizens and for those on the road to other cities, like Rome.

Italy was different from what I am used to in many ways. The food was different. The pizza was the biggest difference, with paper-thin crust and more tomato sauce than cheese. It was good though! I missed sweet tea, ice in my sodas, and cold milk, all of which made realize that I take simple things for granted. The number of street vendors surprised me, too. They were everywhere. Every piazza was like an outdoor mall! Also, the bathrooms were set up differently; I'd never paid to use a public toilet before.

All in all, I loved Italy! I loved trying the food, like pizza, pasta, and gelato! I loved the beautiful artwork, the sculptures, paintings, and buildings, and I loved making friends with the Canadian students! I feel that this trip has helped me understand that I shouldn't take the simplest things for granted, and it also provided me with a greater sense of responsibility. I feel that I learned a lot about the Italian culture through the tours. The trip was truly an adventure, and I had so much fun. I have so many awesome memories! I loved the trip, and I hope to return! Cheers to the trip of a lifetime!



Mr. Joe Bland, left, and Christina Rhodes, at back right, Trinity faculty members, posed at the Roman Coliseum with Trinity High School's 2011 Travelling Class.

Submitted Photo

The Trip Nine Years in the Making

(Continued from page 12)

and teachers. Plus, we wanted to combine a pilgrimage with classroom type learning. We chose Italy because of the rich history both in the faith and in all of the arts.

So, after a long year of raising funds from Lock-ins to candy sales to picking up trash to writing letters for sponsors we finally were ready to set out on our pilgrimage. The morning of October 6 Fr. Dave gave us a pilgrim blessing before the high school mass and we set out for Nashville, TN to catch our flight. There was a nervous excitement in the air. Some of these young people had never been away from their parents for an extended period of time much less flown in an airplane. We left our school at 8:00 am on Thursday morning. We arrived at our first hotel at 9:30 on Friday night, with the time difference that added up to 30 hours of travel. We were exhausted.

We tried to prepare the students for most things that they may encounter through several information meetings with their parents. Things we discussed were the cultural differences such as food, hotels, currency, and safety on tour. However, all the preparation in the world cannot take the place of actually experiencing the country. The little things that we take for granted in life were not there such as toilet seats for the girls, shower stalls, cold

milk and free public restrooms.

The language obviously was a barrier. We tried to learn basic Italian such as greetings and basic conversation skills. Our young men ran into this barrier on the first day in Venice and ended up ordering too much pizza between the four of them and paid the equivalent of \$110 for a pizza for four! Ouch! Another day in Assisi I tried out my Italian, which I know very little, in a gift shop and the little Italian lady thought that I was a professor from the Vatican; best compliment of my life. The Sunday evening that we were there we really had an experience of the Uni-

versal Church; we attended Mass in Florence at the Basilica di Santa Croce (Church of the Holy Cross). The Mass was totally in Italian. I wasn't sure how the students would react, but for some it was their greatest memory of the trip. They said even though they couldn't understand the words they knew exactly what was going on in the Mass. It was like a modern day Pentecost. I could go on and on about the many stories we experienced in Italy.

My biggest joy of the trip was to continually see Italy through the eyes of my students. Because I had already been two years ago and had seen and experience much of what they were experiencing I could watch their reactions to sites we were visiting. Just watching their eyes and facial expressions and hearing the adjectives that they used to describe what they were seeing made the whole trip worth it. But, perhaps the biggest joy of all was getting to experience this trip with my son Seth. I have dreamed of the day when I could take a trip like this with one of my children. These are moments that are worth more than all the treasure in the world. I can truly say that I helped change the lives of fourteen young men and women. We have shown them that they are global citizens and that the Church is much bigger than just Western Kentucky.

After all the hard work for over a year I can say that it was well worth the time and effort. I am so glad that those words of Fr. Richard's kept ringing in my head, "take these kids out of Whitesville and show them the world!"

Thank you Fr. Richard Powers and I would like to thank all of those who made this trip possible. We will be planning a dinner very soon to honor our sponsors. We will also be presenting St Mary of the Woods School and Mary Carrico School with shadow boxes of our trip to commemorate the first of many Traveling Classroom trips to come.

STS JOSEPH & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

WE GIVE OUR HEARTS TO GOD, AND OUR TALENTS TO HIS PEOPLE.

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Moving Forward in Faith

Toward Another 125 Years

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish Mission 2012

Feb. 6,7,8, from 6:30-8:00pm

President: Father Jim Marchionda, OP

Join us as Father Jim weaves the lives of St. Joseph and St. Paul into three evenings of song, prayer, and reflection.

By Lavidia Mischel

As a member of the 125th Anniversary Committee at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, it seems other anniversaries now take on new meaning. For example, the Owensboro Christmas parade is a chance to publicly celebrate the parish's 75th Anniversary this year; the Diocese of Owensboro will be 75 years old next year. Sts. Joseph and Paul's rectory on 4th Street will be 100 years old next year, and November 13, 2011 marked



1953. Msgr. Braun with the Harold 'A.D.' Mischel family

the 25th anniversary of the passing of Msgr. Peter Joseph Braun.

Fr. Braun was pastor of St. Joseph's Parish from 1939-1948, at which time, St. Joseph and St. Paul parishes merged, creating Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish. He was then pastor of Sts. Joseph and Paul parish until 1969, remaining until 1982 as pastor emeritus. That is a span of 43 years...almost half of his life! Though I never had the privilege of meeting Msgr. Braun, I have a great respect for him, as I have witnessed the fruits of his 43 year labor within our parish and its people.

Peter Braun and his twin brother Edward, were born on May 30, 1901 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He was ordained May 9, 1929 by Bishop J.J. Hartley of Columbus, Ohio for the Diocese of Louisville, Kentucky. When the new See of Owensboro was founded, he became a priest of the new See in December, 1937 and pastor of the German St. Joseph's Parish in July 1939. He was given charge of a thriving faith community and a school that was growing every year.

At that time, students from Stanley, Sorgho, Rome, and Browns Valley were applying for admission, with all being admitted whether they could pay or not. On April 3, 1948, the announcement was made to merge St. Joseph Parish and St. Paul Parish, with Fr. Peter Braun as pastor. Fr. Braun's utmost concern was combining the parishes with as little friction as possible. To accomplish this, he would win the hearts of the children first, confident that the parents would soon follow.

On August 6, 1949, Fr. Braun was raised to the honor of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. Between the years 1939 and 1968 he would be mentor to 18 associate priests between the two churches. Vatican II proved to be a

challenge for the priest of many years, as well as his parishioners; however he persevered out of love for his church. Though Fr. Braun possessed many spiritual gifts – his secular gifts were a surprise to many. He was an excellent bowler and received a trophy for a perfect 300 game, as well as a strong boxer. He was seen often teaching the male students of the school how to box.

In late Oct. 1986, Msgr. Braun suffered a stroke and soon moved to Pennsylvania to be cared for by his family. He died Nov. 13 of the same year. Bishop Timlin of the Scranton Diocese celebrated the funeral Mass in Pennsylvania at the exact same hour that Bishop McRaith celebrated a Mass of Resurrection in Owensboro. Fr. Tony Shonis, who was raised only miles from the Msgr's hometown, represented the Diocese of Owensboro in Wilkes-Barre on that day.

When passing through Monsignor's hometown recently while on vacation, my husband and I decided to acknowledge the anniversary of his death by visiting the church of his childhood,



Lavidia Mischel is with Fr. Tony Shonis' sister and his mother in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Submitted photos



Hal Mischel at the mausoleum of Fr. Braun

his grade school and his grave in Wilkes-Barre.

We were surprised to find his name in the church history book and on his grave marker as 'Msgr. Peter Brown' instead of Braun. Could it be that, since his parents were of German heritage and because of his dedication to the German St. Joseph Church that he chose to return to the German pronunciation? We can only guess. But until we meet again, we at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish are forever grateful for those 43 years and we pray that the perpetual light shine upon Msgr. Peter Joseph Braun.

Lourdes Serenity Garden Receives Civic Beautification Award

(December 2, 2011) - Lourdes Hospital's Greenberg Serenity Garden is a recipient of the Paducah Civic Beautification Board's 2011 Annual Business Award. Four businesses, including Lourdes, were selected for this honor for improvements in landscaping or structure.

The garden, named for long-time Lourdes Foundation donor Norman Greenberg, was constructed to provide a quiet, serene place for patients, their families and employees to visit for a moment of tranquility.

The Greenberg Garden is located on the north corner of the hospital, near the Eckstein Cardiovascular

Institute. Fragrant plants, flowering trees and comfortable seating areas create a serene and peaceful destination. The statue of St. Francis, an icon of Lourdes' healing ministry, is also featured atop a stone fountain.

"The Greenberg Serenity Garden is a beautiful addition to our facility," said Ron Henley, director of facilities. "This project demonstrates that Lourdes is committed not only to healing people's physical needs, but their spiritual needs as well."

For more information about the Greenberg Serenity Garden or Lourdes Foundation, please call (270)444-2353 or visit www.eLourdes.com.



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Cathedral Preschool 5 Year-old Class Takes An Advent Journey Over on Lewis Lane

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The St. Stephen Cathedral Preschool 5 year-old class attended the Advent Journey program at Lewis Lane Baptist Church Dec. 12 in Owensboro. This is the second year Karen Katchuk has taken her class. The 5 year-olds are the only Cathedral Pre-school class that does this field trip.

Pre-School Director Pam Weafer said, "I went with them last year and it is really nice, feels like you are back in the time when Jesus was born. They do a good job. You walk through and experience what a town may have looked like then. You run across some angry soldiers demanding money (they tone it down for the kids). They have different types of food to sample, and you end up in a stable with people portraying

Join us for 2012 Reflection Days

- **Jan. 6** - Women of Genesis
- **Feb. 3** - Women of the Exodus, Judges and Kings
- **March 2** - How Can We Best Spend Lent?



First Friday of each month

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

\$15 fee
includes lunch

There will be group prayer, quiet time, lunch, faith sharing, and a different presentation each month in 2012 (except July).

Reflection days will be led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU. To register, call Kathy McCarty: (270) 229-4103, ext. 802 or email kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

2012 reflections will focus on Women in Scripture: How Do We Relate?
Please join us!



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On their best behavior, the St. Stephen Cathedral Preschool 5 year old classroom lined up for a group picture Dec. 12, 2011 at Lewis Lane Baptist Church. From left to right: Peter Palmer, Christopher Rhoads, Cooper Harl, Aaron Glahn, Nathan Goldbach, Jack Morris, Jackson Howard, Andrew Rafferty, Ethan Gough. H'mm ... Line-up. Could this be the OCHS Aces' starting baseball nine in ten years? Mel Howard photo

Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus and just sit with them. Very peaceful and the kids are in awe and speechless!!!

“How I Proud I Am To Be A Priest”



Fr. Tony Jones distributes communion at St. Peter Basilica. Behind him is the Chair of St. Peter. Submitted photo

By Diane Willis

Fr. Tony Jones of Immaculate Parish, Owensboro recently returned home from a week in Rome, Italy. Besides enjoying the sites of Rome, Father Tony had the privilege to concelebrate Mass at St. Peter Basilica on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Father Tony saw Pope Benedict XVI during his Wednesday audience in the Pope Paul VI Audience Hall, and enjoyed other sites in the Rome including St. Giovanni, the Sistine Chapel, the Roman Coliseum, and numerous churches. At every church he entered, he lit a candle and said prayers for the parishioners of The Immaculate. He also got to travel to Florence Italy and saw the Duomo and the statue of David. In summing up the trip, Father said, “As I reflected throughout the week, this entire experience made me realize how proud I am to be a Catholic, and how I proud I am to be a priest.”



Humble in Victory, Courageous in Defeat

After every Mass at Catholic High, the celebrant, in the picture at left, Campus Minister Fr. Brad Whistle, gives a special blessing to students planning to be involved in any competition over the next week in any extra-curricular activity or athletic event. Catholic High encourages involvement, feeling that involvement promotes “... so many positive things for students and teaches so many life lessons about responsibility, commitment, time management, and dealing with the ups and downs of success and failures that we have all had in life.” OCHS Photo

OCHS Inducts 39 into National Honor Society



Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the Bishop Francis R. Cotton Chapter of the National Honor Society:

Carli Barr, Elizabeth Buntin, Ryan Carlisle, Charles Carrico, Jacob Cecil, Julia Danhauer, Hayley Frey, Benjamin Fullenwider, CJ Glaser, Michael Goedde, Morgan Goetz, Becca Greenwell, Chelsea Hagan, Katherine Hagan, Molly Higgins, Haley

Ingram, Eric Johnson, Will Johnson, Sam Lilly, Philip Lovekamp, Trevor Lowe, Justin Magnuson, Meghan Mattingly, Neil Mattingly, Jacob Mills, Mason Richardson, Ciara Sauer, Allison Schepers, Kathleen Schreiner, Stefan Swift, Mayme Switzer, Kevin Thompson, Sydney Tignor, Stephanie Wall, Ben Wathen, Veronica Wethington, Kimberly Whitaker, Emily Whitehouse, Lauren Zambrano. OCHS Photo

Homecoming Royalty at St. Mary High School

Michae Word was crowned Homecoming Queen at St. Mary High School, Paducah, Ky., on Friday night December 9. Michae, a senior at St. Mary is the daughter of Mike & Peggy Word. She was escorted by Derek Willett, also a senior at St. Mary. Derek is the son of Harold & Sally Willett. Mike Word Photo



Governor-elect from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

By Dawn C. Ligibel

Although most of the Commonwealth is aware that Governor Steve Beshear was re-elected as Governor of the Commonwealth this past November, another governor was elected into office at the YMCA's Junior Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) on Saturday, December 10, 2011. John Langhi, member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville who attends Hopkinsville Middle School, was elected by popular vote to fill the office of governor at one of the junior KYA conferences next year.

Langhi, who was up against seven other candidates, including his cousin Wyatt Langhi, also of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish who attends Christian County Middle School, campaigned furiously during the conference which was held from Thursday, December 8 through Saturday, December 10. He, along with the others, gave his first campaign speech during the opening session of the conference on Thursday evening.

Langhi's three campaign platforms were: better roads for Kentucky, more security for Kentucky schools, and no



John Langhi, newly elected Governor for the Junior Kentucky Youth Assembly, enjoyed a police escort into Hopkinsville on Saturday, December 10, 2011. Langhi attends Hopkinsville Middle School and is pictured with his parents Michelle and Michael. Photo taken by Carla Oatts.

smoking in public places.

After the first vote, which was held on the second evening of the conference, Langhi was one of four finalists remaining, also including his cousin Wyatt. After

learning this, he spent most of the night writing his next and final speech to be given during the closing session on Saturday morning. During this speech, Langhi thanked his younger sister, Michaela, for all of her support as his somewhat self-appointed campaign manager, and he recognized his cousin, Wyatt.

"From the time she was born, Michaela has worshipped the ground John walks on," explained Michelle Langhi, mother of John and Michaela. "She campaigned harder for him than she would have for herself," she added.

After the final speeches were given and the all the other business of the final session had been concluded, it was time to announce the governor for next year. With family members from both Langhi families lining the wall at the rear of the ballroom, the first name announced was a young lady from elsewhere in the state. Holding collective breaths, the next name announced was Wyatt Langhi. After the third name was announced, another young lady from elsewhere in the state, virtual silence emanated the ballroom.

The last and final name announced, of course, would be that of the new governor. With the announcement of John Langhi's name, the ballroom erupted with cheers, claps and numerous camera snaps. Dawn Langhi, mother of Wyatt, was attempting to video tape John's ascension to the stage above the heads and hands of all the students standing and cheering for her

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nephew.

In years past, only three new leaders are elected each year at each conference to serve as the leadership team for the next conference. Due to the increased popularity of KYA, however, the YMCA is adding a fourth conference to next year's junior KYA schedule. Therefore, instead of electing three leaders, four leaders were elected from each conference and one leader from each conference will be asked to serve as part of the leadership team for the fourth conference. At this point, Wyatt does not know if he will be serving as the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, or possibly the Governor of the fourth conference.

According to Dawn, Wyatt, who was honored with an "Outstanding Speaker" award at last year's conference, knew he wanted to run for governor since that time. What he didn't know, was that his cousin John would also be running for governor. "They both love each other and support each other," said Dawn.

After three days of exhausting campaigning and speech giving, it was finally time to return home. While the adrenaline rush may have subsided in the car during the two and a half hour ride home, it certainly picked up for John again just inside the Christian County line. Waiting there for John and his family was a Christian County sheriff's escort. Leading John into Hopkinsville, through the middle of downtown and out to the "stadium of champions," John relished the escort by standing through the sun roof of the car and waving his gavel to all the cars and people he passed.

With temperatures hovering near freezing and John wearing only the suit he wore that morning, Michelle implored him to get inside the car and warm up. "He said, 'I may never have anything like this again, I can warm up later,'" Michelle remembered. "It was priceless," she added.

While both mothers' attentions were fully focused on their two sons throughout the three-day conference, neither missed how well the students of Sts. Peter and Paul School did during the conference. "We are so proud of the students at Sts. Peter and Paul," said Dawn. "They did awesome."

"Sts. Peter and Paul did so well," agreed Michelle. "They should all be so proud." Both John and Wyatt attended Sts. Peter and Paul School from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Helping One Another: It's What We Do!



On November 22, students at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School, Whitesville, held a Mission Carnival to raise money for charity. The students raised over \$600 to donate to a local child with cancer. Mrs. Cheryl Jones, kindergarten teacher is shown here painting faces. Below, scenes with St. Mary Catholic School enjoying the Mission Carnival. Submitted by Erin Kamuf

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Bishop Medley led a blessing of the newly constructed Owensboro Catholic Radio Tower. The ceremony was broadcast live on WIMM 107.9. WIMM's broadcasting equipment was moved from its previous location along the Natcher Parkway to the newly constructed tower at the Carmel Home. This central location greatly improves WIMM's radio signal within the city limits.

Dr. Matheis Carrico said, "It took a couple days to get everything up and running but we finally began broadcasting on 107.9FM at 2:30 PM on Saturday, September 17, 2011. The crew of All State Tower, Titan Construction, Neil Mattingly Electric, Owensboro Portable Buildings, JMJ Construction, and many other volunteers made this dream a reality."

What is WIMM 107.9 FM? The mission of WIMM is to evangelize the word of God in Owensboro, Kentucky. Many people drive around seeking spiritual and truthful guidance in life. There are many programs on WIMM that Owensboro listeners can benefit from and enrich their lives and the lives of their family and friends.

In concert with the EWTN Global Catholic Network, WIMM's goal is to broadcast the beauty and teachings of the Catholic Faith and to inform, inspire and challenge listeners so that all who hear it may be brought into the Kingdom of God.

To achieve this mission, our programming is designed to communicate divine truth, foster charity, defend peace and spread joy. It is our intention to cultivate and nurture among all people the salvation which is available only through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

WIMM's Beginning. The radio station was originally granted a license through the efforts of David Clark of Immaculate Parish along with David and Julie Renshaw in 2003.

David Clark was awarded a not for profit low powered FM radio station in December of 2003. He immediately tried to get support and other organizations involved to get the station off the ground. In the process, Michael Edge was contacted and saw the value and need of Catholic broadcasting in Owensboro, KY.

Michael immediately contacted Father Gerald Baker who had accomplished the same with a license and Catholic radio station in Hopkinsville, KY. Father became an advisor to the process in Owensboro and Michael formed a board that consisted of George Wathen, John Howard and John Wright. It became very apparent to Michael and the board that they needed technical expertise. WIMM was blessed to find Mr. Ed Thomas, a lifelong expert radio engineer. He graciously devoted an enormous amount of energy and time to get the station off the ground. Without Ed the station would not exist! He continues



From left to right: George Wathen, WIMM Treasurer; Ed Thomas, Engineer; Matheis Carrico, President; Vincent Carrico (in front), John Paul Carrico (baby being held), Bishop William Medley, Charlie Castlen, Secretary; and Carmelite Sisters, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Faustina and Sister Francis Teresa. "Owensboro Catholic Radio has made a huge difference in both my own Faith, and that of my family." -Matt, WIMM

to advise and council the ongoing development of WIMM.

Please tune in at 107.9 FM and unite your prayers with those of Bishop Medley and the entire Owensboro Catholic Radio family as we ask for our heavenly Father's blessings on our radio ministry.

WIMM is a listener-supported, nonprofit station. If people would like to donate, they may do so online at www.owensborocatholicradio.com or mail a check to 2534 Lawrin Court, Owensboro, Ky 42301. WIMM 107.9 also accepts underwriters. For \$100 donation @ month, businesses or whomever can then run an announcement.

A touching testimonial: June 28, 2011

Every once and a while, Owensboro Catholic Radio receives letters of appreciation or personal stories concerning the impact of WIMM. Since radio provides an anonymous connection with the community, we rarely know the effect of this station on the lives of listeners. Therefore, these notes are cherished and provide encouragement to all those involved here at WIMM. Some of the letters are published on the testimonial page of our website, <http://wimradio.com/>.

We recently received a rather touching letter from a listener who apparently had been visiting Owensboro. We would like to share this note with you now. It shows that, once again, we humans cannot predict the movements of the Holy Spirit. It also reminds us of the great blessings that God has bestowed on us here in Owensboro.

Hello dear friends!

I would like to thank all radio presenters to your radio.

Even in cloudy weather, your opinion is based on the heat that passes through the radio speakers. Thank you, dear, that in spite of your mood, you give us warmth and love. Over the past few years I lived in your country, I woke up and fell asleep to the sound of your radio. Unfortunately, I should come back home to Russia. Unfortunately, such radio stations as yours are not in Russia. Once again, I want to thank you and all your management for your work – you bring the people a good mood!

Dear radio presenter, be happy.

With love -Olga

If you would like to share a personal story or testimonial, write to WIMM 107.9 FM at manager@wimradio.com



Owensboro Catholic Radio supporters Charlie Castlen, left, and Dr Matheis Carrico assist Bishop William Medley in the blessing of the new WIMM 107.9 FM radio tower behind the Carmel Home in Owensboro. Submitted Photos

Holy Name School Takes 5th Place In The Henderson Christmas Parade

January, 2012 19

The City of Henderson held its annual Christmas parade along Main Street on December 3. Holy Name School received 5th place and a \$50 prize with a float showcasing our Catholic identity. First grade teacher, Pattye Tweddell, is pictured at right teaching religion to 12 students ranging from Pre-School to 4th Grade. The float also featured information about recent Holy Name School national academic victories, as well as Blessed Christmas wishes to hundreds of onlookers, who enjoyed the sunny day and warm weather. The Holy Name children's choir, under the direction of Janet Barkley and Donna Jo Bugg, led the procession not only by singing beautifully, but also by carrying a banner proudly announcing the school's 140th anniversary in 2012. Many members of the faculty and the staff, as well as parent volunteers donated their time to give a witness to the parade spectators that day. Submitted by Kamille Stich



A Holiday Message

By Betty Medley



If this is your first holiday season without your loved one, you are probably dreading it; or at least not looking forward to it with your usual anticipation. Maybe you are already asking yourself, "How will I get through Thanksgiving dinner with that empty chair looking at me?" or "How will I feel the joy of Christmas without him to share it with me?" Perhaps you just don't want to think about it, but the thoughts

keep popping into your head anyway. Hopefully, the ideas in this article will help you get through holiday season ahead. Let me emphasize a few points:

First, know that the anticipation of the day is always worse than the day itself. Secondly, know and accept that it will be painful. Allow yourself to lean into the hurt. It is because you loved that you are hurting deeply now. Let the pain happen and it will lessen more quickly. You probably have had many joyful holidays with your loved one, so you can expect that the first holiday without him or her will be difficult.

In order to make this time easier on you, friends and family might mistakenly try to keep you constantly occupied on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day. They

hope that keeping you busy will prevent you from thinking of your loved one. This probably won't work. In addition to thinking about your loved one and the holidays you shared in the past, you will feel the added stress of having to "put on a face" for those around you.

Here's a suggestion for compromise that falls between staying in bed and crying all day and keeping so busy that you can't think? Make some plans that will openly address the fact that this is the first holiday without your loved one, and that you miss him/her terribly. Tell those you will be spending the day with that this will be a difficult time for you, and that they can help you best by allowing you to express your feelings. Let them know you'll need to talk about past Thanksgivings or

Christmas with our loved one, and to talk about how you miss him/her this year. If you explain this to others in advance, it can free you to discuss your thoughts & feelings. Meanwhile, others are spared the discomfort of not knowing what to expect from you-or of not knowing what to say to you on this day.

A word of warning! Friends are relatives may see you as "morbid" or "sick" if you do some of the things suggested here. Don't let this deter you if this is what YOU want to do. You must get yourself through difficult days or times in ways that are best for you.

May the Spirit of the Holidays bring you some measure of peace.



Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 11th, the St. Romuald K-6th Religious Education students, parents and Catechists traveled to the Medco Center to sing Christmas carol for the residents. In the picture above, left, following their Christmas caroling, the St. Romuald K-6th Religious Education students pose in front of the Medco Center sign. In the picture above, right, Singing "Frosty the Snowman" are Madalyn Dooley, Brianna Barger, Parker Davis and MaKenzie Whitfill. Submitted by Kim Brumfield, Saint Romuald Parish CRE K-6.

Fr. Tiell and the Saint Mary's Youth Group

By Dr. Bob Cinnamon

It was the fall of 1985 and I was the youth group leader for St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. We had a very charismatic group of teenagers who loved Jesus so we had developed a retreat program called HELP (Helping Everyone Love and Praise) that we led for other parish youth groups in the Owensboro Diocese.

We were just completing the last day (Sunday) of a HELP retreat at the parish hall in Madisonville when I got a call from Fr. Jerry Glahn. Fr. Jerry always closed out our



Photos: at left, cover of "Over My Shoulder," Vol.3 of 5; above a section of a picture of priests showing Fr Tiell and Fr Paul Powell taken by Fr. John Vaughan at a presbyteral meeting March 17, 2009. WKC file photos

retreat with a powerful spirit-filled Mass, but this time he was at the hospital with a dying parishioner and said that he would be late! Several hours passed. We waited. Finally, Fr. Jerry called again. The person

MY LITTLE VIOLET

On a sunny October afternoon I took a walk,
So quietly with My Lord I could talk.

The Healing of Memories was on my mind.
The Peace of Christ I wanted to find.

Soon I was walking along a sluggish Creek
As an answer to my prayers I did seek.

Then a second look I paused to take
To make sure it was not some Mistake!

Looking up at me through the dead Weeds
Was a beautiful Answer to all my Needs.

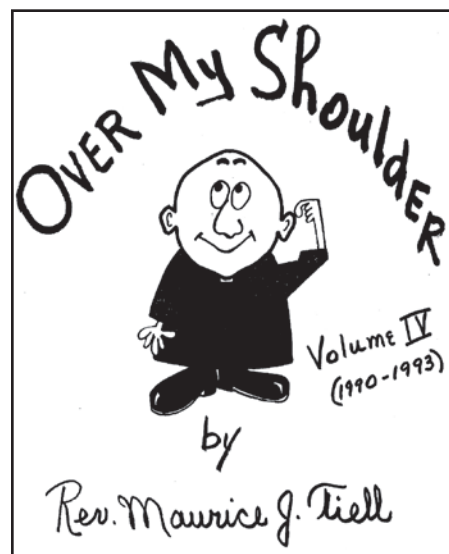
Yes, on a sunny October afternoon
There was a tiny Violet in full bloom!



The Wild Violets usually bloom in the Spring.
But our God is always ready His Healing to bring.
Roses are Red and Violets are Blue.

God's Healing Love is constant and true.

October 22, 1992. Printed in "Over My Shoulder," Vol. IV, 1990-1993.



at the hospital had not died yet so Fr. Jerry sent us to St. Michael Church, Sebree, to satisfy our Sunday obligation.

It was already dark when we arrived at the Sebree rectory and after several banging episodes, a weary Fr. Tiell, wearing his long white night gown, opened the front door and stared at us through the screen door. After explaining three times that we had about 30 teenagers that needed to meet their Sunday obligation, Fr. Tiell grunted, gave me the keys, and sent us into church.

A few minutes later Fr. Tiell, still wearing his long white nightgown, entered the sanctuary ready to say a quick Mass, but before he could begin, our musicians Steve

Clark and Joe Christian started a fast song and the 30 teenagers began to sing "The Joy of the Lord is my Strength" with all of their heart, almost raising the roof!

Suddenly, Fr. Tiell was transformed! To the joy of the teenagers he began to clap and dance to the music in his nightgown. He asked for another song, then after the youth did the readings, Fr. Tiell gave one of the most inspiring homilies I have ever heard about living in the joy of the Lord. A 20-minute Mass ended up lasting almost two hours with many songs! At the sign of peace Fr. hugged every teenager and thanked us for bringing the Holy Spirit to his parish. We thanked him too for a glorious end for our retreat.

The bus was loaded with happy people, snacks, door prizes, and the spirit of Christmas as we made our way to The Variety Theater at the Badgett Playhouse in Grand Rivers, Kentucky on Saturday December 3rd ... This was the second year the Office of Wisdom hosted a trip to the Variety Theater for the Christmas Spectacular.

As Coordinator of Wisdom part of my job is scheduling bus trips and hoping they will sell out. There is never a problem when the bus goes to shows at the Variety Theater. We've been to their variety shows before, and they are all excellent.

The Christmas show is always beautiful in every way; costumes, songs, humor and theme. I know going in that the true meaning of Christmas will be the center piece of the show, and that's what I want the group from our diocese to experience. The story of the birth of Christ begins and ends the show. The show has lots of fun and laughter in the middle, too, and a recognition of veterans, but no one is timid about saying "Merry Christmas," or hiding a tear when a song about the birth of Jesus from St. Joseph's perspective was sung.

"I loved the show, and I'm ready to



Sister Helen Fischer gets aboard the Cajen Travel bus waiting curbside after the show to take us merrily home.

Catechist Opportunity Great Expectations: Coaching Parents To Form Their Own Children

The task of passing on the faith to children belongs undeniably to their parents. In fact, no matter how hard we try at the parish or Catholic school to substitute ourselves for them, if the parents aren't involved, the child's faith will always be lukewarm. With this in mind the diocesan Offices of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and Planning and Parish Services are sponsoring a catechetical workshop entitled "Great Expectations: Coaching Parents to Form Their Own Children." In this workshop, Leisa Anslinger will help catechists learn how to engage the parents by coaching them to form their own children. This process can be implemented in various ways, including Sacrament Prep, with your textbook series, or even for Confirmation Preparation.

Leisa Anslinger holds Masters Degrees



Leisa Anslinger

from Purdue University and the Athenaeum of Ohio. She served as a parish leader



Cast members "ham" it up with Ed Simon and Maureen Jackson in the lobby after the matinee Christmas Spectacular performance

go again," said Maureen Jackson who has been on several trips with the Office of Wisdom.

"I was really impressed by the professional talent. It was a good as anything I've seen in Branson."

"I loved the beautiful costumes."

"I don't know when I've laughed so much!" - just a few comments heard on the bus ride home.

When they introduced an Elvis impersonator, "It took me a minute to get it when Michael Jackson's ex-father-in-law was introduced," said Ed Simon.

I would say a merry time was shared by all!!



Linda Hall of Owensboro, gets a "buss" from the lead guitarist of the house band after the show in front of the Badgett Theater. Photos by Ginny Knight-Simon

of faith formation for many years and now serves as Director of Catholic Life and Faith. In this capacity, Leisa continues her work of developing ways to re-engage Catholics with their faith and their parish. A frequent presenter at conferences and in-service days, Leisa speaks on topics of catechesis, pastoral leadership, and stewardship.

She contributes regularly to ministerial publications and is the author of Here Comes Everybody! And co-author of Desires of the Heart and Forming Generous Hearts: Stewardship Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation.

This workshop will be held March 17, 2012 at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356. Registration will begin at 9:30 with Leisa beginning her presentation at 10:00. The day will conclude at 3:00. Cost is \$10 and includes the price of lunch. To register, please send name, e-mail, and fee to Donna Biggs, Office of Faith Formation, 600 Locust St. Owensboro, KY 42301. You can also e-mail the information to donna.biggs@pastoral.org or call (270)852-8324. We are willing to bill you or your parish (if they have agreed to pay for your fee). A brochure is also found on the website at www.rcdok.org under the Office of Faith Formation.

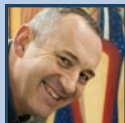
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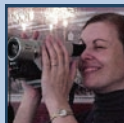
Mary Beth Bonacci



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To register and for more information visit www.NationalCatholicSingles.com or call 608-561-1791

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Join us on our next Spinning Day Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012

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

Future dates: Feb. 11 and March 9-11 weekend retreat
Contact Kathy McCarty to register
270-229-4103 ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

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OCHS Students guiding a tour of the OCHS Media Center, Stephanie Wahl, Julie Danhauer, Becca Greenwell, left at top, Megan Mattingly, talk with St. Ann students Liberty Greenwell, Holly Greenwell, Halle Buckman, Peyton Guess, and Logan Jenkins. Becca Greenwell's father, Neal Greenwell, is from Union County and her mother, Nicole Elder, is originally from Union County. Her grandparents live in Union County. Becca attended kindergarten at St. Ann School before moving to Owensboro. Mel Howard Photos

OWENSBORO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - On Dec. 9, 2011, the Eighth grade class from St. Ann School, Morganfield, toured Owensboro Catholic High School for the first time. Organized by the OCHS administration and school counselor Mrs. Bev Howard, eighth grade visitation gives students and their families a chance to spend a day at OCHS and get to know the students and the campus.

Comments about what it's like to visit OCHS as an eighth-grade student from the St. Ann 2012 Eighth Grade class spoke about the family atmosphere among the OCHS students and faculty: "Everyone knows everyone."

"One senior student told our students that in the time they had been at OCHS, there had not been one fight that this student was aware of."

"We liked the block schedule. What we saw at lunch was that everyone was sitting with everyone; there were no outsiders. Everybody in the school talked to us and were not afraid to speak to strangers."

St. Ann Principal Beth Hendrickson said, "When we asked the students what makes OCHS students different, their comment was "They are proud of who they are! All commented that during their trip to OCHS, no one ignored them. Even in the hallway, others made them feel welcome."

"Thank you so much for this wonderful experience. I like to support our Catholic high school in our Diocese. Our students can earn KEES money if they come there, which is not possible if they choose to travel to Memorial. There are great opportunities."



Three St. Ann students are: Austin Clements, Mary Lou Loxley, and Holly Greenwell waiting for OCHS student Kevin Thompson, at back, to start their tour of the school.

In the photo below, St. Ann student Liberty Greenwell is speaking with OCHS Campus Minister Fr. Ed Bradley. Teacher Julie Davis and parent volunteer Amy Davis, a top left, speak with OCHS Counselor Mrs. Bev Howard at left rear, who has helped organize visitation tours of the OCHS campus for other eighth grade classes from Henderson Holy Name and Owensboro Catholic Middle School.



NCYC: It Is Better Than The Grand Canyon; You Have Got To See It!



Felicia LaBarge

By Felicia LaBarge

What is better than the Grand Canyon? I'm talking about the National Catholic Youth Conference, NCYC, of course. If you had told me a month ago that I would be writing this article I would have told you, "I'm not going to NCYC. I cannot possibly commit to writing about it." When Nicole Strasser, St. Thomas More Youth Leader, called me and asked, "Will you please come to NCYC? We really need a Chaperone?" I really did not want to go. I said, "I don't want to ride on a bus for 10 hours. I don't want to watch other people's kid. I don't want to get 3 hours of sleep for 3 nights, and I especially don't want to share a room with other people. But I have to tell you, it was worth it!

The experience changed my life. I have a confidence in my faith that will last a lifetime. Imagine being with over 23,000 Catholic Youth, all praying together and celebrating our Savior Jesus Christ. It took my breath away. The sessions were uplifting and reconciliation was so freeing. A Bishop did my reconciliation - wow! We all danced together, sang together, laughed together, cried together and, most importantly, worshipped together. Over 200 priests processed into the Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, IN) that was transformed into a holy place of worship. And we broke bread together, about 200 of us from the Diocese of Owensboro, with people from all over the United States. We were truly One Body.

Thank you, Nicole, for asking me to go. Thank you, Diocese of Owensboro, for helping arrange the trip, and most importantly thank you, God! Amen



In the picture above, Youth from the Hancock County Catholic community: John Bolin, Bert Kellems, Kristen Emmick, Macy Johnson, Denny Long, Nick Henderson, Megan Gross, Jacob Terry, Hannah Boswell, Grace Burk, Denise Long, Alexa Henderson, Maggie Kellems, Bailey Terry, and Morgan Atwood. with Marcella Henderson, from Immaculate Conception Church, Hawesville. Submitted photo



Owensboro seminarians at NCYC: Jamie Dennis and Gary Clark, both from Grayson County.



A group who attended NCYC 2011 (Called To Glory) from St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah: Casey Kupper, Olivia Petter, Grant Farmer, Nick Eggemeyer, Ben Smith, Austin Hunt, Ben Hopper. STM Photo



Owensboro Bishop William Medley in conversation with youth and adult leaders at NCYC. Photo by Doug Hunter, St. Meinrad Seminarian



Hancock County Kentuckians for Christ, Macy Johnson, Kristen Emmick and Megan Gross at NCYC.



Father Tom Buckman at NCYC.

'Called to Glory'

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Youths live out their faith at National Catholic Youth Conference



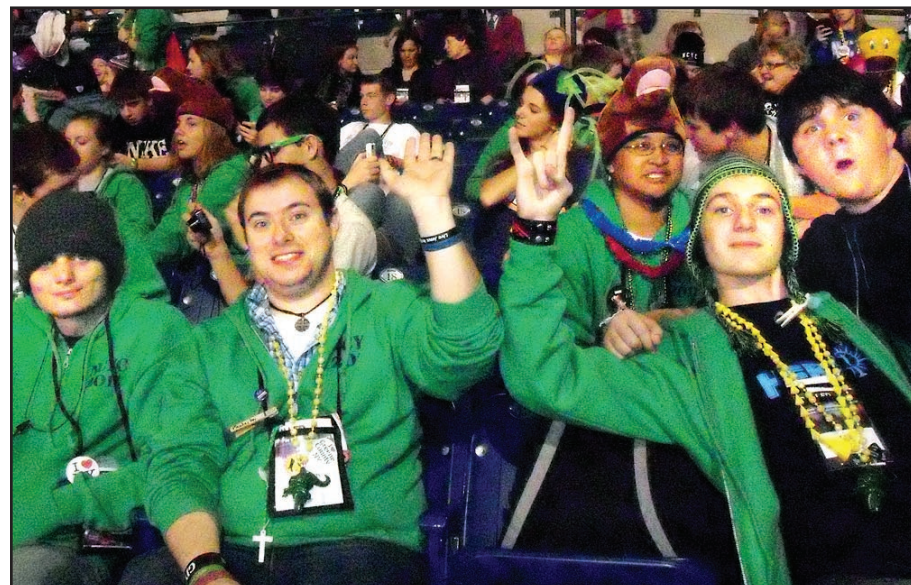
Even for an experienced, veteran chaplain or chaperone such as Father Dave Kennedy, at right, the NCYC experience is awesome still! YM Photo



Call it a "spiritual wave;" it is authentic, heart-felt prayer to participate in the music and conferences at NCYC. YM Photo



National Catholic Youth Conference emcee Vallimar Jansen, with youth attending the 2011 NCYC in Indy. YM Photo



A Group of parishioners from St. Pius Tenth Church, Ownesboro, with parish Youth Minister Matt Hunt, center. YM photo



Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro, at right, applauds during the National Catholic Youth Conference closing Mass on Nov. 19, 2011 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. With Bishop Medley are from left, Father James Bonke, Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of the Lafayette Diocese; Bishop Matthew Clark of the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y.; and Bishop Peter F. Christiansen of the Diocese of Superior, Wis. Photo by Mary Ann Garber for The Criterion, Indianapolis, In., Nov. 25, 2011



The group who went to NCYC 2011 from Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro are, in front, Luke Dickens; the back row, Sr. Rosanne Spalding, O.S.U., Tyler Ward, Terry Ward, Tanner Ward and seminarian Emmanuel Udoh. Submitted by Sr Rosanne.



The group who went to NCYC 2011 from St. Mary Magdalene Parish: front row, from left - Tabby Payne, Allie Payne, Meredith Dant, Patti Bartley, Mary Catherine Carter; middle row - Landon Knott, Tanner Ward, Crissy Stevenson, Jordan Payne, Tanner Ward; back row: Jacob Fischer, Nicholas Fischer, Blake Knott, Chris Kamuf. Submitted by Chrissy Stevenson



Blake Knott with the diocesan NCYC hoodie design. He won the logo contest and received a \$50.00 award for winning. YM Office photo



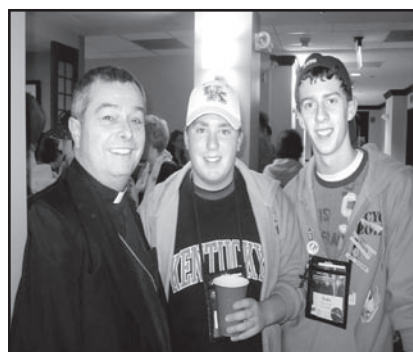
Owensboro Seminarians at NCYC 2011 Jamie Dennis, Julio Berrera, and Nicolas. Douglas Hunter Photo



Owensboro Seminarian Julio Berrera in alb, ready for Mass. Doug Hunter Photo



Matt Fields and Basilio Az Cuc at NCYC 2011. Doug Hunter Photo



Bishop Medley was meeting with the youth at the Hotel Saturday Night. He is with Jordan Payne (middle) and Blake Knott (right).

Attention Youth!

Join us for KY Rally for Life in Frankfort KY, February 1, 2012. Cost is \$35.00 and includes bus ride to Frankfort and lunch. Trip is open to youth grades 7-12 and their Chaperones. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Each of us has a mission, each of us is called to change the world, to work for a culture of life, a culture forged by love and respect for the dignity of each human person." Please plan to join us and advocate for pro-life legislation in 2012! For more information contact your Parish Youth Minister or Robin Tomes at the Office for Youth Ministry at 270-683-1545 ext 358 or robin.tomes@pastoral.org.

Young Adult Retreat at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center - "Who is My Neighbor?", January 11th through the 15th

- Cost is only \$20 For anyone 18 and over
- Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center



By Megan French
(Megan is a senior at Bowling Green's Greenwood High School.)

The day began dark and early for the pilgrims of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. We met at exactly 3:30 a.m. to head to Owensboro KY, to pick up three other bus loads of friends. After another brief bus ride, and a few quick stops along the way, we were all ready to immerse ourselves in the NCYC atmosphere. We first attended a Regional meeting made up of five states: Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. We then joined 23,000 other Catholic youth and proceeded to Lucas Oil Stadium where we had the privilege of listening to the director of the National

In the photo at right, from left to right, front row: Marilyn Johnson, Bowling Green High School, Maddie Powers, Greenwood High School, Bishop Medley, Adam Keyser, sophomore at Western Kentucky University; second row, directly behind Bishop Medley, James Kenney, freshman at Western Kentucky University, Mason Strange, Greenwood High School, Kevin Powell, South Warren High School; third row, Matt Thomas. Photo was taken by Marilouise Thomas, parishioner of Holy Spirit Church in Bowling Green and a NCYC Chaperone.

Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, Bob McCarty, along with several well known Catholic speakers and musicians. They presented the theme of this year's conference, "Called to Glory". We were



I Used To Be Catholic

There's an old saying that goes, "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic." Maybe you have been away from the Church for a little while or quite some time, but somehow you now feel a tug at your heart calling you back home to the Catholic Church. That's why we're here.

Whether or not you know you want to return to the Catholic Church, we're here to help you take that second look.

That mysterious pull inside you, driving you to look into your faith once more, comes directly from God. Your Heavenly Father is yearning for a relationship with you again, in the Church founded by Jesus 2000 years ago. He's waiting for you with open arms.

You may want to take some time to explore all of the resources we have provided, to help you learn more about coming home to the Catholic Church. We know you may have questions, and may even want to resolve some past hurts before you can feel free to enter into a relationship with Jesus or His Church again. We



understand. You are not alone.

The Church has compelling answers to all of your questions. The Catholic Church has never wavered in its mission to spread truth and love throughout the world. The Lord wants us all to know and understand His truth, so we can embrace it wholeheartedly and live by it. Christ himself reminds us that "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Consider this a sign, and your invitation to rediscover the truth, wonder and mystery of the Catholic faith. We are family. Welcome home!

To speak with a Catholic who can help you re-connect, call 270.852.8360

also introduced to the 30 Bishops attending the conference, Bishop Medley included! Along with this opening celebration, many hats and memorabilia were worn and traded representing our respective states. Holy Spirit Parish traded "chicken hats" which were in high demand and had high trading value. Thursday night was exciting yet tiring, but we were all energetic and thrilled to be doing the same thing the entire next two days!

A variety of workshops were presented in different rounds to provide maximum options for attendance. Several of my friends and I chose to start off the weekend sessions by listening to the inspirational speaker and singer Tony Melendez, who has no arms and plays the guitar with his feet. He told us his story of strength and triumph, and how a kiss from Pope John Paul II in 1987 radically changed his life. He inspired us to all be people of strength and hope. From there we walked the long, expansive, and very crowded convention center to attend the Round B workshop where we listened to the engaging speaker Rich Curran, who talked about God's plan for our lives and our call as Catholics in a secular world. This was especially meaningful to me as I am about to graduate high school and head to college. Immediately following we dashed to the Round C workshop where we listened to the dynamic, and smooth movin', Fr. Tony Ricard. As the present chaplain for the New Orleans

Saints, he talked about our relationship with our heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit using scripture and took the audience from the beginning of Genesis all the way to Revelation with his catch phrase "Whoop, there it is!" We then headed back to Lucas Oil Stadium for the closing session where Emcee Valimar Jansen led us in a moving praise and worship experience which included an incredible sand art performance by Joe Castillo. Nothing is quite as empowering as seeing nearly 23,000 Catholic Youth all embrace their faith with their voices raised and then when prompted, bow their heads in prayer and silence.

Again on Saturday with just a few hours sleep, we were up and ready for our final day of NCYC. This is always an exciting day for veteran NCYC attendees because we know what is to come later that night. The closing Mass is one of the most inspiring experiences of the weekend and included a procession of 175 Deacons, 250 Priests and 30 Bishops. Again, all 23,000 people praying mass at the exact same time, under the same roof is not something that you get to witness just any day, making it a special and memorable experience. It was also exciting in that it was the last weekend mass before the new Roman Missal was instituted, and we were fortunate enough to celebrate it with 23,000 other Catholic youth fired up to be the hands and feet of Christ. We are Called to Glory!

The Catholic Doctrine On Purgatory

A theological exploration of Catholic Faith by Rev. Richard Meredith

Christians have always believed that death does not break the bonds of the communion they have with each other in the body of Christ and in the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a communion of life in mutual Christian assistance, prayer, and worship of God, through Jesus Christ in the grace of the Holy Spirit. The prayers offered for one another in this life do not have to cease with death. While those of us still on the earthly journey can not physically stand with the deceased as they come before God in personal judgment, we can prayerfully affirm our communion with the deceased and urge their victory in the Risen Christ. The benefit of this communion cannot be measured—it is beyond measure—but it is as real as the Church being the body of Christ is real. The doctrine on Purgatory has attempted to defend the Church's prayer for the dead who are in Christ and to give some Christian understanding of dying and of the encounter of the deceased person with God. Of particular interest here is concern for those who at death are truly God's friends but who have not given themselves whole heartedly over to God in conversion or repentance. Using biblical images of cleansing or purifying, the Church has spoken of their being graciously made perfect by God as they come before God's loving Justice, between their departure from us at death and their attainment of heavenly happiness. This between, a spiritual state of being made perfect in God's gracious mercy—a state incapable of being measured by time or located in space—is a completing of communion in the Triune God which those who have died in Christ really share with both earthly pilgrims and the heavenly choirs of saints and angels. Faith here must control imagination. Suffering and pain are mentioned in the history of doctrine, but these can only be those "crosses" freely borne in the name of love and contrite conversion. Faith allows no consideration of penal tortures and cruelty, as if God demands a vengeance for sin to be paid back by the creature's agony. The prophetic judgment image of God's "fire" reflects faith's confidence in the intensity of God's love which tolerates no trace of destroying evil in the beloved. Saint Paul uses this imagery in 1 Corinthians 3, 10-15, saying that everyone's work, building on the one foundation that is Christ, will be

"revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire."

This manner of prophetic speaking is in direct line with the Church's faith understanding of death, judgment, and final salvation. "Our God is a consuming fire" as Hebrews 12, 29 says, and also as 1 John 4, 8, 16 says, "God is love."

The official doctrine of the Catholic Church on Purgatory is rather modest. It may be helpful to survey the most authoritative statements from the history of the doctrine, while being careful to respect the historical contexts which somewhat shape the discussion and the decisive language. This article presents the doctrine on Purgatory articulated by ecumenical councils, by papal teaching, and, most recently, by the Catechism of the Catholic Church along with theological explanation. Each example used has an historical context and manner of speaking.

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The Western Kentucky Catholic asked a Lay Ecclesial Minister what she thought about Purgatory. She said, "My fear is that no one will pray me out of Purgatory! I mean ...we've lost that. Do people still visit cemeteries to pray for the souls of their loved ones whose bodies are resting there?"

As sources for contemporary doctrine, they afford us an opportunity to examine the primary affirmations of the doctrine of faith and the varying manners by which that faith is expressed. The translation of the council documents used here is taken from Norman P. Tanner, S.J. *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*, 2 vol., (Washington, DC: Georgetown Univ. Press, 1990). Terms that are in bold print are significant for an accurate understanding and will need further explanation. Unfortunately, the term Purgatory has often been a matter for dispute among Christians, especially between Catholics and Protestants. It is helpful to keep two focal issues in mind, namely the doctrine's expression of faith in God's merciful judgment and the unbroken



In November 1910, Padre Pio wrote to his spiritual director, Padre Benedetto. "I see so many souls from Purgatory that they don't frighten me any more. More souls of the dead than the living climb this mountain to attend my Masses and seek my prayers."
Source: <http://thepathlesstaken7.blogspot.com/2010/11/padre-pio-i-see-so-many-souls-from.html>

communion which "pilgrim" Christians have with those who have "gone to God" in death and are "asleep in Christ."

This study begins with the attempt over five hundred years ago at healing the schism or division of Eastern and Western Christianity. Our source is the Council of Florence, Session 6, July 6, 1439. The main goal of this council was the reunion of Western Christianity (the Church of Rome) with Eastern Christianity (the Greek Churches). The council sought to express Christian faith in a manner the divided churches could all accept. It is interesting that the term "purgatory" as such was not necessary to express the doctrine which concerns us here. The council chose not to use the term.

If truly penitent people die in the love of God before they have made satisfaction for the acts and omissions by worthy fruits of repentance, their souls are cleansed (Latin: *purgari*) after death by cleansing pains; and the suffrages of the living faithful avail them in giving relief from such pains, that is, sacrifices of masses (or holy sacrifices), prayers, almsgiving and other acts of devotion which have been customarily performed by some of the faithful for others of the faithful in accordance with the church's ordinances. [*Decrees, vol. 1, p. 527*]

"Satisfaction" has to do with making amends for the wrongs we have done and for the good we have failed to do. But this is done by accepting the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ in whom alone God is rec-

onciled to the world and the world is reconciled to God. Acceptance of Christ gives a participation in God's healing of creation and the making of the new creation which includes the redeemed. Accepting Christ includes the "dying with him" which corresponds with the image of the "cleansing pains" in which the Christian is both freed from attachment to wrong and by grace willingly lets go. As we will see stated in the Catechism, among the members of the communion of saints there is such a sharing of "holiness" that what profits one profits all others. The "suffrages" of the faithful on earth for those who have died: these are by the grace of God acts of faith, hope, and love supportive of conversion. As fruits of the Holy Spirit's acting, they can further the victory of God's redeeming love in the hearts of all, both the living and the dead.

The Council of Trent, Session 25, December 3-4, 1563 — The occasion for this council was, of course, the Protestant Reformation and the need for the Roman Catholic Church to reform itself and to respond to the Protestant Reformers. It is easy to see the two purposes exemplified in the conciliar text which follows. The bishops, to counter the Reformers, assert purgatory's existence along with the spiritual communion of the living faithful with these dead, a devout communion which is of benefit to all. The bishops also tackle the serious abuses which were associated with devotions undertaken and indulgences sought on behalf of the dead.

As the catholic church, instructed by the holy Spirit, has taught from holy scripture and the ancient tradition of the fathers in its holy councils and most recently in this ecumenical council (Trent, sessions 6 and 22) that purgatory exists, and that the souls detained there are helped by the prayers of the faithful and most of all by the acceptable sacrifice of the altar; the holy council charges bishops to ensure sound teaching on purgatory, handed down by the holy fathers and sacred councils (see Florence, session 6), is believed and held by the Christian faithful and everywhere preached and expounded. In homilies to uninstructed people the more difficult and subtle questions, which do nothing to sustain faith and give rise to little or no increase of devotion, should be excluded. They should not allow uncertain speculation or what borders on falsehood to be publicly treated. And they should prohibit

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The Catholic Doctrine On Purgatory

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all that panders to curiosity or superstition, or smacks of base gain, as scandalous stumbling-blocks to the faithful. Bishops should see to it that the offerings of the faithful who are living, namely masses, prayers, alms and other works of piety, customarily done by the faithful for those of the faithful who have died, should be performed piously and with devotion according to the laws of the church, and that whatever is due for these purposes from testamentary bequests or any other sources should be discharged by priests and ministers of the church and others bound to this duty in no perfunctory manner but with diligence and accuracy. [*Decrees, vol. 2, p. 774*]

It is noteworthy that Trent's expansion here on the Council of Florence is mostly of a pastoral nature. There is also an increase in emphasis. Purgatory is named and its existence is asserted explicitly. The manner of speaking of it as a discrete place does not imply spatio-temporal location (does not assert, in other words, where it may be located in the cosmos or found in time), but helps relate the soul to God, before whom the soul is undergoing purifying judgment in preparation for heaven. The Christian devotions of the living not only further their own conversions, they also support the final conversions of those who have died in Christ. Using other language it is true to say that Purgatory for the souls of the faithful departed is "located" inside the healing, cleansing, gracious, judging, just, and loving hands of God.

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (1964) speaks only briefly about the departed faithful, but it does so from the perspective of the Church as a communion of life in God and uses language very similar to that of the Council of Florence. Specific reference is made both to Florence and to Trent. The following brief selections present the doctrine.

Until, therefore, the Lord comes in his majesty and all his angels with him (see Mt 25, 31) and, when death has been destroyed, all things have been made subject to him (see 1 Cor 15, 26-27), some of his disciples are pilgrims on earth, others who have departed this life are being purified (purificantur), while others are in glory gazing "clear-sighted on God himself as he is, three in one" (Florence, Session 6); all of us, however, though in a different



The Western Kentucky Catholic asked a teacher about Purgatory. The reply: "Purgatory is like a mulligan. That's when a player gets a second chance to perform a certain move or action. It's also like Resurrection Island on the TV reality show, SURVIVOR. When contestants are voted out of the tribe they go to Resurrection Island where a second chance may return them to the tribe. That's Purgatory!"

degree and manner, communicate in the same love of God and our neighbor and sing the same hymn of glory to our God. For all who are in Christ, possessing his Spirit, are joined together in one church and united with each other in him (see Eph 4,16). The union, therefore, of those who are still pilgrims with their sisters and brothers who have gone to sleep in the peace of Christ, is by no means broken, indeed according to the perennial faith of the church it is strengthened through participation in spiritual benefits... [*on the Church, 49; Decrees, vol.2, p. 889*]

This venerable faith of our forefathers concerning the living communion with our brothers and sisters who are in heavenly glory or still being purified after death, this holy synod accepts with great respect, and it reiterates the decrees of the sacred councils of Nicaea II (787, having to do here with veneration of the saints and the use of art which represents them), Florence and Trent (various references are given in the text). At the same time, however, in its pastoral solicitude it exhorts all whom it concerns to do their best to get rid of or correct any abuses, excesses or deficiencies that may have crept in here and there and to restore all to the fuller praise of Christ and of God.... [*on the Church, 51; Decrees, vol. 2, p. 891*]

A look at Purgatory and some related issues as these are presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church will complete the review of Catholic doctrine. The specific material on Purgatory is found in Part One, Article 12, III, §1030-1032. The main text follows with abbreviated references.

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo

purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned (reference to Florence, Trent, and to Pope Benedict XII's Benedictus Deus). The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire (1 Cor 3:15; 1Pet 1:7)....

1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin" (2 Macc 12:46). From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God (reference to the Council of Lyons II, in 1274). The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead....

Some additional material is found under the consideration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The idea of "satisfaction," i.e., making restitution, expiation for, or repair of that which sin has harmed (§1459), is very helpfully presented as the forgiven sinner's work at the recovery of "spiritual health," or at making amends. The very word "penance" is another form of the word repentance, i.e., conversion. A willing participation in the healing of the wounded creation flows from God's merciful forgiveness of sin. The faithful disciple is asked, is invited, to take up the cross personally, following Jesus in the redemption of the harm that evil has done. This is a participation in the cross of Jesus

Satisfaction, restitution, and the labor of conversion after sinning all derive from the grace of God. Insofar as this is often experienced as a difficult struggle, even a painful one although it is a labor of love, the Church also refers to it as the "temporal punishment" due to sin. The Catechism explicitly points out that the language of punishment does not mean divine vengeance and ought not imply a deserved but vengeful inflicting of pain by God, as if this of itself pleased God or benefitted the creature.

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...Every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the "temporal punishment" of sin. ... (This) must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain... §1472

Divine punishment, then, in Catholic spirituality is an act of God who is love. In the case of purgatory it means something medicinal, i.e., the needed discipline of conversion which in Christ heals the sin-damaged child of God and the damage to creation which that child caused.

The sharing of spiritual benefits in the "communion of saints" is beautifully described in the Catechism. It involves an insight of faith found consistently in the spiritual life of catholic Christianity through the centuries and articulated in relation to the doctrine of Purgatory.

In the communion of saints, "a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things (Pope Paul VI, apostolic constitution on indulgences *Indulgentiarum doctrina*, 5)." In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others. Thus recourse to the communion of saints lets the contrite sinner be more promptly and efficaciously purified of the punishments for sin." §1475

It should be rather clear now that the Catholic doctrine on the final purification of the faithful who die, on their ultimate conversion from sin by the grace of God and graced acceptance of God's love, is very modest. The Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Spirit's gifts make up the communion of life exchanged among all the faithful, experienced as mutual support, affirmation, encouragement, witness, and solidarity in the Body of Christ. Because of this, not because we can measure an effect, we pray for and act in Christ on behalf of God's final blessing of those who have died in Christ. The deceased person's

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Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Honored for Service to the World's Material and Spiritual Poor

STEUBENVILLE, OH—Franciscan University of Steubenville awarded its 2011 Poverello Medal to Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, for his lifetime of service to the materially and spiritually poor. The medal was presented to Father Groeschel on Thursday, November 17, 2011, in New York City.

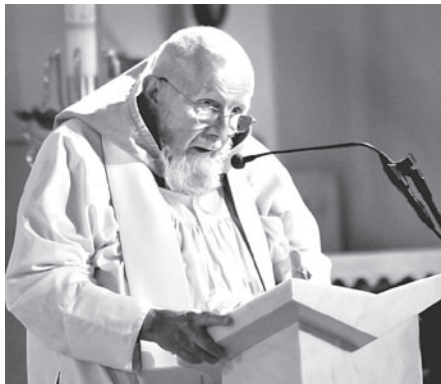
The awards ceremony began with Mass, attended by Franciscan University friends and alumni, as well as members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the order that Father Groeschel helped found in 1987. The Mass was held at the Church of the Guardian Angel in Chelsea. Father Terence Henry, TOR, president of Franciscan University was the main celebrant, and Father Jonathan Morris, past Franciscan student and Fox News analyst, delivered the homily.

Father Morris commended Father Groeschel for being both “fearless of men” and “God-fearing.” He also thanked Father Groeschel, whom he had only met once before, explaining that the elder friar’s evangelical witness had “profoundly impacted” his own life and priestly ministry.

Later, Father Henry addressed the 125 friends and alumni gathered, before presenting the medal to Father Groeschel.

“Poverty is one of the defining realities of our age,” Father Henry began, adding that poverty comes in both material and spiritual forms. “Were he among us still, St. Francis, the little poor man of Assisi... would have given himself, body and soul, to the work of caring for the poor, ministering to us in all our many and varied needs. Francis, however, is not here. So, one of his spiritual sons, Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, has done that for him.”

Father Henry then went on to recount the many ways Father Groeschel has followed in the footsteps of both St. Francis and Christ, including living and working with New York City’s most troubled and impoverished youth; co-founding the community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, which provides care for the homeless in the U.S. and around the world; and through his work of speak-



Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR

ing, preaching, writing, teaching, and counseling.

“Father Benedict has been a tireless and bold witness to Christ in a culture afflicted by spiritual poverty,” Father Henry concluded. “He has also been a brother and friend to those living in material poverty. He has walked in the footsteps of St. Francis, and in doing so, has led countless souls to Christ.”

In his speech accepting the medal, Father Groeschel expressed how grateful he was for the work of Franciscan University’s staff and faculty, saying it “has been a beloved place since I heard first heard about it. It is a wonderful work of divine providence.”

“This is a great time of blessing for the Church in America,” he said. “And I’m so grateful to be a witness to this Second Springtime.”

The evening concluded with brief remarks and a final blessing from Archbishop Francis Assisi Chullikatt, papal nuncio to the United Nations.

“In the eyes of the world, you, Father Groeschel, are a poverello, a little poor man,” the archbishop said. “But in our eyes you possess a treasure so precious that you are honoring us tonight, not we you.”

Father Groeschel is the director of the Office for Spiritual Development of the Archdiocese of New York. He founded and is on the staff of Trinity Retreat, a center for prayer and study for the clergy. He obtained his doctorate in psychology from Columbia University in 1971 and is a professor of pastoral psychology at St.

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state or relationship with God is a healing judgment for final repentance. It is called a purification in preparation for eternal beatitude or joy with God. And, it takes place within this communion of life in the Holy Spirit. This state and relationship is what our faith tradition calls Purgatory. The duration of this state is not temporal and the language of time may only be used by analogy. The duration of purgatory is as long as the passage from death to the fullness of life with God. It culminates in beatitude and is consummated in the Resurrection.

Christian imagination, nonetheless, hungers to supply further details in more or less graphic terms. But the history of doctrine at the highest level urges pastors and the faithful as a whole to resist degrading the mystery of faith with misleading physical and temporal images. These tend not to enhance faith or offer comfort but feed superstition, misdirect the gullible, and harm the unity of Christians. No amount of private revelations, whether visions or messages from any purported source, make as great a call to Catholic faith as do the conciliar doctrines presented here. Rather, they, the private articulations, are all measured by these Catholic doctrines.

It is wholesome Catholic devotion to pray for the faithful departed, the “suffering souls in purgatory.” But it is a challenging faith which calls Christians to distinguish the images of Dante’s Purgatorio or a mystic’s visionary story from the truth of faith which respects the limits that the holy mystery places on our imagination and understanding. It is both fearsome and comforting enough to say that these souls of the faithful dead are “in the hands of God” (Wisdom 3.1). Love then bids us be united with them in prayer and conversion.

Joseph’s Seminary of the Archdiocese of New York and a visiting professor at the Institute for Psychological Sciences.

Familiar to television audiences through the EWTN Sunday Night Prime Program, Father Groeschel has published and produced more than 30 books and 100 CDs and DVDs on spirituality and pastoral counseling. His most recent books are: *Travelers Along The Way* (Servant Books 2010), *Praying Constantly* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2010), *I Am With You Always* (Ignatius Press 2010), and *After This Life* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2009).

The Poverello Medal is the high-

???

The Western Kentucky

Catholic asked a university teacher about Purgatory. Here is the reply: “Once, I was at the Lourdes Hospital chapel during a daily Mass and someone handed me a small stack of holy cards and prayer books. I didn’t see any other piles of these cards or books around – so I really don’t know from where they came. When I turned around, no one was there. A little weird actually. Anyway, one of those prayer books was about Purgatory and novenas and various prayers prayed for the deceased. It was a really little nice book. The novena was really good. During certain days, you prayed for people you know and during other days, you pray for the one closest to getting out of Purgatory, the one furthest away from getting out, the one suffering the most, the one suffering the least, etc. I had used that when various family members died.

“Purgatory really hits home when you have something like that to make you feel like you are really doing something for the ones you love who have died. Sometimes, you feel like your hands are tied when they are suffering, near death, but then after the fact, when you think of Purgatory and the prayers you can offer for them, you really feel like you are helping them to get to Heaven. At least, I do. I think those little books should be handed out at all Catholic funerals.”

est non-academic honor awarded by Franciscan University of Steubenville. Named after St. Francis of Assisi, who was called Il Poverello (“the little poor man”), the award commemorates organizations and individuals who, through great strength of character and the practice of Christian charity, have imitated St. Francis in their love for and service to the poor. Past recipients include Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Dorothy Day, Charles W. and Patricia Colson, and Rick and Karen Santorum.

“En Nombre de Dios”



Luis Aju

Celebrations: Novenas, Posadas, Christmas, New Year's

The novenas celebrated in Honor of the Most Holy Virgin Mary of Guadalupe stem from profound and great love for the Mother of Jesus, Patroness and Protector of all America. She appeared to one of the members of the original community of this continent (St. Juan Diego). Since then her apparition was and is the hope of a people who suffered the atrocities of the colonizers of that time. It is the voice come down from heaven to tell us, “My little son, am I not here, your Mother?” She continues to call all of us, to bring her maternal love to all the men and women of the world, that they may know her as the Mother of Jesus our Savior and Mother of all of us human beings that believe in his Kingdom. The novena is an opportunity for us to offer her a grand celebration in our home, where the family lives, where one experiences the different situations of life, like joy, pain, hope and also the fear of what may come. But the Virgin calls us again; she looks for us to come closer to her because for her we are very valuable. The day of the 12 of December, we all come together to celebrate the day of our Mother, singing to her *mañanitas*, and with special food for this day. Happy Feast Day Mother of Heaven.



Photo in St. Joseph Church, Bowling Green, by Fr Joshua McCarty

work, but have yet to receive it. The Holy Family is an immigrant family, going through many trials, but just like the immigrants of the 21st century, not only is there not a place for them, but they are looked down upon for being foreigners. The posada that we celebrate will be a moment to pray and make ourselves aware of our openness to God and others. Like the song says, “it’s not enough to pray”. God is Action. All of us should say, “Come Lord Jesus, welcome to my home (my heart).” May this Christmas be one of Peace, love and justice in all the corners of the earth.

Christmas: is a very large celebration in the family. We bring the children to Church, if it wasn’t possible to bring them at midnight we bring them to participate in the Eucharist during the day on the 25th. We show them the different manger scenes in the parishes with allusions of Christmas. Each country in Latin America has their own typical food for Christmas, which is all in celebration of and to commemorate the Birth of the Child Jesus. In our particular case, we are men and women who have left behind their parents, spouses, and/or children in faraway lands. It is not nostalgia that brings us together, but rather the strength of the faith which helps us keep going with the help of the community and keep us from falling into loneliness. Also in the community we pray for all of the people who are suffering from loneliness, since this happens in all cultures around the world, for many different circumstances and reasons, but we are here to accompany the ones we can.

New Years in the Hispanic culture is to say goodbye to the Old Year and welcome the New Year with a family gathering. Here in many families there is a retelling of positive things like blessings that were received during the year or even mistakes that were made, promising that in the New Year, the things will change for the better with hard work and good will. Merry Christmas and much joy in the New Year 2011.

Posadas are celebrations with special prayers. The community is divided into two, half stay outside of the host home, which represents Mary and Joseph asking and begging for a place in the inn for the Son of God to be born. There is a traditional prayer that is sung, even in the cold of the night with candles, showing in this way, that the one who asks for hospitality brings light to the world. The other half is inside of the house, imitating the owners of the inn that does not have room and denies Joseph and Mary, about to give birth, not letting them in until later. Entering the house signifies giving hospitality to the Holy Family today. This entire story is reflected in the strangers that ask for an opportunity to

What is a NET retreat?

January, 2012 31

The purpose of a NET retreat is to proclaim the basic Gospel message and to invite young people to live their lives for Christ. The faith of the NET teams gives witness that faith in God is a desirable, acceptable and exciting part of their lives. Mission: NET Ministries is an international youth ministry that challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. NET Ministries fulfills its mission by conducting nearly 1000 youth retreats across the United States each year.

The Retreats: NET retreats range in length from four hours to three days. The format and theme of the retreats vary, but the basic message is always the same: “In Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all, as a gift of God’s grace and mercy.” (Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI).

These retreats, typically for youth in grades 7-12, are high-energy experiences using large group presentations, small group discussion, music, drama, personal faith sharing, one-on-one prayer, and the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.

The Goals of a NET Retreat

- To help young people understand and accept God’s unconditional love for them.
- To offer the faith of the team members as a witness to the youth that faith in God is a desirable, acceptable, and exciting part of their lives.
- To encourage young people to grow in their commitment to Jesus Christ and His church.



The N.E.T. Team serving in the Diocese of Owensboro in 2012. Pictured left to right: front row: Billy Gonzalez, Tiffany Wend, Kevin Moules, Amanda Rivera; back row: Kayla Lynch, Gavin Bozza, Maria Zeece, David Hunt,, Rosie O’Hara, Ivan Garcia, Cristina Martinez. Team Supervisors: Maggie Vettel & Mike Faix. N.E.T Ministries will be coming to the Diocese of Owensboro from January 2. Submitted Photo

Net Retreat Schedule January 2012

- 11 Wednesday - Arrival Day
- 12 Thursday - St. Joseph, Mayfield
- 13 Friday - St. John Evangelist, Paducah
- 14 Saturday - St. Pius X, Owensboro
- 15 SUNDAY - Blessed Mother, Owensboro
- 16 Monday - Team Day
- 17 Tuesday - St. Joseph, Leitchfield
- 18 Wednesday - St. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville
- 19 Thursday - St. Romauld, Hardinsburg
- 20 Friday - St. Charles, Bardwell
- 21 Saturday - St. Charles, Bardwell
- 22 SUNDAY - Holy Spirit@Gasper River, Bowling Green
- 24 Tuesday - Departure Day

Contemporary Woman Program Announces Programs for 2012

Brescia University's Contemporary Woman Program, directed by Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rose Marita O'Bryan, enters the winter/spring semester with a variety of programs. The brochure lists new and continuing programs available to both women and men:

- **Women Doctors of the Church**, exploring the life and writings of the three women doctors of the Catholic Church: Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux, is presented on five Friday mornings, beginning on February 3 from 11:00-noon.
- **Soul Gardening with Angela Merici**, a program on the third Saturday morning of the months of January, February, March and April from 10:30-11:20, engages participants in reflection on the life and

writings of Saint Angela Merici, founder of the Company of Saint Ursula.

- **The Canticle Group**, exploring materials that develop issues of spirituality, peace, and justice, meets on Friday mornings from 10 till noon, beginning on March 30.
- The Partnership Group, in its 23rd year, continues its study and discussion of the book, *The Third Jesus: The Christ We Cannot Ignore*, on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., beginning January 11 and continuing through May. Registration is closed for this winter/spring session.
- **Soul Gardening during Springtime** with Therese of Lisieux, a special opportunity for four Tuesday afternoons in April from 1:30-2:30, consists of guided

reflections on the life and writings of Saint Therese of Lisieux, journaling, and silence.

- **Dorothy Day: Icon of the Streets**, which begins February 6 from 1:30-2:30, continues for four Monday afternoons through March 5.
- **Learning to See as the Mystics See**, a program based on a book written by Richard Rohr, begins on February 22 and continues through March 14 from 10:30-11:30 on four Wednesday mornings.
- **Tolerant Oppression**, a program of four Thursday evening sessions which begins on March 8 from 6:30-7:20, explores the insights of Dr. Scott Hampton, author of the book "Tolerant Oppression."
- **The Several-Storyed Merton**, exploring the life and writings of Thomas Merton, is presented from 1:30-2:20 on four



Tuesday afternoons beginning on February 14.

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

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 6 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 7 Yarn Spinners Day
- 13-15 Retrouvaille
- 16-20 Spiritual Direction (Week 6)
- 23-29 St. Meinrad Retreat

February

- 3 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 4-5 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 11 Yarn Spinners Day
- 11 Vocation Ministry: Ursuline Sisters, Associates, Friends
- 24-26 Lenten Retreat for Women
- 26 Lourdes Environmental Day
- 26-29 MSJ Quilter Friends

March

- 2 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 9-11 Yarn Spinners Weekend
- 16-17 ICSC Youth Confirmation
- 13-16 Paducah Quilt Guild
- 21-23 Glenmary Theological
- 23-25 Women's Spring Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons

April

- 6 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 12 Reitz Memorial Juniors
- 14-15 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 20-22 Christian Women's Retreat
- 23-27 Spiritual Direction (Week 7)



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center



To register or to schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty
270-229-4103 ext. 802

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org • www.msjcenter.org
(Located 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky., 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

Back Alley Musicals

presents *The Mega-Musical Version*



Directed by Todd Reynolds

Nonsense: The Mega-Musical Version is here! All the fun of the original *Nonsense* has been super-sized! This hilarious musical comedy of mayhem among the Little Sisters of Hoboken is bigger and better than ever! It would be a sin to pass up the opportunity to enjoy this delightful production!

Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. (Opening Night Dinner Theatre)

Feb. 25, Mar. 2, and 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 26 and Mar. 4 at 2 p.m.

Pangea Theatre, 1320 Carter Rd.

To order tickets call: 925-4963

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM

2012-2014

Registration is now open for the next program, which begins the week of Oct. 22, 2012.

The mission of this program is to prepare people for the ministry of spiritual direction and to enhance the skills of experienced spiritual directors, in the spirit of Saint Angela Merici. Participants will meet for eight weekly sessions over a two-year period. The Spiritual Direction Training Program at Mount Saint Joseph began in 2004. More than 35 people from across the U.S. have completed the program.



TOPICS AND DATES

- SpiritualityOct. 22-26, 2012
- Spiritual DirectionJan. 14-18, 2013
- The Inner JourneyApril 15-19, 2013
- Prayer and ScriptureJuly 22-26, 2013
- Theology.....Oct. 14-18, 2013
- Ethics of Spiritual DirectionJan. 13-17, 2014
- SupervisionApril 7-11, 2014
- Case Studies and RetreatJuly 21-25, 2014

Each weekly session will be led by a team of trained spiritual directors. Presence at all sessions is required to receive a certificate.

To register or for more information, contact

Sheila Blandford: 270-229-4103 ext. 804

sheila.blandford@maplemount.org

A brochure can be found at www.msjcenter.org

(Limited scholarships are available. Contact Sister Ann McGrew: 270-229-0200)



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

The deadline to register is Aug. 15, 2012

By Molly Thompson

St. John Bosco, an Italian priest familiarly known as Don Bosco (Feast Day: January 31), had an amazing heart for young people. God called him to minister to boys in prison and on the streets of his day (1815-1888). Through his appreciation of those boys' great value and dignity, he was able to instruct them and instill in them a sense of God's purpose for them. He's the kind of person we parents pray will be willing to serve as mentor, leader, or teacher when our children get involved with parish/school activities. We may ourselves remember a special priest, sister, teacher, coach, or adult leader who made a huge impression on us through their Godly example and caring. Now we want other adults who can encourage our children in the same way.

Since my diocesan work revolves completely around adults and their dealings with minors, I couldn't help but consider how Don Bosco's charism and ministry would translate into our current world where abuse is an acknowledged concern and Safe Environment requirements exist in dioceses nationwide. How can mentors like Don Bosco continue to motivate and inspire our young people and still abide by safety strategies?

Respect—Don Bosco looked past the coarse ways and poverty of the boys he met to see what Jesus would see: beloved children. He showed patience and listened carefully. He understood that the children were not there to meet his needs; he was there to serve them.

Commitment—Don Bosco was willing to be present on a regular basis, showing that he could be trusted over time. Sometimes others got frustrated with his



Saint John Bosco. Feast Day: January 31. Patron: apprentices, boys, editors, laborers, school children, students. Source: domestic-church.com.

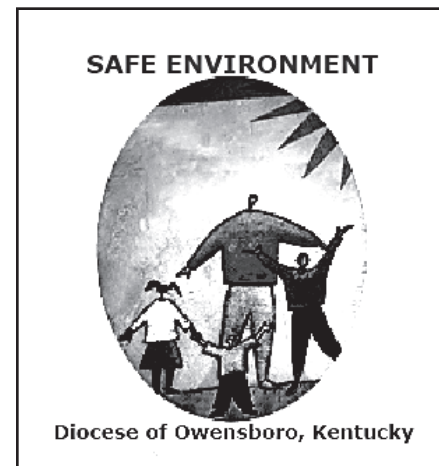
vision, but he remained prayerfully committed. Our programs are blessed to have much dedicated adult involvement.

Integrity—Don Bosco knew the children, teens, families, and community trusted him to be a good role model, and he did not break that trust. In our day the diocese has a comprehensive youth policy and Codes of Conduct to help maintain healthy adult/child interactions. Involved children, their parents or guardians, and mentoring adults need to understand those policies and follow them, for the integrity of individuals and programs. No one is "above the law."

Talents—He used his unique talents, in his case, magic tricks and teaching ability, to help share God's love. Good mentors are willing to offer their own personal interests and talents (athletics, teaching, crafts, the outdoors, etc.) for the service of others.

Team approach—He worked in partnership with others to meet the spiritual, educational, and housing needs of young people. That cooperation allowed for outside input and also provided necessary oversight and accountability. All mentors benefit from the insights of others, and good mentors seek accountability to help them stay on track.

Our Safe Environment efforts protect us in our mentoring responsibilities so I believe Don Bosco would have thrived just as certainly in his ministry today. The Church continues to call adults to mentor young people, encouraging and cultivating their gifts. Let's do it safely, diligently, and joyfully.



By Dawn C. Ligibel

Sixteen middle school students from Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville spent three days in Louisville and Frankfort, from Thursday, December 8 through Saturday, December 10, 2011, participating in the Kentucky Youth Assembly sponsored by the Kentucky YMCA.

"The Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) is a three-day, experiential learning conference in which students participate directly in the Commonwealth's democratic process. Acting as Senators and Representatives, students write, debate, and vote on legislation that affects them. As delegates, students experience the rich spectrum of activity that makes up our political process. KYA offers students the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of issues, develop critical thinking skills, and articulate their beliefs while engaging constructively with those who hold like and opposing views," explains the KYA website.

After months of meetings, research and preparation under the guidance of school secretary and club sponsor, Vicki Kinnard, eight of the students presented two different bills at the conference.

Bill authors George Boyd, Christina Ligibel, Rebekah Holmes and Jonathan Kinnard presented Bill #39 which would require all schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to observe one multi-cultural day a month, including a menu item for lunch indigenous of the featured culture.

After their presentation on the first night of the conference, this bill was ranked highly and therefore selected to be presented at the Capitol on the second day of the conference. After presenting in the House chambers at the Capitol, the bill passed by popular vote and was then sent to the Senate for yet another presentation. Unfortunately, the bill was defeated in Senate.

Meanwhile, authors Taelor Duncan, Nathan Tillman, Jacquise Smith and Bradley Roeder presented Bill #40 which would establish a latch key law in the Commonwealth. "Did you know that there is no latch key law in the state of Kentucky," asked Taelor Duncan in her opening speech. "That means a one-year old child can legally be left at home in this state," she exclaimed. This bill attempted to establish a minimum age of 11 years old before children can be left at home alone.



Authors of Bill #39 from Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville presented their bill in the House chambers in the Capitol on Friday, December 9, 2011. This bill, researched, written and presented by the students, would require every school in the Commonwealth to recognize one day a month as a "multi-cultural day" including at least one menu item on the lunch menu from the culture of the month. Bill authors from left to right are: George Boyd, Christina Ligibel, Rebekah Holmes and Jonathan Kinnard. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.



Jacquise Smith, Bradley Roeder, Nathan Tillman and Taelor Duncan, authors of Bill #40, participated in "bill sharing" by explaining their bill to other students attending the KYA conference on Friday, December 9, 2011. Bill #40, known as the "latch-key" bill, would require a minimum age of 11 years old for children to stay at home alone. Bill #40 was awarded the "Outstanding Legislative Bill" of the KYA conference. This bill will be presented to Governor Steve Beshear with a recommendation that it be made into law. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

Bill #40 did not rank high enough to be presented at the Capitol; however, it was presented again on Friday in "second committee." At that time, the bill was found favorable and the authors earned the right to discuss their bill with the Governor of the conference.

After two days of giving presentations, listening to other presentations and debating a multitude of bills, the students were finally allowed to "cut loose" and enjoy an evening of fun activities. The students were able to wear casual clothes for the first time during the conference while choosing from a dance, a talent show, board games, "chill out" time or a movie during their free time.

On the final morning of the conference, the students waited patiently as individual and school awards were presented during the last general session. A new award was created this year for schools who met all deadlines, brought students who presented at least one bill, attended all mandatory meetings during the conference and who had no behavior or discipline problems. Sts. Peter and Paul was a recipient of this "Delegation in Excellence" award.

Advisors from each school were asked to recommend and nominate one delegate from his or her school who approached the

conference with serious preparation and who demonstrated the YMCA's four core values (caring, honesty, respect and responsibility) during the conference. Eighth grade student, Bradley Roeder, received the award as "Outstanding Delegate" for Sts. Peter and Paul.

Advisors of all schools were also asked to nominate students whom they felt were the best speakers of the conference. Not every school had a student earn this distinction, however, Sts. Peter and Paul's sixth grade student, Taelor Duncan, was recognized as an "Outstanding Speaker." Due to the fact that Bill #39 was ranked high enough to be presented at the Capitol, the bill and its authors received recognition for this achievement. Because of this distinction, the bill will be reviewed and possibly submitted to Governor Steve Beshear for consideration.

Finally, although Bill #40 did not initially rank favorably among the students and was not presented at the Capitol, it was however deemed the most "Outstanding Legislative Bill" of the entire conference. This bill will be presented to Governor Beshear with a recommendation that it be made into law.

At Mount Saint Joseph Thomas Merton Retreat, Woman Finds A Treasure

January, 2012 35

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Father James Conner, a monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Ky., led the "Prayer in Thomas Merton and the Coming Season of Advent" retreat Nov. 11-13 at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Father Conner was a student of Merton's and served as undermaster of novices under Merton from 1958-61.

Shantal Marie Rosales lives in Westmoreland, Tenn., and made her first visit to Maple Mount on Nov. 11-13, 2011 to attend the "Prayer in Thomas Merton and the Coming Season of Advent" retreat at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.

"My interest in Merton's life and writings prompted my attendance," she said. "I thoroughly enjoyed Maple Mount in every way and my legs are still sore from the extensive walking I did all over the property and farm!"

While she was attending the retreat, led by Father James Conner, a monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani who was a student under Merton, Shantal wrote about her experience and the impact her grandmother had on her. Below is that beautiful writing, shared with her permission.

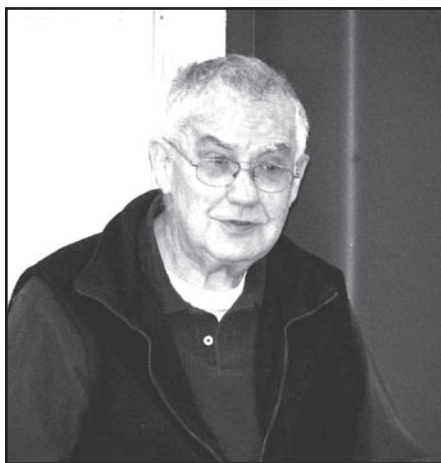
Retreat of a Lifetime

By Shantal Marie Rosales



This afternoon Father Connor read his detailed, insightful and honest reflections of the 18 years he spent with Thomas Merton at Gethsemani. He gave a vivid account of Merton as a man with great qualities and equally great flaws, which was a refreshing departure from the numerous "politically correct" versions of his story that play down or ignore the faults, weaknesses and inner turmoil that are an essential part of Merton's remarkable life story.

One thing about Merton is made plainly clear by Father Connor, that his finest qualities remained intact despite the numerous internal and external challenges he faced. His best qualities created an amazing domino effect that touched the lives of countless people and left its mark on the world. He had a genuine love for all people, a sincere interest in their thoughts, feelings and opinions, an innate



Father James Conner entered the Cistercians in 1949, and now serves at Gethsemani as chaplain to the Abbey Retreat House. MSJ Photo

sense of curiosity, an open mind that easily processed new ideas and an extremely high level of tolerance in general. He could also be arrogant, rebellious, stubborn, short-tempered and notoriously disorganized. This is the complex recipe that makes a genius.

My grandmother knew Thomas Merton pretty well. She met him while attending Columbia University. She told me many stories about him but sadly I made the common mistake that many teens and young adults make by not paying close attention to the details. This is one of my greatest

regrets because Father Connor's description of Thomas Merton reveals itself as a hauntingly identical description of my grandmother, right down to the smallest personal details.

My mother abandoned me at six months of age and one of God's greatest gifts to me was my grandmother, who cheerfully stepped in and became my mother and later in life, my dearest friend. It was not an easy job. As a teenager I developed a highly rebellious nature that was fueled by a quick temper and a sharp tongue. Without any solid reasons, I turned against many of the fundamental elements of my upbringing, including the Catholic Church. I must have hurt her many times with my angry, arrogant and disrespectful comments. But, she never tried to force me to see things differently, instead she patiently and lovingly guided me through example and also through the seemingly endless true life stories that she told me about herself and others, each one having a moral message that was too strong to ignore. I also now realize that even though I was tempted to go astray many, many times, I simply could not disappoint this incredible woman who deeply loved me at my very best and my very worst.

I am now 44 years old and I have been happily married to my soul mate for 23 amazing years. During this time I have sadly watched every single one of my high school and college friends get divorced,

some of them two or three times. We have one son now coming on 19 who is the light of our lives and has honestly given us no real worry or trouble whatsoever. My grandmother is gone now, she died very suddenly of an aneurism in 1998. I was 30 years old and the shock and emptiness of losing her was one of the most difficult struggles of my entire life. We grew closer to each other with each passing year, we talked on the phone every single day. No joy or accomplishment was "real" until I could share it with her. Her wisdom was a bottomless well from which I received the most valuable, life-altering advice and direction. Her death left me with a profound and relentless feeling of loneliness that is to this day beyond words. I only visited her grave once and I left it fully convinced that she was not there in spirit.

I have thought of her constantly while attending this conference. She would have enjoyed every minute of it and she would have fallen in love with this peaceful and holy place, content to just sit quietly and take it all in just as I have so many times during these three days.

I was lazily browsing the gift shop on Saturday afternoon when I caught sight of a unique item that stopped me dead in my tracks. Partially hidden on a high shelf I could almost hear it whisper my name. In a state of wonder and disbelief, I reached up and grasped an oval-shaped, brass picture frame. I gently brushed away a light coating of dust and marveled at the intricate and delicate arrangement of pressed shamrocks and "Forget Me Nots" that lay gracefully intertwined beneath the glass. These were two of my grandmothers' most favorite things and she was always experimenting with different methods of pressing these very items in hopes of finding the perfect way to preserve their color and delicate shape.

With a broad smile on my face and a bursting with joy, I paid for my precious find and walked out the door taking special delight in the comforting warmth of the sun on my shoulders and the velvet soft breeze gently brushing my hair away from my face. I relish moments like this and take time to savor the sweet, subtle message. The warm of the sun, the caress of the breeze and that dusty piece of hidden treasure that had been patiently waiting for me are all the proof I will ever need that Grandma walks beside me every single day!



Several Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph attended the retreat, including Sister Nancy Murphy (right), Sister Rosalyn Thieneman (second from right) and Sister George Mary Hagan (second from left). MSJ Photo


St. Ann School Beta Club Shares Christmas Spirit



MORGANFIELD - On Thursday, December 1st, the St. Ann School Beta Club enjoyed an afternoon with the residents at Breckinridge Place. Fourteen members, along with the Breckinridge residents, shared their smiles, stories, and fun with crafts as they decorated Christmas wreaths, stockings, and Christmas trees.

St. Ann School provides academic excellence in education while emphasizing the teaching of the Catholic faith to prepare students to be responsible members of families, church, and community. Photos and text submitted by Beth Hendrickson





PRAYER

before the

CROSS

an ecumenical service in the style of TAIZÉ
celebrating *the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

Friday, January 20, 2012
12:15-12:45 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
2830 Frederica, Owensboro

St. Ann Students Excel at KY Youth Assembly

Submitted by Beth Hendrickson

MORGANFIELD - Nineteen middle school students and two advisors attended the 2011 Kentucky Youth Assembly on November 17-19. Students had the opportunity to serve as Senator or Representative, debate important issues in the actual chambers at the Capitol, author a bill, run for office, and work with the Media Corps while having fun meeting 1200 teens from every corner of the Commonwealth. Premiere bill authors Lauren Willett, Abby Greenwell, Carson Greenwell, and Cassidy Luttrell presented their bill "An act to require all school cafeterias to be inspected four times a year." The premiere group received a certificate of recognition for passing their bill in both the House and Senate Chambers. Abby Greenwell received a plaque for Outstanding Speaker. The Legislative group, Ellie Moore, Ashley Duckworth, and Logan Jenkins presented their bill, "An act to allow disabled adults dental insurance." We applaud our delegates and authors for devoting extra time after school to broaden their academic realm in the field of government. Hats off to another rewarding educational experience; middle school students are the voices of the future.



Abby Greenwell with her plaque for Outstanding Speaker.



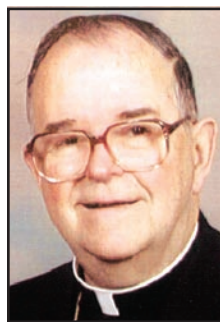
Nineteen middle school students and two advisors from St. Ann School, Morganfield, Ky., attended the 2011 Kentucky Youth Assembly on November 17-19. Photos submitted by Beth Hendrickson

Catholic Young Adult Information Meeting

Please join us at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro on Thursday, January 19, 2012. Gathering and refreshments @ 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts @ 7:00 p.m. The first meeting will consist of getting thoughts and ideas about activities for a Young Adult Group. The group will be open to ages 18-40. For more information please call Sarah Patterson or Robin Tomes at 270-683-1545 or email the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at robin.tomes@pastoral.org.

Archbishop Kelly, retired Louisville archbishop, dead at 80

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) -- Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, who led the Archdiocese of Louisville from 1982 until his retirement in 2007, died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of Dec. 14 at his home on the campus of Holy Trinity Church. He was 80. Funeral arrangements were not announced immediately. In a statement released shortly after Archbishop Kelly's death was announced, his successor, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, praised his brother bishop for his service to the archdiocese. "With the death of Archbishop Thomas Cajetan Kelly, the local church of Louisville has lost a friend, a humble servant and a dedicated man of God," Archbishop Kurtz said. "Archbishop Kelly served for more than a quarter century as the archbishop of Louisville and remained active as archbishop emeritus for almost five years." In his 80 years of life, he has been thoroughly a priest of Jesus Christ, as a faithful Dominican, as a diplomat and administrator at the nunciature and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as metropolitan of the province of Louisville, as a true archbishop, and in these last days as a faithful parish priest." Archbishop Kelly, possessed of twinkling Irish eyes and a comforting



Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, April 23, 2009 WKC file photo

presence, led the archdiocese through periods of both triumph and tragedy. He was proud of the spiritual growth of the archdiocese, especially the Renew process that began in the 1980s shortly after he came to Louisville. He also took pride in the development of a strategic planning process -- also launched in the 1980s -- something he called "a very significant beginning in my time." The saddest moment of his 25-year leadership of the archdiocese came, he said, with the eruption of the sexual abuse crisis in 2002. "It was," he noted, "a terrible time ... when victims came forward for healing and made us realize the terrible, terrible damage that had been done to them. We continue to seek and ask for their forgiveness," he said in 2007, "to pray that such terrible things may not happen ... again and to take every step conceivable to prevent that from happening."

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Medicare Part B Will Cover Several Preventive Services

By Jeanette Woodward

Did you know that Medicare Part B will cover several preventive services including a "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam and yearly "Wellness" exam? Take this check list to your doctor or other health care provider and ask which preventive services are right for you. You can also keep track of your preventive services by visiting www.MyMedicare.gov. For additional information please call 1.800.Medicare or GRADD 1.800.928.9094 and ask to speak to a SHIP counselor.

MEDICARE-COVERED PREVENTIVE SERVICES: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Bone Mass Measurement, Cardiovascular Screening, Colorectal Cancer Screenings, Diabetes Screenings Diabetes Self-management Training, Flu Shots, Glaucoma Test, Hepatitis B Shots, HIV Screening, Mammogram (screening), Medical Nutrition Therapy Services, Pap Test and Pelvic Exam (includes breast exam), Pneumococcal Shot, Prostate Cancer Screening, Smoking Cessation (counseling to stop smoking for people with no sign of disease).

Jeanette Woodward is Contracts Manager for Green River Area Development District, Owensboro, Ky.

Writings From Readers

Pray The Rosary

Editor:

December 7, 2011: Paul McCavick organized and led a procession from St. Joseph and Holy Spirit churches in Bolwing Green, Ky. on a Rosary Walk in celebration of Our Lady of Fatima.

The group met at St Joseph for prayer and instructions, then walked praying the Rosary from St. Joseph's to Fountain Square Park downtown, circling the park and returning to St. Joseph's completing all four sets of the Mysteries

focusing on Jesus' life.

This public display of faith in the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ is needed in our community where so many families are suffering. Our Lady is Mother to Life Incarnate, Jesus Christ.

January is Pro-life Month with many marching around the country and praying for life to be nurtured and respected from conception to natural death. The Rosary is a concrete article to hold and focus on our Lord Who loves us unconditionally, instead of our problems. In God we trust.

- Gwen Menestrina, Rockfield, Ky.



The Glenmary Sisters Welcome Postulant Ernestine Bard

Entrance: August 15, 2011



The Glenmary Sisters were founded by Father William Howard Bishop in 1941 to be the presence of the Catholic Church in the rural areas of Southern United States where there are less than 2% Catholics. They are called to live and work among the poor in the rural areas...to radically live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. At present, the Sisters have missions in Kentucky, Missouri and Georgia.

We ask that all who read this hold Ernestine in prayer as she continues her spiritual journey. "Jesus...can truly guarantee a happy existence and eternal life, but by a route different from what the rich young man imagines: that is, not through a good work, a legal tribute, but rather in the choice of the Kingdom of God as the 'precious pearl' for which it is worth selling all that one possess." (Benedict XVI)

Commemorative Mass for Life

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 6:00 PM

St. Joseph and Paul Parish,
609 East 4th St., Owensboro
Ky



Come join us as we mark the 39th year since the U.S. Supreme Court decision took away all legal protection for the life of the unborn child. Now over 53 million children have died. All are invited to remember these children as we pray for their mothers, fathers, families and our nation. - Gospel of Life Committee, Diocese of Owensboro

Prayer to Christ Unborn

Dear Lord Jesus, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, before your birth, you filled the unborn John the Baptist with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Inspire us to see you in every unborn child. Grant us the perseverance to defend vulnerable human life from abortion, abandonment, experimentation, and all violations. Fill us with the reverence for the moment of your Incarnation in Nazareth when the Word became flesh. Amen.

Week 2012 To Be Nationally Celebrated January 8-14



Catholics called to offer hospitality to those in need

By Mar Muñoz-Visoso

WASHINGTON—National Migration Week will be observed in dioceses around the country January 8-14. This year's theme, "Welcoming Christ in the Migrant," and the artistic renderings in the week's materials depict the disciples welcoming a stranger on the road to Emmaus.

"Just as on the road to Emmaus, Christ's disciples met him in the guise of a stranger, this year's theme helps remind us that Christ makes himself present to each of us in the lonesome traveler, the newcomer, and the migrant," said Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles. "We are called to open our hearts and provide

hospitality to those in need, especially for migrants who find themselves far away from home and in vulnerable situations." Archbishop Gomez is the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration.

Dioceses around the country will mark National Migration Week with different activities. At the national level, USCCB and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) are sponsoring a multi-state conference with the theme "Immigration: a 50 State issue," which will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 11-13.

The observance of National Migration Week was begun over a quarter century ago by the U.S. bishops to provide Catholics an opportunity to take stock of the wide diversity of peoples in the Church and the ministries serving them. As the face of the local church continues to change, educational materials produced for National Migration Week have become increasingly important. They can be

used throughout the year by individuals, families, schools and parishes to learn about the complex issues surrounding migration.

Resources for National Migration Week can be found on the USCCB website (<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/>). Posters, prayer cards and booklets can be ordered through the USCCB publishing service at <http://www.usccbpublishing.org> or by calling 800-235-8722.

Additionally, the U.S. bishops continue to encourage advocacy efforts by the Catholic community on comprehensive immigration reform. Visit the Justice for

Continued on page 39

Acogiendo A Cristo En El Migrante, Tema De La Semana Nacional De La Migración Que Se Celebrará Del 8 Al 14 De Enero

Católicos llamados a ofrecer hospitalidad a los necesitados

WASHINGTON—La Semana Nacional de la Migración será celebrada en diócesis de todo el país la semana del 8 al 14 de enero. El tema de este año, "Acogiendo a Cristo en el migrante", y las representaciones artísticas en sus materiales muestran a los discípulos acogiendo a un extraño en el camino de Emaús.

"Así como en el camino de Emaús, donde los discípulos de Cristo se encuentran con él bajo la apariencia de un extranjero, el tema de este año nos recuerda que Cristo se hace presente a cada uno de nosotros en el viajero solitario, el recién llegado, el inmigrante", dijo Mons. José Gómez, arzobispo de Los Ángeles. "Nosotros estamos llamados a abrir nuestros corazones y a proporcionar hospitalidad a quienes la necesitan, especialmente a los inmigrantes que se encuentran lejos de su hogar y en situaciones que los hacen vulnerables. Mons. Gómez es el presidente del Comité sobre Migración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU. (USCCB, siglas en inglés).

Por todo el país numerosas diócesis señalarán la Semana Nacional de la Migración con diferentes actividades. A nivel nacional, USCCB y CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) han convocado una conferencia multiestatal para



activistas católicos con el tema: "La inmigración, un asunto de los 50 estados". La conferencia tendrá lugar en Salt Lake City, Utah, del 11 al 13 de enero de 2012.

La celebración de la Semana Nacional de la Migración comenzó hace más de un cuarto de siglo cuando los obispos estadounidenses quisieron crear una oportunidad para que los católicos se concientiaran de la gran diversidad de pueblos presentes en la Iglesia así como de los ministerios que les sirven. Mientras el rostro de cada iglesia local continúa cambiando, los materiales producidos para la Semana Nacional de la Migración se han hecho cada vez más relevantes. Éstos se pueden usar durante todo

el año, tanto individualmente como en familias, escuelas y parroquias, para aprender más sobre los complejos asuntos que afectan a la inmigración.

Recursos para la Semana Nacional de la Migración, incluyendo materiales en español, se pueden encontrar en el sitio web de USCCB (<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/>). Posters, tarjetas de oración y folletos impresos pueden pedirse a través del servicio de publicaciones de la Conferencia episcopal www.usccbpublishing.org llamando al 1-800-235-8722.

Además, los obispos estadounidenses continúan alentando a las comunidades católicas a continuar los esfuerzos para promover una reforma amplia a las leyes de inmigración. Para más información visite la página web de la campaña de los obispos Justicia para Inmigrantes: www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

En septiembre de este año, el papa Benedicto XVI también anunció el tema de la 98ª Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado, que se celebrará el 15 de enero de 2012. El tema es "Migración y Nueva Evangelización". En su mensaje, el papa afirma

que el tiempo presente llama a la Iglesia a intensificar su actividad misionera tanto en regiones donde el evangelio se está proclamando por primera vez como en países de tradición cristiana.

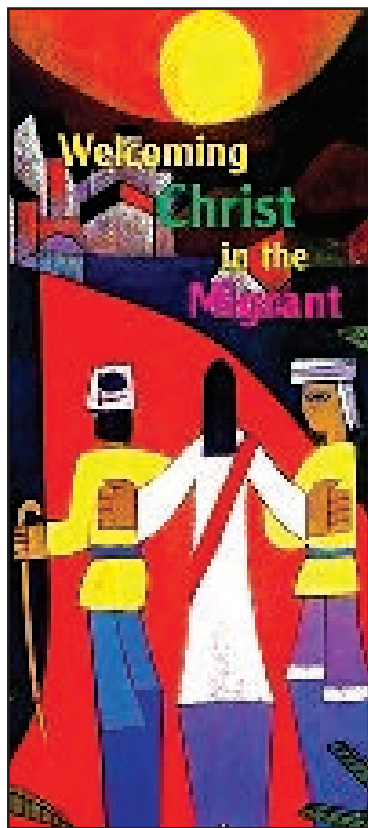
"Anunciar a Jesucristo, único Salvador del mundo, 'constituye la misión esencial de la Iglesia'... Más aún, hoy notamos la urgencia de promover, con nueva fuerza y modalidades renovadas, la obra de evangelización en un mundo en el que la desaparición de las fronteras y los nuevos procesos de globalización acercan aún más las personas y los pueblos, tanto por el desarrollo de los medios de comunicación como por la frecuencia y la facilidad con que se llevan a cabo los desplazamientos de individuos y de grupos", dice el Papa Benedicto.

"Las migraciones internas o internacionales realizadas en busca de mejores condiciones de vida o para escapar de la amenaza de persecuciones, guerras, violencia, hambre y catástrofes naturales, han producido una mezcla de personas y de pueblos sin precedentes, con problemáticas nuevas no solo desde un punto de vista humano, sino también ético,

Continúa en la página 39

Welcoming Christ In The Migrant

(Continued from page 38)



Immigrants Campaign website for more information: www.justiceforimmigrants.org

Earlier this year, Pope Benedict XVI also unveiled the theme for the 98th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to be celebrated January 15, 2012: "Migration and the New Evangelization."

In his message the pope says that the present time calls upon the Church to intensify its missionary activity both in the regions where the Gospel is proclaimed for the first time and in countries with a Christian tradition.

"Proclaiming Jesus Christ the one Savior of the world 'constitutes the essential mission of the Church'... Today we feel the urgent need to give a fresh impetus and new approaches to the work of evangelization in a world in which the breaking down of frontiers and the new processes of globalization are bringing individuals and peoples even closer," said Pope Benedict.

Internal or international migration, in search of better living conditions or to flee from the threat of persecution, war and violence, has led to an unprecedented mingling of individuals and peoples, with new problems not only from the human standpoint but also from ethical, religious and spiritual ones, the pope said. And, he added, "Christian communities are to pay special attention to migrant workers and their families by accompanying them with prayer, solidarity and

Christian charity, as well as by fostering new political, economic and social planning that promotes respect for the dignity of every human person." World Day of Migrants and Refugees was instituted by Pope Pius X in 1914.

Pope Benedict's message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2012 can be found at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20110921_world-migrants-day_en.html.

National Vocation Awareness Week Set For January 9-14

WASHINGTON—The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW), January 9-14. The celebration heralds a week dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education.

This distinctive week gives Catholics an opportunity to renew prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

"It is our responsibility to help children and young people develop a prayerful relationship with Jesus Christ so they will know their vocation," said Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.



Acogiendo A Cristo En El Migrante

(Viene de la página 38)

religioso y espiritual", afirma el papa. Y añade: "Las comunidades cristianas han de prestar una atención particular a los trabajadores inmigrantes y a sus familias, a través del acompañamiento de la oración, de la solidaridad y de la caridad cristiana; la valoración de lo que enriquece recíprocamente, así como la promoción de nuevos programas políticos, económicos

y sociales, que favorezcan el respeto de la dignidad de toda persona humana". La Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado fue instituida por el papa Pío X en 1914.

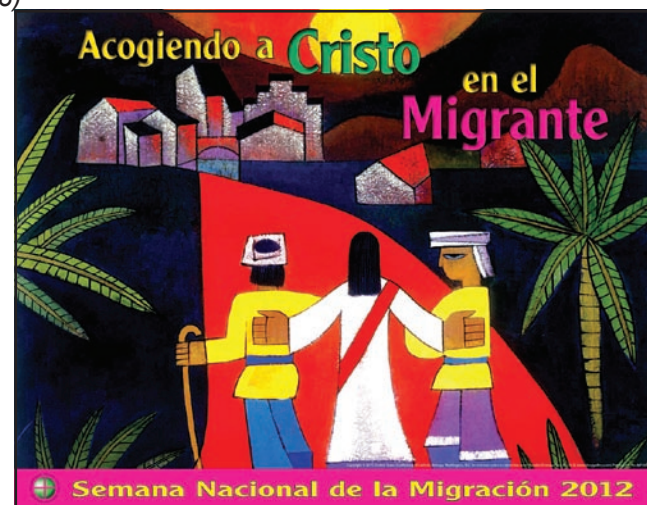
El mensaje íntegro de Benedicto XVI para la Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado, 2012 se puede encontrar en http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20110921_world-migrants-day_sp.html.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

"Through a culture of vocation in families, parishes, schools and dioceses Catholics can nurture an environment of discipleship, commitment to daily prayer, spiritual conversion, growth in virtue, participation in the sacraments, and service in community. Without this environment, promoting vocations becomes simply recruitment. We believe we have much more to offer our young people."

People can visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/usccb>) during the week to see examples of clergy and religious. They also can view reflections under the Vocation Retreat Tab where each day a scripture passage, reflection



and prayer will be posted. Resources for promoting National Vocations Awareness Week, such as prayer cards, Holy Hour materials, prayers of the faithful and bulletin-ready quotes, are available on the USCCB vocations webpage at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations>.

National Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on January 9 in 2012.

World Day for Consecrated Life

will be celebrated in the Church on Wednesday, February 2, and observed on Sunday, February 5, 2012, in parishes. Please pray for all those who have made commitments to the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.



NAZARETH, Ky. - On Saturday, December 3, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth celebrated the bicentennial of the Congregation with an Opening Ritual. Sisters, Associates, collaborators and all the SCN Family gathered from across the world, some via technology, to celebrate.

The room in Nazareth, KY was filled with smiling faces from India, Belize, Botswana and Pittsburgh. All who were brought in to the room through video calls which were projected onto the walls. Due to space limitations, many more viewed the event across campus in St. Vincent's Church. All these groups in turn watched the events live via webcast.

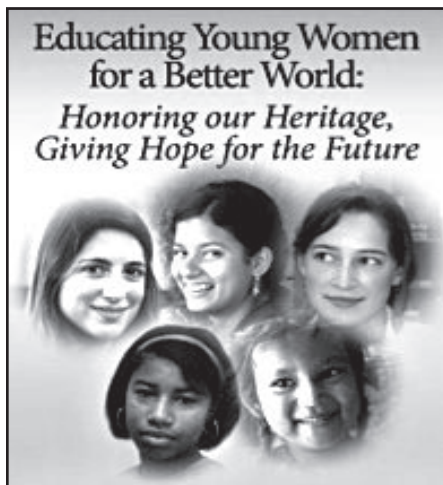
As SCNs stand on the cusp of their third century of ministry, they celebrate a journey of faith over hundreds of years, looking toward the future with confidence in God's call. Throughout the world, SCN family members are involved in diverse ministries, meeting needs in health care, education, social services and pastoral ministries. Just as Mother Catherine Spalding, the SCN foundress, has been

recognized for visionary leadership, Sisters approach ministries today with that same mindset, with an eye on the needs of the times and the needs of the future.

As the third Congregation of women religious founded in the United States, and the longest running continuous operation in Kentucky, SCNs celebrate with gratitude, giving honor to a strong heritage of fidelity and service. Rooted in Nelson County, Ky., and with a rich history in Western Kentucky, SCN ministries now embrace the world. Today, there are Sisters and Associates in the U.S., Belize, Botswana, Africa, Nepal, and across India.



Alice Adams, SCN, and Sarah Ferriell, SCN, enjoying the Dec. 3, 2011 celebration of the SCNs 200th Anniversary. SCN Photo



Sisters of Charity of Nazareth 1812-2012

SCN Educational Ministry

The ministry of education is one of the first ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, dating back to August 23, 1814, when Nazareth Academy opened at Old St. Thomas in Kentucky. This first school was dedicated to the education of girls and young women.

In a "Survey of the Educational Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth," Sister Miriam Corcoran notes that "within nineteen years of the Community's foundation, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth were directing the intellectual, artistic, moral, and spiritual formation of girls and young women in five educational institutions." She also pointed out that in the early days, the Sisters established "free schools" near the academies so that students who were unable to pay tuition could receive a Catholic education.

Since the founding of the Congregation and the merger of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity, until today, SCNs have taught in over 300 schools. The SCN

From left, SCN Vice-President Teresa Kotturan, Vice-President Susan Gatz, President Mary Elizabeth Miller, former Archbishop of Louisville Thomas Kelly, and current Archbishop of Louisville Joseph Kurtz (behind them are SCN Sisters and friends in India live on Skype). SCN Photo

commitment to education is felt in every geographic location of the Congregation: the United States, India, Nepal, Belize and Botswana.

Giving Hope For the Future

We are committed to education as one of the greatest and most powerful gifts to individuals and to our world. Through our new Bicentennial Scholarship Campaign, **we pledge to award 200 scholarships to girls and young women worldwide.**

Why girls and young women? According to the United Nations, approximately 40 million girls worldwide do not go to school because they cannot afford the fees; or the school is too far; or they must earn money to care for their families.

Without an education, girls are at greater risk of experiencing hunger, violence, and disease. Educating girls helps build self-esteem as well as strong families, strong economies, and a better world.

A Catholic education helps prepare students with a firm faith that guides all life decisions.

To learn how you can be a part of this effort, please contact Leslie Wilson, Director of Development, Office of Congregational Advancement, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048 (502) 348-1551. lwilson@scnazarethky.org



December Reflection Day

Sister Ann McGrew, right, presents the topic of "Homecoming" to participants at the Dec. 2 Reflection Day of Prayer at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Pictured, from left, are Vivian Lewis, Rhonda Randolph, and Debra Brown, all of Owensboro, The "Homecoming" theme was an introduction to Advent from the standpoint of exiles who are being called home. The first Friday Reflection Days will continue in 2012 focusing on Women in Scripture. The Reflection Days take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please call the Center to register at 270-229-4103 ext. 802.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Marriage Celebrations for January 2012 - Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 Years of Marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Joe & Joyce Rangel, 25
Kenneth & Dianne Murphy, 40
Donald & Jeanie Murphy, 40
Robert & Dena Montgomery, 57
Dennis & Mary Rosetta Funsch, 40

Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington

Ed & Terry Miller, 25
Ted & Barbara Brown, 54

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

James & Sharon Drury, 50
Forwood & Ann Hargis, 69
Ira & Ellese Hay, 40
Guy & Frances Hogan, 50
Jerry & Charlotte Hopf, 53
Jack & JoAnn Jacobs, 40

John & Kathy Jenkins, Jr., 40
Leonard & Anna Patterson, 56

Roy & Carolyn Rowley, 54

James & Elizabeth Thomas, 59

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 58

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

John R. & Betty Brown, 50
Jeff & Melanie Adkins, 25

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 53
James & Lillian Bowlds, 53
James P. & Connie Hayden, 53
Anthonoy & Mae Kamalich, 58
Randall & Josie McBride, 53
Joseph R. & Frances Millay, 51

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Phillip & June D. Bell, 51
Henry & Mary Jean Hodskins, 60
Joseph Raymond & Sara Thomas, 51
Melvin & Lois Connor, 55
Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 63
David E. & Anita H. McBride, 51
Edward H. & Wanda Powers, 59
Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 55
Charles & Mary Bonnie Gray, 55

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Arnold & Toby Boarman, 59
Charles & Ann Connor, 54
James & Shirley Ellis, 54
Doug & Betty Howard, 57
James & Evelyn Mattingly, 59
Jim & Janet Murphy, 40
Mike & Cloa Thompson, 52

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

David & Linda Stiles, 52

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Roy & Carolyn Rowley, 54

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Hamel & Rose Floyd, 59

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Joseph W. & Joanne Sheffer, 54

St. Ann, Morganfield

Damian & Diane Alvey, 40
Jimmy & Carolyn Wedding, 40
Donald & Petty French, 62
Parvin & Mildred Moore, 67
Jack & Theresa Davis, 70

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Norbert & Helen Rose Smith, 54

Carl & Jeannie Payne, 40

St. Columba, Lewisport

Bob & Charlotte Payne, 40

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Keith & Judy Walker, 52
Michael J. & Esther Shoulta, 52
W. J. & Norma Word, 61

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Norman & Ginny Elliott, 57
Joseph & Alma Stahr, 55

Charles & Shirley Rowe, 54

Conrad & Rozella Spalding, 56

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Albert & Joyce Wurth, 52

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Ray & Helen Grudzielanek, 63

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Jackie & Judy Roberts, 52
James & Wanda Warner, 52

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James & Frances Payne, 62

St. Leo, Murray

Robert P. & Simone Taylor, 62
Samuel & Eufracia White, 25
Raymond & Beatrice Jerge, 53

St. Martin, Rome

Donald & Vivian Fischer, 59

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Joseph & Margie Merimee, 57

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Harold & Jan Clements, 54
Steve & Barbara Riggs, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Bill & Katie Christian, 55
Chas & Catherine Hamilton, 60
Joseph & Jackie Head, 55
Elmer & Marcella Schepers, 56

St. Peter, Waverly

George & Rita Gayle Nelson, 53
Kenneth & Martha Pendleton, 51

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

James L. & Patty Settles, 52
William J. & Lillian Young, 58
James & Mary Keller, 55

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Danny & Sue Castlen, 40

David & Mary Coomes, 40
Don & Sylvia Hamilton, 53
F. Lambert & Mary Lee Howard, 59
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Charles & Isabell Winchell, 72
Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 53
Jimmy & Mary Rita Whitworth, 53

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Richard & Jane Pauze, 53
William & Maxine Hobbs, 51

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

James R. & Mary Ann Clouse, 52

Norman & Betty Coomes, 63

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Roscoe & Wanda Shoulta, 52
Bernie & Connie Herrmann, 59

January, 2012 **41**

Douglas & Elizabeth Edwards, 63
Harold & Elizabeth Connor, 66
St. William, Marion

Allen & Arlene Summers, 54
Mike & Anne Laughlin, 50

St. William, Knottsville

James & Linda Hamilton, 54

Paul & Rhodie Melton, 57

Vince & Irene Nealen, 40

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Charles C. & Bonnie Gray, 54

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Levi & Margaret Peterson, 53

Please Pray For The Repose of the Soul of Sister Mary Frances McDonagh, OSU, Who Died Nov. 22, 2011

MAPLE MOUNT — Sister Mary Frances McDonagh, 87, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Nov. 22 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 64th year of religious life.

A native of Trienbawn, County Galway, Ireland, she was an Ursuline Sister of Belleville, Ill., before the merger of that community with the Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph in October 2005. She entered the community in England, coming to Belleville in 1954.

Sister Frances loved people, she made friends wherever she went, always greeting others with her warm smile and her gentle Irish accent.

Sister Frances taught in East St. Louis, Belleville and Mascoutah, Ill. She was also a registered nurse. She served as assistant vocation director for the Diocese of Belleville and, was a member of the leadership team of her community several times.

Survivors include two sisters, Sister Mary Patrick McDonagh, Maple Mount, and Eileen McDonagh, along with a sister-in-law, Delia McDonagh, both of County Galway, Ireland; nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was Nov. 28 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

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



Ask Catholic Men:

- What does it mean to be a Catholic Man in a secular world?
- How can men become better sons, brothers, fathers, husbands, etc.?
- Do men have an obligation to evangelize, and if so, how do we go about it?

• **Save the Date: February 11, 2012**

• The first Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky will be held at Brescia University in Owensboro Kentucky on Saturday 11 February 2012.

• Look online at www.kycatholic.com.

• Call 270.316.5067

Happy New Year from Bani

By Father Stan Puryear

I pray that all have had a Merry Christmas and that the gloomy darkness of winter has yet to become too terribly oppressive. I begin this column while on retreat in Jarabacoa, located in the Cordillera Central mountain range. Last night, the temperature got to a bone-chilling 65 degrees, meaning that all persons Dominican were wearing coats and hats this morning. In a devious moment, I considered how much fun it would be to have a snow-making machine such as those used at ski resorts. But then I thought about how everyone here ends up catching cold if the temperature dips below 70 and thought that snow, albeit artificial, would certainly cause an epidemic of pneumonia.

Priestly retreats here in the Dominican Republic are always very joyful affairs. The country has only one theology seminary and two college (philosophy) seminaries exist, meaning that all men studying for priesthood from the different dioceses throughout the country study together – with the exception of an occasional student sent to Rome, Spain, or the United States. Retreats, then, become times for reunions and renewal of friendships as well as sharing of experiences and mutual counseling. And sometimes, there is a little bit of gossip exchanged.

Being the odd man out at the retreat, I find myself sharing with the occasional European or Canadian priest who has come to the country to minister. In a very enlightening discussion with a European priest this year, the topic covered how the liturgical and canonical traditions of our Church come from an obviously European tradition with a presumed abundance of priests. For example, the Code of Canon Law states that a priest should only celebrate two Masses on a Sunday, or perhaps three if there is a pressing pastoral need (Canon 905, §2). I celebrate two or three on Saturday (depending on the week) and no less than four on Sunday. Words cannot express how grateful I was that Christmas fell this year on a Sunday, so that I was not running around crazily trying to cover the Sunday Masses and the Holy Day.

Christmas provided me an opportunity to be grateful for the contrasts between celebrations of the Birth of Christ between the United States and the Dominican Republic. Living among the poor means that not one person had an alarming or angry story about the anarchy of shopping on



Caught in a moment of reflection while sitting in my “office”. Un momento de reflexión en mi “oficina”.

Black Friday. Even if the police here had tasers, they would not have needed them for crowd control at Walmart (that is, if we had Walmarts here). Oppressive poverty's struggle for survival results in Jesus still being the reason for the season.

And not only is Jesus the primary focus of Christmas here, that connection with Jesus in the daily struggles of life seem to provide a greater enjoyment of simplicity and friendship. If you don't believe me, then believe this: despite the lack of material wealth, Great Britain's New Economics Foundation lists the Dominican Republic as the second happiest nation on earth, (behind Costa Rica at first and followed by Jamaica at third), compared to the United States' ranking at 114th. [In fairness to Denmark and a few others, the Erasmus University Rotterdam's “World Database of Happiness”, lists Costa Rica as the happiest nation in the world and Denmark as second, with the Dominican Republic at 17th and the United States at 20th.]

Ma y your new year find you focusing on the joy of life and expressing gratitude for the love of God.

Feliz Año Nuevo de Bani

Enero, 2012 7

Por el Padre Stan Puryear

Ruego al Señor nuestro Dios que todos hayan tenido una feliz Navidad y que la oscuridad del invierno todavía no ha vuelto demasiado opresivo. Comienzo esta columna en un retiro espiritual en Jarabacoa, ubicado en la Cordillera Central del país. Anoche, la temperatura bajó hasta grados 65, lo que significa que todas los dominicanos abrigos y sombreros esta mañana. En un momento artero, consideré cuanta diversión sería tener una máquina de hacer nieve como los utilizados en estaciones de esquí. Pero luego pensé acerca de cómo todo el mundo aquí sale con gripe si la temperatura pasa por debajo de 70 y pensaba que nieve, aunque artificial, sin duda provocaría una epidemia de neumonía.

Los retiros sacerdotales aquí en la República Dominicana siempre son asuntos muy alegres. El país tiene sólo un seminario de teología y existen dos seminarios de colegio (filosofía), lo que significa que todos los hombres estudiando para el sacerdocio, aun de las diferentes diócesis en todo el país, estudian juntos – con la excepción de unos que ocasionalmente van para estudiar en Roma, España, o los Estados Unidos. Los retiros, pues, son tiempos para reuniones y renovación de amistades, así como el intercambio de experiencias y asesoría mutua. Y a veces, hay un poco de chisme.

Siendo uno de los dos extranjeros en el retiro, me encuentre compartiendo con el sacerdote europeo que ha venido al país a Ministro. En una discusión muy ilustrativo con ese sacerdote polaco, tratábamos el

tema de cómo las tradiciones litúrgicas y canónicas de nuestra iglesia provienen de una tradición europea obviamente con una supuesta abundancia de sacerdotes. Por ejemplo, el código de derecho canónico establece que un sacerdote sólo debe celebrar dos misas en domingo, o tal vez tres si existe una necesidad pastoral (Canon 905, §2). Celebro dos o tres misas el sábado (dependiendo de la semana) y los domingos celebro no menos de cuatro. Palabras no pueden expresar que tal feliz estuve que la Navidad cayó este año el día domingo, por lo que no tendría corriendo para celebrar todas las Misas del domingo y después de la Navidad.

La Navidad me ofreció la oportunidad de notar los contrastes entre las celebraciones del nacimiento de Cristo entre los Estados Unidos y la República Dominicana. Vivir entre los pobres significa que ninguna persona tuvo una historia alarmante o enojada acerca de la anarquía de las compras el Viernes Negro. Incluso si la policía aquí hubiera Taser, no habría necesitados para control la muchedumbre en Walmart (es decir, si tuviéramos aquí Walmart). La pobreza opresiva con su lucha para sobrevivir resulta que Jesus todavía es lo que significa la Navidad.

Jesus us el objetivo principal de la Navidad, y además, esa amistad con Jesus en en las luchas diarias de la vida proveen un mayor disfrute de la sencillez y amistades con los demás. Si no me creen a mí, crean esto: a pesar de la falta de riqueza material, la New Economics Foundation de Gran Bretaña enumera la

República Dominicana como la nación segundo más feliz en la tierra, (detrás de Costa Rica en seguida, y con Jamaica en tercera), en comparación con los Estados Unidos, que sale al puesto 114. [En equidad a Dinamarca y algunos otros, el “Base de datos mundial de felicidad” de la Universidad Erasmus Rotterdam, enumera Costa Rica como la nación más feliz del mundo y Dinamarca como segundo, con la República Dominicana en el puesto 17 y los Estados Unidos en 20.]

Que tengan un nuevo año centrándose en la alegría de vivir y expresando su gratitud por el amor de Dios.



Not all of our communities in the parish have chapels. In Catalina Arriba, Mass is celebrated outdoors, weather permitting.

Algunas de las comunidades en la parroquia no tienen capilla. En Catalina Arriba, la Misa se celebra en el patio, si no está lloviendo.

6 Enero, 2012 Todos juntos en la diversidad, celebrando un solo acontecimiento” aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe a uno de sus hijos llamado: Juan Dieguito”

Por Luis Aju

Lo que paso el día 12 de Diciembre gran fiesta en Honor al la Virgen de Guadalupe en la comunidad Hispana dentro de la Diócesis.

Los días 3 al 11 de Diciembre hemos tenido a la vista los diferentes programas que se desarrollaron en las diferentes comunidades y parroquias en nuestra Diócesis.

Cada día que corresponde a los 8 días antes de la fiesta, diferentes familias se ofrecieron para recibir una novena en Casa, todos adornaron su casa porque en nuestra tradición creemos que la Virgen María visitara este hogar.

Los miembros de la familia, ofrecen hospitalidad y amor a todos, la fiesta es de las novenas es de todos, no existe una sola persona que hace todo sino entre todos formamos la oración, nos hablamos y nos saludamos y platicamos de cómo va nuestra vida pero con atención a la novena.

En algunas casas, ofrecen chocolate con pan, porque esos días son muy fríos, además tostaditas, arroz en leche, etc. Pero también se comparte alguna virtud de la Virgen que es digno de imitarlo, como por ejemplo su humildad, su disponibilidad de iniciar el peregrinaje de muchas familias como las nuestra de ahora. Por eso en la Novena, le pedimos su intercesión y pedirle que camine con nosotros.

Para el día 12, se le ofrece las mañanitas, porque es parte de la cultura que

cualquier cumpleaños debe ser saludado desde el amanecer, porque la vida es nuevo amanecer, por eso muchos venimos y le damos los buenos días con canto.

También en el día se celebra la Misa, donde todos nos juntamos en oración, porque sabemos que la Virgen hace presente los milagros en donde hay fe, porque la situación migratoria de casi todos los Latinos es similar a la de ella, vivimos en un país que no es la nuestra por diferentes razones. Unos por opción otros por necesidad. Por eso en las oraciones y actividades que hacemos alrededor de estas fechas, todos tomamos parte en la actividad, no existe solo una persona que haga todo, la celebración es compartida. Estas celebraciones no es una obra de teatro, son acciones de Fe, como parte de nuestra cultura, la fiesta es de todos, se trata de acoger a todos, que nadie debe sentirse ignorado por nuestras acciones, sino debemos de hacer que todos se sientan en casa.

Después de la Misa, se invito a un convivio, en comida y alguna otra experiencia con María, nos saludamos todos y así es como terminamos el día de la celebración.

Dios bendita a todos los que organizaron el día 12, desde sus parroquias, mucho o poco sea lo que usted hizo, bienvenido y gracias por hacerlo. No nos olvide que la Virgen María, nos seguirá amando y llamando donde quiera que estemos. Y nos esperara a todos como sus hijos. A todos nuestra felicitación y que Dios los bendiga.



En esta fotografia podemos ver la participacion de varios y muchos faligreses de la Parroquia de Sts. Jose y Pablo celebrando en la Eucaristia el dia 12 de Diciembre 2011, observamos a todos los sacerdotes que vinieron para esta celebracion solemne. de izquierda a derecha: P. Carl, parroco, P. Fidel es un Glenmary missionaner, Fr. Carmelo vicario de la parroquia, Fr. Al Gramer parroco de San Miguel en Sebree. foto por Luis Aju



El coro de la Parroquia de San Miguel Sebree, juntamente con el coro de la parroquia de santos Jose y Pablo amenizaron la Misa, con sus cantos que hicieron mayor realce al evento.



El P. Carmelo durante su homilia, de la Misa, este es una muestra de la Fe profunda de la comunidad hispana. desde luego es una obra de Fe, no solamente un acto o un teatro sino es el gesto del amor a la Virgen de Guadalupe.



La hermana Fren, la llamamos Hna. Panchita, no obstante su edad y el frio ella estaba muy contenta cantando con su guitarra y los miembros de los dos coros los cantos dedicados a la Virgen. Ademas ella lleva puesto su playera con la imagen alusivo a la celebracion. F. Luis Aju

Muy estimados hermanas y hermanos inmigrantes,

¡Que la paz y la gracia de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo estén con todos ustedes! Nosotros los obispos hispanos/latinos de Estados Unidos abajo firmantes les hacemos saber a quienes se encuentran en nuestro país sin papeles que no están solos ni olvidados. Reconocemos que todo ser humano, documentado o no, es imagen de Dios y por lo tanto tiene un valor y dignidad infinitos. Les abrimos nuestros brazos y nuestro corazón y los recibimos como miembros de nuestra familia católica. Como pastores, les dirigimos estas palabras desde lo más profundo de nuestro corazón.

De una manera muy especial queremos agradecerles los valores cristianos que nos demuestran con su vida – el sacrificio por el bien de sus familias, la determinación y perseverancia, el gozo de vivir, su profunda fe y su fidelidad a pesar de la inseguridad y tantas dificultades. Ustedes contribuyen mucho al bienestar de nuestra nación en el ámbito económico, cultural y espiritual.

La crisis económica ha impactado a toda la comunidad estadounidense. Lamentablemente, algunos aprovechan este ambiente de incertidumbre para despreciar al migrante y aun culparlo por esta crisis. Sembrar el odio no nos lleva a remediar la crisis. Encontraremos el remedio en la solidaridad entre todos los trabajadores y colaboradores—inmigrantes y ciudadanos—que conviven en los Estados Unidos.

En sus rostros sufrientes vemos el rostro verdadero de Jesucristo. Sabemos muy bien el gran sacrificio que hacen por el bien de sus familias. Muchos de ustedes hacen los trabajos más difíciles, con sueldos miserables y sin seguro de salud o prestaciones salariales o sociales. A pesar de sus contribuciones al bienestar de nuestro país, en lugar de ofrecerles gratitud, se les trata como criminales porque han violado la ley de inmigración actual.

Estamos también muy conscientes del dolor de las familias que han sufrido la deportación de alguno de sus miembros; de la frustración de los jóvenes que han crecido en este país y cuyos sueños son truncados por su estatus migratorio; de la ansiedad de aquellos que están en espera de la aprobación de su petición de residencia permanente; y de la angustia de quienes

viven cada día bajo la amenaza de ser deportados. Todas estas situaciones claman a Dios por una solución digna y humana.

Reconocemos que en ocasión las acciones tomadas con respecto a los inmigrantes les ha llevado a sentirse ignorados y abandonados, incluyendo cuando no se han escuchado voces que se levantan ante las falsedades que se promueven dentro de nuestra sociedad. Por medio de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB) hemos abogado ante el Congreso estadounidense por un cambio a la ley de inmigración que respete la unidad de la familia, e incluya pasos ordenados y razonables para que personas sin documentos puedan obtener la ciudadanía. La nueva ley deberá incluir un programa de visas para trabajadores que respete los derechos humanos de los inmigrantes, les provea las necesidades básicas para vivir y facilite su ingreso a nuestro país para trabajar en un ambiente seguro y ordenado. Así mismo, continuamos abogando por la justicia económica global que facilite el empleo de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en su tierra de origen y les provea lo suficiente para vivir con dignidad.

El pueblo inmigrante es una fuerza revitalizadora para el país. La falta de una reforma migratoria justa, humana y eficaz debilita el bien común de toda la unión americana.

Nos duele y nos apena que muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas católicos no hayan apoyado nuestras peticiones por un cambio a la ley de inmigración que proteja sus derechos, mientras ustedes contribuyen con su trabajo a nuestro país. Les prometemos que seguiremos trabajando para obtener este cambio. Conocemos lo difícil que es el camino para llegar y para entrar a Estados Unidos. Por eso estamos comprometidos a hacer lo que podamos para lograr un cambio de ley que les permita entrar y vivir en este país legalmente, y no se vean ustedes obligados a emprender un camino peligroso para proveer a sus familias. Como pastores que se preocupan por el bienestar de todos ustedes, les debemos decir que consideren seriamente si es aconsejable emprender su camino hacia acá antes de que se logre un cambio justo y humano en las leyes de inmigración.

Sin embargo, no vamos a esperar hasta que cambie la ley para darles la bienvenida en nuestras iglesias a los que ya están aquí, ya que San Pablo nos dice, “Ustedes ya no

son extranjeros ni huéspedes, sino conciudadanos de los que forman el pueblo de Dios; son familia de Dios” (Ef. 2:19).

Como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo que es la Iglesia, les ofrecemos alimento espiritual. Siéntanse bienvenidos a la Santa Misa, la Eucaristía que nos alimenta con la palabra y con el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesús. Les ofrecemos programas de catequesis para sus hijos, y los programas de formación que nuestros esfuerzos diocesanos nos permiten poner a su alcance.

Los ciudadanos y residentes permanentes de este país no podemos olvidar que casi todos, nosotros o nuestros antepasados, hemos venido de otras tierras, y juntos con inmigrantes de varias naciones y culturas hemos formado una nueva nación. Ahora debemos abrirles el corazón y los brazos a los recién llegados, como nos lo pide Jesús cuando nos dice, “Tuve hambre y ustedes me alimentaron; tuve sed y ustedes me dieron de beber; pasé como forastero y ustedes me recibieron en su casa” (Mt 25:35). Estas palabras del Señor Jesús se pueden aplicar a los inmigrantes entre nosotros. Tuvieron hambre en su tierra de origen, tuvieron sed al pasar por el desierto, y se encuentran entre nosotros como forasteros (ver Daniel G. Groody, CSC, “Crossing the Line,” *The Way*, Vol. 43, No.2, abril 2004, p.58-69). Su presencia nos invita a ser más valientes en la denuncia de las injusticias que sufren. A imitación de Jesús y de los grandes profetas, debemos denunciar las fuerzas que los oprimen, y anunciar la buena nueva del Reino con nuestras obras de caridad. Oremos y luchemos para que estos hermanos y hermanas nuestras tengan las mismas oportunidades de las cuales nosotros nos hemos beneficiado.

Vemos en ustedes migrantes a Jesús peregrino. La Palabra de



Acogiendo A Cristo En El Migrante

Tema De La Semana Nacional De La Migración Que Se Celebrará Del 8 Al 14 De Enero.

Por favor, lea el artículo en la página 38

Dios migró del cielo a la tierra para hacerse hombre y salvar a la humanidad. Jesús emigró con María y José a Egipto, como refugiado. Migró de Galilea a Jerusalén para el sacrificio de la Cruz, y finalmente emigró de la muerte a la resurrección y ascendió al cielo. Hoy día, sigue caminando y acompañando a todos los migrantes que peregrinan por el mundo en búsqueda de alimento, trabajo, dignidad, seguridad y oportunidades para el bien de sus familias.

Ustedes nos revelan la realidad suprema de la vida: todos somos migrantes. Su migración es un fuerte y claro mensaje de que todos somos migrantes hacia la vida eterna. Jesús nos acompaña a todos los cristianos en nuestro peregrinar hacia la casa del Padre, el reino de Dios en el cielo (Ver Tertio Millennio Adveniente No. 50).

Les rogamos que no se desesperen. Mantengan su fe en Jesús migrante que sigue caminando con ustedes, y en la Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe que constantemente nos repite las palabras dichas a san Juan Diego, “¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?” Ella nunca nos abandona, ni nos abandona san José quien nos protege como lo hizo con la Sagrada Familia durante su emigración a Egipto.

Como pastores queremos seguir abogando por todos los inmigrantes. Con san Pablo les repetimos: “No se dejen vencer por el mal; antes bien, venzan el mal con la fuerza del bien” (Rom. 12:21).

Que Dios todopoderoso, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo los acompañe y los bendiga siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo Salvador,
Los Obispos Hispanos/Latinos de Estados Unidos

4 Enero, 2012

Retiro/entrenamiento Curso: Cristo Renueva tu Parroquia - 59 participantes, 24 de Atlanta.

Por Luis Aju

MAYFIELD,Ky. - Los 24 miembros del equipo de Cristo Renueva tu Parroquia de la Parroquia de San Patricio de la Arquidiócesis de Atlanta. Vinieron a la Parroquia de San José de Mayfield para guiar el retiro con fines de ayudar a la parroquia a iniciar una nueva forma de Pastoral en la parroquia.

La Hermana Esther Ordoñez, actualmente Ministro Hispano de la Parroquia de Sto. Thomas Moro, en Paducah había sido la coordinadora del programa en la Diócesis y por eso ella invito a este grupo a encaminarnos a la metodología que según su experiencia ha sido muy positivo. Por esta razón se juntaron las parroquias, de San Jose de Mayfield y Sto. Thomas More, Paducah, para recibir este entrenamiento retiro, para los líderes con la intención de implementarlo en dichas parroquias.

Cada miembro del equipo tomo parte en el desarrollo del evento, venia su presidente, pero se contó con la presencia de otros miembros así como también el Coro lleno de entusiasmo que le dio mayor realce al retiro.

Se hicieron las presentaciones, en base a interesantes testimonios, que al final la conversión vino por el testimonio de otros y el encuentro con Cristo aun en medio de las dificultades de la vida personal y familiar de varios. Testimonios que de alguna manera varios de los nuevos participantes se sintieron parte de la lucha que existe delante de las dificultades que se encuentran en la sociedad.

El retiro/entrenamiento, se desarrollo con las siguientes exigencias:

-Nadie debió de salir durante las exposiciones.

-Se quitaron los teléfonos Celulares, para no interrumpir el curso del retiro.

-fueron quitados las llaves de los carros, para no salir.

-Orden en las puertas de acceso y salidas,

-No comentar los testimonios que se había escuchado con nadie por respeto a la persona.

-Materiales

Se uso la Biblia, como la única fuente que guio a los expositores.

Hubo varias horas de confesiones, varios sacerdotes del área, colaboraron en escuchar y dar el Sacramento de la Reconciliación.

Hna. Esther de Paducah y la Hna. Eloisa de Mayfield, organizaron, para que todo saliera muy bien y con éxito este retiro.

Felicitamos a ellas y a los nuevos lideres para formar este nuevo programa en las parroquias y en la Diócesis.

Retreat/Training Course: Christ Renew your Parish: 59 participants, 24 de Atlanta

By Luis Aju

The 24 members of the team from Christ Renews your Parish from the parish of St. Patrick in the Archdiocese of Atlanta came to the Parish of St. Joseph in Mayfield to guide the retreat in order to help the parish begin a new form of ministry in the parish.

The Sr. Esther Ordoñez, currently the Hispanic Minister in the Parish of St. Thomas More in Paducah, had been the coordinator of the program in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and so she invited this group to help them get started with this methodology that according to her experience had been very positive. For this reason the parishes came together from St. Joseph in Mayfield and St. Thomas More in Paducah to receive this training and retreat for the leaders with the intention of implementing it in these parishes.

Each member of the team took part in developing the event, their president came but there were also many other members of the team present such as the choir full of enthusiasm which enhanced the retreat.



La Comunidad Parroquial de San Jose en Mayfield, se ha visto bendecida por el inicio de un proceso parroquial de renovacion espiritual, a traves de un retiro para hombres compartido por nuestros hermanos de la parroquia de San Patricio, de Atlanta GA.

Los dias 25-27 de noviembre de 2011, un grupo de 31 hombres vivio el Primer Retiro, llamado Cristo Renueva Su Parroquia, este es un proceso efectivo de renovacion espiritual el cual une a los miembros de la parroquia para experimentar la conversion personal y la comunidad cristiana en el ambiente de su propia parroquia. Es un metodo evangelico de renovacion, una manera probada experimental de revivir y fortalecer la fe, un periodo especifico para el crecimiento personal en la convivencia, un vehiculo apropiado para compartir, un instrumento practico y motivante para introducir formacion de apostolado(servicio) Un catalizador poderoso de continuacion que CONGREGA junto al Sacerdote en una atmosfera Cristiana muy casual pero efectiva de comportamiento y dialogo. RECONCILIA al individuo con el Senor a travez del arrepentimiento y conversion personal. ACTIVA una comunidad cristiana con esperanzas de continuacion usando metodos efectivos de crecimiento. Con participacion de grupos pequenos. Atestiguando y compartiendo en vez de enseñar y discutir. Ejercita un proceso de grupo y construccion de la comunidad.

They gave presentations based on interesting testimonies in which in the end conversion came from the testimony of others and the encounter with Christ even amidst the difficulties of their personal and family lives. From these testimonies the new participants in one way or another felt part of the struggle that exists when confronting the difficulties found in society.

The retreat/training developed with the following rules:

- No one should leave during the talks
- They took everyone's cell phones as to not interrupt the retreat
- Their keys were taken so no one could leave
- Order was kept at the entrances
- Participants shouldn't talk about the testimonies that they have heard with anyone out of respect for the person.
- Materials: They used the Bible as the only source that guided the presenters.

There were many hours of confessions, many priests from the area collaborated in hearing and giving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sr. Esther from Paducah and Sr. Eloisa from Mayfield organized everything so that it would be a good and successful retreat.

We congratulate them and the new leaders for forming this new program in the parishes and in the Diocese.



45 hombres catolicos, viven un retiro de viernes a Domingo 25-27 de nov. con el programa Jesus Renueva tu Parroquia. 20 personas de Atlanta GA. para guiar el retiro. Un total de 31 personas fueron beneficiados con el Retiro. la Organizacion fue montado por la parroquia de san Jose de Mayfield. bajo la responsabilidad de la HNa. eloisa como Ministro Hispano del area. Felicitamos a todos los participantes y quienes vinieron para guiarnos. Dios los bendiga.



Uno de los grupos formados, presenta al plenario el resumen de la dramatizacion del Hijo Prodigio, Luis Aju como D.MH. de nuestra Diocesis estuvo presente para apoyar a la comunidad. puedo decir que este retiro era muy significativo para todos.

Por Luis Aju
MAYFIELD, Ky. - Los 24 miembros del equipo de Cristo Renueva tu Parroquia de la Parroquia de San Patricio de la Arquidiócesis de Atlanta. Vinieron a la Parroquia de San José de Mayfield para guiar el retiro con fines de ayudar a la parroquia a iniciar una nueva forma de Pastoral en la parroquia.

Para más de la historia, véase la página 4

El grupo muy atento para seguir la lectura del Biblia en uno de los momentos mas especiales en el retiro.



Aqui vemos los participantes del Retiro que se realizo en la Parroquia de San Jose, despues de la jornada se vistieron todos del mismo color de playera como signo de unidad en el proceso de formacion en la Fe Catolica.



Despues de muchas horas sentados, y despues de un receso, los participantes estan parados esperando para seguir con el otro tema. en el mismo salon parroquial de la Parroquia



En esta fotografia, vemos la atencion y seriedad de tomar el retiro como algo muy serio que requiere un cambio de vida en sus hogares como en sus comunidades. Gracias a todos por estar juntos.



La hermana Eloisa, exhortando a todos de tomar la responsabilidad en la comunidad e iniciar la obra de llevar el mensaje de Jesus a todos. felicita a todos por seguir y terminar su jornada. Admas pidio que los que han participado en el Retiro, iniciemos a dar los frutos de nuestra oracion y reflexion

2 Enero, 2012 **El Arzobispo Thomas C. Kelly, Op Despertado Para Ver El Rostro De Dios**



+ Monseñor
William Medley,
Obispo de la
Diócesis de
Owensboro

Mis Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo.

El Arzobispo Tomás C. Kelley, O.P. falleció mientras dormía en la mañana del 13 de diciembre en la rectoría de la Santísima Trinidad en Louisville. Él vivía allí desde 2007

cuando se jubiló después de 25 años como Arzobispo de Louisville. Desde los primeros años de su sacerdocio él había sido llamado al ministerio de la administración dentro de la Iglesia, primero trabajando en la oficina del Nuncio Apostólico en Washington, D.C. y después en la Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos y la Conferencia Naciones de los Obispos Católicos, estas dos instituciones más tarde se unieron para formar la Conferencia Episcopal Católica de los Estados Unidos.

Cuando fue nombrado Arzobispo de Louisville en 1982 él arribó disculpándose que porque su ministerio nunca había incluido el trabajo más común de los sacerdotes diocesanos: de ser un sacerdote de una parroquia. Pero tuvo por naturaleza un corazón

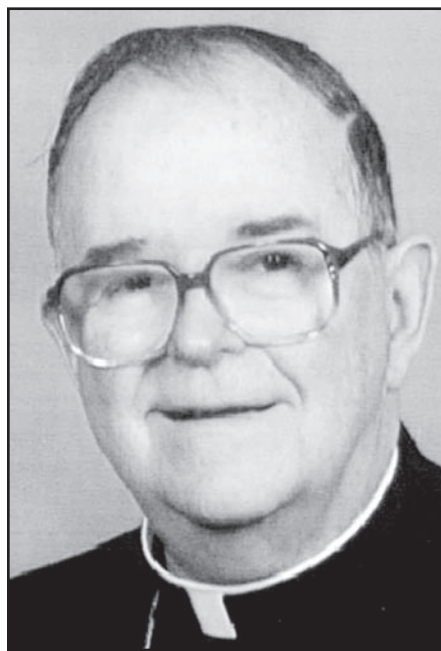
Miembros del Comité Examinador Diocesano Están Listos para Responder Llamadas

Los miembros del Comité que responden a las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Sr. Ken Bennett, Sr. Mike Boone, Sra. Kay Castlen, Chair, Pbro. Mike Clark, JCL, Pbro. Pat Connell, Sr. Jeff Ebelhar, Sr. Mike Flaherty, Sr. Nicholas Goetz, Sr. Brandon Harley, Sra. Teresa Henry, Sr. Dan Howard, Hna. Eula Johnson, SCN. La Sra. Louanne Payne sirve como el enlace entre el Obispo y el Comité Examinador.

Cualquier persona que desea comunicarse con el Comité Examinador Diocesano debe llamar al Centro Pastoral Católico a 1-270-683-1545 y pedir hablar con un miembro del Comité Examinador. Para hablar con un miembro particular de este Comité, dígame a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico le dará la información de la persona que llama a un miembro del Comité Examinador Diocesano para seguimiento.

Las personas que llaman pueden ser anónimos para la llamada inicial a la recepcionista. Los números de teléfono de los miembros de este Comité no serán divulgados al público.

También se puede contactar al Comité por su email a reviewboard@pastoral.org. No se olvide de incluir su información de contacto. No se responderá directamente por email porque no se puede garantizar la confidencialidad por email. Seguimiento será por teléfono.



El Arzobispo Tomás C. Kelley, O.P.

de pastor y cualquier deficiencia en su entrenamiento fue poco a comparación con su arte prudencial de escuchar, aceptar la sabiduría de otros y más que nada su amor por el Señor Jesucristo y la Iglesia.

Junto con mis tres compañeros del diaconado, yo conocí al Arzobispo Kelly en su instalación el 18 de Febrero del 1982 y le informamos que nosotros

íbamos a ser su primera clase local de ordenación sacerdotal. Él aprendió rápido nuestros nombres y los practicó muchas veces ante los miles de personas que conoció ese día. En Mayo de aquel año nos ordenó y aprendimos una lección importante. Él tenía una memoria muy buena y repetía en su homilía algún cuento o comentario que había alguien compartido con él.

En la lista de mayores alegrías en mis años como sacerdote, está la oportunidad de vivir con el Arzobispo Kelly por tres años cuando fui vicario parroquial en la Catedral de la Asunción. También trabajé a su lado por cinco años como director de la Oficina de Personal Sacerdotal.

Extrañaré su sentido de humor, su preciso intelecto teológico y su humildad. Pero más que nada extrañaré su cariñosa amistad. Me consuela la forma en que falleció. El lunes en la tarde, el 12 de diciembre, él celebró misa en la parroquia, cenó, y como fue su costumbre, se durmió temprano. Él se despertó viendo la Cara del Señor.

Este mes lograré aún, otro punto importante en mi ministerio corto de ser Obispo. El 21 de Enero viajaré a Roma para la visita ad limina apostolorum. Cada cinco años se requiere que los obispos de a través del mundo que viajen en peregrinación a Roma y rezar en las tumbas de San Pedro y

San Pablo. Estando allá tienen que presentarse informes a muchas de las congregaciones y dicasterios que asisten al Papa en su administración temporal de la Iglesia.

En anticipación de esta visita cada diócesis entrega con tiempo un Informe Quinquenal presentando al trabajo pastoral de la diócesis en los últimos años. Nuestro personal diocesano preparó este informe durante el último año y fue entregado en Noviembre.

Voy a viajar con los Obispos de Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi y Alabama. Anticipamos tener una reunión del grupo pequeño con el Papa Benedicto XVI y entiendo que hace muchas preguntas y está muy interesado en aprender de primera mano el trabajo de las Iglesias locales.

Rueguen por el Santo Padre y por nuestros obispos. Mientras yo pido por la gente de la Diócesis de Owensboro cada día, les aseguro que estarán en mis pensamientos y oraciones mientras rezo en las tumbas Santos Pedro y Pablo.

Dios los bendiga a todos

+ Monseñor William F. Medley
Obispo de Owensboro

Calendario del Monseñor Medley para Enero del 2012:

3 de Enero	9:00 a.m.	Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano, CPC
5 de Enero	10:30 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro
9-12 de Enero		Convocación del Presbiterio, Lake Barkley
15 de Enero		Misa y Bendición del Nártex, San Enrique, Aurora
16 de Enero	9:30 a.m.	Reunión del Comité del Personal Sacerdotal, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Concejo de los Sacerdotes, CPC
17 de Enero	9:00 a.m.	Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano, CPC
18 de Enero	8:30 a.m.	Reunión del Comité de Administración/Finanzas, CPC
19 de Enero	8:00 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Escuela Secundaria de la Trinidad
	9:00 a.m.	Conversaciones con los "Seniors" Escuela Secundaria de la Trinidad
20 de Enero – 1 de Febrero		Visita Ad limina de la Región V, Roma, Italia

“En Nombre de Dios”



Luis Aju

Fiestas de Fin de Año.

Dar y recibir

Al final de cierto tiempo siempre es bueno reconocer las grandes y buenas cosas que recibimos de los demás, a cambio de lo

que hemos dado a veces es mas grande lo que recibimos. En el Ministerio Hispano, creo que es justo reconocer a todos los que trabajan en la Parroquia y con la Comunidad Hispana, como siempre hemos dicho de que un Ministro Hispano no esta en la parroquia solo por devengar un sueldo sino sus prioridades es servir, y esto ha implicado tiempo, sacrificio, disponibilidad y paciencia para aguantar tantas cosas que pasan en una comunidad. Pero quiero expresar que es de admirar esto, pero también hemos recibido el cariño, la amistad, el agradecimiento de mucha gente, muchas veces la actitud de la gente dice mucho, la sencillez de vida, el aguante de pasar penas, por el desempleo, la falta de vivienda, la poca comida muchas veces, el no tener un seguro de salud (Pero tienen lo de Dios) estas virtudes son las que nos enseñan a ser mas humanos y compartir nuestro tiempo, atención y amor a todos. También un agradecimiento a nuestras propias familias que es el punto de apoyo de todas las luchas que se dan en el diario vivir. A toda la gente que nos aprecia, les decimos gracias

El equipo de trabajo del Ministerio Hispano ha dado pero también ha recibido el apoyo de mucha gente, los ministros también necesitan estimulo etc. Para seguir adelante.

Y no solo en el Ministerio Hispano, pido a todos los hispanos pensar acerca de lo que hemos recibido, pero también hemos dado en el lugar, donde residimos. Cada uno de los ministros hispanos, esta trabajando fuertemente en la formación, en el servicio a los hermanos, yo puedo decir también que he aprendido mucho de ellos y es así hemos llegado a trabajar o servir juntos al pueblo de Dios donde El, mismo nos ha puesto. Uno de las respuestas que damos es el crecimiento no solo en números sino en calidad de las personas conscientes de que todos somos uno bajo el mismo techo de Dios. Servimos a comunidades multiculturales, y eso no

es fácil, entender la visión de cada uno, cuando hemos crecido en varias y diferentes ambientes de cultura y país. De todas maneras, gracias a la Diócesis que nos ha apoyado y recibido en la Diócesis y al Sr. Obispo Medley que ha puesto su confianza en nosotros en ser líderes fieles a Dios y nuestros compromisos cristianos. No será perfecto pero se ha dado y compartido los talentos que Dios ha dado, para que el futuro tengamos líderes conscientes de su compromiso con Dios.

A todos nuestros lectores en la sección de español les deseamos muchas bendiciones para este año Nuevo, después de haber recibido la bendición de recibir a Jesús en su Nacimiento podamos pasar este año en paz y que nuestro hogar sea la morada de Jesús que nació pobre entre nosotros las personas.

En nuestra Diócesis en el año que acabamos de iniciar tiene muchas cosas que nos ofrece, oportunidades que se nos ofrece para seguir creciendo en nuestra fe Católica que nos identifica como hijos de Dios.

Este año la Diócesis ofrecerá el programa Renacer, esto es para soportar y seguir adelante con nuestra misión pastoral, el proceso de información y orientación para alcanzar nuestras metas, se hará con varias reuniones con los líderes y luego vendrá la acción en las parroquias. Nosotros los Latinos (Hispanos) estamos bien bendecidos en recibir estas orientaciones, ya que con esto podemos extender nuestras obras de llevar la Buena Nueva de Jesús a todos las personas y hogares de nuestra Diócesis. Los esfuerzos de la Diócesis en facilitarnos estos métodos, para crecer en conocimiento de nuestra Fe son un costo alto, para nosotros los Hispanos, será un beneficio por eso nosotros reconocemos el esfuerzo de la Diócesis por tener una Oficina Del Ministerio Hispano donde se programan las varias actividades a nivel Diócesis, además por tener a las personas idóneas para dirigir todo el Ministerio Hispano en la Diócesis, específicamente en las parroquias con Ministerio Hispano. Desde luego que estamos agradecidos, por todos los esfuerzos para apoyar la diversidad cultural dentro de la Iglesia. En ningún momento ignoramos la apertura de la Diócesis hacia nosotros, ha sido muy hospitalario y abierto a nuestras necesidades.

Católico de Kentucky Occidental Gráfico por Jennifer Farley Hunt

de Kentucky Occidental

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Echa un vistazo a *Católico de Kentucky Occidental*
http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC_online.php

LEVANTATE
Unámonos en Cristo

ARISE/Levántate Information Session Schedule				
DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	SPANISH
Sunday	February 12	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Holy Spirit BOWLING GREEN	SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH PRESENTATION
Monday	February 13	10 AM to NOON	St. Joseph LEITCHFIELD	
Monday	February 13	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Our Lady of Lourdes OWENSBORO	
Tuesday	February 14	9:30 – 11:30 AM	Holy Name of Jesus HENDERSON	
Tuesday	February 14	6:30 – 8:30 PM	St. Francis de Sales PADUCAH	SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH PRESENTATION
Wednesday	February 15	6:30 – 8:30 PM	St. Pius X OWENSBORO	SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH PRESENTATION
Thursday	February 16	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Christ the King MADISONVILLE	