



Celebrating 75 Years as a Diocese

By Sarah Patterson,
Diocesan Archivist

The Diocese of Owensboro has much to be grateful for this year. Among the many noteworthy anniversaries being celebrated this year, December 9, 2012 marks the 75th Anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Owensboro. In his 1937 Papal Bull, Pope Pius XI separated the 32 counties of Western Kentucky from the Diocese of Louisville and at that time elevated Louisville to an Archdiocese. The Papal Bull also created the dioceses of Covington, Kentucky and

Memphis, Tennessee. Charged to lead this new diocese, the Most Reverend Francis R. Cotton was installed as the first bishop of Owensboro on March 8, 1938. Blessed by God, the diocese has continued to live the Gospel and grow together as a community for 75 years.

To commemorate this anniversary, the Diocese of Owensboro will be celebrating our history for a whole year, officially beginning with the Chrism Mass on April 3, 2012 and continuing until the Chrism Mass in the spring of 2013. Throughout this year the diocese will focus our attention to the history and legacy of Catholicism in our diocese as lived out by our priests, religious communities, families, and parishes. This emphasis will be incorporated into diocesan



REVISED SCHEDULE OF INFORMATION SESSIONS			
DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Sunday	February 12	6:30 – 8:30 PM	BOWLING GREEN * St. Joseph
Monday	February 13	10:00 AM-Noon	LEITCHFIELD St. Joseph
Monday	February 13	6:30 – 8:30 PM	OWENSBORO Our Lady of Lourdes
Tuesday	February 14	9:30 – 11:30 AM	HENDERSON Holy Name of Jesus
Tuesday	February 14	6:30 – 8:30 PM	PADUCAH St. Francis de Sales
Wednesday	February 15	6:30 – 8:30 PM	OWENSBORO St. Pius X
Thursday	February 16	6:30 – 8:30 PM	HOPKINSVILLE * Sts. Peter & Paul

events during the year.

In conjunction with these celebrations, beginning in March, 2012 *The Western Kentucky Catholic* will each month feature photos and brief histories of several parish churches, eventually celebrating every parish in the diocese. These stories will highlight the contributions that each parish has made to our Catholic heritage.

We invite you and your families to join Bishop William F. Medley in cel-

ebrating our life as a diocese and that through the intercession of St. Stephen, patron of our diocese, we may continue faithfully in the footsteps of our predecessors.



Bishop Medley To Celebrate Annual Religious Emblems Awards Mass With Diocesan Scouts

The Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Committee on Scouting will celebrate its annual Religious Emblems Awards Mass with Bishop William F. Medley on Sunday afternoon, March 18, 2012 at St. Pius Tenth in Owensboro. The Mass will begin at 2:00 p.m. and at its conclusion, Bishop Medley will present religious awards to Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouts and adult leaders. A reception will follow the ceremony in the St.

Pius Tenth Parish Hall.

All scouts who have been working on their respective religious emblems should send their completed applications to the committee's Youth Awards Chairman, Jeff Hedges at 821 Canterbury Road, Owensboro, KY 42303. Jeff may be reached by phone at 270-925-7254.



Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Owensboro, KY
42301
Permit No. 111

The Diocese of Owensboro Will Celebrate the 75th Jubilee of This Local Church



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

estimated that there were just over 24,000 Catholics residing in the area.

The Year of Our Lord 2012 then represents the 75th Jubilee of this local church. Ancient tradition establishes that

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,
On December 9, 1937 Pope Pius XI issued a papal bull establishing a new diocese in western Kentucky. Thirty-two counties, that since April 8, 1808 had been part of the Diocese of Bardstown and later the Diocese of Louisville, were set apart as the Diocese of Owensboro. In that same decree the Holy Father designated that St. Stephen Church of the city of Owensboro would be elevated to the dignity of a cathedral. At that time there were 56 churches and 29 parochial schools in the diocese of more than 12,000 square miles and it was

jubilees are to be observed and celebrated. In the Old Testament era every fiftieth year was observed as a jubilee year and debts were forgiven and vast lands allowed to lie fallow as a mark of restoration and gratitude to God.

In modern times we still observe significant jubilees of birth, marriage, religious profession and institutions. Typically married couples will observe their anniversaries as will priests and religious. In our day a 75th birthday may no longer be rare, but a 75th anniversary is still quite unusual.

Our Diocese then will observe a year of celebration to mark God's blessings. The year-long celebration will run from Chrism Mass of 2012, (April 3) to the Chrism Mass of 2013, (March 26). Many events celebrated annually will be noted this year as Jubilee Events. It is envisioned that we will mark our celebration in worship, in formation and charitable service reflective of Jesus' mandate that we care for the least among us.

On December 8, 2012, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there will be a Mass to which all the diocese is invited. The Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at the Owensboro Sportscenter. Our goal is that all 79 of our parishes will be represented.

Let the foundation of this year of observance and celebration be prayer, that all may come to a deeper knowledge of God and God's goodness. We have been richly blessed these 75 years and our celebrations will exhibit our faith in God's providence and kindness in the years to come.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro

Bishop Medley's Calendar for February 2012:

- February 3 8:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, St. Ann, Morganfield
1:00 p.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, Christ the King, Madisonville
- February 5 10:00 a.m. Confirmation, Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro
- February 6-7 Catholics at the Capital, Frankfort
- February 7 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
- February 8 6:00 p.m. Central Deanery Faith Formation Celebration, St. Ann, Morganfield
- February 9 Bishops Roundtable Discussion, St. Meinrad
- February 11 9:00 a.m. Vocation Ministry Conference, Mount St. Joseph
4:00 p.m. Mass, Men's Catholic Conference, Brescia University
- February 12 8:30 a.m. Confirmation, St. Paul, Leitchfield
6:00 p.m. ARISE Information Session, St. Joseph, Bowling Green
- February 13 8:30 a.m. School Mass, St. Paul School, Leitchfield
10:00 a.m. ARISE Information Session, St. Joseph, Leitchfield
6:30 p.m. ARISE Information Session, Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
- February 14 8:30 a.m. School Mass, St. Mary Middle School, Paducah
12 - 3 p.m. Paducah Office, Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
6:30 - 8:30 ARISE Information Session, St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
- February 15 - 17 "Celibacy and Priesthood" workshop, Notre Dame, Indiana
- February 18 3:00 p.m. Black Catholic Reflection Day, Rosary Chapel, Paducah
5:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
- February 20 9:30 a.m. Priest Personnel Board Meeting, CPC
1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting, CPC
- February 21 9:00 a.m. Staff Mass and Meeting, CPC
- February 22 8:30 a.m. Finance Council Meeting, CPC
12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Catholic Pastoral Center basement
- February 23 - 24 Brescia University Board Meeting
- February 26 2:00 p.m. Rite of Election, Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
- February 27- March 2 Visits to Diocese of Mandeville and the Dominican Republic

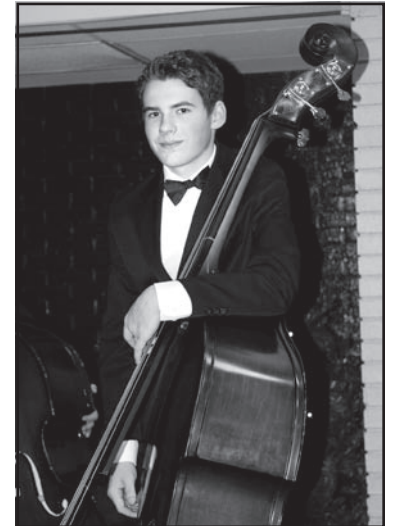
St. Mary's James O'Rourke Accepted To Play In All State Orchestra

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary Music Department is proud to announce that James O'Rourke II has been accepted to play in this year's All State Commonwealth Strings Orchestra. Every year, high school musicians from across the state compete in a rigorous process to be invited to participate in the All State events. The Commonwealth Strings Orchestra will consist of sixty-six members. O'Rourke is one of only eight bass players invited to participate.

O'Rourke is principal bass player in both the St. Mary Orchestra and Paducah Symphony Youth String Orchestra, both led by Patty Story. He has played the bass since 2008 and has participated in Quad State at Murray State University and the Paducah Symphony Orchestra Musical Chairs and Side-By-Side programs.

O'Rourke is also an accomplished pianist, playing since age seven under the direction of Ruth Somers. He is currently a national level member of the National Fraternity of Student Musicians, Student Division of American College of Musicians. He has been invited and performed at three annual meetings of the Kentucky Music Teachers' Association. He has participated in numerous other piano activities sponsored by the Murray Music Teachers' Association including Student Workshop, Studio Festival, Hymn Festival and Sonata Saturday, as well as multiple piano recitals at Murray State University's Farrell Recital Hall.

Additionally, he has studied the pipe organ for the past two years under the direction of Jim



**St. Mary High School
sophomore James O'Rourke II**

Hess, Director of Music Ministries at St. Thomas More Church, where James is a member and occasionally provides music for Thursday evening Mass or various youth group activities.

James is the son of Dr. James and Lisa O'Rourke and is a sophomore at St. Mary High School.

This article and photo was Submitted by Jackie Hopper.

Serra International's
**PRAY FOR
PRIESTS**
Year 2012



SERRA Unites! Pray for Priests Year 2012

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel..." *Philippians 1:3-5*

"Pray for Priests Year 2012" is a project initiated by Serra International in thanksgiving to God the Father for the gift of the priesthood, the gift of our priests to the Church.

At the same time, it is also an expression of our love and support for our priests. We echo the words of St. Paul to the Philippians (1:3-5): "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel..."

The emphasis of this prayer initiative is to pray for every priest by name on a daily basis. However, we recognise the limitation that only priests who are serving in a diocese where there is a Serra Club will benefit from this initiative. Nevertheless, non-Serrans could easily adopt this initiative to pray for their priests where there are no Serra Clubs.

The objective of this initiative is also to actively inculcate in non-Serrans a need to keep our priests in daily prayer. Therefore, this is a great opportunity for Serrans to reach out to the lay faithful and involve them in praying for our priests more conscientiously." *Source:www:serra.org*

Please read the article, "Prayer is Vital for Vocations: A Grateful Father of Mercy Remembers," by Serran Larena Lawson on pages 17-18 of this February, 2012 edition of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Men's Retreat Feb. 17-19, 2012

A men's retreat will take place the weekend of Feb. 17-19 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The theme is "Live Each Day: Be Alive to Your Spiritual Life." The retreat will be led by Monsignor Bernard Powers. It will provide an opportunity to strengthen one's relationship with God through the directed retreat, prayer, silence and free time. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends Sunday afternoon. The fee is \$175 (includes meals and accommodations) or \$120 for commuters (includes meals). A limited number of scholarships are available. For scholarship information, contact Sister Ann McGrew at 270-229-4103 ext. 801.



Monsignor Bernard Powers
To register, contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org or 270-229-4103 ext. 802.



Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky

Saturday, February 11, 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

• Story Deadline: 15th of month prior to publication.

• The Western Kentucky Catholic is published monthly except June and July from The Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY. 42301

• Publisher: Most Reverend William F. Medley, Bishop of Owensboro, Ky.

• Editor: Mel Howard, mel.howard@pastoral.org

• Business Address: Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: 270-683-1545. Fax: 270-683-6883

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.



Deacon Candidates Nearing Ordination

By Dawn C. Ligibel

On December 17, 2011, eighteen men stood before Bishop William Francis Medley during the 5 p.m. Mass at Christ the King Church in Madisonville to publicly profess their candidacy to become permanent deacons for the Diocese of Owensboro. After four years of study and preparation, these men proclaimed their intent to finish the program before the Bishop, Fr. John M. Thomas, Pastor of Christ the King and Director of the Deaconate Program, Fr. Jerry Calhoun, who was concelebrating the Mass, Deacons Heriberto Rodriguez and Jack Cheasty, and the congregation.

The eighteen men preparing to become deacons are: Don Adams, Tony Anthony, Bill Bach, Paul Bachi, Tim Barnes, Richard Beaven, Michael Clapp, Victor Fromm, Bill Grant, Matthew Keyser, Terry Larbes, Tim Nugent, Randall Potempa, John Prough, William Sweet, Tom Torson, Jaime Tiu and Mike Wiedemer.

"The Declaration of Candidacy is a great step for our brothers preparing for diaconal ordination in September," explained Fr. Thomas. "It is also a historical one for our diocese. It has been so beautiful to witness these men and their spouses grow and develop in their understanding of how God has called them. I remember in 2006 when we first began meeting. Sometimes there would be 60 people present. All were interested and felt they might be called, but as the months and years have passed, 18 have discovered a true calling to serve the Church as deacon."

During the homily, Bishop Medley reflected on the Gospel reading and how it related to the deacon candidates. He explained that when the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary, he told her that God was taking up residence, not in a tent or a temple, but in human flesh. "We too are asked by God to make a dwelling place in our lives for him," Bishop Medley shared with the entire congregation.

"Here tonight, we have eigh-

teen men who aspire to serve the Catholic Church, to serve as deacons," Bishop Medley specifically addressed the candidates. "What you ask for tonight is to be a servant, a willing servant," he added.

"God found favor with Mary," the Bishop continued. "To be favored by God is also to receive God's power. You are favored by God. To be favored by God is to accept the challenges to serve. My dear brothers, be aware of the challenges posed when God shows favor," Bishop Medley concluded.

Immediately following the homily, each deacon candidate was called by name. At that time, the candidate stood, declared they were present, and bowed to the Bishop.

The Bishop then addressed all of the candidates. "My sons, the pastors and teachers in charge of your formation, and others who know you, have given a favorable account of you, and we have full confidence in their testimony.

"In response to the Lord's call are you resolved to complete your preparation so that in due time you will be ready to be ordained for the ministry of the Church?" Bishop Medley asked.

All eighteen men responded in unison saying, "I am."

"Are you resolved to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his body, the Church?" the Bishop asked.

Again, all eighteen men declared, "I am."

Bishop Medley then proclaimed, "The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment."

"The power of the liturgy is palpable when so many are gathered around the altar," reflected Fr. Thomas. "There is a strong sense of purpose and movement of the Spirit when someone is willing to stand before their bishop and 'present' themselves for service in the name of the Church. I was watching the rest of the congregation as each man stood and pre-



Eighteen men from the Diocese of Owensboro participated in the Rite for Admission to Candidacy during Mass at Christ the King in Madisonville on December 17, 2011. All eighteen men have been studying and preparing for the past four years. They are scheduled to be ordained as permanent deacons on Saturday, September 15, 2012, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green. Pictured in the front row from left to right: Terry Larbes, Deacon Heriberto Rodriguez, Don Adams, Bishop William Medley, Tim Barnes, Jaime Tiu, Fr. John M. Thomas and Tim Nugent. In the second row: Paul Bachi, Richard Beaven, Mike Wiedemer, Tom Torson, and John Prough. In the back row: Randall Potempa, William Sweet, Bill Bach, Michael Clapp, Victor Fromm, Bill Grant, Tony Anthony and Matthew Keyser. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

sented himself to the bishop. Everyone was intent and was watching and listening. When we witness something like this it helps us recognize our own calling and how we are each called to serve in the name of the church in some way," he concluded.

After the profession of faith and the prayers of the faithful, Bishop Medley invited the congregation to pray for the deacon candidates. "Brothers and sisters, let us ask our God and Lord to pour out his grace and blessing on these servants of his who desire to give their lives to the ministry of the Church."

Three specific petitions were then spoken by Candidate Michael Clapp. "That our brothers may draw closer to Christ and be his witnesses in the world. That they may share the burdens of others and always listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. That they may become ministers of the Church who will strengthen the faith of their brothers and sisters by word and example, and gather them together to share in the Eucharist."

The Bishop concluded by saying, "Lord, hear our prayers for your sons who wish to dedicate themselves to your service and the

service of your people in the sacred ministry. Bless them in your fatherly love, that they may persevere in their vocation, and through their loving fidelity to Christ the Priest be worthy to carry out the Church's apostolic mission. We ask this through Christ our Lord."

At the conclusion of Mass, Fr. Thomas, briefly addressed the congregation. "It is a great honor to have the Bishop here and to have these men publicly declaring their intention to serve the Church."

Immediately following the Mass and Declaration of Candidacy, all the candidates, their families, the priests, deacons and the Bishop attended a celebratory reception in the home of a parishioner.

"The gathering at the conclusion of the Mass also served as our annual Christmas party," explained Fr. Thomas. "It is always wonderful to gather in a less formal way with no academics, papers, tests or formative issues. I am so grateful to the many people who hosted and prepared such a delicious and festive meal."

All eighteen deacon candidates are scheduled to be ordained on September 15, 2012, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green.

We Embrace A New Journey To Become Better Servants of God's People

I am Tom Torson my wife is Chong Suk. I was born to James and Patricia Torson in West Union Iowa. I am the eldest of 7 children; I have 2 brothers and 4 sisters. My family was members of St Patrick's Catholic Church of Colesburg Iowa. I grew up on a small family farm outside of Colesburg. In 1979 at the age of 17 I joined the U.S. Army where I served for 22 years in the Army Aviation working in helicopter maintenance. During my time in the Army I was sent to the Re-

public of South Korea where I met Chong Suk. We have been married for 30 years, she is from Seoul, but grew up in a small rural community also. We have two daughters, Jammie currently enrolled at Auburn University and Jessica who lives at home with us.

We are members of St. Michael the Archangel of Oak Grove Ky. We have called this our home since early 1996 when we attended our first mass with the St Michael's

At Right, Tom Torson with his wife, Chong Suk.



community at the Oak Grove Am Vets Bingo hall prior to the purchase and building of the current Church. The warm and inviting atmosphere at St. Michael's gave us the feeling of belonging to a family.

Currently, my wife and I help out at the Church doing whatever may need to be done at the time. While volunteering for the Church, I often wondered if there was something else that God had been calling me to do. A Deacon friend introduced me to the Diaconate and asked me to discern if maybe I had a calling to serve God and his people. After

much thought Prayer and talk with Chong, we decided that this calling was not us, but God who was directing our lives to serve others. I say, I and Chong, because without her support and sometimes a loving kick in the pants to provide motivation, I may have tried to ignore the calling God has sent us. Though I am the one being ordained, she is every bit as much a part of this service as I am.

We are looking forward to serving God's people in the communities in which we live and work, giving back some of the love that God and the military communities have so graciously shown to us throughout my military service. Now that we are so close to ordination, I believe that these same communities are still contributing more to me than I could ever repay. These communities have given support and prayers at every step I take. I thank all the people who continue to pray and support me and all of the candidates as we journey on this road to becoming better servants of God's people.

Holy Name Parish Continues And Expands Ecumenical Dialogues



**By Neal Biggers
(Holy Name Parish Ecumenical Committee member)**

The Ecumenical Committee of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson continues to help us pray and work for aspects of Christian unity, and for greater understanding and respect between ourselves and people of other Christian traditions. We do this in response to Christ's own prayer for unity among his followers (John 17:21). We also do it in response to the ecumenical documents and teachings of the Catholic Church and in connection with the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Commission of our diocese.

This past fall our parish committee hosted an informal and enjoyable dialogue with the Rev. Bill Schwartz of the Abundant Life Assembly of God in Henderson. Rev Schwartz talked about some of the Pentecostal practices and beliefs of his congregation. Fr. Shonis and our parishioners in attendance responded with questions and sharing of some of our own beliefs and experiences. This event followed earlier dialogues with pastors from the Episcopal, Lutheran and Baptist traditions.

This year we will step out a little further beyond our comfort zone as we host a dialogue with someone of a non-Christian faith tradition. On the last Tuesday in February, Rabbi Helen Bar Yaacov from Adath B'nai Israel Temple in Evansville will come to talk with us.

In case you're wondering, these dialogues are not about us Catholics changing or giving up our beliefs. A document of the Pontifical Council for

Interreligious Dialogue explains it like this:

"This does not mean that in entering into dialogue the partners should lay aside their respective religious convictions. The opposite is true: the sincerity of interreligious dialogue requires that each enters into it with the integrity of his or her own faith. At the same time, while remaining firm in their belief that in Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and man (cf. 1 Tm 2:4-6), the fullness of revelation has been given to them, Christians must remember that God has also manifested himself in some way to the followers of other religious traditions. Consequently, it is with receptive minds that they approach the convictions and values of others." (Paragraph 48, "Dialogue and Proclamation: Reflection And Orientations On Interreligious Dialogue, Rome, 1991.)

Consider joining with us as we meet Rabbi Helen, and learn more about today's practices in a very ancient religion from which Christianity was born. We will meet Tuesday February 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the new office building. Light refreshments will be served.

Holy Name of Jesus, a Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Owensboro, is dedicated to living the Christian Gospel. We strive to build community by celebrating God's presence in Word and Sacrament. Through our gift of diversity, guided by the Spirit, we witness Christ's love for God's people by our compassion for all.

Position Available: **Assistant Superintendent Of Schools**

The Diocese of Evansville is currently accepting applications for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools. The diocese engages 7,300 students in Catholic education in our 28 schools located throughout southwestern Indiana. Starting date for the position is July 1, 2012. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Candidate must be a practicing Roman Catholic and hold or be eligible for a valid Indiana Administrative License. For a job description go to our website www.evansville-diocese.org then employment opportunities. Application deadline is February 10, 2012. For application, please contact: Mr. Daryl Hagan, Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Evansville, P.O. Box 4169, Evansville IN 47724-0169 (812) 424-5536

***Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Evansville***

2011-2012

Diocesan Theme

All Are



Welcome

8-Year-Old Boy has Unusual Christmas Wish that Touches Many Hearts Mother turns to Facebook for help to grant his wish

By Larena Lawson

Every parent would like to give their children what they want for Christmas. Children excitedly make out their Christmas lists long before the day of opening presents arrives, hoping with all hope that they get what they ask for. It's a thrilling time of year for a child and a time when families come together to celebrate the joy of the season in all of its significance. But what if a child asks for something unusual, something that might be hard to get? What's a parent to do when they hear what their child wants and they aren't sure how to give it to them? Such was the difficulty with Jackson Willett's Christmas wish.

Jackson Willett is an 8-year-old boy from Waverly, Kentucky. He is in the third grade at St. Ann Catholic School in Morganfield and attends Mass there at St. Ann Church, as well as in Waverly at St. Peter Parish.

One Sunday night a few weeks before Christmas 2011, Jackson's mother, Ada Willett, told her boys that she needed some ideas for gifts for them for Christmas. Neither son had mentioned anything that they were wanting, so she was fishing for clues as to what to get for them. After reading a book together, Jackson told his mother what he wanted. To her surprise, he asked for something quite unusual. Jackson seriously said, "All I want is for people to believe in God. That's all I want."

That night as Jackson's mother laid in bed, she was thinking, "How do I make this happen? How do I fulfill that wish?" The only thing that she thought would surprise him would be to ask people to write to him and just tell him that they believed. Looking back, Ada said that she also knew Jack and she knew that he would love getting mail. She devised a plan. She decided that a good way to ask people was to use her Facebook page. So on December the 11th, she wrote the following post:

"Okay, I have a very big favor to ask of everyone. This past weekend I asked my youngest son Jackson, who is 8, what he wanted for Christmas. He took a couple of seconds and very seriously he turned and looked at me and said, 'All I want is for people to believe in God.' Jackson said, 'That's all I want.'

"I have given this a lot of thought and now this is where I ask my favor. I want to give him his gift. I would like for each person who reads this to send Jackson a letter or card just saying, simply, that you believe in God. Please share this post with your friends. I will post this several times daily and for the next 2 weeks. Thank you and Merry Christmas!!

I will keep everyone posted on our success. Jackson Willett, PO Box 62, Waverly, Ky. 42462."

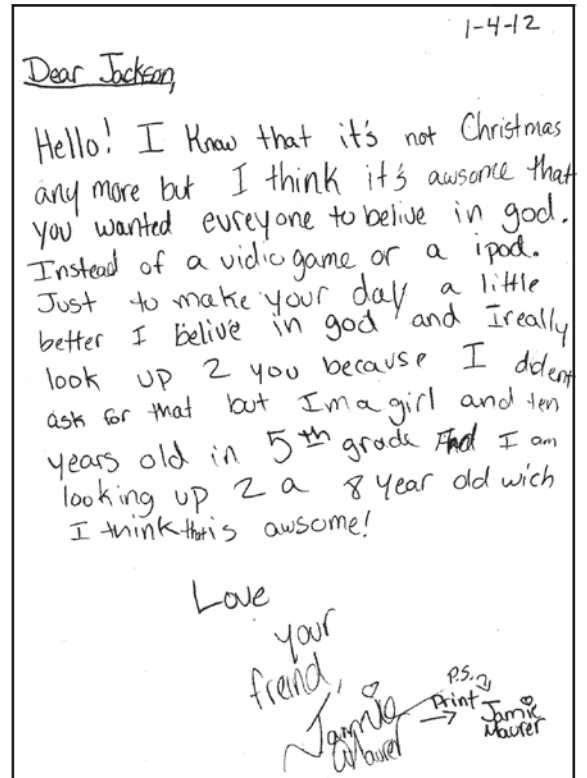
During the next couple of days, Ada got 11 comments on her post; 16 people "liked" it and 4 "shared" it. The request was getting responses and being shared with other people via their Facebook pages. Then Ada had to decide how she was going to give Jackson his gift? She remembered, "Figuring out how to give him the letters was the tricky part. I thought about waiting and giving them all at once, but then the idea of letting him go daily seemed better. Each night he would read the ones he could, not the cursive ones!!! He would always have to pick out his favorite card and it started getting exciting to see where the farthest card was from. The farthest card was from France!!"

Not only was Jackson excited to read his mail each day, so were his siblings. "They didn't know what to think," their mother said. His older sister Lauren said, "I wish I would have

A Young Person Learns To Know God's Love ...



...When He Sees An Online Community use the technology of the Worldwide Web to unite themselves with people who love God by responding to a mother's wish on Facebook to fulfill her son's 2011 Christmas wish for the world, and by mailing Love God Letters. Here, Jackson Willett gets mail! Submitted Photo



thought of that." She and Jackson's big brother, Logan, enjoyed watching Jackson and helped him read them if they were written in cursive. "It became a nice family moment, one that I will cherish," Ada said happily. "Some of the stories that people shared were very personal. Some stories made me realize that my son had touched their hearts. I have always been very proud of Jackson's tender heart; he has such a great love and is so caring." That was evident in the fact that through his Christmas wish, he was thinking of others too.

In total, Jackson received 50 cards and letters. Ada said that every day he couldn't wait to get to the Post Office. "I'm not so sure if this isn't a bigger gift for me getting to watch how excited he gets!!!!!" she wrote in a post on Facebook on December 17th. Ada plans on making a scrapbook for Jackson with all the mail. They saved as many addresses as they could because they thought it might be special to send each person a Christmas card next year. Using Facebook was the only way that Ada communicated Jackson's wish, and she thinks that when we use this form of communication for something positive, it can truly have a magnificent impact...and Jackson really did make an impact on lots of people. He was able to bring the true meaning of Christmas to life. He wanted every-

one to believe in God and that's what Christmas is all about, the birth of Jesus, God's only Son, given to us to help us believe in Him.

In a way, Jackson can be likened to the Little Drummer Boy, who wanted to have a special gift for the Baby Jesus; both so young, both loving Jesus with all their hearts. One playing his drum for his King because that is all he had to bring, the other, giving Jesus a special gift, wanting others to believe in Him like he did. Through Jackson's unique Christmas wish, many people were touched by the innocence and simplicity of what this young boy desired, not the latest toy or electronic gadget, but a real longing for everyone to believe in God. The powerful witness of his true love for God affirmed others in their belief, prompting them to respond with letters and cards and admiration of his strong faith. The joyfulness of Christmas was made manifest.

In the end, may Jackson's Christmas wish be fully granted and may all people come to know God and love Him above all else, just like Jackson wants, and may they see Jesus smiling at them like the Little Drummer Boy when he finishes his song,

"Then He smiled at me. Pa rum, pum, pum, pum. Me and my drum."

WKU Catholics invite alumni to 50th anniversary events

February, 2012 7

BOWLING GREEN, KY (1/16/12) -- The Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2012. Events will be held throughout the year, particularly around Homecoming in the fall.

The students and staff at the Catholic Campus Center are looking forward to meeting many WKU alumni at the events. If you are an alumnus of WKU and would like to be informed about the anniversary events, please contact Sam Oldenburg, Alumni Relations Chair, at oldenburg.sam@gmail.com.

Over the last 50 years, the Catholic Campus Center has been much more than a place students go to for Mass; it's a place where they learn the lessons that will provide a solid base for the rest of their lives. The center provides ministries that allow students to get to know themselves, their faith and each other.

WKU Students gather for dinner after the last Mass of the fall semester at the Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University. Creating a community is a key component of ministry at the Catholic Campus Center. About 125 students partake in fellowship during the center's three weekly meals. Submitted by Sam Oldenburg



Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon



**Joseph and Mary Sue Wink Elliott
St. William Parish – Knottsville, KY
2010 Sophia Award Winners**

Recently, on a cold snowy morning, I met with Joe and Mary Sue Elliott at their “gathering/meeting/party” house which is next door to their home.

“We bought this house when the lady

that lived here wanted to move closer to town. It's a good place when all the family comes in or for meetings,” said Mary Sue.

Joe told me, “I met her (Mary Sue) at a little café downtown in Owensboro, Ferrell's I think was the name of it. It was right across 2nd Street from Ira Wood's where I worked. I would go in at lunch and I would see her there.”

“We will be married 52 years this coming September. We were married by Fr. Victor Boarman at Lourdes Church in Owensboro.” said Mary Sue. Joe and Mary Sue have 3 children; 2 boys, one girl and 7 grandchildren. “All of the kids live close by. The two boys farm with me and our daughter farms with her husband,” Joe said.

“I only work 6 days a week; ‘I'm tired,’ is my motto,” said Joe. Mary Sue keeps (accounting) books and run errands for everyone. “I worked at G.E. until our last child was born, and I never went back

after that,” she said.

“I was in the monastery for about five years at South Union, Kentucky and I worked the farm there. After much thought, I decided to come home. After I worked at Ira Woods, I went to work at Medley's Distillery and worked there for about 20 years along with farming. We raise mostly corn and soybeans now,” Joe said.

“Over the years,” Joe continued, “we have had many Spanish people working on our farms here. On our days off we would take them into town so they could shop and do some business. Mary Sue and I enjoyed that. I got involved with helping Sister Lorraine and Sister Fran get the (Hispanic) Center opened. I went to Mexico and learned the poverty many lived in. I mean, until you see the dirt floors and sleep on a bed held up by bricks, you don't realize where some of them come from,” said Joe. “I have been and still I am on many boards dealing with farms and rural life. When I was in Mexico, I and traveled out in the country where I studied their crops and farming.”

Joe is on the Water District Board, the

Diocese's Rural Life Committee, Daviess Count Ag. Extension Council, the Daviess County Ag. Advancement Council and is a previous Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce board member... just to name a few!! The couple received the Sophia Award from their parish in 2010 and of course they thought someone would have been more deserving! “I am a Eucharistic Minister at Mass and we both go to the Soenneker Home once a month. I use to work on the picnic for church but not so much any more.”

““We both have been Catholic all our lives and our faith is just in our everyday life. We just try to be good people in all that we do. I've always said all the good Catholics go to Mass at 6:30 in the morning and the rest go later!” said Joe with a laugh.

“I feel blessed that I am involved in the community and can help do good for others. I am blessed by my children and my grandchildren,” said Joe. Mary Sue agreed and added “I feel blessed that we can all work together on the farm and be with each other as a family.”

Why Should You Come to Camp?

By Ben Warrell

We are rapidly approaching our fifth summer of camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center. Each year has gotten better than the next and the number of campers continues to grow. We just completed our second Christmas and New Year's Camp and it was incredible! It was the largest camp we have ever had and probably the most spiritually powerful! We asked the campers themselves to share why you should come to camp this summer.

Here is what they had to say.

"There's no place I'd rather be. It doesn't matter who you are as long as you are willing you will have fun. And above all, you come to truly meet God." "This place is amazing! It is the place where one can truly find peace. While I was here I was able to reconnect what I had lost with Jesus. I learned a huge lesson in love and forgiveness. It's a great place to meet new people and completely be your self."-Gilbert.

"This is a place where you can be your true self and not worry about anyone judging you. When you come to Gasper you can let everything go that has been troubling you. There's a sense of peace and all you feel is warmth. But there's one thing that's truly special about camp-you are more loved by everyone here than you can ever imagine. Simply the best place on earth." -Ashlyn.

"You should go because at camp you make friends that become your family." "You should go to camp because there is so much opportunity to see God that it is RIDICULOUS!"

"You try so many new things and meet so many new people and you learn about your relationship with God."-Sara.

"You bond with a new group of people who will always be there for you." "Camp is completely free from the rest of the world and you can focus on your faith and the Lord."

"You may think there is something better to do with your time, but in all honesty, there really isn't. Gasper River is the place to be."-Kayla.

"You can let go of all our insecurities and just be yourself. You learn to be comfortable with who you are and just have a good time." "Gasper is a great place to come especially if you go to public schools like me. Often times, being Catholic is the minority religion. Coming here helps you make new friends who believe what you do."

"You feel so accepted when you come. Memories are made here that will last the rest of your life."

"You must GO!!!!!!!!!!"-Austin.

"Coming back to Gasper River, the best place in the world, I have gained a sense of peace and understanding through prayer and my new friendships which God has led me to. There are all kinds of amazing things I have been able to experience. Gasper River is a must go kind of place if you have a desire to connect with God."-Stephanie.

"Gasper River is the one place I can come and just be myself. You can feel God's presence all around you as soon as you walk in. Over the past year, I have made so many great friends, just from Gasper. I know I can count on them anytime to be there for me and I don't think I could say the same for any other place in the world. It's just amazing, everything about it and I definitely recommend you go if you want to get closer to God and make some great friends for life."-Matt.

"This was the first camp I've been to at Gasper River. I don't even know the right words to use because it's like nothing I've ever experienced before. It's like a loving, joyful feeling and nobody has a care in the world. It's all about love, peace, joy and many more words I can come up with. I can't wait to go to camp for summer and I want to see many new and lots of old faces."-Chris

"Gasper River is my second home. It is where I go if I need to find God. It is where I found my three best friends. I love this place and I always will. I cannot wait to either send my kids here one day or be able to visit as a priest. This is the best thing that has happened to the youth of this wonderful diocese. I hope that all of you that are reading this will send your kids or grandkids here, it will change their life, as it has changed mine."-Sam

Those quotes are coming straight from the campers. There's really nothing else that I can say other than come and see for yourself. The community that these young people form around Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church is incredible.

All forms and dates for summer camp are up on our website www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for you to download and send in.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 270-781-2466. We are always in need of volunteers so please contact us if you are interested. We also need strong Catholic young men and women to work out here each summer as well. If you're looking for adventure, fun, and an experience like none you've ever had before, come to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp this summer.



2012 Summer Camp Schedule

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center

Dates	Camp	Grades	Cost
May 28 th through June 1 st	Eucharistic Life	18 and over	\$250
June 3 rd through June 8 th	Expedition I	5 th & 6 th Grades	\$250
June 10 th through June 15 th	Camp LIFE I	High School	\$250
June 17 th through June 22 nd	Quest Camp I	7 th & 8 th Grades	\$250
June 24 th through June 29 th	Camp LIFE II	High School	\$250
July 1 st through July 6 th	Camp LIFE III	High School	\$250
July 8 th through July 13 th	Expedition II	5 th & 6 th Grades	\$250
July 15 th through July 20 th	Quest Camp II	7 th & 8 th Grades	\$250
July 22 nd through July 25 th	Explorer I	3 rd & 4 th Grades	\$150
July 22 nd through July 27 th	High Adventure	High School	\$325

Grade indicates the grade the camper will be entering in the fall of 2012. All Camp LIFEs are open to incoming freshmen through just graduated seniors. All forms for camp and the finalized schedule with costs will be posted on the Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp website www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org after the first of the year. Scholarships are available for summer camp. If you have any questions about the summer camp program, please contact our office through the Contact Us Link on the website or by calling 270-781-2466.

Tickets now on sale!
Call 270-686-8401

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.

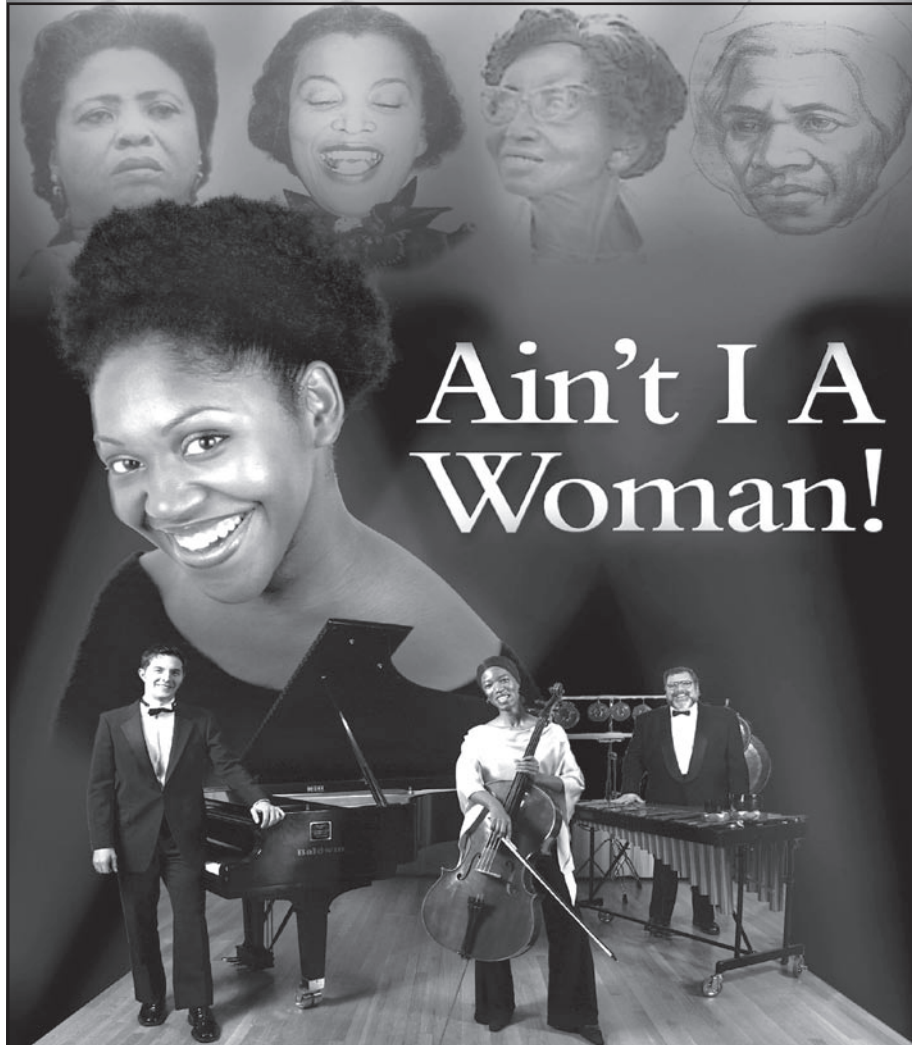
The Hines Center—Owensboro, KY

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

Live music by:
Charlene Blay and the 2nd Edition

Brescia To Host “Ain’t I a Woman!”

On February 19, 2012, Brescia University is celebrating Black History and Women’s History Months in one event as it hosts a chamber music theatre production entitled “Ain’t I a Woman!” The production, held in Brescia’s Taylor Lecture Hall off Frederica St. at 4:00 p.m. (CST) celebrates in music and drama the contributions of four outstanding black women: Sojourner Truth, 19th-century abolitionist; Zora Neale Hurston, 20th-century writer; Fannie Lou Hamer, 20th-century civil rights activist; and Clementine Hunter, 20th-century folk painter. The 1 ½ hour performance is co-sponsored by the Owensboro Human Relations Commission, the Owensboro Rotary Club, the H.L. Neblett Center, Independence Bank, and other area businesses and organizations. The event is free and open to the public.



A chamber music theatre work conceived and performed by THE CORE ENSEMBLE (cello, piano & percussion) and featuring Taylore Mahogany Scott as Zora Neale Hurston, Clementine Hunter, Fannie Lou Hamer and Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman!” is a new music theatre work for actress and chamber music trio (cello, piano, percussion). It celebrates the life and times of four powerful African American women: novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, ex-slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth, folk artist Clementine Hunter, and civil rights worker Fannie Lou Hamer. The musical score is drawn from the heartfelt spirituals and blues of the Deep South, the urban vitality of the Jazz Age, and contemporary concert music by African American composers such as Charles Mingus, Thelonius Monk, Max Roach and Diane Monroe. Used with permission: <http://www.coreensemble.com/publicity/aiaw/AIAWhandbill-TayloreGS.pdf>

Bishop Medley Blesses St. Henry Church’s Narthex

February, 2012 9



Bishop Medley blesses the new narthex for St. Henry Church.

Submitted by Rich Logsdon

St. Henry parish in Aurora, KY has evolved from having mass under shade trees in 1967 to a pavilion in 1968 to the church itself in 1983. A parish hall was added in 2002, and now a beautiful newly constructed narthex in 2012 replacing the old, cramped one.

Bishop John McRaith dedicated the new church in Sept. of 1983; and recently, on Jan. 15, 2012, Bishop William Medley has blessed the newest addition to St. Henry Catholic Church. We sincerely thank Bishop Medley for giving his approval for the project and for taking time out of his busy schedule to bless the narthex.

Approximately 120 parishioners and guests were in attendance at the



St. Henry’s new narthex. Photos by Rich Logsdon

10:30 A.M. mass as Bishop Medley gave the blessing and then celebrated mass with us. Afterwards, everyone partook of a delicious luncheon in the parish hall to cap off the day.

It was through the efforts of Father Babu Kulathumkal, the Parish Council, the Finance Committee, the construction committee headed by Jack Sergeant, and our supportive parishioners that this wonderful addition has come to pass. In addition to thanking the aforementioned people, we would also like to thank Clark Construction for their timely efforts to get the job done. Through the hands of Bishop Medley and the hand of God, we anticipate many years of enjoyment of our new narthex for our parishioners and guests.



Bishop William Medley welcomed priests to the business session of the Diocesan Priests' Convocation at Lake Barkley State Resort Park Jan. 9, 2012. Photos by Mel Howard

Gregory Kremer, Special Assistant to the Director of RENEW International, gave a presentation to the priests of the Diocese at their Convocation with Bishop William Medley at Lake Barkley State Resort Park's Convention Center on January 9, 2012.

ARISE Together in Christ/ LEVÁN-TATE. Unámonos en Cristo is a three-year process of spiritual renewal and evangelization that enables people to develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow as community, and reach out in service to others. Mr. Kremer presented the goals of ARISE Together in Christ:

- Teaching and witnessing to the Word of God in Sacred Scripture;
- Developing vibrant communities of faith and service;
- Implementing a strategy for adult faith formation;
- Providing a concrete and practical means of evangelization;
- Enhancing the celebration of the Sunday liturgy.

The spiritual growth of the ARISE process begins with a period of training and formation for diocesan and parish leaders. The process then guides the participants through five distinct periods of time (called Seasons) each of which lasts six weeks. Each Season engages the parish in a basic

Gospel theme: Season I Fall: Encountering Christ Today; Season II Lent: Change Our Hearts; Season III Fall: In the Footsteps of Christ; Season IV Lent: New Heart, New Spirit; Season V Fall: We Are the Good News!

Mr. Kremer explained that RENEW International provides comprehensive training for Pastors and the ARISE Parish Team, and for Small Faith Community Leaders in both English and Spanish. Parish leaders will have their first opportunity to learn more at Information Sessions to be held during the week of February 12, 2012 in locations throughout the Diocese. (add sidebar with dates and locations if available) RENEW International staff provides ongoing pastoral support and service for all phases of the process, including a web-based library of resources and handouts Parishioners experience the Gospel themes of the five seasons in several ways, primarily:

- Sunday Mass via homily hints and Prayers of the Faithful;
- Small faith-sharing groups that meet in homes or other locations throughout the parish;
- Family and individual prayer;
- Parish Mission;
- Special workshops to help parishes become more responsive to young adults.

The ARISE process provides Christ-centered spiritual formation for everybody in the parish. Marriage and family life is strengthened as participants share in groups, attend liturgies and gatherings, and use the intergenerational Family Sharing Pages and ARISE for youth materials.

ARISE Together in Christ is coordinated in our diocese by Sr. Ethel-Marie Biri, SSND, Director of Planning and Parish Services. She says: "This invitation to grow closer to Christ and to live out our baptismal commitment is an amazing gift that deserves a positive response because Christ first loved us and gave himself for us." Sister adds: "As we prepare during the next months, I pray for all of us in the words of St. Paul: 'This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the



Greg Kremer, Special Assistant to the Director of RENEW International, gave a Powerpoint presentation to diocesan priests in convocation with Bishop William Medley Jan. 9, 2012.

breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.' " (Eph: 3-14-21) The New Jerusalem Bible

At the parish level, the parish coordinating team in close collaboration with the pastor, carries out the tasks of identifying and supporting small group leaders; facilitating the formation of small faith-sharing groups; advertising the program and encouraging participation. The team functions as a small faith community and makes faith-sharing part of their meetings.

During the Seasons of the ARISE process, a style of parish life is planned which nurtures the faith of the people and strengthens the parish for the long term by developing small communities who come to know Christ more deeply and are impelled to follow Christ more closely through actions in daily life. After the ARISE process, the parishioners bring their new insights and commitments to the entire life of the parish. Many small faith-sharing groups choose to continue meeting and RENEW International makes materials available to sustain those communities.

Following the presentation, Mr. Kremer opened up the session to questions from the

priests. One question was how much will the process of the ARISE program cost. Mr. Kremer explained that a grant from Catholic Extension Society will cover the bulk of the costs. The Diocese of Owensboro will pay about 33% of the actual costs. In addition, RENEW International will underwrite a portion of the costs. The parishes will purchase at least one Leadership Team Kit and other optional materials. Parishioners are asked to pay for their booklets each Season.

For more information, please contact Sr. Ethel-Marie Biri, ARISE Coordinator, at 270-852-8367 sr.ethelmarie.biri@pastoral.org.

About RENEW International: RENEW International is a canonically-recognized Catholic organization based in Plainfield, NJ, in the Archdiocese of Newark. RENEW International fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action. RENEW International has more than 30 years of experience revitalizing parish life in over 150 dioceses in the United States, touching the lives of 25 million people through its renewal processes. RENEW International also reaches many thousands outside the United States, having served people in 23 countries, across six continents and in 44 languages. RENEW can be found online at www.renewintl.org.



... When Administering Communion and When Receiving The Body of Christ ...

Students serve as Eucharistic Ministers at Owensboro Catholic High School Masses. Above a OCHS student bows before receiving the Host in her hands. Mel Howard Photo



... When Praying The Mass Prayers Together
Three OCHS students, Georgia McMaster, Lauren Probus and Paris Wedding used the prayer aids speaking toward the altar during a Jan. 5, 2012 School Mass. Mel Howard Photo



... When Sharing Happy Moments With Friends ...
Girls in Mrs. Emily's K - 2 class at Saint Paul School in Grayson County are enjoying playing together. St. Paul School Photo



...When Teachers Help Us See Ourselves As The Gifted Children of God We Are ...

For the month of December, Students of the Month at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School were chosen based on Generosity through Good Example. Pictured with Principle Sister Suzanne Sims are Georgia Howard (Pre K -2), Abby Booker (6-8), and Abbey Pike (3-5). The picture was taken by Marleda Upton.



...When We Accomplish Something For His Honor and Glory ...

The OCHS Cheer Squad earned the Regional Title in the Large Co-ed division at the KAPO competition on Saturday, January 7. They now advance to the State competition. It will be held on Saturday, February 18 at WKU. Squad members include: (front row left to right) Sara Ross, Emily Lorenzen, Scarlett Bickett, Tori Arnold, Rachel Hamilton, Caitlin Coomes, Carli Barr, Paige Houston, Emily Pate, Natalie Leibfreid, Joelle Boarman; (Back row left to right) Ashlyn Vessels, Jordan Delano, Tyler Grant, Evan Todd, Logan Cart, Drew Carlisle, Joel Ciaccio, Catey Nunley, Mary Grace Boarman. The squad coaches are Mrs. Emily Waddell and Mr. Wes Nall. OCS Photo

A Child Learns To Know God's Love ...



... When Offering Our Time and Talents in Service To Others - OCMS BETA Club Members - Wendell Foster Family Day - May 21, 2011. The Bishop Medley Chapter of Junior Beta Club at OCMS performed a service project at Wendell Foster Campus' Family Day. The students who attended assisted residents who did not have family attend by helping them get to the various game concession booths set up around the grounds and Sensory Garden. This is the 3rd time OCMS Beta Club has provided service to Wendell Foster. Thanks to the students who were able to join us! Source: owensborocatholic.org/schools.OCMS/photo_album.



...When helping lead the music at our school Mass. OCS Photo by Charles Mahlinger



... When Learning About God's Word - Nathan Johnson receiving a Children's Worship Bulletin from Father Pat Bittel. Larena Lawson Photo



...When serving at Mass - altar servers leading the processional for Mass at St. Lawrence. Pastor Father Pat Bittel was entering the church with Bishop William Medley. Larena Lawson Photo



... When Helping Out My Parish - Ethan Rhodes working in the ring toss stand at the 2010 St. Lawrence Picnic. Larena Lawson Photo



...When Helping Grandma Vanessa Rhodes with her grandchildren, Haley Barnett, Noah Finley and Cheyenne Chancye bring May flowers and helping crown Mary's statue. Larena Lawson Photo



...When Celebrating Our Blessed Mother Mary during the May crowning of Mary's statue at St. Lawrence Church: from left to right, Madison Connor, Savannah Connor (crowning Mary) and Victoria Loren Wright. Larena Lawson Photo



...When United With All Ages to publicly walk to defend life. Larena Lawson Photo



... When Doing My Best and trying my hardest in doing my school work with a willing spirit. OCS Photos



... When Receiving Blessed Ashes on Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2012. Photo by Larena Lawson

The Lenten Sacrifices

to be observed by Catholics are:

- **Abstinence:** No meat can be taken by those 14 and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.
- **Fasting:** A limit of one full meatless meal by those 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- **Self-Denial:** Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended on weekdays during Lent.
- **Prayer and Charity:** Can include daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.



... When I'm Focused and keep my mind on what our priest and all of us are doing at Mass, such as when carrying the processional Cross after Mass. OCS Photo

A Child Learns To Know God's Love ...



... When Caroling For School Neighbors
St Joseph School, Bowling Green kindergarteners sang for neighbors around their school in 2011. St Joseph School Photo.

... Through The Loving Actions of Other People
Janet Ebelhar, a.k.a. Evan A. Mouse, retold the story of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" from the mouse's point of view to the Kindergarten students at the OCS Elementary K-3 Campus Dec. 19, 2011. Ms. Ebelhar is the grandparent of Kindergartener Mollie Ebelhar. The children loved it.

OCS Photo



... When We Remember To Be Reverent and Prayerful during Mass in our parish church as our priest raises the Body of Christ for all to see and adore. Mel Howard Photo



... When Palling Around With Bishop Bill

Bishop William Medley, asks Brady Hancock, grandson of Owensboro Ser-ran, Larena Lawson, if Santa Claus came to see him. Brady is hesitant to answer, but loves seeing the bishop. Brady got to see his friend, Bishop Bill, at the Henderson Serra Club hosted a seminarians Christmas gathering Dec. 27, 2011. Larena Lawson Photo



... At The Foot of the Cross

During a 2011 Prayer Day for the Second Grade Class of St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, the group gathered under the large Cross at Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center. Taking this position at the foot of a Cross similar to one on which Jesus died for us all during His Crucifixion is a holy moment, a graced act. It is one of the mysteries of our Catholic Faith, the Cross and the Crucifixion, in which we can glimpse a small idea of the depth of Jesus' sacrifice for us and of God's love for all humanity. St. Joseph School, Bowling Green, Photo.

... When Praying The Stations of The Cross ...
during a 2011 School Prayer Day, these St. Joseph School Second Graders, in the photo at left, read the story shown on each outdoor station at Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center, reflecting and remembering Jesus' Passion. St. Joseph Youth Camp and Retreat Center



... When Making Artwork in our classes to show how God provides for us all. OCS Photo



... When We Step Up To Show Our Support for our community's work to prevent drug abuses during Red Ribbon Week. OCS Photo



... When We Raise Hands in Blessing for our teachers and school administrators with our priest during an Opening of School Mass in our Catholic High School. OCHS Photo



... When We Work Hard In Our School club groups to work to recycle materials and to help save our environment. OCMS Photo



... When We Listen To How God Calls all people to a vocation to serve Him and the Church in our lives. OCMS Photo



... When Learning Our Prayers in Preschool Class

... The two pictures of Lilly Price, at top left, and Allyson in St. Ann School, Morganfield, Ky., at left, show how reverent, intent, open and focused young Catholics can be while communicating with God. It's often through the eyes of the very youngest among us that we find a fresh glimpse, a renewed feeling for the need all humanity has for God, for knowing His never-ending love for us.

...When We Happily Show Our Catholic Identity in our Catholic School uniforms and school shirts both every day and on special occasions. OCS Photo





... When Lifting Up One's Song and Heart For Others In Song Giving Praise and Honor To God

Owensboro Catholic High School Habitat For Humanity Chapter went Christmas caroling at Carmel Home Dec. 27, 2011. The instrumentalists were Emily Wills (piano) and Lindsey Hyland (violin), shown in the picture at right. In the group picture above the Christmas carolers were from right, Lesley Hainey, Meghan Mattingly, Bradley Norcia, Luke Riney, Emma Miller, Jenny Beth Willis, Lindsey Hyland, Larkin Hyland, Stephanie Dooper, Madeline Rafferty, Gabriella Hoffman, and Paige Anderson. Photos by Bev Howard, OCHS Counselor

Editor's Note: You've just finished seeing pictures and reading about how a young person may come to know God's love in 7 pages of this edition (pgs 6, 11-16). In the early 1980s when I was teaching at Trinity High School, Whitesville, St Mary's pastor Fr. Phil Riney challenged the Trinity community at a school Mass to show some proofs

that the school was educating young people in the Catholic faith. He told us that if the Catholic School was imparting the faith to students, then there would be public signs of that faith taking root in the students' service to people in need, people at risk, and especially, in the students' presence in their parish community receiving the sacraments weekly. I took Fr. Phil's challenge to heart, and have ever since. That is why from time to time WKC readers may see pictures showing profiles in the faith which is alive in Catholic School and Catholic Parish students living in the Diocese of Owensboro.



...As A Team Takes A Knee In Prayer Before a Match

This picture from the website of Saint Joseph School in Bowling Green shows soccer players and coaches kneeling in prayer before a 2011 soccer game. The team prayer is a reminder for players, coaches, parents, and fans alike to play the game with good sportsmanship, to give the glory to God, to accept victory with humility, or defeat with grace. St. Joseph School, Bowling Green, Photo.



... When Praying A Living Rosary During a Class Prayer Day
The Saint Joseph School Fourth Grade travelled to The Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center in 2011 for a Prayer Day as a class. One prayer on this day was a living Rosary near the river. Each person served as a Hail Mary bead or an Our Father bead of a Rosary. St. Joseph School, Bowling Green, Photo.

Prayer is Vital for Vocations: A Grateful Father of Mercy Remembers

February, 2012 17

By Larena Lawson, Owensboro
Serra Club Communications

Father John Agapito, C.P.M., from the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, Kentucky, was invited to be the Program Speaker for the Owensboro Serra Club on Friday, December 9, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Owensboro. He began by thanking the Serra Club and Father Ray Clark for their invitation. He remembered back to when he was in Morgantown, West Virginia for ten years and the custom of the Serra Club there was to bring in the new priests and sisters of the area to be guests at their meal and talk about their vocations. "So, I'm going to do a little bit of that for you," said Father Agapito.

"I certainly want to thank Charles and Ann Roby," Father Agapito continued. "I get a card from them quite often. They always remember me on my anniversary. They always sign it Serra Club of Owensboro. I want to thank the Serra Club of Owensboro for always remembering me on my anniversary, which is, December the 27th." Father Agapito celebrated his 25th anniversary this year at the Owensboro Serra Club Religious Gathering on September 24, 2011. "You will remember me from my 25th anniversary party because there were a bunch of sisters there, and one priest. Here I am. I want to congratulate all of the sisters in the diocese this year that made 25 years, 50 years, 60 years, 70 years... I want to thank the Serra Club and the diocese for my anniversary party. It was so wonderful," Father said with graciousness, "and the good news is, the extra sheet cake went to my house," he added with a laugh. "And I want to thank you for that too."

Father Agapito used to be Chaplain at Berea College south of Lexington. While there, he used to help out at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond as well. He got close to the students there, who once presented him with a Pittsburgh Pirates cap, which brought joy to his heart because he was born in Pittsburgh. "Well, they had forgotten to tell all of the students that they had presented me with this Pittsburgh Pirates hat," Father explained, "so this is what actually happened after that. I came back to the campus of Eastern Kentucky University for Mass and there was a young



Father John Agapito, C.P.M., receives congratulations from Bishop William Medley, at the annual Religious Jubilee Celebration at St. Martin Church on Sept. 24, 2011. Fr. Agapito was celebrating his 25th Anniversary. Photo by Larena Lawson

lady there who hadn't been there when they presented me with the Pittsburgh Pirates cap and I heard her say to the young lady next to her, 'Say, that cap that priest has, man, what's that P on there for?' 'Oh, that's his priest's cap,' she said, 'every priest has one of those.' (Everyone laughed at this humorous story and how Father was telling it.) So, I need to tell the Pittsburgh Pirates that their cap looks just like a priest's hat. Isn't that wonderful? That's a true story."

When Father Agapito was in grade school, just outside of Pittsburgh at Turtle Creek, he remembers having a wonderful priest named Father John Patrick Shields. "Father Shields was an amazing priest. He was with us many, many years at Turtle Creek. He had come there at the end of his assistant days as a priest and then he was named a young pastor. By the time I met Father Shields, he was elderly; he was 80 some years old. He was the retired pastor of our parish. He was the Monsignor. I had always liked being with Father Shields. I'm so excited that I can hardly talk about Father Shields here," Father admitted, with great respect for him. "John Patrick Shields..." He went on to tell the story from his childhood, "And I decided that I would take my first confession with Father Shields. So, I made sure this was OK with all my teachers and my parents and everybody else in the parish." Father Agapito learned that Father Shields would be the fourth priest in the confessional that day. He had never been to confession before, so he was kind of nervous about going for the first time. In those days, the confessionals were kind of dark and drafty, not nice and comfortable like today. So when Father Agapito went in, he got scared of the dark. "And I see this light in the distance and this priest sitting there with his berretta on, reading his breviary," and he thought, "Father Shields! I didn't say anything. I just knelt there and waited for something to happen. And you know what?

Nothing happened. So, after awhile, I decided, maybe I better say something; me, who talks the leg off of everybody. And I need to say something. I say, 'Father Shields?' 'Yes,' he said. I said, 'A, are you here for my first confession?' He said, 'No, I'm taking a spa over here, this is for my health,' he said. 'Well, I guess he was taking a spa over there," Father Agapito said in jest. So after that unusual time with Father Shields, his first confession went easier.

Father Agapito's memories of Father Shields also include large portraits of him in the lobby of the church at Turtle Creek, his home parish. There was an artist in the parish who painted one portrait of Father Shields in his birretta, and one in his cassock. He wore his cassock every day and prayed his rosary all the time. "Father Shields had a great secret," remembered Father Agapito. "He was a priest of prayer. His favorite saint was the Curé of Ars. Father Shields knew the Curé of Ars was the Patron of Vocations." Father Shields had a brother who was a priest in the neighboring parish. Father Shields would pray like this," imitated Father Agapito: 'Now, Jesus, I know I don't have the biggest parish in the diocese, although it's one of the bigger parishes in the diocese. Now, Jesus, I might not have the richest parishes in the diocese. Oh, but it's not a poor parish. Now Jesus, (this is the final part) my brother's a priest in a bigger parish (I knew his brother,) and he's got all kinds of vocations down there, but how come I don't have any vocations here?'

"That's exactly how Father Shields would pray," clarified Father Agapito, who is a priest because of Father Shields, one of many who eventually came from his parish and for whom Father Shields prayed for. Father Agapito made a list of them all and read their names, religious sisters too, "all from one priest's prayer!" Father Agapito said with confidence. "It wasn't like Father Shields named us. He didn't say, 'Now I think John should be a priest.' It was that he prayed to the Curé of Ars and he had a great faith in Our Lady, and a great faith in the Eucharist." He was also a very humble man, remembered Father Agapito. He had poor eyesight with bad cataracts, but always said he was doing OK, even if he bumped into things. He was a tough guy. "From one priest comes a list of vocations. I could go on," Father Agapito said with assurance. "Life is amazing," he went on, as he also recalled Herb Riley, with whom he went to grade school, and who is now a permanent deacon. "Do you know what a thrill that was, last time I was home; Herb Riley's on the altar! We go back to 1973, at least, or before that. What a thrill! We're from the same grade school ... Life is amazing!"

Father Agapito went on to name others, from the Turtle Creek area, who are now priests and religious and those who work in parish ministry or for dioceses. He said that Father Shields prayed for them all, wanting to make a point, that they were all prayed for by Father Shields, who never failed to pray for vocations.

"So, how important is it to pray for vocations?" Father Agapito asked. "It is vital. Without John Patrick Shields, I wouldn't be standing here today." He then told a humor-

Continued on page 18

18 February, 2012 **“Remember, Every Priest Wears A Pittsburgh Pirate’s Hat”**

Continued from page 17

ous story of when he asked his foster mother if he should be a priest and she said, “Don’t you blame that mess on me. It’s going to be your decision. Don’t let it be my decision. You better not tell your friends in the future that I forced you to be a priest, ’cause I did not; ’cause it was your own decision. And don’t you blame that mess on me, ’cause it could get messy!” As he told the story with a continuous laugh, Father Agapito surmised, “My mother was right.” Father Agapito made sure he pointed out that his mother was good friends with Father Shields. Although he credits Father Shields in encouraging his vocation and the vocations of many, many others from his home parish and thereabouts, Father Agapito also remembers the housekeeper of Father Shields as being influential in his vocation, along with all the kind parishioners of St. Colman Church in Turtle Creek.

Father Agapito quoted some of the statistics that he read recently in an article on vocations. He stated that, according to the article, 40% of students in secular schools have a vocation. 50% of students in Catholic schools are thought to have a vocation. “What happens?” questioned Father Agapito. “The Knights of Columbus did a survey recently in which they discovered 75% of all young people have seriously thought about priesthood or religious life, but it has never been mentioned. They didn’t meet Father Shields...” Father suggested. “When I got my vocation, years ago, from Father Shields praying, right? It was a different age. We didn’t have the internet, right? Now, what do I have? Internet. So, when we recruit seminarians or sisters or lay people for parishes, it’s a different method... than in my day. In my day it was Father Shields talking to me. Today we use the internet. We use advertising. One of my favorite billboards is Lexington diocese in Kentucky, the billboard says, Would you like a white collar job?”

Going back to the vocation article, Father Agapito read about the myths surrounding vocations. “‘1st Myth: Priests and religious are super Christians. You have to be perfect to be a priest or a sister.’ I’ll have to tell ya’, that’s not true. Here I am, right? ‘Myth #2: Celibacy means a loveless, lonely, unhappy life.’ False. ‘Myth #3: A misunderstanding of the special nature of religious consecration is that religious life is impossible.’ False. Three myths right there. ‘Myth #4: The fear that they are losing their children, they’re losing freedom with their children and parents worried about vocations.’ False; another false myth. The point of all this is, there is no fear here, that’s right. To have a vocation to the married life, to the single life, to be a priest, a sister, to be in religious life, is a challenge. It has to be a challenge. It has to be challenged every day to be

one. So, it’s a wonderful challenge. And the last myth there, ‘Myth #5: Priestly and religious vocations are rare and exceptional.’ If that’s true, then how can I make a big list from one priest, right? John Patrick Shields?” Father Agapito asked after reading the last myth. “According to our author here,” Father continued, “our author here is Father Thomas Nelson, ‘God is not stingy. God is generous with God’s gifts and most generous with His choicest gifts. To consecrate one’s life to God as a priest or religious or otherwise, is one of God’s choicest gifts. So it seems to be in accord with God’s generosity, to grant a gift of a vocation to many people.’ Point #2 from Father Nelson: ‘The world is hungering for the Eucharist, but there are too few priests to consecrate that Bread of Life. There are priestless lands where brothers and sisters in Christ are crying for absolution. There are no consecrated hands there...’ No, our Lord is generous. That’s right, I’m here to tell you,” Father Agapito believes, “and most generous with His choicest gifts. ‘The call to consecrated life is not rare and exceptional, but common and ordinary. What is rare and exceptional is our generous response to God’s generous gifts.’ That’s right! Yep, that could be challenging; have to go to that grade school, have to go to that high school, have to go to that seminary and challenge him, have to go to that novice in the convent and challenge her. That’s what it’s all about. Their vocation is a gift. Where primarily does my vocation come from? It comes from Father Shields. Also, my parents; my parents taught me the importance of the collection basket every weekend. They taught me little lessons like that. They taught me the importance of consistent giving. They taught me the importance of being Catholic. If it wasn’t for my wonderful foster parents, I wouldn’t be standing here today; and my wonderful birth parents also. So, I’ve come from a faith-filled family. So, what is a vocation ultimately? It’s a mystery. We don’t know who Jesus is calling, but we know Jesus calls. Jesus calls every human being. Why? Because every human being is the greatest gift of God. Every baby born is the greatest gift of God. There is no higher creature of God than a human being. So, every human has a vocation, but there are specific vocations. There are, in the Catholic Church, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, vocations to be married, vocations to be single.

I want to thank the Serra Club so much. Without you, I wouldn’t be where I am, because, myself, to have been a religious for 25 years, I still need that encouragement. Maybe I don’t need the encouragement that I needed when I was a first year priest, but I still need that encourage-



While attending the the Henderson Serra Club’s Seminarian Christmas Gathering at St. Margaret’s Chapel on Dec. 27, 2011, Owensboro Serran, Sue O’ Bryan, spoke with Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero, an Owensboro Seminarian studying at St. Meinrad. Michael Charles is a native of Kenya. Larena Lawson Photo

ment. I still need that card from the Serra Club. Why? Because it reminds me of the important work that you do and I know that whatever you do for vocations, God will reward.”

In closing Fr. Agapito wanted to thank all those who taught him through the years, beginning with Father John Patrick Shields and including all his teachers in school who were priests and religious. “All those people make me what I am. I encourage you; please keep praying for priests, those of us in ministry. Pray for retired priests. Pray for priests who aren’t living, like Fr. Shields. Pray for your seminarians.” When Fr. Agapito joined the Frs. of Mercy in 1986, there were six in the world. Now there are 27. They continue to grow even when many thought they were dead. “I am a living example of the good that the Serra Club does. Fr. Serra was a magnificent priest. He travelled a lot in California. So from one magnificent Fr. Serra or one magnificent John Patrick Shields, comes a lot of good. I want to thank you so much. Thank you so much for listening. Pray, please, for the Frs. of Mercy. Pray for me, that we can be faithful to our vocation, because the work of Fr. Shields goes on. The prayer of Fr. Shields goes on. Vocations continue. Vocations are important. Vocations are a treasure to the Church...”

Thank you for listening and finally, it’s good to be in Owensboro and remember, every priest wears a Pittsburgh Pirate’s hat.”

Father John Agapito, C.P.M., from the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, Ky. thanking the Owensboro Serra Club Dec. 9, 2011. Larena Lawson Photo



New novice joins Benedictine community at Saint Meinrad

In a brief ceremony at the monastery entrance, Matthew Scheeser was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, on January 19. He now begins a year of monastic formation, including study of the Rule of St. Benedict and monastic history.

Novice Matthew, 34, is a native of Sandusky, OH. He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Sandusky and attended St. Mary Central Catholic High School there.

In 2000, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a voice concentration from the University of Dayton. He has a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from George Mason University.

He worked for nine years as a music director, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsburg, WV, and Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, VA. From 2006-2010, he was conductor and managing director for Choralis, a nonprofit chorus in Falls Church, VA.

As a novice, he will take a year off from formal studies and/or trades. The


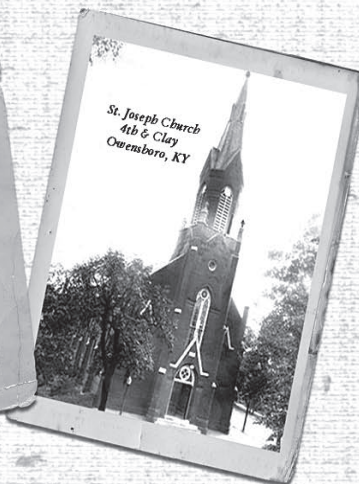


Novice Matthew Scheeser

novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad.



*Attention all Parish Members
and all former Students of
Sts. Joseph & Paul Grade School*

“Items Needed for Parish Museum”

When St. Joseph’s Church was demolished in 1989 and when St. Paul’s Church was refurbished, many religious articles were given away. The Church would sincerely appreciate the donation of these items to the church museum where they can be preserved and displayed for all to enjoy. *“Please”* return these items to the parish office, 609 E. 4th St., 683-5641.

***A class reunion for all former students
of Sts. Joseph & Paul Grade School
in being planned for Sunday, May 6, 2012.***

In planning this reunion, we are in search of as many group school and church photos as possible. ***“Class photos, First Communion Photos, Confirmation Photos, Graduation Photos”*** as well as *“any”* photos taken inside or outside the school or St. Joseph’s Church or St. Paul’s Church. Photos can be emailed to: *ANOTHER125YEARS@AOL.COM* or dropped off at the parish office, where they will be copied and returned.

***See “Sts Joseph and Paul Grade School” Facebook Page
God Bless You.***

A Child Learns To Know God’s Love ...

...When coming face to face with a moment of grace, and mystery, and faith, with some small glimpse of God’s miraculous healing power. He hears this prayer: *“Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*

In photo at left, during a Catholic Schools Week Mass in the Owensboro Sportscenter, a young Catholic School student received a blessing of his throat on the Feast of St. Blase (February 3) from OCHS students. OCHS photo by Harold Staples

Sister Michele Morek Takes Over UNANIMA leadership

By Dan Heckel, Mount Saint Joseph Staff

A funny thing happened on the way to Ursuline Sister Michele Morek taking over as the community's board representative with UNANIMA International – she ended up being hired as the group's coalition coordinator.

Since Dec. 14, Sister Michele has been learning the ropes of her new ministry in New York City, leading the nongovernmental organization of the United Nations that the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph helped found in 2001.

"I've spent a lot of time getting U.N. cards for people and getting UNANIMA community members registered for two U.N. commissions coming up soon -- the Commission on Economic Development and the Commission on the Status of Women," Sister Michele said via email on Jan. 10. She's also planning for her first UNANIMA board meeting in March.



Sister Michele Morek

Sister Suzanne Sims has agreed to serve another year as the Ursuline board representative.

UNANIMA advocates on behalf of women and children (particularly those living in poverty), immigrants and refugees, and the environment. The organization includes 17 congregations of sisters. On Oct. 1, Sister Michele attended her first UNANIMA board meeting, which was the last for Coordinator Sister Catherine Ferguson, who resigned because she was elected as congregational leader of her community, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, headquartered in Quebec, Canada.

During the reception following the meeting, Sister Michele was approached by several board members who encouraged her to seek the full-time position. Sister Michele worked with other religious NGOs while serving an internship with UNANIMA in the first quarter of 2011, dealing with global water resources and climate change.

The NGOs speak on the floor of the United Nations, and Sister Michele was offered a chance to speak during her internship before the Commission on the Status of Women concerning teaching science to girls. "When I got my U.N. pass, I felt like I'd been given the keys to the Emerald City of Oz," she said.

"Three things appealed to me about the job," Sister Michele said. "I loved working at the U.N., it felt like the center of the universe. You could have an effect in so many ways. I liked working with other religious NGOs, and I liked working with other religious communities. It was like my time with

(the Leadership Conference of Women Religious)."

Sister Michele interviewed for the position the weekend before Thanksgiving with the search committee. Sister Michele believes the skills that helped her secure the job include her desire to teach, to write, to speak and do research. "I like empowering people," she said. She has a long history of working on environmental issues, one of the emphases for UNANIMA.

Through their work with UNANIMA, the Ursuline Sisters led the effort to create a ban on human trafficking in Kentucky. Human trafficking was illegal at the federal level, but without state laws forbidding it, state and local officials who are much more likely to come in contact with trafficking victims were limited in how they could help. Former state Sen. David Boswell sponsored the anti-trafficking bill, and former Gov. Ernie Fletcher signed the bill into law on March 26, 2007.

Sister Michele's job will consist of being at the United Nations to keep up with the various commissions and committees that work on topics of interest to UNANIMA, mainly poverty, women and children and the environment. "You go to a lot of meetings and strategize ways to shape public opinion," she said. It's an opportunity to look for potential allies in their causes, she said.

Sister Michele will celebrate her 50th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister later this year. Her apartment in New York City overlooks the Empire State Building.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 3 Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 4-5 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 11 Yarn Spinners Day**
- 11 Vocation Ministry: Ursuline Sisters, Associates, Friends
- 17-19 Men's Retreat with Msgr. Bernard Powers**
- 24-26 Lenten Retreat for Women
- 26 Lourdes Environmental Day
- 26-29 MSJ Quilter Friends

March

- 2 Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 2-3 TLC Youth
- 4 Precious Blood RCIA
- 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)**

May

- 3 Reitz Memorial Seniors
- 4 Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 5 Yarn Spinners Day**
- 8 CMS Prayer Day
- 19-20 MSJ Alumnae Weekend



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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



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

A Young Person Knows God's Love ...



...When Receiving The Holy Spirit ... Bishop William Medley assisted by Fr. Pat Reynolds and Fr. Ryan Harpole lays hands on Trevor Bunte during Confirmation at St. Thomas More, November 6, 2011. Submitted by Missy Eckenberg.

St. John Knights of Columbus Hosts Senior Meal

By Gwen Taylor

The Saint John the Evangelist Knights of Columbus takes time each year during Advent to honor the senior members of the St. John Community. A table is adopted by a group of people who volunteer to decorate the table to enhance the dining experience. Appetizers and a wine tasting kick off the event, with all wine made from within the St. John community! An outstanding team of cooks prepare roast beef, potatoes, corn, rolls, and dessert, which are served to each person in attendance.

An emcee hosts the event and often tells jokes to keep the crowd entertained. (Some are better than others!) Father Tom leads the group in prayer and music

is provided by one of our own, The Neihoff Brothers.

This event is important to the Knights of Columbus and their families and friends, primarily because we all know that these seniors have handed down the Faith as we know it. They are who have shaped our community and have grown our parish and us into who we are in the world today. Their hard work and dedication throughout the years have exemplified what being part of a community is all about. We don't recognize them enough, but December is one month that the St. John Knights take to go all out and show our senior community how very special they are, and I must say that the KC's do this very well!



In McCracken County, Ky. - St. John Family Life Committee hosted the first ever Advent Wreath Making party at St. John on Sunday, November 27, 2011. Families enjoyed building their own unique style of Advent Wreaths and involving the younger family members in the process.

At left is Katie and Bill Clark building a wreath.

In picture below, Angie & Charlie West, with Father Tom Buckman in front of an Advent wreath. Submitted by Gwen Taylor

Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

Gloria Hayden Adams
Blessed Sacrament Chapel
2003 Sophia Award Winner

Recently I had the opportunity to visit with Gloria Adams at her home in Hancock County. Over tasty pumpkin bread and coffee, we discussed lots of things going on in the world today, and of course, I asked her to tell me about herself.

"My family always lived in Owensboro and we were taught by Charity Sisters at Blessed Sacrament School. The school isn't there now, but I went from K through 12 there. I had 13 siblings and my number in line is ten. Dad always said that I was born an old lady because I listened and reasoned things out. When everyone else was outdoors playing ball or whatever, I was very content to be inside. I'm still an indoors person and my husband is an outdoors person. Opposites really do attract!"

"My dad had a little café in our neighborhood and that's where I met Frank, my husband. He would come in and kinda hang around until he finally asked me out. I remember we went to church on our first date. Frank often says, "every date was going to church." We went to church a lot when were dating. Frank and I will be married 47 years in April. He was in the Navy when we got married and had about 12 more years to go, so we moved around



Gloria Hayden Adams. G K-S Photo

some.

"When we lived in Pittsburgh, California, it was a hard time for me. I was use to having family all around me. My siblings, parents, aunts, and uncles all were close around. But here I was in California and I felt alone. I had always wanted five children, but God had other plans for us. We were able to adopt our son when he was 6 weeks old. It was very hard for me raising an only child away from extended family. At that time I was a volunteer teaching Religious Education three times per week because there were three schools

involved. I was having more hard times and an elderly nun who was also teaching there at the same time pointed out to me that I was only seeing God in the sun and not the rain. I was seeing only the good as God's plan. She told me that God was also in the rain and that He was allowing this to happen for a reason. I realized that God is in this mess with me and He'll help me get through it," Gloria told me. "He is still with me in everything I do."

"When we moved back to Kentucky, we lived in Owensboro for a short time. Then Frank found this place (in Hancock County) and we moved here. I've always been involved in parish life and volunteered to teach religion. I was Religion Coordinator for Immaculate Conception parish in Hawesville and for St. Columba in Lewisport for about 5 years. I then went to Blessed Sacrament and I worked there for about 10 years. Frank and I still go to Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro and I lector and help out where I can."

"I don't know if I would retire again," Gloria said with a smile. "My retirement was a compromise with Frank. I



like to stay busy, so I do crafts, and I'm doing an online Bible study on my own. Frank bought a camper, but I don't like to camp and won't drive it. He also bought two scooters and I just knew I couldn't ride it. You can only do what you know you can do!

We talked about some things Gloria would like to see happen in church or through church. "I think a mother-daughter conference would be a great thing to have. A conference on chastity, self respect and decency would good as well. In the way young people dress to go to Mass, it seems modesty is no longer taught. It's true God loves us no matter how we dress, but shouldn't we show Him that we love Him by the way we dress when we come to honor Him?"

Gloria says her greatest blessing in life is her family. "I had the best parents. They were always supportive of me and taught me through example. My sisters and brother, my husband, my son and my grandchildren are all blessings. I have been blessed, blessed, blessed and blessed!"



Diocesan Hispanic Ministries Director Luis Aju, at left back, Martha Hagan, Co-Director of Office of Liturgy, and Kevin Kauffeld, Diocesan Chancellor, welcomed the people to celebrate Posadas in the Catholic Pastoral Center on Dec. 22, 2011. Mel Howard photo

Special to the Western Kentucky Catholic

OWENSBORO, Ky. - At about 7:15 p.m., people started showing up on the front steps of the Catholic Pastoral Center here, looking for shelter for the night.

None were homeless or street people, but they came, some in a bus from Saints Joseph and Paul Parish, in the name of a little family making a trip more than 2,000 years ago, a journey to register in their hometown as required by the Roman officials. The Lady was about to give birth to the Savior of the world, and her chaste spouse Joseph was trying to find a place for them to get in out of the weather for the night.

A young boy and a young girl dressed as Joseph and Mary stood with about 40 people from Saints and Joseph Parish asking permission from diocesan officials who work at the Catholic Pastoral Center to enter and celebrate the Posadas, a nine-day spiritual journey, a tradition among Hispanic Catholics. In the native villages, members of a parish travel to the homes of other parishioners on each of the nine evenings to sing the songs of the Posadas, re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born, and then to share a meal with one another.

On this night of Dec. 22, 2011, Hispanic Catholics came to the offices of the Diocese of Owensboro to share a cultural prayer and meal and to enjoy a time to learn from each other.

Church leaders in the state of Kentucky are increasingly more involved with inviting all Catholics to share culture, custom, and tradition with the larger Catholic community.

In *The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) WITNESS, Fall 2011*, Deacon Frank Villalobos, Director of Hispanic Ministry in the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry, explained the reason, "Let's face it, our neighborhoods, churches, towns and cities are changing. Twenty, thirty or forty years ago, most ethnic groups lived among themselves; they isolated themselves from the English speaking community.

"We had neighborhoods where Italian, Polish, German, Irish, African American and Hispanic people lived among their own

people. Today we can go into any neighborhood in our town or city and find people from Europe living next to people from Asia on their left and people from Latin America on their right. We have African Americans living next to Irish Americans, and there are German Americans living next to Cuban Americans, all forming a beautiful mosaic of people. They share their lives with one another and, whether they realize it or not, they are contributing to a unique, new culture, an American Culture."

Elaine Robertson, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation, invited the Owensboro Diocesan Staff on Dec. 22, 2011: "We will be celebrating Las Posadas this evening with the Hispanic community (in the Catholic Pastoral Center). The festivities begin at 7:30 right outside the chapel. This is a Hispanic tradition that reminds us of how Mary and Joseph sought a place to stay at the birth of Jesus and continue to seek a place in our hearts. Please join us to welcome the Holy Family. There will be refreshments, music, prayer, and a great opportunity to meet many people."

In the same CCK WITNESS article, Deacon Frank Villalobos, wrote about the "... opportunities to share our cultures and learn from each other. Many take advantage of the chance by joining in the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th and attending the Mañanitas at 5:30 a.m., a serenade to Our Lady who appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian on his way to Mass. Eventually, because of this event, Pope

Pius XII would declare that Mary is Empress of all the Americas. So important is this feast that standing room only is normal for attendance at the evening Mass celebrations to which all are invited.

"... the Posadas during the Christmas Season is a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem and looking for an inn. They encounter many who will not open their doors. Finally, they find a place that lets them in and together they join in prayer and song following a traditional meal of tamales or mole.

"Sharing our cultures and experiencing the culture of our new home is the process of enculturation. By living in our new adopted home, we learn the culture, we learn the language, and we begin to live in our new community instead of living in isolation. Let us work together to build a mosaic filled with different faces, shapes and most importantly colors."

Chris Gutierrez who directs Hispanic Ministry for Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, reflected on the Posadas: "It's all about the most important journey and about our openness to that final destination. It's about faith. It's about Mary and Joseph's journey as well as our own journey in this life on our way to God. The "Posadas" which we recently celebrated this past December for nine straight nights reminds us of that most important journey, which is to Heaven.

"Immigrants, especially recent undocumented immigrants, know all about extremely difficult journeys. I'm talking about the kind of journey that is about leaving behind parents, children, wives, husbands, brothers and sisters, literally, indefinitely and with no assurances of

Continued on page 23



Fr. Carmelo offered the blessing before the meal Dec. 22, 2011 in the basement of the Catholic Pastoral Center. Mel Howard Photo

Posadas Offers Hints ...*(Continued from page 22)*

Chris Gutierrez, at left, announced the beginning of the seventh day of Sts. Joseph and Paul parish's celebration of the Posadas on Dec. 22 at the front door of the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro. Diocesan Hispanic Ministries Office Director, center, took his place at the innkeeper for the CPC. And welcomed the group on behalf of Bishop Medley who was unable to join them. Mel Howard photo

A Posadas Reflection: Open Hearts To Jesus**By Mel Howard**

The celebration of the Posadas (lodging), a historical Advent-Christmas Celebration from Mexico, during the nine days before Christmas is both a prayerful giving of thanks for shelter for homeless people and also an eye-opening reflection on one's personal sense of giving hospitality.

Diocesan Hispanic Ministries Director Luis Aju had been showing me his pictures of the largely Latino celebration from earlier years, and he spoke of it as a time to be with family and friends to reenact the journey Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. I first thought of it as a living manger scene like you see on roadsides at Christmas time.

As we know the story, Joseph and Mary arrived in town late one night. Mary was most likely already in labor, and Joseph was looking for a shelter for her and the birth of their baby. He must have been frantic as he went from place to place and heard that there was no room in this inn, no room in this house. Please use other door. Get out of town.

On the night of Dec. 22 in Owensboro, parishioners from Saints Joseph and Paul parish on Fourth Street traveled across town to the Locust Street Catholic Pastoral Center (CPC) to celebrate the seventh day of their parish's Posadas. At 7:30 p.m., two young Catholics portraying Joseph and Mary knocked on the Pastoral Center's locked front door; about three dozen people were behind them, also outside looking in, seeking shelter. Inside were members of the diocesan staff and some other visitors keeping guard on the place.

Young Joseph knocked on the door; the inn keeper, portrayed by Luis Aju, asked what he wanted. Then the songs of the Posadas story started, accompanied on guitar outside by Connie Caceres, and inside, also on guitar, by Sister Fran Wilhelm, O.S.U. Song leader Chris Gutierrez sang the intonations outside, and the group standing inside the front door replied, telling Joseph and Mary to get out of town or there'd be trouble. Chris kept singing; Joseph kept knocking on the closed door; the songs kept up for about ten minutes.

being able to see any of them ever again. I'm talking about the kind of not knowing for sure whether they will make it across into the U.S. alive or if they will die in the attempt.

"The same was true for Joseph and Mary who weren't sure where Jesus was to be born, nor whether they would be welcomed, or if they would survive; still, they left. It's also about being open because just as Joseph and Mary were open to the challenge of their Son's survival, the same can be said about so many immigrants in our midst. They desire survival not only for themselves but for their children. The story of Joseph and Mary forced to flee from their home to Egypt resonates deeply with so many in our parishes.

"The Posadas are also about being open and hospitable because it seems like that's what Jesus desires: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." Mt 25.

My own father was undocumented when I was born. He was and is



A girl straightens a table decoration as her father sings a carol Dec. 22 during the Posadas. Mel Howard photo

a great man. I have never been able to see the "evil" that the media portrays nor the so called "alien" aspect in him or in any of the other Immigrants with whom

Continued on page 26

Finally, the inn keepers opened the door. The people came in, went downstairs to the basement meeting room, formed a big circle, and kept on singing. Then Chris Gutierrez spoke alternately in English and Spanish to the people, and Luis Aju spoke also.

Luis Aju, a diocesan employee who works inside the Pastoral center, welcomed the people in the name of the diocese, telling them that this building was their home, staffed with people who served the Catholic Church in Western Kentucky and who are here to help, to serve all of the people of Western Kentucky in some capacity. "This place of work and of service is your home," Luis said, "You are welcome here in your home."

And then we all had a great meal that couldn't be beaten. It was, in the popular Western Kentucky article reporting parlay an evening when "A Good Time Was Had By All." Children played, youth hung out playing video games, talking. The adults served the meal, attended to the feeding of the nearly 75 people, sang carols, wished each other "Feliz Navidad, Prospero Año y Felicidad.; I wish you a Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart." Then we went home.

But, now go back to that front door a minute. What happened there? Joseph and Mary came to a locked house. Jesus was with them (God With Us). The Holy Family tried very hard to find shelter, lodging for their Jesus to be born into our world, for God to become one of us. The Incarnation! What did we people do? Stood in our locked house and wondered about it.

A few days later, I was reading the *Houston Catholic Worker*, Nov.-Dec, 2011 edition, and on page 3, Mark and Louise Zwick had written in "Revolution of Advent," these few sentences that opened my eyes to see again that CPC front door scene like lightning, like a small epiphany: "Jesus cannot come to a locked house. Locked up truths go nowhere."

I would not have read those words twice if I had not been there at CPC. Dec. 22, inside the locked door, wondering what for the world was happening.

And I saw us all there, both those outside a locked house knocking for admission, and those inside holding fast to locked-door security. I think I have a small glimpse of why Catholics celebrate the Posadas. All are meant to look for and to find room in our hearts for God.



In the picture at left, St. Thomas More, Paducah, was overflowing with worshippers for the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. The choir, lead by Jim Hess, Director of Music and Liturgy filled the church with sacred music for this most holy occasion.

Above, the St. Thomas More choir led by Jim Hess, Music and Liturgy Director



At right, Connie Leone cantors under the Christmas star. Submitted by Missy Eckenberg

IMMACULATE
PARISH
2012
LENTEN
SERIES

RETURN
OF THE
PRODIGAL
SON



TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 13, AND 20
6:00PM

IMMACULATE PARISH FAMILY CENTER
2516 CHRISTIE PLACE

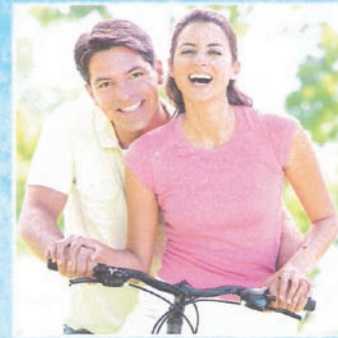
CHILDCARE PROVIDED REFRESHMENTS SERVED AFTER THE PROGRAM

MARCH 6	THE YOUNGER SON	FR. LARRY HOSTETTER
MARCH 13	THE ELDER SON	SR. CHERYL CLEMONS
MARCH 20	THE FATHER	JOAN PERRY
MARCH 27	LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE	

BASED ON LUKE 15: 11-32 AND
THE BOOK BY HENRI NOUWEN
THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE BOOKSTORE

THE
MARRIAGE
YOU'VE
ALWAYS WANTED



A day long conference dedicated to laughter and love to help you build the love relationship of your dreams

SCHEDULE AND
TOPICS

9 am
Communication 101

10:10–10:30 am Break

10:30–11:30 am
Understanding and Expressing Love

11:30 am–12:30 pm
Lunch

12:30–1:30 pm
Initiating Positive Charge

1:30–1:45 pm Break

1:45–2:45 pm
Making Sex a Mutual Joy

2:45–3:30 pm
How To Share The Things That Bug You

3:30 pm
Conference Concludes

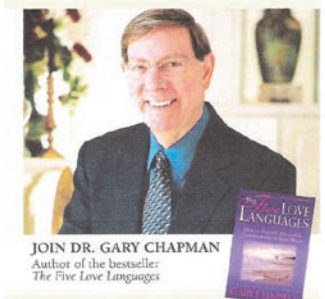
HOSTED BY ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Paducah Convention & Expo Center
415 Park Street
Paducah, KY 42001

9:00 am–3:30 pm

\$35 per person



JOIN DR. GARY CHAPMAN
Author of the bestseller:
The Five Love Languages

Call 270-623-8181 to purchase tickets or
mail a check to St. Jerome Church, PO Box 38, Fancy Farm, KY 42039
and we will mail your tickets.

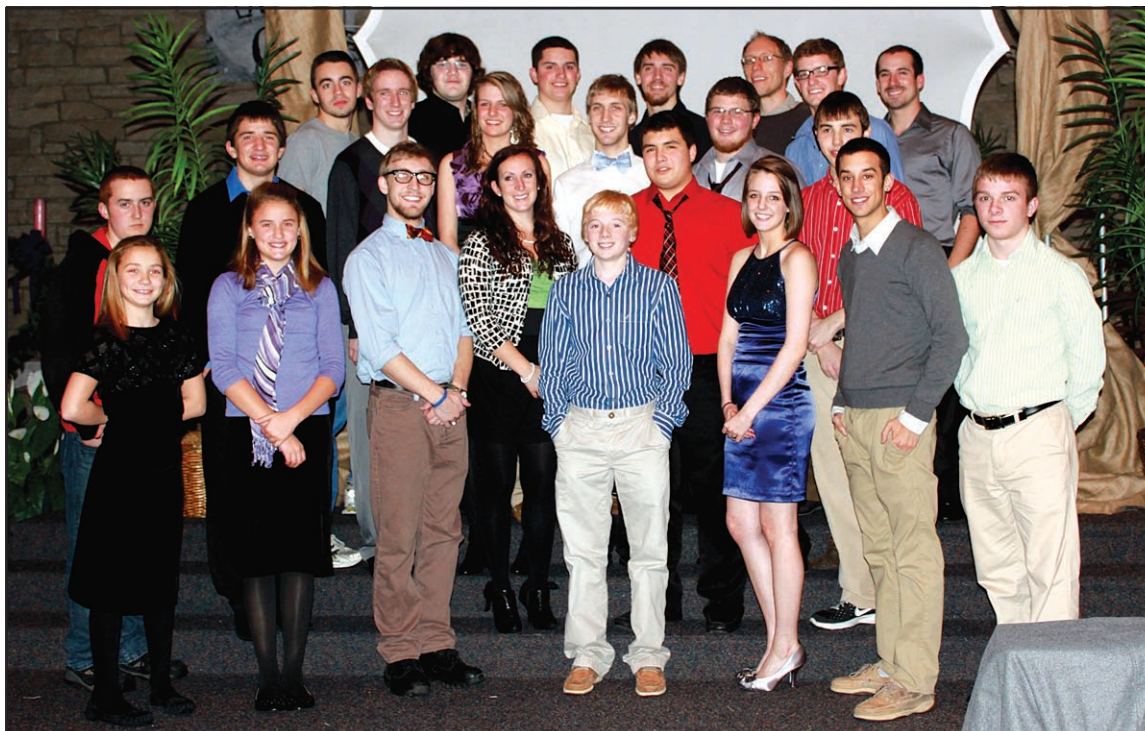


*“Gather round ye children come...
listen to the old, old story.
'Bout the power of death undone
By and infant born of Glory.
Son of God. Son of man.”*

For the past couple years, Our Lady of Lourdes has been focusing on events and activities that involve the whole family. Things like more adult faith formation opportunities and family movie nights have really been gaining support. So when several people mentioned the idea of having a Christmas program, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to bring the parish family together again.

The piece that was chosen was Andrew Peterson’s Christmas album “Behold the Lamb of God” which the youth of Our Lady of Lourdes performed on Dec 21st and 22nd. The evening started with traditional Christmas carols sung by our children’s choir, directed by Heather Hayden. After a short intermission, the youth and young adult choir took their places to perform “Behold the Lamb of God” in its entirety.

“Behold the Lamb of God” is the true tall tale of the coming of Christ. It’s an album that tells the story of the birth of Christ through songs that are completely based on scripture. Each song tells a different piece of the story, from Old Testament prophecies and the genealogy of Jesus to the census and journey to Bethlehem, ending with the angels and shepherds singing “hallelujah” at the birth. Some are humorous, some are intimate, and some are re-workings of traditional songs.



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish’s Christmas Youth and Young Adult Choir, pictured L-R, back row: Ryan Boone, Dillon Schueler, Alex Priar, Logan Haire, Danny May, Ryne Wilson, Ryan Hayden; middle row: Drew Harvey, Trenton Ackerman, Rebecca Gross, Logan Reynolds, Grant Tichenor, Michael Bowlds; front: Joe Ceballos, Spencer Harvey, Lily Harvey, Mason Reynolds, Lauren Hayden, Matthew Tichenor, Amanda Gross, Blake Hayden, John Thomas Priar. Not pictured: Brandon Barnard, Tyler Gaddey, Preston Middleton.

In the picture at left, Our Lady of Lourdes pastor Father Brad Whistle, seated in a chair in front of the altar, with children of the parish around the front railing, gave homily during the Christmas Eve Mass. Photos and text submitted by Danny May

Between the children’s choir, youth choir, band, and the people who worked on the sets and ran “Powerpoint,” there were nearly fifty young parishioners involved in the production. From comments made at the reception, each night and on Facebook in the following days, people seemed to really enjoy it. Some people enjoyed it so much they came both nights.

One parishioner wrote on Facebook that night: “Just got home from the Lourdes production of “Behold the Lamb”... absolutely phe-

nomenal!!”

Another said: “Last night’s performance was amazing!!! Thank you all for all your hard work to put this on.... it was truly AMAZING! I hope you make something like this a yearly event!”

We’ve already begun planning for a repeat performance next year. Look for more information in the November (2012) *Western Kentucky Catholic*. For more info on “Behold the Lamb of God or Andrew Peterson, check out www.andrew-peterson.com

RCIA Retreat - “Choosing the Path of Christian Commitment”

The Worship Office of the Diocese of Owensboro is making available a retreat experience for candidates, catechumens, sponsors, RCIA team members and parishioners involved in the ministry of Christian Initiation. The retreat is designed to be presented at the local parish. The theme is a reflection on the Rites of Christian Initiation and celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.

When: the retreat can be scheduled anytime before Holy Week 2012

Where: The retreat is designed to be presented at the local parish or site designated by the parish.

Time: The length of the retreat is flexible. It may be anywhere from 90 minutes to five hours.

Who: The retreat is presented by the Dominican Faithweavers, Sister Geri Hoye, OP and Sister Georgia Acker, OP. Please contact them to schedule the retreat: 270-904-3464 (home); 270-293-4197 (cell) dompath@hotmail.com

Cost: A donation to the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters would be greatly appreciated.

Posadas Offers Hints ...

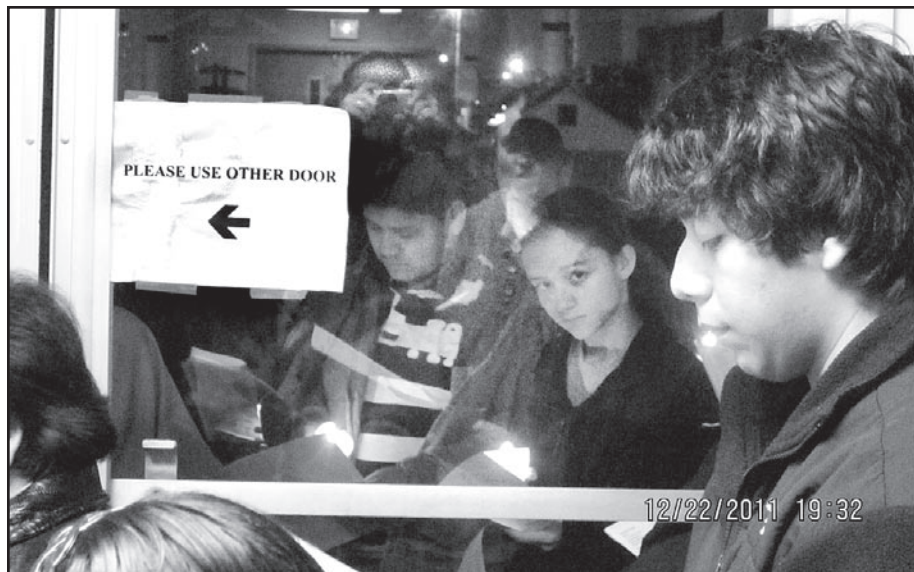
(Continued from page 23)

I've shared pretty much my whole life. Once again, throughout the nine days of Posadas held around Daviess County this past December, I was honored to hear the many stories and about the different journeys of individuals and families.

"My hope continues to be that many other Catholics will desire to deepen their

understanding of the mystery of Mary and Joseph's journey as well that of Immigrants and the dire need for Immigration Reform in our Country. Thank You!"

Editor's Note: Luis Aju, Elaine Robertson, Sts Joseph and Paul Parish, and Chris Gutierrez contributed to this article.



Mary Enters Catholic Pastoral Center

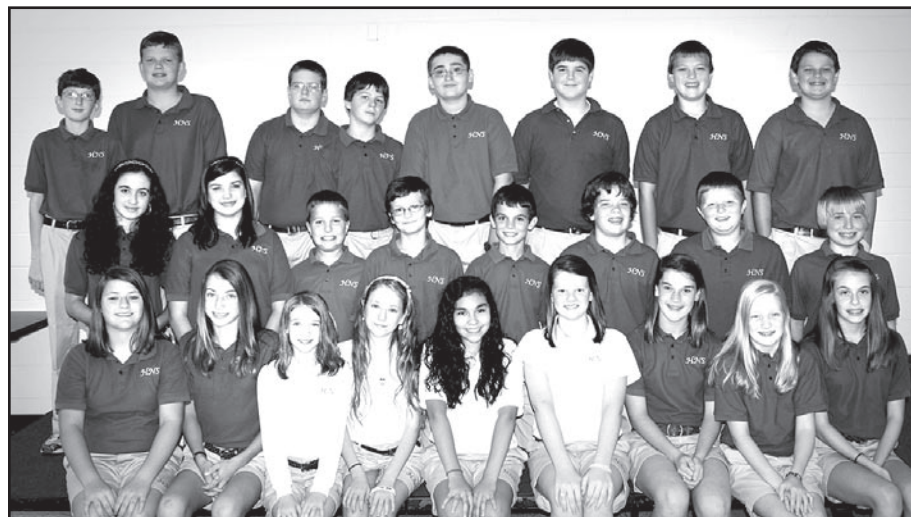
Above, Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish pilgrims wait to gain entry into the Catholic Pastoral Center for celebrating the Posadas Dec. 22. Below, Hispanic Ministries Director Luis Aju welcomes Mary and other pilgrims into the CPC. Mel Howard photos



Much of the singing and speaking at the Dec. 22 Posadas in the Catholic Pastoral Center was in Spanish, providing a truly multi-cultural experience. Members of the Owensboro Catholic High School Spanish Class who came to Posadas were from left, Megan Tighe, Ginger Robinson, Spanish teacher, Chase Carrico, Kevin Thompson, Michael Goedde. Also pictured at left is an unidentified lady, Kathleen Thompson, and at right is Diocesan Co-Director of Liturgy Martha Hagan. Mel Howard Photo

2011-2012 TIP Qualifiers (7th Graders) from Holy Name School

HENDERSON, Ky. - Twenty five Holy Name School seventh graders have qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) by scoring at or above the 95th National Percentile on specific subtests of their ITBS tests. Through the TIP program, these students are offered the opportunity to take the SAT or the ACT as seventh graders. In addition, they receive educational journals, academic camp guides, and recognition for their outstanding performance.



Front row, l to r: Ashlee Wilson, Liv Thomas, Rachel Payne, Lilly Wilson, Maria Gonzalez, Sidney Cain, Caroline Newland, Katelin Maggard, Shelbi Mulcahy; Middle row, l to r: Kristen Schreiner, Hadlie Comer, Chris Galbraith, Will Hardy, Conner Sauer,

Judd McElroy, Cameron Hagan, Samuel Ricketts; Back row, l to r: Ian McGowan, Jackson Jennings, Sam Gibson, Forrest Morton, Michael Jones, Tyler Holliday, Logan Douglas, Max Maloney. Submitted by Connie McFarland, HNS Guidance Counselor

Children Learn How God Loves Us ...



...When they worship God at Catholic weekend liturgies. Majella and Owens Mills' grandchildren like to be in the same pew with their grandparents and great-grandfather Jordan Evans at St. Mary of the Woods Church, Whitesville. Photo by Mel Howard

Join us on our next Spinning Day! Saturday, Feb. 11

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: March 9-11 weekend retreat and May 5, Aug. 11, Nov. 10.**

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-0200
www.msjcenter.org

February, 2012 27

Join us for 2012 Reflection Days

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



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

\$15 fee
includes lunch

First Friday of each month*

There will be group prayer, quiet time, lunch, faith sharing, and a different presentation each month.

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?**



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

*except July

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

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, romance, loyalty, separation, risk, disappointment, 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.msjcenter.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

28 February, 2012

St Pius Tenth, Calvert City, Imitates Mary Waiting During 2011 Christmas Vigil

Church tradition and scripture tells us that Mary accepted God's will in all things for her life, including where and when her Baby Jesus would be born. On the eve of Jesus' birth, the whole Christian world waits in silence and then in

song and liturgy for the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago.

The people and the church building during the 2011 Christmas Vigil in St. Pius Tenth Church, Calvert City, were like Mary, "Waiting in Silence," for the arrival of the Christmas Choir to sing praises of the coming of our Lord.



The St. Pius X, Calvert City, Brass Choir, performed a pre-Vigil Mass music for arriving parishioners. (Left to right: Elizabeth Padgett, Adam Padgett, and Adam Padgett). Photos taken by Betty Derry and submitted by Rich Derry.



Danny Padgett, and his son Adam, performs "O Holy Night", during the communion procession.



Healthy Body and Mind, Healthy Spirit

Fourth Grade students at the OCS Elementary 4-6 Campus enjoy "Conductor-cize" with the Owensboro Health Park personnel. In the picture Avery Nalley and Natalie Goodwin enjoy some fun during the program. OCS Photo



The St. Pius X, Christmas Vigil Choir performs at Mass. (Back row: Helen Bennett, Russell Tomlinson) (Front row: Megan Salyer, Rose Drury, Lisa Adrian, and Robert Burgess) (On Trumpet: Danny Padgett. On Organ: Rich Derry).



A Day For Reflection At The Mount

Participants from several parishes throughout the Owensboro diocese gathered at Mount St. Joseph for a monthly Reflection Day. Facilitator and Spiritual Director Sr. Ann McGrew scheduled time for reading, prayer, reflection, lunch, and sharing. The topic for January 6th was Women in Genesis. Held every First Friday of the month, the program is open to men and women. Class time is 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The \$15.00 registration fee includes a hot lunch. Before class, the group of twelve enjoyed a coffee chat in the rocking chair room. Pictured here seated at left is Sr. Ann with five Cathedral parish friends: Marianna Robinson, Ann Pierce, Brenda Kelley, Mary Helen Nash, and Roberta Berry. Submitted Photo

St Joseph School, Bowling Green, Collects \$500 For Tanzanian School

February, 2012 29

Betty Anne Watt's 4th Grade Class at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, KY has become pen pals with students from in Tanzania, Africa. Visiting seminarian, Michael Charles, came to the classroom and talked to the students about schools in Africa. He conveyed to the students that the schools in Africa are lacking basic supplies, and are not up to American standards. After hearing about the needs of the schools, Ms. Watt talked with Principal Jan Lange about starting the Africa Project. Mrs. Lange was very supportive of the idea and offered assistance.

When Seminarian Michael Charles was about to return to his home in Kenya, Africa over the summer before the 2011 school year, Ms. Watt asked him to find a school for her class to adopt and possibly help. Upon his return from Africa, Seminarian Michael told Ms. Watt that he had found a school in Tanzania, Africa that had very dedicated teachers, who do their best to teach their students with few basic school supplies.

Ms. Watt was able to contact Teacher Alli from the school via email. After corresponding for several days, the two teachers decided that writing through email would be best. Teacher Alli sent the names of the 26 students who were in Grades 3 and 4, and the emails among the students began.

At first, the emails were full of questions, each student wanting to learn



Above, Lauren Richardson, with her classmates, is holding the candy jar used by Betty Anne Watt's 4th Grade Class at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green to collect \$500 for a school in Tanzania. In the class picture at right, from left to right, back row: Mary Grace Simpson, Janie Alford, Erin Nerland, Becca Durbin, Ian Obeso, Anne

about life in the different countries. After students began learning about each other, the emails became more personal. Students from each country wanted to learn more about each other, their likes and dislikes, family life, and each child shared information about themselves. For Ms. Watt's students, it has been an eye opening experience!

Students at the school in Tanzania shared information about their lives, explaining how they much they missed their families, or that they were orphans, having no families. They shared the daily dangers they encountered from the wild animals, or during the monsoon season. But mostly



Lawless, Yuji Ogawa, Sam Martter, Ivan Dobocky; front row: Lauren Richardson, Anna Regnier, Haley McGee, Carson Kelley, Charlie Key, Dennys Morales. St Joseph School Photos

the emails were about learning about culture, life at the school, and differences in our countries, including government, language, and physical features. Students from St. Joseph School and Tanzania had become little ambassadors for their individual countries!

Ms. Watt's students have become very interested in learning Swahili, the language of their pen pals. They have researched words and phrases, and have been able to use a little Swahili in their emails. Ms. Watt had a Swahili Language instructor from Western Kentucky University, who comes from Kenya, speak to the students about the country and helped students learn how

to pronounce the words they were writing and reading.

Ms. Watt and her class of 4th Graders are so very grateful for this wonderful opportunity. From the beginning, students started bringing in donations for the school. Students donated their own money, earned from allowances, chores, or birthdays

The class knew the school in Africa needed help but weren't sure how to give it. They began fundraising with the support of St. Joseph's Principal, Mrs. Jan Lange. They had a candy guess jar during Halloween, and with the help of students and parents of the school, they raised over \$250 for the school. Student Council donated over \$100, earned from the school's Talent Show. The class placed donation boxes in each of the classrooms and raised over \$100.

Before Christmas, \$500 was sent to Teacher Alli to be used for the school. He was able to purchase two large desks, 26 Science textbooks, a used computer, shoes and clothes for the students, Teacher Alli wrote that Ms. Watt and her class had made a great difference in the lives of the children, both at the school and at home.

Ms. Watt is very proud of her students. Through this project, students have become more aware of how blessed they are to live in the United States! They have embraced this project whole-heartedly. Ms. Watt and her class feel very blessed for this opportunity. They ask for your prayers for the teachers and children of Tanzania, and for the continuing success of fund-raising projects.

Young Catholics Know The Love of God ...



... When circling in prayer before boarding a bus to witness for the babies during the March For Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20 at OCHS. Inset photo, pilgrimage leaders Mr. David Ralph, right, and Fr Steve Hohman led prayer before boarding the bus. Photos by Mel Howard

Whenever Christians come together in the name of Christ, he himself is present in their midst. Often those gathered for the event offer prayers in praise of Christ and in petition for the divine help needed to achieve the purpose of the event. - USCCB.org.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion



The Diocese of Owensboro is inviting our catechumens and candidates to come together to celebrate one rite in 2012. The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green on Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception following in the parish hall.

At left, signing the Book of the Elect during the Rite of Election.

Back Alley Musicals

presents



Debbie Reynolds
Reverend Mother



Tara Estes
Sister Amnesia



Gaynelle Austin
Sister Luke



Mary Reed-Midkiff
Sister Robert Ann



McKena Tichenor
Sister Leo



The Mega-Musical Version

Director Todd Reynolds
Musical Conductor David Roberson
Artistic Director Ron Waite
Words and Music by Dan Goggin Licensed by Samuel French, Inc. New York, NY

All the fun of the original Nunsense has been super-sized! This hilarious musical comedy of mayhem among the Little Sisters of Hoboken is bigger and better than ever!

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

Sat., Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 26 at 2 p.m.

Fri., March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Sun., March 4 at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door
extra charge for dinner theatre meal

presented at
Pangea Theatre
1320 Carter Road



Jamie Payne
Sister Julia, Child of God



Susan Dant
Sister Hubert



Ronda Rodgers
Sister Wilhelm



Alyssa Goodwin
Sister Brendan



Anne Welsh
Sister Mary Virgil

Tickets on sale Feb. 1 — call (270) 925-4963

www.backallemusicals.com

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)

The
deadline
to register is
Aug. 15, 2012



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Students Inspire, Entertain During Christmas Program

February, 2012 31

By: Dawn C. Ligibel

The students at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville worked hard to prepare for their annual Christmas concert, and it showed. Under the direction of their music teacher, Rich Barnett and his wife, Luci Hughes, who is also a kindergarten aide at the school, the students performed nineteen songs, nearly all including solos, duets, or quartets, with some including props. This is Barnett's and Hughes' first year at the school.

At the beginning of the program, Barnett addressed the audience, who filled nearly every space in the pews of the church. While pouring water back and forth from one vase to another, Barnett warned the audience to keep water on their minds throughout the performance. Selections in the program included songs about Jonah, Moses, Noah and others.

Barnett concluded his introduction with a promise. "We will start at 6:30 and we'll be out of here by 7:30. I promise."

With a high amount of energy, the more than 150 students, from preschool through eighth grade, performed the songs from memory, sometimes using hand gestures. Some of the songs were quiet and soulful while others were loud and energetic.

At one point in the production, Joshua Groves, a second grade student playing the role of Joseph, slowly processed up the center aisle of the church holding a five-month-old child, Anelise Wagner, who was representing the Christ child. When reaching the front of the church, Joshua quickly swapped the baby for a doll which was used for the remainder of the concert.

After the performance, many people made comments to the mother of the baby, Carla Wagner, about how brave she was to allow her child to be carried into the church by a young student. "Everyone keeps saying how brave I was, but it really wasn't a big deal to me," Wagner said. All went well as Joshua carried the baby, up until the very end when Anelise began to cry. At that point, Joshua quickened his steps to hand over the child as quickly as he could.

During the songs about the nativity, young students portrayed the Virgin Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Preschool and kindergarten children were dressed as angels, wise men and farm animals. Need-



Kindergarten student, Lucy Wilkins, who portrayed the Virgin Mary during the Sts. Peter and Paul School's Christmas concert held on December 20, 2011, was surrounded by classmates posing as angels and stable animals. More than 150 students performed nineteen songs, three of which included dances choreographed by Luci Hughes, kindergarten aide and wife of music teacher Rich Barnett. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

less to say, many proud parents and grandparents were furiously snapping pictures during the performance.

After the sixteenth song, during which the children wished everyone a merry Christmas, the crowd stilled for the "special performance" promised on the concert program. With all the students' eyes focused on Hughes, who had positioned herself at the end of the center aisle of the church, all of the students broke into a flash mob.

Choosing three songs from the movie "Polar Express," Hughes choreographed the dance numbers and led the students by facing the back wall of the church. This enabled the students to see Hughes and mimic her movements. The audience was absolutely enthralled with this performance and it concluded the somewhat traditional concert in a high energy, captivating way.

"I was very pleased with our first year's efforts," commented Barnett. "We expanded the concert to include stories of our salvation history in addition to singing about the nativity. That's why we had a whale and the ark. It was a lot of fun," he concluded.

In addition to having fun, Barnett also kept his promise. The concert ended at 7:20 p.m.



Joshua Groves, a second grade student at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville, slowly processed down the center aisle in church with Anelise Wagner, a five-month-old baby, during the school's annual Christmas concert. Anelise briefly portrayed the infant Jesus before being handed over and replaced with a doll for the remainder of the performance. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.



Rich Barnett, music teacher at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville, addressed the audience prior to beginning the school's annual Christmas concert on December 20, 2011. To illustrate his point when telling the audience to keep water on their minds throughout the performance, Barnett poured water from one pitcher to another. This was Barnett's first Christmas concert since joining the staff at the school. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.



Jeremy Tillman, in the seventh grade, and Taelor Duncan, a sixth grader, both students at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville, had fun with an "island beat" while singing "Jonah, what will you do?" during the school's Christmas concert held on December 20, 2011. The concert was performed under the direction of Rich Barnett, music teacher for the school, and his wife Luci Hughes. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and Over 50 Years of Marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Janice Foster 56
Vince & Joan Frey, 53
John & Mary Medley, 51
Charles & Patricia Hamilton, 55
Anthony & Mary Brown, 66

Christ the King, Madisonville

James & Colleen Fleck, 40
Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
William & Martha Duncan, 58
Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 57
John & Kathleen Prough, 40

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

John & Barbara Kacer Kiraly, 25
L. Michael & Geri Durchak, 58
Robert & Rita Otto, 55
Donald & Mary Jane Scarbeau, 52
Jerry & Joanne Wallace, 40

Basil & Joann Jones, 51

Harry & Constance Largen, 52
George & Barbara Powers, 52

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Fred & Rose Conti, 52

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Adrian & Velma Wheatley, 58
Denis & Martha Wheatley, 52

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

James & Stephanie Whayne, 40
Larry & Linda Field, 50
John & Bonnie Popowski, 52

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

George & Martha Taylor, 56
Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Martin & Mary Ruth Bumm, 59
Silas E. & Catherine Simon, 65
Gary & Patricia Satterwhite, 52
Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 57
James & Patricia Krampe, 52
George W. & Myra Pennebaker, 40

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Guy & Linda Connor, 51
Freddie & Sandra Quinn, 40

St. Agnes, Uniontown

J. O. & Janet Thomas, 59
Wayne & Loretta Nally, 51

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

James L. & Dorothy Calhoun, 66

St. Ann, Morganfield

Gilbert & Pat Rudd, 51
Ronald & Mary Davis, 55
Willard & Joyce Greenwell, 60
Franklin & Agnes Hancock, 64
Joe & Florence Henshaw, 66

St. Anthony, Peonia

Fred & Vida Lee White, 50
Clifford & Margie Higdon, 63

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

James & Faye Johnston, 50

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Carl & Paula Ball, 55

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Jim & Cecilia Curtis, 40

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Charles & Pat Gregory, 53

Gerald & Christine Quigley, 53

St. Henry, Aurora

Al & Patricia Kasten, 56
St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Richard & Marie Johnson, 62
Thomas & Juanita Elliott, 54

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Edwin & Mary Imogene Houser, 57

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Don & Betty McCormick, 59

St. Joseph, Central City

David & Jean Simpson, 50

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Charles & Alice Bruce

St. Joseph, Mayfield

James & Joyce Cash, 40
Robert & Rose Coplen, 61

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James M. & Frieda Payne, 54

St. Leo, Murray

Robert & Paula Beavers, 53

St. Martin, Rome

Bill & Jane Shelton, 61

St. Peter, Waverly

Allen Ray & Carolyn Mackey, 60

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Chris & Sandy Settles, 25

St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City
William & Margaret Haines, 51

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Bobby & Theresa Barnett, 50
Frankie & Betty Clark, 57
James F. & Penny Howard, 52
William & Martha Zoglmann, 58

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Virgil & Colene Jennings, 65
Robert J. & Vurble Mahoney, 55
Thomas E. & Lucy H. Neal, 51
Bill & Rosemary Payne, 51
Russell & Lou Jones, 40
Jim & Iva Boarman, 50

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jerome & Charlene Vandeven, 61
Thomas & Mary Frances Galvin, 62

St. William, Knottsville

James R. & Evelyn Cecil, 57
Robert & Ellen Edge, 53

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Carl & Nadine Higdon, 40
Norbert & Nancy Crowe, 56

William A. & Betty Jo Payne, 56

William & Katherine Thomas, 61

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

G. W. & Joan Brockman III, 50

What "New Evangelization"?



By Paul Bach

I am sure you have heard the term "New Evangelization" sometime in the last few years. Blessed Pope John Paul II in his book *Crossing the*

Threshold of Hope said the term began with Pope Paul VI's apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Nuntiandi," in response to the "new challenges that the contemporary world creates for the mission of the Church." Pope Benedict XVI, June 2010, created the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization and in October 2012 a Bishops Synod will be held in Rome on the theme of the "New Evangelization."

Evangelization has been the mission of the Church since its beginning and every new time period has its own challenges. What does this "new evangelization" look like?

1. The message of evangelization is Christ and the Gospel.
2. The target audience of evangelization is

the believer and the non-believer alike.

3. Evangelization is the responsibility of all Christians.

4. Evangelization occurs when we give witness by words and deeds.

5. Evangelization is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit accomplished with human cooperation.

To a Cursillista, a person who has participated in a Cursillo weekend and is striving to live the method of Cursillo, the "new evangelization" is nothing new. It is something we seek to do every day. For over 60 years the Cursillo Movement and its Cursillistas, through personal piety, study, and action and in community with other Cursillistas in friendship groups, Ultreyas, and School of Leaders, have tried to live out what being a Christian calls us to be. Along with personal piety and study, the action part of the method of Cursillo can be summarized in the popular phrase, "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." Blessed Pope John Paul II said that what characterized Cursillo "is the new evangelization of adults." "The Chris-

World Marriage Day

World Marriage Day, Second Sunday in February, is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. World Marriage Day honors the lifelong commitment of husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of couple's fidelity, sacrifice, and joy in daily married life. The day elevates public awareness of the positive aspects of marriage.

The Western Kentucky Catholic invites families, parishes, and schools in the Diocese of Owensboro to send pictures and newsbriefs, a few hundred words, for the March or April, 2012 WKC editions, about how your parish celebrates World Marriage Day during the weekend of February, 12-13, 2012.

The deadline for the March, 2012 WKC is February 15, 2012. Send pictures to Editor, Mel Howard, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 or mel.howard@pastoral.org.



tian message is proposed through times of intense spiritual experience, capable of making one rediscover the beauty of encountering Christ and of being Church, as well as the joy of fraternity and reciprocal service, permeating the whole of life with a Christian spirit." The fruit of this Christian spirit is the desire to share Christ with others.

Since my Cursillo weekend in the spring of 1993, my life has been refocused on Jesus and the Body of Christ. Jesus and the Holy Spirit he shares with us have led me in conversion (a process certainly not complete in my life) through good times and bad and most recently to the process of formation for the Permanent Diaconate. This is the road

I believe God wants of me in this life. The Cursillo weekend gave me great rebirth and the Cursillo method keeps me focused in the only true direction for our eternity, life with God.

If you want to know what the "new evangelization" is all about, be courageous and make a Cursillo weekend. The next men's and women's Cursillo weekends are April 12-15, 2012 (men's 68th) and April 19-22, 2012 (women's 69th; see the webpage at <http://www.cursillo-owensboro.org/threeday.htm>).

Please feel free to call me at 270-206-0512 (cell) if you wish to discuss Cursillo (or the Permanent Diaconate).

Advent at St. Thomas More Parish

PADUCAH, Ky. - The parishioners of St. Thomas More participate in meaningful activities during the blessed season of Advent.



Parishioners provide hundreds of gifts to those in need through the Giving Tree.

In the picture at right, St. Thomas More pastor Fr. Pat Reynolds posed with the 5:30pm Mass Epiphany Kings Jordan Bufford and Brett and Bryce Haas;



In the center picture at right are the 11a.m. Epiphany Kings - Rocco and Anthony Zakutney. ;



In the picture at far right, are the 9 a.m. Epiphany Kings - J. Barber, Therese Smith, and Rylee Walk.



William Babbs coloring a nativity scene during the Advent Gathering the first weekend of Advent.



Gary and Cecelia Reside make an Advent Wreath with daughter Rachel.



Angels and shepherds surround baby Jesus at the children's Christmas Eve Mass.



Here are a few of the best wrapped gifts from St. Thomas More in Paducah. Pictured above in the human wrapping present competition are: Olivia Romero, Ben Hopper, Lexi Eggemeyer, Kayla Speis, Caitlin Hodges, Nick Eggemeyer, Pat Osterhaus, and Matt Osterhaus. These Lifeteen students participated in Mass, brunch, and games for an Advent Party last December. Photo by Nicole Strasser

Many parishioners enjoyed the fellowship of the Over 50's Potluck Dinner on December 6, 2011.

Photos this page submitted by Missy Eckenberg.



Faith. Academics. Service.

Catholic Schools

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." The annual observance starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2012 is January 29 to February 5. Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, parishioners and the community at large.

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

The theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

Source: <http://www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolsWeek.asp>



A Catholic Schools Week program at Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus in January, 2011. WKC file photo

STS JOSEPH & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

609 East 4th St. Owensboro KY | (270) 683-5641 | Fax (270) 685-4766

Moving Forward in Faith

Toward Another 125 Years

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish Mission 2012

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

Presider: 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.



YOUTH 2000

A EUCHARISTIC CENTERED RETREAT
Owensboro, Kentucky

15TH
ANNUAL
MARCH 9, 10
AND 11, 2012

All youth &
young adults
ages 13-30
are invited

For More
Information
Call (270)
683-1545



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
SPONSORED BY THE MARIAN SHRINE COMMITTEE
AND THE OFFICES OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION
BRESCIA UNIVERSITY, Owensboro, Kentucky

Bishop Soenneker Home Thanks Supporters



We here at Bishop Soenneker wish all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to our Home to make our Christmas a full and fun-filled month: *Tony & Sandy Lanham/ Linus & Suzanne Murphy/ Joe & Imogene Blakeley/ Rick Millay/Loretta Bailey/ Dane & Mary Roberts/Phyllis Whitaker/Trinity High School/ Mary Carrico Catholic School/ St. Mary Grade School/ Carmel Home Bingo Players/ Girl & Boy Scouts/ U.S. Bank/ Silver Bells of Owensboro GRADD/ V.A. Disabled Americans/ Santa Claus John Lanham/ Music groups: Brother Larry Sosh & Friends/ Donnie Christian &*

Friends/ John Lanham & Friends/and especially our therapy dogs: Ben & Lacy/ St Williams & St. Lawrence Giving Tree

God Bless Each And Everyone!

Our Renovation Update: We have finished the renovation in our kitchen and it looks awesome. God bless all who have donated to our renovation fund. Our next area is the nurses station which is in dire need of an update. All donations are tax exempt for we are a non-profit facility.

If you would like to donate to our Renovation Fund you can do so by Mailing check to: Bishop Soenneker Home Renovation Fund, 9545 Hwy. 144, Philpot, Ky. 42366

Old cabinets & Counters



New Cabinets & Counters



New Program for Breast Cancer Survivors

(Thursday, January 05, 2012) – Women being treated for breast cancer at Lourdes Women's Center now have colorful, tangible records of their journey, thanks to a program the hospital is piloting with Beads of Courage.

Through the Beads of Courage Program, women will be able to record, tell and own their story of courage with colorful glass beads. A bead is given for each step in their treatment journey. For example, a white bead symbolizes chemotherapy treatment; a brown bead is given for hair loss; a blue bead represents a clinic visit; a yellow bead signifies every night away from the comforts of home.

The program was started by an oncology nurse as a way to honor and acknowledge the courage of children coping with cancer. Now a national program, it has been broadened to encompass other childhood illnesses. Lourdes is the first hospital in the region and the second hospital in the country to pilot the adult oncology program.

"Every bead of courage tells a story of strength, honor and hope, and that resonates with adults as well as children," says Courtney Leneave, R.N., a nurse navigator with Lourdes Women's Center. "We are pleased to be able to give our women something so beautiful and tangible to honor and acknowledge their treatment journey."

You can sponsor a breast cancer survivor for "Beads of Courage" for \$25.00 per survivor. For more information, call Lourdes Women's Center at 270-444-2175, or visit elourdes.com.



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 Convening @ Capitol (Attendance Optional)**

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

MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT
CATHOLICS @ THE CAPITOL 2012

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/ckky/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.ckk.org> be your guide for being active in the public square.

36 February, 2012 The Knights of Columbus Present Two Diocesan Seminarians With Checks

By Marcella Henderson

Frank Mason, Grand Knight of the Pope John Paul I Council and a member of the 4th Degree Owensboro Assembly presented a check to Will Thompson a Seminarian from the Diocese of Owensboro as part of the Knights of Columbus Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP).

Will, a seminarian from Cadiz, Kentucky is currently in his Pastoral Year at St. Romuald's in Hardinsburg, was very thankful of the support and prayers that the people of God have offered to him and his fellow seminarians and says, "You are truly a source of inspiration and hope as we continue with our formation."

Charles Hagman, also of the John Paul Council presented Basilio Az Cuc with a check from the RSVP. Basilio, originally from Guatemala has been a seminarian with the Diocese of Owensboro since 2005. He is in his first year studying Theology at St. Meinrad and says, "God willing I will be a priest in four years." He too was very thankful for the diocese and the many people who support and pray for him. Basilio



Frank Mason, Grand Knight of the Pope John Paul I Council and a member of the 4th Degree Owensboro Assembly presented a check to Will Thompson, in white alb, a Seminarian from the Diocese of Owensboro. Submitted by Marcella Henderson

said, "They have made me feel at home and in family in the diocese."

Pope John Paul I Council #7387 has been involved with Refund Support Vocations Program for more than 15 years. During that time the Council has given out more than \$7,500.00 to seminarians to aid in tuition, books and living expenses. The council also supports seminarians through letters, dinners and prayer.

Chinese Student at OCMS



Wei Zhen, a 12-year old 7th grader at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, received a standing ovation from students and others in attendance at a recent performance after a school OCMS Mass in Immaculate Church.

He has been studying piano for 9 years, and met Dr. Diane Earle at Shanghai Conservatory. Wei Zhen was a student in the preparatory department, and Earle came to Shanghai Conservatory in 2009 to perform and teach. Wei Zhen then decided to come to America to study piano, and he and his mother moved here this past August. He plans to stay in Owensboro for two years then audition for a music conservatory for high school. OCS Photo



More Pilgrims Of Hope Bicycles For Our Sister Diocese In Mandeville, Jamaica

At some time in 2012, these bicycles will be sent via container ship along with needed tools and supplies for the entrepreneurs to repair. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy project for the poor in Jamaica, our mailing address is PILGRIMS OF HOPE, INC., PO Box 232, Morganfield, KY 42437. Thank you for being such a generous Diocese.

Don (center) and Belinda Page from St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, met Bill (left) and Janet Butler (right) from St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, to deliver a load of bicycles and parts that they had collected from their area.



Richard (right) and Ruth Dale from Christ the King, Madisonville, collected and delivered bicycles from their area as well.

Lourdes Names Manager of the Ray and Kay Eckstein Cardiovascular Institute



Brenda Milam, RN

(Tuesday, January 10, 2012) – Lourdes announces the promotion of Brenda Milam, RN, to Manager of the Ray and Kay Eckstein Cardiovascular Institute, named for the Ecksteins, whose charitable trust donated one million dollars to the project, and who founded Marquette Transportation.

She will oversee the cardiac catheterization labs, cath holding, diagnostics, vascular specials, vascular lab, and cardiac rehab. Brenda has been a nurse with Lourdes for more than 25 years.

Water With Blessings Provides Clean Water in Honduras

By Sharon Abercrombie

Nov. 23, 2011 - Imagine being a mom and having to choose between purchasing safe drinking water or enough food for your family. If you opt for adequate meals, everyone - including yourself -- gets sick from intestinal parasites. This is the plight facing thousands of women living in the impoverished Colonia Fuerzas Unidas neighborhood of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

But two years ago, the situation began changing for the better when Water With Blessings arrived on the scene. Water With Blessings is an ecumenical program spearheaded by Mt. St. Joseph, Ky., Ursuline Sr. Lorraine Lauter, minister of social responsibility at Church of the Epiphany in Louisville, Ky. In 2009, this nun took a group of Kentuckiana volunteers to Honduras to teach women how to install simple water purification systems for themselves and their neighbors.

For almost a decade, Lauter had been volunteering at Divine Mercy, one of eight communities belonging to St. Peter the Apostle parish in Tegucigalpa, working with a team from First United Methodist Church in Frankfort, Ky.

The scarcity of clean water for these desperately poor Hondurans had always been a major worry for team members.

"Nearly 100 percent of patients at our yearly medical clinic had intestinal parasites -- abdominal pain, dysentery, diarrhea, burning eyes, headache and lack of energy," Lautner said.

Finding a simple, inexpensive, low-maintenance water purification technology, free of any energy dependency, however, was the problem they kept running up against, Lauter explained. Then two years ago, Lauter and Arnie LeMay, a ministry colleague from St. John Chrysostom Church in Louisville, discovered a remarkably simple and inexpensive method of water purification during a Global Mission Health Conference held at Southeast Christian Church.



Sr. Lorraine Lauter, O.S.U., is minister of social responsibility at Church of the Epiphany in Louisville, Ky. MSJ Photos

"We found our answer at a small booth: the Sawyer PointONE filter," Lauter said.

The filters are modeled after the technology built around kidney dialysis. They sift out everything smaller than 1/1000 of a meter -- or 0.1 microns -- including e. coli and the germs responsible for cholera. The filters work on the gravity flow system and cost \$50 each. Just one of these filters can provide a family with up to a lifetime of clean water.

PointONE filters are more than 99 percent effective, Lauter said. And they are so small, "we can fill up our suitcases with them when we travel to Tegucigalpa," said Rosemary Smith, an Epiphany volunteer who will make her fifth trip to Honduras in February.

The simple, can-do, inexpensive technology is the water part of the Water With Blessings ministry. The Blessings side? "We didn't want it to be just a give-away program," said Lauter, who envisioned a grand opportunity for one-on-one ministry at the Honduran parish.

The story of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well became her inspiration.

"Jesus and the woman talked and shared," she said. "I could see this as a way for women to be empowered -- to show acts of love by providing clean water for two of their neigh-

bors for six months and then training other women to do the same."

And that's just what has been happening. Twice a year, volunteers from Epiphany and the other churches who have become colleagues in the Water With Blessings program travel south to conduct trainings. Candidates are chosen by lottery. At the outset, the women must agree not to sell the water.

They hear the story of Jesus and the woman at the well, and how she was told to go and tell the good news. In effect, they become other women at other wells, providing the blessings of clean water to their neighbors.

Religious formation and spirituality are essential to the program.

"Sharing the water is a ministry of living water, of service," Lauter said. "I tell them that having access to clean water is a basic human right."

Following the storytelling, the women are given their water purification kits, which include a filter, adapter, a hose, a filter cleaner and a hanger.

A July 14 article in the Louisville *Record* provides a description of the simple technology: "To assemble the unit, a hole is drilled three to four inches from the bottom of a five-gallon bucket. A hose is secured through the hole with a plastic fitting. The hose is then attached to the filter. A clean container is set below the bucket to capture the water as it trickles through the filter. A five gallon bucket takes 12-15 minutes to filter."

Lauter, a former art teacher, has included an aesthetic element to the training days. She provides colored markers and paints so the women can add personalized artistic touches to those utilitarian white buckets.

"Decorating promotes ownership, and gives them a way to bring some beauty into their lives," she said. "Most of the women have nothing in their homes."

To date, more than 700 families now have the blessing of clean, living water. That blessing is visible in the faces of the people and their children, said Rosemary Smith. It is these little ones who especially touch Smith's heart.

"When we go back, we can see that the kids are healthier," she said. "Their little faces used to be gray and ashen. Now they are pink and healthy and they are



Sister Lorraine Lauter, OSU, enjoys being with a group of children during a mission trip to Honduras in March 2010. She has been going to Honduras for 11 years, where she works with women in a water purification program. She has also taught them how to make jewelry that has been sold in Louisville, Ky. The beads from recycled paper are integrated into old costume jewelry donated by parishioners from Church of the Epiphany in Louisville. "This is a great community to work with," Sister Lorraine said of her home parish.

smiling."

And this, from a woman named Suyapa, one of the first of 10 women who were trained two years ago: Suyapa says she can now buy more food because she has "a whole eight dollars a month that I don't have to spend on water to drink. I can save for the children's uniforms so they can go to school. This water filter doesn't just help us obtain clean water. It helps us to improve our lives in many

Continued on page 39

Catholic Charities Adoptions

For information on either domestic or international adoption, call us at 270-852-8328.

Providing help ... creating hope.



St. Gerard Life Home

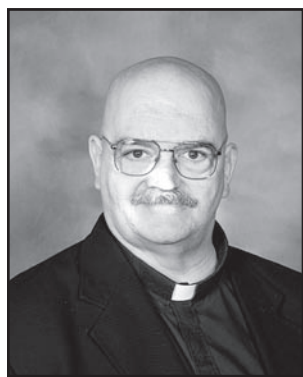
Providing shelter & care for pregnant women & their babies.

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

toll-free: 1-877-803-5064.



In Your Kindness, Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Father Peter Hughes, 61, Who Died Jan.5, 2012



Father Peter Hughes

The Rev. Peter Edward Hughes, 61, died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at Owensboro Medical Health System. He was born in Johnstown, Pa., and was the son of the late James J. and Margaret Michinock Hughes. He attended St. Coleman's Elementary School, Mid Park Senior High, Trick Community College, St. Mary Seminary at St. Mary, St. Pius X Seminary in Erlanger and Josephinum Seminary in Worthington, Ohio.

Father Hughes was ordained June 6, 1981, at St. Stephen Cathedral by Bishop Henry J. Soenneker. During his religious career, he ministered at the following places: Associate pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes in Owensboro from 1981 until 1985; pastor at St. Rose in Cloverport from 1985 until 1987, St. Mary of the Woods in McQuady from 1987 until 1990, St. Paul, Princeton and the Eddyville State Penitentiary from 1989 until 1992, St. Leo in Murray from 1992 until 1995, St. Romuald and Holy Guardian Angels in Hardinsburg from 1995 until 1998, SS. Joseph and Paul from 1998 until 2000, Precious Blood and St. Sebastian in Calhoun from 2001 until 2004, St. Sebastian and St. Martin in Rome in 2004, and St. Elizabeth, Curdsville and St. Martin from 2007 until July 2011.

Survivors include two brothers, Michael (Diane) Hughes of Westlake, Ohio, and James (Diane) Hughes of Largo, Fla.; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Martin Catholic Church with the Most Rev. William F. Medley, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, presiding. Burial was at a later date in Central City, Pa. Memorial contributions can be made to the Priest's Retirement Fund, c/o the Diocese of Owensboro, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

World Day For Consecrated Life Celebrated on February 4-5 In U.S.

WASHINGTON—The 16th annual World Day for Consecrated Life will be observed in parishes in the United States the weekend of February 4-5.

The annual celebration was established by Pope John Paul II in 1997, to be marked each year on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation.

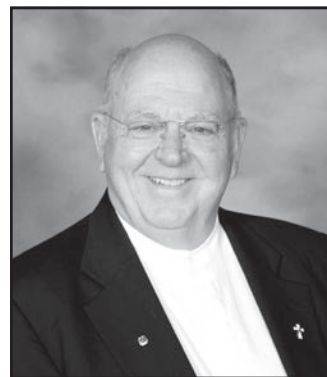
The U.S. bishops voted to observe the occasion the weekend following the feast, to highlight men and women religious in consecrated life as part of weekend Mass celebrations and to enable expressions of appreciation for the service of those who have chosen the consecrated life and to pray for an increase of vocations.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV), heralded the role of religious.

"Many consecrated men and women share Christ's light and love through their work in parish or diocesan ministries, education, health care, social services, spiritual direction and prayer," he said. "Through their service and vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, they show that Jesus Christ is our most valued possession."

The Church recognizes several forms of consecrated life, said Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the Secretariat. "All who embrace the consecrated life promise poverty, chastity and obedience," he said. "Religious priests, sisters and brothers live and pray in community, and they serve the Church in apostolic service or are wholly devoted to contemplation. Members of secular institutes fulfill their promises living within, not apart from, the world. Consecrated virgins, who are consecrated by the diocesan bishop, also serve the Church while remaining within the world, and hermits observe separation from the world in solitude, prayer and penance."

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Deacon Robert "Bob" Imel, 71, Who died Dec. 30, 2011



Deacon Robert "Bob" Imel

Deacon Robert "Bob" Imel, 71, of Bowling Green, died Dec. 30, 2011, at the Hospice Center.

He was a native of Urbana, Ohio, and graduated from Urbana High School in 1958. He served 25 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a chief warrant officer W3 in 1987. He served several overseas tours, including Vietnam, Germany and Turkey, as well as a number of stateside assignments. Upon his retirement from the Army, he became vice president and director of fixed operations at Swope Family of Dealerships in Hardin County for 10 years. He was the first executive director of Hardin County Habitat for Humanity. During his tenure with Habitat, he was called to ministry in the Catholic church and or-

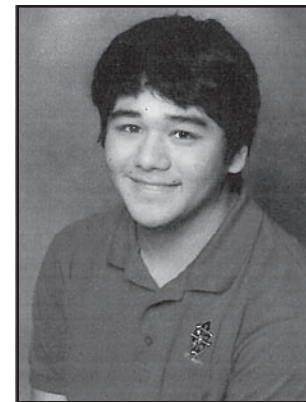
ained a permanent deacon by the Archdiocese of Louisville. He served as a deacon at St. Christopher Catholic Church of Radcliff and later continued his ministry as the deacon of St. Joseph Catholic Church. During his life, he was actively involved in the military, civilian and church community. He was involved in Boy Scouts, Warrant Officers Association, American Red Cross of Louisville, United Way of Central Kentucky, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Warren County Ministerial Association and a number of other organizations.

He was the son of the late Howard and Donna Imel of Urbana, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son, Joseph, and his wife, Tracy, and grandson, Zach, all of Bowling Green; three daughters, Susan Galvan and her husband, David, and granddaughter, Alexis, all of Hoover, Ala., Michelle Holmes and her husband, John, of Fayetteville, N.C., and Catherine Sanspree and her husband, Brandon, of Bowling Green; a sister, Janet Imel Metherd of Urbana; and two brothers, Charles Imel and Donald Imel and his wife, Janet, all of Urbana.

The funeral service was at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions of Hospice to Southern Kentucky or St. Vincent de Paul Society.

St Mary HS Music Student to Perform in All-State Chorus

PADUCAH, Ky. - Andrew Durham, the son of Beth and Jeff Durham of Paducah will perform in the Kentucky Music Educators Association All-State Chorus. The concert will take place at the Kentucky Center in Louisville, Friday, February 10, 2012 as part of the 2012 Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference. He was chosen for the honor in competitive auditions held this year across the state. Andrew is a student at St. Mary High School and performs in the choir under the direction of Brant Veal, a member of the Kentucky Music Educators Association, an association that represents over 2,000 school music educators in Kentucky. Durham is a private voice student of Tony Whitfield. This is his first time to perform in an All-State Ensemble. Andrew's other interests in school include French Club, literature and art. He is also involved in choir at St. Thomas More Catholic Church as a cantor and Lifeteen Youth Group. Andrew enjoys reading and has been singing with the Choral Ambassadors of West-



Andrew Durham

ern Kentucky for 9 years under the direction of Tony Whitfield. He will travel to Europe this summer with the Choral Ambassadors as well.

Water With Blessings ...

Continued from page 37

ways.”

Board members for Water with Blessings are currently working to expand the program. They hope to bring it to Haiti, Jamaica and possibly India by forming partnerships with other churches.

“There are people in parishes who will never go on a mission trip, but they could take up a collection to buy these water filters,” Lauter said. For further information, email her at Lorraine@churchofepiphany.com

Meanwhile, Water with Blessings is only one of Epiphany’s outreach efforts to Divine Mercy. Volunteers who go along on the trips provide after school child enrichment in art and music, assist in children’s checkups, if there is a doctor or nurse-practitioner on the team, and do construction work on the parish community center. Back home in Kentucky, they raise money for children’s scholarships.

“Reprinted by permission of National Catholic Reporter, 115 E Armour Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64111 www.ncronline.org”



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Lorraine Lauter gathers with women and children at a small sub-parish community called Divina Misericordia (Divine Mercy) in Honduras in March 2010, where she goes twice yearly with an ecumenical team. “We work with the people there (especially women and children) in water purification, a scholarship program, fair trade jewelry, and a bit of construction,” she said. MSJ Photo

Gozo De La Parroquia De Sagrado Corazon En Russellville



Se encuentra aqui el gozo de Claudia Zurita, Maribel Gonzalez y Federico Pascual de la parroquia de Sagrado Corazon en Russellville.

Estan preparandose para la fiesta, adornando un cuadro de La Virgen. (The joy of Claudia Zurita, Maribel Gonzalez and Federico Pascual is tangible as they prepare for the feast of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville.)

Daviess County farmer wins Member of the Year - Joe Elliott takes home first award

Joe Elliott jokes about his retirement.

“I’m retired,” he says. “I’m only working six days a week.”

Elliott, a well-known Daviess County farmer, helped found the Diocese of Owensboro’s Rural Life Celebration, an annual dinner that feeds up to 400 people from all walks of life. Also, he serves on numerous boards throughout the county.

Elliott earned the Employer Achievement Award from a state agency for his dogged determination to hire legal migrant workers and provide them with adequate housing and medical care.

For those reasons — and more, a panel of Kenergy judges selected Elliott as the co-op’s first Member of the Year. Kenergy started the program in 2011 to honor a member and his or her volunteer efforts.

“(Elliott) is an encourager, who loves people and always

has something positive to say,” Wayne Mattingly reported in his application to nominate Elliott. “He sees ways to be of help, understands hard work and is respected. ... He helps people and is a leader in his community.”

In honor of Elliott’s volunteerism, the co-op donated \$ 1,000 to the Diocese of Owensboro’s annual Rural Life Celebration.

In all, 21 members were nominated for Member of the Year. In October, a panel of judges selected three finalists — Ruth Bunch of Henderson, Terri LaHugh of Owensboro and Elliott of Philpot. Bunch, who fears needles, has given 22 gallons of 0 negative blood to the Cardinal Chapter of the American Red Cross since 1977. For 12 years, LaHugh has been the non-salaried director of Birthright, which provides support to women who face unplanned pregnancies.

Kenergy CEO Sandy Novick congratulated Elliott, Bunch and LaHugh for their volunteerism. “Our members and their dedication to the communities in which they live never cease to amaze me,” Novick says.

“We applaud Joe, Ruth, and Terri, along with hundreds of other members throughout our service territory who work tirelessly to make this region a better place.”

Reprinted with permission from Member Matters, January, 2012, monthly newsletter for Kenergy.



Daviess County farmer Joe Elliott, photo above, has been named Kenergy’s first Member of the Year To honor his volunteerism, Kenergy and its members donated \$1,000 to the Diocese of Owensboro’s Rural Life Celebration. In the photo to the left, Rick Kamuf left, and Cindy Taylor, representatives of the Diocesan Rural Life Committee, accept the check from Elliott and his wife, Mary Sue Elliott. Photos by Willis D. Howard



En los dias de las fiestas del invierno, la nina, Elizabeth Ramirez, de la parroquia de Russellville, sabe encontrar lo caliente. (This child, Elizabeth Ramirez, of Russellville knows how to keep herself warm in the days of the winter feasts.) Submitted by Sister Pat Sullivan.



...Sitting on his Daddy's lap in church

on Sunday looking at the pictures in a holy book while Daddy reads the words under the pictures. Church is where we go to Mass on weekends and get to see Father Dave and watch all that is going at the altar. Collin likes to listen to his Daddy, Paul, read to him from the books in church. Mel Howard Photo

The Kentucky Council Of Churches

For over six decades, the Kentucky Council of Churches has served churches in Kentucky as an instrument of its members to nurture the unity of the body of Christ, and to promote common witness and service. The Kentucky Council of Churches was created in 1947 and includes all of the Catholic dioceses of Kentucky as full members. Today the following 12 major Christian traditions are represented among the members: The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; The Cumberland Presbyterian Church; The Episcopal Church; The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; The Presbyterian Church (USA); The Roman Catholic Church; The United Church of Christ; The United Methodist Church; The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship; And Individual Congregations, Observers and Ecumenical Partners. To find out more contact Fr. Tony Bickett at ftonyb@yahoo.com or 270-756-2356, or www.kycouncilofchurches.org.

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, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, 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.

OCS K-3 Students Collect Money for Habitat For Humanity with Pails of Nails

The 2012 Theme for Catholic Schools Week is Faith, Academics, and Service. For the Service Portion of CSW the K-3 Campus is going to sponsor a "Pails of Nails" Drive.

Owensboro Catholic High School will be sponsoring a house for Habitat for Humanity. The K-3 Campus can help too! Although our students may be too small to actually help "build" the house, we would like for the students to do things they CAN do around their own house to earn a little extra money. They can do good deeds or special chores- it is up to the parent.



Holding nails, a hammer, and money collected are from left, Evie Hayden, Monica Castlen, Andrew Steele, and Duece Sims. OCS K-3 Photo

Each time that your child does a deed or chore worthy of notice, it would be wonderful if you could "pay" your child for these good deeds. It doesn't have to be a lot. You can even give them your loose change!

At the end of Catholic Schools Week on February 2, all of the money collected will be given to Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of "Pails of Nails".

We believe as a Catholic school we should share our love, faith, time, and

talents with the community. Catholic Schools Week is a perfect time to teach our children the importance of following the actions of Jesus, by sharing, caring, and helping others.

The Drive took place for two weeks beginning on January 17 and ending on Jan. 31.

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro - Building The Archives

By April Dickens

Moving Forward In Faith Toward Another 125 Years

As we continue to celebrate the 125th year at Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, we are asking for your assistance in preserving our deep German-Irish history by Building the Archives. If you have an item that was once a part of St. Joseph Church, St. Paul Church or the School and would consider donating it back to the church for future generations, Please contact the church office. 683-5641 Email all Photos to: Another125years@aol.com

High School Come & See Weekend

February 17 - 19, 2012 The Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana are holding a Come & See event for high school girls, freshmen to seniors. This is a chance to learn what it is like to be a nun in today's world. Pray, eat, and recreate with the sisters. For more information call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-738-9999, or visit our web page www.thedome.org, where you can also register online. Parent permission is required.



By: Dawn C. Ligibel

Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville celebrated the festival of the Epiphany from January 6 to 8, 2012, during which the parish commemorated the tenth anniversary of perpetual Eucharistic adoration in the parish. This special milestone called for an extraordinary celebration. Therefore, the parish marked the feast and the anniversary with Forty Hours of Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist.

“Diocesan policy suggests that all parishes celebrate 40 hours annually,” explained Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. “It’s just beautiful that we could celebrate our 40 Hours at Epiphany.”

The 40 Hours of Solemn Exposition began with Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction on Friday, January 6 at 6 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament was reposed just before each of the weekend Masses, with solemn exposition following the Communion Rite. “Incensation and the blessing of the assembled faithful with the Holy Eucharist were grand amidst all of the seasonal Christmas and Epiphany liturgies, their music and decorations,” observed Fr. Meredith.

The 40 Hours concluded with Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction on Sunday, January 8 at 4 p.m., concluding with the Blessed Sacrament being carried in the monstrance to the adoration chapel, therefore resuming perpetual adoration. Fr. Richard specifically invited groups within the parish, as well as parish families and individuals, to spend some extra time with the Lord during solemn exposition on the altar.

Before beginning the liturgy on Friday evening, Fr. Meredith spoke informally to the congregation. “I would like to thank Lana Bastin and recognize her for ten years of service to the Church by leading this parish in perpetual Eucharistic adoration. I know that for her it has been a labor of love,” he stated, eliciting a round of applause from the congregation.

“I’m happy to announce that Jenny and Bill Rush have agreed to take over the leadership of this very important ministry,” added Fr. Meredith. He then invited Jenny and Bill to speak for a moment. Jenny began by making a plea for additional adorers. “There are still several hours that are available for adoption,” Jenny said. “We appreciate the many who have been taking one and a half hours to cover the open hours.”

Jenny then described additional opportunities for adoration. “Our Lord would like to have you come at different times,” she said,



Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, incensed the Blessed Sacrament during benediction at the conclusion of Solemn Evening Prayer on Friday, January 6, 2012. January 6th was the tenth anniversary of perpetual Eucharistic adoration in the parish. The anniversary was commemorated with 40 Hours of Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist spanning the weekend. Pictured from left to right are: Permanent Deacon Candidate Mr. Tim Barnes, Christina Ligibel, Fr. Meredith, Jonathan Kinnard and Fr. Dillard. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

explaining that a person is not restricted to covering only the hour for which they have committed. “Ideally, you should have a prayer partner. It’s okay to sign up for an hour that is already taken,” she concluded.

“Most of the hours now have new hourly captains, and new division coordinators are now in place,” Fr. Meredith explained, adding, “by the grace of God.”

Fr. Meredith then announced that the scripture reflection for the two celebrations of Solemn Evening Prayer would be given by one of the two permanent deacon candidates from Sts. Peter and Paul. “I asked our deacon candidates to give the reflections tonight and Sunday afternoon,” Fr. Meredith explained. “This will be their first time speaking in front of a congregation. Be kind,” he added.

The 40 Hours began when the priests and altar servers entered the church and approached the altar as the congregation sang. Fr. Daniel Dillard, associate pastor, led by servers carrying candles, went immediately to the adoration chapel and brought the Blessed

Sacrament, presented in the monstrance, through the church for placement on the altar. Fr. Meredith then incensed the Blessed Sacrament.

Under instruction from Fr. Meredith, the congregation, while alternating stanzas, recited the two psalms and canticle of the Liturgy of the Hours. The alternation of the stanzas for recitation was indicated in the program as “Mary” or “Joseph” which corresponded to the side of the church having that particular statue. All joined together for the doxology, “Glory be to the Father...,” and the antiphon which concluded the psalms and canticle.

After reading the scripture, Deacon Candidate Mr. Tim Barnes began his reflection. “I like mysteries,” he started. He continued by explaining that all mysteries take on a certain pattern. Referring to television shows such as Perry Mason, CSI and NCIS, he noted that all mysteries have something in common. “For every mystery, something is known and something is unknown,” he explained.

“In the Catholic Church we also have mysteries. Profound mysteries,” Barnes continued. “The most marvelous mystery is the mystery of the Eucharist. This is our most precious mystery. It is a mystery because we don’t know how

God makes the sacrament,” he proposed.

“Something is known about this mystery. Remember, because all mysteries must have something known and something unknown,” he reminded the congregation. “What is known is the bread before us is the body of Christ. How do we know this? Faith,” he answered. “However, mystery is a matter of perspective. This is no mystery for God, because he knows how it works.”

Barnes continued by identifying another type of mystery. “There can be false mysteries,” he explained. “We know that Elvis Presley died many years ago, however, some people still think he is alive. We know that’s a false mystery,” he added.

“Conversely, the truth is not always easy to accept. But in the Eucharist, he is before us in a way we can see him and touch him,” Barnes declared. “What we have in this mystery is something that unifies us. We all have a blood connection, through the blood of Christ,” he concluded.

The Solemn Evening Prayer on Sunday, which concluded the 40 hours of adoration, followed the same basic format. In fact, the reflection given by Deacon Candidate Dr. William Sweet also touched on the theme of unity.

“When we look around at the world, we see other things,” Sweet began. “We see other people, who have other lives and other plans, who drive other cars, live in other houses and have other families. They have other problems, certainly not our problems.

“As infants, we learn to distinguish between me and not me. We then quickly learn to divide the world and all of our experiences,” he continued. “We divide the world into me and you. When we use distinctions to form divisions, we create ‘other’ people.

“When we consider God, we are confronted with something radically different,” Sweet explained. “In the mystery of the Trinity and of the Eucharist, we see that distinction does not necessarily mean division. Because we know God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit does not mean that they are not one. Didn’t Jesus pray, ‘Father, let them be one just as you and I are one.’?” Sweet asked.

“It is this prayer that draws us to adoration: our desire to be close to God,” Sweet proclaimed. “We come to let the ‘otherness’ fall away. We come to gather ourselves and our lives together in the oneness of God. It is because God loves each one of us – all the time, in every way – that we are distinct, but not divided from him or from each other. The Eucharist is God’s gift of himself to each of us that we might never again be separated from him and so that we should never again feel ‘otherness,’” Sweet concluded.

At the conclusion of the liturgy on Sunday afternoon, Fr. Dillard returned the Blessed Sacrament to the adoration chapel at the base of the bell tower in the church. At this time, perpetual Eucharistic adoration resumed as regularly scheduled.

Anyone who would like to know more about or participate in the ministry of perpetual Eucharistic adoration at Sts. Peter and Paul can call Bill or Jenny Rush at 270-885-2888.

Sexual Abuse of Children: Ten Years of Hard-Earned Knowledge

Febrero, 2012 7

By Bernard Nojadera

With 2012, the Catholic Church looks back on a decade of learning about a problem which may be decades of centuries old: the sexual abuse of minors by those who would mentor them.

The crisis in the Church in the United States reached a head in 2002, when newspaper coverage nationwide highlighted the existence of this horrific crime and moral travesty. We now know that others, including some sports organizations and other groups where adults mentor youth, have yet to confront this crisis within their own ranks.

In the United States, the Catholic Church adopted a plan to address the issue, called the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. It has spent billions of dollars on settlements, safe environment education, and background checks to do all it can to prevent the abuse of children in its care. We have come to some understanding of how to address the problem, gaining knowledge that can benefit more than the Catholic Church.

Some of what we've learned:

- The guiding principle when confronting child sexual abuse is to remember that it is most of all about the person who was abused. It is not about the offender, the institution, or anyone's reputation. It is about helping a child.
- People can learn. In the ten years since establishment of the Charter we have moved from disbelief to action. We have learned that what once seemed unbelievable is, unfortunately, credible and must be faced. Training, reference checks, and background evaluations now are a normal part of parish life to keep children safe. We recommend these steps for all who deal with youth.
- Sexual abuse of a minor is a sickness that can be contained through vigilance but will not disappear. Incidents of sexual abuse are still occurring in the one place that ought to be the safest place. We cannot let our guard down. The work is not finished.
- Critical situations impel people and institutions to change. We have seen the culture of our parishes and schools evolve. People now accept that child sexual abuse exists and are willing to help stop it from occurring. They no longer assume someone else will take care of it.
- Child sexual abuse is a reality society



must confront. No institution is immune from it. Learning to respond to the victim of abuse is the first job of any institution, community or family.

- The court of public opinion holds institutional leaders to a high standard. Leaders who forgo an immediate and appropriate response to abuse of a child do so at their own peril. There is hardly any other issue which evokes such intolerance as not acting in the face of child sexual abuse.
- Parents are willing to step up and make sure parishes and schools are following policies and procedures to protect children. With this critical issue, few people reply, "I just don't have time to get involved."
- The task of protecting children can be shared. Clergy, employees, volunteers, parents, and teachers realize that bystanders can be their allies in protecting children.
- Child sexual abuse is a hard topic to discuss, but training adults to protect children has given the topic a forum where the uncomfortable reality can be discussed.
- Victims of child sexual abuse can heal and live productive lives. Steps that help bring them toward healing include seriously listening to their stories and expressing profound sorrow for what they have endured. As awful as the experience has been for a person, there is hope, a gift of grace from a loving God.

Bernard Nojadera is a deacon and head of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Protection of Children and Young People

El Abuso Sexual De Menores: Diez Años De Difícil Aprendizaje

Por Bernard Nojadera

Con el arribo del 2012, la Iglesia Católica echa un vistazo atrás a una década de aprendizaje sobre un problema que existe hace ya siglos: el abuso sexual de menores por aquellas personas que los asesoran.

La crisis dentro de la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos llegó a su punto culminante en el año 2002, cuando una cobertura en la prensa nacional publicó la existencia de estos horrendos crímenes de perversidad moral. Ahora sabemos que otras entidades, incluyendo algunas organizaciones deportivas así como grupos en los que actúan adultos como consejeros de jóvenes, han tenido que también confrontar esta crisis dentro de sus filas.

En los Estados Unidos, la Iglesia Católica adoptó un plan para abordar este asunto que es conocido como el Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes. La Iglesia ha invertido billones de dólares en acuerdos legales, educación sobre la seguridad de los recintos, y la revisión de antecedentes penales para hacer todo lo posible por prevenir el abuso de aquellos niños que estén bajo nuestro cuidado. Hemos aprendido cómo confrontar este problema, y hemos adquirido conocimientos que pueden beneficiar tanto a la Iglesia Católica como a cualquier otra persona.

Aquí exponemos lo que hemos aprendido:

- Cuando estamos confrontados con un caso de abuso sexual de menores, la regla principal a considerar es recordar que, más que nada, estamos tratando con una persona que ha sido abusada. No se refiere al ofensor, ni a la institución, o a la reputación de nadie, sino que se trata de ayudar a un niño.
- Las personas pueden aprender. En los diez años desde que se estableció El Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, hemos pasado de la etapa del escepticismo a la de la acción. Hemos aprendido que lo que antes parecía increíble es, desafortunadamente, una realidad y que debe ser confrontada. El entrenamiento, la revisión de antecedentes penales, y las evaluaciones de expedientes son ahora parte integral de la vida parroquial para poder proteger a los niños. Recomendamos a todos los que trabajan con la juventud que pongan estas disposiciones en práctica.
- El abuso de menores es una enfermedad que puede ser evitada si somos vigilantes. No obstante, este problema no va a desaparecer. Los incidentes de abuso sexual siguen ocurriendo en lugares que deberían ser los

más seguros. Por eso no podemos bajar la guardia ya que el trabajo no ha terminado.

- Las situaciones críticas impulsan a las personas e instituciones al cambio. Hemos visto como en nuestras parroquias y escuelas el discernimiento ha evolucionado y ahora las personas aceptan el hecho de que el abuso sexual de menores existe y están dispuestos a impedirlo. Ya no asumen que sea otra persona la que se encargue de hacerlo.
 - El abuso sexual de menores es una realidad que la sociedad actual tiene que confrontar. Ninguna institución está inmune, por ello la primera función de una institución, comunidad o familia debe ser saber como reaccionar ante una víctima de abuso sexual.
 - La opinión pública mantiene en alta estima a sus líderes institucionales. Aquellos líderes que no responden de forma inmediata y apropiada a una situación de abuso sexual, lo hacen por su propia cuenta y riesgo. No existe ninguna otra cuestión que suscite más intolerancia que el no actuar apropiadamente ante un caso de abuso de menores.
 - Los padres están dispuestos a involucrarse y asegurarse de que las parroquias y escuelas estén siguiendo las normas y procedimientos necesarios para proteger a los niños. Sobre este tema tan crítico, muy pocas personas responderían: "Es que no tengo tiempo para comprometerme en este asunto".
 - La tarea de proteger a los niños puede ser una tarea compartida. El clero, los empleados, los voluntarios, así como los padres y maestros saben que las personas a su alrededor pueden convertirse en sus aliados en la protección de los niños.
 - El abuso sexual de menores es un tema difícil de debatir, pero entrenar a los adultos para proteger a los niños ha facilitado que el asunto se pueda analizar a pesar de su desagradable realidad.
 - Los menores que son víctimas del abuso sexual pueden sanarse y vivir vidas provechosas. Algunos pasos que pueden ayudarlos en ese proceso incluyen: oír sus historias con seriedad y exteriorizarles nuestro profundo dolor por lo que han tenido que sufrir. Por muy mala que haya sido la experiencia que una persona ha sufrido, siempre existe la esperanza, que es una gracia que nos regala el Dios que nos ama.
- Bernard Nojadera es diácono y director del Secretariado para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.*

Greetings from Bani

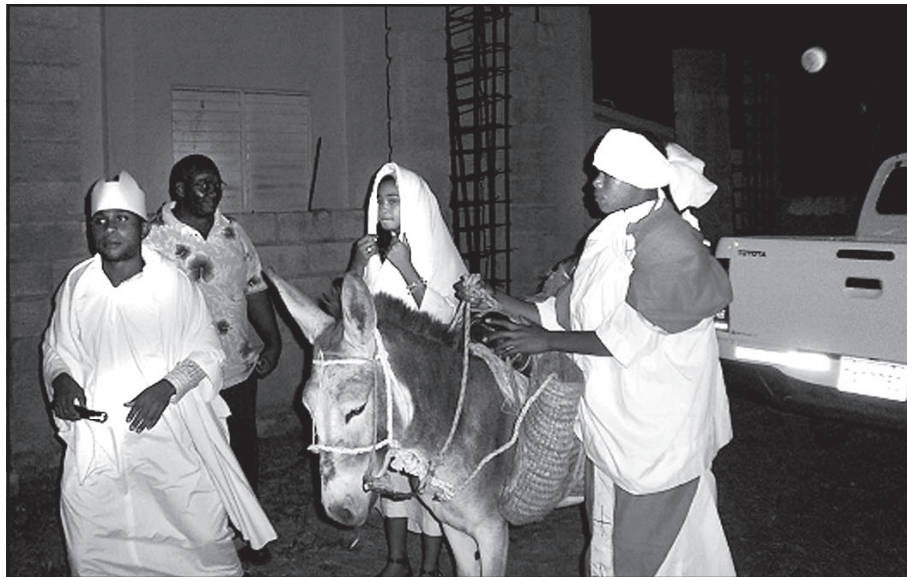
By Father Stan Puryear

Just as I am finally recuperating from Christmas, it seems that it is time for Lent and eventually Holy Week. The time here is flying by rapidly.

Attached to the article this month are pictures from the Christmas drama that took place immediately after the 10pm Mass on Christmas Eve. In a scene right out of a comedy, the drama almost took place during the middle of Mass as one of the lambs escaped from its shepherd and headed towards the church door. With a lamb on the loose in the front yard, the border collie began barking uncontrollably and children began yelling (please remember that windows and doors are wide open) while courageous young men of the youth group tried to outdo each other in catching the runaway. I think the best part of the entire event was that someone decided to turn up the sound system so the ongoing second reading could be heard, which led to substantial squawk of feedback. Eventually, order was restored and Mass continued.

After seven Masses and 21 baptisms over the Christmas weekend and all animals were returned to their rightful owners, I took advantage of a quiet time to reflect on the past year. Now that I have completed a full liturgical and calendar year here in the Dominican Republic, I am quite amazed at what God has accomplished in such a short time. Please indulge me as I mention a few highlights.

The turkey farm: The original intention of having a turkey farm to supplement my income has been a total failure. The biggest obstacle, as it turns out, is my poor business sense. I ended up with only three turkeys (one male and two females), whereas all the rest have been bartered away. Now, three families have a pair of turkeys so they can start their own turkey farms and three families were given turkeys for their own consumption. That does not include the contributions that my two dogs made to the youth group activity sancocho stew or to the dinner table of my fellow priests. However, things are looking up: with contributions from folks from Bowling Green, I have purchased another female so as to add genetic diversity to the flock, while another female is sitting on a nest of at least 12 eggs. And the generous donations from folks means



Most people don't realize that Mary and Joseph almost got hit by a truck as they made their way to Bethlehem. Fortunately, the burro saw it coming and was able to avoid an accident. Father Stan's pictures for this article tell a story. Follow them in sequence.

La mayoría de la gente no sabe que María y José casi fueron chocados por un por una camioneta en su camino a Belén. Afortunadamente, el burro tenía experiencia en la autopista y pudo evitar un accidente. Padre de Stan imágenes de este artículo contar una historia. Les siguen en orden.

that, although the operation is not making any money, it is paying for itself and helping others.

The vegetable farm: This has been another huge failure. My intention was to show people how to grow some simple vegetables so that they can vary their diets with fresh vegetables. Unfortunately, two very helpful and well-meaning older gentlemen in the parish cannot for the life of them recognize zucchini or pepper plants, which means those "weeds" keep getting cut down. The goal for this year is to focus on one plant only – tomatoes – and start seedlings that will be sold at a small cost-covering price for families to purchase. And secondly, I hope to grow my own lettuce in a raised bed so that I can eat salads without ending up in the emergency room with cholera again.

Parish: I am happy to report that this has not been a failure, as Mass attendance continues to increase and that during 2011 Mass was offered in two communities on a regular basis where it was not previously offered: Sabana Chiquita and Our Lady of Regla. For the coming year, Mass will be offered on a regular basis in at least three new communities: Los Pinos, San Juan, and El Barrio. As well, the Thursday Mass offered at Carretón previously offered every Thursday evening will now be offered every Sunday

afternoon, meaning that each Saturday and Sunday, six Sunday Masses will be offered in the parish. Due to the lack of transportation (other than the parish truck), elderly and young mothers especially are not able to attend Mass unless it is close to their homes. Celebrating Mass in the communities allows more people to share in the Sacraments. In fact, this past year, more than one person over the age of 65 was able to make their First Holy Communion.

Priesthood and Spirituality: Perhaps one of the most personally rewarding experiences this year has been watching a young friend learn what it is to be a priest. I have many times this year been reminded how many years ago, after a less than wonderful pastoral year, I was prepared to leave the seminary until a newly ordained priest named Fr. John Thomas inspired me as he discovered the joy of priesthood. Although not at the point of leaving, I was at the point of burnout, as I mentioned in previous articles. This year, however, watching Fr. Jose Miguel Peña discover the joy of priesthood has also been such a rewarding experience for me personally. In fact, it should be a great experience for many in our Diocese of Owensboro, as many have helped Fr. Peña along: St. Romuald Parish (Fr. Tony Bickett) sent money for health insurance;



The Three Wise Men from the East spend down time chatting with the Angels from On High. Los Tres Reyes del Oriente charlaban con los Ángeles de Alto.



Shepherds and formerly runaway lambs say "Peace to all". Los pastores y los corderos recientemente recapturados dicen, "Paz para todos".

Sts. William and Lawrence Parishes (Fr. Pat Bittel) sent Mass stipends that have meant food on the table; St. Mary of the Woods in Franklin (Fr. Robert Drury) sent money to fill up the gas tank; and a dear lady from St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm sent a donation that purchased a travelling Mass kit and some part for under the hood of the truck. (Given that I'm not very mechanically inclined, it could have been a water pump, diesel fuel air jet propeller carburetor injector gasket, or a wind-up rubber band.)

There is so much more I could say here, but I am still trying to find words to express year of working with the poor of Latin America. Any my border collie is telling me that a turkey has gone astray – or that she needs to go out. In the meantime, I thank all for their gifts and prayers, and I pray that all of you have a blessed Lent that helps you to better see our saving Christ in the poor and vulnerable in our world.

Saludos de Baní

Por El Padre Stan Puryear

Mientras recupero de la Navidad, me está acercando el tiempo de Cuaresma y Semana Santa. El tiempo se me está volando.

Adjunto el artículo de este mes son unas fotografías del drama de Navidad que fue presentada después de la Misa en la Vísperas de Navidad. Como escena de una comedia, el drama casi se presentó en medio de la Misa cuando uno de los corderos se escapó de su pastor y corría hacia la puerta de la iglesia. Con un cordero suelto enfrente de la casa, la perra pastora escocesa comenzó a ladrar descontroladamente, los niños comenzaron a gritar, y los jóvenes valientes trataron de superarse unos a otros en la captura de la fuga. La mejor parte de todo el evento fue que alguien decidió subir el sistema de sonido durante la segunda lectura para que se podría escuchar, resultando en un sonido horrible. Al fin, se restableció orden y se continuó la Misa.

Después de siete Misas y 21 bautismos en las celebraciones navideñas y después de que todos los animales fueron devueltos a sus dueños, aproveché un tiempo para reflexionar sobre el año pasado. Como ya he completado un año completo aquí en la República Dominicana, estoy asombrado de lo que Dios ha logrado en tan poco tiempo. Para mencionar unos ejemplos:

La granja de pavos: la intención original de tener una granja de pavos para complementar mis ingresos ha sido un fracaso total. El mayor obstáculo es que no soy buen comerciante. Terminé el año con sólo tres pavos (un macho y dos hembras). Los demás fueron a otros asuntos. Tres familias tienen un par de pavos, por lo que pueden iniciar sus propias granjas de pavos. Tres familias recibieron pavos para su propio consumo. Y mis dos perras hicieron una contribución a una actividad de juventud y a la mesa de mis compañeros sacerdotes. Sin embargo, esta saliendo mejor la situación: con contribuciones económicas de unas personas de Bowling Green, adquirí otra hembra para añadir diversidad genética a la manada, mientras que otra pava está puesta en su nido que contiene por lo menos 12 huevos.



In a moment that can only be a result of God's grace, it all comes together. Note that it is a real baby that Mary is holding, not a doll.

En un momento que sólo puede ser el resultado de la gracia de Dios, todo sale bien. Tenga en cuenta que es un bebé verdadero que tiene María en sus manos y no una muñeca.

Y las donaciones generosas significa que, aunque la operación no está ganando dinero, está pagando por sí mismo y está ayudando a los demás.

La granja de vegetales: esto ha sido otro fracaso enorme. Mi intención era mostrar a las personas cómo cultivar algunas hortalizas simples para que pudieran variar su dieta con verduras frescas. Lamentablemente, dos señores mayores muy útiles y bien intencionados no reconocen plantas de calabacín o pimienta, lo que significa que ellos matan a esas "malas hierbas". La meta para este año es centrarse en una sola planta – tomates – e iniciar plantones que se venderán a un precio barato. Y además, quiero crecer mi propia lechuga en una cama elevada para que puedo comer ensaladas sin llegar nuevamente en la sala de emergencias con cólera.

Parroquia: gracias a Dios, esto no ha sido un fracaso. La asistencia en las Misas sigue aumentando, y durante el año 2011 se ofreció misa en dos comunidades de forma regular donde anteriormente no se ofrecía: Sabana Chiquita y Nuestra Señora de Regla. Para el próximo año, la Misa se ofrecerá de horario regular en al menos

tres nuevas comunidades: Los Pinos, San Juan y El Barrio. Así, la Misa ofrecida en la comunidad Carretón anteriormente cada jueves ahora se ofrecerá cada domingo por la tarde, lo que significa que cada fin de semana, se ofrecerán seis misas dominicales en la parroquia. Debido a la falta de transporte (excepto el camión de la parroquia), los ancianos y las madres jóvenes no pueden asistir a la Misa si no se celebra cercana a sus hogares. Celebrando la Misa en las comunidades permite a más gente a participar en los sacramentos. De hecho, el año pasado, más de una persona mayor de 65 años hizo su Primera Comunión.

Sacerdocio y espiritualidad: quizás uno de las experiencias más valoradas este año ha sido viendo un joven amigo realizar lo que es ser sacerdote. Muchas veces este año he recordado cómo muchos años atrás, después de un año pastoral malo, quise dejar el seminario, hasta que un sacerdote recién ordenado Fr. John Thomas me inspiró descubrir la alegría del sacerdocio. Aunque no estuve en el momento de salir, estaba a punto de desgaste, como ya he mencionado en artículos anteriores. Este año,

Febrero 2012 5

sin embargo, viendo al Padre José Miguel Peña descubrir la alegría del sacerdocio ha sido una experiencia gratificante. De hecho, debería ser una gran experiencia para muchos en nuestra diócesis de Owensboro, como muchos han ayudado a Fr. Peña: la Parroquia San Romualdo (y el Padre Tony Bickett) envió dinero para el seguro de salud; Parroquias San Guillermo y San Lorenzo (y el Padre Bittel) enviaron estipendios de Misa que han puesto comida en la mesa; la Parroquia Santa María de los Bosques en Franklin (el Padre Roberto Drury) ha enviado dinero para combustible; y una señora amable de la Parroquia San Gerónimo de Fancy Farm envió dinero que facilitó la compra de necesidades para la Misa y algo para la camioneta de la parroquia. (Dado que no sé nada de mecánica, podría haber sido una bomba de agua, inyector de diesel, chorro de aire, propulsor del carburador, o una goma elástica.)

Hay mucho más se podría decir aquí, pero todavía estoy buscando las palabras para expresar el año de trabajar con los pobres de América Latina. Y la pastora escocesa ahora me está diciendo que se ha escapado un pavo – o que ella necesita salir para ir al baño. Mientras tanto, les agradezco a todos por sus donaciones y/o oraciones, y ruego que todos ustedes tengan una Cuaresma bendito que le ayuda a ver mejor nuestro Cristo en los pobres y vulnerables de nuestro mundo.



Barking at a runaway lamb can be very exhausting work, especially if it is at the late Mass.

Ladrando a un cordero descontrolado puede ser trabajo difícil, especialmente si es después de la hora de acostarse.

An Advent Candidacy: Waiting in joyful hope for his day of ordination



Larena Lawson, Serra Club Communications

December 4th, 2011, the second Sunday of Advent, was a day of joyful celebration for Owensboro Seminarian, Julio Barrera shown in the picture above as Bishop Medley read from the Rite of Candidacy.. At St. Leo Parish in Murray, where Julio served his

Pastoral Internship, during the 11:00 A.M. Mass, Julio was accepted as a Candidate for the Priesthood for the Diocese of Owensboro by its Bishop, William F. Medley, during the Rite of Candidacy. Julio was surrounded with the loving support of many clergy, brother seminarians, friends and members of the parish. He has taken yet another official step toward the vocation of the priesthood. He is now on target to be ordained Transitional Deacon on April 21, 2012.

The significant Sunday started very early for Julio Barrera's parents and family back home in Mexico. They attended the 7:00 A.M. Mass there, already offering prayers for Julio, that he might continue to say yes to God's extraordinary call in his life. In a telephone conversation with Julio afterwards, his parents told him that they wanted him to say yes. They had also visited a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe that morning, to offer up prayers for him, along with some religious sisters who joined them in their prayer. Although separated by the US and Mexican border and many miles in between, Julio's family in Amecameca, remains steadfast in their unwavering support of his vocation, no matter where God calls him to be. They trust, along with Julio, that God's will has led him to the Diocese of Owensboro to serve His people with love, and he has accepted the challenge.

During the homily of the Mass, Bishop Medley spoke about the season of Advent and it being a time of waiting; waiting and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus and waiting in joyful hope for the second coming of Christ. He also noted that it was a time of waiting for Julio. His priestly formation has all been a time of waiting for his day of ordination, a waiting of many years of study and preparation for the special vocation that God is calling him to, with each step taking him closer to that day of ordination.

After the celebration of the Holy Mass and the Rite of Candidacy, a reception was held for Julio in the parish hall and a luncheon was given for him and his guests at the home of a St. Leo parishioner. Although the skies were filled with rain and the weather cloudy and dismal that day, the Candidacy celebration was quite the opposite, full of joy and congratulations for Julio Barrera, the newest Candidate for the Priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro.

Candidatura del Adviento: Esperando con esperanza alegre para su día de ordenación

Larena Lawson, Comunicaciones del "Serra Club"

El 4 de diciembre del 2011, el segundo domingo de Adviento, fue un día de celebración alegre para el seminarista de Owensboro, Julio Barrera. En la parroquia de San Leo en Murray, donde Julio sirvió su año pastoral, durante la misa de las 11:00am, Julio fue aceptado como un Candidato al Sacerdocio para la Diócesis de Owensboro por su Obispo William F. Medley, durante el Rito de la Candidatura. Julio estuvo rodeado del apoyo cariñoso de muchos del clero, seminaristas hermanos, amigos y miembros de la parroquia. Él ha tomado otro paso oficial hacia la vocación del sacerdocio. Él ahora espera ser ordenado Diácono en Transición el 21 de Abril del 2012.

Este domingo significativo empezó temprano para los papás y familia de Julio en México. Ellos asistieron la misa de las 7:00am allá, ofreciendo sus oraciones por Julio, que continúa respondiendo sí a la llamada extraordinaria de Dios en su vida. Después, en una conversación por teléfono con Julio, sus padres le dijeron que ellos deseaban que dijera que sí. Esta mañana, ellos también habían visitado un santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, para ofrecer sus plegarias por él, junto con unas hermanas religiosas que se congregaron en oración. Aunque los separa la frontera de los Estados Unidos y México y muchas millas, la familia de Julio en Amecameca, sigue firme en su apoyo incondicional hacia su vocación, sin importar dónde Dios lo llame estar. Ellos confían, junto con Julio, que la voluntad de Dios lo ha traído a la Diócesis de Owensboro para servir a su pueblo con amor, y él ha aceptado el desafío.

Durante la homilía de la Misa, Monseñor Medley habló de la temporada del Adviento y que es un tiempo de espera; esperar y prepararse para celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús y esperar con esperanza alegre para la segunda venida de Cristo. Él también dijo que es un tiempo de espera para Julio. Su formación sacerdotal ha sido un tiempo de esperar para su día de ordenación, esperar por muchos años de estudio y preparación para la vocación especial a lo cual Dios lo está llamando, con cada paso llevándolo más cerca del día de su ordenación.

Después de la celebración de la Santa Misa y el Rito de la Candidatura, hubo una recepción para Julio en el salón parroquial y un almuerzo para él y sus invitados en la casa de un parroquiano de San Leo. Aunque el cielo estaba lleno de lluvia y el tiempo estuvo nublado y sombrío, la celebración de la Candidatura fue todo lo opuesto, lleno de alegría y de felicitaciones hacia Julio Barrera, el Candidato más nuevo al Sacerdocio en la Diócesis de Owensboro.



Julio Barrera speaking Dec 12, 2011, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at Saint Joseph Church, Bowling Green. Photo by Fr. Joshua McCarty



El Director Diocesano de Ministerio Hispano, Luis Ajú, a la izquierda, Martha Hagan, co-directora de la Oficina de Liturgia y Kevin Kauffeld, Canciller Diocesano dieron la bienvenida a la gente para celebrar las Posadas en el Centro Pastoral Católico el 22 de Dic. del 2011.

Cristóbal Gutiérrez, a la izquierda, anunció el comienzo de la séptima Posada de la parroquia de Santos José y Pablo el 22 de Dic. en la puerta principal del Centro Pastoral Católico en Owensboro. Director Diocesano de Ministerio Hispano, al centro, tomó su lugar como Posadero para el CPC y dio la bienvenida por parte del Obispo Medley que no pudo llegar esta noche.



Los peregrinos de Santos José y Pablo esperan ser recibidos al Centro Pastoral Católico para celebrar las Posadas el 22 de Dic. Abajo, Director Diocesano de Ministerio Hispano, Luis Ajú, da la bienvenida a María y los otros peregrinos al CPC.



Una Reflexión de las Posadas ...

Viene de la página 1

personal que sirve a la Iglesia Católica en Kentucky Occidental y quienes están aquí para ayudar, para servir a toda la población de Kentucky occidental en alguna capacidad. “Este lugar de trabajo, de servicio es su casa”, dijo Luis. “Eres bienvenido aquí a tu casa”.

Enseguida todos tuvimos una muy buena cena que fue de lo mejor. Fue, como decimos muy seguido en los artículos del Católico de Kentucky Occidental, una noche cuando todos se divertieron. Los niños jugaron, los jóvenes se juntaron con sus videojuegos y hablaron. Los adultos sirvieron la cena, atendiendo

a los casi 75 personas, cantaron villancicos, desearon unos a otros “Feliz Navidad, Prospero Año y Felicidad; I wish you a Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart.” Y después nos fuimos a casa.

Pero ahora regresamos a la puerta principal por un minuto. ¿Qué pasó allí? José y María llegaron a una casa cerrada con llave. Jesús estaba con ellos (Dios con nosotros). La Sagrada Familia intentó encontrar refugio, un lugar para que Jesús naciera en el mundo, para que Dios se hiciera uno de nosotros. ¡La Encarnación! ¿Qué hicimos nosotros los humanos? Nos paramos en nuestras casas



El Padre Carmelo ofreció la bendición antes de la cena el 22 de Dic. del 2011 en el sótano del Centro Pastoral Católico.

cerradas con llave preguntándonos que estaba pasando.

Unos días después, estaba leyendo el “Trabajador Católico de Houston”, edición de Nov-Dic. y en la página 3, Mark y Louise Zwick habían escrito en “Revolución de Adviento”, estas oraciones que abrieron mis ojos para ver con nuevos ojos la escena de la puerta principal del CPC, como una pequeña epifanía: “Jesús no puede entrar a una casa cerrada con llave. Las verdades encerradas no van a ninguna parte.”

No hubiera leído estas palabras con mucho interés si no hubiera estado en el CPC. El 22 de Dic., adentro de la puerta cerrada, preguntándome qué estaba pasando.

Y vi a todos nosotros allí, tanto los de afuera de la casa cerrada tocando para pedir posada como los de adentro manteniendo la seguridad de la puerta cerrada con llave. Yo pienso que ya tengo una idea porqué los Católicos celebran las Posadas. Son para mirar y buscar un lugar en nuestros corazones para Dios.



+ Monseñor William Medley, Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Mis Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

El 9 de Diciembre de 1937, el Papa Pío XI emitió una bula papal estableciendo una nueva diócesis en Kentucky occidental. Los treinta y dos condados, que desde el 8 de Abril de 1808 formaban parte de la Diócesis de Bardstown y luego de la Diócesis de Louisville, fueron desgajados para así formar la Diócesis de Owensboro. En este mismo decreto el Santo Padre designó que la Iglesia San Esteban de la ciudad de Owensboro sería elevada a la dignidad de catedral. En aquel tiempo había 56 iglesias y 29 escuelas parroquiales en la diócesis de más de 12,000 millas y fue estimado que había poco más de 24,000 Católicos viviendo en el área.

El Año de Nuestro Señor 2012 entonces

pues; representa el 75 Jubileo de esta iglesia local. La tradición antigua establece que los jubileos se deben observar y celebrar. En el tiempo del Antiguo Testamento cada cincuenta años se observaba como jubileo, deudas eran perdonadas y dejaban que vastos barbechos de tierra se barbecharan, así para marcar la restauración y gratitud a Dios.

En los tiempos modernos todavía observamos jubileos significantes de nacimiento, matrimonio, profesión religiosa e instituciones. Típicamente parejas casadas observan sus aniversarios como también los sacerdotes y religiosos. En nuestro día un cumpleaños de 75 años ya no es tan raro, pero todavía un aniversario de 75 años no es común.

Entonces bien, nuestra Diócesis observará un año de celebración para marcar las bendiciones de Dios. La

celebración será desde la Misa Crismal del 2012 (3 de Abril) hasta la Misa Crismal de 2013 (26 de Marzo). Muchos eventos que ordinariamente se celebran cada año serán notados este año como Eventos del Jubileo. Se observará que marcaremos nuestra celebración en alabanza, en formación y en servicio caritativo que reflejen el mandato de Jesús de cuidar a los más pequeños entre nosotros.

El 8 de Diciembre del 2012, Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María, habrá una Misa a la cual se invita a toda la diócesis. La Misa se celebrará a las 11:00am en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro. Nuestra meta

es que todas las 79 parroquias estén representadas.

Que la fundación de este año de observancia y celebración sea la oración, que todos puedan llegar a un conocimiento más profundo de Dios y de su bondad. Hemos sido bendecidos con estos 75 años y nuestras celebraciones van a demostrar nuestra fe en la providencia y bondad de Dios en los años venideros.

Dios los bendiga a todos

+ Monseñor William F. Medley
Obispo de Owensboro

Calendario del Monseñor Medley para Febrero, 2012:

- 3 de Febrero 8:00 a.m. Misa de la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, Santa Ana, Morganfield
1:00 p.m. Misa de la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, Cristo Rey, Madisonville
- 5 de Febrero 10:00 a.m. Confirmación, Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
- 6-7 de Febrero Católicos en el Capitolio, Frankfort
- 7 de Febrero 7 6:00 p.m. Confirmación, San Romuald, Hardinsburg
- 8 de Febrero 6:00 p.m. Celebración de la Formación en la Fe del Diaconato Central, Santa Ana, Morganfield
- 9 de Febrero Discusión de los Obispos, San Meinrad
- 11 de Febrero 9:00 a.m. Conferencia del Ministerio Vocacional, Monte San José
4:00 p.m. Misa, Conferencia Católica de Hombres, Universidad de Brescia
- 12 de Febrero 8:30 a.m. Confirmación, San Pablo, Leitchfield
6:00 p.m. Sesión de Información sobre LEVÁNTATE, San José, Bowling Green
- 13 de Febrero 8:30 a.m. Misa Escolar, Escuela de San Pablo, Leitchfield
10:00 a.m. Sesión de Información sobre LEVÁNTATE, San José, Leitchfield
6:30 p.m. Sesión de Información sobre LEVÁNTATE, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro
- 14 de Febrero 8:30 a.m. Misa Escolar, Escuela Secundaria de Santa María, Paducah
12-3 p.m. Horas de la Oficina en Paducah, Hospital de Lourdes, Paducah
6:30-8:30 p.m. Sesión de Información sobre LEVÁNTATE, San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
- 15-17 de Febrero Taller "El Celibato y el Sacerdocio", Notre Dame, Indiana
- 18 de Febrero 3:00 p.m. Día de Reflexión de Católicos Negros, Capilla del Rosario, Paducah
5:00 p.m. Confirmación, San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
- 20 de Febrero 9:30 a.m. Reunión del Comité del Personal Sacerdotal, CPC
1:30 p.m. Reunión del Concejo de los Sacerdotes. CPC
- 21 de Febrero 9:00 a.m. Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano, CPC
- 22 de Febrero 8:30 a.m. Reunión del Comité de Administración/Finanzas, CPC
12:00 p.m. Misa del Miércoles de Ceniza, Catedral de San Esteban, Sótano del Centro Pastoral Católico
- 23-24 de Febrero Reunión del Concejo de la Universidad de Brescia
- 26 de Febrero 2:00 p.m. Rito de Elección, Santo Espíritu, Bowling Green
- 27 de Febrero – 2 de Marzo Visitas a las Diócesis de Mandeville y la Republica Dominicana

Queridos Lectores de Católico de Kentucky Occidental,



Luis Aju

Nuestro querido amigo Luis Aju, Director de la Oficina Diocesana de Ministerio Hispano, ha sido diagnosticado por doctores con un tumor en el cerebro, y ahora está recibiendo quimioterapia. El Padre Juan Vaughan, párroco de la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro, escribió el 17 de Enero del 2012, "Hoy Cathy Hagan de la Oficina Diocesana de Corresponsabilidad y yo fuimos a visitar a Luis Aju en el Hospital Barnes-Jewish en San Louis. Él empezó a recibir quimioterapia anoche y lo que entiendo es que continuará por dos semanas. Entonces evaluarán sus efectos y tomar decisiones sobre la próxima

acción. Luis y Victorina nos pidieron expresar su gratitud a todos por las oraciones y apoyo que han recibido de todos lados."

Como Luis y Vicky, les pedimos a todos sus oraciones para su sanación. Seguiremos imprimir fotos e información en el Católico de Kentucky Occidental con la ayuda de los Ministros Hispanos sirviendo en nuestras parroquias mientras Luis se recupere.

Gracias,

Mel Howard, Director, El Católico de Kentucky Occidental

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, Sra. Mary Beth Hurley, 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.

Celebrando 75 Años como Diócesis



La Diócesis tiene mucho para agradecer en este año. Uno de los varios aniversarios importantes que se celebra este año, el 9 de Diciembre del 2012 marca el 75 aniversario de la creación de la Diócesis de Owensboro. En su Bula Papal de 1937, El Papa Pío XI separó los 32 condados de Kentucky occidental de la Diócesis de Louisville y a la vez elevó a Louisville a una Arquidiócesis. La Bula Papal también creó las diócesis de Covington Kentucky y Memphis Tennessee. Con la encomienda de guiar esta nueva diócesis, el Reverendísimo Francis R. Cotton fue instalado como primer obispo de Owensboro el 8 de Marzo de 1938. Bendecida por Dios, la diócesis continúa viviendo el Evangelio y creciendo todos juntos como una comunidad por 75 años.

Para conmemorar este aniversario, la Diócesis de Owensboro celebrará nuestra historia por un año entero, oficialmente

empezando con la Misa Crismal el 3 de Abril del 2012 y continuando hasta la Misa Crismal de la primavera del 2013. A través de este año la diócesis enfocará nuestra atención hacia la historia y el legado del Catolicismo en nuestra diócesis vivido por nuestros sacerdotes, comunidades religiosas, familias y parroquias. Este énfasis será incorporado en eventos diocesanos durante el año.

En conjunto con estas celebraciones, comenzando este Marzo 2012. El Católico de Kentucky Occidental publicará cada mes fotografías e historias breves de varias parroquias, eventualmente celebrando cada parroquia en la Diócesis. Estas historias destacarán las contribuciones que cada parroquia ha hecho en nuestra herencia Católica.

Los invitamos a ustedes y a sus familias a unirse con Monseñor Medley en celebración de nuestra vida diocesana y que a través de la intercesión de San Esteban, patrono de nuestra diócesis, podamos seguir fielmente los pasos de nuestros antepasados.

Una Reflexión de las Posadas: Corazones Abiertos a Jesús

Por Mel Howard

La celebración de las Posadas, una celebración histórica de Adviento-Navidad de México, durante los nueve días antes de la Navidad es una oración para dar gracias por el hospedaje dado a personas sin hogar y también una reflexión reveladora sobre el sentido de hospitalidad que tiene uno mismo.

El Director de Ministerio Hispano Luis Ajú me había mostrado sus fotos de esta celebración latina de años pasados y lo describía como un tiempo para estar con familia y amigos para reconstruir el viaje que José y María hicieron a Belén la noche que nació Jesús. Al principio yo pensé que era como un nacimiento viviente como se ve a veces a un lado de las calles en tiempo de Navidad.

Como sabemos la historia, José y María llegaron tarde en la noche al pueblo. María tal vez ya tenía los dolores de parto y José buscaba un refugio para ella y el nacimiento de su niño. Seguro que estaba desesperado mientras iba de un lugar a otro y escuchaba que no había espacio en la posada ni espacio en ninguna casa. Favor de usar la otra puerta. Salgan del pueblo.

En la noche del 22 de Dic. en Owensboro, parroquianos de Santos José y Pablo en la Calle Cuatro travesaron la ciudad a la Calle Locust al Centro Pastoral Católico (CPC) para celebrar su séptimo día de las Posadas de su parroquia. A las 7:30p.m., dos Católicos pequeños representando a José y María tocaron la puerta cerrada del Centro



Alina endereza los adornos de la mesa mientras su papá, Huberlindo, canta un villancico el 22 de Dic. durante las Posadas.

Pastoral; casi tres docenas de personas los acompañaron, mirando para adentro, buscando refugio. Adentro había miembros del personal diocesano y otros visitantes vigilando el lugar.

El pequeño José tocó la puer-



REVISED SCHEDULE OF INFORMATION SESSIONS

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	Note changes
Sunday	February 12	6:30 – 8:30 PM	BOWLING GREEN *	St. Joseph
Monday	February 13	10:00 AM-Noon	LEITCHFIELD	St. Joseph
Monday	February 13	6:30 – 8:30 PM	OWENSBORO	Our Lady of Lourdes
Tuesday	February 14	9:30 – 11:30 AM	HENDERSON	Holy Name of Jesus
Tuesday	February 14	6:30 – 8:30 PM	PADUCAH	St. Francis de Sales
Wednesday	February 15	6:30 – 8:30 PM	OWENSBORO	St. Pius X
Thursday	February 16	6:30 – 8:30 PM	HOPKINSVILLE *	Sts. Peter & Paul

ta; el Posadero representado por Luis Ajú preguntó qué quería. Entonces el canto de las Posadas comienza, acompañados con guitarra por fuera con Connie Cáceres y por dentro la Hermana Panchita. Cristóbal dirigió el canto desde fuera y todos los de dentro respondían. Decían a María y a José que se salieran del pueblo o bien habría problemas. Cristóbal seguía cantando; José siguió tacando a la puerta cerrada, los cantos continuaron por alrededor de diez minutos.

Finalmente, los posaderos

abren la puerta. La gente y peregrinos pudieron entrar y bajar las escaleras a la sala de conferencia en el sótano. Se formó un gran círculo y se continuó cantando. Luego Cristóbal habló a los presentes alternando entre inglés y español, lo mismo hizo Luis.

Luis Ajú, empleado de la diócesis quien trabaja en el centro de pastoral en nombre de la diócesis le dio la bienvenida a las personas, expresándoles que este edificio era su casa, habitado con

Continúa en la página 3