

Coming soon!

*A journey of spiritual renewal
centered on Jesus Christ*

ARISE
Together in Christ

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

Presented by the Diocese of Owensboro and RENEW International

ARISE Together In Christ Diocese of Owensboro

Timeline - Preparation Period and First Year

• **March 19-23** - Launching ARISE: Leadership Training for the ARISE Parish Team Provides formation and skills training for the ARISE Parish Planning Team who will be responsible for implementing ARISE in the parish. Offers an overview of the entire process, timelines, materials, an understanding of faith sharing, and how to become a ministerial community. These sessions are for pastors, parish staff, and the ARISE Parish Planning Team.

• **April 30 – May 4** - Reaching Out: Evangelization Training for the ARISE Parish Team This workshop develops a Catholic understanding of evangelization and provides effective approaches for maximum parish participation. It covers invitational strategies, organization of small communities, publicity, marketing, and web use. These sessions are for pastors, parish staff, and the ARISE Parish Planning Team.

• **September 10-14** - Small Community Leader Formation Workshop This workshop prepares small community leaders to lead Season One, Encountering Christ Today. It provides a basic theological grounding in the core belief that in Jesus Christ, God has fully revealed himself to humanity. It also highlights the practical skills needed to facilitate and maximize small communities as vehicles for prayer and faith sharing with a movement toward action. These sessions are for small community leaders and the ARISE Parish Planning Team.

Parishes launch the ARISE process with Sign-Up Sunday, and then invite support in prayer for the process with Prayer Commitment Sunday.

• **October 7- November 17** - The parish-based small communities participate in the six faith-sharing sessions of Season One, Encountering Christ Today.

For more information about ARISE Together In Christ, LEVANTATE. Unámonos en Cristo ,contact Sister Ethel-Marie Biri,SSND, at Sr.Ethel-Marie Biri@pastoral.org, or call 1-270-683-1545



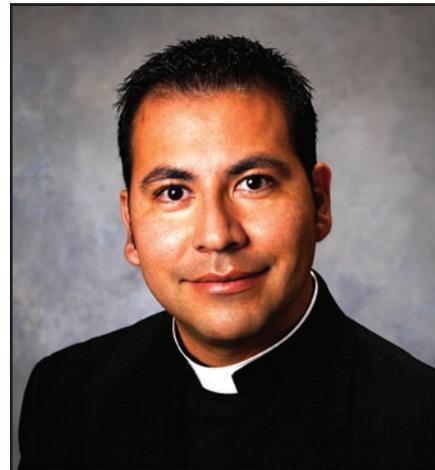
With Joyful Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God
the
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
the Church of Western Kentucky

announces
the Ordination of

**JULIO EVARISTO
BARRERA MARTINEZ**

son of Julio Barrera Rueda and Sara
Martinez Gomez
to the

ORDER OF DEACON



Called by God and the Church
through the Imposition of Hands
and the
Invocation of the Holy Spirit
by
The Most Reverend William F.
Medley
Bishop of Owensboro
on Saturday the twenty-first
of April
at ten o'clock
in the year of our Lord
two thousand and twelve
at
Saint Joseph Catholic Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Change Service Requested

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Of St. Peter and St. Paul



My dear sisters and brothers,

According to the 1983 Code of Canon Law, the bishop of a diocese is to go to Rome at least once every five years to venerate the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to present himself to the Pope. In the transition from the papacy of the late Pope, Blessed John Paul II, and our present Pope Benedict XVI, the visits of bishops from the United States had been delayed.

Beginning last December and continuing through May of this year the bishops of our country are making this pilgrimage in groups. I joined twenty-two bishops from Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana from January 20 - February 1, 2012 on this historic visit. During these days we visited several different Congregations and Dicasteries. These departments might be compared to Cabinets of our federal or state government. Each dicastery is typically headed by a Cardinal appointed by the Pope. Unlike our state or federal governments, each of these bureaus is rather slimly staffed. The entire Vatican staff of more than twenty-two dicasteries to serve the universal church would not exceed 2,500 employees, including clerical workers. It is an efficient operation in terms of personnel.

In each dicastery one of our American bishops had been chosen to speak of facets of the Catholic Church of our nation. In turn, the prefect or administrator of the dicastery might make inquiries about the health and vitality of local churches. In anticipation of this visit the bishop of each diocese had submitted a Quinquennial Report. The report for our diocese totaled 160 pages.

On January 23, I was greatly privileged to meet with Pope Benedict XVI in his library with five other bishops of Kentucky and Tennessee. We discussed with him the burning question of the state of religious liberty in our nation. Likewise we explored priestly and religious vocations, the church's ministry to immigrants, Catholic education, and the state of ecumenism. I shared with Pope Benedict the blessings our American Church has been experiencing over recent decades with the

arrival of thousands of international priests coming to our land as missionaries. The Pope responded that he hoped that this experience would build upon the catholicity, the universality, of our Roman Catholic experience.

While meetings and dialogues are always occasions to learn, I readily attest that the highlights of my pilgrimage, in addition to the visit with Pope Benedict, were indeed the opportunities to pray at the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul. As a group, our bishops celebrated Mass at these two holy places and for me this provided a beneficial reflection of the lives of these two great Apostles and their martyrdom. That Christians venerate these sites after nearly two thousand years helped me to understand that as a successor to the Apostles, I stand in a long and venerable and graced tradition.

At each holy place that I visited I prayed for the people of the Catholic Church of western Kentucky. I am indeed proud of the report I submitted of the vitality of faith and witness that the Diocese of Owensboro represents.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

William F. Medley

+ Most Reverend William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro

**April is National
Child Abuse Prevention Month**



**Diocese of Owensboro
Prayer Service
for Protection and Healing
Monday, April 23, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul Church
902 East Ninth Street,
Hopkinsville**



Bishop William Medley shaking hands with Pope Benedict XVI Jan. 23, 2012 in the Pope's library during the Kentucky-Tennessee Bishops' Ad Limina visit in Rome. Photo purchased from L'Ossavertore Romano.

Bishop Medley's Calendar For March 2012:

- | | | |
|----------|--------------|--|
| March 3 | 5:00 p.m. | Confirmation, Precious Blood, Owensboro |
| March 4 | 10:00 a.m. | Confirmation, Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Mass, Faith Formation Gathering with Owensboro, West Deanery, Parish of the Immaculate |
| March 6 | 9:00 a.m. | CPC Staff Mass and Meeting |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Serra Club Prayer Service, Blessed Mother, Owensboro |
| March 7 | 8:30 a.m. | School Mass, Mary Carrico Memorial School, Knottsville |
| March 8 | 9:00 a.m. | "Senior Conversations", Owensboro Catholic High School |
| March 10 | | Youth 2000 Workshops, Brescia University |
| March 11 | 10:30 a.m. | Mass, Youth 2000, Brescia University |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Mass, Murray State University, Newman Center |
| March 12 | | Visit with Seminarians, St. Meinrad, IN |
| March 14 | 6:00 p.m. | Salute to Catholic School Alumni, Louisville, KY |
| March 15 | 8:00 a.m. | School Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville |
| March 17 | 5:00 p.m. | Confirmation, St. Joseph, Leitchfield |
| March 18 | 8:00 a.m. | Confirmation, St. Anthony, Axtel, and St. Mary of the Woods, Quady, @ Axtel |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Scouts Mass, St. Pius X, Owensboro |
| March 19 | 9:30 a.m. | Priests Personnel Board |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Priests' Council Meeting |
| March 20 | 9:00 a.m. | CPC Staff Mass and Meeting |
| March 21 | 8:30 a.m. | Finance Council Meeting, CPC |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confirmation, St. Mark, Eddyville |
| March 22 | 9:00 a.m. | School Mass, OCES K-3 Campus |
| March 24 | 1:30 p.m. | Final Profession, Glenmary Sister, Blessed Sacrament Chapel |
| March 25 | 9:30 a.m. | Mass and Blessing of Parish Hall, Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam |
| March 27 | 10:00 a.m. | School Mass, St. Mary High School, Paducah |
| | 11:00 a.m. | "Senior Conversations", St. Mary High School, Paducah |
| | 12-3:00 p.m. | Paducah Office, Lourdes Hospital, Paducah |

BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH

Priesthood

Is God Calling You?

DIocese of OWENSBORO 2011-2012 SEMINARIANS



Julio Barrera
St. Meinrad Seminary
3rd Theology



Will Thompson
St. Meinrad Seminary
Pastoral Internship



Emmanuel Udoh
St. Meinrad Seminary
Pastoral Internship



Gary Clark
St. Meinrad Seminary
2nd Theology



Michael Charles Ajigo
St. Meinrad Seminary
2nd Theology



Nicolas Ajpacaja Tzoc
St. Meinrad Seminary
1st Theology



Jared Kaelin
St. Meinrad Seminary
Pastoral Year



Basilio Az Cuc
St. Meinrad Seminary
1st Theology



Matthew Fields
St. Meinrad Seminary
Pre-Theology



Alexander French
St. John Vianney Seminary
4th College



Joseph Markin
St. John Vianney Seminary
4th College



Nick Higdon
St. John Vianney Seminary
4th College



Ethan Bennett
St. John Vianney Seminary
3rd College



Ronnie Santana
St. John Vianney Seminary
3rd College



James Dennis
St. Meinrad Seminary
2nd College



Dustin Gillon
St. John Vianney Seminary
2nd College

If you think God may be calling you to the priesthood, be not afraid! Pray, frequent the sacraments and trust God to show you His plan for your happiness.

For help discerning, contact the vocation director:

Fr. Andy Garner
270-683-1545
Fr.Andy.Garner@pastoral.org



Free Resources

Visit www.GoPriest.com to request free books to help you discern your vocation.

For information about discerning your vocation, be sure to visit our vocation website at:

GoPriesthood.org

Most Rev.
William Francis Medley



Divine Mercy Sunday



Blessed Mother Church
601 E 23rd St.
Owensboro
APRIL 15, 1:30
– 4:00 P.M.
Fr. Ben Luther
“Mary, Mother of Mercy”
“Be courageous. Do not fear apparent obstacles, but fix your gaze upon the Passion of my Son, and in this way you will be victorious.”
#449 Diary of St Faustina.

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

- The Western Kentucky Catholic is published monthly except June and July

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- 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

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

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic must be signed and with contact information, may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Please let us know politely if you find proofing or factual errors in items of this publication.

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

Values of Christian Camps

By Ben Warrell

Every year I'm asked, "Why should I send my kids to camp?" We've posted a list from other campers why they think you should come to camp, but here is a list from the Christian Camp and Conference Association on what your child will experience at camp. I've spent over a decade in the camp ministry and I can promise you this is all true. Our staff has seen all of these things and more happen to young people at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp each summer.

1. Genuine Community is experienced.

Camp contrasts with daily life. Labels, expectations, mindless routines, influences of parents, teachers, media and friends are left behind in favor of a special temporary community with focused purpose: presenting and nurturing those in the faith toward maturity. Campers are immersed in a loving community free to embrace the values and lifestyle of that community. Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp can be a clear model demonstrating how Catholic Christians should live.

Separation from home removes the familiar physical and social supports that provide comfort and security. Campers are forced to transfer trust to others or depend on someone more secure and mature.

2. Ministry to the whole person takes place.

Camp powerfully communicates spiritual truths and spurs spiritual growth among campers. In the midst of God's creation, campers experience teachable moments, the Sacraments, praise and worship, relaxation and reflection times. Ministry to body, mind and soul takes place.

3. Relationships are built-with God and others.

The activities of daily camp life teach social skills. Camp is foremost a highly relational experience. At camp, spiritual mentors are always present. They are visual examples of how to live when tired, how to be kind when others are unkind, how to control anger, how to discipline with love, how to ask for forgiveness, how to grow spiritually, how to deal with temptation, and how to live in commu-

nity. The influence for change is great at camp, where relationships are valued. Jesus is our model for ministry.

4. Memories and life commitments are made.

Because camp is a contrast to everyday life, and because this contrast causes the camper's senses to be heightened, time takes on new meaning. Events at camp become more engaging, alive, and vivid; they are filled with energy and totally absorb campers. Camp experiences provide moments that render campers ready for learning. Struggling with new games, adventure activities, difficult peers, wetness, heat, darkness, disappointments, camp duties and separation from home, all add to the variety and intensity of experiences. These teachable moments open doors of opportunity where spiritual truth can be presented.

5. Tomorrow's leaders are developed

Gasper River Catholic Camp Information

- Registration is open for the 2012 summer camp season. Camps are available for young people just entering the 3rd grade to young adults. All the dates, forms and info you will need are on the CAMPS link on our website www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org
- If you know of a young adult, one year removed from high school, who would like to serve as a summer staff, please have them check out the JOBS link on our website. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others and dive into your faith like you never have before!
- If you are an adult, at least 21 years of age and have completed or are willing to complete the Safe Environment Training for the diocese, we need you! Please consider serving as a volunteer counselor. You'll be responsible for a group of young people for the week and get to participate in all the camp activities. There is no cost for this position. Have a great week, grow in your faith and make a difference in the life of a young person for God!
- We need camp health care professionals for this summer. If you are a nurse, nursing student, doctor or EMT, please contact our office to see how you can be involved. You will receive a camper scholarship for an immediate family member or friend. Please contact our office at 270-781-2466 if you have any questions.

Please be involved! Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp belongs to you! Come see what God is doing in the lives of so many. The adventure of a lifetime awaits!!!

All Invited To Join In Prayer For The United States of America

During this election year The Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, Ky. are hosting Evenings of Eucharistic Prayer for our Nation. They hope all can join in prayer with them on these evenings.

Each evening will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Intercessions, Scripture Readings, Sermon by a Father of Mercy, Renewal of Consecration of our Nation to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary and close with Solemn Benediction

Sister John Mary, C.P., said, "Please tell your friends and family to join us in prayer at the monastery. For those who live at a distance please feel free to join us in spirit. Our Nation is in a moral crisis and we need much prayer. May we return to the God-centered values of our Founding Fathers. May God bless our upcoming Presidential Election!"



Join the Passionist Nuns in Praying for our Nation

In preparation for our National Elections we will be hosting Eucharistic Evenings of Prayer throughout 2012

Each evening will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture, Sermon by a Father of Mercy, Renewal of Consecration of our Nation, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Solemn Benediction.

Tuesday, March 6th, 6:30—8 p.m.

Passionist Nuns Monastery in Whitesville, KY

Questions? (270) 233-4571

Website: www.passionistnuns.org Blog: www.passionistnuns.org/blog/

"The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization and moves away from God...the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy 'with loud cries.' These 'loud cries' should be the mark of the Church of our times, cries uttered to God to implore his mercy..."

(Bl. John Paul II: *Rich in Mercy* #15)

1810-2010: 200 Years of Parish Life That Made a Diocese

March, 2012 **5**

Parish	Place	County	Established
St. Romuald	Hardinsburg	Breckinridge	1810
St. Paul	Leitchfield	Grayson	1811
St. Anthony	Axtel	Breckinridge	1812
S.H. of Jesus	Waverly	Union	1812
St. Augustine	Grayson Springs	Grayson	1815
St. Lawrence	Philpot	Daviess	1821
St. Anthony	Peonia	Grayson	1822
St. Mary/Woods	Whitesville	Daviess	1830
St. Ambrose	Henshaw	Union	1832
St. Jerome	Fancy Farm	Graves	1835
St. Benedict	Wax	Grayson	1835
St. Stephen	Owensboro	Daviess	1839
St. Alphonsus	St. Joseph	Daviess	1839
St. John/Evang.	Paducah	McCracken	1843
St. John/Evang.	Sunfish	Edmondson	1845
St. Columba	Lewisport	Hancock	1850
St. Frances deSales	Paducah	McCracken	1850
H.G. Angel	Irvington	Breckinridge	1857
Imm. Conception	Hawesville	Hancock	1858
Sacred Heart	Russellville	Logan	1858
St. Sebastian	Calhoun	McLean	1858
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	Ohio	1858
St. Agnes	Uniontown	Union	1859
St. Joseph	Bowling Green	Warren	1859
St. Mary	Franklin	Simpson	1867
Sts. Peter/Paul	Hopkinsville	Christian	1872
St. Joseph	Leitchfield	Grayson	1872
St. Martin	Rome	Daviess	1873
St. Peter/Alcantara	Stanley	Daviess	1873
Imm. Conception	Earlington	Hopkins	1873
St. Ann	Morganfield	Union	1877
St. Mary/Woods	McQuady	Breckinridge	1879
St. Edward	Eddyville	Lyon	1885
H.N. of Jesus	Henderson	Henderson	1886
<i>St. Louis</i>	<i>1861-1891</i>		
St. Rose/Lima	Cloverport	Breckinridge	1887
<i>St. Malachi</i>	<i>1853-1887</i>		
St. Elizabeth	Curdsboro	Daviess	1887
St. Paul	Owensboro	Daviess	1887
St. William	Knottsville	Daviess	1887
St. Joseph	Mayfield	Graves	1887
St. Paul	Princeton	Caldwell	1889
Sacred Heart	Hickman	Hickman	1890
<i>St. Bridget</i>	<i>1861-1890</i>		
St. Charles	Bardwell	Carlisle	1893
St. John/Baptist	Fordsville	Ohio	1893
St. Augustine	Reed	Henderson	1896
St. Anthony	Browns Valley	Daviess	1902
St. Mary Magd.	Sorgho	Daviess	1902
St. Leopold	Eddyville	Lyon	1905
St. Mary/Field	LaCenter	Ballard	1906
St. Eliz./Hungary	Clarkson	Grayson	1906
St. Peter/Antioch	Waverly	Union	1909
St. Joseph	Central City	Muhlenberg	1912
<i>St. Martin/Tours</i>	<i>1886-1909</i>		
St. Denis	Fancy Farm	Graves	1914
St. Charles Borr.	Livermore	McLean	1917

In 2012, people concern themselves with getting most things from here to there. Historical reflection reverses the direction. It invites us to look from there to here instead.

Seen that way, the spread of our Catholic faith has always been the concern of the community – in Diocesan terms, parish life.

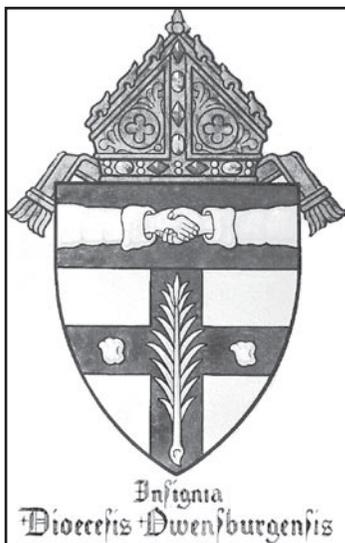
The surrounding table, adapted from a 2010 display prepared by the Diocesan Archives, presents a historical listing focusing on today's active parishes within the Diocese of Owensboro.

A parish name and date range in italics indicates either that the parish listed immediately above used to operate under that name or that the same place was served by a differently named parish for the dates given.

Look for upcoming appreciations of our missions and other former parishes as the 75th anniversary celebration moves forward.

Parish	Place	County	Established
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	Hopkins	1922
St. Edward	Fulton	Fulton	1932
<i>Our Lady/Victory</i>	<i>1904-1909</i>		
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	Butler	1940
St. Thomas More	Paducah	McCracken	1943
Bl. Sacr. Chapel	Owensboro	Daviess	1945
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	McCracken	1947
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	Daviess	1948
Sts. Joseph/Paul	Owensboro	Daviess	1948
<i>St. Joseph</i>	<i>1872-1948</i>		
<i>St. Paul</i>	<i>1887-1948</i>		
St. Anthony/Padua	Grand Rivers	Livingston	1948
St. Leo	Murray	Calloway	1949
Sts. Mary/James	Guthrie	Todd	1949
St. Francis Borgia	Sturgis	Union	1952
Immaculate	Owensboro	Daviess	1954
St. Pius X	Calvert City	Marshall	1954
St. Pius X	Owensboro	Daviess	1957
Our Lady/Lourdes	Owensboro	Daviess	1959
Precious Blood	Owensboro	Daviess	1960
Christ/King	Scottsville	Allen	1964
St. Susan	Elkton	Todd	1965
St. William/Verc.	Marion	Crittenden	1966
St. Stephen	Cadiz	Trigg	1966
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	Warren	1967
Christ/King	Madisonville	Hopkins	1968
Holy Cross	Providence	Webster	1976
St. Michael	Sebree	Webster	1977
<i>St. Joseph</i>	<i>1833-1862</i>		
St. Jude	Clinton	Hickman	1982
St. Henry	Aurora	Marshall	1985
St. Mark	Eddyville	Lyon	1990
<i>St. Edward</i>	<i>1885-1903</i>		
<i>St. Leopold</i>	<i>1905</i>		
St. M./Archangel	Oak Grove	Christian	1998

The Seal of the Diocese of Owensboro



The clasped hands are taken from the great seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Emblazoned upon the cross are the stones and Palm Branch of Victory which represent Saint Stephen, Protomartyr, the Patron of the Diocese and of the Diocesan Cathedral. This Coat of Arms was created for the Diocese by Pierre de Chaignon la Rone. The Diocese of Owensboro was created by Pope Pius XI, December 9, 1937, separating the 32 counties of Western Kentucky from the Diocese of Louisville which was at that time elevated to an Archdiocese. The Most Reverend Francis R. Cotton, the first bishop of Owensboro, was preconized (appointed) Dec. 16, 1937. The Most Reverend Henry J. Soenneker, appointed March 10, 1961, retired June 30, 1982, was the second Bishop of Owensboro. The Most Reverend John J. McRaith, appointed October 23, 1982, was the third Bishop of Owensboro, and now has the title of Bishop-emeritus. The Most Reverend William Francis Medley appointed Dec. 15, 2009 is the fourth and present Bishop of Owensboro.

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish, Owensboro

Any discussion of parish life in our diocese should begin with St. Stephen Cathedral, Seat of the Bishop. St. Stephen Parish was the first parish established in Owensboro. Two earlier church buildings existed before the current church on Locust Street was built. In 1839 Father John C. Wathen was appointed first pastor of this new parish. The first church was built on Second and Cedar Streets. The parish grew quickly and a second, larger church was built in 1858 at the same location. In 1924 construction was started on the current church. Dedicated in 1926, the church is a cruciform design and its Stations of the Cross and holy water fonts were carried over from the original church. The church is now undergoing an interior renovation and will reopen later in 2012.

When the Diocese of Owensboro was established in 1937, St. Stephen became its Cathedral. Bishop Francis R. Cotton (1937-1960) was installed as the first Bishop. He has been followed by Bishop

Sacred Heart Parish Waverly

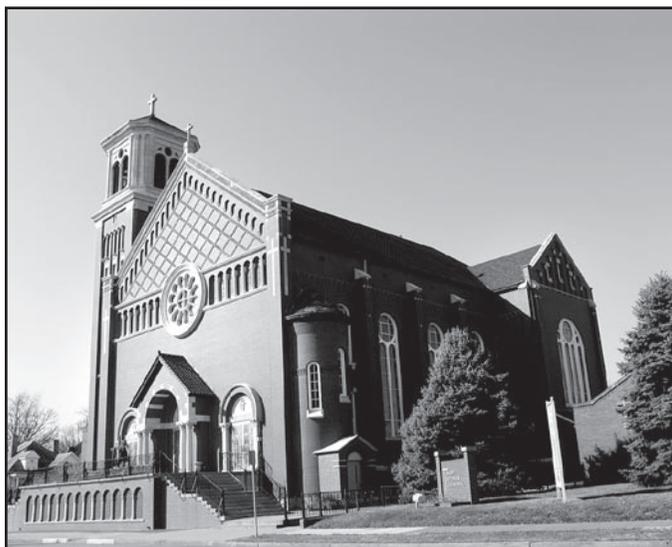


Sacred Heart Parish of Union County was established in the early 19th century. In 1812 Father Charles Nerinckx built a small log chapel on what later became the site of St. Vincent Academy.

As frequently happened during this time frame, the church did not have a resident pastor for many years. Missionary priests ministered to the people of Waverly. Bishop Benedict Flaget is said to have traveled through the town. In 1818 Father Robert Abell was stationed at Elizabethtown and Ax-tel and was given the added assignment of serving at Waverly. A year later about 360 acres of land was acquired in Union County and recorded deeds show the church as being permanently established at that time.

In 1820 the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth arrived and established a school

Celebrating 75 Years of Parish Life in Western Kentucky



Henry J. Soenneker (1961-1982), Bishop John J. McRaith (1982-2009), and Bishop William F. Medley (2009-present). The parish has had a long legacy of pastors and associate pastors serving the congregation.

Education has been an integral part of the life of St. Stephen parish. The



beside the Sacred Heart log chapel. The parish was given its first permanent pastor in 1821 with the assignment of Father Charles Coomes. He remained only three years and was succeeded by Father Elisha Durbin. Father Durbin oversaw the construction of a larger chapel and in 1828 the new church was dedicated by Bishop Flaget. Over the next several decades the school grew and became a self sustaining institution. Blessed with a growing congregation, plans were once again made for a new church. Begun in 1854, the new church was dedicated by Bishop Martin John Spalding in 1856. During his time at Sacred Heart Parish, Father Durbin

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth established Saint Frances Academy in 1849 for both boys and girls. The founding of the public school system in 1871 allowed boys to continue further in their education. St. Stephen Boys School was opened in 1879 and continued until 1914. When this school closed, the Academy became the church school for all children until 1939. That year

the old Knights of Columbus hall at Seventh and Frederica Streets became "Our Blessed Mother" school for grades one through five. St. Frances Academy still operated grades six through eight. In 1948 the school at Seventh and Frederica was renamed Saint Stephen School. In 1962, construction on a new grade school

continued to minister to other remote places in Western Kentucky. He was persuaded by the bishop to end his ministry at this parish and took up residence in Princeton Ky. in 1873 until his death.

After his departure there were several temporary pastors at Sacred Heart Parish. A two story boys' school was erected in the late 19th century. In 1928 Father John Martin Higgins was assigned to the parish and served as pastor for 45 years. In addition to his pastoral duties, Fr. Higgins spent much of his time teaching at St. Vincent Academy. Father Higgins had a great influence on the local area by organizing USO benefits, assisting the Sisters of Mercy in their ministries, and other activities. Eventually he was given the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

Tragedy struck in March 1950 when the church tower caught fire and destroyed the entire church. Just a few months before had seen the completion of a \$15,000 renovation project. Not to be discouraged, the parishioners began to rebuild the church. The new church was dedicated in November 1951 by Bishop

St. Stephen Cathedral

610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY
42301-2130. 270-683-6525
<http://www.ststephencathedral.org/>

Mass Schedule

- Daily (At Blessed Sacrament Chapel): 7:00 AM and 12:05 PM
- Saturday (At Catholic Pastoral Center): 5:00 PM
- Sunday (At CPC): 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM

Blessed Sacrament Chapel (602 Sycamore Street)

- Sunday: 10:00 AM
- #### Reconciliation Schedule
- Saturdays 9:00-11:00 AM
 - Thursday before First Friday 4:00-5:00 PM

building was begun next to the church on Locust Street. The school was an integral part of the parish until closing in 1989. The building is now the Catholic Pastoral Center and is still home to the parish preschool.

Editor's Note: All texts and photos in this series of parish sketches to run throughout the 75th jubilee year are courtesy of the Diocesan Archives.

Cotton.

With the declining numbers of Sisters of Charity able to teach at St. Vincent Academy, the decision was made in 1967 to close the school. The grade school continued and eventually merged with St. Peter's School in Waverly. This too was closed in 1973. Monsignor Higgins retired in 1973 and for the first time in 122 years Sacred Heart Parish did not have a pastor. It became a Mission Church of St. Ann, Morganfield. Currently, Sacred Heart Parish and St. Peter of Antioch Parish share the same pastor.

Sacred Heart Parish

Mailing address:
201 E. Market Street, Waverly, KY
42462

Church Address:
674 St. Rt. 141 N., Morganfield, KY
42437
270-389-4224

http://www.rcdok.org/parishes/?parish_id=107

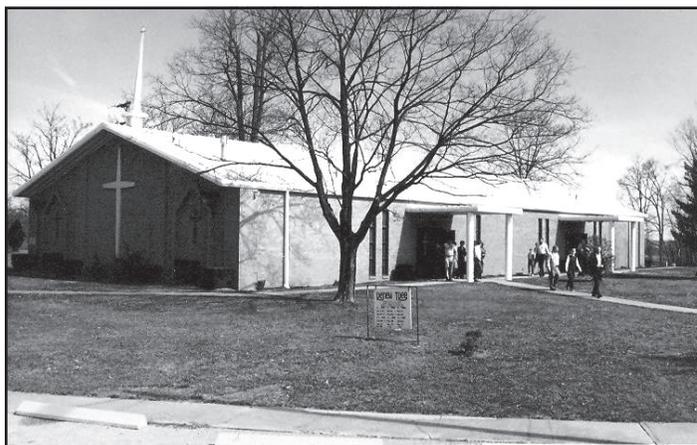
Mass Schedule

- Sunday: 8:00 AM

St. Anthony Parish Axtel

In 1791 three Catholic families moved into Breckinridge County. Prior to the building of a church, the first services were held in the home of the Mattingly family. The first priests to travel in the area were Fathers Michael Fournier and Stephen T. Badin. In 1812 Father Charles Nerinckx oversaw the construction of the first church in Long Lick, now known as Axtel, Rough River Area. However, this log church was not finished until 1819 by Father Robert A. Abell, who also had a rectory built. Father Abell also sent for three Sisters of Charity of Nazareth to begin a school in the Mattingly home. This school did not last long and in 1923 six Sisters of Loretto came and opened the Monastery of Mount Carmel.

St. Anthony continued as a mission parish for many years and went through spans of time without a priest in residence. Among the priests who served was Father Elisha J. Durbin. A larger, second church



was built in 1869. From 1888-1899, St. Anthony Parish was served as a mission church of St. Romuald in Hardinsburg. In 1899 Father John Stafford Henry was made the resident priest and oversaw the building of the third church, replacing the smaller second church. The church was completed in 1905, with a rectory was added in 1907. Father Joseph R. Odendahl was appointed resident pastor in 1913 and had the second church torn down. Disaster came a few weeks later when lightning struck the third church building and destroyed it. Only through extreme efforts was the rectory saved. Masses were offered in the rectory until the fourth church was built

in 1916.

St. Anthony returned to being a mission church again from 1922 to 1924. Father Jerome Louis Hoepf was assigned to the parish in 1924, the first Precious Blood priest in the area. He began a Vacation Religious School, taught by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. A school and convent were erected in the early 1940s. Both buildings were fashioned from old Army barracks hauled from Ft. Knox. The school eventually closed in 1971 due to a decline in enrollment and sisters available to teach.

In the late 1970s the fifth church was built, the parish having grown to 140 families. The parish made improvements and renovations to the existing structures through the following decades.

St. Anthony Parish

1654 Hwy. 79 S., Hardinsburg, KY 40143
270-257-2132

http://www.rcdok.org/parishes/?parish_id=112

Mass Schedule

- Saturday: 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:30 AM, 10:00 AM

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Peonia

The original Catholic Church in the Peonia area is said to have been erected in 1822 under the direction of Father Robert A. Abell, who is known to have been serving in Grayson County from 1818-1824. What happened to this church is unknown, but it is known that the second church was built in 1869 by Father John Baptist Vandermergal. This and the first church were built on the current site of the cross in the cemetery on top of the hill. The spot is now marked by an outdoor altar. The second church burned around the year 1890. For 20 years the parishioners were left without a church. They attended either St. Augustine in Grayson Springs or St. Benedict at Wax.

Under the direction of Father Anthony Helling, a third church was built in 1910 and dedicated to the patronage of St. Anthony of Padua. This church measured 25 by 104 feet. Developments in the area, including paved roads, allowed the parish to erect additional buildings, including a rectory, school, and convent. The Ursuline



Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph were asked to staff the school.

Disaster struck on October 27, 1938 when fire destroyed the church and convent. The first order of Father Benedict Huff was to have the convent rebuilt. This new convent would be far

enough from the new church so as to avoid a similar situation in the future. The church was completed under the direction of the new pastor, Father Robert T. Wilson. It was dedicated on November 28, 1940 by Bishop Francis R. Cotton. Growth within the community lead St. Anthony parish to purchase additional land and build a larger, modern school in 1948. With the closing of St. Benedict School at Wax 11 years later, the Peonia School built additions to accommodate the new students. Consolidations in the Grayson County School System lead to the closure of the Peonia School in 1974. In honor of the current church's 50th anniversary in 1990, St. Anthony of Padua Parish undertook a renovation project. Support and volunteer efforts enabled this project to be completed for a third of the expected cost.

St. Anthony Parish shares a pastor with St. Augustine and St. Benedict.

St. Anthony Parish

1256 St. Anthony Church Rd.
Clarkson, KY 42726
270-242-4791

http://www.rcdok.org/parishes/?parish_id=114

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM



St. Stephen, pray for us.

Editorial Correction:

In the February 2012 issue of WKC it was incorrectly stated that the 1937 Papal Bull which created the Diocese of Owensboro also created the dioceses of Covington, Kentucky and Memphis, Tennessee. We apologize for the error.

St. Augustine Parish Grayson Springs

Early 19th Century settlement brought Catholic families to the Bear Creek-Grayson Springs area of today's Grayson County. In 1815 the original St. Augustine church was built as directed by Father Charles Nerinckx. The needs of the Catholic community were met by priests who served the surrounding area, including visits from Father Elisha Durbin. In 1851 Father Charles Ignatius Coomes became the first in a series of resident pastors for St. Augustine. The second, and existing, brick church building was constructed in 1854. Clay for the bricks was dug from a neighboring farm, but this second church was entirely sponsored by the widow of Mr. John D. Bellchase, who had passed away in 1852. A dedication to Mr. Bellchase in marble hangs on the wall at the church entrance. Fire damaged

Celebrating 75 Years of Parish Life in Western Kentucky



St. Augustine near the end of 1882 taking the roof, interior, and church records dating back to about 1870. Fortunately, the walls and floor of the church were left viable. The building was saved, restored and rededicated in just under a year. Starting in 1913 St. Augustine became a mission of St. Anthony of Padua in Peonia. However, St. Augustine received due attention in 1954, as the parish community celebrated the centennial of building

the existing church. They revamped the building with a new roof, gutters, painting, plastering, and restored stained glass. The update included a modern heating system and replacing the sagging bell tower atop the roof. That December the parish celebrated their church's anniversary along with the close of the Marian Year.

The people of St. Augustine at Grayson Springs have continued keeping their present church in balance between an appreciation of its history and their own future needs. St. Augustine was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Another renovation in 1993 continued to maintain the long-serving structure while a new parish hall serves the congregation's sense of community in the 21st Century.

St. Augustine Parish
St. Augustine Church Rd.
Clarkson, KY 42726
270-242-4791

http://www.rcdok.org/parishes/?parish_id=116

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM Summer; 4:00 PM Winter

St. Lawrence Parish Philpot

In 1821 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Henning on what is now Aull Road, east of Knottsville, Father Charles Nerinckx offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time in the area. With the substantial number of Catholics living in the area, Fathers Robert A. Abell and Elisha Durbin also served this population. Father Durbin had the first church constructed in the 1820s. We find that the first grave in the cemetery is dated 1823. In 1831 a log church was built, giving pioneer Catholics an impetus for moving to the area. Father John Wathen became the first resident pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in 1833. He soon built a rectory that was later used as a convent for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who taught at the parish school.

A brick church was built in 1839 to replace the log church. Due to its poor workmanship, the church had to be replaced in 1870 by the church that is still standing. The new church was dedicated in 1872. Renovations have been conducted on the church through the decades. The church was re-modeled in 1965 under



the pastorate of Father Maurice Tiell. In 1984 a new parish hall was completed, being able to accommodate 250 people. The new drum plastered ceiling was restored in 1993. Many restoration projects in the 1990s were completed so as to bring the church back to its early design and structural appearance.

In 1836 a school was established with Mr. William F. McGerry as the teacher. Eventually, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph were responsible for the education of the local children. Sadly, the school was destroyed in a 1960. Students were then sent to St. William School in Knottsville. Now, Mary Carrico School serves the Catholics of the two parishes.

Many of the pastors who served at St. Lawrence also served the needs of other churches in Daviess and the surrounding counties. Beginning in 1931, St. Lawrence Parish has been a mission church of St. William in Knottsville.

St. Lawrence Parish
6007 Saint Lawrence Rd
Philpot, KY 42366
270-281-4802

http://www.rcdok.org/parishes/?parish_id=138

Mass Schedule Sunday: 8:00 AM

Leadership Breakfast to Benefit Boulware Mission Set For March 13 in Owensboro

OWENSBORO, Ky. - A Leadership Breakfast to benefit Boulware Mission will be held on Tuesday, March 13th from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at Settle Memorial United Methodist Church's Renewal and Outreach Center (ROC). We want to invite all Boulware supporters to come and enjoy a delicious meal while hearing about how the Mission is saving lives every day! The goal of the event will be to spread awareness about Boulware's programs and to raise funds in support of the operating budget. Each month, the Mission has several thousands of dollars of expenses...the monthly utility bill runs between \$4,000 and \$5,000 alone! The money raised through this endeavor will be a tremendous help to Boulware in their work with the homeless. To learn more about the event or to R.S.V.P. to attend, contact the Mission at: 270-683-8267.



St. Paul Parish Leitchfield

The first Catholic church in Grayson County was erected by Father Charles Nerinx in 1811. This church was built at the site of the current church cemetery. It operated as the parish church until 1860 when a new church was constructed while Father John Baptist Vandermergel was pastor. In June 1917 lightning struck and burned the church. Father Anthony Helling was pastor at this time and with the assistance of donated materials and labor, a new church along with a school and convent for the Ursuline sisters were built. Around this time St. Paul gained two mission parishes: St. Elizabeth in Clarkson and St. Mary in Big Clifty. In 1939 the two-room school was renovated and a new parochial school was opened the following year. In 1941 a high school was added. This renovated school building did not satisfy the needs of the growing population for long and a new building was dedicated in 1946. With increasing enrollment, in 1956 a new high

Celebrating 75 Years of Parish Life in Western Kentucky

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school building was constructed across the street, eventually becoming known as Grayson County Catholic High School. However, beginning in 1966 the building was used for the St. Paul Grade School.

Once again, in 1968 lightning struck and destroyed the church. A new church was dedicated in 1969. In 1986 the decision was made to close St. Mary Church in Big Clifty. The church was demolished and the hall

was renovated into the modern Big Clifty Community Center. St. Elizabeth still operates as a mission church of St. Paul Parish.

Renovations and additions have been made to the property throughout the years. A granite sign was erected in front of the church in 2004. The World War Monument has also been restored.

Through the years the parish activities have grown to serve the congregations, including Grayson County Team Ministry, bingo, youth ministry, and RCIA. St. Paul parish holds a picnic each summer and various dinners throughout the year.

St Paul Parish

1821 St Paul Road
Leitchfield, KY 42754
(270) 242-7436
http://www.rcdok.org/parishes/?parish_id=149

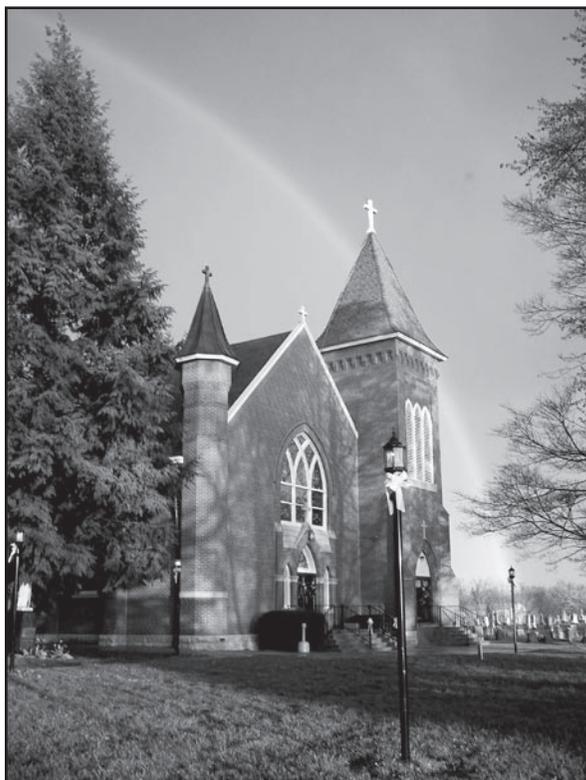
Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM

St. Romuald Parish Hardinsburg

The settlement of Fort Hardin in 1780 brought the need for the Catholic population to be served. A log chapel was built to serve the needs of Catholics who emigrated from Maryland. This location was a focal point of traveling Catholic priests who served the needs of Western Kentucky and beyond. By 1810 the population of the area grew to such a number that an official church building was necessary. Under the guidance of Father Charles Nerinx, the first Catholic Church of Breckinridge County was built. For several years the church did not have a roof. As Mass could not be offered in bad weather, it became known as the "Fair Weather Church." This church was visited a number of times by Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, first bishop of Bardstown, including an extended visit when its pastor Father Robert A. Abell was sick. Although usually attended to by a pastor, there were times when no priest was in residence and the congregation often had to be cared for by traveling missionary priests.

Under the direction of Father John C. Wathen, in 1841 a new church was built



and dedicated that same year by Bishop Flaget. Built with red bricks, the church was known as "The Little Red Brick Church." It was located in the front part of the present cemetery and about two hundred feet south of the present church building. By 1897 a larger church

was again needed and in two years what is now the current church was completed. The church has gone through two remodels, in 1962 and 1985. The latter included bringing back the Pieta and an Altar that had been removed in the former remodel. In 2003 The Repair, Restore and Enhance Project was undertaken. Through this initiative the church was restored and a deep cleaning was completed.

The parish school opened in 1876 and was staffed by Sisters of Charity of Nazareth until 1887. From then until 1903 the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville took on that responsibility. After 1903 the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph staffed the school. Also staffed by Benedictine Sisters of Ferdinand, Indiana, the school closed in 1991.

In 2011 St. Romuald celebrated 200 years of Catholicism in Hardinsburg.

St. Romuald Parish

394 N. Hwy 259, Hardinsburg, KY 40143
270-756-2356
<http://www.stromuald.org/>

Mass Schedule

- Saturday: 4:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM at Medco
- Friday: 9:00 AM (August-May), 8:00 AM (June & July)
- First Saturday: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation Schedule

- Wed: 4:30 PM
- Sat: 3:00 PM



St. Stephen, pray for us.

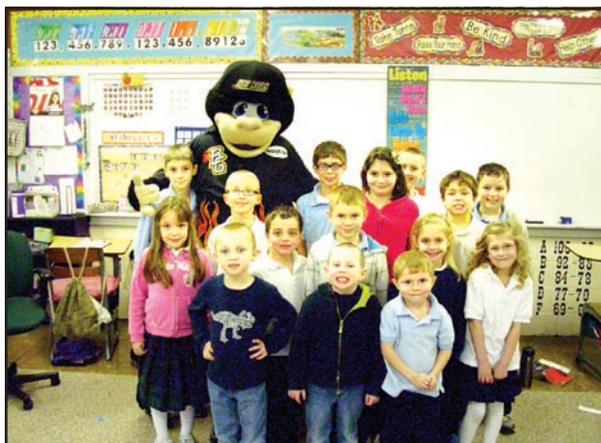
St. Paul Catholic School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Submitted by Gina Sims

The students at St Paul School, grades preschool through fifth, had a lot of fun during Catholic Schools Week. The community helped kick off a great start to the week with a chili supper Sunday afternoon, Jan. 29. There was a different theme for each day of that week. Monday, it was time for "crazy sock day," in which most students eagerly participated. Tuesday was "decade day." On this day the students could dress in the attire of their favorite decade. Several decades were represented, leaving the teachers feeling as if they were in some strange time warp. Wednesday was "service day," in which students dressed as someone in the community who provides a service. That day within the small Catholic school there were doctors, firemen, policemen, teachers and several others. "Teacher appreciation" was the theme for Thursday. The staff was treated to lunch with food from Subway and flowers. Finally, Friday was "student appreciation day." Students enjoyed pizza for lunch and a movie. Pictured here are some of the students during "decade day."



In the photo above, back row: Lydia Mudd, Gabriel Mudd, Josh Milliner, Luke Milliner, Laura Higdon; front row: John Pirtle, Shelby Davis, Ethan Crawford, & Molly Geary.



In the photo at right, Roscoe, the mascot for Bowling Green Hot Rods, visited all of the students at Saint Paul School and encouraged them to read. The students will receive a free ticket to a game after they read 5 books. Photos this page submitted by Gina Sims.



"A Child Is A Child"

Submitted by Gina Sims

The topic of this particular St. Paul High School CCD class was abortion. Teacher, Dale Depoyster, discussed the devaluing of human life where abortion is concerned.

"It is against the Catholic faith and is wrong on so many levels," declared Mr. Depoyster during class. The students were astounded at the number of abortions since the "Roe vs. Wade" decision in 1973. It is hard to believe that in a span of almost 40 years there have been over 50 million abortions.

Students put up the 50 crosses in front of church. Each cross represents 1 million abortions that have occurred since 1973. Cody Penny, Dale Depoyster, Zach Robinson, Brett Crawford, Maggie Lush, Blake Meredith, Amber Smith, Caleb Jagers, Stephanie Bryan, Megan Sims, & Nathan Hardin.

St. Paul Celebrates Mrs. Deanna Day



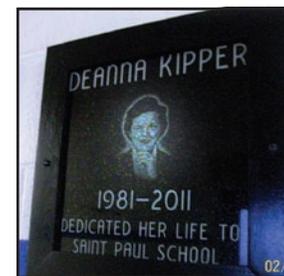
Submitted by Gina Sims

During Catholic Schools Week St. Paul school, located in Grayson County, celebrated what they called "Mrs. Deanna Day." Mrs. Deanna

Kipper had been the beloved secretary of the school for several years. Unfortunately, just before school was scheduled to begin this year, Mrs. Deanna passed away. She was such a part of the school for so long, family, friends, staff, & students thought it was only fitting that school not be in session the day she was laid to rest.

A staff member recalls, "Mrs. Deanna would always laugh when someone would say, 'she came with the school.'" Her contagious smile is what many of the friends and family remembered most about her. Still mourning the loss, the staff decided to commemorate the life of Mrs. Deanna on Thursday of Catholic Schools Week. After Mass, in which she was specially remembered, several friends and family were invited to school for refreshments and to view the plaque made in Mrs. Deanna's honor.

One friend said of Mrs. Deanna, "she dedicated a lot of years to the school, and she loved being a part of it." She loved St. Paul School ... and it loved her.



April is National
Child Abuse Prevention Month



Diocese of Owensboro
Prayer Service
for Protection and Healing
Monday, April 23, 2012,
6:30 p.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul Church
902 East Ninth Street,
Hopkinsville

The Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Owensboro

“I stand humbly obedient and ready to be of service to the Diocese of Owensboro as a permanent deacon.”

By Matthew Keyser

I am one of those people with a story of arriving somewhere and not really being sure how I got there. I know I must have had some help from the Holy Spirit and the people around me because as I sit writing this, I can say that there is not one, or even several specific events that has brought me here to this point. Here I am a member of the Diocese of Owensboro's first class of 18 men (a class that started out with more than 40) that will be ordained as a permanent deacon. I have been on a journey, I don't know exactly when it started and in some ways it has a destination – ordination on September 15th, 2012. But as my time in formation as a candidate is coming to a close, the destination of our ordination mass is easy to make the high point of the quest and goal, but as you may know, more often than not, it is the journey that makes the real difference and impact, not necessarily the destination.

My name is Matthew Keyser. I am the full-time youth minister at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green; my wife is Chris (Owen) Keyser, who is the executive director and CEO of Fairview Community Health Center. It has been a wonderful gift and exciting opportunity to be part of building the new church for the growing community here in Bowling Green. I am a convert; I was raised in a wonderful Presbyterian church. I converted to the Catholic faith just after getting married and now my wife and I have been married for 29 years. We are a family that enjoys music and each of our 3 wonderful children has a talent. Rachel, the singer, who is in graduate school for math education at Miami University of Ohio; Adam, who sings and plays the ukulele, is a sophomore at Western Kentucky University focusing on a major in Recreation Management. Adam is also a staffer at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. Aaron is the youngest, the drummer. He is a senior at Greenwood High School and will also attend WKU in the fall of 2012. Our family lives in Bowling Green where we have been members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church for 19 years.

Over four years ago, when I saw the announcement in the church bulletin about discernment meetings for those that might be interested in becoming a Permanent Deacon, I surprised myself in how I was



Matthew and Chris Keyser

definitely interested and intrigued by the concept. I had a general and somewhat vague understanding of what a deacon was in the church, but something (i.e. the Holy Spirit), planted the idea in my heart right then and there. I was called. I didn't really know it at the time, but I was most definitely called. So, after a little time and a lot of thinking and prayer, I sheepishly asked my wife and a few close friends what they thought about me thinking about the looking into becoming a deacon in the Catholic Church. I was expecting giggles and some outright laughs about what a crazy idea this was, but instead I got – “Of course you should,” or “You know, we read that in the bulletin and thought of you!” So I started by driving to Hopkinsville where the first meetings were held to see what discernment really means and to meet with others that were having similar thoughts. Now, since our Diaconate Program Director Fr. John Thomas has moved to Madisonville, I meet my 17 other candidate compatriots and their wives on this journey at Christ the King Parish, for the final classes of this phase of our formation.

My professional background has consisted mostly of jobs involving retail sales management and technology support and sales. No matter the job, recent or a long time ago, I have always been

involved in technology. I genuinely enjoy making technology easier and more approachable to people and I really try to use it in order to make complicated things easier and hopefully somewhat simplified. My main hobby has always been making music. I love listening to music as well as participating in its creation. I am a guitarist, playing the guitar and singing was the way that I became more involved in church. First as a music minister at mass and then as someone who would provide music on youth retreats and thereby act as a chaperone as well.

I really enjoy volunteering and min-

Lourdes Welcomes New Vice-President of Mission Integration

(Tuesday, January 24, 2012) – Jim Armour is the new Vice-President of Mission Integration at Lourdes. Jim comes to Lourdes from Seven Hills, Ohio where he served as Executive Director for both Catholic Charities of Stark and Portage Counties within the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. He has a Religious Studies degree from the University of Dayton, a Masters of Divinity from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Chicago, a Masters of Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and is currently working on his Doctorate of Ministry from St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland.



Jim Armour

istry with young people, both at church and in the community. I have been very involved in Boy Scouts and I am pleased to say that both of my sons have achieved their Eagle Scout Rank. I think Scouting is one of the best ways to help young men discover more about themselves and God's plan for them by developing in them a service oriented way of life where others are the focus of some of their energies. It is also a great way to integrate a young person's faith into their whole life. Little did I know but my time with youth as a volunteer provided me with experience for what would become yet another calling as the full time youth minister at Holy Spirit Parish.

As time gets closer to my ordination, it is ever apparent how I will always be forever grateful to my wife and family and the Parish of Holy Spirit for supporting me and allowing me to walk with them in faith. And to my brother deacon candidates and their wives, I am honored to accompany you towards the gift of the grace of Holy Orders and I thank you for the support they have given to me and the sacrifice they are giving to God in answering their call to the ordained ministry.

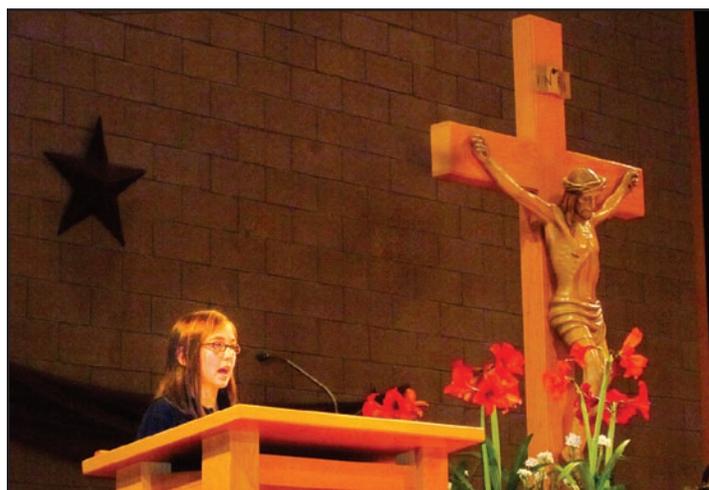
While no one but the Holy Spirit and the Bishop knows for sure what specific role we will have in our communities, I stand humbly obedient and ready to be of service to the Diocese of Owensboro as a permanent deacon and anxiously look forward to September 15, 2012 the day of our ordination. Because no matter where I go... there You are - Jesus Christ our Lord and savior.

Editor's Note: This talk was delivered in Saint Thomas More Church on Sunday of Catholic Schools Week.

"Good Evening! My name is Caroline Veatch. I am a 6th grader at St. Mary Middle School.

"I want to thank Fr. Ryan (Harpole) for allowing me time to talk to you about St. Mary.

"I have been a student at St. Mary since preschool. I believe that it is a good place to learn not only my academics, but also my religion. We are able to begin and end every day with prayer – something we would not be able to do in other schools. We have Religion classes every day and opportunities to attend Mass often. We also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation twice a year. We appreciate all of our



Caroline Veatch speaking at St. Thomas More Church.

priests that give their time to celebrate these Sacraments with us.

"At St. Mary, everyone is like family. We care about and pray for each other. My teachers care about me and are always there to help. Because St. Mary is a small school, teachers know all of the students and have more one-on-one time with each of us.

"My parents play an important role in my education. They have made it a priority for me to be able to attend a Catholic school. To do so, they sacrifice both time and money. But they know it is worth it!

"We are grateful for your support as well. Without the generous financial and moral support from our parishes, St. Mary would not exist.

"This weekend, we begin celebrating Catholic Schools Week with all Catholic schools across the nation. **At St. Mary, we are celebrating 154 years of academic excellence.**

"We invite you to attend our Catholic Schools Week Mass on Tuesday, at 9:00 AM at St. Mary High School. Thank you for listening and I hope to see you at St. Mary this week!"



Paducah area priests celebrate Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Mary High School. Fr. Brian Roby, Fr. Ryan Harpole, Fr. Pat Reynolds, Fr. Uwem, and Fr. Tom Buckman. Servers are SMHS students Ben Hopper and Katie Clark. Photos by Jackie Hopper

Celebrating Catholic Education

By Jackie Hopper

PADUCAH, Ky. - Students from from St. Joseph Elementary School in Mayfield joined with St. Mary School System to celebrate their annual Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Mary High School. Fr. Patrick Reynolds, pastor of St. Thomas More Church and St. Mary of the Fields, and priest-pastor of the St. Mary School System was presider. Also celebrating were Fr. Brian Roby, pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Tom Buckman, pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Fr. Uwem Enoh, pastor of Rosary Chapel, and Fr. Ryan Harpole, parochial vicar of St. Thomas More. A combined choir with students from SMES, SMMS, SMHS, and St. Joseph's provided beautiful and uplifting music for the liturgy. Following Mass, SMES 4th grader, Josh King, SMMS 6th grader, Caroline Veatch, and SMHS senior, Mary Farrell gave speeches on what their Catholic education means to them. Special guest in attendance was our Supt. of Catholic Schools, Mr. Jim Mattingly, who was also invited to speak about Catholic schools.



St. Mary High School senior, Paul DeNeve, reads the First Reading at CSW Mass.

Choir members from St. Mary Elementary, Middle, and High School, and St. Joseph Elementary sing for the CSW Mass St. Mary High School Music Teacher, Brant Veal, directed.



In Our Catholic Schools

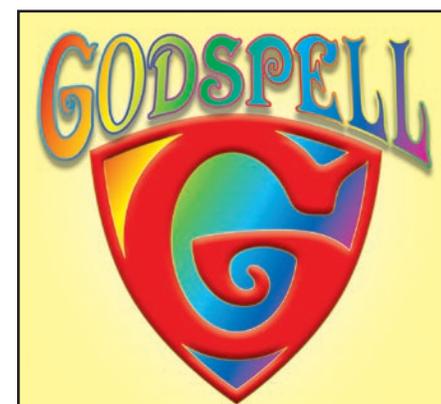
Fall Under GOD's SPELL this Lenten Season



The Owensboro Catholic High School theatre department will perform Stephen Schwartz's and John-Michael Tebelak's Godspell March 24 (Saturday) at 7pm and March 25 (Sunday) at 2pm at Owensboro Catholic High School's Soenneker Hall.

Opening in 1971, Godspell is a musical with such hits as "Day by Day" and "Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord)." It is based on the Gospel of Matthew, beginning with John the Baptist baptizing Jesus and ending in Jesus' crucifixion. A very moving story, it features the musical styles of pop, folk rock, gospel, and vaudeville. The play is currently in production on Broadway as of October 2011.

Please join us in March so we can help you "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" this Easter season.



For additional information, contact Katie Pagan at 684-315, by email katie.pagan@owensborocatholic.org, or <http://ochsemeraldplayers.weebly.com/>. Tickets will be available at the door: \$5 for adults, \$4 for students.

The OCHS Godspell Cast, back row: Band: Beth Buntin, Nicholas Grey, Katherine Hagan, Dylan McKay, Tyler Wilson, Eric Johnson, Mary Catherine Carter, Morgan Oller, Marissa Wilson; middle row: Cast: Anne McNulty, Joel Ciaccio, CJ Glaser, Stephanie Dooper, Kevin Thompson; front row: Cast: Ryne Wilson, Becca Boom, Allie Payne, Blake Hayden. Not Pictured: Cast: Amanda Gross. Photo submitted by Katie Pagan.



The Holy Name staff, faculty, and students showed their legacy during Catholic schools week. In the picture at far right, from left: Valerie Beckert, Malissa Crafton, Erin Williams, Judy Jenkins, and Yvonne Drury. In the picture at left, Holy Name's Nathan Baird responds to applause after performing the Star Wars theme song. Submitted by Julie Eadens



OCS K-3 Pails of Nails Drive Collects Money For Enough Nails to Build New HFH Houses; Donates \$1,321.36 to Habitat



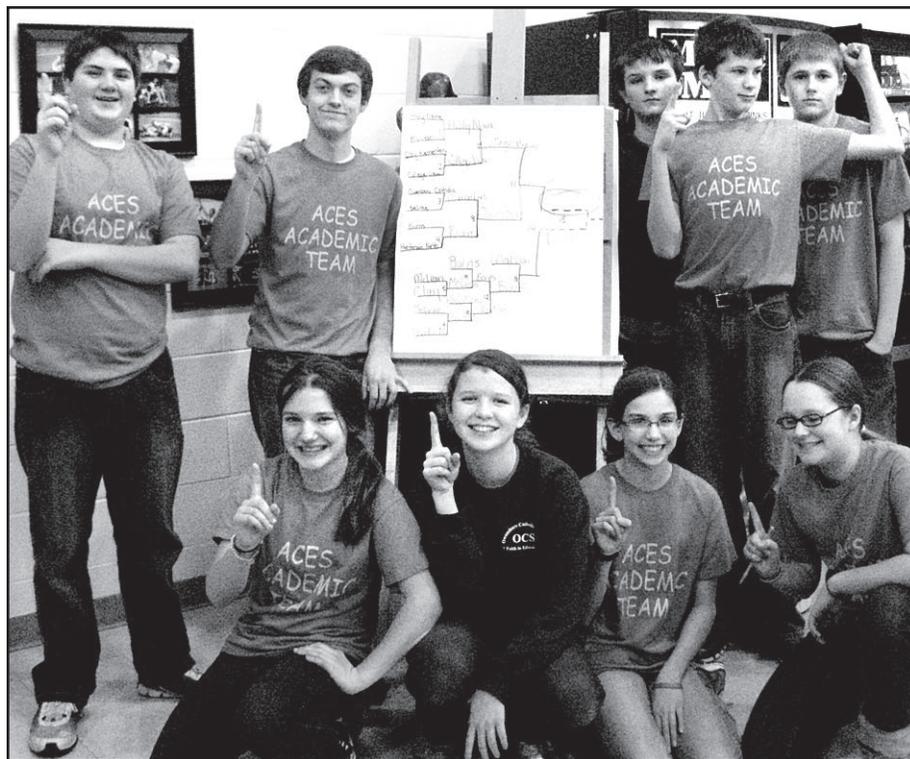
The students at Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus were still working on their goal of purchasing 19 pails of nails to donate to Habitat for Humanity when the drive ended on Tuesday of Catholic Schools Week, January 31. In the picture at left, principal Lori Whitehouse presented the school's gift of \$1,321.36 and a small bag of coins brought in to school Thursday of Catholic Schools Week, Feb. 2, 2012 to Habitat for Humanity at a PEP Rally. They also bought four 2x4 boards for the students to sign and which will go into the Owensboro Chapter of Habitat For Humanity's Build #102 in Owensboro, the "Schools House." In the photo at left are HFH volunteers Lelia Gaines, left, and Vickie Osborne, third from left. Between them is Phyllis Jeffers the HFH applicant who will own "The Schools House." OCS K-3 principal Lori Whitehouse, right, in helmet, was reacting to the news from Ms. Gaines that the money was enough to buy nails for TEN new Habitat For Humanity homes. Photo by Mel Howard

In Our Catholic Schools

OCMS Academic Team Win Governor's Cup District Title ...

The OCMS Academic Aces walked away as the over-all winners from the 12th District Governor's Cup Competition on January 21, 2012 at Hancock County Middle School. The quick recall team dominated and after 3 matches became the champions. The following students participated in quick recall: Jack Boarman, Matthew Caldwell, Daniel Jacobs, Lucy Kurtz, Iona Palmer, Molly Payne, Isaac Settle, and Tricia Thompson.

The quick recall team and students that placed in the top 5 in the written assessment tests will advance to the February 4, 2012, Regional Competition at Union County Middle School. The following students advance in their subject areas of expertise. Matthew Caldwell - Math - 5th place; Iona Palmer - Arts & Humanities - tied 4th place; Jack Boarman - Social Studies - 4th place; Caroline Hayden - Composition - 1st place; Isaac Settle - Social Studies - 1st place; Lucy Kurtz - Arts & Humanities - 1st place and Language Arts - 2nd place; Tricia Thompson - Science - 1st place and Language Arts - 1st place. The academic team coaches are Mrs. Julie Renshaw and Mrs. Margie Ebelhar.



...and 3rd Place Overall In Regional Governor's Cup Competition

Congratulations to the awesome OCMS Aces academic team which came in 3rd place overall in Regional Governor's Cup competition, but the quick recall team came in 1st place on Saturday, Feb. 4 in Union County. The OCMS quick recall team was the only team who remained undefeated for the day! They will advance to state competition on March 11, in Lexington, KY. Team members are Matthew Caldwell, Lucy Kurtz, Isaac Settle, Tricia Thompson, Evan Christodoulou, Daniel Jakobs, Jack Boarman, Iona Palmer, and Molly Payne. Also advancing to State in individual written assessment testing are Isaac Settle, 5th place Social Studies; Lucy Kurtz, 1st place Language Arts and 1st in Arts and Humanities; and Tricia Thompson, 5th place Science and 3rd place Language Arts. Team members are Molly Payne, Isaac Settle, Lucy Kurtz, Daniel Jacobs, Tricia Thompson, Matthew Caldwell, Iona Palmer, Jack Boarman, Michaela Murphy Photo submitted by Julie Renshaw

At right, kneeling, are the coaches, Mrs. Margie Ebelhar and Mrs. Julie Renshaw; 2nd row is Lucy Kurtz and Iona Palmer; 3rd row is Daniel Jakobs, Isaac Settle, Matthew Caldwell, Caroline Hayden, and Jack Boarman. Tricia and Molly are absent from the picture as they also were competing with the OCMS band that day for their District competition. OCMS Photos



The Western Kentucky Catholic asked Mrs. Julie Renshaw to tell us a little about what it takes for students to achieve the height of accomplishment which the OCMS Aces do regularly in their competitions. Here is what Mrs. Renshaw wrote:

"Our academic team has been practicing since the beginning of September. We practiced once a week until December and then started practicing twice a week. Also we practiced before school for the Knowledge Master competition in which we placed 4th in the state.

"Our team practiced 3 hours a week to prepare for District and Regional Governor's cup competition. We may find ourselves practicing even more to prepare for State! Margie and I share the responsibilities of coaching. We practice taking written assessment tests in all the areas, and we also practice quick recall with the students. It's a very long season, running from the beginning of September to the middle of March, depending on how far we advance. But the time we spend is worth seeing the smiles on our students' faces as they advance to the next level of competition and are happy with their success.

"We (Margie Ebelhar and I) look for students who have a competitive nature and who are gifted in the areas of math, science, social studies, language arts, arts and humanities, and/or composition. And it helps if they are also "quick on the buzzer!" Fast wins! Many of these students are trivia buffs: they are interested in and have much knowledge in one or 2 of the 6 areas in which we compete.

"We prepare all year for Governor's Cup competition which is a leveled competition. If a

quick recall team comes in 1st or 2nd in District, they advance to Regionals. The top 5 students who compete in written assessment tests also advance to Regional competition. The same happens at Regionals to advance to State Governor's Cup, which is our goal.

"Tricia Thompson is a 7th grader who excels in Language Arts and Science. She has practiced on quick recall teams for many years. She is also very good in Math, but does not like to compete in it. Matthew Caldwell excels in Math, is an 8th grader, and captain of our quick recall team.

"Isaac Settle is a late comer to the team. After taking some practice written assessments in Social Studies, we realized he should be competing with the team. He answered 49 out of 50 questions correctly on the District test, which is almost unheard of. He placed 1st in district and moved on to regionals.

"Lucy Kurtz is a well-rounded 8th grader who knows quite a bit about everything. She competes on the quick recall team and also in Written Assessment in the areas of Language Arts and Arts and Humanities. She is a great speller and won the OCMS spelling bee and will take part in the Religion bee as well. Lucy participated in the Diocesan Spelling bee and came in 2nd place. We are so proud of her!

"Caroline Hayden is a great writer and agreed to compete in written composition. She placed 1st and moves onto regional competition Tuesday in Union County.

"Other competitors include Daniel Jakobs and Molly Payne. Daniel likes to compete in the areas of Social Studies and Science. Molly tests in Arts and Humanities.

The Importance of Catholic Schools

By: Caroline Clements 4th

I think that the most important thing about Catholic Schools is learning about our faith, and religion, but there are also some really awesome people, activities, staff, education, services, and academics too!

All the staff and teachers and all the people who support and believe in the Catholic School System, make our school cheerful, and they give us what we need to have a good education. The teachers support us and teach us all sorts of things that we might need to know for the future.

The parents are greatly supportive too! They help out in the lunch room, come to tailgate parties, but they also send us to Catholic Schools because of all the great things we do.

As a Catholic School, we don't just learn, pray, and have a great time, but we also continue to grow as one big family!

In Our Catholic Schools

March, 2012 15



During Catholic Schools Week 2012, from left, Steve Leonard, Matt Fitzgerald, Sr. Pam Mueller, O.S.U., Dr. Wes Booker, Deputy Tom Whitford shared their "service" with the students of the OCES 4-6 Campus.



OCES 4-6 Campus student Parker Patton enjoying the Book Fair selections.



OCES 4-6 Campus students "ham it up" while dressed as their favorite community service person.



OCES 4-6 Campus students dressed as their community service people.

The Importance of Catholic Schools

By: Benjamin Conkright 6th

Do you think that going to a small Catholic School could change your life? I do. Catholic Schools have some of the best teachers, kids, and classes in the nation if you ask me. What other school gets religion as a class?

If that's not enough to convince you that Catholic Schools are important and plain out awesome, then here are some more reasons. We have Mass every week. Guess who gets to run the Mass? That's right, we do! We get to read, serve, and sing at Mass.

Have you ever wanted great service and education? My Catholic School has both. The teachers are all nice and respectful to their students. Even the lunch ladies are extra kind. All in all, kids and parents love Catholic Schools. If for some reason they were taken away, it would affect society in drastic ways.

The Importance of Catholic Schools

By: Madelyn Hempen 5th

I think Catholic Schools are important because of the word "Catholic." When I look at the word "Catholic," I think of Peace. At the Catholic School System we all show peace to each other. All of the students in the Catholic School System show kindness and respect to each other and people in the community.

Going to a Catholic School helps me strengthen my relationship with God by practicing my faith everyday. I love going to Catholic Schools because we are one big family that includes past and present students, teachers, parents and priests! These friendships and memories I have made will last a lifetime.

In the picture at right, Ms. M. Thompson's class performs the Gospel reading during the Catholic Schools Week Service.



“Our Catholic Schools Are A Window Of Opportunity To Plant Seeds In Very Fertile Ground.”

My name is Lori Whitehouse. I have been married to my husband, Richard, for almost 24 years. We have two children: a 21 year old son, Parker, and an 18 year old daughter, Lindsey. They both currently attend the University of KY, and are products of 12 years of Catholic Schools. I met my husband, Richard, at Murray State, and after we got married we ended up in Owensboro. I went through RCIA and became Catholic.

I was not raised Catholic. As a matter of fact- I never even knew a Catholic until I went to college. I stand here before you as living proof that the Lord can use the most unlikely vessel to do His Work! Growing up Protestant- I would never have believed I would someday be a principal in a Catholic School and such an advocate for the Catholic Faith...or that I would be standing up in front of a room full of priests sharing my passion about Catholic Schools and my faith with them!

I taught in the public schools for 15 years. This is my 7th year as principal in the Catholic System. Our school has 414 students in grades Kindergarten-3rd Grade, and is unique because the oldest students are only 8 years old. This makes for a wonderful environment! I love the innocence, the hugs, the smiles, and the enthusiasm for life and their faith that these children have. I wish I could bottle it and pass it around with the collection plate every Sunday!

I've always believed that teaching is a vocation. When I worked in the public schools I tried to share my faith in subtle ways, but working in a Catholic school environment is like having your cake and eating it too! It gives me the opportunity to do what I love and to openly share my faith.

Sending my own children to Catholic Schools was the beginning of a huge transformation in my faith. It was then that I truly began to learn about and fall in love with the Catholic faith. I wanted to know everything there was to know about what my children were learning in religion. I read every book I could get my hands on, went to conferences, listened to tapes, and probably drove my cradle Catholic husband crazy! Saying things like....Did you know we believe this?!



Lori Whitehouse is Principal of Owensboro Catholic Schools, K-3 Campus. Photo by Mel Howard

OR, do you know the reason “WHY” we do this? Like...Did you know that when we bless ourselves with Holy Water we are renewing our baptismal promises? There are so many times that we, as Catholics, go through the motions of our faith without really understanding the history and tradition behind it.

I continue to see this happening to parents of my students all the time. I have seen entire families convert to Catholicism from the influence of the Catholic School, and I've seen lukewarm Catholics grow in their understanding and zeal for their own faith because of what they are learning from their children.

Catholic Schools do not take the place of the foundation that parents build at home, nor do they take the place of the parish community, but they serve as a support for the home and the parish. Catholic Schools are a rich mission field for nurturing the faith of our children and their families.

During a homily, there are probably times when the congregation looks as if it's half asleep. Even if adults sometimes “tune out” what we are saying.... they will listen to what their children say- especially when their child comes home excited! In our Catholic Schools we have to be enthusiastic about our faith- then

it becomes contagious! It passes to the children and they pass it on to their parents, and who knows where it goes from there!

Maybe children come home excitedly talking about the story Fr. Carmelo told them about St. Juan Diego and how Mary's picture was imprinted on his mantilla- and all the miracles that have been attributed to it.... OR perhaps they are asking to do extra chores to earn money to help dig a fresh water well for a village in Africa where Fr. Titus's family lives...OR maybe they tell their parents about the 12 promises that Jesus made to St. Margaret Mary to those who have a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Their favorite is the promise about having their names being written on Jesus' heart- NEVER to be erased.

I have parents stop me in the hall, at football games, and at the grocery to tell me that they have learned so much about their faith from their child. They tell me that because of their children they have started praying a family rosary, learned more about the saints, consecrated their family to the Sacred Heart. I could go on and on.

Of course most parents learned this when they were younger....but something happens to us when we grow up. We lose our childlike innocence and faith. It's kind of like the “bell” in the book *The Polar Express*. In this story, only the children can hear the bell ring because they still believe. They still have that perfect faith. As adults we need to make sure that we don't lose our ability to hear the “bell”!

Each year as I talk to families who are considering a Catholic Education for their child, I talk about all of the programs we offer, the curriculum, technology, differentiated learning, etc., and I always end with....but the most important thing we have here is a FAITH based education. We have JESUS, and He is integrated into everything we do.

Several years ago, I had a little boy, Max, whose parents decided to withdraw him from Catholic Schools and send him to public schools. The first day when he got home, his mom asked him about his day, and he said it was “ok”. His mother could tell he was not very enthusiastic

in his response, so she asked him what was wrong, and he said...” Momma, did you know that they don't pray at my new school? We didn't pray before school or at the end of the day. We didn't even pray before lunch. And all day long I kept looking, but I couldn't find one single picture of Jesus anywhere in that school.” His mom asked him how that made him feel, and he said, “It just broke my heart, Momma.” Well, that was all his mother had to hear, she called me in tears and said she had made a big mistake. Of course, we welcomed Max back with open arms.

Jesus had such a love for children, and our Catholic Schools are a window of opportunity to plant seeds in very fertile ground- the minds, hearts, and souls of children. These children are the future of our church. They are the future priests, religious, and parents of Catholic school kids!

I feel privileged that I have been given the opportunity to serve God and the Catholic Church through my role as principal in a Catholic School. Catholic Schools are an asset to the Church. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says that a 3-ply cord is not easily broken-This can be applied to the church, the home, and the school. Together we can build a faith community that stands the test of time and set this little Western KY Diocese on FIRE!

Not many people get the opportunity to stand before a room full of priests and their Bishop and share with them what they are passionate about. I thank each and every one of you. Some of you I know, and some I haven't met yet, but regardless of whether I know you by name, I do know that at some point in your lives you decided that God was calling you to this vocation. Thank you for saying YES! You are overworked, underpaid, and not always appreciated as much as you should be.

Please remember that every single day you have Catholic Children praying for you across this diocese. We have a special Prayer Calendar with each of your names written on it, and we begin our day by praying for you by name. Please know that WE appreciate you! May God Bless All of You.

This presentation was given on Jan. 9, 2012, for the Priests Convocation Business Session at Lake Barkley State Resort Convention Center.

In Our Catholic Schools

St. Mary High School placed first in the District II Governor's Cup Competition



St. Mary Academic Team Members. Left to right, front: Delaney Bell, James O'Rourke, Caroline Koenig, Sarah Herricks, Caitlin Hodges, and Grace Babbs. Back row: Benjamin Hopper, Grant Farmer, Patrick Osterhaus, Josh Nelson, Matthew Osterhaus, James Mayfield, Paul DeNeve, Michael Smith, Michaela Jones, Alex Rich, Sydney Nash, and Olivia Romero.

Submitted by Jackie Hopper

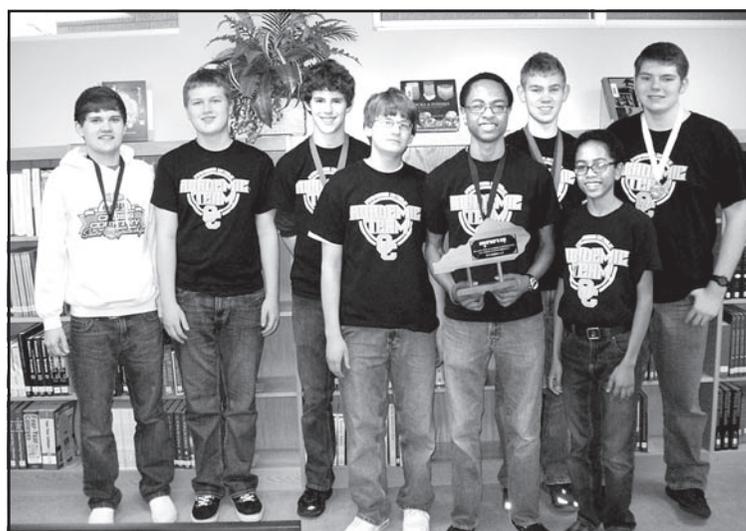
PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary High School placed first in the District II Governor's Cup Competition. Other schools participating were Graves County High School, Mayfield High School and Ballard Memorial High School. The St. Mary Future Problem Solving received First Place Honors. Team members include: Sarah Herricks, Caitlin Hodges, James Mayfield, and Olivia Romero. Graves County placed 2nd. Both teams will advance to regional competition. In Quick Recall, Graves County placed first, and Mayfield finished second.

Saint Mary High Schoolm Students who participated in Written Assessment and qualify for regional competition are:

Mathematics: 1st place-Pat Osterhaus (St. Mary); 2nd place-Matt Osterhaus (St. Mary); Social Studies: 5th place tie-Ian Wilson (Ballard), Michael Smith (St. Mary), Will Berry (Mayfield); Science: 1st place-James O'Rourke (St. Mary), 2nd place-Paul DeNeve (St. Mary); Language Arts: 1st place-Grace Babbs (St. Mary), 5th place-Sarah Herricks (St. Mary); Composition: 1st place-Olivia Romero (St. Mary), 4th place-Caitlin Hodges (St. Mary); Arts & Humanities: 3rd place-Grace Babbs (St. Mary), 4th place-Delaney Bell (St. Mary).

The Region I Governor's Cup Competition was held on February 18 at Murray High School.

OCHS Academic team placed 2nd in District



OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Owensboro Catholic High School Academic Team placed second in District Competition. Members who will be moving on to Regionals at Henderson High School on February 18 are Chase Carrico - 3rd place Math, 3rd Place Language Arts; Justin Magnuson - 4th place Math, 2nd place Science; Kevin Thompson - 4th place Social Studies, 4th Place Language Arts; Stephanie Dooper - 1st place Composition; Future Problem Solving Team - 1st Place. Team members include Allen Rakotoiaina, Megan Alvey, Megan Tigie, Michael Crowe.

Academic Team Coaches are Mr. Eric Huff and Mrs. Cynda Wood. Pictured from Left to Right: Michael Crowe, Kyle Boom, Kevin Thompson, Patrick Lasley, Allen Rakotoniaina, Justin Magnuson, Adney Rakotoniaina and Chase Carrico. OCS Photo



During Catholic Schools Week, Trinity High School in Whitesville inducted new members into the school's NHS chapter. Shown above are the members of the school's chapter with their advisers and family members who participated in the school Mass on Feb. 1, 2012, part of Community Day at Trinity. In Trinity's National Honor Society, all Trinity NHS members are leaders.

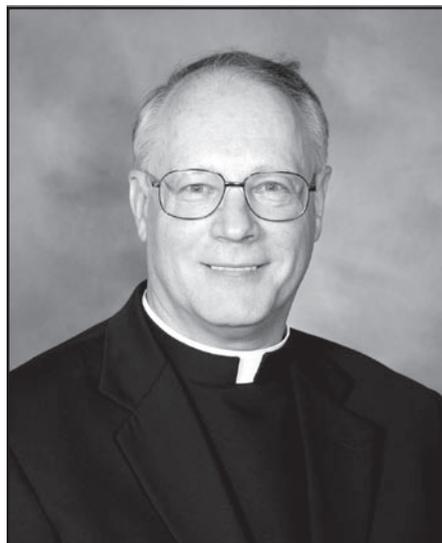
At right, Trinity High School seniors Kelly Wathen, Katie Scott and Hannah Payne show a Trinity auto plate and show for whom they cheer at the pep rally held at the school gym on the Tuesday of Catholic Schools Week. Photos by Christina Rhodes



Fr. Brad Whistle Named Episcopal Vicar

From Mr. Ken Rasp, Director of Owensboro Catholic Schools

Several months ago, Fr. John Vaughan shared with the OCS Pastors and Education Council that he had informed Bishop Medley of his desire to step down from the role of Priest-Pastor for the Owensboro Catholic Schools. I am pleased to inform you that Fr. Brad Whistle has accepted the appointment by Bishop Medley to serve as the Episcopal Vicar (formerly known as Priest-Pastor) for the Owensboro Catholic Schools effective February 1, 2012. Please join me in thanking Fr. Brad for his willingness to accept this important role. Fr. Brad's passion for Catholic education and support of the Owensboro Catholic Schools is well recognized by all - his brother priests, OCS school administration and staff, students and parents. Speaking on behalf of the OCS Leadership Team and Education Council, we are eager to help and assist Fr. Brad as he adds the role of Episcopal Vicar for the Owensboro Catholic Schools to an already busy and robust schedule.



Father John Vaughan

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thanks to Fr. John Vaughan. At the recent OCS Pastors' meeting, he was asked how long he had served as Priest-Pastor. The answer was more than ten years. For the five previous years he served as Priest Representative to the OCS School Board. Much has been accomplished under his leadership and therefore there is much to be grateful for.

I am not sure there are adequate words to express the extreme level of gratitude and appreciation felt by all members of the Owensboro Catholic Community for Fr. John and all he has done to promote and support OCS these past 15 years. May God's blessings and peace be with him as he takes on his new role as Vice President and President-Elect of the Canon Law Society of America! Certainly our prayers will be with him. He has assured me that his support of Owensboro Catholic Schools will not waiver in his continued role as a Pastor of an OCS sponsoring parish.

A committee headed by Fr. Mike Clark reviewed the nomenclature and suggested the change of title to Episcopal Vicar to more accurately reflect adherence to canon law.

Stop Senior Hunger Food Drive

By Jeanette Woodward

One in nine senior citizens is at risk of hunger and over 2000 older adults die from malnutrition each year in America.

For the second year, Comfort Keepers, Independence Bank, Specialty Food Groups, Inc. and GRADD are partnering to help feed 500 needy seniors in the district. These are people on waiting lists to receive services such as Meals on Wheels.

We invite you to participate in our second annual Stop Senior Hunger food drive from March 19 through April 9. Please share canned goods, particularly fruits, vegetable and protein items like peanut butter or tuna fish, and donate to this worthy cause. You drop off donations at any Independence Bank location, any local senior center, GRADD or Comfort Keepers in the counties of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster Counties.

Items will be picked up and sorted for delivery to needy seniors on Thursday, April 19, by volunteers from the partner organizations.

You can give a can of food or two at any of the participating locations. You may also choose to sponsor a senior. Each participant will receive a collection of groceries similar to those shown and also a pre-cooked ham from Specialty Food Groups. The cost to sponsor a senior is only \$24.73.

You can mail a check to GRADD with a note to Stop Senior Hunger. Drop off or mail checks to: GRADD, Stop Senior Hunger, 300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY 42301.

Look at the groceries shopping list in the column at right.



Father Brad Whistle led prayer at the end of a school Mass at OCHS Jan. 26, 2012. After each school Mass, the presider gathers the school's athletes who will compete that week in athletic contests. The prayer ends with "Help us to be humble in victory and courageous in defeat. Go, Aces!" Photo by Mel Howard

Stop Senior Hunger Food Drive Groceries List



Mixed Fruit	.98	2 Soups	2.96
Pineapple	.98	Crackers	1.38
Raisins	1.84	Oatmeal	1.62
Beets	.68	Cheerios	2.50
Mixed Vegetables	.68	Nonfat Dry Milk	4.92
Canned Tuna	.64	Peanut Butter	3.67
Canned Chicken	1.88	Total	\$24.73

Retreat Day for Administrative Professionals Wednesday, April 25, 2012

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Primarily for Administrative Assistants/Secretaries

Directed by Sister Mary Matthias Ward, OSU

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

To register, contact

Kathy McCarty

(270) 229-4103, ext. 802

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Mount Saint Joseph is located
12 miles west of Owensboro
on Hwy. 56.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

26 Catholic High Students With Fr. Ed Bradley Form St. Joseph of Arimathea Society March, 2012 19

By Father Ed Bradley

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Owensboro Catholic High School is very happy to have twenty-six young men, all seniors, volunteer to begin the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society. The group is named for the rich man and disciple of Jesus who requested the body of Jesus from Pontius Pilate for burial (Mt 27:57-58, Mk15:43, Lk 23:50-53 and Jn 19:38). Joseph and Nicodemus, another disciple, wrapped Jesus' body in clean linen and placed it in the tomb prepared for Joseph. On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and other women disciples went to the tomb to perform the anointing not possible on Good Friday because of the hurried burial of Jesus.

Through the ages, a theological debate has raged regarding whether Joseph of Arimathea was a coward, or saint. On the coward side, critics point out that Joseph, while being a disciple of Jesus, was afraid to announce so publicly "because he feared the Jews" (Jn 19:38). It appears to be just another case of a rich member of ruling elite who is afraid to proclaim potentially socially unacceptable viewpoints, for fear of disturbing the status quo.

The alternate view of Joseph seems to have a stronger backing. While Joseph may not have revealed his discipleship of Jesus during the earthly ministry of Jesus, two acts would seem to strongly put him in the category of "defender of the faith":

(1) Joseph appears to have been one of (or perhaps the sole) member of the Sanhedrin "who had not consented to their decision and action" (Lk 23:51) regarding the trial of Jesus.

(2) Joseph bravely went to Pilate, boldly requesting the body of Jesus, and (with Nicodemus) buried the body according to Jewish burial customs. This was an amazingly brave act, because it should be remembered that during this time, all of the apostles had fled (except John), and Peter had denied he even knew Jesus. And yet Joseph, at the seemingly low point in the earthly ministry of Jesus, bravely and openly took care of the body of Jesus, risking possible censor from both the Romans and the Jewish elders.

The Roman Catholic Church eventually made Joseph the Patron Saint of Undertakers. His feast day is celebrated on March 17.

The St. Joseph of Arimathea Society will work closely with Jeff Jones, the Coroner, and the local funeral homes in Owensboro. The opportunity to practice the corporal work of mercy, "to bury the dead", will be the motivation. The Act of Mercy of praying for and burying the dead will begin at one of the funeral homes where a short service, led by one of the students, will be held. Six students will then act as pall bearers and take the casket to the hearse and accompany it to the cemetery. The students will then pray for the deceased as the casket is lowered into ground. Upon returning to OCHS, the students will then have an opportunity to reflect on their experience and see how their ministry of burying the dead has helped them to grow in their faith.

The students will serve as pallbearers for the indigent as well as for those whose family is so small that there are not enough family members to act as pallbearers. In these cases, the funeral home will contact OCHS and we will be happy to respond. This service will be provided for members of all



Catholic High Chaplain Fr. Brad Whistle (left) and Campus Minister Fr. Ed Bradley talk with freshman Ed Carter before Mass in the large gym recently. Reprinted from OCHS Parentlines.

faith traditions.

If anyone of our readers want more information, or know of someone who would benefit from our ministry, please call Fr. Bradley at the high school at 684-3215.

Again, the mission statement of the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society is very simple:

- To practice the works of mercy by offering pallbearer service free of charge to those in need, especially the poor and elderly.
- To affirm the value and dignity of human life
- To represent the community at a person's final commendation, and
- To commemorate and pray for the dead.



The OCHS St. Joseph of Aramathea Society, all seniors, are Blake West, Daniel Best, Isaac Hardesty, Hunter Gough, Peyton Booth, Ryne Wilson, Reed Brown, Justin Mahoney, Russell Hayden, Masden Riney, Alec Bahnick, Chris Hayden, Blaise Moore, Gilbert Mischel, Michael Polio, Logan Cecil, Jacob Tanner, Josh Buckman, Jordan White, Tyler Farmer, Sam Rasp. The group is shown after a school Mass on Jan. 26, 2012 posing with Campus Minister Fr. Ed Bradley, at left, and newly appointed Episcopal Vicar Fr. Brad Whistle, at right. Photo by Mel Howard

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week At St. Ann, Morganfield

St. Ann Catholic School students were surprised with a visit from the Union County Football Coach Steve Carter and two football players, Davis Joiner and Kenneth Brummett during Catholic Schools Week. The week long celebration of Catholic education coincides with the Super Bowl. The school cafeteria was decorated with a football theme and served some great recipes for Super Bowl parties all week. Pictured above are (l to r) Linda Willett, Steve Carter, Davis Joiner, Kenneth Brummett, April Deckard, and Angela Deckard, Cafeteria Manager. Earlier in the week Athletic Director Jeremy Tackett, and UCHS football players Conner Wempe and Kren Rister visited the students. Davis Joiner and Conner Wempe are alumni from St. Ann School. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson



SAS+
St. Ann Ineparochial School

Saint Ann 7th grade students who qualify for the Duke TIP

From a small 7th grade class of 11 students, Lauren Willett, Ashley Duckworth, and Tyler Steelman qualify for the Duke TIP program. Each student scored within the 95th percentile on an accepted subtest or total battery/composite of the IOWA test that was taken in April, 2011. Duke TIP's 7th Grade Talent Search is the largest program of its kind in the nation. Since its inception in 1980, over 2 million students have participated. The 7th Grade Talent Search identifies academically talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates are invited to take the ACT or the SAT college entrance exam as seventh graders, which allow them greater insight into their academic abilities. Participants also gain valuable benefits and have access to unique resources for gifted students.



Saint Ann 4th and 5th grade students who qualify for Duke TIP

Students names are: Row 1 (kneeling) Emma Greenwell, Kameron Givens, Duke Moosbrugger, Drew Davis, Carson Johnson, and Maci Butler; Middle Row: Addie Waller, Jacqueline Davis, Abe White, Brayden McGraw, Kent Davis, Emily Greenwell; Back Row: Anna Wheatley, Jarett Gough, Weston Clements, Jordan Stewart, Aubrey Hancock, Gray Greenwell, Paden Dyer. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson

TIP participants and 8th grade students, as well as the opportunity to receive special recognition.

Enrollment in the Duke TIP 4th/5th grade Talent Search offers recognition of a student's outstanding academic abilities and motivational and informational resources through online opportunities and publications. Students have the opportunity to submit a story in the annual Duke TIP 4th/5th Grade talent Search Writing Contest for the chance to win monetary prizes, recognition, and publication opportunities for themselves and St. Ann School. Students also have the opportunity to take the ACT EXPLORE. Taking EXPLORE will provide insights into students' academic abilities, the chance to compare their scores with other Duke

Epiphany Blessing = 20 + C + M + B + 12

In honor of the Feast of the Epiphany Father Gerald Baker blessed St. Ann School on January 6, 2012, the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Prayers were recited by Father Baker and St. Ann School students at the front door of St.



Ann School. With blessed chalk, the initials of the three Wise Men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) connected with the year, breaking up the numbers of the year, 20 + C + M + B + 12 were



written over the lintel of the door. ("20" being the millennium and century and "12" being the decade and year). It is also popularly believed that the Kings' initials also stand for "Christus mansionem benedicat" ("Christ bless this house"). The initials over our doorway serve to remind us of who the Magi saw and how they saw Him. They remind us to adore Him as they did. The chalk markings remain over the door until Pentecost. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson.

Wisdom from Ginny Knight-Simon ...



Ginny Knight-Simon

CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER - On February 9, 2012, Ginny Knight-Simon came to work in the Diocesan Office of Wisdom for her last day as Coordinator of Wisdom.

On October 1, 1990, Ginny Knight-Simon started working for the Diocese of Owensboro in 1990 as secretary for Father Tony

Zeigler in the Office of Worship in the Catholic Pastoral Center located then at 4005 Frederica Street in Owensboro.

Later, she began working for Mr. Tom Lilly in the Office of Stewardship and Development and shortly after that, she became the Diocese's first Coordinator of Wisdom in late 1995. The office is a ministry for the large senior population in the diocese, and its purpose is to highlight our Catholic Seniors in the light of God's teaching that all life is good. Life and age is a gift from God, and age is a natural part of living. Age in and of itself is not a disease.

A lot of the work of the Wisdom office involves creating newsletters, writing the *Western Kentucky Catholic* Wisdom columns, organizing Wisdom Days, the annual Sophia Award Mass and celebration with reception. Held each year in the Fall because Blessed John Paul II said to honor seniors in the fall of the year. The office hosts Wisdom Days in spring to coincide with National Senior Citizen Month. The Office of wisdom reaches hundreds of people each year. 300-400 people attend the annual Sophia Awards celebration to witness their family member or loved one be acclaimed by the diocese as a good example of Catholic life and love.

Ginny said, "I have made some good friends and many acquaintances through out the years. I hope the Office of Wisdom will be continued as there is a great need in Western Kentucky for a Catholic Seniors ministry. I will miss my job here at the CPS and I will miss my friend on staff. Please let me hear from you at my email gksimon@roadrunner.com."

...And Bishop Emeritus John McRaith

Bishop-emeritus John J. McRaith wrote for the *Western Kentucky Catholic*:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to write a few words about Ginny. First of all, I was sad to hear that she is retiring, knowing all the lives she has touched in her many years ministering in the Diocese of Owensboro through the Office of Wisdom. She will be missed by many but most of all by the Wisdom People of our Diocese.

"Ginny, working with others, began this very special ministry to the more senior members of the diocese. I had the privilege to work closely with her as she, with her creative mind and great commitment to serve the Wisdom People of the Diocese, began to put together the office of Wisdom and has directed that office for over 15 years. This was a new area of ministry that is often neglected in our Country.

"Ginny first formed a committee to assist in her dreams of what this service could be for the Senior members of the Church in Western Kentucky. With her direction the Office of Wisdom has grown in touching the lives of so many people. This included a newsletter, many bus trips of one or more days, but perhaps the most appreciated and touching growth came with the establishing of the Sophia Awards Sunday each year in September.

"I have to say I had no idea of the crying need to recognize Senior Catholics from across the Diocese for their faith, their sharing of gifts with the Parish communities and building up the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Owensboro. Needless to say my doubts were quickly removed from the overwhelmingly positive response to the very first Sophia Award Sunday.

"I close by saying thank you, Ginny, for stewarding your many gifts over these past years and may you and your loving husband, Ed, enjoy your retirement. I am confident that you will continue to be a good steward of your gifts as you listen for your next call from God. You will be missed.

Sincerely, Bishop-emeritus John J. McRaith

Two Senior Diocesan Staffers Changing Career Paths in March

Two long-time diocesan employees who have worked at the Catholic Pastoral Center since 1983 are changing their career focus – Kay Hardin, February 29 and Mary Ann Kurz, March 31, 2012. Mary Ann began working in the Diocesan Tribunal on April 11, 1983; and Kay Hardin went to work for the Diocesan Administration Office in June, 1983. Mary Ann will be changing to a part-time work week on April 1, and Kay will be retiring to spend more time with her family and grandchild.

The *Western Kentucky Catholic* asked Sister Joseph Angela Boone to tell us about Kay's work at CPC.

Sister JA said, "**Kay Hardin** has been the bottom line ASSET to the Diocese since she was employed to work in the Diocesan finance office in 1982.

"She has been a patient, dedicated, loving, humorous and skilled Christian. She did her work in a very professional manner. Never too busy to help those at the Catholic Pastoral Center or those in the parishes who were trying to get a Balance between Assets and Liabilities.

"She worked and dedicated many hours getting the best coverage for the members of the Diocesan Self-funded Medical Insurance Plan. She tweaked the budget so that most of us got our needed expenses covered when the income was not sufficient.

"We ask your patience as the Finance Office tries to cover your needs as we all learn more about the many things that Kay did for so many.

"She will be missed. Thanks Kay for making life among FIGURES as enjoyable as possible."



Kay Hardin



Mary Ann Kurz

Mary Ann Kurz came to work at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 4005 Frederica Street, as did Kay. Mary Ann started as an Administrative Assistant and became an Ecclesiastical Notary, spending her whole 29 years as a diocesan employee in this work. Many people who have had cases before the Owensboro Diocesan Tribunal may recognize her name and her compassionate, quiet, efficient work manner as she helped people involved in a case provide in a timely manner the necessary facts and forms needed to bring the case to a decision.

She started working for Father Joe Mills who was Judicial Vicar in 1983, and has worked for successive Judicial Vicars, Rev. J. Patrick Reynolds, Rev. Gregory Trawick, and the present Judicial Vicar, Rev. J. Michael Clark. When she started work, Kay Mills Rhodes (Fr. Mill's sister) had moved to work in the tribunal office from being Bishop Soenneker's secretary after his retirement. Today, Mary Ann shares the office work with Louanne Payne and Sandy Morris.

Mary Ann said of her ministry, "Once a Petition is received in the Tribunal, we move it forward through each step of the process, making sure the procedures required by Canon Law are followed as the case is prepared to go to the Court Officials for a decision."

Mary Ann is married to Tommy Kurz (44 years) and they have three children, Kevin, Stephanie, and Mark, and among these there are five grandchildren. When Mary Ann first came to the Catholic Pastoral Center, she was a homemaker with her youngest child in second grade. Father Joe Mills taught her and Tommy at Brescia University and blessed their engagement. Seventeen years later he hired her to work in the Tribunal.

Mary Ann said, "I have enjoyed the work of the Tribunal from day one. It is a very interesting ministry. No two days are ever the same. Most of the time, the Tribunal is working with people who have been through a lot of pain and hurt. It is rewarding to know that you have helped someone to be free to marry in the Church and get back to the Sacraments."

Becoming A Servant

By Dawn Burgess

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - We are all called to be a Servant for God during our time on Earth. The greatest servant of all, Jesus said in Mark 10:43-45, "But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." There are many ways to serve God and he has given each one of us skills and talents to use in our service to him. We only need to pray and ask God where does he want us to serve?

The leaders of Girl Scout Troop 1932 from St Joseph School in Bowling Green, KY wanted to teach their Junior Scouts the value of serving God and helping others. With this goal in mind, the troop developed and completed their "Spirit of Giving" project in December 2011. The Troop collected new and used toys from their fellow students, the parents, and staff of St Joseph School. The toys collected were donated to families assisted by St. Vincent DePaul. The girls acquired new skills as they learned how to machine-sew their own costumes to be used as part of the project. Several cold mornings the Junior Scouts dressed in their handmade elf costumes and arrived at school



Two members of the Girl Scout Troop 1932 from St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, Reagan Burgess (left), Mary Catherine Thomas, with Scout Leaders Patty Day and Delrae Allen, holding some of the toys for their Spirit of Giving project. Photos submitted by Dawn Burgess.

extra early to collect the donated toys during morning car line. The troop then delivered the toys to Delrae Allen and Patty Day at St. Vincent DePaul Family Assistance Center for distribution to needy families.

The thirteen fifth grade girls were responsible for completing the service project from



Members of the Girl Scout Troop 1932 from St. Joseph School in Bowling Green wearing elf costumes they sewed themselves collecting donated toys one morning before school. St. Joseph School and Church are shown in the background.

beginning to end. They used their own unique skills and talents to make their costumes, market the idea to their school by creating signs and making announcements, and physically collecting and delivering the toys.

The troop truly learned the skills required to complete a service project for their community as well as experiencing the joy and love of service.

Bria Garvin, of Troop 1932, remarked "I loved knowing that the things we did helped make someone else happy. It made me happy, too. I hope our Troop can do another project to help others soon."

Through the "Spirit of Giving" project, the girls learned what the true meaning of Christmas is and should always be. We can only pray God will one day tell us all: "Well done, good and faithful servants."

You are invited to join

Monsignor Bernard Powers

as he celebrates the 60th anniversary

of his ordination to the priesthood

on

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Mass at 2:00 p.m.

and

dessert social following in the parish hall



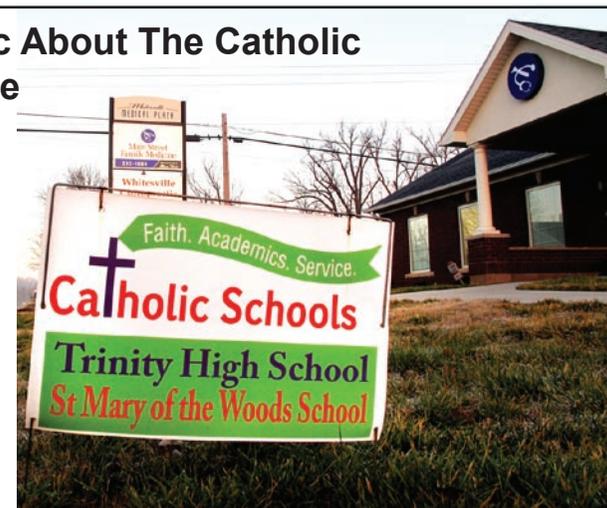
Parish of the Immaculate

2516 Christie Place

Owensboro, Kentucky

Informing The Public About The Catholic Education Advantage

Yard signs such as this one advertising Catholic Schools Week at Saint Mary of the Woods School and Trinity High School in the front lawn of Whitesville Family Medicine appeared in many towns and cities of Western Kentucky during Catholic Schools Week 2012. Diocesan Catholic Schools are increasing efforts to inform the public about the benefits of a Catholic Education. Mel Howard Photo



Ursuline Sisters Celebrating 100 years in 2012

By Mount Saint Joseph Staff

The oldest of the maple trees that line All Saints Avenue at the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse in Maple Mount show the scars of a century worth of weather.

Whatever majesty they have lost, those trees symbolize a beginning. Shortly after receiving permission from Rome on Oct. 12, 1912 to become the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, the first mother superior, Mother Aloysius Willett, ordered 100 maple trees to be planted between the Guest House and the cemetery, creating All Saints Avenue.

This year, the Ursuline Sisters will celebrate their 100th anniversary as a community, one still based on new beginnings. It will be a yearlong celebration, highlighted by the values that embody the Ursuline Sisters – prayer, service, empowerment, justice and contemplative presence, all in the spirit of their founder, Saint Angela Merici.

The theme for the year is “Woven with Threads of Courage and High Hope: 1912-2012.” It borrows from Saint Angela Merici’s encouraging words to her sisters to “have courage and high hope.”

The year of celebration began on Jan. 28th, the Saturday following the feast of Saint Angela Merici, who founded the Ursuline Sisters in Brescia, Italy, in 1535. Significant events throughout the year – Alumnae Weekend on May 19-20, Associates and Sisters Day on June 9, Community Days for the sisters on July 11-13, the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic on Sept. 9 – will all incorporate aspects of the Centennial celebration.

The weekend of Oct. 12-14 will be the culmination of the celebrations. On Oct. 13, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville will be invited to a Mass at the Motherhouse celebrated by the Most Rev. William Medley, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Activities will fill the rest of the afternoon following the 11 a.m. Mass. On Oct. 14, a reception for the Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph will occur following Sunday Mass.

The 12th of every month in 2012 will feature a fasting day along with a prayer service. Wherever the sisters are serving, they will fast and pray in their own way. The themes of these days follow the late theologian Maria Harris’ themes of biblical jubilees: fasting, fallowness and forgiveness.

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have always stood for service to others, so the main way they want to celebrate this anniversary year is with “Centennial Service.”



Sisters, associates and other supporters of the sisters will be asked to identify a need in their communities and build a service project around the number 100. Perhaps it is gathering 100 items to help the disadvantaged, or providing 100 hours of service. Perhaps it is collecting 100 items of clothing for a shelter, or helping prepare 100 meals at a soup kitchen. It may be offering 100 prayers for someone who is disheartened. All these efforts will be chronicled and celebrated at year’s end for service to God’s people.

Friends of the Ursuline Sisters who want to honor their service are encouraged to be of service to someone or some group in their com-



Sister Sharon Sullivan, O.S.U., Congregational Leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, spoke during a press conference Jan. 27 to announce that the Sisters are celebrating 100 years of service as an independent community in 2012. Monthly prayer services, service projects and Centennial themes will encompass events throughout the year, and on October 13 at Maple Mount, Bishop William Medley will celebrate a Mass involving the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and Mount Saint Joseph. More than 150 Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph serve in nine states, Washington, D.C., and Chile, South America. Photos by Mel Howard

munity. Anyone who undertakes such a service project is encouraged to contact Dan Heckel at dan.heckel@maplemount.org, or (270) 229-2007 so prayers can be offered for those efforts.

Commemorative prayer cards with a special prayer for the year are available. “Prayer to Saint Angela,” a song written by Father Jim Marchionda, OP, will be the official song of celebration for the year.

The Ursuline Sisters website (www.ursulinesmsj.org) has a presence each day with a significant moment from the past 100 years, and will keep visitors up to date on what’s happening next. The history of service and updates of the places the Ursulines now minister – nine states, Washington, D.C., and Chile, South America – will be regularly featured.

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville first came to what is now Maple Mount in 1874, at the request of Father Paul Joseph Volk,

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to open a school for girls that became Mount Saint Joseph Academy. Many of the graduates of the Academy wanted to join the Ursuline Sisters, but did not want to enter the novitiate in Louisville, where the language spoken was primarily German. An English-speaking novitiate was approved for Mount Saint Joseph in 1895 by Bishop George McCloskey.

Following Bishop McCloskey’s death in 1909, an effort to combine the two novitiates led to a request by the Ursulines at Maple Mount to begin their own community. After a period of two years, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Archbishop John Bonzano, issued his decree on Oct. 12, 1912 to create the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

One hundred years later in 2012, more than 150 Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are still active in the ministries of prayer, education, health care, service to the Church and many other areas where God has called them. Continue to join the Ursuline Sisters on their journey of hope for the next 100 years of serving God’s people.



Sister Sharon Sullivan, O.S.U., spoke to Sisters and reporters January 27 at Mount Saint Joseph during a press conference called to announce the Sisters Centennial and plans. Each day during 2012, in honor of the Centennial of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, a significant moment from the past 100 years on the corresponding day will be briefly chronicled on the website, <http://www.ursulinesmsj.org/>. Some of these events will use the exact wording that the daily annalist used at the time.

Bishop Lori Tells Parable Of The Kosher Deli And The Pork Mandate In Con- gressional Testimony

WASHINGTON—The mandate for virtually all private insurers, including most religiously-affiliated organizations such as Catholic hospitals, universities and charities, to include contraceptives, sterilizations and drugs that can cause early abortions in their employee health plans is akin to mandating that a kosher deli serve pork, the chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told Congress.

In his February 16 testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, outlined the bishops' opposition to the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate through an extended parable of a country where a new law requires all businesses to serve pork, including kosher delicatessens.

When the Orthodox Jewish community expresses its outrage, Bishop Lori said, it's met with arguments of "But pork is good for you," "So many Jews eat pork, and those who don't should just get with the times," and "Those Orthodox are just trying to impose their beliefs on everyone else."

Bishop Lori's parable had a happy ending, that people recognized "it is absurd for someone to come into a kosher deli and demand a ham sandwich," "it is beyond absurd for that private demand to be backed with the coercive power of the state," and "it is downright surreal to apply this coercive power when the customer can get the same sandwich cheaply, or even free, just a few doors down."

"The question before the United States government—right now—is whether the story of our own Church institutions that serve the public, and that are threatened by the HHS mandate, will end happily too. Will our nation continue to be one committed to religious liberty and diversity? We urge, in the strongest possible terms, that the answer must be yes."



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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BULLETIN INSERT

Sweeping HHS Mandate Stands, Violating Conscience Rights and Religious Liberty Congress Must Act to Fix the Problem

On January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception. The exemption provided for "religious employers" was so narrow that it failed to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations—including Catholic hospitals, universities, and charities—that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and his disciples would have qualified for the exemption, because it excludes those who mainly serve people of another faith.

On February 10, the Obama Administration made this rule final "without change"; delayed enforcement for a year against religious nonprofits that were still not exempted (our charities, hospitals, and colleges); and promised to develop more regulations to "accommodate" them by the end of that additional year. But, as explained below, that promised "accommodation" still forces them to pay for "services" that violate their religious convictions.

The original rule that violated our religious liberty so severely has not been changed, but finalized.

After touting meaningful changes in the mandate, HHS instead finalized the original rule that was first issued in August 2011 "without change." So the offensive definition of "religious employer"—which excludes our charities, hospitals, and colleges because they serve people of other faiths—is still in place, and those institutions are still subject to the mandate.

HHS has promised some kind of "accommodation," but only after the election.

HHS said it would take an additional year to develop more regulations to "accommodate" religiously-affiliated charities, schools, and hospitals that still fall outside the "religious employer" exemption. The impact of these additional rules will not be felt until after the election, the only point of public accountability for the Executive Branch. This eliminates an important incentive for HHS to provide the best protection for religious liberty.

The promised "accommodation"—even at its best—would still force our institutions to violate their beliefs.

Under the proposed "accommodation," if an employee of these religious institutions wants coverage of contraception or sterilization directly from the insurer, the objecting employer is still forced to pay for it as a part of the employer's insurance plan. Since there is no other source, the funds to pay for that coverage must come from the premiums of the employer and fellow employees, even those who object in conscience.

There is no exemption for objecting insurers, secular employers, for-profit religious employers, or individuals.

The U.S. bishops defend religious liberty for all, and so have repeatedly identified all the stakeholders in the process whose religious freedom is threatened by the mandate—all employers, insurers, and individuals, not just religious employers. Now, all insurers, including self-insurers, must provide the coverage to any employee who wants it. In turn, all individuals who pay premiums have no escape from subsidizing that coverage. And only employers that are both non-profit and religious may qualify for the limited "accommodation."

We urgently need legislation to correct the mandate's threats to religious liberty and conscience rights. The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) to ensure that those who participate in the market for health insurance "retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions."

ACTION: Contact your U.S. Representative by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
- Send your email to Congress through www.usccb.org/conscience.
- Additional contact info can be found on Members' web sites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE: "Please co-sponsor and support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). The Obama administration's decision to mandate coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the religious liberty and conscience rights of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected."

WHEN: Now is the time to build co-sponsors and support. Please act today! Thanks!



12/16/2011

“The gift of giving”

Students at St. Paul Catholic Elementary school pictured here with their teachers, donate to St Gerard’s. Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts this year, the students collected several baby items along with monetary donations to give to St. Gerard’s. Submitted by Gina Sims



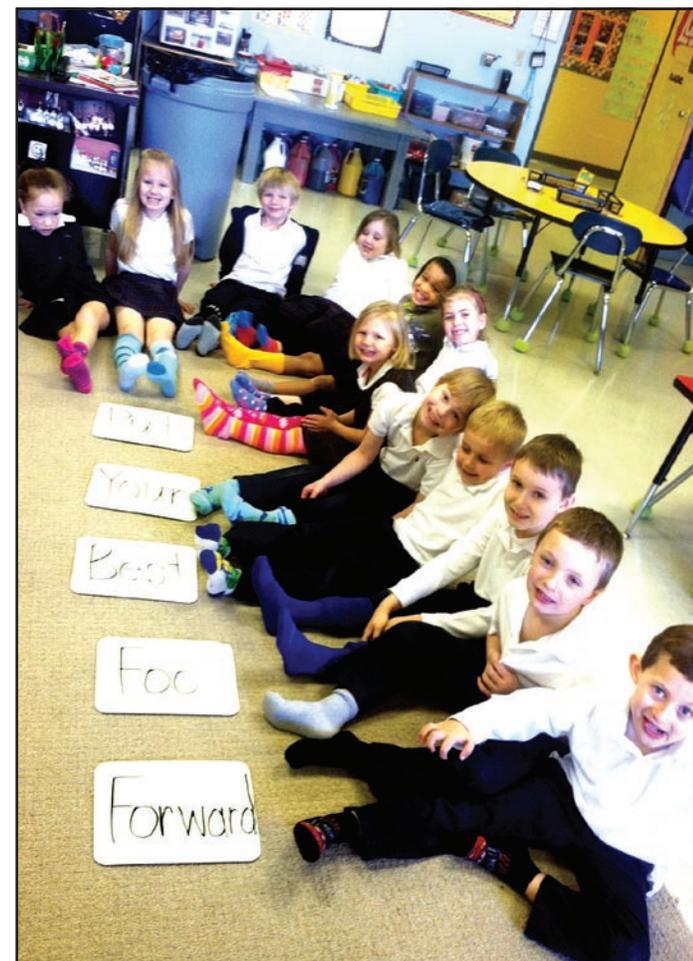
Of Faith and Life

Above is a photo from the Paducah Faith Formation Catechist Retreat that took place at Rosary Chapel on January 21, 2012. The theme was “My Faith Energizes My Life.” Shown from left to right are Fr. Uwem, Laura Todino, Patty Hughes, Jeanine Cudd, Vickie Bilski, Angie Newton, Lauretta Hollis, Sr. Geri (presenter) seated, Chris Riley, Glynn Smith, Sr. Georgia (presenter). Not shown are Lori Doss and Ging Smith. Submitted by Chris Riley



Putting Their Best Foot and Hats Forward

At right, Mrs.Lang’s St. Mary Elementary School Kindergarten Class show off their “silly socks” that they wore on Feb. 9, Thursday, of Catholic Schools Week. Above, Mrs. Ray’s 1st grade students wear their crazy hats on Feb. 10, Friday, to remind them to bring in hats to be given to St. Vincent De Paul. Students collected both socks and hats to be donated to St. Vincent De Paul Society as part of their “service” for Catholic Schools Week. Photos by Jackie Hopper



By: Dawn C. Ligibel

A note from the writer: My first attempt to write an article about our parish's 10th anniversary of perpetual Eucharistic adoration failed. This story was much too big to write about in a vacuum. After interviewing many parishioners and a non-parishioner or two, it became obvious that I couldn't accomplish this feat with just one article. The following is part one of a two-part series. This first article covers the formation and the past ten years of the perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville.

At the turn of this century, the idea of perpetual Eucharistic adoration was but a dream for some parishioners at Sts. Peter and Paul. It wasn't long, however, before the dream started taking shape. What became a reality on January 6, 2002, has continued as one of the largest ministries offered at the parish.

All who were involved with setting up the ministry agree that it was the Holy Spirit who planted the idea and generated the support needed. "Three of us had been to a Lay Dominican meeting in Nashville on a Sunday afternoon where one of the sisters spoke about adoration," recalled Lana Bastin, who spearheaded the ministry for the first ten years. "They had a CD on perpetual Eucharistic adoration so the three of us listened to it on the way home. I was just awestruck. I thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the Lord present, out of the tabernacle.'"

"He put those stirrings into mine and Lana's hearts simultaneously on a Sunday and He also put it into Fr. Baker's heart," agreed another parishioner who was instrumental in getting the ministry started, but prefers to remain anonymous. "When the Holy Spirit wants something done, He puts the stirring into the hearts of those who will serve," he explained.

"I wanted to encourage the people to pray and to spend time with our Lord," Fr. Gerald Baker recalled. Fr. Baker was pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul when the ministry first began. He continued to support it until his transfer to St. Ann Parish in Morganfield in 2003. He then started the same ministry there. "I asked Lana if she would be willing to start the program at that time," Fr. Baker said.

"I'm glad I had the courage to say yes," Bastin recently reflected. "God put it on

Parish Celebrates 10 Years Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration



Many parishioners and adorers at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville pray before the Blessed Sacrament as part of the perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry in the parish. Perpetual Eucharistic adoration began in the parish on January 6, 2002. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

my heart and out of obedience, I acted on it."

One of the first steps in the process was to invite someone to the parish who was familiar with perpetual Eucharistic adoration. "Fr. Larry Villone from the Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Louis came to Sts. Peter and Paul one weekend and presented the idea at all the Masses," Bastin remembered. "That first weekend, every hour was full," Bastin recalled. She is still amazed, even more than ten years after the fact. "You knew it had to be of God because it was so easy. There weren't any glitches."

The original format for starting the ministry is still the same as it is today. In addition to Bastin, there were and still are also four division coordinators and 24 hourly captains. A division coordinator oversees a block of hours, while an hourly captain is a point of contact for adorers each hour of the 24 hour day. Once this structure was in place, individual parishioners were encouraged to sign up for an hour each.

"I'm a planning person," admitted Bastin. "If I had a time slot, I knew I would

go be with the Lord."

"When Fr. Baker asked for people to do it, I thought, 'Sure, why not?'" said Mary Lee.

"I was always for it," recalled Jenny Rush, who with her husband, Bill, now leads the ministry. "I was really excited because I knew that we would have the Lord in the Church and we could be there with Him. He wouldn't be hidden from us."

"I remember my first visit to the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul," mused Fr. John Thomas, who was pastor from 2003 to 2011. "One of the first questions I had was about perpetual Eucharistic adoration. I had never been a part of a parish that had that ministry and was very interested in learning how it was carried out."

"I thought it was just wonderful," recalled Beverly Todd, who had participated with a perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry in a previous parish. "I just hoped it would actually happen," she added.

"I had my doubts it would work," admitted Bill Folz. "I knew to get that many people signed up would be hard. But the Holy Spirit was guiding them."

Although Folz may have doubted enough parishioners would be willing to sign up for perpetual Eucharistic adoration, ironically, Folz had been praying before the Blessed Sacrament while in the tabernacle for years before the official ministry began. "I started in 1997," Folz recalled. After making a Cursillo weekend, Folz was looking for a good place to pray every day. Unfortunately, the church was closed and locked during the time Folz wanted to spend time in prayer. "At the time Fr. Baker was my spiritual director," Folz explained. "I told him that I'd like to go and sit with the Blessed Sacrament, but the church was locked. He said, 'I'll solve that,' and he gave me a key."

Once the perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry began, Folz continued his tradition of sitting with the Lord very early every morning. He currently arrives around 4:30 a.m. "It's a time when nothing is pressing me," he explained. "It's my own time. It's my hour. If I go any later, I get busy and worry about getting something done for the day."

The parishioner who chooses to remain anonymous also began adoration long before the ministry began. "I would come every day and keep the Lord company in the tabernacle one to one and a half hours

before Mass," he recalled.

Regardless of when people began spending time at adoration, whether it was before the ministry began, when it began, or even years after it began, all unanimously agree that many blessings can be found by spending time with God.

"When you pray, it's not so much what you do for God as what God does for you," Fr. Baker explained.

"No matter why we come, He always ends up consoling us," said the anonymous parishioner. "The Lord is so gracious and kind and merciful and just. He gives us more than we expect," he added.

"It's just a blessing that we can come and do it. Not everybody has the opportunity," said Todd.

"I was always proud when I visited someone in the hospital or in a situation where someone was asking for specific prayers," recalled Fr. Thomas. "I had the great honor of saying they would be prayed for every hour for the next day. To have the ability to promise prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and know it will be carried out is a wonderful thing," he explained.

"It was also very comforting to conclude a vigil service the night before a Mass of Christian Burial and explain to the congregation that our parish was 'holding them in prayer throughout the night,'" continued Fr. Thomas. "Our parish was truly 'keeping vigil' with the grieving family."

"I began in thanksgiving to God for allowing Steven to come home safely after all his deployments," explained Vicki Kinnard, whose husband recently retired from the Army after serving for 22 years. "I felt like that was the least I could do," she added.

Recognizing the power of prayer is only one positive aspect of the perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry at Sts. Peter and Paul. "This parish is known as a place of prayer in the entire Hopkinsville community," observed Fr. Richard Meredith, current pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul.

As if reinforcing Fr. Richard's assessment, Dr. John Colby, a member of the community but not a parishioner, has been committed to an hour of adoration at Sts. Peter and Paul for nearly three years. "I know the importance of prayer," confessed Colby. "No one here (in the community) is doing on-going prayer except the Catholic Church. We know the importance of

Continued on page 28

By: Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - For the first time in several years, Catholic Schools Week was celebrated at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville without interruption. In years past, one or more days have been missed due to ice or snow. This year, however, the temperatures hovered around 60 degrees all week which lent itself to the celebratory spirit of the week.

The weekend before the celebration began, Principal Sarah Kranz sent a letter to all school parents and included the letter as an insert in the weekend's bulletin. In it, Kranz explained the year's theme: Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics, and Service. "Having attended Catholic schools for 12 years, Catholic Schools' Week always reminds me to express the profound gratitude I feel for the extraordinary education I received."

"I wish to thank the parish community for their continued support of our school," Kranz continued. "The cost of maintaining a curriculum that forms our children in the Catholic faith and provides them with a solid education by which to continue the Lord's work in today's society is challenging. I am very aware that we could not do it without your prayers and financial support...Our school gives the parish energy, purpose, and focus...Our



Preschool students from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville visited a local shelter during Catholic Schools Week to deliver toys they were donating for children who stay at the shelter. Photo taken by Michelle Langhi.

Catholic identity is extremely strong, and we are strengthening it all the time."

At the conclusion of her letter, Kranz quoted the Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, Bishop of Covington. "While there may be alternatives to Catholic education,

there are no substitutes."

Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith has also been quoted many times regarding the value of a Catholic education. On one occasion, he commented, "Catholic schools are fertile grounds where the seeds of faith are planted."

Beginning on Monday, January 30, the week opened with Sts. Peter and Paul hosting the Diocesan Spelling Bee. A total of twenty-one students from around the diocese competed for the championship in both the lower division and the upper division. (Refer to the "Students Compete at Diocesan Spelling Bee" article in this issue.)

Hosting the spelling bee for the diocese actually fit nicely into the school's overall plan for the week which was to focus on serving others. During the week, various members of the community and the diocese were honored. One way they were honored was by delivering baskets of goodies to several places throughout town, including the hospital, the free clinic, the pregnancy crisis center and the fire department. In addition, several classes remembered members of the diocese by creating original artwork on cards that were then sent to parishioners who are sick or shut-in, Bishop McRaith,



Tobias Duncan (left) and Ryan Linares, both kindergarten students at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, respectfully hold their hands in prayer during a prayer service at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. The prayer service was held with the eighth grade students during Catholic Schools Week to honor those who have served the United States of America through military service. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

Bishop William F. Medley and the seminarians in the Diocese of Owensboro.

In addition to mailing cards, students in the first grade also wrote letters to the Ursuline Sisters at Mount Saint Joseph on Tuesday. The seventh grade students wrote letters to their state representatives expressing concerns they have about current issues and to let the representatives know that the students are praying for them.

Later on Tuesday, guest speakers from Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center spoke to the students about summer camp opportunities at the diocesan camp and retreat center. Director Ben Warrell and Program Director Jessy Hagan regaled the students with many stories about summer camp and the many activities with which they can take advantage while attending.

On Wednesday, several classes traveled to two different locations to honor individuals who have represented our nation over the years. The sixth grade students traveled to Gander Memorial Park, a memorial established to honor the members of the 101st Airborne who died in a plane crash in Gander, New Foundland, on December 12, 1985. They held a brief



During a prayer service at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West, kindergarten students from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville sang "God Bless America," while most held their hands over their hearts on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Pictured from left to right are: Beatrice-Olivia Reigel, Livie Jorgensen, Tyler Adcock and Erin Murphy. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

continuous prayer to the Lord, not only for us, but for the community at large and the Church.”

“The more people you get there to pray the better off our Church and our country will be,” commented Folz.

In addition to the “greater good” that results from prayer, many parishioners believe they have received personal blessings over the past ten years which they directly attribute to their time in adoration.

“It’s given me the opportunity to go deep, deeper than just the surface on a prayer level,” said Bastin.

“It’s been such a good thing in my life,” admitted Lee. Although Lee has been committed to an hour of adoration since the ministry began, having gone through a difficult time about a year and a half ago, she values her prayer time even more. “I went to my prayer hour, but I was having the single worst day in my life. I couldn’t handle it, so I told him he was going to have to handle it for me. I just felt a wave of comfort come over me,” she described.

“He gave me a prayer. I have passed that prayer on to people but I haven’t told them where it came from. I wrote some of it, he wrote some of it. I know it was him because I can’t write that good. I can still have that comfort now because he gave me that prayer.”

“Adoration was the only thing I was hanging onto at that time,” Lee continued. “That hour of adoration is what was keeping me going and giving me time to think, to pray and to do some spiritual reading. It makes me stronger and gives me a chance to apologize to God. It has given me a chance to rest with God.”

“When you lose a spouse as suddenly as I did, you really find strength here,” said Shirley Prunitsch who was seated in the bell tower near the Blessed Sacrament. Prunitsch lost her husband in 2008 just after celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. “I know it would have been much harder for me if I didn’t have this,” she added pointing to the Blessed Sacrament.

In addition to receiving strength after her husband’s death, Prunitsch believes she has received even more blessings. “I have a thousand things to say about the blessings I’ve received in adoration,” she claimed. “I remember when Lana said it’s the most wonderful place to teach yourself to listen. I’ve learned to listen. It’s one of the greatest gifts that adoration



The adoration chapel, which is positioned directly opposite of the main doors entering the church, houses the monstrance which holds the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, seven days a week at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville. On January 6, 2012, the parish celebrated the 10th anniversary of its perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

has given me. At 77 years old, I’ve been taught to listen,” she added with a laugh. “It’s just given me a new insight to prayer,” Prunitsch concluded.

“Oh my gosh, yes,” exclaimed Kinnard when thinking of the personal blessings she has received. “I don’t even know how to describe it. I had heard of the miracle that when Mary is present, people say they can smell the scent of roses. Well, all I know is, my heart was very heavy that week. All of a sudden, a wonderfully strong scent of roses surrounded me. It was as if she was blessing me with her presence and letting me know it would be okay. I kept looking all around and there weren’t any roses anywhere,” she concluded with amazement in her voice.

“That is the best hour of the week,” claimed Colby. “It kind of starts my week off right. It gets my head straight. It gives you a chance to get yourself set on the Lord.”

“Personally, I found great strength in keeping my hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament,” admitted Fr. Thomas. “For many years, I kept adoration on Saturday morning from 2 to 3:30. It was

sort of like an anchor to my weekend and allowed me to offer my personal prayer. It allowed me uninterrupted time to reflect on the Sunday Scriptures for my homily preparation. It allowed me to stop and pray from the heart. When I first arrived at Christ the King, I kept waking up at 2 a.m. each Saturday morning. My body and my soul knew it was time to stand before our Lord,” Fr. Thomas said referring to his transfer last year to become pastor of Christ the King Parish in Madisonville.

“Sometimes when I couldn’t sleep, I would walk downstairs and look over to the Church,” Fr. Thomas added. “It always gave me such comfort to realize someone, even in the dead of night, was in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.”

“I’ve had health problems and work problems, but everything always works out,” admitted Folz. “He watches out for me and my family. I had a time when I had workers quit in the spring and I didn’t know what to do,” explained Folz, who is a farmer. “My place is way off the road, but this teenager found me back there and he was looking for work. Something was guiding him there. I really feel that.”

“Not that long ago, I also had a problem with my health,” Folz continued. “How lucky could I have been to find out I had that big of a problem and the doctor finding it that early without His hand on me? He healed me! I always go back and see how the Lord had a hand in there.”

“Because of perpetual Eucharistic adoration, the tapestry that is life becomes clearer to you,” commented the anonymous parishioner. “You can see the threads of your life. You see why they are placed where they are placed.”

While some credit their time in adoration with specific miracles, answered prayers or blessings, many simply feel it’s impossible to put a label on the blessings which may have resulted from the perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry.

“You can’t account for all the blessings, they happen every day,” claimed Franco Cincotti.

“I don’t know if you can be specific. I think people have felt like there have been a lot of individual blessings and lots of answered prayers,” Bastin pondered. “It’s hard to know this side of heaven what the blessings have been,” she concluded.

“I think some of the blessings haven’t been seen yet,” claimed Lee. “But I don’t think it’s a coincidence that we have a book of prayer where prayers were answered. Maybe they were answered with ‘yes’ and maybe with ‘no,’ but they were answered. It has been comforting to be able to say to people that they are being held in prayer for at least 24 hours.”

“I’m not sure I could name any specific occurrences,” reflected Fr. Baker. “But there are many graces that come to a congregation that commits to pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Next month, another article will cover the 10th anniversary celebration and a look toward the future for the perpetual Eucharistic adoration ministry at Sts. Peter and Paul. 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.



**Conservation Contest
Winners**

Left to Right: Laura Higdon, Isaac DePoyster, and Keegan Sharp won the conservation contest for St. Paul School. Laura Higdon won First Place in the Grayson County Division. She will be awarded a \$100.00 Prize at the Awards Banquet this Spring. St Paul School Photo



Who Needs Brushes?

Mrs. Hartz Kindergarten Class at the Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus created snowmen using marshmallows to paint with rather than paintbrushes. Above, one of the students were painting with marshmallows. OCS Photo



**Owensboro Catholic Schools
Students In All District Band**

Participating in the 2012 All District Band that was held in Madisonville on January 21, 2012 from Owensboro Catholic Middle School: 7th graders (front row): Clayton Roberts, Molly Payne. Lauren Goodwin and Trisha Thompson; 8th graders (2nd row): Rex Berry, Evan Christodoulou, Lindsey Carrico, Jackson Bittel, Becca Ballard, Joey Phillips. and Jake Hayden. Also, from Owensboro Catholic High School: third row, Emily Wills, Kelsey Conkright. Kevin Thompson, Megan Alvey, Marissa Wilson, Eric McBride and Emily Rose; 4th row, Reid Wassmer. Andrew Riccio. Logan Buckman, Cory Burdette, Hunter Steele. Jacob Payne, Nicholas Gray, and Michael Decker. Photo Submitted by Beth Berry.



Looking For Ways To Make A Difference Globally

Holy Name School in Henderson hosted a variety of guest speakers during Catholic Schools' Week. The 7th and 8th grades invited Mr. Richard Murphy from the diocesan office and Ms. Anisa Davis from the Matthew 25 Clinic to speak about AIDS. The 7th and 8th were preparing to participate in KUNA and to represent five African countries where AIDS is a national crisis. Our speakers addressed care for AIDS patients in contrast to the care available for African patients. After hearing the speakers the students returned to class for a writing assignment to evaluate ways we can make a difference globally. Submitted by Phyllis Brown

Young Adult Trip

The Diocese of Owensboro Young Adult Group will be going to Bardstown for the day on Saturday March 31st, 2012. We will leave from the Pastoral Center parking lot at 7:45am and will attend Bardstown Colonial Days Festival. At 5:00pm we will attend Mass at the Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral. For more information or to let us know if you will be attending please email youngadultgroup@pastoral.org or call Robin Tomes or Sarah Patterson at 683-1545.

Our Diocesan CHRISM MASS

For the Diocese of Owensboro is to be celebrated April 13, 2012. Please make plans to participate in the Diocesan Chrism Mass in the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 3, 2012. The Celebration of the Mass begins at 6:30 p.m.



Competing At State

St. Mary Middle School student, Matthew Poat, placed 5th Place in Social Studies at Regional's Governor's Cup held on Saturday, Feb. 4th at Fulton City Middle School. He will be competing at state competition in March. Matthew is the son of Cindy and Greg Poat and an 8th grader at St. Mary Middle School in Paducah. Submitted by Jackie Hopper

**April is National
Child Abuse Prevention Month**



**Diocese of Owensboro
Prayer Service
for Protection and
Healing**

**Monday, April 23, 2012
6:30 p.m.**

**Sts. Peter and Paul Church
902 East Ninth Street,
Hopkinsville**

Eleanor Langston Finds Therapy Dogs A Great Comfort For Anyone

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - When Eleanor Langston lost her husband, Curtis, in 1991 she missed him so much and to go on without him was going to be so very hard. She knew she had to do something to help her through her grief. She began volunteering at Lourdes Hospital. At first, most of her volunteer work was helping Sister Lucy Bonifas. She said she was Sister Lucy's "gofer." She helped with a lot of the clerical work, stuffing envelopes and she also became one of the volunteers who visited with patients. "She was a great comfort to those who were lonely and had little or no family to visit. She was especially helpful to others who had lost their husbands or wives; she was able to empathize with them and that helped both Eleanor and the patients to share," Sister Lucy remembered.

Being in her home alone was so hard for Eleanor. Someone gave her the name of Ann Wortham, a woman who had gotten a greyhound that was no longer being used for racing. She got the information that she needed to contact The West Memphis Arkansas Racetrack Adoption and Rescue organization. The racetrack sent her an application to fill out. She recalled it seemed like what someone would go through to adopt a child. Sister Lucy and the priest who was at St. Thomas More wrote references for her. With high hopes, Eleanor returned the application. In 2002 Tessa came to Paducah to live with Eleanor. "After Curtis died I don't think I would have had the will to go on but for Tessa. She changed everything."

Eleanor remembered, "She was such an intelligent dog and so loving. I heard about the Therapy Dog program and I decided I wanted to make her a Therapy Dog. I heard about someone who had a Therapy Dog. I talked to her and found out that the Paducah American Kennel Club offered training for the dogs. Ann and I went through the 8 week program with Tessa and her dog, Joker, and they became Certified Therapy dogs."

The two women and the two dogs spent many hours at Lourdes, Clark Elementary School, the VA hospital in Marion, Illinois, Superior Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and just about



Eleanor Langston with her therapy dog, Tessa. Submitted photo every nursing home in Paducah.

In 2006, Tessa received a certificate from the Therapy Dogs International Association for 50+ hours and before her death in October of 2011, she had accumulated over 600 hours of therapy visits. "It was seldom that I wasn't thanked for bringing Tessa; even people that said they didn't believe that dogs should be in a hospital or nursing home would ask when she could come back. Children at Clark who had difficulty reading were encouraged to read to the dogs. The dogs would look at the children as if they were following every word of the story and the children seemed to be able to read better," She continued, "It is such a wonderful ministry."

Early in 2011, Eleanor adopted an Italian greyhound mix from a Paws No Kill Shelter in Anna, Illinois; she named her Toni. "Tessa and Toni became inseparable. When Tessa died nine months later, Toni missed her so much she wouldn't eat and lost so much weight I was afraid I would lose her too. I didn't really want another dog but I had to do something. Daisy is a schnauzer that I got from the same No Kill Shelter. The two dogs get along very well and they give me hope and comfort along with keeping me active. I want to get training for Daisy for therapy work. She has such a sweet disposition. I am 87 years old and if my body holds out, that is what I want to do. My working with the Therapy Dogs is the best ministry I have ever done," Eleanor said.



The Paducah Knights of Columbus Council #1055 has completed another busy year raising money for the various charities that they support. Left to right, front row Charles Keeney, Bill Richards, Tom Weitlauf, David Hadfield, Charley Gregory. Second row Pat Spoden, Steve Schwetman, Kevin Lynch, Joe Weitlauf, Shawn Bumpous, Kevin Entrup, Matt Schreoder. Third row Dwayne Brown, Bill Moore, Pat Lipford, Jim Keeney, Dave Speis. Photo submitted by Edie Keeney

Good Fellowship Goes With Hard Work for Knights' Charitable Activities

By Edie Keeney

The Paducah Knights of Columbus Council #1055 has completed another busy year raising money for the various charities that they support. At one recent Wednesday evening pot luck meal, I spoke with Joe Weitlauf, first year trustee, about the many activities of the group.

During one recent Tootsie Roll Drive the group raised \$600 for the Special Olympics. The men also support the St. Nicholas Family Free Clinic, The River City Mission, The Easter Seal Center of Western Kentucky, The Girl Scouts and the Troop 7 Boy Scouts, the St. Mary School System, The Paducah Cooperative Ministry, Project Hope, the Ballard Country food pantry at St. Mary Catholic Church in LaCenter, and the Tent City Beyond the Gate Ministries. The group also donates 100 Christmas Food Baskets to local needy families.

The Knights need \$16,000 after expenses to be able to help these groups; they have 6-7 Friday evening fish fries during Lent and also have 3 more in October. Also the parish breakfasts, the golf tournament, and the Christmas trees sales keep them busy raising additional funds. The wives and children of the men are also involved. The men and some of their wives do the cooking and help in the kitchen. Their children help with the serving and cleanup after the meals.

Good fellowship and good times are part of the KC experience along with the hard work that all of the activities require. Joe Weitlauf mentioned, "The biggest problem is maintaining the level of help that the KC provides without having to raise the cost of the meals. We have to shop carefully for our food to continue to be able to provide good meals that will keep people coming."

(Continued from page 27)

prayer service at the park.

At the same time, members of the kindergarten class and the eighth grade traveled to the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West and also conducted a prayer service. This is the third year in a row this particular class has traveled to the cemetery. "Christopher's uncle is interred out here," explained Lynn Hensley, the eighth grade teacher. "We've got some connections here through the children and the parishioners," she added.

A new twist to the prayer service this year was inviting the kindergarten class to join them. Wanting her class to participate in some way during the week, kindergarten teacher, Gina Cayce, decided it would be good for her class to accompany the prayer service with their "church buddies." "The eighth graders take the kindergartners to Mass every Friday, so this seemed like a good fit," explained Hensley. "The big ones always help the little ones. It works," she added.

Gathering under the pavilion at the cemetery, eight grade student George Boyd began the service by sharing a reading from the Gospel of Matthew. His reading including reciting the beatitudes. Next, Christina Ligibel, another eighth grade student, read the prayers of the faithful. At that time, the kindergarten class moved to the front of the gathering to sing "God Bless America." The prayer service concluded with Christopher Pape leading the group in the Our Father.

After the prayer service, the group walked over to a bell tower located in the center of the cemetery to read the plaque attached to the base of the tower. Every thirty minutes throughout the day, the

bells toll. While the students, teachers and parents were gathered near the bell tower, sounds of bombs exploding during exercises on nearby Ft. Campbell reverberated in the air. It was a solemn reminder of the many in the Hopkinsville community who serve the nation.

On Thursday, it was time for the students of the school to be honored and recognized. At the beginning of the day, all the students attended the Candlemas Mass where each student received a candle which was blessed during the Mass. The students were also allowed to wear "spirit day" clothes which consisted of jeans and any shirt on which the school's name appeared. After lunch, the entire student body traveled to a local roller skating rink to spend the afternoon having fun.

Finally on Friday, the day was dubbed "Super Bowl Day." In "honor" of the upcoming National Football League super bowl, the students were allowed to wear jeans with a shirt or jersey depicting their favorite team. Again the day began with an all-school Mass during which the feast of St. Blaise was celebrated and everyone in attendance received a blessing of the throats.

As is customary for the school, Catholic Schools Week carries over to the weekend celebrations of Mass. During each of the weekend Masses on February 4 and 5, school children were asked to wear their school uniforms and perform functions such as lectors, commentators, ushers and servers. In addition, selected students were asked to read essays about their Catholic education.

"We are in a loving environment, with teachers who



During Catholic Schools Week, students from the fifth grade at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville visited a local fire house to deliver cookies and express their gratitude. Pictured here with a local fireman from left to right are: Muki Kunnmann, Natalie Barrios, Gabriel Price, Camryn Barefield, Gavin Spicer and Shane Ethridge. Photo taken by Vicki Luckey.

seriously care about how we do in our academic studies. They want us to excel and go on to be the next leaders of the world!" exclaimed eighth grade student Austin Stevens.

"Sts. Peter and Paul School is the best school to send any kid here because it's a place where your child can learn to love God, treat others kindly, and the work here is ten times more challenging," explained Jacquise Smith, another student in the eighth grade.

"I enjoy that we are getting to learn about religion and about God," said third grade student, Tomas Duncan. "I really enjoy being at this really good school."

"I like learning about Jesus in religion. I like it when it is my turn to be prayer leader," admitted Carolina Chaudoin, a first grade student. "This

school is the best," she added.

"I like my school because I can read better," stated Tera Adams, a second grade student.

"I am very lucky my mom and dad can send me to Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School," began Kylee Spurr, a student in the third grade. "We are a big family. Our principal, Ms. Kranz, is always ready to greet us each morning with a smile. She is always nice and respectful. Our teachers are always available to help us and teach us about God and Jesus. They reinforce the values we learn at home."

Nathan Tillman, one of the only eighth grade students to have attended Sts. Peter and Paul since preschool was particularly sentimental in his essay. "Never shall I forget this school, never shall I forget my friends, never shall I forget my teachers, and never shall I forget the awesome memories that have been made in this school."

A Scout is Reverent

By Steve Shoulta

McCRACKEN COUNTY, Ky. - Uniformed Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and adult leaders from several different units assembled at St. John the Evangelist Church here for the annual Scout Sunday Mass at 9:30 on February 5, 2012.

The scouts either sat in reserved pews at the front of church or with their families. Among those who have earned the religious emblem for their respective age level this year, four scouts served as gift bearers. At the end of Mass, Fr. Tom Buckman invited all of the scouts to come forward for a special blessing. Each scout in attendance received a commemorative "Scout Sunday 2012" patch.

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who were unable to attend the Mass at St. John could also receive a patch if they wore their uniform to church in their respective parish or other place of worship.

The first Sunday of February is designated as Scout Sunday in remembrance of the founding of the Scouting movement in the United States in February, 1910. The twelfth point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent," compliments and fulfills all of the other principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouts who have earned the religious emblems this year will receive them at the Diocesan Religious Emblems Mass on Sunday, March 18.



Some of the boys receiving their religious emblems at St. John the Evangelist Church in McCracken County on Feb. 5, 2012 took up the gifts during the annual Scout Sunday Mass. From left, these Scouts are Nate Crawley, Cameron Crawley, Kyle Johnson, and Zachary Althouse. Photo by Pam Crawley

Lenten Sacrifice



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.

© 2003 CMS Graphics

A Lenten Prayer Activity

By Sam DunLany, M.D., Gospel of Life Committee, Diocese of Owensboro

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Hold the answer. I have a suggestion for a special Lenten activity which will light a candle and curse the darkness enveloping us in this era of the culture of death.

Msgr. Reilly invites us to pray for the conversion of hearts at abortion facilities around the world by participating in the organization called "The Helpers of God's Precious Infants". The prayer service begins with Mass, following which, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and the Rosary is led by the presider as part of the congregation walks to the abortion facility - I try not to use the word clinic. Those who cannot physically walk to the "mill" remain behind in quiet adoration. After prayers, songs, and a rosary at the "mill",

those participating in the vigil return to the church for benediction.

The Helpers' prayer vigils are loving, peaceful, prayerful and non-confrontational. Counselors are present at some vigils. Msgr. Reilly stresses that the purpose of the prayers is primarily to plead for a conversion of hearts, and offer our love for the babies in the womb. Prayers are offered for the reparation of our own sins, and for the conversion of the mothers, the escorts and other workers at the facility, including the doctors and nurses. Msgr. refers to these facilities as a modern day Calvary, where the babies in the wombs feel and hear the loving presence of the Helpers.

A spiritual abortion takes place before the physical procedure and Msgr. Reilly urges us to counter this by spiritual means - prayer. We are reminded by the monsignor that even Jesus did not want to be alone in

His hour of death. He asked His apostles to pray with Him. Msgr. Reilly encourages us to come to Calvary so the babies can leap for joy on hearing our prayers, just as John the Baptist did upon hearing Mary's voice!

The Helpers have a chapter in Louisville that meets at The Cathedral of the Assumption on 5th Street for Mass at 7AM (Eastern), and walks to EMW Clinic near 2nd and Market Sts. on the 2nd Saturday of each month except in May - 3rd Saturday. Archbishop Kurtz leads the group in June and December. www.helpersny.org. www.helperslouisville.org

A group of Catholics in the Bowling Green area meet for Mass at The Fathers of Mercy in Auburn/South Union on the first Saturday, every other month, beginning in January. They caravan to the Planned Parenthood facility in Nashville, TN after an 8AM Mass, to hold an interdenominational prayer service that ends with the rosary for those who want to stay. This activity at the Planned Parenthood facility involves members of different faiths and starts at 10AM.

Another interdenominational group that organizes prayer vigils is 40 Days for Life. Many Catholics participate in this peaceful prayer service. The one time I participated was on a Sunday when the EMW facility in Louisville was closed. It

was very quiet, but prayerful. The others were Catholic, so we prayed the rosary. Dates for this spring session are February 22 to April 1. www.40daysforlife.com/louisville

Lenten Prayer Activity

Evansville conducts a prayer vigil by 40 Days for Life at the Planned Parenthood at 125 Weinbach #120, across the street from Schultheis Insurance Life and Health building. You might contact Mary Winnecke (812-205-1112), www.vitamary@insightbb.com or Melissa Schaefer (812-401-4894), www.melissareliv@yahoo.com to learn if they will maintain a vigil this spring. I don't think abortions are actually performed at this facility. www.40daysforlife.com/evansville

A separate group meets every Saturday at EMW Clinic at 2nd and Market Sts. (Louisville) at 7AM. Various faiths participate, but the majority of participants are Catholics who recite all mysteries of the Rosary in addition to other prayers and devotions. I'll write about my experiences with this group at a later time.

Forget the question at the start of this article since we know the answer. Rather, let's ask ourselves why we can't spend some time at this modern day Calvary during this holy season of Lent. The babies are in need of our love and presence. The Lord is calling us to the foot of the Cross.

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

Spirituality	Oct. 22-26, 2012
Spiritual Direction	Jan. 14-18, 2013
The Inner Journey	April 15-19, 2013
Prayer and Scripture	July 22-26, 2013
Theology.....	Oct. 14-18, 2013
Ethics of Spiritual Direction	Jan. 13-17, 2014
Supervision	April 7-11, 2014
Case Studies and Retreat	July 21-25, 2014

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

To register or for more information, contact
Sheila Blandford: 270-229-4103 ext. 804
sheila.blandford@maplemount.org

A brochure can be found at www.msjcenter.org

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

**The
deadline
to register is
Aug. 15, 2012**

St. Francis Community Center

March, 2012 33

On December 21, 2011, in an effort to bring the Horse Branch community together for fellowship, Father Jean Kalombo had a birthday celebration for Jesus at the St Francis Community Center in Horse Branch, Ky. Father Kalombo is the pastor for the Ohio and Butler county parishes.

Father Kalombo's efforts were a success! Many children and their parents came out to spend the day making crafts, playing games and having refreshments, which included birthday cake and ice cream. Many of the people expressed their interest in getting together again and doing things as a family. We are hoping to be able to bring more family activities to the community this coming year.



Making crafts December 21, 2011 during the St Francis Community Center birthday party for Jesus in Horse Branch, Ky. Above, a mother and daughters at one of the tables; lower pictures girls making snow flakes. In the picture at top left are Dana Hayes and her daughters are Erika, age 9 and Emily, age 6. Submitted by Holy Redeemer Parish

Diocesan Review Board Members Ready to Respond to Calls

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



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

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

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

Join us for a weekend Yarn Spinners Retreat March 9-11



Join us for a relaxing weekend of fiber-related fun! (Spinning, weaving, crocheting, knitting... whatever you wish!) Workshops will be offered as well as demonstrations. Try out spinning wheels and check out the "market" area for buying and selling supplies.

The cost for the retreat is \$138.75 which includes a room for two nights and six meals.

Commuters can attend for \$60.75 (includes meals).

Contact 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
270-229-4103
www.msjcenter.org
msjcenter@maplemount.org



During Catholic Schools Week the 1st Graders at the OCS Elementary K-3 Campus held a Grade Level Spelling Bee. 1st Place- Lily Hayden; 2nd Place- Abbie Dukate; 3rd Place- Lexie Hatchett. In the picture left to right Lily Hayden, Mrs. Lori Whitehouse, Principal, Abbie Dukate, and Lexie Hatchett. OCS Photo

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 also be invited to reflect on their own lives.

Fee: \$175 for residents (Includes retreat, materials, meals, and accommodations). Commuters can attend for \$120. 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

Join us for 2012 Reflection Days

- **March 2** - "How Can We Best Spend Lent?"
- **May 4** - "Women of the Resurrection"
- **June 1** - "Women of the Gospels"



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?**



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270-229-4103
www.msjcenter.org

*except April, July

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

High School CCD Prepare Thanksgiving Food Baskets

March, 2012 35

ST. AGNES PARISH HALL, UNIONTOWN - With donations from KC Council 41367 and generous parishioners, the annual food baskets were prepared with the help of many adults and students from the High School CCD class.



Janet Butler is explaining to this group how to distribute perishable items. From left are Raleigh Gough, Morganne Cambron, Kyler Gough, Floyd, Dylan Floyd, Isaac French, Chase Smith, Redmond Greenwell, (hidden) Isaac Gough, and Davis Joiner. In photo at top right, the students are filling the bags according to each family size with the many donated can goods. From left, are Larry Strehle, (hidden) Sara Ferguson, Matt Buckman, Janet Butler, Morganne Cambron, Raileigh Gough, Macy Simmons, and Maggie Stenger. Submitted by Janet Butler, St. Agnes, Uniontown. Photos by Lark Buckman



Catechist Workshop Opportunity: Great Expectations

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

Leisa Anslinger holds Masters Degrees from Purdue University and the Athenaeum of Ohio. She served as a parish leader of faith formation for many years and now serves as Director of Catholic Life and Faith. In this capacity, Leisa continues her work of developing ways to re-engage Catholics with their faith and their parish. A frequent presenter at conferences and in-service days, Leisa speaks on topics of catechesis, pastoral leadership, and stewardship.

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

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

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 2 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 2-3 TLC Youth
- 4 Precious Blood RCIA
- 9-11 **Yarn Spinners Weekend**
- 13-16 Paducah Quilt Guild
- 16-17 ICSC Youth Confirmation
- 21-23 Glenmary Theological
- 23-25 **Women's Spring Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons**
- 31 St. Joseph & Paul RCIA

April

- 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

June

- 1 **Reflection Day of Prayer**
- 9 Associates and Sisters Day
- 11-15 Girls Day Camp
- 17-23 **Centering Prayer Retreat**
- 24-29 Christian Leadership Institute (CLI)
- 30-2 Private Family Reunion

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org • www.msjcenter.org
(Located 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky., on Hwy. 56)



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

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

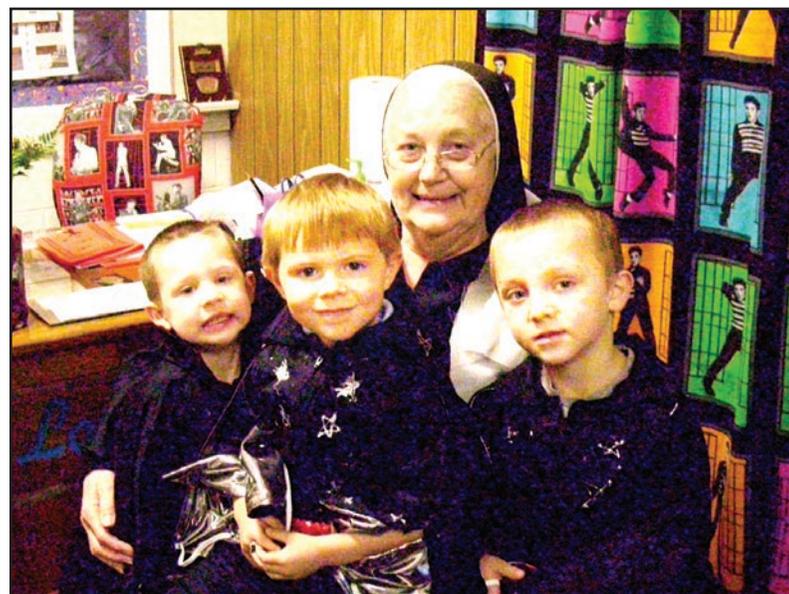
MARCH 6	THE YOUNGER SON	FR. LARRY HOSTETTER
MARCH 13	THE ELDER SON	SR. CHERYL CLEMONS
MARCH 20	THE FATHER	JOAN PERRY
MARCH 27	LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE	

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

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE BOOKSTORE

Sister Anne Michelle Celebrates a Rockin' Birthday

To celebrate Sister Anne Michelle Mudd's birthday, February 12, three of the preschoolers at St. Paul School gave her a special surprise. Sister Anne Michelle, principal, had always been an Elvis fan. With the help of some of the staff, the preschoolers gave Sister a live performance! Dressed in Elvis attire, they sang to Sister and gave her lots of hugs afterward. The three Elvis impersonators were Alex Skaggs, Luke Sharp, & Ethan Crawford. Submitted by Gina Sims.



GARY MONTGOMERY is on a mission

Come to
Precious Blood Parish Mission

on March 12, 13, and 14, 7:00 p.m. and hear Gary remind us how great we are!!! He brings a Catholic Christian message of how to grow as a leader in all parts of life: spiritual, personal, family and career. His unique message is sprinkled with motivation, inspiration and a whole lotta fun!!! He is a keynote speaker and his message is about life with an "I CAN PLAY" attitude

MISSION THEME IS "CHRIST IS THE LIGHT"

1st night: "Find the Light"

2nd night: "Become the Light"

3rd night: "Give the Light Away"



Bishop Medley's quote about Gary: "My enthusiasm for Gary Montgomery lies in that he brings a unique perspective of Catholic joy and faith to this motivational speaking genre. He has answered the call to Christian discipleship and cannot contain his spirit of witness...there are a lot of motivational speakers who can ignite a crowd--but Gary can also quiet a crowd with his humility and a message that can be summed up, "TO GOD BE THE GLORY!"

To learn more about Gary go to www.icanplay.com



St Paul Confirmation Class- Growing & Serving Together

March, 2012 37



GRAYSON COUNTY, Ky. - St. Paul Confirmation Class visited and made a monetary donation to “Clarity Choices for Women.” Rodney Lush, CCD teacher, set up the visit in November 2011. The class toured the Elizabethtown facility after making their donation. This organization helps women who are with child and need guidance. The wonderful people who work there provide assistance at a time when some women contemplate abortion. The “Clarity” representative said that if they can just save one child from abortion,

then it’s all been worth the effort.

To help raise money for Clarity Choices the St. Paul Confirmation class sponsored a Breakfast. The students helped with the breakfast, served, and helped clean up afterward. Pictured here with the Clarity representative are; Haley Hensel, Holly Sims, Kristen Tilford, Jessica Robinson, Josh Bryan, & Rodney Lush. Other members of the Confirmation class that helped raise money but unable to attend the visit were Rebecca Higdon, Dalton Snyder, & Heather Penny.



St Mary School Joins Weatherbug Program

Jeff Lyons from Evansville’s Channel 14 came to St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School, Whitesville, on Feb. 1, 2012 to kickoff the weatherbug program. Pictured with Jeff Lyons is Sister Suzanne Sims presenting Mr. Lyons with a card. Text by Erin Kamuf, Photo by Mel Howard

How will you help
Jesus
in disguise?

This year, the CRS Collection falls on the weekend
of March 17-18, 2012.
Support The Catholic Relief Services Collection

For more information, contact:
Office of National Collections | United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | 202-541-3346
ncpromo@usccb.org | www.usccb.org/nationalcollections

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As part of Catholic Schools Week teachers and staff at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School held a volleyball game with students. Photo by Erin Kamuf

Lourdes Kids Cardiac Academy

By Lindsey Wiles

PADUCAH, Ky. - Lourdes Kid's Cardiac Academy is in its third year and evolving quickly into a comprehensive program that not only provides free screenings to school children and health education to families we are currently developing a case management system that will help local schools provide much needed data on the risk of early heart disease and obesity in grant applications and put together presentations for community organizations to help fuel the fight against childhood obesity and early heart disease.

During the 2011-12 school year thus far we have screened nine different school's fourth grade classes and rechecked several of the children that were high risk in previous years. Follow up is offered in several ways; families who wish to receive telephone calls every six weeks for goal development and free wellness coaching will get that service. All children with elevated cholesterol

and or glucose will have the opportunity to have a fasting lab recheck at no cost. Last but not least community based wellness education provides wonderful follow up. We attend and host community events that target follow up families as well as attract new families.

We are particularly proud of the community vegetable garden we grew with the children at Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club and our upcoming Kid's Cardiac Screening/Education Event with Murray State University.

Collecting data and providing proper follow up are our main agenda but we also serve on several committee's helping them provide the data specific to their area to apply for monies to fund further health and wellness for the children and families they serve.

Lindsey Wiles is Health and Wellness Coordinator, Human Resources, for Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Contact her at LPwiles@lourdes-pad.org

Lourdes Hospital Conducts Screenings For St. Mary Students

By Lindsey Wiles

St. Mary Elementary fourth grade students took part in screenings offered by Lourdes Kids Cardiac Academy for the second year in a row they screened. 23 students and rechecked two fifth graders from the 2011 school year.

Screenings include total cholesterol, blood glucose, blood pressure, height weight and BMI. The program is a collaborative effort with Lourdes Hospital and the Area Health Education Cooperative and it's main purpose is to assess early onset of heart disease and educate those at risk. St. Mary recently hired a school nurse Marilyn Teitloff LPN and plans to partner with Lourdes for future health education are currently in the works.



Karen Smith RN/BSN Lourdes Hospital conducting a screening on a St. Mary fourth grader.

Leader's School and How It Changed Me

By Mary Hagan



Cursillo's Leader's School is for anyone who has made a Cursillo and wants to continue their growth in Christianity and their ideal. It consists of a prayer grouping, a Technique Talk (usually a chapter from the Leader's Manual or a chapter from the New Cursillo Manual) and a Doctrinal Talk (this year we will be studying Stephen J. Binz's book, *Conversing with God in Scripture*, and ends with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Owensboro Leader's School meets on the first Monday of the Month at Blessed Mother Parish Hall at 7 p.m. I attended for a year and was happy with the Leader we had. I never thought I could lead the group. I was just an average Catholic going to Mass and the Sacraments when I could and should. I had studied Religious Studies in college and had a pretty good background of my faith. I had made a Cursillo while in college and found that I needed a Christian Ideal to make my life whole. I needed to re-commit to loving God and my family. I had made my Confirmation during the 8th grade at Blessed Mother Church but had not chosen an ideal because until Cursillo I had not know about a Christian Ideal. I had worked for others on their Cursillo weekends but had never taken a leader's role.

About two and a half years ago, Denis Wheatley said that he needed to stop being the leader for the School of Leaders and thought that I might be able to take over for him. I didn't want to do it. I didn't think I could do it. But I prayed about it and prayed for someone else to come forward to take over the position. One woman came forward but found that with her job, she was unable to be there. I prayed some more for someone else to take it but no one came forward and Denis

said he was sure I could handle it. I was still scared to try. Others came forward to encourage me and I finally agreed to try it. I am usually an organized person so taking the time to prepare was not a problem. Getting up in front of the group was what I had been taught in speech class. I could do that. Preparing a year's schedule had been done for me so I didn't need to worry about that until the new year came around. I was able to handle the paperwork since I have a computer at home. So why was I so scared to try? I didn't feel like I could be a leader. I had almost no one to say that they believed in me and knew I could handle it and I didn't really believe the ones who said I could do it. But I prayed and God answered me and so I picked up where Denis left off and became the Leader of the School of Leaders for the Owensboro Catholic Cursillo community. This led to another position.

I learned that I needed to be the Coordinator for the School of Leaders in the Secretariat. One of those responsibilities was that I might have to take over for the Lay Director if they could not attend a meeting. So far, so good. I fear making a big mistake and not handling the meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order. But God has blessed me by not needing me to take over a meeting. There is a little more paperwork to attend to and one extra meeting a month to prepare for but all in all I have found that I am a Leader of the School of Leaders. I can do it with my daily prayers and God's help, what could God be asking of you--make a Cursillo?

If you have any questions about Cursillo, please, come to a Leader's School or an Ultreya (fourth Monday of the month at Blessed Mother Parish Hall at 7 p.m.) Could God be asking you to join our joy--make a Cursillo?

De Colores

Young Adult St. Patrick's Day Party

Please join us at 7:00pm, Saturday March 17, 2012 for a St. Patrick's Day Party. The party will be located at the St. Stephen Cathedral Youth House at 508 7th Street in Owensboro, KY. Party is open to those ages 21- 40. Please bring a snack to share.

For more information or to let us know you are coming, please email youngadultgroup@pastoral.org or call Sarah or Robin at 270-683-1545. Please visit our webpage at http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/young_adult.

Bring a Friend!!!!



Bring your lunch (drinks provided) and join us from 12-1 as we watch part of the new DVD Series,

CATHOLICISM

A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE FAITH
Our Journey began on Ash Wednesday, 2012 and continues
Wed, March 7 Happy Are We

Wed, March 14 The Ineffable Mystery of God—
The Teaching of Jesus
That Than Which Nothing Great Can be Thought

Wed, March 21 A Body Both Suffering and Glorious—
The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church

Wed, March 28 Word Made Flesh, True Bread from
heaven
The Church's Sacrament & Worship

Wed, April 4 Spring Break—No Series

- CATHOLICISM will have a national footprint. This series will be of great interest to viewers who want a better understanding of the impact and meaning this faith has throughout the world. -Dan Soles, WTTW Senior VP
- CATHOLICISM is filled with beauty, and Fr. Barron presents the enduring truths in such a clear and compelling way. CATHOLICISM will be a lasting resource for generations to come."

2011-2012 Nomination Form for the Diocese of Owensboro Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award

Previous Recipients:

1999-2000	Sr. Maggie Cooper, SCN	2000-2001	Carol York
2001-2002	Sr. Ann McGrew, OSU	2002-2003	Sr. Margret Ann Aull, OSU, Rosemary Payne
2003-2004	Sr. Julia Head, OSU	2004-2005	Sr. Marie Michael Hayden, OSU
2005-2006	Franki Durbin	2006-2007	Denise Long
2007-2008	Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU	2008-2009	Danny May
2009-2010	Mary Helen Rhodes	2010-2011	Marie Rose

The Offices of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and Lay Ministry and Formation are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced at the Appreciation Dinner for Catechetical and Youth Ministers on May 14, 2012 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Anyone from the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award. Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers working for a minimum of 5 years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. Some ministerial roles to be considered are Director of Religious Education, Coordinator of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, etc.

The recipient of the award is a role model as an outstanding human being; committed to Diocesan, Parish and Community service; shows a deep sense of spirituality; is knowledgeable, and committed to continuing their intellectual, spiritual and collaborative growth.

The deadline for nominations is April 27, 2012. The Core Committee for Religious Education, consisting of the Diocesan Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministry, and Lay Ministry and Formation will discern and select the recipient.

All nomination forms should be mailed to the Religious Education Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 or e-mailed to elaine.robertson@pastoral.org by April 27, 2012.

Nominee _____
Address _____

Parish _____
Nominated by: Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____ Relation to nominee _____

On a separate page, please comment on the nominee's performance as a Catechetical Minister. Describe the nominee's performance in the following categories:

- Why should this person be honored with the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Award?
- Describe this person's commitment as a Catechetical Leader.
- How has this person aided Catechists and/or Youth Leaders to improve their ministry?
- How is this person a Christian role model for Catechists, Youth Leaders and parishioners? Give an example.
- Does this person volunteer time and talent to the community apart from parish and diocesan duties? If so, give details of her or his involvement.
- How well does this person work with the pastor, professional colleagues and parishioners?



Catholic Charities Adoptions

Providing help, creating hope.

Catholic Charities of Owensboro provides assistance to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and to couples who are seeking to adopt.

For more information about **domestic adoption**, call Rita at 270-852-8328.

For more information about **international adoption**, call Martha at 270-852-8366.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, call us to find out how we can help. 270-852-8328

CHRISM MASS 2012

Please Make Plans to Participate in the Diocesan Chrism Mass in the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 3, 2012. The celebration of the Mass begins at 6:30 p.m.

St. Gerard Life Home



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



Three Western Ky Catholic Parishes Join To Raise Money for Water Well in

Obambo, Kenya

By Denise Long, CRE/YM at Immaculate Conception and St. Columba

At this time in 2011, as a Lenten project our parishes of St. Columba and Immaculate Conception in Hancock Co., along with help from St. Michael's in Oak Grove, began a project to raise money to dig a well in Obambo, Kenya, the home village of our priest Fr Chrispin Oneko. Our goal was to raise \$3,876.00, the projected cost to dig a well and build a water kiosk with an electric pump, by Easter. The three parishes not only raised the money but surpassed our goal. Fr. Chrispin on his visit to Obambo in August presented to Fr. Gabriel, the local pastor, a check for \$9325.61!

You can't imagine the surprise and excitement from the people of Obambo, whose goal was to have clean drinking water by Christmas. After a delay due to the rainy season, well drilling began and along with the help from many of the local villagers, clean water flowed for the children and adults of Obambo on December 22, 2011! They were able to dig a well and build a water kiosk; in addition they laid water pipes to provide a pump near the grade school. They also had enough money leftover to set up a maintenance fund and plans are to charge a nominal fee to the private individuals in order to continue their maintenance fund.

Our Western Kentucky Catholic parishes were able to raise funds by handing out water bottles to parishioners who throughout Lent would fill their bottles with change. Groups within our parish would host fund raisers. For example, the Parish Life committees had a Bunco night and a Bake sale and the children and catechist in our religious ed program hosted an Easter Festival complete with dinner, games, silent auctions and entertainment. Our local newspaper publicized what we were doing and people from Hancock County whom we did not even know would send in a contribution or at our Easter Festival would come in off the streets and just hand us money!

Fr. Gabriel kept in touch with Fr Chrispin and parish staff, sending progress reports and pictures which we would then share with the parish.

In a time where the American economy is so bad and money is so tight, the people of our parishes took on this project with open hearts. In Kenya and many parts of the world, clean drinking water is not available and many die from disease because of the lack of clean water. As Fr Chrispin told the people of our parish, "you have saved lives!"



"You Have Saved Lives!"

Above left, workers drill for water in Obambo, Kenya in 2011. Above right, children thrilled about having fresh water from their village's new water well. AT right, two women draw water from the village's water kiosk with an electric pump. Below, a message from the people of Obambo, Kenya to the people of the parishes of St. Columba, Immaculate Conception in Hancock County, and St Michael in Oak Grove. "Thanks To The Water Project." Submitted photos

"Thanks To The Water Project"

Fr. Gabriel sent us this message in January, 2012:

Dear Denise,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have all started the new year with lots of joy and hopes for a more happiness in 2012. We have started well apart from the small difficulties here and there in the pastoral sector. Am sorry I could not send these pictures before Christmas due to the many hassles and commitments associated with the feast. But I am happy to inform you that the water flowed for the residents of Obambo on December 22, 2011. It was a magnificent Christmas gift. You can't imagine the excitement that accompanied the turning on of the water taps for the water to start flowing. On behalf of the people of Obambo who include the family of Fr. Chrispin, May I say a big THANK YOU to all who contributed to this noble project. You can witness for yourself the smiling faces of Obambo people. In the end, everyone is very pleased and happy, all they can say is expressed in the placards they hold: Thank you our friends from Immaculate Conception Parish (Hawesville); St. Columba (Lewisport), and St. Michael The Archangel (Oak Grove). May God bless all of you together with your families, and your pastors for giving us life. We won't forget you, we will be praying for you all every First Sunday of the Month.



The Highlighter Miracle

By Dr. Bob Cinnamond

John is a resident of GRCC (large men's prison in Central City) and also in my Calculus Class. He also made a recent REC (Residents Encounter Christ retreat). John really experienced the Holy Spirit at the REC and took his enthusiasm back to his dorm where he shared his new found love for Jesus with his bunkie (man in the lower bunk).

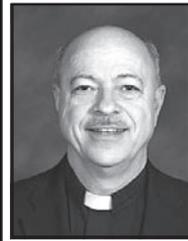
After several hours of sharing Jesus with his friend his friend asked him to pray with him that he also might become a Christian. John took his hands and prayed for him and led him through the sinner's prayer. John's bunkie accepted Christ into his life and the two of them began to pray together. The next day John obtained a bible for his bunkie and they began to study the bible together for several hours each night.

After several nights the bunkie said to John: "If I only had a highlighter it would make studying the bible so much easier!" Both of them knew that highlighters are not allowed into GRCC for inmates because of the odor, but trusting in Jesus to do the impossible they joined hands and prayed for a highlighter!

It so happened that that Saturday GRCC had their winter festival. Many of the churches in the locality bring in gifts for the men. For example, Fr. Ray Clark and Brett Mills give a roll of toilet paper to each of the approximately 900 men. Some of the churches give away a few large boxes of fruit. The residents write their name on a slip of paper and drop it into a shoebox. The names that are drawn from the box win the boxes of fruit.

Well! Guess what! The bunkie won one of the boxes of fruit! But feeling like Jesus he chose to give the fruit away to the other inmates. As he reached the bottom of the box his hand felt something that was not fruit. It was a highlighter! Apparently someone had accidentally dropped the highlighter into the box and the guards missed it. The next Wednesday at 6:30 pm I was in my classroom at GRCC getting ready for my class when about 15 men came into the room with gusto! GOD IS REAL! They proclaimed! John and his bunkie were first in line. They told me about the bunkie and the highlighter. It is a miracle they said. "God has done the impossible!" "And another man from the REC is going around praying for men to quit smoking and they are not having withdrawal." they proclaimed!

It took me a half hour to get the men under control before I could teach Calculus. They just wanted to talk about Jesus and His little miracles!



Fr. David Kennedy

Travel to the Holy Land with Fr. David Kennedy

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Oak Grove, KY

Dates: Sept 17-27, 2012

Where : Jerusalem • Bethlehem • Nazareth • Galilee • Via Crucis • Last Supper • Gethsemane • Dormition • Nativity Church • Capernaum

Cost : \$3,999 Air fare included. All inclusive cost

For information about travelling to the Holy Land with Father Kennedy, contact Fr. Anthony Natchef, 1-855-842-8001 or email frdavidkennedy@aol.com



In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Sister Elaine Byrne, O.S.U., 65, Who Died Jan. 20, 2012



MAPLE MOUNT - Sister Elaine Byrne, 65, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Jan. 20 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 47th year of religious life. She was a native of Curdsville.

Sister Elaine was a creative and talented teacher and liturgy planner, and much loved by her students, friends and family.

Sister Elaine was a teacher at Trinity High School in Whitesville (1977-78), teacher and principal at St. Paul School, Leitchfield, (1969-73) and St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley, (1978-81), and prin-

icipal at St. Romuald High School, Hardinsburg, (1981-83). She was coordinator of religious education at St. Romuald from 1983-88 and served in community vocation ministry (1991-98). She served as a pastoral associate at St. Mary, LaCenter (1988-94), St. Charles, Bardwell (1988-89), St. Francis DeSales, Paducah (1989-92), Precious Blood, Owensboro (1997-98), St. Thomas More, Paducah (2006-07) and St. Jerome, Fancy Farm (2009-2011). She was the campus minister at the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center in Bowling Green (1998-2006), and coordinator of liturgy and spiritual formation there, (2007-09). She also ministered in Louisville and Missouri.

Survivors include two sisters, Mar-

gie Rode of Whiteland, Ind., and Mary Lou Payne of Philpot; three brothers, J.L. Byrne, Tony Byrne and Eddie Byrne and a sister-in-law, Barbara Byrne, all of Owensboro; nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was Jan. 24 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Elaine may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

Thank You For All You Do For Us!

Mrs. Potts Kindergarten students made aprons for all of the Cafeteria Staff at the Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 to show their appreciation for all they do- serving more than 400 students delicious meals every day! In the picture above from left to right: Vicki Cash, Kelly Trogden, Lisa Zogelman, Linda Wall, Jane Lanham. OCS Photo

READY FOR SPRING CLEANING?

The Habitat for Humanity, Owensboro-Daviess County is having a yard sale Sat., March 10 6:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Booth Avenue.

Donated items can be brought to the Habitat office at 1702 Moseley St., 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until March 7. For information, call 926-6110.

By **Miriam Kavanagh,**
Sisters of the Lamb of God

A most extraordinary event occurred on November 6, 2011 at Wendell Foster's Campus for Developmental Disabilities: the Lifting Up Mass. Sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro and the Wendell Foster Center, the Lifting Up Mass gives people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in the Mass from being altar servers to singing the Lord's Prayer as a choir to being lectors to receiving the Eucharist. This is the second time the diocese has sponsored the Mass.

President of Brescia University Fr. Larry Hostetter served as the celebrant again. He noted that the Mass could not have been better named, and God is in all of us because He made us in His own image.

"The nearness of the Lord was evident," commented Richard Murphy, director of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Owensboro. "A sense of community was achieved."

The Mass and the reception were designed to suit the needs of all in attendance. An overhead projector displayed the music and the readings so everyone could follow along. The reception took into account those with special dietary needs and provided food that was easy to chew.

With over 150 people in attendance at the Mass, three times the expected number, Sr. Marissa Wick of the Sisters of the Lamb of God was swept off her feet as one of the Eucharistic Ministers, noting that it was a privilege to be there. "It wasn't anything I did that touched me, it was the entire Mass that was special. Seeing people with special needs participate in the Mass was touching."

The next Lifting Up Mass will be celebrated by Bishop William Medley at Blessed Mother Church on August 5 at 2 p.m.

Amy Payne (middle) of SPACE (Special Apostolic Catholic or Christian Evangelizers) goes over the intercessions with Brandon.



James Gerald of the Diocese Committee for Persons with Disabilities directs CPC employee mark Vollman and his parents, Bob and Mary Vollman, to a few of the last remaining seats in what quickly became a standing-room only service. Photos submitted by Miriam Kavanagh



A pair of musicians rehearses the responsorial psalms for the Lifting Up Mass, one of the many musical pieces included in the November 6th Mass.



Diocese Committee for Persons with Disabilities member Judy Kapelsohn greets Sr. Marissa Wick, at left, of the Sisters of the Lamb of God who served as a Eucharistic Minister.

Our Hispanic Celebration for the Feast of the Epiphany

By **Abraham Brown**

HENDERSON, Ky. - Epiphany, from the Greek word Epiphania, meaning "revelation" is based on the biblical story that tells of the Magi or Three Kings - Caspar, (or Kaspar or Gaspar) Melchior and Balthasar - who saw a bright star on the night Christ was born and followed it to

Bethlehem.

There they found the Christ child and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This legendary visit would started the custom of gift giving at Christmas on the Feast of the Epiphany, and in the Hispanic Community observed on January 6.

Epiphany goes by various names in different cultures, in our Latino Community is known as the Three Kings Day, and is the end of the season's "Twelve Days of Christmas".

In Spain as well as other Spanish-speaking countries, the tradition had always been to observe Christmas Day as a solemn religious occasion, reserving Three Kings Day or "Día de los Reyes" for partying and exchanging gifts.

However, in many Hispanic cultures today gifts can be given on

Christmas Day, as well. They can also be given on Three Kings Day - or as double celebration - on both days! In Mexico in particular, serving Rosca de Reyes, festive sweet bread in the shape of a king's crown, is also a still-popular tradition on Three Kings Day. At Holy Name we had our Rosca de Reyes with Hot Chocolate this year.

See Pictures on page 3 of the Spanish section, Católico de Kentucky Occidental.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Marriage Celebrations for March 2012
Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50
and Over 50 Years of Marriage

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

James & Mary Carpenter, 59

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Donald & Shirley Altmeyer, 55

Paul & Nina Drury, 53

William & Charlotte Faulkner, 56

Jerold & Jewel Williams, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Chuck & Pamela Peters, 25

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Edward & Carol Krampe, 25

Carroll & Joyce Ferguson, 55

William & Sarah Kemper, Jr., 50

Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 50

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

David & Shannon Clark, 25

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Paul & Doris Westerfield, 55

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Lonnie & Yvonne Crowdus, 25

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Victor & Anna Yates, 73

William & Sue Eckmans, 61

Roy & Kathy Humphrey, 25

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Bob & Sandra Payne, 25

St. Anthony, Axtel

Bobbie & Mary Moore, 55

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Tony & Melody Hayden, 25

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jack & Rose Riggs, 55

St. Edward, Fulton

Paul & Mary Pennell, 56

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Raymond & Carol Hill, 50

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Richard & Brenda Hayden, 50

Charles & Marie Riggs, 64

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Joseph & Betty Thompson, 66

James & Fay Johnson, 60

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

J. C. & Maggie Edge, 54

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Kerry & Darlene Simmons, 40

Thomas & Helen Ellington, 59

St. Joseph, Central City

Richard & Queenie Schmidt, 67

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Leonard & Barbara Webb, 50

Howard & Imogene Riley, 64

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Fred & Gloria McCarty, 25

St. Peter, Waverly

Billy Don & Joyce Greenwell, 55

March, 2012 43

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

William & Marguerite Campbell, 63

Eugene & Mary Hurm, 55

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Gerald & Maxine Corbey, 53

St. Thomas, Paducah

Michael & Christine Canella, 40

Terry & Barb Larbes, 40

Marcus & Opal Cooper, 55

Joe & Betty Falconite, 57

St. William, Knottsville

Barry & Alice Bickett, 25

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Barry & Terri Means, 25

Richard & Betti Block, 50

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

William & Donna McDaniel, 40

Joseph L. & Betty Johnson, 62

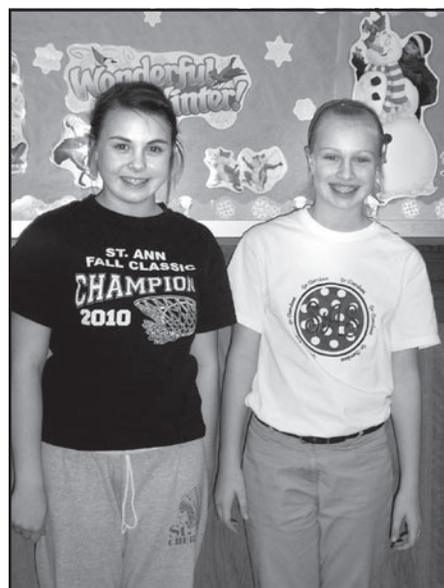
Daniel & Joyce Shuler, 61

Immaculate Parish announces Lenten offerings

OWENBORO, Ky. - A new series, CATHOLICISM, will be shown during the Wednesdays of Lent at Immaculate Parish; the series began on February 29. Those wishing to view the sessions of the series should bring a brown bag lunch as we watch the series (no discussion). The event will take place at noon in Immaculate's Parish Family Center. Drinks will be provided. For more information on the film, please go to <http://www.catholicismsseries.com/>

Also this Lent, Immaculate Parish will present the Return of the Prodigal Son as their Lenten Book Series. On Tues-

days, March 6, 13 and 20, three Catholics will present the story of the prodigal son through the eyes of the younger son (Fr. Larry Hostetter), the elder son (Sr. Cheryl Clemons) and the father (Joan Perry). The series begins at 6:00pm at Immaculate Parish (Parish Family Center). The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen is available to purchase from the Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore. The parish will not have books for sale this year. For more information about the either series, call Diane Willis 683-0689 or dwillis@immaculateparish.org



Champion Spelling Bee Students Represent St. Ann School

Carson Greenwell, right, is St. Ann school wide Spelling Bee winner. She represented St. Ann School in the Union County Spelling Bee on January 26 at Union County Middle School. Carson represented grades 4 thru 6 at the Diocesan Spelling Bee on January 30th at St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville. Carson is the daughter of Chris and Shelly Greenwell. Ellie Moore represented grades 7-8 at the Diocesan Spelling Bee on January 30th at St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville. Ellie is the daughter of Charlie and Brucie Moore. Submitted Photo



Learning How To Tell A Story

Mrs. Hartz Kindergarten Class at the OCS Elementary K-3 Campus re-enacted the Story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears as they worked on sequencing and parts of a story. In the above picture, Kenlee Ackerman, Olivia Yanez, Mackenzie Goodwin, and Stephen Eaves perform the play. OCS Photo

Celebrating World Marriage Day

St Jerome Church in Fancy Farm, KY has taken the opportunity to honor the challenge of celebrating World Marriage Day and show their commitment to strengthening marriages by bringing Dr Gary Chapman to the Paducah Expo and Convention Center on March 24th from 9:00-3:30pm. This is a great conference to be presented by Dr Gary Chapman the author of the "The Five Love Languages." He is a dynamic speaker, making the short conference fun and interesting for even the most skeptic attendee. The cost is \$35 per person and well worth the investment. Remember our family is our greatest legacy even greater than the things we accomplish, our homes, or anything else we are known for. We ask that each of you prayerfully consider attending and help us promote this among all of our married friends and engaged couples.

To purchase tickets or for more information call St. Jerome Church Office at 270-623-8181, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on March 24th!

Making Accommodation and Assisting a Seminarian's Studies

By Richard Murphy

When all are made welcome in our Parishes, regardless of their apparent incapacities, sometimes the gain for a Parish community, and the Church as a whole, can be remarkable. Consider the story of Jamie Dennis.

Jamie Dennis is currently a student at St. Meinrad studying for the priesthood. He also helps out in his parish, St. Joseph in Leitchfield, as an altar server. Jamie knows where everything is in the sanctuary, not because he is trying to "one up" the other altar servers, but because he is blind. He has the sanctuary memorized! There is no need for a cane when it comes to Jamie serving at St. Joseph parish, nor does he count steps. The only time he uses help is when he is carrying the cross during the procession.

Because of Jamie's blindness, he had no idea that he would even be considered to enter into the seminary. He knows and has met Fr. Larry Gillick, the very first priest to be ordained in the U.S. that was blind. Jamie is also the owner of the first Liturgy of the Hours written in Braille. Recently, he has been installed as lector in the seminary and the St. Xavier Society in New York translates his Sunday readings for free! They are a nonprofit organization that has audiobooks as well. Jamie studies with a scanner, which looks like a tiny portable lamp that translates any written text. It will take a picture of the text and send it to his laptop, and then it reads the text aloud to Jamie. Although it is expensive, it works very fast and efficient for him. Last spring, Jamie wrote his thesis on people with disabilities and how they've been treated from two different points of view, which he is contemplating publishing.

There are very likely more people like Jamie Dennis in our Parishes that experience a disability, and they await the opportunity to serve. Even just the chance to be present in the assembly each Sunday would be a breath of fresh air for them and us, and yet they often feel excluded. How can we help them to use their gifts to share with their own Parish communities? Our Parish communities are poorer for their exclusion, and can be enriched by their inclusion, simply by being more accommodating to their needs.

Would you be willing to help your Parish become more inclusive to persons with disabilities? You will have an opportunity



Jamie Dennis, April 17, 2010 near a locomotive he and his dad built for a track which travels through their family farm in Grayson County. Larena Lawson Photo

to prepare to become a Parish Inclusive Representative, or if you already are one, to come and enhance your skills on April 14, 2012 from 9:00 till 2:00 PM at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro when the Diocesan Disabilities Awareness Committee offers training for the third time for this useful role. Please consider volunteering your services to your Pastor by letting them know of your interest.

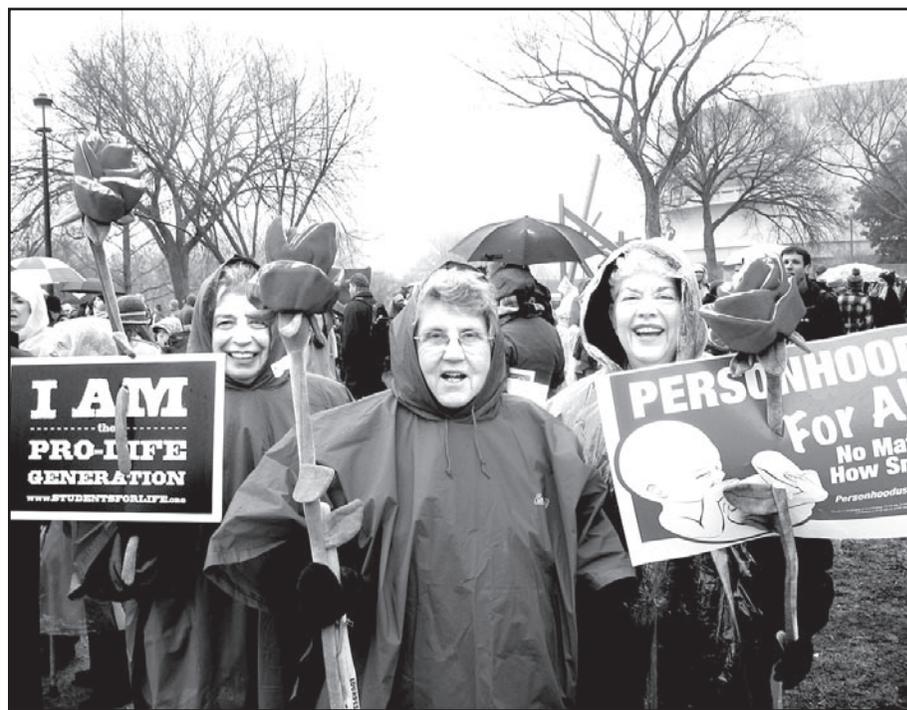
These "Inclusion Representatives" will serve to raise awareness to barriers to participants that exist in many faith communities for persons with physical, mental and emotional difficulties. They will also be trained to provide practical ways to remove barriers so that all may worship together. Good candidates to serve in this role may be someone who has shown an interest in working to include persons with disabilities in the parish, a parishioner who has a disability or have a relative or friend with a disability. A staff member, minister to the sick, or a parish nurse would also make a good representative.

The state of Kentucky has the nation's second-highest percentage of people with disabilities, behind only West Virginia. The US Census indicated that nearly one in every four Kentuckians, 23% of adult residents, have a physical, mental, sensory or self-care disability. In fact, some form of disability can happen to us all. Perhaps we can offer now the sensitivity we would like to see if it happens to us later.

Each of our Parishes has a number of people with disabilities that long for more involvement in the life of the parish. As expressed by the National Coalition Office

for the Deaf: "deafness brings suffering with it, but many deaf people say that this suffering is not caused by the deafness itself, but by the oppressive way in which hearing society treats deafness, namely by the dynamics of exclusion." As for deafness, so it is for any number of other disabilities.

Why not consider being part of the solution to this problem. Approach your pastor and consider volunteering to be one of your parish's "Inclusive Representatives." Then let's get started with the training on 4-14-12, 9-2 PM at Immaculate Parish Owensboro. This training is free and lunch will be provided for all participants, but please register to come to the event. This third training will offer two training tracks: first for new representatives and a second for those returning representatives to enhance their skills in the work. For more information about this training or to register to attend, please feel free to contact Richard Murphy at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro at 270/683-1545, or email him at richard.murphy@pastoral.org.



Gospel of Life Committee Helps Organize People to March for Life 2012

The Gospel of Life Committee for the Diocese of Owensboro helped coordinate In March for Life bus trip to Washington DC from January 21 to January 24, 2012 to lend voice to the cry for justice for the unborn. Shown above are Judy Mitchell, center, with two friends, Judy Kirberg and Jeannie Rauhaus. An estimated 400,000 people (as estimated by Zenit.org) at the March for Life this year to protest the US Supreme Court's ruling that legalized abortion in the United States 39 years ago. Since that decision, over 53 million children have been aborted in the United States. If each person marching represented a share of the 53 million who died, then each person gave voice to about 133 people killed.

The Gospel of Life Committee hopes to plan another trip next year to the March for Life. You are invited to join us for the 40th anniversary March in Washington DC in 2013. Submitted Photo

4 Marzo, 2012

Greetings from Baní.

By Father Stan Puryear

It has certainly been a very moving month here in the tropics, to say the least. On January 5, a 5.3-magnitude earthquake wake up everyone in Baní, including my two dogs and me. No significant damage was reported, but everyone was certainly awake and shaken up (I admit, a bad yet unavoidable pun). The epicenter was only 10 miles from Baní, which meant that we felt the full force of the earth's movement. The event took place one week before the second anniversary of the quake that killed so many in Haiti. I was I the city of Santiago when that one hit, and I remember it too well.

Unfortunately, we are now being told that the earthquake that devastated the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on January 12, 2010, killing more than 300,000 people, was probably the first of many more to come. The Island of Hispaniola, home of both Haiti and the Dominican Republic, owes its existence to the geological greeting of the Caribbean and North American tectonic plates. As a result, several fault lines run through the island. The Haiti earthquake seems to have been the harbinger of new activity on what is known as the Enriquillo fault system, bringing not only earthquakes but a significant rise in the level of the inland below-sea-level hypersaline Lake Enriquillo, home to the largest documented population of American crocodiles. One of my goals is to get to see the crocodiles before I leave here.

This past month, I took some money from a Christmas gift to make a personal pilgrimage to La Isabella, site of the first European settlement in the Western Hemisphere. The site's importance stems from it being the site of the very first Mass celebrated in the Western Hemisphere, on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1494, celebrated by Fray Bernardo Buil, OSB. Accompanying me on the pilgrimage and a two-day stay at a resort at Puerto Plata were Father Jose Miguel Pena and Seminarian Wilson Bautista. I almost felt sorry for them as I drug them away from the all-inclusive white-sand resort to trudge through the Dominican countryside in search of Columbus' old stomping grounds. But they were very pleasant in indulging the history geek's search for old ruins. I think the absolute highlight of the day was when the guide informed us of the presence of two trees at the site that were more than 500 years old, meaning that they were present when

Columbus and Fray Buil themselves walked in the town.

And this past weekend, as if life has not been exciting enough, after returning from a few days in Florida to visit my nephew who is suffering through an Air Force stint in Panama City (he takes after me when it comes to making such suffering sacrifices), our parish went on its annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Altigracia in Higüey, on the eastern end of the island. Depending on one's skepticism, the story of the image of Our Lady of Altigracia may or may not be inspiring. But what I have found is that Dominicans love their Altigracia and they all want to visit her at least once in their lives. I have been humbled each year as I see people make great sacrifices in order to be able to afford the RD\$600 (US\$15.50) in order to make this pilgrimage. Last year, we took five "guaguas" (buses that seat 30 people each): this year, we took 12 guaguas. I'll let you Google Our Lady of Altigracia to get the story for yourself.

And as if all that isn't exciting enough, on February 29, our own Bishop Medley is expected to land at Santo Domingo's Las Americas Airport for a three day stay here in the Dominican Republic. I am looking forward to the visit so that the bishop can see how difficult my life here is and he will encourage all the parishes in the diocese to send Mass stipends so that I and my brother priests here can survive. In the meantime, I have to work hard to lose some weight so that the bishop will think that I am suffering. In seriousness, though, the people of my parish and the other priests here in the diocese are looking forward to meeting Bishop Medley and giving him a report on my activities here. For my own part, I am hoping that Bishop Medley has not yet learned enough Spanish so that I will have to translate for him all that folks here want to say to him.

Lastly, I have received emails and notes from folks mentioning that they would like to donate to my ministry here in the Dominican Republic. Certainly, my brother priests and I here welcome donations and Mass stipends, as we all struggle to see to the spiritual needs of our parishioners while also sometimes struggling to have enough for our own physical needs. If you wish to make a donation to my ministry here, the best way is to send a check to my parent's address in Kuttawa, as my father is handling all my US finances. If you wish to make a tax-exempt donation, please give a check to your parish priest and ask him to send a parish check to my parent's home in Kut-

tawa. Mass stipends, on the other hand, will have to be sent to me here in the Dominican Republic, and I can deposit the check into an account here and then distribute the intentions to other priests here in the Diocese of Baní.

On a personal note, I ask prayers from all for my mother, Eva Puryear, who suffered a stroke last month. I never realized how difficult it was to be away from family in times of great emotional and spiritual need, but the only way I have been able to get through these past few weeks is through

friends and extended family members who have given me detailed frequent updates via Facebook. Thanks to all who have helped or who have already offered prayers.

US Mailing Address: Fr. Stan Puryear, 251 State Route 1271, Kuttawa KY 42055
DR Mailing Address: R.P. Stanley Puryear, Obispado de Baní, Apartado Postal 25

Baní, Dominican Republic

Alternate DR Mailing Address: Fr. Stan Puryear, CPS 29784, PO Box 149020, Coral Gables FL 33114-9020

Saludos desde Baní *(Viene de la página 3, Católico)*

su peregrinación anual a la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Altigracia en Higüey, en el oriente de la isla. Dependiendo del escepticismo, la historia de la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Altigracia puede o no puede ser inspirador. Pero lo que he descubierto es que los dominicanos aman a la Altigracia y todos quieren a visitarla al menos una vez en sus vidas. Me sentí muy humilde cada año cuando veo a unas personas hacer grandes sacrificios para poder pagar los RD\$ 600 (US\$ 15.50) para cumplir la peregrinación. El año pasado, fuimos en cinco "guaguas" (autobuses con asientos de 30 personas cada uno): este año, llevamos 12 guaguas. Usted mismo puede buscar a Nuestra Señora de Altigracia por el internet para leer la historia de la imagen.

Y como si todo eso no fue suficientemente emocionante, el 29 de febrero, si Dios permite, nuestro Monseñor Guillermo (William) Medley va a llegar al Aeropuerto Las Américas de Santo Domingo para una estancia de tres días aquí en la República Dominicana. Espero con entusiasmo la visita que el obispo para que él mismo pueda ver las dificultades de mi vida aquí y así animar a todas las parroquias de la diócesis a enviar donaciones y especialmente estipendios de Misa para que yo y mis hermanos sacerdotes aquí podemos sobrevivir. Mientras tanto, tengo que bajar de peso para que el obispo piense que estoy sufriendo. Los feligreses de mi parroquia y los otros sacerdotes aquí en la diócesis están anticipando conocer al Monseñor Medley y darle un informe sobre mis actividades aquí. Por mi parte, estoy esperando que Monseñor Medley no haya aprendido suficiente español para que yo tenga que traducir para él todo lo que aquí la gente quiere decirle.

En una nota personal, pido oraciones de todo para mi madre, Eva Puryear, quien sufrió un derrame cerebral el mes pasado. Nunca di cuenta lo difícil que es estar lejos de la familia en momentos de gran necesidad emocional y espiritual, pero la única manera que he podido seguir estas últimas semanas es por amigos y miembros de la familia que me han dado noticias frecuentes a través de Facebook. Gracias a todos los que han ayudado o que ya han ofrecido oraciones.

Por último, he recibido correos electrónicos y notas de gente mencionando que les gustaría donar al ministerio aquí en la República Dominicana. Sin duda, mis hermanos sacerdotes y yo aquí recibirán con muchísimas gracias sus donaciones y estipendios de Misa, como todos luchamos atender a las necesidades espirituales de nuestros feligreses mientras también a veces estamos haciendo gran esfuerzos para nuestras necesidades físicas. Si desea hacer una donación, la mejor manera es enviar un cheque a la dirección de mis padres en Kuttawa. Si desea hacer una donación con crédito para los impuestos federales, le puede dar una donación a su párroco y pedirle que envíe un cheque de a cuenta de la parroquia a la casa de mis padres en Kuttawa. Estipendios de Misas, sin embargo, deben ser enviados a mí aquí en la República Dominicana, y puedo depositar el cheque en una cuenta aquí y luego distribuir las intenciones a otros sacerdotes aquí en la Diócesis de Baní.

Dirección de Correos en los Estados Unidos: Fr. Stan Puryear, 251 State Route 1271, Kuttawa KY 42055

Dirección de Correos en la Republica Dominicana: R.P. Stanley Puryear, Obispado de Baní, Apartado Postal 25, Baní, Dominican Republic

Dirección Alternativa en la República Dominicana: Fr. Stan Puryear, CPS 29784, PO Box 149020, Coral Gables FL 33114-9020

Nuestra Celebración Hispana de la Epifanía del Señor

Por Abraham Brown

HENDERSON, Ky. - La palabra Epifanía viene del griego Epiphania, que significa "revelación" y está basada en la historia bíblica que narra cómo Melchor, Gaspar y Baltasar vieron una estrella en la noche en la que nació Cristo y la siguieron hasta Belén.

Ahí ellos encontraron al niño Jesús y le presentaron regalos de oro, incienso, y mirra.

Esta legendaria visita quizás inició la costumbre de dar regalos en la Navidad en la fiesta de la Epifanía, la cual la comunidad Hispana celebra regularmente el 6 de Enero.

La epifanía tiene diferentes nombres en diferentes culturas, en nuestra comunidad Latina la conocemos como el día de Reyes, y es el final de la temporada de los "Doce días de Navidad".

En España al igual que otros países de habla Hispana, la tradición de celebrar la navidad como una ocasión religiosa solemne ha permanecido, mientras que el Día de Reyes es para hacer una gran fiesta e intercambiar regalos.

De cualquier forma, en muchos países hispanos al día de hoy, los regalos se dan también en la Navidad. En ocasiones se tiene como una doble celebración y se dan regalos en ambos días. En México en particular, sirviendo una Rosca de Reyes, la cual es un pan festivo en la forma de una corona Real, continua siendo una tradición muy popular en el día de Reyes. En la Parroquia Holy Name tuvimos nuestra celebración con roscas y un rico chocolate calentito.



Elisa Fernandez leading the Aztec Dance Team



Rosy Carreño and Javier brought their daughter dressed in a folk Nahuatl Dress



Katy enjoying the Aztec Dances and Music during the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Ezequiel Campos and Rosio Bonilla dancing "El Son de la Negra"



Mayra Ramirez dressed with a folkloric Mexican Dance Dress to bring flowers to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saludos de Baní

Por el Padre de Stan Puryear

Sin duda ha sido un mes muy conmovedor aquí en los trópicos, por lo menos. El 5 de enero, un terremoto de magnitud 5.3 despertó a todos en Baní, incluyendo mis dos perras y yo. Aun no había daños ni heridos, todo el mundo estaba despierto y asustado. El epicentro del temblor estaba a sólo 10 kilómetros de Baní, lo que significa que nos sentimos toda la fuerza del movimiento de la tierra. El evento sísmico ocurrió una semana antes del segundo aniversario del sismo que mató a tantos en Haití. Yo estuve en la ciudad de Santiago durante aquella, y lo recuerdo muy bien.

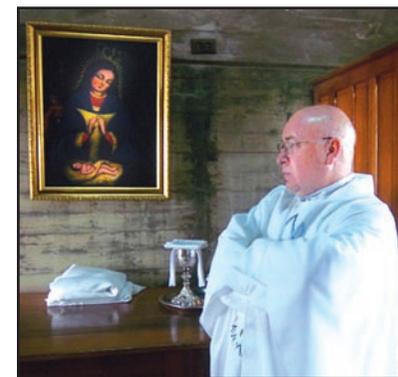
Lamentablemente, algunos científicos nos esta diciendo que el terremoto que devastó la ciudad de Puerto Príncipe, Haití el 12 de enero de 2010, matando a más de 300,000 personas, fue probablemente el primero de muchos más por venir. La Isla Española, en que se encuentran los países Haití y la República Dominicana, debe su existencia al encuentro geológico de dos placas tectónicas, la Caribeña y la Norteamericana. Una de las resultas de eso es la existencia de varias fallas que recorren la isla. Se parece que el terremoto de Haití fue el precursor de la



The Correa and Bonilla sisters danced for Our Lady of Guadalupe "Los Concheros" a popular Aztec dance offered to show reverence to the Mother of God

nueva actividad en lo que se conoce como el sistema de fallas Enriquillo, trayendo no sólo terremotos sino un aumento significativo en el nivel del Lago Enriquillo, lago hipersalino interior, hogar de la mayor población documentada de cocodrilos americanos. Uno de mis objetivos es llegar a ver los cocodrilos antes de salir de aquí – aun de una distancia.

Durante el mes pasado, con un dinero que recibí como regalo de Navidad, hice una peregrinación personal a La Isabel, sitio del primer asentamiento europeo en el hemisferio occidental. La importancia del sitio se deriva de que es el sitio de la muy primera Misa que celebrada en el hemisferio occidental, en la fiesta de la Epifanía, el 6 de enero de 1494, celebrado por Fray Bernardo Buíl, OSB. Me acompañaron en la peregrinación – y una estancia de dos días en un resort en Puerto Plata – el Padre José Miguel Peña



El Padre Stan preparando para la Misa en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia. Father Stan preparing for Mass at the Basilica of our Lady of Altagracia.

y Seminarista Wilson Bautista. Casi sentí lástima siento por ellos cuando los quité del resort de arena blanca a para viajar por el campo dominicano en búsqueda de los terrenos antiguos de Cristóbal Colón. Pero eran muy agradables en complacerme, aun quizás no entienden mi pasión por conocer la historia. El mejor momento del día para mi era cuando el guía nos informó de la presencia de dos árboles en el sitio que tienen más de 500 años de creciendo en aquel lugar, lo que significa que estaban allí cuando Colón y Fray Buíl anduvieron allí.

Este fin de semana pasado, como si los movimientos previos no eran suficientes, después de regresar de unos días en Florida para visitar a mi sobrino que está sufriendo una asignación de la Fuerza Aérea la Panama City (Florida), nuestra parroquia hizo

Continúa en la página 4

Eventos Destacados de la Visita Ad Limina: Papa Benedicto XVI y Rezo al pie de las Tumbas de San Pedro y San Pablo

Estimados hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Según el Código de Derecho Canónico de 1983, el obispo de una diócesis debe ir a Roma por lo menos una vez cada cinco años para venerar las tumbas de los Apóstoles Pedro y Pablo y presentarse ante el Papa. En la transición del papado del difunto Papa, Beato Juan Pablo II y nuestro actual Papa Benedicto XVI, las visitas de los obispos de los Estados Unidos habían sido retrasadas.

Empezando el diciembre pasado y continuando hasta mayo de este año, los obispos de nuestro país están haciendo sus peregrinaciones en grupos. Yo me junté con veintidós obispos de Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi y Louisiana desde el 20 de Enero hasta el 1 de Febrero del 2012 en esta visita histórica. Durante esos días visitamos a varias Congregaciones y Dicasterios. Estos departamentos se podrían comparar a los Gabinetes de nuestro gobierno federal o estatal. Cada Dicasterio es típicamente encabezado por un Cardenal designado por el Papa. Distinto de nuestros gobiernos estatales o federales, cada uno de estos departamentos tiene muy poco personal. El personal total del Vaticano de más de veintidós dicasterios para servir la iglesia universal no pasa de 2,500 empleados, incluyendo los empleados de oficina. Es una operación eficiente en términos de personal.

En cada Dicasterio uno de nuestros obispos estadounidenses fue escogido para hablar de una faceta de la Iglesia Católica en nuestra nación. En turno, el prefecto o administrador del Dicasterio haría preguntas sobre la salud y vitalidad de las iglesias locales. En anticipación de esta visita el obispo de cada diócesis había mandado un Informe Quinquenal. El informe para nuestra diócesis consistió de 160 páginas.

El 23 de Enero tuve el gran privilegio de estar con el Papa Benedicto XVI en su biblioteca con otros cinco obispos de Kentucky y Tennessee. Platicamos con él sobre la pregunta dominante del estado de la libertad religiosa en nuestro país. También exploramos los temas de las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa, el ministerio de la Iglesia a los inmigrantes, la educación Católica y el estado



Obispo William Medley apretón de manos con el Papa Benedicto XVI 23 de enero 2012 en la biblioteca del Papa durante la visita de Kentucky-Tennessee Bishops' Ad limina en Roma. Foto comprado en L'Ossavatore Romano.

de ecumenismo. Compartí con el Papa Benedicto como hemos sido bendecidos en nuestra Iglesia norteamericana en las últimas décadas con la llegada de miles de sacerdotes internacionales que llegan a nuestras tierras como misioneros. El Papa respondió que espera que esta experiencia pueda fortalecer la catolicidad, la universalidad, de nuestra experiencia Católica Romana.

Aunque reuniones y diálogos son siempre ocasiones para aprender, atestiguo que lo más destacado de mi peregrinación, además de la visita con el Papa Benedicto, fueron las oportunidades para rezar en las tumbas de Santos Pedro y Pablo. Como grupo nuestros obispos celebramos la Misa en estos lugares sagrados y para mi esto proveyó una reflexión beneficiosa sobre la vida de estos dos grandes Apóstoles y sus martirios. Los Cristianos que veneran estos sitios después de dos mil años, me ayudaron a entender que como sucesor de los Apóstoles tengo lugar en una tradición larga, venerable y llena de gracia.

En cada lugar sagrado que visité, recé por la gente de la Iglesia Católica de Kentucky occidental. De veras estoy orgulloso del informe que entregué sobre la vitalidad de la fe y el testimonio que la Diócesis de Owensboro representa.

Suyos en Cristo,

William F. Medley

+ Monseñor William F. Medley
Obispo de Owensboro

Calendario del Monseñor Medley para Marzo del 2012:

3 de Marzo	5:00 p.m.	Confirmación, Sangre Preciosísima, Owensboro
4 de Marzo	10:00 a.m.	Confirmación, Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
	2:00 p.m.	Misa, Evento de Formación de Fe en Owensboro Decanato Oeste, Parroquia de la Inmaculada
6 de Marzo	9:00 a.m.	Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano, CPC
	6:00 p.m.	Servicio de Oración del Serra Club, Madre Santísima, Owensboro
7 de Marzo	8:30 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Escuela Memorial de María Carrico, Knottsville
8 de Marzo	9:00 a.m.	Conversaciones con los "Seniors", Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro
10 de Marzo		Talleres de Juventud 2000, Universidad de Brescia
11 de Marzo	10:30 a.m.	Misa, Juventud 2000, Universidad de Brescia
	6:00 p.m.	Misa, Universidad Estatal de Murray, Centro de Newman Visita con los Seminaristas, San Meinrad, IN
12 de Marzo		
14 de Marzo	6:00 p.m.	Saludo a los Egresados de Escuelas Católicas, Louisville, KY
15 de Marzo	8:00 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville
17 de Marzo	5:00 p.m.	Confirmación, San José, Leitchfield
18 de Marzo	8:00 a.m.	Confirmación, San Antonio, Axtel, y Santa María del Bosque, McQuady, @ Axtel
	2:00 p.m.	Misa de los Scouts, San Pio X, Owensboro
19 de Marzo	9:30 a.m.	Reunión del Comité del Personal Sacerdotal, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Concejo de los Sacerdotes, CPC
20 de Marzo	9:00 a.m.	Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano, CPC
21 de Marzo	8:30 a.m.	Reunión del Comité de Administración/Finanzas, CPC
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmación, San Marcos, Eddyville
22 de Marzo	9:00 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Campus de OCES K-3
24 de Marzo	1:30 p.m.	Profesión Final, Hermana de Sister, Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento
25 de Marzo	9:30 a.m.	Misa y Bendición del Salón Parroquial, Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam
27 de Marzo	10:00 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Escuela Secundaria de Santa María, Paducah
	11:00 a.m.	Conversaciones con los "Seniors" Escuela Secundaria Santa María, Paducah
	12-3:00 p.m.	Horas de la Oficina en Paducah, Hospital de Lourdes, Paducah

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.

Las Peripecias De Un Joven E Inexperto Cura

Por Rev. Carmelo
Jimenez Salinas

7ma. Aníbal el borracho

Hace algunos años cuando llegue a Hopkinsville, Ky, Paquito (Byron Macías) me impulsó para que escribiera mis anécdotas que contaba en mis homilias y el traducía y eran enviadas al Periódico Diocesano el Western Kentucky, y así es como se publicaron una serie de 6 artículos bajo el título de “Las peripecias de un joven e inexperto cura”; quiero continuar contando estas historias como un volver a la memoria y revivir en mí esas experiencias. No se si pueda traducirlas o no al Ingles pero lo hare en español.

Iniciare con esta séptima parte escribiendo la historia de Aníbal, se que no me correspondería escribirla a mí, que sería mejor que Aníbal mismo lo hiciera pero es imposible así que con el debido respeto a el pero esperando nos ayude a pensar en nuestro cambio en esta cuaresma iniciare.

¿Quien es Aníbal? Los recuerdos que me llegan a mi mente es de aquel borracho típico de un pequeño pueblo, todos lo conocíamos porque se lo pasaba pidiendo un peso para tomar. Algunas veces ayudaba a las señoras a cargar las bolsas del mandado para ganarse el peso. Algunas veces pasaba pidiendo un taco y lo que le dieran se comía. Muchas veces lo vi tirado en las aceras de las casas, hecho pipi encima de el mismo, otras tantas lo vi vomitado en si mismo. Ese era Aníbal el borracho del pueblo.

Al paso del tiempo, cuando faltó mi padre tuve que ponerme a trabajar, tenia tan solo 9 años cuando inicie a vender nieves con un pequeño carrito que empujaba para ir por todo el pueblo y así ganarme la vida. Un lugar donde vendía mucha de la nieve era el prostíbulo del pueblo, en la esquina de la casa donde se ubicaba ese lugar permanecía mucho rato. Conocía a muchas personas que frecuentaban ese



Rev. Carmelo Jiménez Salinas en la conversación en grupos pequeños durante un Levantate orientación de la parroquia de San José, de Bowling Green, en Febrero 12, 2012. Mel Howard foto

lugar y lógico, conocía a las mujeres que trabajan a ahí.

Parece una canción pero no: el tiempo pasa y yo crezco, decido entrar al seminario. El negocio de las nieves lo continuó mi hermano más pequeño. Cuando volvía a casa por vacaciones yo tenia que trabajar, volver a tomar mi carrito e ir a vender nieves; así fuera un día que yo estuviera en casa o una semana o un mes, no importaba el tiempo que iba a estar, yo tenia que trabajar. Un día de esos me llamaron de una pequeña casa, casi callándose, de piso de tierra, con las cosas muy sencillas. Quien me llamo era una señora muy sencilla que quería que le fiara una nieve para su niño, un niño vestido sencillamente pero limpiecito, ella con un lenguaje educado. La promesa era que su esposo me pagaría el fin de semana. Esa señora era una de aquellas mujeres que trabajaba vendiendo su cuerpo y dando placeres en aquel lugar donde yo vendía nieves. Le di la nieve al niño ese día y los días siguientes hasta llegar el sábado.

El sábado cuando pase por aquella casa quien me llamó fue un señor diciendo que diera la nieve correspondiente de ese día a su niño y que me esperara porque me iba a pagar. Y así lo hice. Quien se acercó para pagarme fue un señor vestido dignamente, pobre, sencillito, pero respetuoso. Cuando levante la vista veo que es Aníbal el borracho ¡ah sorpresa! No podía creerlo que el borracho ya no era borracho, que el que pedía un peso ahora paga la deuda adquirida por su niño, que quien se orinaba y vomitaba sobre si mismo ahora esta limpio, con ropa limpia y digno de si mismo. ¡Sorpresa! No podía creerlo pero era verdad. Me pago y me fui, no cruzamos mas palabras.

El domingo fui a Misa de 10:00 de la mañana, me puse la sotana para ayudar durante la celebración. Al terminar la misa fui a la sacristía a quitarme la sotana y salir. Quiero describir la Iglesia parroquial de mi pueblo, es como una cruz, a la altura del presbiterio hay dos pequeñas capillas, viendo de frente al altar la capilla de la derecha esta dedicada al Santísimo

Católico de Kentucky Occidental Gráfico por Jennifer Farley Hunt

Católico

de Kentucky Occidental

Western Kentucky Catholic, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
Volumen 39, Numero 3, Marzo, 2012

Sacramento y la otra, la de la izquierda, esta dedicada a la virgen de Guadalupe. La sacristía esta ubicada al fondo de la capilla de Guadalupe así que cuando yo salí de ahí buscando la puerta principal, Aníbal me esperaba, me tomo del brazo y me dijo: “te sorprendiste ¿verdad?”

Me llevo al centro de la Iglesia, donde hace cruz y señalando a Cristo me dijo, con lagrimas en los ojos: “solo Él, solo Él pudo cambiarme. Todos me señalaban y me rechazaban, hablaban cosas feas de mí, pero El me abraza y me devolvió la dignidad de persona”. Su esposa estaba ahí parada junto a nosotros, con su hijo en brazos y con lagrimas me decía: “yo era una puta, pero El me transformó y me dio una familia”. Y abrazaba a su hijo y a su esposo. Yo estaba llorando porque era tan fuerte el testimonio de fe y salvación que me estaban dando estas dos personas.

En esta cuaresma quisiera que nos preguntáramos ¿que cosas feas tenemos en nosotros que los demás rechazan? ¿Que cosas tenías que te daban vergüenza y que Cristo

Con Alegre Alabanza y Acción de Gracias a
Dios Todopoderoso
la
DIÓCESIS DE OWENSBORO
la Iglesia de Kentucky Occidental
anuncia
la ordenación de

JULIO EVARISTO BARRERA MARTINEZ



hijo de Julio Barrera Rueda
y Sara Martínez Gomez
a la

ORDEN DE DIÁCONO

llamado por Dios y la Iglesia
a través de la Imposición de
Manos
y la

Invocación del Espíritu Santo

por
El Reverendísimo William F. Medley
Obispo de Owensboro
el sábado 21 de abril
a las 10 de la mañana
en el año de Nuestro Señor Dos mil doce

en
La Iglesia Católica de San José
Bowling Green, Kentucky

los ha perdonado? Cuaresma es un tiempo de cambio, donde Cristo nos perdona y nos devuelve la dignidad. Como a Aníbal y su esposa, no importa lo mucho que hayas pecado, importa que abramos nuestro corazón para recibir el perdón y el abrazo divino y es un tiempo de fortalecer nuestras voluntades para cambiar más y más para transformarnos y parecernos a Cristo. Como Aníbal y su esposa dejémonos abrazar por Cristo y que nos transforme.