

# CATHOLIC

## The Western Kentucky



600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 Volume 40, Number 10 December, 2013 Graphic by Allison Hayden

## Archbishop Kurtz Elected President of U.S. Bishops

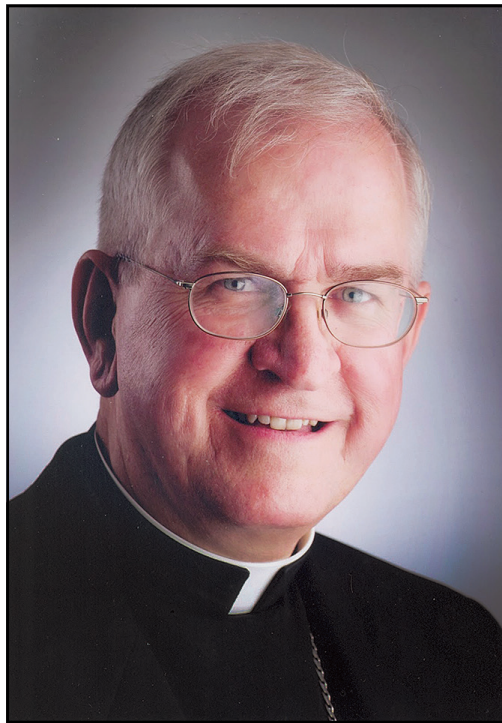
BALTIMORE—Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, was elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) during the bishops' annual fall General Assembly, November 12, in Baltimore. Archbishop Kurtz has served as vice president of USCCB since 2010. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was elected USCCB vice president.

Archbishop Kurtz and Cardinal DiNardo are elected to three-year terms and succeed Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Archbishop Kurtz, respectively. The new president and vice president's terms begin at the conclusion of the General Assembly, November 14.

Archbishop Kurtz was elected president on the first ballot with 125 votes. Cardinal DiNardo was elected vice president on the third ballot by 147-87 in a runoff vote against Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., of Philadelphia.

The president and vice president are elected by a simple majority from a slate of 10 nominees. If no president or vice president is chosen after the second round of voting, a third ballot is taken between only the top two vote getters on the second ballot.

Archbishop Kurtz was born August 18, 1946, and ordained a priest of Allentown, Pennsylvania on March 18, 1972. He previously served as bishop of Knoxville, Tennessee from 1999-2007 before being appointed to Louisville. Cardinal DiNardo was born May 23, 1949, and ordained a priest of Pittsburgh on June 16, 1977. He previously served as bishop of Sioux City, Iowa, from 1998-2004 before being appointed to



**Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, the incoming President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** Photo from [usccbmedia.blogspot.com](http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com), Nov. 13, 2013

coadjutor bishop, then archbishop, of Galveston-Houston. Pope Benedict XVI named him a cardinal in 2007, making him the first cardinal from Texas.

The bishops also elected Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha chairman of the Committee of Catholic Education in a 141-93 vote over George V. Murry, SJ, of Youngstown, Ohio. Archbishop Lucas, who has served as interim chair of the committee since the May 2013 death of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, will begin his term at the conclusion of this week's bishops' meeting.

The bishops chose chairmen-elect of

five other USCCB committees. The chairmen-elect will begin their three-year terms in one year, at the conclusion of the bishops' fall 2014 General Assembly. These were:

- Coadjutor Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of Newark, New Jersey, to the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance in a 167-70 vote over Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago.
- Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, to the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in a 130-105 vote over Bishop Arthur L. Kennedy, auxiliary bishop of Boston.
- Archbishop-designate Leonard P. Blair of Hartford, Connecticut, to the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis in a 135-98 vote over Bishop John O. Barres of Allentown, Pennsylvania.
- Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces, New Mexico, to the Committee on International Justice and Peace in a 126-110 vote over Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois.
- Bishop Edward J. Burns of Juneau, Alaska, to the Committee on Child and Youth Protection in a 118-114 vote over Bishop Rob-

ert J. Cunningham of Syracuse, New York.

On November 11, the following bishops were elected to the board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS): Bishop William P. Callahan, OFM Conv., of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, Florida, and Bishop Cirilo B. Flores of San Diego.

Also on November 11, the following bishops were elected to the board of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC): Bishop Richard Garcia of Monterey, California, and Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami.

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## Do We Still Have The Eyes To See And Recognize Angels In Our Midst?



Children gathered for Bishop Medley's Christmas card photo session at St. Edward's Parish, Fulton, Ky.

Dear sisters and brothers,

"Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord'.... And suddenly there was multitude of the heavenly hosts with the angel praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'" Luke 2: 8 - 14

The angels of the Lord play a prominent role in our traditional Christmas story, a story we draw from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. An angel announces the birth of John the Baptist; the Angel Gabriel comes to Mary to announce that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and she will conceive a child who will be Emmanuel; an angel comes to Joseph in a dream to reassure him that the hand of God is indeed in all the inexplicable happenings; and the angels awaken the shepherds to the good news that the Messiah has come.

According to the Catechism of

the Catholic Church the angels were created by God to be servants and messengers of God. We find them throughout the stories of salvation history. Recall that it was an angel who stayed the hand of Abraham as he was about to sacrifice his son Isaac. They have announced births and callings and assisted the prophets.



Our Christmas cards will feature angels from the master artists of the ages or perhaps contemporary cartoonists. Angels enjoy a tremendous popu-

larity in our culture and seemingly have little to do with faith.

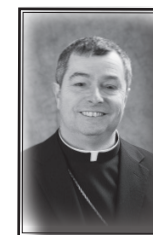
The question I pose as a Christmas message is whether or not we still have the eyes to see and recognize angels in our midst. Not many of us will encounter the non-corporeal angels. But we certainly encounter servants and messengers of God who have been sent to us by God. Those angels closest to us often go unrecognized and unrewarded; we take their goodness and holiness for granted. Perhaps in an age of such great doubt and skepticism we might consider the place of angels in the stories of God's revelation and ask if we might be called to be messengers and servants to others that they might hear what the shepherds heard in the fields of Bethlehem? May our voice reassure and calm a young man or woman facing the birth of a child they did

not plan? Are we willing to announce peace on earth to all people of good will?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*William F. Medley*

+Most Reverend William F. Medley,  
Bishop of Owensboro



Most Reverend  
William F.  
Medley, Bishop  
of Owensboro

### Bishop Medley's Calendar for December 2013:

December 1	10:30 a.m.	Admission to Candidacy, Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero St. Joseph, Bowling Green
December 2 -4	6:00 p.m.	Priests' Council Provincial Meeting, Knoxville
December 5	10:30 a.m.	CCK Executive Board Meeting, Louisville
December 6	9:00 a.m.	School Mass, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
December 9	10:30 a.m.	School Mass, Owensboro Catholic High School
December 11	9:00 a.m.	School Mass, Christ the King, Madisonville
December 12	7:00 p.m.	Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joseph, Bowling Green
December 16	9:45 a.m.	Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, CPC;
	1:30 p.m.	Priests' Council Meeting, CPC
December 17	9:00 a.m.	CPC Staff Mass and Meeting
December 18	8:30 a.m.	Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, CPC
December 25	Midnight	-Christmas Midnight Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral

### Special Collection for Filipino Victims of Typhoon Haiyan

#### *Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

Western Kentucky Catholics are being asked to take part in a special collection for victims of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines on Friday, November 7, and left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, meeting in Baltimore, agreed on Nov. 11 to the special collection for the victims. Individual parishes, including those in the Diocese of Owensboro, are asked to take up the collection on the weekend of November 16/17 or the weekend of November 30/December 1. As is tradition, the annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development is collected on Thanksgiving weekend, November 23/24. All moneys collected for the typhoon relief will go to Catholic Relief Services, which is working in the area hit by the typhoon. In fact, Catholic Relief Services was present in the Philippines before the typhoon and are poised to give direct aid.

Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican-based confederation of humanitarian agencies of the Catholic Church, reported Nov. 11 that more than 9.5 million people are in need of aid and that 600,000 people have been forced from their homes. The death toll from the storm is estimated at more than ten thousand.

Any collections may be forwarded to our Diocesan Finance Office who will assure its speedy forward to CRS.

Yours in Christ,

+Most Reverend William F. Medley, Bishop of Owensboro





# DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO 2013-2014 SEMINARIANS



**Gary Clark**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
3rd Theology



**Michael Charles Ajigo**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
3rd Theology



**Basilio Az Cue**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
Pastoral Year  
Holy Name of Jesus



**James Dennis**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
Pastoral Year  
St. Joseph



**Jared Kaelin**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
2nd Theology



**Nick Higdon**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
2nd Theology



**Alexander French**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
1st Theology



**John Sohl**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
1st Philosophy



**Corey Bruns**  
Bishop Simon Bruté  
2nd College



**Jacob Fischer**  
Bishop Simon Bruté  
2nd College



**Samuel Rasp**  
Bishop Simon Bruté  
2nd College



**CJ Glaser**  
Bishop Simon Bruté  
1st College



**Jesus Lopez Mendez**  
Bishop Simon Bruté  
ELS at IUPUI



**Marvin Torres**  
Bishop Simon Bruté  
ELS at IUPUI

*"Freely you have received,  
now freely give!"* Matthew 10:8



Presbyteral Ordination: Saturday, May 31st, 2014



**Rev. Mr. Will Thompson**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
4th Theology



**Rev. Mr. Emmanuel Udoh**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
4th Theology

Discernment is about seeking and finding God's will for you. If you feel that you might have a vocation to the priesthood, we would love to help you discern that call and go where God is leading you. We invite you to contact the Vocations Office:



**Rev. Jason McClure**  
270-875-2868  
vocations@pastoral.org

## Free Resources

Visit [www.GoPriest.com](http://www.GoPriest.com)  
to request free books to help  
you discern your vocation.

For information about discerning  
your vocation, visit:

**GoPriesthood.org**

**Most Rev. William  
Francis Medley,**  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Owensboro



## Join our Spinning Gathering Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014



Whether you are an experienced spinner, weaver, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the Arts at the Mount spinning gatherings at Mount Saint Joseph (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56).

Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill.

The group plans to "spin, knit and talk until we're done!"

**10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • The \$15 fee includes lunch**

For information on room rates, costs, etc., or to register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org • [www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org)

**UPCOMING: March 7-9 weekend retreat, May 10 spinning day**



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

## The Western Kentucky Catholic

600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY. 42301

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683-6883

• See the present edition and back issues of the *WKC Online*  
at [http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC\\_](http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC_online.php)  
[online.php](http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC_online.php)

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

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](mailto:cathy.hagan@pastoral.org).**



## ARISE Inspires Group to Help Family Coping With Illness

According to its web page, a parish in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, is dedicated to “continuing the mission of Jesus Christ through word, worship, and service.”

And parishioners who have been participating in ARISE Together in Christ, the faith-sharing process from RENEW International, have taken a new look at what service means and can’t wait to see where it will lead them next.

The parish is St. Romuald in Hardinsburg, which is about 70 miles southwest of Louisville, where 11 small groups in the parish completed Season Two of ARISE last spring.

Rosa Hockenberry, pastoral associate at St. Romuald and ARISE coordinator for the parish, said Sr. Kass Collins, SFCC, of RENEW’s pastoral team, introduced ARISE with a strong message attached—to “think outside the box” when it came to applying the Gospel to everyday life.

An opportunity to do that came from nearby, Rosa said—in fact, it came from the parish office adjoining hers. Rosa learned that the parish St. Vincent De Paul ministry was processing a request for assistance with meals for a family of seven at the nearby Corinth Baptist Church. The mother in that family had been stricken with cancer and was undergoing multiple surgeries.

“I thought, ‘Oh my gosh,’ ” Rosa said, “here’s a chance to see what ARISE can do to help! “I talked to the deacon in the St. Vincent group, and he said that the mother was going through more surgeries and they were trying to get meals together for the family for close to a two-week period.

“What Sr. Kass had told us jumped in my head. This is something we can do ‘outside the box’—something besides what we can do for ourselves in our parish family.” Members of the small groups signed up and prepared meals for the family. “This was a chance for our groups to ‘Arise’ to the occasion,” Rosa said, “and we did, in a big way.” And she said the group went further and bought gift cards for the family from the parish “Scrip office,” which is a clearing house for discount offers from restaurants and merchants.

“The cards from local restaurants were purchased in the name of a parish



The ARISE team meets at St. Romuald’s Parish in Hardinsburg, Kentucky. Eleven small groups in the parish completed Season Two of ARISE last spring. St. Romuald Parish Photos

family, whose mother also has cancer,” Rosa said. “The purchase gives credit to the family for school tuition here at St. Romuald school. So our journey helped us to reach outside of our church, and to offer help within!”

Rosa said she was inspired by the groups’ response: “There was no hemming and hawing—just, ‘What do you need?’ It was amazing.” One of the groups also started a drive to collect baby

items such as diapers, bottles, and formula, for young couples who had limited resources, Rosa said.

“We put a lot of effort into what Sister Kass said to us,” she added. “We put ourselves out there. Now we’re so looking for the next season. She challenged us, and we want to challenge ourselves again.”

Reprinted from RENEW International at [http://www.renewintl.org/News & Events](http://www.renewintl.org/News&Events)



Tee shirts were among the ways St. Romuald’s Parish in Hardinsburg, Kentucky, raised awareness of the faith-sharing process from RENEW International, ARISE Together in Christ. These young ladies were displaying the shirt at their 2012 parish picnic.



The ARISE team posed for a “class photo” at St. Romuald’s Parish in Hardinsburg. Pastor Tony Bickett shows off the ARISE poster.



## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

- 5 Study of the Catholic Catechism for Adults  
 12 Advent Day of Prayer with Msgr. Bernard Powers  
 15-17 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program

#### JANUARY 2014

- 4 Yarn Spinning Day  
 9 Study of the Catechism  
 10-12 Retrouvaille  
 13-17 Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 2)  
 18-24 St. Meinrad Seminarians Retreat  
 24-26 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program

To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206  
[kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)



[www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org)

#### FEBRUARY 2014

- 8-9 Catholic Engaged Encounter  
 13 Study of the Catechism  
 21-23 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program  
 23-26 Sisters' Quilting Friends

#### MARCH 2014

- 7-9 Yarn Spinners Weekend  
 7-8 ICSC Youth Confirmation  
 13 Study of the Catechism  
 14-15 Chapel Hill Women's Retreat  
 21-23 Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons (Saint Therese of Lisieux)  
 28-30 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program  
 29 Junior Festival Winners

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



Mount Saint Joseph  
 Conference and Retreat Center

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky.,  
 on Hwy. 56

## St. Vincent de Paul "Centering on Service" Capital Campaign



Currently a plan is underway to consolidate the current stores and warehouse into one centrally located St. Vincent de Paul Center. This center is located at 18th and Daviess Streets in Owensboro. It will serve as a hub for activities including Thrift Shop operations, donor drop off, warehousing and outreach. Give what you can today, and we will reinvest it wisely for the needy.

Please send your investment to:

St. Vincent de Paul  
 1205 W. 9th St.  
 Owensboro, KY 42301  
 270-683-0062



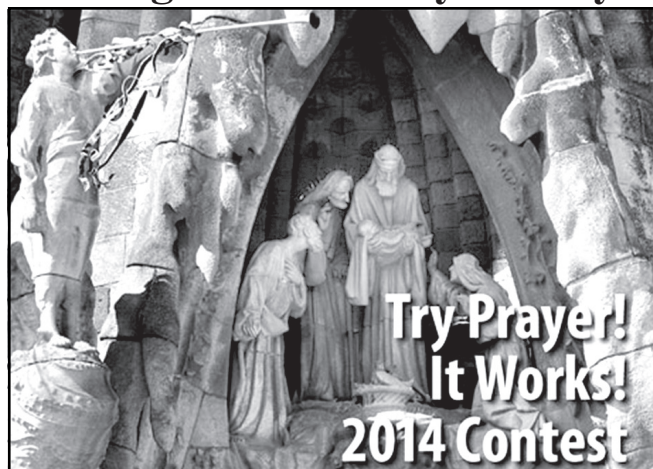
[www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org)

**"Help us help others! Invest in St. Vincent de Paul"**

## Entries Sought For Family Rosary's 2014 "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest

EASTON, Mass. – The call for entries has been announced for the 2014 "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest. In this national competition sponsored by Family Rosary, children are encouraged express their faith through art, poetry and prose.

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The national competition attracts more than 1,000 entries from approx-



imately 22,000 participants nationwide. Children and teens from Catholic schools, parishes, home schooling, and other Catholic organizations use their talent to convey their beliefs.

This year's theme – "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." – is based on the Fourth Joyful Mystery.

"We all struggle with faith at times," said Father John Phalen, C.S.C., President of Holy Cross Family Ministries. "Helping children understand how to keep their faith during troubling times and what to do to maintain their beliefs and remain committed to Christ, is a critical learning for them, for all of us."

"The Presentation in the Temple shows us that faith is important. Believing in Jesus and Mary will help us make wise choices when faced with difficult decisions. The Fourth Joyful Mystery helps us understand the significance of accepting Christ on faith and trusting in his word," shared Phalen.

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest asks entrants to use creativity to depict their faith. Children in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school

or other organization are eligible to participate. For details or to download an application, go to [www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer](http://www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer). All entries must be post-marked by Feb. 1, 2014. Questions? Call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 800-299-PRAY (7729).

Family Rosary was founded in 1942 by Servant of God Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., also known as the "Rosary Priest," to advocate for families by preaching two powerful and memorable sayings: "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" and "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace." For more information, call 800-299-PRAY (7729) or visit [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org). Holy Cross Family Ministries is sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross. [www.HolyCrossUSA.org](http://www.HolyCrossUSA.org)



# Diocese of Owensboro Mass Attendance Report for 2013

Bowling Green Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Christ the King	Scottsville	159	127	79.87%	82.48%	-2.61%
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	191	205	107.33%	123.30%	-15.97%
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	2979	1492	50.08%	42.64%	7.44%
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	56	76	135.71%	194.23%	-58.52%
Sacred Heart	Russellville	374	232	62.03%	46.88%	15.15%
Saint John The Baptist	Fordsville	67	57	85.07%	85.07%	0.00%
Saint Joseph	Bowling Green	2066	1060	51.31%	38.93%	12.38%
Saint Mary	Franklin	273	184	67.40%	82.17%	-14.77%
Saint Susan	Elkton	157	106	67.52%	82.14%	-14.62%
Saints Mary & James	Guthrie	155	113	72.90%	68.18%	4.72%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>6477</b>	<b>3652</b>	<b>56.38%</b>	<b>48.90%</b>	<b>7.48%</b>

Central Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Holy Name of Jesus	Henderson	3953	1620	40.98%	41.00%	-0.02%
Sacred Heart	Waverly	197	103	52.28%	51.28%	1.00%
Saint Agnes	Uniontown	779	415	53.27%	62.10%	-8.83%
Saint Ambrose	Henshaw	135	44	32.59%	59.77%	-27.18%
Saint Ann	Morganfield	974	500	51.33%	48.75%	2.58%
Saint Francis Borgia	Sturgis	181	101	55.80%	52.94%	2.86%
Saint Michael	Sebree	274	144	52.55%	40.59%	11.96%
Saint Peter of Antioch	Waverly	537	295	54.93%	46.82%	8.11%
Saint William of Vercelli	Marion	142	82	57.75%	54.93%	2.82%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>7172</b>	<b>3304</b>	<b>46.07%</b>	<b>45.92%</b>	<b>0.15%</b>

Eastern Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Holy Guardian Angels	Irvington	400	193	48.25%	93.81%	-45.56%
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	310	135	43.55%	38.41%	5.14%
Saint Anthony	Axtel	487	345	70.84%	88.87%	-18.03%
Saint Anthony	Peonia	193	160	82.90%	83.59%	-0.69%
Saint Augustine	Grayson Springs	99	71	71.72%	78.57%	-6.85%
Saint Benedict	Wax	129	96	74.42%	72.87%	1.55%
Saint Columba	Lewisport	224	69	30.80%	31.00%	-0.20%
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary	Clarkson	194	137	70.62%	89.81%	-19.19%
Saint John the Evangelist	Sunfish	63	48	76.19%	93.10%	-16.91%
Saint Joseph	Leitchfield	410	287	70.00%	65.63%	4.37%
Saint Mary of the Woods	McQuady	152	195	128.29%	87.71%	40.58%
Saint Paul	St. Paul	432	271	62.73%	73.35%	-10.62%
Saint Romuald	Hardinsburg	1590	560	35.22%	39.00%	-3.78%
Saint Rose of Lima	Cloverport	426	205	48.12%	44.10%	4.02%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>5109</b>	<b>2772</b>	<b>54.26%</b>	<b>59.62%</b>	<b>-5.36%</b>

Fancy Farm Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Sacred Heart	Hickman	70	37	52.86%	59.32%	-6.46%
Saint Charles	Bardwell	141	112	79.43%	75.72%	3.71%
Saint Denis	Fancy Farm	117	84	71.79%	53.75%	18.04%
Saint Edward	Fulton	88	60	68.18%	82.89%	-14.71%
Saint Jerome	Fancy Farm	1205	730	60.58%	62.16%	-1.58%
Saint Joseph	Mayfield	1318	880	66.77%	73.47%	-6.70%
Saint Jude	Clinton	72	42	58.33%	58.57%	-0.24%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>3011</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>64.60%</b>	<b>67.06%</b>	<b>-2.46%</b>

Hopkinsville Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Christ the King	Madisonville	671	332	49.48%	53.85%	-4.37%
Holy Cross	Providence	40	14	35.00%	39.02%	-4.02%
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	103	49	47.57%	43.81%	3.76%
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	80	56	70.00%	62.65%	7.35%
Saint Charles Borromeo	Livermore	82	65	79.27%	80.00%	-0.73%
Saint Joseph	Central City	252	168	66.67%	77.38%	-10.71%
Saint Michael the Archangel	Oak Grove	936	506	54.06%	57.25%	-3.19%
Saints Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1675	773	46.15%	48.37%	-2.22%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>3839</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>51.13%</b>	<b>54.10%</b>	<b>-2.97%</b>

Owensboro Deanery -- East						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2287	1430	62.53%	61.67%	0.86%
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	1926	1030	53.48%	51.52%	1.96%
Saint Anthony	Browns Valley	411	190	46.23%	50.71%	-4.48%
Saint Lawrence	St. Lawrence	337	204	60.53%	75.14%	-14.61%
Saint Mary of the Woods	Whitesville	2246	1062	47.28%	52.26%	-4.98%
Saints Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1436	1063	74.03%	77.21%	-3.18%
Saint Pius X	Owensboro	1041	644	61.86%	55.64%	6.22%
Saint William	Knottsville	1056	700	66.29%	83.03%	-16.74%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>10740</b>	<b>6323</b>	<b>58.87%</b>	<b>61.46%</b>	<b>-2.59%</b>

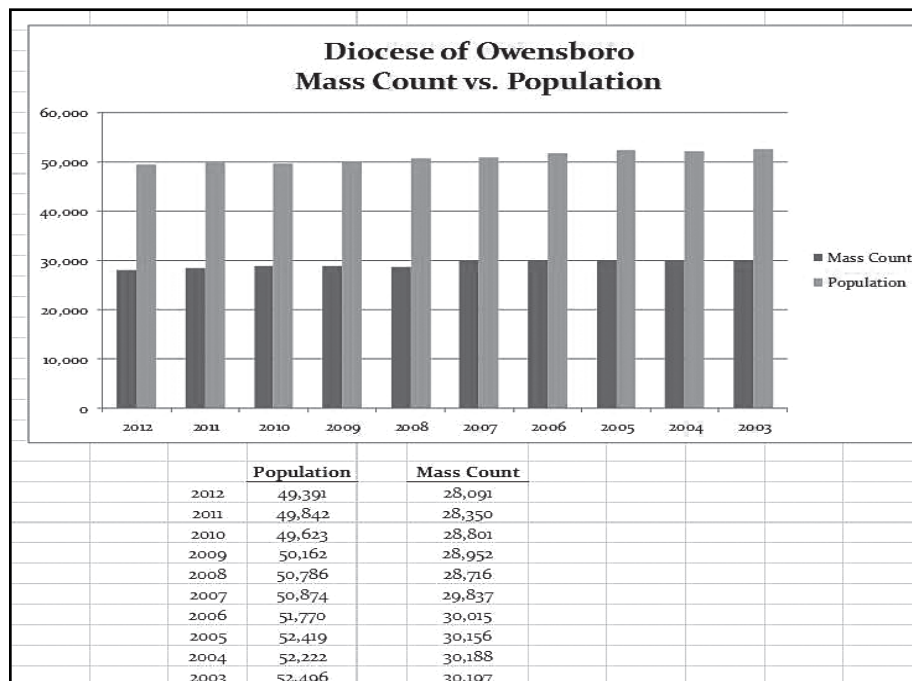
Owensboro Deanery -- West						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	125	75	60.00%	65.05%	-5.05%
Immaculate	Owensboro	1927	1227	63.67%	57.52%	6.15%
Precious Blood	Owensboro	796	413	51.88%	50.12%	1.76%
Saint Alphonsus	Saint Joseph	574	254	44.25%	50.72%	-6.47%
Saint Augustine	Reed	120	82	68.33%	67.94%	0.39%
Saint Elizabeth	Curdsville	240	88	36.67%	84.85%	-48.18%
Saint Martin	Rome	217	215	99.08%	84.49%	14.59%
Saint Mary Magdalene	Sorgo	702	437	62.25%	59.77%	2.48%
Saint Peter of Alcantara	Stanley	325	174	53.54%	50.28%	3.26%
Saint Sebastian	Calhoun	252	137	54.37%	50.20%	4.17%
Saint Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1260	723	57.38%	48.84%	8.54%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>6538</b>	<b>3825</b>	<b>58.50%</b>	<b>55.89%</b>	<b>2.61%</b>

Paducah Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	152	84	55.26%	64.00%	-8.74%
Saint Francis de Sales	Paducah	1400	1227	87.64%	88.56%	-0.92%
Saint John the Evangelist	Paducah	675	434	64.30%	53.58%	10.72%
Saint Mary	LaCenter	196	108	55.10%	55.98%	-0.88%
Saint Thomas More	Paducah	2156	1026	47.59%	47.94%	-0.35%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>4579</b>	<b>2879</b>	<b>62.87%</b>	<b>61.13%</b>	<b>1.74%</b>

The Lakes Deanery						
Parish	City	2013 Population	2013 Mass Count	2013 Mass Attendance	2012 Mass Attendance	2013-2012 Change
Saint Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	77	81	105.19%	102.63%	2.56%
Saint Henry	Aurora	185	188	101.62%	85.07%	16.55%
Saint Leo	Murray	1006	717	71.27%	77.05%	-5.78%
Saint Mark	Eddyville	98	116	118.37%	98.17%	20.20%
Saint Paul	Princeton	110	71	64.55%	73.64%	-9.09%
Saint Pius X	Calvert City	334	196	58.68%	71.52%	-12.84%
Saint Stephen	Cadiz	287	162	56.45%	62.63%	-6.18%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2097</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>73.01%</b>	<b>76.85%</b>	<b>-3.84%</b>

**DIOCESAN TOTAL:** 49562 Population, 28194 Mass Count, 56.89% Attendance, 56.87% 2012 Mass Attendance, 0.02% Change

\*Mass counts took place on the four week-ends of September: 7-8; 14-15; 21-22; 28-29, 2013





# Annual Collection Helps Religious Communities Address Retirement Shortfall

December, 2013 7

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 7-8 in the Diocese of Owensboro. Now in its 26th year, the collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C., and benefits over 34,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Last year, the Diocese of Owensboro contributed \$33,898.85 to this collection. In 2013, the Home Mission Sisters of America and the Sisters of the Lamb of God received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Additionally, women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may benefit from the annual appeal.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$698 million. Over 93 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

**Bishop William F. Medley** of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., commented, "The Retirement Fund for Religious represents a payment in charity and justice for the selfless services of consecrated religious who always served the Church first and thought of themselves second. Now we can say thank you by assuring their compassionate care."

**Sister Joseph Angela Boone**, OSU, said, "In the 'good ole days,' most Religious Communities never thought about setting aside for retirement, they never thought that at some date late in their life time, that there would not always be new members coming into the Communities to do the work or mission that had been established. Thus they would always be INCOME coming into the Communi-

ty to take care of the retirement needs. We all know now that the numbers are diminishing and the medium age gets higher each year."

**Diocesan Treasurer, Ernie Taliaferro**, said, "For the lifetime that the 34,000 sisters, brothers and religious order priests (benefiting from the December 7-8 collection) practiced their religious life, they lived by the code 'The Lord Will Provide.' And so He did. During their lifetime of ministry and service to the Catholic Church, they were fed, housed and provided for on a daily basis by the communities and ministries they served. But unlike most lay people, they did not 'provide' for (nor foresee the need to provide for) retirement age living. They knew then that 'The Lord Would Provide.' If their code is true, and we know it is, then we lay people have to become the "hands" of the Lord and provide. Our positive response ties so closely to this season of ARISE's admonition to be the hands and feet of the Lord. I encourage everyone who has ever benefited from the life of these religious to do their part as 'providers.'"

**Dan Heckel**, Director of Mission Advancement and Communications, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph said, "The Retirement Fund for Religious provides valuable services for many congregations and supports the work of the Church, said Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Even communities who do not receive direct funding have other support available to them, such as planning or evaluations of finances, Sister Sharon said."

**Precious Blood Sister Janice Bader**, NRRO's executive director, said "I am deeply grateful to the Catholics across the nation who faithfully support the Retirement Fund for Religious. Their generosity allows our office to provide vital financial assistance to hundreds of religious communities each year."

The 2012 appeal raised \$27 mil-

lion and enabled the NRRO to distribute \$23 million to 440 religious communities throughout the country. Communities utilize these funds to bolster retirement savings and to subsidize such day-to-day expenses as prescription medications and nursing care. The NRRO also allocated nearly \$3.6 million to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement and elder-care delivery.

The rising cost of care compounds funding difficulties. Last year, the average annual cost of care for senior religious was over \$38,000 per person, while skilled care averaged more than \$57,000. The total cost of care for senior women and men religious was over \$1.1 billion in 2012 alone.

At the same time, the number of religious needing care is on the rise. In 2012, 61 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO had a median age of 75 or older. Accompanying the higher median age is a decrease in the number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry. By 2023, the NRRO projects that retired religious will outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one.

"As the number of wage-earning religious drops, so does income," said Sister Bader. "Our mission is to help religious communities prepare for the dramatic income reduction that will accompany this demographic shift." Visit [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org) to learn more.



## "He's a tiny, tiny part of God."

On October 29, 2013, Bishop William Medley visited Saint Mary in Paducah. St. Mary Elementary teacher, Ms. Felicia LaBarge posed a question with her kindergartners before they met Bishop Medley on the day: "Do you know who the Bishop is?" Answers: "... he's nice. And he knows Jesus really well. He's the boss of the priests. He's a tiny, tiny part of God."

Here Bishop Medley posed after Mass with Mrs. LaBarge's Kindergarten Class: Gabby Ault, Ferris Baker, Elena Cole-Carlo, Kyra English, Conrad Green, Jacob Haas, Isaac Hart, Hunter Korte, Cooper Richison, Elizabeth Sanborn, Ashton Spurr, Brooke Willett, and Nolan Williams. Photo submitted by Lisa Clark, Principal



## 8 December, 2013 **Lourdes Hospice Care Center To Be Named In Honor Of Ray And Kay Eckstein**

PADUCAH, Ky. - (November 12, 2013) – The new Lourdes Hospice Care Center will be named in honor of Ray and Kay Eckstein, for a generous \$1.5 million commitment by the Eckstein Charitable Trust. Once constructed, the center will bear the name The Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Lourdes. The 10,000 square-foot Center will bring inpatient hospice services into one designated location to enhance care and provide a home-like atmosphere for patients and their families.

Lourdes Foundation embarked on a \$7 million fundraising campaign to fully fund the construction of the facility and to create an endowment fund for future patient care needs. The campaign is approximately \$350,000 from achieving its total goal. Construction of the Center is set to begin in the spring of 2014.

The Ecksteins have firsthand experience with the need for an inpatient



**Ray and Kay Eckstein.**

hospice care facility. Their son-in-law, Tom Erickson, passed away from cancer in 2011 as a Lourdes patient. “The hospice setting would have been far more comfortable for Tom’s family and many friends who visited during those last

days,” said Ray Eckstein. “We are honored to provide funding for the Hospice Care Center at Lourdes.”

The Ecksteins have generously supported other philanthropic initiatives at Lourdes. In 2008, the Ecksteins gave \$1 million to help build the Ray and Kay Eckstein Cardiovascular Institute. “A charitable partnership with donors like Mr. and Mrs. Eckstein allow us to join forces with a shared mission to meet the healthcare needs of this community,” said Tara Miller, Lourdes Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer.

Lourdes and the Eckstein family have a common passion for providing basic needs to those less fortunate. Through their private foundation, the Ecksteins have donated considerable sums to food pantries, soup kitchens and senior nutrition programs. In addition, orphanages, dental clinics and facilities for the developmentally disabled have also been fund-

ed. “They have a strong commitment to sharing their blessings with those in need of the basics - food, shelter, health care, and education,” said Teresa Eckstein, Trustee of the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust. Teresa’s sister, Sue Homra, also a Trustee, said, “When learning about the Campaign for the Lourdes Hospice Care Center, we were open to making a considerable gift because of our alignment of goals and our confidence in Lourdes as an institution.”

The trustees of the Eckstein Charitable Trust are Ray and Kay Eckstein and their daughters, Cindy Erickson, Sue Homra and Teresa Eckstein. “The Trustees unanimously approved the grant to Lourdes Foundation in support of the Hospice Care Center at Lourdes,” noted Homra.

For more information about the Lourdes Hospice Care Center call (855) 522-2444, or online at [give.elourdes.com](http://give.elourdes.com).

## **Organize a Homeless Resource Fair For Your Hometown**

The Homeless Council of the Ohio Valley is calling out to the Ohio Valley counties such as, Henderson, Hancock, Ohio, Webster, McLean, Union to participate and possibly have a Resource Fair in their communities. If you or someone you know is associated with a clothing closet, food pantry or help office please contact us and see if we can help you organize a Homeless Resource Fair for January 29, 2014 in your community.

Most often we think of the homeless as wearing ragged clothing and pushing a shopping cart in an urban area. In Kentucky, the face of homelessness is much different. With the current increase in unemployment and foreclosures, many of Kentucky’s homeless live in less-visible places. These individuals and families are living in sub-standard housing conditions, are doubled- or tripled-up with family or friends, or are expecting to be evicted within twenty-one days from a private dwelling with no expectation of having a nighttime residence or a community support network. Those living in such conditions are referred to as being “at-risk of homelessness or precariously housed.”

Kentucky has more precariously housed than homeless individuals and the precariously housed are not considered homeless according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

**Homeless Council Of The Ohio Valley**  
Bringing The Community Together

The Homeless Council of the Ohio Valley, Kentucky Housing Corporation, and our community are coming together with a Resource Fair to help you, your family, and friends find the resources needed to overcome homelessness.

**HOMELESS RESOURCE FAIR**  
Wednesday, January 29, 2014 –  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church

Come and get connected with agencies designed to help you get into and maintain safe housing. Also, take advantage of **FREE**

Showers, haircuts, food pantry, clothing, dental screenings, lunch, employment agencies, education and counseling services, and school resources.

ment’s definition of homeless. Because of this, there are few programs to serve the growing precariously housed population.

The Homeless Council of the Ohio Valley would like to invite you to join us in helping others. Our purpose of The Homeless Council of the Ohio Valley is to act as a link between agencies that provide services *(for the homeless and*

*near homeless)* in Owensboro and the surrounding counties. We want to invite you to participate and help us serve those individuals in need. We meet monthly on the second Tuesday at the Western Ken-



tucky University large meeting room in Owensboro, KY. The Meeting starts at 9:00 AM and goes through 10:00 AM.

Members of the Council consists of representatives from agencies within the GRADD area. All activities and operations of the Council shall be conducted as a non-profit organization. All endeavors of the Council shall be conducted ethically, professionally and respectfully. The privacy and confidentiality of any person served by the Council shall be protected at all times. These are just some of the promises we can make to you should you choose to become part of the Council. Our membership does not cost anything but we can offer assistance in the way of volunteers, donations and support.

Source: <http://ohiovalleyhomeless.com/more.html>

**“A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not on the branch but on it’s own wings.”**

**— Unknown**





## Called by Name

# Called by Name

The Diocese of Owensboro needs your help to identify future priests. This is the purpose of our Called by Name project - connecting us to young men so that we can help them discern their vocations.

You can help us! We are looking for faithful young men, ages 14-35, who may be good candidates for discerning the priesthood.

Any man you recommend will receive quality information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocation in life, whatever that may be. He will also be invited to our discernment retreats. By always inviting and never imposing, we will respect his freedom and never pressure him to choose against his will.

If you want to recommend a young man, go to [www.GoPriesthood.com](http://www.GoPriesthood.com) and follow the Called by Name link.

Thank you for your help finding priests for our Diocese!

*For more information about vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro, please contact: Dr. Fred Litke, Associate Vocation Director, 270-683-1545 (office); 270-748-0038 (cell); or [fred.litke@pastoral.org](mailto:fred.litke@pastoral.org)*

OR

*Fr. Jason McClure, Director of Vocations, 270-753-3876; [mccclurej31@yahoo.com](mailto:mccclurej31@yahoo.com)*



### ENGLISH TRAINING SESSIONS FOR SEASON 4 OF ARISE

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
SUNDAY	January 26	6:30 – 8:30 PM	OWENSBORO ST. PIUS X
MONDAY	January 27	10 AM – 12PM	LEITCHFIELD ST JOSEPH
MONDAY	January 27	6:30 – 8:30 PM	BOWLING GREEN HOLY SPIRIT
TUESDAY	January 28	6:30 – 8:30 PM	FANCY FARM ST. JEROME
WEDNESDAY	January 29	6:30 – 8:30 PM	PADUHCA ST. THOMAS MORE
THURSDAY	January 30	1:30 – 3:30 PM	MADISONVILLE CHRIST THE KING

## Why be a lay missionary?



Adam Lewandowski comes to the NAP Comboni Lay Missionary Program from Madison, Wis. During this time of formation in LaGrange Park, Ill., the Comboni community welcomes him and prays for his discernment. Here is a reflection from Adam.

“When we encounter God our perceptions change and we are changed. How we understand our world and how we live in the world are shaped by that experience. When I was studying as a physicist I had such an encounter that transformed my perception of reality. I saw that creation was knit together fundamentally by love. Nothing at all is required of us to earn this love.

“This encounter was relational and invites me to seek solidarity with all of creation. Though loved by God we are certainly no better than our poorest brother or sister. In fact, out of great compassion God chooses to take the lowest place. Therefore, he is more visible in the suffering and abandoned. He leaves the cathedrals of the wealthy and incarnates in the dung heap. And so I find myself desiring solidarity and simplicity with the poor of the world to be closer to God.

“I know that nothing is required of me to earn God’s love. I also know that I am imperfect and fallible. But maybe in serving for three years as a missionary in service and solidarity with the poor I can make one small step in the right direction. And perhaps in reaching out to others in service both I and those I meet will be witnesses to God’s love and be changed and transformed.” *Source: October News from Comboni Missionaries - NAP, October 17, 2013 release. Visit online at [www.combonimissionaries.org](http://www.combonimissionaries.org)*



# Advent Prayer Retreat Day

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Led by Msgr. Bernard Powers**

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)



The season of Advent is more than just trimming a tree and buying presents. The true nature of Christmas calls us to prayer and celebration at the Lord's coming and our own salvation. This will be a day to reflect on the meaning of Advent and Christmas through prayer. Reconciliation will also be offered. Join us in celebrating God's wonderful love for us all in the best gift of all – GOD'S SON.

To register,  
contact

Kathy McCarty

**270-229-0206**

kathy.mccarty@  
maplemount.org



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

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

## Join us for a Women's Retreat

**Saint Thérèse of Lisieux**

**March 21-23, 2014**

*Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU*



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, "the Little Flower," was one of the most popular saints of the 20th century. Her spirituality of "the Little Way" reminds Christians that holiness does not require extraordinary deeds, lofty theology or mystical phenomena. Rather, Thérèse's ideal of holiness is faithful and loving attention to the ordinary circumstances and people of our daily lives. Retreatants will reflect on and pray with Saint Thérèse by looking at her family life, her experience of Carmelite life, her "Little Way" and her experience of dying and the promise of eternity.



*Sister Cheryl*

*Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch Sunday.*

*Fee: \$180 for residents or \$130 for commuters.*

*A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Sister Ann McGrew: 270-229-0200.*

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206 • kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org  
Find a brochure online at [www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org) under Conference & Retreat Center



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

## Centro Latino Celebrates 20th Birthday Party!

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro is twenty years old! It began as the Centro Latino in

Stanley in 1993, and has grown vivaciously as a Diocesan office was created, with Patti Gutierrez as director. Other Centers were added in other parts of the diocese, and Luis Aju followed Patti. Mexican Sisters came, Mexican priests were encardened in the Diocese, each for a period of time, and the ministry grew and was greatly blessed. (Padre Carmelo is still with us in Bowling Green.)

The celebration consisted in a Mass in the Cathedral in Owensboro, on Saturday, Nov. 16. Bishop William Medley and Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith joined the priests and deacons who attended. It was a Reunion of a Beautifully Diverse Family, and an opportunity to celebrate the great variety of cultures in our Diocese.

A fiesta followed in the parish hall of Sts. Joseph and Paul with fabulous Mexican food as well as a great table of American (and other national) potluck!

Look for more pictures and story about this celebration in the January, 2014 Western Kentucky Catholic.



### Sr. Helen Prejean

Author of *Dead Man Walking*

December 5, 2013 7:00 PM  
Louisville Free Public Library  
301 York St., Louisville, KY 40203  
Free and open to the public  
Must obtain tickets through  
[www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)



December 6, 2013 6:30 PM  
St. Peter's Church  
125 Barr St., Lexington, KY 40507  
Free and open to the public

For information about abolishing the death penalty in KY, please visit:

[www.kcadp.org](http://www.kcadp.org)

Connect with us on Facebook or  
Twitter

[www.facebook.com/KCADPKY](http://www.facebook.com/KCADPKY)  
[www.twitter.com/kcadp](http://www.twitter.com/kcadp)





## “The Cure for the Common Core”

by **Leisa Schulz, Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Louisville**

“Catholic Schools Raise the Standards” was the 2013 Catholic Schools Week theme. This theme supports the recent launch of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Elementary and Secondary Schools that ensure the effective operation and responsible governance for Catholic schools across the country, thus promoting high academic standards and Catholic identity. The logo designed for the week illustrates a chart of steady growth culminating in the highest achievement of all, a cross representing the faith that underscores all Catholic education.

In addition to adhering to the standards and expectations of church law, Catholic schools voluntarily operate under many additional sets of standards in the United States – accreditation associations, federal, state, and local regulations, etc.

The Common Core State Standards, developed by the nation’s governors and education commissioners, establishes a single set of educational standards for students in kindergarten through grade 12 in mathematics and English language arts. To date, the majority of states have voluntarily adopted these standards, which emphasize college and workforce readiness. Some of the notable shifts in mathematics with the common core standards include:

- Directing content and curriculum strongly where the standards focus.
- Coherence – think across grades and link to major topics within grades.
- Rigor--in major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application.

Some of the notable shifts in English-language arts with the common core standards include:

- Build knowledge through increased use of content-rich nonfiction.
- Use evidence cited from both literary and informational text to ground reading, writing, and speaking.
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic language.

The standards establish what students need to learn, but they do not dictate how teachers should teach. Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of students in their classrooms. Catho-

lic schools across the country recognize the need to continually increase the rigor of academic programs, and the common core standards complement that philosophy. At the same time, however, the standards that inform Catholic education also must ensure that faith formation is integrated throughout Catholic schools’ curricula and programs.

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), through the Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative (CCCII), has developed and disseminated frameworks, guidelines, and resource guides that will assist local Catholic educators in infusing Catholic values, and principles of social teaching into all subjects and integrating the Catholic worldview and culture into curriculum and instructional design, using the common core standards.

The CCCII project is not about Catholic identity; it is about how we teach with Catholic identity. Catholic identity elements include a Catholic world view, culture and tradition, gospel values, Church social teachings, and moral/ethical dimensions. The CCCII project strives to legitimately integrate these elements while ensuring the rigor demanded by the common core standards. As Catholic educators look at the common core standards, develop curriculum to meet those standards, and implement units as part of the curriculum, they will do so through a lens of Catholic identity.

The CCCII project is designed to provide Catholic school teachers with the tools and resources they need to give life to the common core standards within a Catholic school environment. More information about the CCCII project can be found at [www.cccii-online.org](http://www.cccii-online.org). The outcomes for the CCCII project include:

- Create/agree on the unit structure and build a template for use by teachers.
- Outline and narrate the process for developing school level and grade level units based on the common core standards and infused with Catholic identity elements.
- Identify 12 English language arts topics, themes, and concepts per grade level.
- Identify lots of resources to connect Catholic identity elements with each of the topics.
- Develop 103 exemplars—full infused units—for each grade level, using

topics identified.

NCEA also sponsored a series of regional workshops across the United States in the summer of 2013 where teacher teams came together to become familiar with the process and work together to create units for their schools.

NCEA recently offered a webinar for Catholic school educators entitled, “The Cure for the Common Core,” which acknowledged the challenges of implementing the common core standards and offered practical suggestions to teachers to begin implementation. In addition, the webinar identified the existing strengths and attributes of Catholic school cultures, which will contribute to their meeting and exceeding the standards. They are:

- God is the beginning and end of all human existence.
- Christ is the foundation of who we are and is at the heart of all we do and teach.
- Education is essentially a moral endeavor.
- Parents are the primary educators of their children.
- The subject of education is the student.
- Teaching is an intimate communication between souls.
- Decisions are best made locally.


Catholic schools raise the standards, and in the Catholic dioceses of Kentucky, our diverse communities of schools, each with its own unique history, spirit, and tradition, prepare our graduates to live their faith as maturing adults and provide Christian leadership for Church and society.

## Immigration Reform Postponed Until 2014 at Earliest

Despite ongoing efforts to highlight the need for a more fair and just immigration system, it appears that a legislative push to pass immigration reform will be delayed until 2014 at the earliest.

In his weekly press conference on Nov. 13, 2013, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) said that while the House majority would continue to discuss moving forward with step-by-step reform components, they were unwilling to negotiate over the comprehensive bill passed by the Senate over the summer.

He did leave the door open, however, to letting individual bills advance after Congress returns in January 2014. If



### Christmas and New Year's Camp!

**When:** December 29th through January 1st

**Where:** Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

**Who:** High school students (8th – 12th grade)

**Cost:** Only \$75

Come celebrate Christmas and New Year's, meet up with old friends and make new ones. Celebrate the Sacraments, do all the camp activities, learn about our faith, go sledding (if there's snow), watch movies, praise and worship, folk dance, Adoration and so much more! Download the Camp LIFE registration forms off of the Camps Link on our website [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org) fill them out and send them in. You'll need to bring clothes-warm clothes for outdoor activities, sleeping bag or sheets for a single bed, towels, toiletries, a gift of \$5 or less (the sillier the better!!!) and guys bring a two liter drink and ladies bring a bag of snacks to share! Start the year off right; we can't wait to see you there! If you have any other questions or need additional information, please contact our office at 270.781.2466. Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp-Faith, fun & friends!

reform does not happen in early 2014, the upcoming election could postpone movement until 2015, or, pending the results of the mid-term elections, after the 2016 elections.

Because the window of opportunity for potential action could be so small, Catholic Charities USA encourages you to stay alert for opportunities to weigh in on this issue. Your voice is critically important in raising the profile of this important issue that affects so many searching for a better life.

For more information, please contact Lucrecia Cobbs, Sr. Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs, at [lcobbs@catholiccharitiesusa.org](mailto:lcobbs@catholiccharitiesusa.org)



## “I Have Found Him Whom I Love with All My Heart”

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - On October 19, 2013 Sister Mary Andrea Niehaus, C.P. made her profession of vows here before God in the presence of Bishop William F. Medley and the Passionist Nuns of the Monastery of Saint Joseph.

Sister Mary Andrea said, “To the honor of God, I, Sister Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, firmly resolve to consecrate myself more intimately to Him and to follow Christ more closely. In the presence of the community of this Monastery of St. Joseph, a part of the Institute of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus and a sign of the universal Church, and in your hands, Reverend Mother Catherine Marie, I vow to promote devotion to and grateful remembrance of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, and to express it in my style of life. I also vow chastity, poverty, obedience, and to live in enclosure perpetually, according to the Rule and Constitutions of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

“I promise to lead a life of love, together with you, my Sisters, “called within the Church to be a sign of the love of Jesus Crucified for the Father and for mankind.”

“May the grace of the Holy Spirit,



**Sr. Mary Andrea stood before Bishop William Medley for the canonical examination of her intentions before she pronounced her final vows. Seminarian Nick Higdon assisted Bishop Medley.**

the intercession of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary and of St. Paul of the Cross, and your charity, my Sisters, sustain my weakness, and strengthen me in what I have promised by vow.

“Help Your servant, Lord. With trust in the word of Your Gospel, she has given You her faith.”

The superior, Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann, C.P. responded: “By the authority entrusted to me, I accept your vows in the name of



**Sister Mary Andrea, at right, knelt before Passionist Superior Mother Catherine Marie, left, who accepted Sister Mary Andrea's vows in the name of the Church for the Institute of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Sister John Mary Read, C.P., Assistant Superior, held the microphone at back right, and Sister Mary Agnes Higgs, C.P. First Councilor, at back left, witnessed the profession of vows.**



**In the traditional monastic ritual during the singing of the Litany of the Saints, Sr. Mary Andrea falls prostrate before the altar, and is covered with a funeral pall, the symbol of dying to herself that she may rise a new person in Christ. In this ancient ritual, there is rich Paschal symbolism of death and resurrection. When the pall is removed, the religious “rises up” to pronounce her religious vows, an intense participation in the covenant of baptism.**



**Sister Mary Andrea, signed the profession formula at the altar as her Passionist Sisters and the Mass Assembly sang “My Soul Rejoices.” Mother Catherine Marie, left, and Sister John Mary, right, witnessed the signing.**

the Church for the Institute of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ. I commend you earnestly to God that you may fulfill your dedication which is linked with this Eucharistic Sacrifice.”

Sr. Mary Andrea then went to the altar for the signing of the profession formula, which was left on the altar for the remainder of the Mass. Bishop Medley then prayed the ancient Consecration of Virgins over Sr. Mary Andrea who knelt before the altar. Next, Sister Andrea was presented with the

Please see Final Profession at Passionist Monastery, page 13





Sister Mary Andrea wore a Crown of Thorns and shouldered a Cross as Bishop Medley offered words of thankful congratulations following her profession of vows on October 19, 2013. Mel Howard photos

Cross and Crown of Thorns, a symbolic expression of her Passionist dedication to God. Then Sr. Mary Andrea exchanged the Sign of Peace with the Celebrants, her immediate family, and her Passionist Sisters.

Later, during a solemn blessing, Bishop Medley prayed for Sister Mary Andrea, "God inspires all holy desires and brings them to fulfillment. May He protect you always by His grace, so that you may fulfill the duties of your vocation with a faithful heart."

After the Mass, all proceeded to visiting rooms in the monastery for refreshments, photos, and greeting one another as the Niehaus and Steckler families who had prepared the food shared special moments with their beloved new Bride of Christ, Sister Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, her Passionist Sisters and friends and family present for this remarkable day.

In the Liturgy Aid for the Mass, Sister Andrea shared her story of how God inspired her arrival at this day in her life with this statement:

**"The Lord has done great things!"**

Please see **Final Profession at Passionist Monastery** on page 14



Mother Catherine Marie reached her arms to Sister Mary Andrea in welcome and thanksgiving to God after the Presentation of the Cross and Crown during the Sign of Peace.



Sr. Mary Andrea turned to give the Sign of Peace to her Sisters in community who walk with her on her pilgrimage through life.



Dave and Carol Niehaus of Newburgh, IN, posed for a family photo with their ten children. First row, left to right: Bridget, Melanie (Kern), Sr. Mary Andrea, Theresa, Emily; second row, left to right: Dan, Chris, Gary, Mike, Rob. Photo by Christie Swanson.



Sr. Cecilia Maria Wynn, left, and Sr. Rose Marie Schoppe playing the recessional after the closing hymn of the Mass.



“Indeed, the Lord has done great things! What else can I say on this day for which I have so longed? When I entered St Joseph’s Monastery 9 years ago, this day seemed so far off!

“What is it about this day that makes it something for which I have longed? Today, I give myself totally to my Spouse, Jesus Crucified, **perpetually!** (In a certain sense, I can even say, “until death do we meet.”) He has chosen me and called me. Therefore, I am able to respond to Him, giving myself to Him totally. I choose to live grateful for His love especially as He manifested it in His Passion and Death (**Passion Vow**), and to love Him as my one true Spouse (**Chastity**). I choose to have Him as my greatest Treasure (**Poverty**), choosing to do His Will out of love for Him (**Obedience**), and to live with Him and my Sisters in Community, free from many of the distractions of the world (**Enclosure**), for “only in Him will my soul be at rest”.

“During these past months, I have been reflecting more deeply upon the many great things the Lord has done for me in bringing me to



Consecration of the Mass

this day, remembering His many graces throughout the years. I know that I could never be here without the prayers, example, and support of each one of you, especially my dear parents, and family. I am deeply grateful for all that each one of you has done in helping me to be open and responsive to God’s loving invitation. Only in Eternity will I know fully all the many graces I received through others. However, I do want to take this time to share with you one of them.

“When I was about 7 years old, my Great-grandfather Henry Steckler passed away. I do not remember much about him, except that he was a man of prayer. When I was in grade school, Mom began to pray with us children from a set of Stations of the Cross which he himself had written. Often, we would only pray one or two of the Stations each night. Knowing that this was important enough for Great-grandpa that he would even write his own meditations impacted me at a deeper level than I thought, for I now see this simple night-time Lenten practice as the start of my devotion to the Passion of Jesus, and thus of my being here today. I also believe that part of why I am here is due to Great-grandpa’s prayers for me, as well as for our entire family.

“As we pray today for the intercession of the saints, I will also be asking for the prayers of our family members who have gone before us, and I ask



Bishop William Medley accepted the gifts presented during the Offertory by Sister Mary Andrea’s Parents, Dave and Carol Niehaus, and her Godparents Rita and Dennis Lovell

for your continued prayers for me and for all those whom God is calling to priestly and/or religious life.

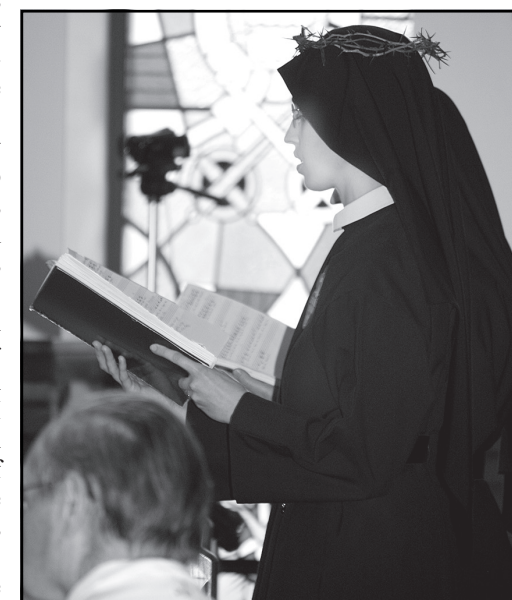
“Know that each of you is in my heart and prayers, as I thank God for the many great things He has done for me.”

- Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, C.P.

*A Message from the Liturgy Aid for October 19, 2013 Mass of Perpetual Passionist Profession of Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word.*



Sr. Mary Andrea’s cousin, Fr. Jason Gries of the Evansville diocese, is praying over Sr. Mary Andrea. Photo by Christie Swanson



Sr. Mary Andrea singing from her place in chapel at the end of Mass.



**Mass of Final Vows for Sister Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, Saint Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, Ky, October 19, 2013**

## Homily by Father Brandon Williams

With hearts of gratitude we gather together this afternoon in the presence of Our Lord and this Passionist community as family and friends to witness a beautiful wedding ceremony. Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, today is a special day for you and the Church universal, a day that you and Christ have been waiting for a long time. Today, you are espoused to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for all eternity. Today he takes possession of your heart and soul, your very life, united to Him in love and sacrifice. God desired this from the very beginning, and today His Will is fulfilled. How blessed we are to proclaim with joyful hearts "Thanks be to God!"

As sons and daughters of God, all of us share a divine, unique calling from God in our lives. God truly has a plan for each and every man and woman that has walked the face of this earth. God only wills good things for people in the unique calling he gives them. In our vocational calls from God, He desires that we know Him, love Him, and serve Him, and that through our vocations we bring His sacred presence into this world so that others may know, love, and serve Him as well. It's not just about us, it's about God and His goodness and salvation in all times and all places He so ardently desires to extend to all peoples. Each of us play a role in bringing to fruition the salvation of God throughout this world, and today we celebrate this good work that God begins through Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure to visit one on one with Sr. Mary Andrea here at the monastery. I was, and continue to be, honored that she requested that I preach today at her final vows. I wanted to know more about her, how she experienced God working in her life, and how she made her way from southern Indiana across the river to the true Holy Land of Kentucky to this Passionist monastery. Let me say, Sr. Mary Andrea, you really did choose the better part!!!

Sr. Mary Andrea, God loved you from the beginning, and he desired to

be united with you as His spouse. As is the case for most all of us when we are young, you too were searching for acceptance and a sense of belonging, trying to figure out meaning and purpose in your life, and most especially to figure out what God wanted for you in life. In your teenage years, you shared with me how God suddenly broke into your life in the midst of your searching for acceptance and belonging. God found you, didn't he Sister? God decided he would help you out a little in your discernment. But this was no small encounter with God that was about to happen to you. It was life-changing. The Greeks in today's Gospel said "We want to see Jesus." Sr. Mary Andrea, you got to see Jesus didn't you?

At a Youth 2000 retreat, while praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament atop the touring burning bush, the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, revealed Himself to you, didn't he? You could see the face of Christ upon the sacred Host in the monstrance. This happened not just once, but yet again at another Youth 2000 retreat. What an amazing experience!! This was probably one of the most intimate, sacred encounters with God you have ever experienced! He revealed Himself to you in all His goodness and glory, that He loved you with a deep, burning love, and that He wanted to move forward with you in carrying out your God-given vocation as His spouse.

I believed you, Sr. Mary Andrea, when you shared with me your beautiful encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. I knew exactly what you were talking about, for I too have had special encounters with Jesus while praying before the True Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Not too long ago while on my summer assignment in Omaha, Nebraska I was on retreat and discerning very intently my vocation to Priesthood. I too was searching for belonging and acceptance. I too was searching for meaning and purpose in my life. Most especially, I was trying to figure out God's will for my life. While I was quietly praying by myself in a huge, beautiful church before the Blessed Sacrament, I heard a voice speak to me. The voice was clear and peaceful. However, I was startled because I was the only one in that entire church! I thought I was going crazy! I looked all around to see if anyone was in the church, but there



**A beam of afternoon sunlight shines through a window of the Chapel at the Passionist Nuns Monastery directly on the Book of the Gospels held high by homilist Father Brandon Williams before the proclamation of the Gospel on October 19, 2013. Mel Howard Photo**

was not. The voice continued to speak to me, and I heard the most beautiful words: "There is no person or thing on this earth that can love you the way I desire to love you." I remember these words distinctly,

and I will always remember them. I felt such peace. Later that day while talking with my spiritual director on the retreat,

**Please see Final Profession at Passionist Monastery, page 16**



## Final Profession at Passionist Monastery *(Continued from page 15)*

we discerned together that God was reaching out to me to give me guidance and direction for my life. He wanted me to be a priest.

God really is active and moving in the lives of people today. God is real, and His grace is real. Ask almost any seminarian and he will likely tell you that he came to a greater clarity of his vocation through prayer with Christ in the Eucharist. Maybe some of us in the congregation have encountered Christ intimately in the gift of the Eucharist as well. The bottom line is that God greatly desires to give us enlightenment and grace when we need assistance in our lives. I see many young people out there in the pews this afternoon. Know and believe that you do not have to journey through this life alone. Go to God in the Eucharist, say your prayers, and he will help you in ways unimaginable, and unexpected!!

Sr. Mary Andrea, Christ made Flesh in the Eucharist became the source and summit of your life as you began to attend daily Mass on a regular basis, and as you grew in love with Him, your heart was moved to explore the Passionist nuns. You told me that you had a great respect for the Passionist way of life, united with the sufferings of Christ crucified,



**Visiting at the reception. "As Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, you will make Christ's presence known to all people who come seeking God in this holy place." Photo by Christie Swanson**

dwelling among us in the Holy Eucharist, the Word Incarnate.



### Mary's Living Rosary

Students from Mary Carrico Catholic School participate in the annual Living Rosary. Students used colored chalk to draw the Rosary beads in the school parking lot. Submitted by Chuck Green

And here we are today, gathered around you in this beautiful monastery, this your permanent home during your stay here on Earth, a place where you find true belonging, true acceptance, united with your fellow sisters in the love and mercy of Christ. It is here that you live a faithful life of solitude and service for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls scattered all around the world. As Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word, you will make Christ's presence known to all people who come seeking God in this holy place.

We know there are many lost and broken souls in the world, yearning for acceptance and belonging, to be loved and nurtured, to be healed and made whole again in the love of Christ. Your life of dedicated service and sacrifice will touch countless hearts, and following in the footsteps of your patron Saint Andrew, you too will help people to see Jesus.

I know that I speak for all of us when I say "Thank you" for answering God's call in your life and helping all of us to see Christ and to know, love and serve him with grateful hearts. To you and all the sisters here at St Joseph's monastery we are truly blessed that you are a part of our lives. Your prayer and

work which you faithfully carry out here each and every day does not go unnoticed. What a blessing and comfort it is to know that while all of us are out there working and ministering out in the world, we have you here to remember us and lift us up in prayer to God that we too may be faithful servants in our calls in life. Through your prayers and intercession, we too help people to see Christ.

Sr. Mary Andrea, as you begin your new life in Christ and are entrusted by God for the care and salvation of souls, I invite you to ponder the words of Saint Paul of the Cross and we pray that you may have the grace to bring his holy words of wisdom to fruitful completion:

"Live in such a way that all may know that you bear outwardly, as well as inwardly, the image of Christ crucified, the model of all gentleness and mercy. For if you are united inwardly with the Son of the living God, you also bear His likeness outwardly by your continual practice of heroic goodness, and especially through a patience reinforced by courage, which does not complain either secretly or in public. Conceal yourself in Jesus crucified, and hope for nothing except that all people be thoroughly converted to His will."

### SEEDS & SPROUTS

**Book Review**  
by the Saturday Morning Prayer Group

Psalms and Compassion: a Jesuit's Journey Through Cancer  
By Timothy Brown, SJ

**REVIEWED BY Fr. Shonis**



I cannot say enough good things about this book, but it is not for everyone. This book is for people who are going through cancer or any other debilitating disease. And it is not the sort of book you read as much as you pray.

The book using the King James Version of the psalms and prayer from the saints and other spiritual people leads you through the stages of cancer. It begins with diagnosis, hospitalization, recovery then restoration and healing ending with chemotherapy. Fr. Brown who compiled these prayers and psalms is himself a survivor of colon cancer.

I have given this book out to numerous people and always the reaction is that it is inspiring and peace filled. In fact, you may want to have more than one copy to be able to give it to people that you know who are dealing with cancer or some other serious disease.



# A Study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

December, 2013 17

The study of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults during this Year of Faith continued on Oct. 10 at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, with a discussion focused on Confirmation. The next session will be Nov. 14, from 10:30-12:30, which includes lunch.

At right, Regular attendees Mike McLevaine, Mariam Kavanagh (a novice with the Sisters of the Lamb of God) and Debbie Keelin listen to the discussion of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini during the Oct. 10 study of the Catechism.

In the picture at far right, Billy Hagan and Mary Hagan were attending their first study of the Catechism at the Center.



## Midwest Retreat Center Directors At Annual Fall Meeting

Members representing 12 of the Midwest Retreat Centers joined Sister Ann McGrew at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Oct. 8-9 for their annual fall gathering. Members usually meet in the spring to discuss business matters and in the fall for spiritual enrichment, Sister Ann said. At this gathering, the directors decided to talk about the founders who inspired their centers. Retreat centers from the Benedictines, Sisters of Charity, Franciscans and others are members of the group. There are 16 centers listed in the latest directory.

In the picture below, Sister Ann McGrew, back right, discusses Saint Angela Merici and her vision for the Ursuline Sisters to members of the Midwest Retreat Center Directors listening as they attend a two-day retreat Oct. 8-9 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.



## Bishop Soenneker Home

We are a Non Profit Personal Care Facility.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY:

We believe in a God loving approach to both care and everyday living . We strive to work with the family of a resident to help the resident remain close to his family here at the Bishop Soenneker Home and cherish his individual contribution of his or her specialness . We believe it is by such love and acceptance , along with good care that each resident will find their happiness here .

### ADMISSIONS:

Bishop Soenneker Home admit individuals regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, disability or religious affiliation. We pride ourselves on being concerned with the individual and personal needs of those in our care .

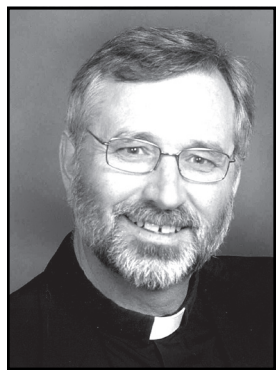
Since Bishop Soenneker Home is a non profit facility, any and all donations are tax deductible. The State allows a lot of our residents only \$40-60 dollars a month to live on. Can you imagine buying all your personal needs like clothes and shoes, pay your medicine co-pay, and try to make ends meet? All donations are entered into our Residents Trust Account and used for their personal needs. If you would like to visit our Home or contact us please call : 270-281-4881 or fax us at : 270 281-5804.

To send a much needed and appreciated donation: Bishop Soenneker Home, Resident Trust Account, 9545 Hwy. 144, Knottsville, Ky. 42366



## A Christmas Reflection

By Fr. David Mercer



I have in my file a note passed to me some years ago. It relates to a survey of the words or phrases people most like to hear said to them *with sincerity*. The

most welcomed phrase: "I love you." In second place: "You are forgiven." In third place (are you ready for this?): "Supper is ready." Those three most welcomed phrases are said to us at Christmas.

*I love you.* The Old Testament is one continuous story of God's love for the people. And yet, the people developed a longing for a messiah who could lead them to greater faithfulness in their covenant with God who loved them unconditionally.

At Christmas, God's messenger announces to shepherds and to all of us: "I come to proclaim good news to you... This day in David's city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah, and Lord."

Although the people are not always faithful in their covenant with God and each other, God never abandons them, but fulfills in Jesus the promise of unconditional love. To those shepherds long ago, to the people of every age, and to each of us as we gather for Christmas, God says: "I ... love ... you."

*You are forgiven.* At Christmas, God's messenger announces to shepherds and to all of us: "Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests." God's nature is to delight in offering us peace, the grace of forgiveness.

Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will later tell a parable about a son who turns his back on his father, runs off with his share of the family inheritance, squanders it, and then returns home to beg his father to accept him back. The father, however, never turns his back on this son and never takes his eye off the point on the horizon where his son had disappeared. When his son reappears, the father runs

to him, throws his arms around him, kisses him, and then throws a welcome-home feast of uncontained joy. God's unconditional love is expressed in God's constant readiness to throw his arms of forgiveness around us, although we do nothing to deserve it. We simply turn toward God and accept it as grace.

For whatever we have done, wherever we have been, whatever we have said, God says to each us what was said to the shepherds long ago: "You ... are ... forgiven."

*Supper is ready.* We join the shepherds in finding Jesus lying in a manger, which is a feeding trough. At Christmas, we go to Jesus to be fed. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will later feed those who come to him with his words and with bread that is blessed, broken, and given to them. After the Resurrection, Jesus' disciples will encounter him in the breaking of the bread.

We place our hope and faith in Jesus the Bread of Life and in his words of life. We might be discouraged at times, but, Sunday to Sunday, we gather on the holy ground of our churches so Jesus can feed us with the Good News of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We then turn to the altar to encounter Jesus in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. What the Gospel proclaims is made real in the Sacrament of God's love and forgiveness. Jesus Christ feeds his people: "Supper ... is ... ready."

At Christmas, we join the shepherds who go to Mary and report what they have seen and heard. St. Luke tells us that, "Mary treasured these things and reflected on them in her heart." We too take all this into our hearts.

At that first Christmas and again at this Christmas, in the proclamation of God's word and in the Sacrament at our altars, God tells us what we most want to hear: "I love you," "You are forgiven," and even "Supper is ready."

*Fr. David Mercer is pastor of St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church, 1522 McCoy Avenue, San José, CA 95130. Email: dmercer@dsj.org*

## U.S. Bishops Issue 'Special Message' on HHS Mandate at Conclusion of General Assembly

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a "Special Message" at the conclusion of their fall General Assembly, November 13, in Baltimore. USCCB regulations regarding statements and publications define a Special Message as a statement, only issued at general meetings, that the general membership considers appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time. The message was passed unanimously.

### Special Message from the Bishops of the United States

"The bishops of this country have just concluded their traditional fall meeting in Baltimore and have spent time on issues important to them and their people: help to those suffering from Typhoon Haiyan; an update on the situation in Haiti; matters of worship and teaching; service to the poor; and comprehensive immigration reform. Among those priorities is the protection of religious freedom, especially as threatened by the HHS mandate.

"Pope Francis has reminded us that "In the context of society, there is only one thing which the Church quite clearly demands: the freedom to proclaim the Gospel in its entirety, even when it runs counter to the world, even when it goes against the tide."

"We stand together as pastors charged with proclaiming the Gospel in its entirety. That Gospel calls us to feed the poor, heal the sick, and educate the young, and in so doing witness to our faith in its fullness. Our great ministries of service and our clergy, religious sisters and brothers, and lay faithful, especially those involved in Church apostolates, strive to answer this call every day, and the Constitution and the law protect our freedom to do so.

"Yet with its coercive HHS mandate, the government is refusing to uphold its obligation to respect the rights of religious believers. Beginning in March 2012, in United for Religious Freedom, we identified three basic problems with the HHS mandate: it establishes a false architecture of religious liberty that excludes our ministries and so reduces freedom of religion to freedom of worship; it compels our ministries to participate in providing employees with abortifacient

drugs and devices, sterilization, and contraception, which violates our deeply-held beliefs; and it compels our faithful people in business to act against our teachings, failing to provide them any exemption at all.

"Despite our repeated efforts to work and dialogue toward a solution, those problems remain. Not only does the mandate undermine our ministries' ability to witness to our faith, which is their core mission, but the penalties it imposes also lay a great burden on those ministries, threatening their very ability to survive and to serve the many who rely on their care.

"The current impasse is all the more frustrating because the Catholic Church has long been a leading provider of, and advocate for, accessible, life-affirming health care. We would have preferred to spend these recent past years working toward this shared goal instead of resisting this intrusion into our religious liberty. We have been forced to devote time and resources to a conflict we did not start nor seek.

"As the government's implementation of the mandate against us approaches, we bishops stand united in our resolve to resist this heavy burden and protect our religious freedom. Even as each bishop struggles to address the mandate, together we are striving to develop alternate avenues of response to this difficult situation. We seek to answer the Gospel call to serve our neighbors, meet our obligation to provide our people with just health insurance, protect our religious freedom, and not be coerced to violate our consciences. We remain grateful for the unity we share in this endeavor with Americans of all other faiths, and even with those of no faith at all. It is our hope that our ministries and lay faithful will be able to continue providing insurance in a manner consistent with the faith of our Church. We will continue our efforts in Congress and especially with the promising initiatives in the courts to protect the religious freedom that ensures our ability to fulfill the Gospel by serving the common good.

"This resolve is particularly providential on this feast of the patroness of immigrants, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was a brave woman who brought the full vigor of her deep religious faith to the service of the sick, the poor, children, the elderly, and the immigrant. We count on her intercession, as united we obey the command of Jesus to serve the least of our brothers and sisters."



# "Your Life is Not About You"

By Very Rev. Robert Barron



Time Magazine's recent cover story "The Childfree Life" has generated a good deal of controversy and commentary. The photo that graces the cover of the edition pretty much sums up

the argument: a young, fit couple lounge languidly on a beach and gaze up at the camera with blissful smiles—and no child anywhere in sight. What the editors want us to accept is that this scenario is not just increasingly a fact in our country, but that it is morally acceptable as well, a lifestyle choice that some people legitimately make. Whereas in one phase of the feminist movement, "having it all" meant that a woman should be able to both pursue a career and raise a family, now it apparently means a relationship and a career without the crushing encumbrance of annoying, expensive, and demanding children.

There is no question that childlessness is on the rise in the United States. Our birthrate is the lowest in recorded history, surpassing even the crash in reproduction that followed the economic crash of the 1930's. We have not yet reached the drastic levels found in Europe (in Italy, for example, one in four women never give birth), but childlessness has risen in our country across all ethnic and racial groups, even those that have traditionally put a particular premium on large families. What is behind this phenomenon? The article's author spoke to a variety of women who had decided not to have children and found a number of different reasons for their decision. Some said that they simply never experienced the desire for children; others said that their careers were so satisfying to them that they couldn't imagine taking on the responsibility of raising children; still others argued that in an era when bringing up a child costs upward of \$250,000, they simply couldn't afford to have even one baby; and the comedian Margaret Cho admitted, bluntly enough, "Babies scare me more than anything." A researcher at the London School of Economics weighed in to say that there is a tight correlation between intelligence and childlessness: the

smarter you are, it appears, the less likely you are to have children!

In accord with the tenor of our time, those who have opted out of the children game paint themselves, of course, as victims. They are persecuted, they say, by a culture that remains relentlessly baby-obsessed and, in the words of one of the interviewees, "oppressively family-centric." Patricia O'Laughlin, a Los Angeles-based psychotherapist, specializes in helping women cope with the crushing expectations of a society that expects them to reproduce. As an act of resistance, many childless couples have banded together for mutual support. One such group in Nashville comes together for activities such as "zip-lining, canoeing, and a monthly dinner the foodie couple in the group organizes." One of their members, Andrea Reynolds, was quoted as saying, "We can do anything we want, so why wouldn't we?"

What particularly struck me in this article was that none of the people interviewed ever moved outside of the ambit of his or her private desire. Some people, it seems, are into children, and others aren't, just as some people like baseball and others prefer football. No childless couple would insist that every couple remain childless, and they would expect the same tolerance to be accorded to them from the other side. But never, in these discussions, was reference made to values that present themselves in their sheer objectivity to the subject, values that make a demand on freedom. Rather, the individual will was consistently construed as sovereign and self-disposing.

And this represents a sea change in cultural orientation. Up until very recent times, the decision whether or not to have children would never have been simply "up to the individual." Rather, the individual choice



**"It is finally with relief and a burst of joy that we realize that our lives are not about us."**

**A family shared a solemn moment together as families who gathered for Family Day at Gasper River Catholic Camp and Retreat Center in September, 2013 went to different places on the grounds to pray the rosary or engage in a family activity together. Each one in the family contributed to the experience. Ken Rasp Photo**

would have been situated in the context of a whole series of values that properly condition and shape the will: family, neighborhood, society, culture, the human race, nature, and ultimately, God. We can see this so clearly in the initiation rituals of primal peoples and in the formation of young people in practically every culture on the planet until the modern period. Having children was about carrying on the family name and tradition; it was about contributing to the strength and integrity of one's society; it was about perpetuating the great adventure of the human race; it was a participation in the dynamisms of nature itself. And finally, it was about cooperating with God's desire that life flourish: "And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it" (Gen. 9:7). None of this is meant to be crushing to the will, but liberating. When these great values present themselves to our freedom, we are drawn out beyond ourselves and

integrated into great realities that expand us and make us more alive.

It is finally with relief and a burst of joy that we realize that our lives are not about us. Traditionally, having children was one of the primary means by which this shift in consciousness took place. That increasingly this liberation is forestalled and that people are finding themselves locked in the cold space of what they sovereignly choose, I find rather sad.

*Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the Rector/President of Mundelein Seminary. He is the creator of the award-winning documentary series, "Catholicism." Word on Fire has just released Father Barron's new documentary, "Catholicism: The New Evangelization." Learn more at [www.WordonFire.org](http://www.WordonFire.org)*



## 7th Grade TIP Qualifiers from Holy Name School

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

**Photo at right: Front row, l to r: Abby Haley, Hannah Sheffer, Katie Ivie, Jyotirmayi Jadhav, Alyssa Gatten, Lauren Eyre, Ashley Fulkerson; Middle row, l to r: Lucas Humel, Cameron Luce, Hayden Sauer, Jonathan Hauke, Alex Wheeler, Kaden Rock, Will Gibson; Back row, l to r: Davis Howell, Hayden Krampe, Jackson Deep, Luke Johnson, Corey Benson. Submitted by Connie McFarland, HNS Guidance Counselor**



### In The Footsteps of Saint Peter

Bishop Medley talks to third and fourth graders at Mary Carrico School about his recent trip to the Holy Land. The students really enjoyed asking the Bishop questions about the trip.



### Honoring Our Nation's Military Veterans

Christ the King celebrated Veteran's Day by inviting Madisonville's Police Chief to speak to our school. Chief Wade Williams served in the United States Army for 16 years. He discussed the importance of exercising our right to vote. Our Veterans served selflessly for us maintained our American rights and freedoms. We thank him and all veterans. Photo submitted by Julie Gilette

### Eucharistic Adoration

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

2nd Sunday of the month



The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite you to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on the second Sunday of the month to pray for vocations. Our next date is **Sunday, Dec. 8.**

Eucharistic Adoration is from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the **Motherhouse Chapel** (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56) and concludes with evening prayer.

If you are unable to be present, please join us in prayer for this special intention.

**Adoration will continue on the second Sunday of each month in 2014.**



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## Marriage In Christ



**Father Richard Meredith**

*Editor's Note: Father Richard Meredith, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville, Ky., contributed this sixth article in a series about Christian Marriage's role in the New Evangelization. He wrote this about the series, "I tell people that I personally believe the "New Evangelization" will be borne by spouses upholding the truth of Christian Marriage, or it will not occur at all. I teach that Catholics need to know and be able to speak our doctrine on the Sacrament of Marriage. I believe that if I(we) do not teach loudly and clearly, the cultural tidal wave to sweep the sacrament away will be nigh overwhelming.*

*"In every respect my ideal is to speak the truth with love."*

This section of the Catechism on Marriage is all about what I have called "domestic ecclesiality." It offers the most basic of sketches, looking at family and household from the real potential of grace in Christ. Probably today we are more familiar with the brokenness of marriage and family than with an experience of it as an explicit community of faith and church life. The vision given in the Catechism is not automatically fulfilled just by the members of a household being Christian or Catholic. Members must both intend and invest themselves in the work of grace. This means personal sacrifice of giving and welcoming. It helps if the spouses bring the intention into their marriage and home from the beginning and share the vision and its working with their children. The faith can and should be celebrated day by day and season by season. Daily kindness and daily mercy, bringing to mind that Christ is present among the family members, transforms lives. No other element of the Church community can supply for or replace this work of the domestic church. Christ, who healed the lame and raised the dead, offers to and can indeed redeem the failures, omissions, and injuries suffered in our formative years. Every scar and wound can be a path to glory, but it is by way of the Cross. Still the New Testament and Catechism vision of

the Christian household and congregation is not a fantasy. It is attainable by way of God's grace and our intentional living of the sacraments of faith at home, in the Eucharistic community, and in the broader world..

### VI. THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

**1655** Christ chose to be born and



grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. the Church is nothing other than "the family of God." From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers "together with all [their] household." When they were converted, they desired that "their whole household" should also be saved. These families who became believers were islands of Christian life in an unbelieving world.

**1656** In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. For this reason the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica*. It is in the bosom of the family that parents are "by word and

example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each child, fostering with special care any religious vocation."

**1657** It is here that the father of the family, the mother, children, and all members of the family exercise the priesthood

of the baptized in a privileged way "by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, and self-denial and active charity." Thus the home is the first school of Christian life and "a school for human enrichment." Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous - even repeated - forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life.

**1658** We must also remember the great number of single persons who, because of the particular circumstances in which they have to live - often not of their choosing - are especially close to Jesus' heart and

therefore deserve the special affection and active solicitude of the Church, especially of pastors. Many remain without a human family often due to conditions of poverty. Some live their situation in the spirit of the Beatitudes, serving God and neighbor in exemplary fashion. The doors of homes, the "domestic churches," and of the great family which is the Church must be open to all of them. "No one is without a family in this world: the Church is a home and family for everyone, especially those who 'labor and are heavy laden.'"

### IN BRIEF

**1659** St. Paul said: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church.... This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church" (Eph

5:25, 32).

**1660** The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children. Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament (cf CIC, can. 1055 # 1; cf. GS 48 # 1).

**1661** The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life (cf Council of Trent: DS 1799).

**1662** Marriage is based on the consent of the contracting parties, that is, on their will to give themselves, each to the other, mutually and definitively, in order to live a covenant of faithful and fruitful love.

**1663** Since marriage establishes the couple in a public state of life in the Church, it is fitting that its celebration be public, in the framework of a liturgical celebration, before the priest (or a witness authorized by the Church), the witnesses, and the assembly of the faithful.

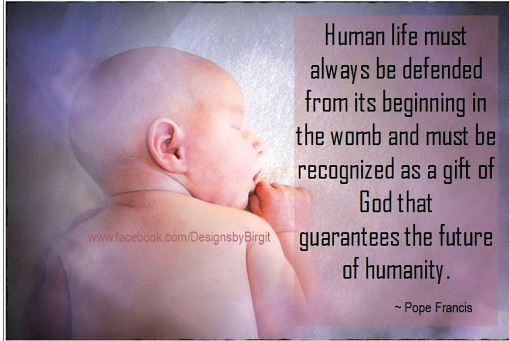
**1664** Unity, indissolubility, and openness to fertility are essential to marriage. Polygamy is incompatible with the unity of marriage; divorce separates what God has joined together; the refusal of fertility turns married life away from its "supreme gift," the child (GS 50 # 1).

**1665** The remarriage of persons divorced from a living, lawful spouse contravenes the plan and law of God as taught by Christ. They are not separated from the Church, but they cannot receive Eucharistic communion. They will lead Christian lives especially by educating their children in the faith.

**1666** The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.



# Abortion Takes a Human Life - What More Needs to Be Said?



Human life must always be defended from its beginning in the womb and must be recognized as a gift of God that guarantees the future of humanity.

~ Pope Francis

By Birgit Jones


Sometimes the big picture is lost because we're too focused on details. An example of this becomes apparent when taking a long, hard look at the issue of abortion. The first step in clearly traversing our pro-life journey is a basic biological fact. The unborn are human. Even the pro-abortion side rarely argues against this biological fact these days. Furthermore, we know it's correct to call such an unborn human a baby. It's not a puppy or kitten or fledgling — she's a baby because she's not an adult — yet. She does, however, contain everything needed to become a fully developed adult someday. Mincing our words at how we describe these little ones (fetuses) only serves to offer yet another micro-debatable topic.

Lately, we've heard a lot of discussion about the unborn's ability to feel pain. But is abortion only repugnant because the baby feels pain during the abortion procedure? Or is there a much simpler reason to feel revulsion at the act of killing what was, just moments ago alive? Any delving into minutia creates yet another point of contention, and thus a distraction from the big picture. A child was present in the womb. She had the God-given right to live but it was taken from her without any consideration of her opinion in the matter.

There has also been much talk about exceptions, when it comes to the pro-life issue. Some say that it's okay to compromise, that babies born with defects, conceived by rape, or who endanger their mother's health are somehow less worthy of being saved. They are expendable. Yet science proves she's a baby - every time, . With that point being validly provable, no other circumstances can

be validly argued to the contrary. Once there's a life there, that life has God-given rights. It follows, then, that her humanity should be the prominent consideration. Anything else is weighing the worth of one life against another.

So, instead of getting lost in the details - gestational age, circumstances of conception, or physical characteristics - shouldn't we simply recognize the big picture? The humanity of the unborn, now irrefutably proven by science, is all the consideration we need to apply. The pro-life debate becomes simplified, in that the little details don't serve as distracting detours or points of contention. If we stick to the fact that the baby is indeed a human being, there is no need to argue and nitpick; doing so only distracts and sidelines the point. Maybe we just need to stick to the biology of life. A baby — even in her mother's womb — is a human being. The fact that she feels pain, was conceived in less than ideal circumstances, and may not be the perfect specimen has absolutely nothing to do with her right to life. Her right to life began when she began, at fertilization. And that right to life was given to her from God Himself!



**Saint Peter of Antioch  
Annual Christmas  
Bazaar**

**December 8, 2013**

at the  
**Knights of Columbus Hall in Waverly, Kentucky**

**Serving will begin at 11:00 am**

Ham Crockpot Potatoes Green Beans Applesauce Hot Roll Dessert Drink


**Live Auction Items**

UK Basketball Tickets Handmade Quilts Agricultural  
Items Wreaths Afghans Gifts for HIM Christmas  
Items and Much Much More!

**Silent Auction Items      Homemade Baked Goodies**

Comp 1st your kids and grandchildren visit with Santa Claus

Door Prizes will be given out every 30 minutes



Come and enjoy a wonderful afternoon full of great fellowship & fun



Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year!



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SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 8 February 2014

The 3rd annual Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky will be held at Brescia University in Owensboro, Kentucky on Saturday 8 February 2014

Please join us in the quest to enrich our faith.

We are sponsoring a Catholic Men's Conference to address such issues as:

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

For information, look online at <http://kycatholic.com>.

Join us for Catholic Catechism

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center is offering an opportunity to study the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

- Dec. 5
- Jan. 9
- Feb. 13
- March 13

Study the  
Catechism  
with us!

One Thursday each month

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Each session is \$10 (includes lunch)

A program book is \$5

**LEADERS:** Sister Ann McGrew, OSU & Sister Marietta Wethington, OSU

To register, call  
Kathy McCarty  
(270) 229-0206  
or email  
[kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)



Mount Saint Joseph  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



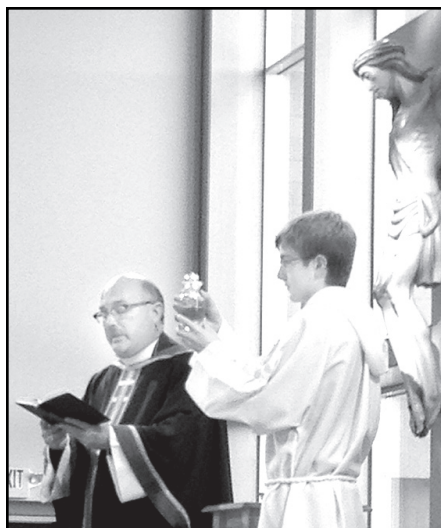
## Anointing of the Sick at St. Thomas More



Fr. Pat Reynolds lays hand on the head of Jim Shumaker.



Jim Shumaker's hands (above) and head (at right) are anointed with the blessed Oil of the Sick.



Fr. Pat with the Blessed Oil of the Sick as he prays before anointing parishioners.



PADUCAH, Ky. - Priests Fr. J Patrick Reynolds and Fr. Brandon Williams provided The Rite of Anointing at all Masses on November 9 & 10 at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. Scripture was used to awaken the faith of the sick, family members, and friends to pray to God for the strength of his Holy Spirit.

The priest laid his hands on the head of each person and then anointed with the blessed Oil of the Sick, the forehead and hands. He accompanied these acts with the words, "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up". All of those of advanced age and weak in condition, and those dealing with an impending surgery or chronic illness were offered the opportunity to be anointed around the altar in the worship area. The priests also went directly to those who could not easily come forward and stand.

## Blacktopping St Charles Cemetery Road



**T**he Ursuline Sisters help people become who God intends them to be.

**Have you considered religious life as a sister?**

Perhaps you know Sister Rose Karen Johnson, who witnesses God's love and support in Muhlenberg County, an area where Catholics are often misunderstood.

The Ursuline mission is to proclaim Jesus through education and Christian formation in the spirit of our founder, Saint Angela Merici.

Ask Sister Rose Karen about her life as an Ursuline Sister. To learn more, visit [www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org).



Contact Sister Martha Keller, Director of Vocation Ministry:  
270-229-4104  
[martha.keller@maplemount.org](mailto:martha.keller@maplemount.org)



**Ursuline Sisters**  
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LIVERMORE, Ky. - After some rain delays Asphalt Services from Beaver Dam got the road completely paved Tuesday. We collected \$15,000 in donations. Blacktopping the entire road cost \$17,000 so we only had to borrow \$2,000 from the Church's General Fund. Wow! I am attaching some pics of the road. It looks great.

Thanks to Judy Fee for keeping up with the donations and being available to write the check. Thanks to John, Mark, Kevin, and Dwight Logsdon and Sonny Renfrow for the technical assistance and preparation of the road for blacktopping. A super THANKS for the generous donations from family members of those in the cemetery and St. Charles Church members.

Please visit the cemetery and see how great the road looks!

*Submitted with sincere gratitude by Marsha Logsdon PhD*





### Be A Hero, Not A Zero

During the week of October 21-25, Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School is celebrating Red Ribbon Week. As shown in this picture, students dress according to the theme “Be a Hero, not a Zero” where they were able to dress as their favorite super hero or real life hero. Front row – Paige Crabtree, Jacob Howard, Aaron Wright, EJ Stauffer, Evie Turner, Siencana Valdez, Nolan Huff, Dalton Millay; Back row – Georgia Howard, Brian Winchell, Aaron Howard. Photo by Kim Rydecki



**Students of the Month** Mary Carrico Catholic School September students of the month enjoyed ice-cream with principal Chuck Green, at back. Students are: Front row L to R: Carter Crisp and Ella McManaway; Second row L to R: Jayden Lanham, Jenna McDowell, Cole Haycraft, Gavin Howard. MCCS Photo



### That Trinity High School Charm!

Trinity High School in Whitesville captured its third straight 12 District volleyball championship with a 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 26-24) win over Edmonson County Wednesday, October 23. Madi Perez had 18 kills, five blocks and seven digs. Katie Wathen had 10 kills. Katelyn Coomes had six kills. In this picture are Back row from left to right: Richard Armes, Nathan Huff, Abby Booker, Haley Payne, Madison Buck, Mollie Beatty, Lauren Beyke, Adam Huff, Katelyn Coomes, Shelby Aud, Alanna Wathen, Shannon Payne, and Tony Hamilton; Front row from left to right: Katie Wathen, Madi Perez, Liza Howard, Hannah Armes, and Shawna Aud. Photo by Kim Rydecki



### Lady Aces Volleyball Sweeps Ohio County in Three Games

The Owensboro Catholic Lady Aces volleyball team had little trouble dispatching Ohio County in their first round regional matchup on Tuesday night. The Aces won 25-8, 25-11, and 25-10! Next up for the Lady Aces will be the regional host school Breckenridge County - game time is set for 7:30 on Wednesday, October 30. OCS Photo





PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary Middle Student Council sponsored Red Ribbon Week at St. Mary Middle School October 23-31. To kick off the week, they invited a speaker from the Paducah Police Department, Officer Morgan, to speak to the middle school student body. Her presentation was on drug awareness about the different types of illegal drugs and the dangers of illegal drugs to the body. This was followed by a question and answer session. Council members designed "Say no to drugs" posters to hang throughout the middle school hallways.

Each student was asked to sign a poster as their pledge to be drug free. The students wore red and donated a dollar towards helping a local community organization that helps people that suffer with drug addiction.

Moderators for the student council are Mrs. Sue Fletcher and Mrs. Kathy Kneer.



### RECOGNITION

A student of the month lunch at Owensboro Catholic High School was held during Red Ribbon Week, October 23. Two students from each class are honored, (1 girl and 1 guy). OCHS Principal, Mr. Gates Settle, above, hands pizza to Sam Staples (freshman). Also pictured are Sara Ross (junior) and Michael McCarthy (junior). Monica Hughes (freshman) and Bretnea Turner (Social Studies Teacher) look on. Other students honored but not pictured were Liza Brown and Corey Burdette, seniors, Bobby Boswell and Jamie Thompson, sophomores. The students are nominated and chosen by teachers and staff here at OCHS and they have lunch with Mr. Settle monthly. Photo by Bev Howard



### Life is a Journey-Travel it Drug-Free

Students at Owensboro Catholic High School celebrated the beginning of Red Ribbon Week on October 21, under a banner in the school's front entrance with a theme of "Life is a Journey-Travel it Drug-Free." In the picture from left to right: Madeline Rafferty, Leslie Wilson, Nick Jackson, Brittany Clouse, Tre Perkins, Lesley Harney, Jack Padgett, Hannah Hagan, Emily Hoesli, Brooke Raley and Haley James. The release of the red balloons signified the beginning of the week. There were many activities during the week with a daily theme which centered around the main theme about how drugs and alcohol influence the choices made each day. The week culminated with students dressing as their dream job which is made possible by living a drug and alcohol free life. Throughout the week, we remembered Enrique Camareno and his fight against drugs while trying to keep his dream alive of a drug free world. Photo by Bev Howard





## FIAT - The Journey to Natural Family Planning

From LolekProductions, "The New Faces of Catholic Media,"  
Video uploaded to YouTube on Feb 10, 2012

There are several ways to give God the power that is His-to be the Guide, Nurturer, Refuge and Creator of life. A couple invites God to their wedding to bless their commitment, and to hold them in love.

God is invited into their homes through daily prayer, love and sacrifice. God is invited into the bedroom when a couple gives of themselves totally, in the most vulnerable and beautiful way -- body, heart and soul.



Trust is difficult, especially when speaking of something as life-changing as having children. With all the implications, just a few of which include financial and emotional, only a fool would run headlong into sex blindly. But that is not an accurate depiction of the teaching.

Through the design of a woman's cycle, through her natural phases of fertility, through the natural attraction between

a couple during a fertile time, through the firm and faithful decision of the couple to abstain from sex if they must, Natural Family Planning gives couples the ability to achieve or avoid pregnancy at a percentage of 99.5%. It is with that trust that a couple invites the Lord to put His seal on their life.

He is allowed His right as Creator and Designer. In their stunning trust, both husband and wife exude the beauty of Mary.

Fiat comes from the Latin. It means -- "Let it be," and it is a part of her response to angel who told her God's plan for the salvation of the world.

Visit us on the web at <http://lolekproductions.com>. Producer: Fr. Joshua McCarty; Creative Director: Melissa Hardin. Special thanks to Lee Roessler Band for their song: "Let Love." We love it. Visit them on the web at <http://leeroesslermusic.com/>

Thanks also to Mary Reding and John Sohl for their audio editing and marketing help. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=zR11OE-J3mBk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=zR11OE-J3mBk), 2,491 hits as of October 29, 2013.

## Catholic High Senior Attends Leaders and Entrepreneurs Forum in Orlando, FL



OWENSBORO, Ky. - Kelsey Conkright from The First Tee of Owensboro has been selected to attend Auntie Anne's Leaders & Entrepreneurs Forum in Orlando, Fla. Oct. 31 through Nov. 3. Conkright will join 50 participants of The First Tee, ages 13-17, to participate in this national event.

The three-day forum, held at the Walt Disney World Resort, introduced participants to interactive sessions covering career development and community leadership from executives and franchise partners of Auntie Anne's - the world's largest hand-rolled and freshly-baked soft pretzel chain. They will also learn about the franchising business model and what it is like to own and operate an Auntie Anne's store.

Kelsey, 18, is a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School and is the daughter of Kevin and Tracy Conkright. Active at her chapter for 8 years, she participates in many First Tee activities and coaches younger participants at the chapter. She also volunteers in the community with Owensboro Youth Council, serves as secretary for National Honor Society, mentors local elementary school students, and serves as a Eucharistic Minister and server at Our Lady of Lourdes. She also works as Music Minister at St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

"The First Tee of Owensboro is very excited to have Kelsey selected for this honor. She is an outstanding participant and has been a great leader in our chapter," commented Charles Whelan, Executive Director, The First Tee of Owensboro.

From <http://www.thefirstteeowensboro.org>: "OUR FOCUS: To impact the lives of young people in Western Kentucky and Southern Indiana by providing a learning facility and educational programs that promote character-development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf."

## Christ the King Youth Choir Members Chosen for Kentucky Choral Directors All State Honor Choir

Five members of the Christ the King, Madisonville choir performed with 200 other 5th & 6th grade students from across Kentucky on November 2, 2013 at Bowling Green's SKYPAC theatre. Students spent two days working with a nationally recognized children's choir clinician, Tom Shelton and performed along with two other Honors Choirs at the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center. All



**Christ the King Youth Choir Members (left to right): Meagan Carver, Karis Littlepage, Kaitlyn Shoulders, Jillian Bauer, Lauren Adkins. Submitted by Patty Brown**

five students who were chosen are members of Christ the King Church Youth Choir.



# Saint Ann Catholic School Preschool Enjoyed I-pedal for I-Pads

December, 2013 27

The Western Kentucky Catholic asked Mr. Luis Aju, Director of Hispanic Ministries for our diocese to describe his reflection upon viewing this photograph and its caption at right.

Mr. Aju said, "I think that this picture and its story shows that children are readily accepted as a part of the community. Even a small activity such as riding a "Big Wheel" to help raise money for a Catholic school has its importance for the whole community.

"Why? Well, first, it is the Parents' responsibility to educate their children, and then to teach the young respect for the people and places where God is present.

"Every parish, every church is a holy place ... for example, an ambo where the Word of God is proclaimed represents Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments and talked with God. The altar represents the Mount of

Calvary where Jesus was crucified.

"Though this picture is not of a church interior, it shows young people serving the Church."

**Beth Hendrickson, Principal of Saint Ann Catholic School in Morganfield, sent this picture from a school program, "I-pedal for I-Pads" in which our preschool class participated. St Ann Preschool held a trike-a-thon event to raise money to purchase ipads for their classroom. The children enjoyed riding their tricycles around the cemetery driveway. One iPad was donated to the preschool class from a generous family who wishes to remain anonymous. These rowdy riders raised over \$1,000.00!**

**The St. Ann School's Mission states: "St. Ann School provides academic excellence in education while emphasizing the teaching of the Catholic faith to prepare students to be responsible members of families, church, and community."**



Above, Gates Settle, right, OCHS Principal and Bev Howard, OCHS Counselor, listened to their students speak about the school community.

In the picture at above left, the twenty-six eighth-grade students from Saint Ann Catholic School in Morganfield were seated in the Media Center of Owensboro Catholic High School listening to twelve OCHS students who spoke about life in their Catholic high school. The St. Ann students wondered about the UK and UofL memorabilia on the walls of the media center; they were donated by Father Ed Bradley, team chaplain for Rick Pitino's basketball teams.

At left, two St. Ann eighth grade teachers, Julie Davis and Stacey Thomas, accompanied their students.

Mel Howard photos

**SAIS** St. Ann Interparochial School

## St. Ann Catholic School Eighth Graders Visit Aces on 11-12-13

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Twenty-six 8th-graders from Saint Ann Catholic School in Morganfield, Ky. visited Owensboro Catholic High School on 11/12/13 to find out more about the school as another option for continuing their education in a Catholic environment. Twelve students from OCHS talked about their experiences at OCHS. "It's worth the drive or ride on the bus" according to Lauren Willett(freshman) and Logan Jenkins(sophomore) both of whom are from Morganfield.



## Kentucky Council Of Churches Issues Statement On Campaign Ethics

In a press release dated October 28, 2013, Marian McClure Taylor, Executive Director, Kentucky Council of Churches, of which all four Catholic dioceses are members, issued a statement concerning Campaign Ethics:

“Opening with the biblical “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor,” the Kentucky Council of Churches declared itself on campaign ethics. Meeting at the Kentucky Dam Village State Park on October 25th, delegates voted unanimously to send a message. As the Rev. Greg Alexander, the Council’s president, said, “Civil dialogue is essential to our growth as people of faith, and foundational to democracy itself. Such dialogue acknowledges that the complexity of the problems we face requires more wisdom than any one viewpoint can provide. In this statement, we offer some basic guidelines, knowing that we ourselves need to be part of the change.”

**The guidelines are addressed** to candidates for public office, the media, citizens, church leaders and religious organizations, legislative bodies and government officials, and all sectors of civil life. They were originally adopted in 1995.

The Kentucky Council of Churches’ interest in campaign ethics has been renewed by studying the topic of “Civil Dialogue.” The delegates and other church leaders gathered last week to hear from keynote speakers Renee Shaw, a producer, writer and host for Kentucky Educational Television, and Kathryn Johnson, a professor of church history and historical theology at Louisville Seminary.

Workshops explored skills and tools for dialogue, conversations among diverse Christians and between Christians and Muslims, the role of social media in affecting the tone and content of dialogue, mediation between victims and perpetrators, and lessons learned by participants in the longstanding program “The Moral Side of the News.” During an evening worship service four preachers explored the biblical injunction to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15).

The Kentucky Council of Churches, founded in 1947, unites Protestants and Catholics for the purpose of building relationships and taking actions. The Council speaks on public issues on the basis of policy statements adopted by consensus at annual assemblies. The web site is [www.kycouncil-ofchurches.org](http://www.kycouncil-ofchurches.org)

Adopted by the 48th Annual Assembly, October 27, 1995. ; Re-affirmed by vote of the 66th Annual Assembly, October 25, 2013.

*Exodus 20:16 ... “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”*

*Exodus 23:1-2 ... “You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with the wicked to act as a malicious witness. You shall not follow a majority in wrongdoing; when you bear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice...”*

As citizens and as persons of religious conviction, we believe that we are an important voice to identify, reflect on, and to share ethical concerns about the common good in our civic and political life. In recent years we have become increasingly concerned about the tenor and content of political campaigns, whether for elected office or oriented around a ballot issue. It is apparent to us that a fresh and continuing commitment to ethical principles in political life and to truth in campaign advertising is an urgent necessity in America’s civic life. Our goal, therefore, is to suggest some basic guidelines for all participants in the political processes and elections as a standard for fairness and decency.

### **WE CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT TO:**

- demonstrate personal conviction and integrity;
- be straightforward, simple, and clear about their own position;
- be willing to admit indecision on a matter, or to a change of opinion based on new information, experience, and reflection;
- identify the issues which the candidate believes need attention;
- address the issues clearly;
- avoid the use of racial, regional, and class conflicts or antagonisms;
- meet in public forums with their opponents;
- quote their opponent’s views fairly and accurately;

- disapprove of personal attacks in campaign advertising;
- speak directly and honestly to questions asked by citizens;
- make known the persons and organizations contributing financially to their campaigns.

### **WE CALL THE MEDIA TO:**

- assist the electorate in identifying the substantive and critical issues;
- promote forums and debates through the media;
- report polls and other measures of public opinion in an objective manner;
- recognize that endorsement of particular candidates is an editorial privilege and should be done with great care;
- be vigilant about differentiating between “paid political advertisements” and editorial content, perhaps by running a constant “crawl” throughout political commercial advertising, or, in other media, by making it clear that the material being presented is advertising, not news, nor the editorial policy of the media being utilized;
- report responsibly all campaign contributions;
- avoid undue polarization in reporting information about candidates and issues.

### **WE CALL THE CITIZENS TO:**

- help each other to understand the unique value of each vote;
- try to be as informed as possible prior to voting in any election;
- avoid making political decisions based on single-issues, seeing that many complex matters may be at stake; avoid making a judgment about a candidate based solely on the candidate’s public image;
- seek out a variety of sources of information about the issues and the candidates to heighten objectivity and balanced decision making regarding for whom and for what they will vote;
- seek a larger view of what actions will benefit the common good, not allowing self-interest alone to obliterate a responsibility for the well-being of all;
- broaden their understanding of “self-interest” to include the welfare of our neighbors;

- be aware of the affiliations of contributors to political campaigns, and their particular aims in providing such financial backing.

### **WE CALL UPON ALL CHURCH LEADERS AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS TO:**

- help their members understand the relationship between faith and participation in civic life;
- encourage members to see that voting is an act of discipleship similar to regular attendance at worship and stewardship of one’s finances, by assisting in voter registration and election participation;
- facilitate voter education through provision of materials such as candidate statements, voting records, questionnaire responses, instructions for voting machines and voter registration and making space available in religious facilities for public meetings;
- encourage fair and balanced presentations of all candidates and issues;
- encourage their members to be intentional in using the resources of faith in building a society which is respectful of creation and human dignity.

### **WE CALL LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO:**

- enforce existing legislative ethics and ethical campaign laws;
- continue efforts to develop legislation which will bring fairness and honesty to campaign financing;
- require that candidates publish a list of their contributors;
- consider placing time limits on campaign periods prior to elections.

### **WE CALL ON ALL SECTORS OF OUR CIVIC LIFE TO WORK TOGETHER TO**

- refuse to tolerate the use of innuendo and lies of omission in campaign activity and rhetoric;
- keep the focus on the public policy issues and the candidates’ positions on these issues. The candidates’ promises, opinions, and past record are more important than their personal lives.



# Daughters Of Isabella Hosted A Living Rosary On October 20 To Celebrate The Month Of The Rosary

December, 2013 29

PADUCAH, Ky. - The St. Francis de Sales Circle 258 of Daughters of Isabella hosted a living Rosary on October 20 to celebrate the month of the Rosary at St. John's the Evangelist Church. DofI invited area Catholic organizations to share in the prayer. The Paducah Sierra Club, Knights of Columbus Council 1058, St. Thomas More Couples in Christ, Sisters of Service, and Daughters of Isabella lined up around the outside of St. John's The Evangelist Church and each prayed a decade of the Rosary with Fr. Tom Buckman, the chaplain for Daughters of Isabella officiating. The Sisters of Service, sponsored by Daughters of Isabella, assisted in serving and cleaning up the potluck following.

The Daughters of Isabella is an international Catholic Women's organization whose motto is Unity, Friend-



St. Thomas More Couples in Christ.

ship, and Charity. The St. Francis de Sales Circle 258 serves the Paducah Deanery. The ladies of DofI donate to charities such as Hope Unlimited, Child Watch, and Christmas food baskets. The DofI prays as a group and individually for the world, our country, and individuals



Sisters of Service and Daughters of Isabella. Submitted Photos

with directed prayers, the Rosary, and Novenas.

The Daughters of Isabella hosted their annual Spaghetti Dinner on November 10 at the Knights of Columbus Hall located on Jefferson Street in Paducah. Dinner includes the Frank Bosh's famous spaghetti sauce, salad, bread, drink, and dessert.

## Texas Law Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children Went Into Effect October 29, 2013

### Kentucky Doesn't Protect

**Pain-Capable Unborn Children**  
WASHINGTON – On October 29, 2013 a law went into effect that protects unborn children in Texas who are capable of feeling pain. The Texas bill, HB 2, was signed by Governor Perry on July 18, 2013. Despite efforts to derail other elements of HB 2, the central portion protecting pain-capable unborn children was never challenged.

That central portion of HB 2, protecting pain-capable unborn children is based on the Pain Capable-Unborn Child Protection Act, drafted by National Right

to Life. Texas will now join nine other states in prohibiting the excruciating deaths of the smallest members of our human family.

“While attacking smaller pieces of HB 2, opponents of pro-life legislation never challenged the protections on pain-capable children; even our opponents realize this legislation, and the extensive science behind it, is sound,” said Mary Spaulding Balch, J.D., National Right to Life director of state legislation. “Unborn children and their mothers deserve better than the violence of abortion.”

Forty years ago, the unborn child

virtually did not exist in medicine. “Fetal medicine” was an oxymoron. Our understanding of pain was so primitive that even a newborn undergoing surgery did so without anesthesia! They received only a paralytic to keep them still. Today, pain-capable unborn children are treated as patients. And now Texas joins nine other states in protecting them from being killed by abortion.

“The American public understands the importance of this law. Pain-capable unborn children should be protected from the violent act of a dismemberment abortion. Sadly, 40 states still allow it. We

continue to work for a day when mothers and their children are fully protected and respected by our laws and our society,” added Balch.

According to the National Right To Life website, as of April 30, 2013, the nine U.S. States that protect Pain-Capable Unborn Children are: Nebraska, Kansas (pending legislation) Idaho, Oklahoma, Alabama, Georgia (pending legislation), Louisiana, Arkansas, North Dakota. *Source: <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/stateleg/2013NRLCPainFSwithMap.pdf>*

## Saints Joseph and Paul Parishioners Receive Parish's Stewardship Awards Nov. 9

**Theresa McCarty, 3rd grade teacher, received the Sr. Agnes Catherine Williams OSU Stewardship Award this past Saturday! This award was presented to Theresa for outstanding ministry to our Youth and their Catholic Formation, at Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish. OCS Photo**



### Night Under The Stars Awards & Winners

“...those who received awards at our 2013 Night Under the Stars. These parish members were nominated by their parishioners and then selected for the award through your Stewardship Team. If you see one this years recipients, please take a moment to congratulate them and thank them for helping us to live our mission as “We give our hearts to God and our talents to His people.” + Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor

- Msgr. Peter Braun Award - Parish Unity - Lee Franey
- Sr. Agnes Catherine Spalding, OSU - Catholic Teaching - Theresa McCarty
- Fr. Howard Tucker - Pastoral Care of the Sick - Pat O'Bryan-Tucker
- Sts. Joseph and Paul Youth Award - Leadership among our Youth - Kalyn Frizzell
- Sr. Francis Mary Wilhelm, OSU - Outreach to the Hispanic Community - Sr. Fran Wilhelm OSU
- Sts Joseph and Paul Stewardship - Stewardship As a Way of Life Award - John Cecil

Reprinted from Nov. 17, 2013 Saints Joseph and Paul Church Parsh Bulletin.



## Marian Congress Offers Opportunity to Learn About Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Larena Lawson

**BOWLING GREEN, Ky.** - This year's Marian Congress, sponsored by the Marian Shrine Committee, was held on Sunday, October 27th at St. Joseph Parish here, also home to the Owensboro Diocesan Marian Shrine.

The guest speaker was newly ordained Father Julio Barrera, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro and Associate Pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville. Father Julio was invited to speak about Our Lady of Guadalupe. Being a native of Mexico, devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe has always been close and dear to his heart. He said that there was no possible way to share all the things that are known about the Lady of Guadalupe Event because there was so much to learn and hear of it.

His talk was entitled "Our Lady of Guadalupe, A Bridge of Hope," in which he shared some of the amazing facts about the appearance of Our Lady in the year 1531 to now, Saint Juan Diego. After speaking, he showed an interesting video that further explained more about the details of the event and what has been discovered throughout the years by Church officials and scientists who have closely studied the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe



**Father Julio Barrera speaking at The Marian Congress, a half a day event which involves a presentation on a Marian topic, a Marian Procession, and Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. From Mary we learn to surrender to God's Will in all things. Photo by Kelly Hedges**

*From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!* -Pope John Paul II.

that was miraculously embedded on the tilma of Juan Diego that now hangs above the altar, unchanged after 482 years, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Father Julio has been there many times, and even served Masses there as a seminary, so he is quite familiar with the well visited place of pilgrimage which draws thousands of people from all over the world each year. It was good to have his personal accounts shared with the people who attended the Congress.

Father Julio brought with him, as a visual aid to his presentation, an actual piece of agave cloth similar to the one that Juan Diego wore when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to him, the one she left her image on. His family was able to send it to him from Mexico. They obtained it from the same area in which Juan Diego would have lived. The cloth is coarse and rough in texture, somewhat like burlap, but with a loose open weave of small squares. It was interesting to note that it would have been a very difficult piece of cloth to hold a painted image. Upon learning more from Father Julio about the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and from watching the video, one can better understand why the long surviving

icon is seen as being miraculous, as has all of the many millions of conversions to the faith that resulted from it seem to be.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation was informative and thought provoking. Father Julio declared that it was his desire to share the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe with many people. In his home country it is very widespread, but many here may not know of it yet. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron Saint of the Americas and her feast day is celebrated on December 12th. Many parishes in the diocese have special celebrations to honor her on this day.

The Marian Congress also included a Crowning of Mary to begin the afternoon, the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the talk and video, a candlelit Rosary Procession led by the Knights of Columbus into St. Joseph's church which was followed by Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity to go to Confession. The day offered a time to reflect upon the significance of Our Blessed Mother in the Catholic faith and how she points us to Jesus, who was the center of her life.

the Church as a vehicle of God's love and mercy in the world.

By being an inviting presence, seeking unity and understanding with others, we can help open hearts and minds to the pro-life message about the dignity of each person. When we use our words at the service of charity and truth, we enrich the life of the Church from within and give a positive, authentic witness to the rest of the world. Let us move forward in humble hope, allowing God's grace to work through us in the course of everyday conversations and interactions. On several levels, the words you use may save a life.



*Kimberly Baker is a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops' pro-life activities, please visit [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).*

## Life Issues Forum: The Words You Use May Save a Life

By Kimberly Baker, October 25, 2013

In a society that generally advocates tolerance as a means of respect for all people, we ironically see an increase in harsh criticism, cruel jokes, and arbitrary judgments that violate people's dignity. The media provide lurid and sensational coverage of crime, scandal, and celebrity gossip. The movie industry has been a powerful vehicle in shaping public opinion on religion and sexuality, alternately mocking or perverting these subjects for shock value and very rarely treating them with reverence. Political discourse frequently involves personal attacks and denigrating remarks. Stories of cyber-bullying as well as bullying incidents in schools have gained more attention in recent years, and we even hear of

young people turning to suicide to escape the pain of cruel words.

Pope Francis has recently made several references to the subject of gossip and how wounding it is, highlighting instead the importance of using our words to bring unity. In a very simple and direct way, he says: "Let each one ask him- or herself today, 'do I increase harmony in my family, in my parish, in my community or am I a gossip. Am I a cause of division or embarrassment?' .... Let us ask the Lord: Lord, grant that we may be more and more united, never to be instruments of division; enable us to commit ourselves, as the beautiful Franciscan prayer says, to sowing love where there is hatred; where there is injury, pardon; and union where there is discord..." (Sept.

25, 2013).

We know the power of words to build up or tear down another person. Words can contribute to a person seeing himself as worthless and unlovable, or can destroy a person's reputation. But the power of words can also give a person hope in a difficult situation, or help someone see the dignity he possesses.

As Catholics, we bear the sign of Christ wherever we go, and we each represent his Church to the world. Our knowledge of the power of words can make us great messengers of the Gospel of Life. There is much good we can do by using our words to bring healing, to build up, to give others hope, and to actively look for solutions to problems in whatever situation we find ourselves in. By doing so, we more effectively reflect



# The True Cost of Christmas Bargains

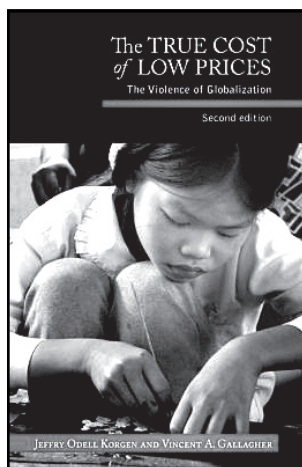
Jeffry Odell Korgen, author with Vincent A. Gallagher of the recently published Orbis book *The True Cost of Low Prices: The Violence of Globalization*, offers some practical suggestions for following the Gospel when buying gifts this holiday season.

**By Jeffry Odell Korgen**

We exchange gifts at Christmas, recalling the gifts the Magi brought the infant Jesus, in gratitude for the gift of the Savior and with thanks for the gift of one another. In this time of giving, we are to take to heart Jesus' own guidance on salvation, offered in Matthew 25:31–46. In this parable, Christ depicts the Last Judgment, when humanity will be separated into two groups: the righteous sheep and the accursed goats. Those who responded to poor and vulnerable people by meeting their needs will be rewarded, for "just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me." Those who did not will be thrown "into the eternal fire" for "just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

In short, Jesus is saying how we treat poor and vulnerable people is how we treat God, and at the Last Judgment, we ultimately will be held accountable. During Advent, as we surf the Internet's bargains and trudge through the nation's malls and "big box" stores, we would do well to keep this parable in mind, considering the true cost of our Christmas purchases.

This Christmas when you buy a Disney toy, for example, like a Mickey Mouse stuffed animal or a toddler's princess dress, note not only how affordable it is, but also consider the price workers have paid to bring you this product. Young, mostly female, Chinese employees at the Dream International Factory in Shenzhen, China, earn just \$1.39 an hour making Disney stuffed animals and those adorable dresses for 93 to 117 hours a week, with forced overtime, according to a December 2012 report from the Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights. New workers are given a production goal of 1,000 pieces per eight-hour shift. If the worker meets this goal, management raises it to 1,500 pieces. If not, the worker must continue working overtime without pay until reaching this goal. Dorm rooms where workers live are wretched: dirty, crowded with eight to a room and without bathrooms. Workers bathe with a bucket and sponge. Those who complain are told to "Get lost!"



As horrifying as this example is, the ethical dilemmas that globalization presents are not easy. Extreme poverty has indeed decreased in most countries with a large sweatshop sector. In Bangladesh alone, notorious for its sweatshop economy and routine disasters, like the Hameem Factory fire of 2010 in which 29 people died and the Rana Plaza Factory building collapse in April of this year that claimed 1,129 lives, extreme poverty dropped from 34 percent of the population to 25 percent from 2000 to 2005, and then to 17.6 percent in 2010.

But must workers in Bangladesh perish in factory fires behind locked doors or work in buildings teetering toward collapse? Do wages need to be a fraction of what it takes to raise a family? Is it essential to work almost a week's worth of forced overtime to move from extreme poverty to ordinary poverty? How did we get to this point, a century after the outcry over the 146 deaths in the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City brought American workers basic rights and protections?

During the 1960s and 1970s, corporations in the United States relocated many unionized manufacturing jobs from northern states to southern ones to avoid unions and pay lower wages. As transportation costs declined and trade agreements removed tariffs, companies relocated these jobs farther south to Mexico and Central America in the 1980s and 1990s. Now, they are increasingly moving from Latin America to Asia. Recently, some factories have moved from Asia to Africa.

To keep prices low and stay competitive, companies constantly work to lower their costs. If they don't, their profits will

go down, and with them, stock values. In laying off American workers and relocating to other countries, many businesses can legally avoid paying living wages, use child labor, require long hours, ignore hazards, pay women less than men, repress unions and dodge environmental protections. As a result, 98 percent of all clothing now purchased in the United States is made by people in developing nations, and 80 percent of toys are made in China.

The Church has been a key player in action to reform the global sweatshop economy. Christian commitments to the rights of workers are as old as the Hebrew Scriptures, dating to the Lord's intervention in a labor dispute between the Israelites and Pharaoh during the Egyptian captivity (Exodus 5–11), resulting in 10 plagues against the Egyptians. Worker justice has also figured prominently in the



papal encyclicals of the last century, summarized in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The catechism states that we bring dignity to work because we are made in the image of God, and this dignity must be respected—through salary and benefits, working conditions and proper time for rest. The catechism emphasizes the importance of both rights and responsibilities. In the sphere of work, these include: the right to work, the responsibility to work, the right to a just wage, the right to strike, and the responsibility of owners and managers for "the economic and ecological effects" of business operations and to pay for social security programs.

How do the Church and the faithful put these principles into action? The last two decades have produced a number of hopeful vehicles. Catholic teaching on worker justice produced a generation of Catholic students who demanded an end

to sweatshops in the 1990s, participating in the development of the first apparel "codes of conduct." In recent years, students at 180 universities convinced their schools to join the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC), an organization that monitors factories where collegiate apparel is manufactured.

The WRC blows the whistle on abuses, but it also publicly praises manufacturers who treat workers ethically and pay a living wage, such as Knights Apparel, whose Dominican Republic factory is a model of a justly managed apparel factory, with a unionized workforce and wages three times the national average.

Another sign of hope is the growth of the Fair Trade movement in the 1990s. Now, people interested in purchasing certified ethically produced items like handicrafts, soccer balls, chocolate and wine can do so by buying Fair Trade-certified products. Most are agricultural commodities such as coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea and bananas, but we are beginning to see new, manufactured products like the above items, as the "sweat free" and Fair Trade movements converge.

Another outcome of movements against sweatshops is the growth of "shareholder activism" in which people who own stock in global corporations exercise their rights as shareholders to influence the direction of their companies. The Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), for example, brings the collective investing power of the faith community to bear in supply chain (sweatshops) discussions with corporations.

Its Catholic members include several major healthcare systems, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, the Maryknoll Sisters, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Brothers Retirement Services, Mercy Investment Services, and over a score of religious orders.

Efforts like the WRC, the ICCR's work on supply chains and Fair Trade underscore the importance of developing informed and active consumers. Awareness is the first step in living our faith in the marketplace. This Christmas, let our purchases reflect our Christian values and how we would treat the infant Jesus himself. Because the true cost of Christmas bargains may be nothing less than our souls.

*Source: Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers*



## St. Joseph, Leitchfield, Fall Fellowship Event

LEITCHFIELD, Ky. - October 8, 2013- After months of planning, almost forty parishioners boarded a Toby Tours coach bus for an autumn tour of The Holy Land of Kentucky. Our first stop was the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, the first cathedral west of the Alleghenies. The guided tour was very enlightening about the expansive Bardstown Diocese during the frontier period of our nation. Our St. Joseph parish in Leitchfield was gifted one of the beautiful oil paintings (which proudly hangs in our sanctuary) from the Proto-Cathedral. Several of our parishioners attended St. Joseph's boarding school in Bardstown years ago.

We then traveled to Springfield where we enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch at Mordecai's restaurant on Main Street. Leaving Springfield, we traveled through the bucolic beauty of Washington

and Marion Counties to arrive at Maker's Mark Distillery. Everyone enjoyed learning about the history of making bourbon whisky and several people took a turn at dipping their purchases in the infamous red wax. The tour also included a tasting session of four whisky's in various stages of production.

Our final stop was the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Ky. After viewing the video and touring the gift shop where purchases were made of the famous cheeses, fudge, and fruit cakes, the pilgrims of St. Joseph walked in silence (well, most of us) to the chapel to experience Vespers.

The area has so many deeply-rooted Catholic sites that we didn't have time to see such as the Loretto Motherhouse, St. Catharine Convent, and the Nazareth Motherhouse that a trip to those locales may be a future adventure.



About forty Saint Joseph parishioners gathered in front of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky. Oct. 8, 2013 during an autumn tour of The "Little Holy Land" of Kentucky. Photo and story submitted by Karen Taylor

## Immaculate Parish Youth Enjoyed Wendall Foster Center Fall Fun Day

As a continuation of the summer Mission trip, Immaculate Parish youth enjoyed a day with the residents of Wendall Foster Center. This summer, 12 students from Immaculate participated in Young Neighbor's in Action in Chicago by working the week at Misericordia, a home for those with developmental disabilities. On

October 9th, the youth had a Fall Fun day at Wendall Foster, another residence for those with developmental disabilities. Nachos and hot apple cider were served at the event. Bingo was played by the residents with prizes donated by the youth. Quite a crowd came out for the Fall Fun Day!

**Photos at Right:** As a continuation of the summer Mission trip, Immaculate Parish youth enjoyed a day with the residents of Wendall Foster Center. This summer, 12 students from Immaculate participated in Young Neighbor's in Action in Chicago by working the week at Misericordia, a home for those with developmental disabilities. On October 9th, the youth had a Fall Fun day at Wendall Foster. Nachos and hot apple cider were served at the event. Bingo was played by the residents with prizes donated by the youth.

**Lower Photo:** Immaculate's Youth Group Cemetery Walk. Articles and photos submitted by Diane Willis

## Cemetery Walk

Fifteen teens from Immaculate Parish commemorated All Saints Day and All Souls Day by a Cemetery Prayer Walk on Sunday, November 3, 2013. Led by youth minister Katie Goebel, the teens and adults processed to Elmwood Cemetery from Carmel Home. Jane and Bob Borders and Shannon Gleason then led the group with prayers and reflections at seven different gravesites. At the first grave of a one-day old baby, the group prayed for all departed children as well as those children in danger of death includ-

ing the unborn. The next prayer station was a combined gravesite of a mother and a father where the group prayed for their parents and for those who have lost a parent. Then the group processed to a soldier's grave where they prayed for all those lost in battle and all those currently serving in the armed forces. From there they walked to the grave of a civic leader, a man involved in the city council, where they prayed for all government and civic leaders. The group ended the prayer walk at the gravesite of a teenager where they prayed for themselves and their friends to have the grace to glorify God in their



lives always. The prayer walk concluded with a closing prayer at the cemetery gate for all the faithful departed. To warm up, the group walked back to Carmel Home and enjoyed hot chocolate, having fun and rejoicing in the resurrection of Our Lord



# Team AMS Finishes the Race in 38th Marine Corps Marathon

December, 2013 33

*Group of 24 runners raises more than \$26,000 for Military Archdiocese*

Submitted by Taylor Henry

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A team of 24 runners representing the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) in the 38th Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) on Sunday raised more than \$26,000 for the archdiocese, easily surpassing its \$25,000 goal; and even though the race is over, donations will continue to be taken through November 3. To donate, visit [www.milarch.org/runforams](http://www.milarch.org/runforams).

Team AMS comprised women and men including archdiocesan staffers,



**Staff of the Archdiocese of Washington Vocations Office who walked in the 10K part of the 38th Marine Corps Marathon. Karen Jarboe Photo**

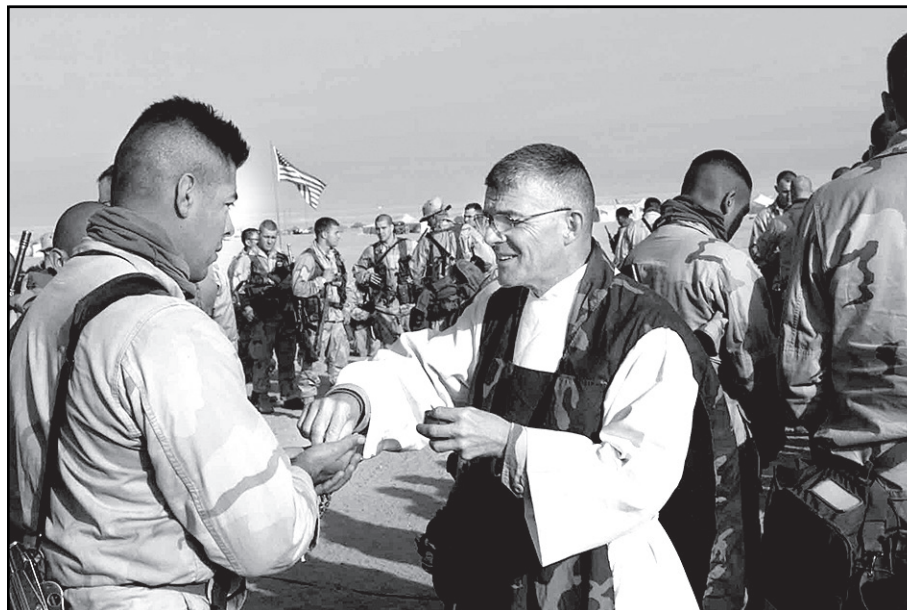
military personnel, priest-chaplains and seminarians enrolled in the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, a partnership between the AMS and participating local dioceses and religious orders to support priestly vocations. Seminarian James Hickman led the way, finishing the 26.2-mile race in two hours, fifty-seven minutes and ten seconds (2:57:10).

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services, expressed his appreciation for the team effort, particularly the role of staffers who organized and coordinated participation.

Archbishop Broglio said: "Heartfelt congratulations are due to Team AMS for successfully completing the Marine Corps Marathon! Special mention is due to Jamie Hickman for being so swift-footed and to Matthew Lockwood for coordinating so many activities. Mary Lavin, Angela McDuffie, Carol Nettina, and Meg Betit did wonders with their efforts in raising enthusiasm, attending to hundreds of details, and making everything a success. To all of Team AMS, I congratulate you for surpassing your goal."



**Office of Diocesan Catholic Schools Administrative Assistant Karen Jarboe and her husband Gary attended the 38th Marine Corps Marathon. Walking in the 10K portion here are Matt Vaughn, center, their son Adam Jarboe, and Gary Jarboe bringing up the rear at right. Karen Jarboe Photo**



**Father William Devine distributes communion to U.S. Marines on deployment in the Middle East. AMS Photo**

The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) was created as an independent archdiocese by Pope John Paul II in 1985 as the only Catholic jurisdiction responsible for endorsing and granting faculties for priests to serve as chaplains in the U.S. military and VA Medical Centers.

AMS-endorsed priests serve at more than 220 U.S. military installations in 29 countries, making the AMS the nation's only global archdiocese. AMS-en-

dorsed priests also serve at 153 VA Medical Centers throughout the U.S. The AMS service population also includes American Catholic civilians working for the federal government in 134 countries, but currently, due to limited resources, the AMS cannot adequately serve this population. Worldwide, an estimated 1.8 million Catholics depend on the AMS to meet their spiritual and sacramental needs.

For more information on the Archdiocese for the Military Services, visit



**AMS Assistant Director of Development Matthew Lockwood runs in Marine Corps Marathon Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013 in Washington, D.C. AMS Photo**

[www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org), the only official website for Catholics in the military and for the Cause of Father Vincent Capodanno, MM.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services counts on the generosity of U.S. Catholics with a November 9-10 special collection in parishes nationwide to support pastoral services for Catholics in the U.S. armed forces and VA Medical Centers.

American Catholics have a unique opportunity to support Catholic ministry in the U.S. military and Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers by giving to a first-ever, special collection at Sunday Mass. Parishes across the country took up the special collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) the weekend of Nov. 9-10.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved the national special collection last year, to be taken up voluntarily once every three years beginning this fall. The approval came as a result of a varium presented in 2009 by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, then Archbishop of Denver and signed by all of the Bishops of the Province, as well as, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services.



## Pilgrims of Hope Funds Microbusinesses for the Poor in Jamaica

Submitted by Suzanne Rose

Pilgrims of Hope is a lay association of the faithful founded in 2009 to serve the poor and assist the Church in Jamaica. During the 4 years of its existence, Pilgrims of Hope has established a relationship with the people of Jamaica by working with a committee of priests appointed by Bishop Neil Tiedemann to address the Social Justice needs of the Mandeville Diocese.

Bishop Tiedemann has welcomed the efforts of Pilgrims of Hope to provide the Jamaican people with the means to become self-sufficient. This frees the missionaries working in his diocese to focus on the spiritual needs of the people. Increasing the abilities of the people to provide for themselves will contribute to the goal of parishes becoming self-supporting. And as parishes move towards supporting themselves, the Church in Jamaica can achieve greater stability and growth. Pilgrims of Hope is grateful to be a part of this work.

And we are grateful to have the opportunity to be the conduit through which generous people in the Diocese of Owensboro have funded micro-business start-ups for people living and worshiping in 13 parishes of the Mandeville Diocese. The pastors of parishes in Mandeville work with their St. Vincent de Paul societies to identify parishioners with the greatest need. Then, they send to Pilgrims of Hope a list of businesses, including itemized costs for start-up, that each of these parishioners wishes to start in order to feed themselves and send their children to school.

Since the Diocese of Mandeville spreads across the agricultural heartland of Jamaica, the microbusiness start-ups Pilgrims of Hope funds are primarily agricultural. Pilgrims of Hope provides many families with the necessary supplies to raise broiler chickens. Chickens can be sold and the profits reinvested within six weeks of start-up. Pilgrims of Hope visited several families a year after funding their broiler chicken start-up. (A broiler chicken start-up includes 25 broiler chicks, 6 weeks of feed, a coop, vitamins, and feeding/water dishes.) The Summers family, living in Greenvale, worked together and became so successful with their chicken business that they diversified and invested in 2 pigs. At the



**Pilgrims of Hope set up a chicken coop for a family of 13, including an invalid daughter suffering from AIDS.**

time of our visit, this family had a herd of 50 pigs in addition to their chicken business. A single mother, living in a very rough area – the Red Bank district of Dunsinane, doubled her coop capacity and created enough turnover in her broiler chicken business to pay basic school tuition for her two children.

Recent recipients of microbusiness funding include Frade Witter, a 61 year old woman, who cares for a family of six, including two disabled children. Pilgrims of Hope provided her with funds to raise melons and tomatoes for market. Her start-up included funds for fertilizer and pesticide to ensure a successful crop. Everlyne Heath is a 73 year old widow, struggling to support a family of 5. Pilgrims of Hope provided her with 2 pigs and pig feed. Ms. Witter and Ms. Heath are parishioners at St. Vincent Strambi Parish in Bull Savannah. Pilgrims of Hope also funded the purchase of 2 pigs, feed, and materials for a pig pen for Jude Gardner, a parishioner of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish in Black River and father of 10 children. Olive Rhodern, also a parishioner of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, lives with and cares for her grandchildren; Pilgrims of Hope funded the purchase of 50 chicks, feed, and a coop to help her earn the money she needs to feed, clothe, and educate her grandchildren.

These are a few of the 24 micro-business start-ups that Pilgrims of Hope has provided the people of Jamaica, who struggle for the basic necessities of life. And just a fraction of the need identified. The waiting list of applicants is long, and every applicant is worthy of a chance to rise above the poverty in which they and their families are mired. Pilgrims of Hope



**The Summers' newly built chicken coop sits next to the family home on the precipice of a hill.**

need you, but specifically, the Jamaican people need you. If you can contribute to funding a microbusiness start-up, please send your donation to Pilgrims of Hope, c/o Jim Scott, Treasurer, P.O. Box 232, Morganfield, Ky. 42437. If you would

like to join Pilgrims of Hope in its work serving the poor, contact Suzanne Rose at [roseaerie@att.net](mailto:roseaerie@att.net) or Judy Mitchell at [j\\_mitchell@insightbb.com](mailto:j_mitchell@insightbb.com). We need your help for the Lord's work!



### Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Táelor Duncan, an 8th grade student at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School, recently won the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Pictured with Táelor are John Brame, Commander of Post 1913, and Barbara Crawley, President of the Ladies Auxiliary. This year's theme was "What Patriotism Means to Me." Submitted by Sarah Kranz

silent,  
HOLY  
night

An ADVENT Program  
presented by  
Immaculate Parish children and adults

Sunday, December 15th  
2:00pm  
Immaculate Church  
Reception following



## Happy Anniversary

### Marriage Celebrations for December- Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and Over 50 Years of Marriage

#### Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Lois Wedding, 51  
Ron & Gretta Beals, 58  
Clarence & Carmen Elder, 25  
Vincent & Lynda Reynolds, 54  
Tom & Darlene Quinn, 40

#### Christ the King, Madisonville

Robert & Floy Daugherty, 60  
Sherrell & Jeannie Calhoun, 55

#### Christ the King, Scottsville

John & Dell Hall, 58

#### Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Philip & Gigi Casino, 25  
Spencer & Ruby Chappell, 57  
David & Juanita Cheaney, 54  
Arthur & Marylon Hayden, 40  
Denny & Renee Mackey, 40  
Forrest & Mary Meuth, 52  
Robert & Betty Pritchett, 58  
Clyde & Janice Sutton, Jr., 51  
Jaime & Eve Tiu, 40  
Robert & Carlene Williams, 52

#### Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Marcia & Darrell Cassady, 40  
Larry & Anita Willoughby, 50  
Joseph & Bernice Jakub, 52  
William & Lynda Svano, 51

#### Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ralph & Martha Ashworth, 66  
Robert & Dotty Clark, 55  
Jack & Kay Steele, 52  
Odie & Martine Warren, 67

#### Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Otis A. & Judith Hicks, 50

#### Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jerry & Ellen Blandford, 56

#### Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 63

#### St. Agnes, Uniontown

Alvin & Betty Lou Borup, 55  
Brown & Willie Mae Foster, 54  
Jerry & Carole Gough, 53  
George & Martha Greenwell, 60  
Jerry & Jeanette Lee, 50  
James & Norma Bickett, 64

#### St. Ann, Morganfield

Justin & Wilma Jean Wolfe, 50  
John & Madonna Wyatt, 54  
Larry & Gail Brown, 53

#### St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Keith & Dorothy Dunker, 61

#### St. Charles, Bardwell

Leonard & Carla Estrada, 25  
Michael Lloyd & Kay Denise Thompson, 40

#### St. Charles, Livermore

David & Betty Abrams, 54

#### St. Columba, Lewisport

George & Betty Allard, 64

#### St. Edward, Fulton

Don & Rachel Cox, 60

#### St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

James Altus & Wanda Higdon, 59

#### St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Al & Karen Sevi, 40  
David & Edith Keeney, 54  
Tony & Debra Burkeen, 40  
John & Patricia English, 61

#### St. Henry, Aurora

Jerry & Edna Jones, 58

#### St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Joseph W. & Ruth Ann Higdon, 58  
Edward D. & Mary Ruth Elder, 56  
Sam & Ella Dean Hayden, 59

#### St. Joseph, Bowling Green

John & Rita Riley, 50  
Don & Imogene Poston, 63  
William & Joanne Powell, 54

#### St. Joseph, Central City

Joe & Christine Taylor, 25  
Don & Marlene Monghan, 57

#### St. Joseph, Mayfield

Sanford & Ernestine Sumner, 67

#### St. Lawrence, Philpot

Jerry & Shirley Powers, 51

#### St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Richard & Stacy Payne, 25  
Vincent & Mary Pheobe Ebelhar, 73

#### St. Leo, Murray

Phillip & Sarah Bryan, 50  
Paul & Barbara Sachse, 51  
William & Rose Elder, 25

#### St. Mary, LaCenter

David & Gladys Fraser, 54

#### St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Bud & Mildred Boarman, 69  
Charles & Linda Payne, 51  
Raymond & Emma Whistle, 61

#### St. Michael, Oak Grove

Lionel & Sue McElroy, 61

#### St. Paul, Leitchfield

Jimmie & Helen Clemons, 51

Justin & Nancy Darst, 40

William L. & Edna Drake, 67

#### St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City

Marty & Kim Lampert, 25

#### St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Jeffrey & Michelle Jones, 25

#### St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Randall & Doris Priest, 52

Bill & Brenda Monin, 51

#### St. Stephen, Cadiz

Salvador & Irene Jaso, 62  
Raymond & Roberta Ward, 55

#### St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

John & Emily McNulty, 25  
Pat & Tish Osborne, 25

Chris & Vickie Warren, 40

Arthur & Doris Schwartz, 54

Wendell & Mary Bryan Booth, 55

#### St. Thomas More, Paducah

Floyd & Bernadine Watkins, 59

Robert & Carol Crane, 60

#### St. Williams, Knottsville

Joseph & Effie Edge, 59

Joseph & Minnie Payne, 51

#### Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Philip & Annie Storm, 40

## St. Thomas More Parish Welcome Bishop Medley for Confirmation

PADUCAH, Ky. - On Sunday, October 27, 2013, 27 St. Thomas More Parish youth received the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop William Medley officiating at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The youth had participated in a series prepa-

ration classes leading up to this important day and they had an opportunity to spend time with Bishop Medley in prayer and discussion before the service. Family and friends then joined together in the Parish Hall after Mass to celebrate the special day.



Above, Pictured with Bishop Medley, Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, and Fr. Brandon Williams are: Max Allbritten, Zachary Althouse, Juan Barraza Zapata, Robert Bosh, Jesus Dos Remedios, Rece Carter, John Holtgrewe, Michael Largent, John MacCauley, Erika Maglasang, Flynn Mudd, Sara Neihoff, Terry Newcomb, Abigail Noonan, Emily Osterhaus, BriAna Thompson, Mackenzie Ulmer, Ellie Vaughn, Meredith Bruce, Justin Eckstein, Vincent Shiben, McKenzie Lynn, Mitchell Garrett, Courtney Dallas, Evan Culbertson, Madelyn Ybarzabal, and Gunner Walker. Submitted by Missy Eckenberg

At right, Bishop William Medley speaks with the 27 youth who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation.





## Our God Is A Wondrous God

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - This is a story about the Hope Unlimited Family Care Center & Medical Clinic. Hope Unlimited was started by Karin Thomas 24 years ago in Paducah, Kentucky and has recently opened another clinic in Metropolis, Illinois. I recently spent some time with Anne Bidwell, the Director of Development in the Paducah Hope Unlimited Family Center.

Anne had previously been working at UKMS public radio and realized that she felt drawn to Mission work. She wanted to work in a loving environment that was God centered. She shared these feelings with a friend who told her that Hope Unlimited was looking for a Director of Development. She knew a little about Hope Unlimited but felt that she was not really qualified to do that type of work. She was hesitant but her friend persuaded her to send in her résumé. She did this and after much worry, prayer, more worry, doubts and more prayer she came to realize that this was what God wanted her to do.

"It is so exciting," Anne said, "to be a part of God's plan to help people. He uses us to strengthen and build up individuals, families and communities. I love this place; it is a Christ-Centered Mission, non judgmental and supportive. The mornings start with an hour of prayer and Bible study," Anne explained. There are 8 full time staff members, 4 part-time staff and over 30 regular volunteers each month. Volunteers are prayer warriors, counselors, mentors, teachers, event workers, Community Thrift Store workers and office volunteers. The Hope Unlimited Family Care Center supports and empowers expecting parents, existing families and those connected to or caring for children to grow stronger through God's Word.

Karin shared this incident that happened a few weeks ago: A couple came into Hope and said they needed to talk to someone about making a donation. They were referred to the Business Manager, Mary Burchett. When she was given the check and saw the large amount, she was suddenly overcome with emotion. Her emotion was obvious and she told the couple that they were afraid that they would not be able to make their payroll for that week. She excused herself and went to tell Adia Vega, the Executive Di-



**Anne Bidwell, standing by the ultrasound machine that the Paducah Knights of Columbus donated to Hope Unlimited, an interdenominational family care center and medical clinic in Paducah, Ky. Anne Bidwell said that Hope Unlimited served some 2000 women last year and the majority of these women kept their babies or gave them up for adoption. Edie Keeney Photo**

rector, who came into the room with tears in her eyes and soon all were teary-eyed. It was obvious to all there that God was at work. He knew the need and He sent the couple to fill the need. Everyone joined in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Free and confidential services are available to anyone needing prenatal care, parenting or caring for a child under 18. These services include: walk-in pregnancy tests, the prenatal medical clinic, ultrasounds, Learn to Earn Program, baby and family supplies assistance, family strengthening classes, Bible studies, lay counseling, the Community Thrift Store, young adult development, post-abortion counseling and education and job skills training.

Anne explained, "When a woman comes to Hope Unlimited and is trying to

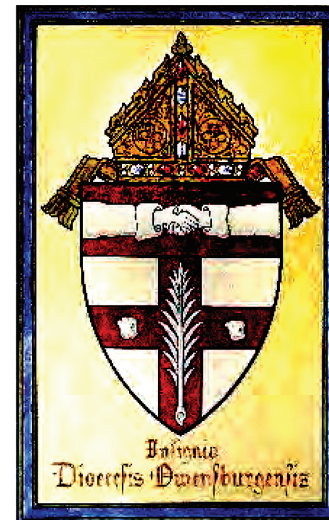
make a decision about a pregnancy. She meets with a counselor, a pregnancy test is done to confirm the pregnancy and an ultrasound is also done. Options available to her are explained and if she chooses to end the pregnancy we tell her that it is not a service that we provide nor do we refer. However we explain what will happen so that she understands what is done and how it is done. She is also told that she can come back to the Clinic no matter what she decides. Hope provides post-abortion counseling and education to help women and men overcome the adverse effects of abortion. A safe and comforting atmosphere is available for people who have had an abortion or been impacted by an abortion."

Everyone thinks in an unwanted pregnancy that the baby is the crisis but the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy are the real crises. It could be a health crisis, financial problems, relationship with family problems and/or the male involved. If the woman chooses to return she is offered classes in prenatal care, mentoring (individual and group), guidance for any difficulties affecting parents including financial, family planning, conflict resolution and parenting skill/struggles), and young adult development. The women are invited to take advantage of The Learn to Earn (LTE) program. LTE assists parents with the financial difficulties of raising a family through education and support. Parents earn points for each free class or Bible study they complete. The points are "spent" on baby essentials, clothing for the family or supplies for the home. One room contains diapers, baby food, baby care items, etc. that the women can purchase with the LTE points they have earned. The men are encouraged to participate in LTE and come to all medical appointments. A 10 week integrity-through work program is available to equip those attending to obtain and maintain employment. Hope Unlimited offers comprehensive programs that not only focus on prenatal care but programs that focus on improving total family life.

Hope Unlimited receives its funds from donations from individuals, groups, churches, and fund raising events; it receives no grants. Except for the 8 full-time and 4 part-time staff members volunteers are the mentors, teachers, the head of the Thrift Store, Prayer Warriors, Doctors and RNs, financial advisors, and, community mentors, etc. Volunteers are

always needed and are provided with any training that may be needed. Other than monetary donations, adult and child clothing, baby essentials, household items, toys, and cleaning supplies are needed in the Thrift Store and baby closet. Clerical help and help with fund raising is also needed. A much needed donation was recently received from the Paducah Knights of Columbus Councils. With the help of the National Knights of Columbus Council and a substantial discount from the manufacture, a state of the art 4-Dementional untrasound that provides a clear recognizable picture of the developing baby is in use at Hope Unlimited in Paducah.

### Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky



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

Saturday 8 February 2014  
Brescia University Science Lecture Hall  
717 Frederica St. Owensboro, KY 42301



Scan this QR code for a direct link to our website



## Red Ribbon Week at Saint Ann Catholic School

December, 2013 37



Saul Ervin, 8th grade student from St. Ann School helped to prepare soil for the planting of red tulips. Students promise to remain drug and alcohol free as they each plant a red tulip. Over 250 red tulip bulbs were planted. KY ASAP helped to fund the cost of this event. As tulips begin to bloom in the spring, students are reminded of their promise to remain drug and alcohol free.

At right, Saint Ann School students participated in a Living Rosary during Red Ribbon Week offering a rosary for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

In the bottom picture, students are ready to being the "Run AWAY from Drugs and CHANGE a Life" Run/Walk-a-thon. Students collected pledges for the run, proceeds totaling more than \$500 will be used to purchase needed items for the Women's Addiction Recovery Center in Henderson KY.



## OCHS Excellence Rally Spotlights Achievements in Academics, Clubs, Parish Service

Owensboro Catholic High School held its Excellence Rally on October 29th, 2013 to honor the achievements of students in academics, club activities and parish involvement.

### 2013 OCHS Excellence Awards: Showing Christian Leadership

Blessed Mother, Liza Brown; St. Mary Magdalene, Jordan Payne; The Immaculate, Nicholas Gray; St. Peter, Margaret Mitchell; St. Augustine, Mason Jackson; Holy Name; Lauren Probus; St. Anthony, Jared Tucker; SS Joseph & Paul, Seth Tignor; St. Stephen, Jack Padgett; St. Pius X, Emily Hoesli; Our Lady of Lourdes, Kara Hollis; St. Elizabeth, Morgan Thomas; Precious Blood, Danielle Durbin; St. Ann, Logan Jenkins.

**TOP 10 (GPA) Seniors:** Kelsey Conkright, Stephanie Hayden, Erin Ford, Liza Brown, Jenna Ruth, Elizabeth Cason, Andrew Riccio, Emily Wills, Kyle Alvey, Abby Dickens; **Juniors:** Hannah Hagan, Audrey Wright, Leslie Kuntz, Madison Mattingly, Emily Hoesli, Griffin Wassmer, Dylan Payne, Jose Solorza, Emily Fulkerson, Morgan Mattingly. **Sophomores:** Mikala Riney, Lucy Kurtz, Emily Linn, Emily Marshall, Samantha Krampe, Olivia Miller, Annabel Moore, Matthew Caldwell, Michael Clore, Madeleine Edge, Hannah Adkins, Cameron O'Nan, Davis Mitchell



**4.0 Seniors:** Liza Brown, Kelsey Conkright. **Juniors:** Emily Fulkerson, Hannah Hagan, Adam Hayden, Leslie Kuntz, Madison Mattingly, Dylan Payne, Mallorie Polston, Jose Solorza, Audrey Wright. **Sophomores:** Hannah Adkins, Matthew Caldwell, Michael Clore, Samantha Krampe, Lucy Kurtz, Emily Linn, Emily Marshall, Olivia Miller, Davis Mitchell, Annabel Moore, Cameron O'Nan, Mikala Riney.

**Governor's Scholar:** Stephanie Hayden. **National Merit Scholars Semi-Finalists:** Christopher Spurlock.

**Competitions FFA** – at the KY FFA State Convention: Justin Krampe, George Bittel, Andrew Wilson, Alex Hayden, Michael Thompson, Pete Mattingly, Eric Thomas. **BAND:** Jake Hayden, Kyle Alvey, Jacob Payne, Cory Burdette, Reid Wassmer, Eric McBride, Tyler Mayfield, Hannah Hutchinson, Emily Wills, Reid

Wassmer, Jack Padgett, Griffin Wassmer. **Leadership - Magazine Drive:** Danielle Hogg, Alex Hayden, Madeline Reid, Alli Thompson. **Scrubs:** Nick Jackson. **Pep Club:** Eric Thomas. **Drama Club:** Alyssa Ralph. **National Honor Society:** Ryan Clark and Alyssa Ralph. **Academic Team:** Hannah Hagan. **Habitat For Humanity:** Stephanie Hayden. **The Y-Club:** Andrew Riccio. Submitted by Nicole Gray.



## Mount St. Joseph Spiritual Direction Training Class 2013-2015

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - The new Spiritual Direction Training Program for 2013-2015 began the week of Oct. 14 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center here. The participants are from Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee. The program consists of eight weekly sessions over a two-year period, covering topics such as "The Inner Journey," "Theology," "Ethics," "Prayer and Scripture," "Supervision" and "Case Studies."



Spiritual Direction class participants Gail Ratti Curran of Clinton, Tenn., and Father Barnabas Gillespie, OSB, of St. Meinrad, Ind. At right is Sister Elaine



Left to right, Deacon Victor Fromm of Murray; Dan Heckel of Owensboro; Linda Cirillo of Evansville, Ind.; Sharon Willow of Louisville; Theresa Nardi, and Sister Yvette Gillen, RSM, participate in the class discussion. Seated in the back row is Monica Armstrong of Knoxville, Tenn., a team member.

who was answering a question from the group. MSJ Photos



Sister Elaine Burke, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph and one of the facilitators for the Spiritual Direction Training Program, speaks to the class on Oct. 16 near a display featuring a picture of Saint Angela Merici, the found of the Ursuline order.

## Two Women from Rosary Chapel Take Rite of Oblation

On October 20th, Joann Rubeck and Lynn Steiden, both from Rosary Chapel in Paducah, became Benedictine Oblates associated with Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN. *Shown in the photo, at right, with Joann (L) and Lynn (R) is Sr. Mary Jude Cecil, OSU, teacher at the former Rosary Chapel school. Sr. Mary Jude retired only this year after serving Rosary and as an active parishioner.*

Oblates of St. Benedict are Christian women and men from all walks of life who associate themselves with a specific Benedictine Monastery. This is done to enrich their way of life. They desire to share the prayer and work of the monastery in order to spread the spirit of St. Benedict.

In the early 500s, the Roman Empire was beginning its decline. Benedict of Nursia, Italy, after years of prayer as a hermit, and study of the early monks of the East and West, founded the monastery at Monte Cassino in 530 that was to be the



From left, Joann Ruebeck, Sr. Mary Jude Cecil, OSU, and Lynn Steiden from Rosary Chapel Catholic Community in Paducah. Submitted Photo

birthplace of Western monasticism. He wrote the now famous Rule of St. Benedict, a Rule of life that was to revolutionize monastic life and in-

fluence Europe to such an extent that he is today known as the Father of Western Monasticism and Co-Patron of Europe! The Rule of Benedict

affected spiritual and monastic life in the West for centuries to come, as monks kept alive the light of faith and learning through the Middle Ages.

Oblates, through association with the Sister of St. Benedict, receive guidance and support in living the Christian life. They seek spiritual strength and inspiration from the Benedictine way of life. They share in the prayer and ministry of the Sisters of St. Benedict. And they witness the Benedictine values in family, in places of work, in civic and social activities.

The basic values of Benedictine life include seeking God in community and prayer; reflecting daily on God's word; reverencing all life; The practice of responsible use of goods; and work for peace in the world. As Oblates, they also participate in the work of their local church.

If you wish to know more about St. Benedict, his holy rule or what Oblates do visit [www.thedome.org](http://www.thedome.org) the web site of the Sister of St. Benedict at the Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN.



## Abbey Press' CareNotes booklets celebrate 25 years



“Take one – and take heart. Give one – and give hope.” That tagline has graced the front of every CareNotes booklet for the last 25 years.

The eight-page inspirational – and informational – booklets have been published by Abbey Press in St. Meinrad, IN, since 1988. Tackling tough topics such as depression, losing a child, facing cancer and others, CareNotes booklets have sold more than 122 million copies since then. Some of the original titles became best sellers and are still being published. Titles like *Losing Someone Close*, *Doing Your Best as a Single Parent* and *When Your Prayers Go Unanswered* remain popular 25 years after their first appearance. Since the idea for CareNotes was conceived, more than 680 titles have been published.

Linus Mundy, Abbey Press' publications editor at the time, came up with the idea of CareNotes after struggling to find God during a difficult time in his life. He wanted to publish a booklet that would be short and easy to read, as he believed that people dealing with drug addiction,

sickness, divorce or other issues often couldn't focus on lengthy, dense material.

However, he knew that those who were hurting didn't want platitudes or clichés. They needed the wise words of experts and those who had been through difficult times, yet they also needed words that were practical, hopeful and reassuring.

As times have changed, the topics for CareNotes stayed up to date. Among the 238 titles available today are *When Someone You Love Is Gay*, *Dealing with Autism as a Family* and *When Alzheimer's "Steals" the Loved One You Knew*. More than 50,000 institutions and organizations worldwide have used CareNotes in their work. Hospital chaplains, hospice workers, palliative care professionals, social workers, bereavement coordinators, pastoral care ministers and funeral directors provide the booklets to those they counsel. For more information about CareNotes booklets, visit [www.onecaringplace.com](http://www.onecaringplace.com).

## Mount Saint Joseph Alumnae Memorial Mass

Thirty Mount Saint Joseph graduates attended the eighth annual Alumnae Memorial Mass on Saturday, Nov. 2. Msgr. Bernard Powers presided at the mass which is celebrated in remembrance of all deceased classmates, faculty, family and friends of Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Junior College. The names of alumnae who died in the preceding year were read aloud during the Mass and will be placed in the alumnae section on the Mount Saint Joseph website ([ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org)).



## Cultivating Brighter Futures: Russellville Student Wins Second Place in National Contest

December, 2013 39



Jovani Pacheco-Ramirez

Sacred Heart parishioner, Jovani Pacheco-Ramirez, recently won second place in the 2013 Children of the Fields Art Contest sponsored by the National Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs.

For Jovani the contest theme “Cultivating Brighter Futures” brought to mind his mother, Austreberta Ramirez. With colored pencils he drew her carrying a bucket of tomatoes she has just picked in the heat suggested by a bright red sun.

Of his mother, Jovani said: “Although she works hard for me and my brothers, she always spends time with us. And she pushes us to do better in our education and in our lives.”



Jovani's mother, Austreberta Ramirez, is the subject of his prize-winning drawing *Cultivating Brighter Futures*. Submitted images.



The musicians for the Nov. 2 Mount Saint Joseph Alumnae Memorial Mass were, left to right, Sister Mary Henning (a 1964 Academy graduate), Carolyn Sue Cecil (a 1973 Academy graduate) and Jenny Speaks McGee (a 1970 Academy graduate). One musician not pictured is Sister Rosemary Keough, a 1956 Academy graduate. MSJ Photos

Kathy Ford Young, left, and Beth Calhoun Henderson, center, greet classmate Elaine Mattingly Blandford at the Mount Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae Memorial Mass. All three graduated from the Academy in 1970.



Carolyn Graves Beam, who graduated from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in 1970, was the cross bearer for the Nov. 2 Memorial Mass at the Motherhouse Chapel.



## Camp Memory

Young people who are grieving a loss came to the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Nov. 2 for Camp Memory 2013. This is the third year for the camp, which is for children 6 to 16 who've experienced the loss of a loved one – a parent, grandparent or sibling. It is led by Betty Medley, grief continuing care coordinator with Glenn Family Services. Medley is a graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

Most of the children have lost a parent, Medley said. They are often referred by a school counselor or family members the staff meets at Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Medley said. The camp this year had 19 youths. The camp happens once a year for one day, but Medley would like to eventually have a weeklong camp.

At Camp Memory, the youths bring a picture of their loved one who died. They share stories and do a project. This year they made a picture frame to put their picture in. They play games, including a grief board game. After a memorial service in the Center chapel, they are each given an angel. They write a message on the angel, tie it to a balloon and release it in the circle in front of the Center.

The impact is immediate. "They don't know each other when they arrive, but by the end of the day they are exchanging phone numbers and emails, Medley said.



Adults worked with the children to help them complete their craft project in a conference room at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.



Above, each participant wrote a message to their loved one on an angel and tied it to a balloon. They gathered in the circle in front of the Retreat Center and let them fly. The sky was full of angels. MSJ Photos



At left, children participating in Camp Memory spent part of Nov. 2 working on a craft project.



## World Kindness Day

Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School Preschool, left, celebrated World Kindness Day on Thursday, November 14, 2014 by reading the story, making and eating Stone Soup. They then celebrated, at right, by dancing and playing music. Submitted by Kim Rydecki





## Mount Saint Joseph Associate Fall Commitment

December, 2013 41

Eight people made their initial commitments as Ursuline Associates on Oct. 23 and one associate made her life-time commitment in a nearly full Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel.

The 30th anniversary year of the associate program was completed with the largest fall commitment class ever. Three more people became associates in June on Associates and Sisters Day. The Oct. 23 ceremony included evening prayer, featuring Sister Susanne Bauer, Sister Mary Matthias Ward and Sister Alfreda Malone. Sister Marietta Wethington delivered a reflection on Saint Angela's message to us all, and Sister Clarita Browning read the intercessions. Sister Mary Henning drafted and led the music. You can find out more about the Ursuline



**Sister Amelia Stenger places an initial commitment pin on Father Ray Goetz. She had just placed a similar pin on Bishop William Medley, right.**

Associates by visiting [www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org) and clicking on the Associates tab.

## Advent Day of Prayer Scheduled in Maple Mount

By Jennifer Kaminski

OWENSBORO, Ky. (11/15/13) -An Advent Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount, Ky. (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56).

The season of Advent is more than just trimming a tree and buying presents. The true nature of Christmas calls us to prayer and celebration at the Lord's coming and our own salvation. This will be a day to reflect on the meaning of Advent and Christmas through prayer. Reconciliation will also be offered. Join us in celebrating God's wonderful love for us all in the best gift of all - GOD'S SON. (Note: Advent begins Dec. 1 and continues through Christmas Day.) The \$20 fee includes lunch.

The retreat day will be led by Monsignor Bernard Powers, a retired priest of the Diocese of Owensboro who has served as a teacher, pastor, retreat director and spiritual director. A published poet, Powers holds a master's degree in spirituality from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0206 or [kathy.mccarty@maple-mount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maple-mount.org). Find out more about the Retreat Center at [www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org).

## Quilt Club of Cadiz

Quilters from Trigg County returned to Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center Oct. 28-31 with lots of new projects to do.



**Dee Eggers of Cadiz works on ironing pieces for her quilt. She has been a member of the group for three years, but has only been quilting for about 4 years. "I just jumped right in," she said. "It's a great thing."**



**Debbie Clark of Gracey, Ky., joined the quilters in 2006. "I was still working and I needed a nighttime activity, so I helped start Star Stiches," she said. Star Stiches is a group within the Trigg County Quilters Guild and meets in the evening.**

**"I just wanted a chance to learn more." Also pictured is Cathy Swinkowski of Cadiz. MSJ Photos**



**The class of initial Ursuline Associates and their contacts. From left are Sister Amelia Stenger (contact); Associate William Medley, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro; Associate Carol Morris of Owensboro; Associate Father Ray Goetz, Mount Saint Joseph chaplain and pastor of Saint Alphonsus Parish; Associate Joan Perry of Owensboro (contact); Associate Martha Little of Owensboro (contact); Sister Rose Karen Johnson (contact); Associate Keith Hudson of Owensboro; Associate Genon Putnam of Greenville; Associate Valentino Simpao of Greenville (contact); Associate Carrie Wieder of Owensboro; Associate Keith Putnam of Greenville; Associate Florence Wieder of Owensboro; Sister Suzanne Sims (contact) and Sister Rose Jean Powers (contact). MSJ Photos**



**Eleven elders of Owensboro Christian Church spent Nov. 1-2 meeting at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Part of the group is pictured here during a meeting in Conference Room B. MSJ Photo**



## Greetings from Baní.

By Father San Puryear

Actually, this particular article comes to you from the quiet gardens of the Alliance Française Saint-Domingue, a small oasis of calm recently discovered in the capital city. As if I did not have enough to occupy my time, a return to the world of education has been achieved after making the decision to learn French. Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, a one-hour trek to Santo Domingo results in two hours of classes, before boarding the bus for the one hour trip home. Having attempted to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) classes many years ago in Mexico, I appreciate a teacher who is engaging, energetic, and challenging. As a teacher, I was none of those, but now I have a great appreciation for those who dedicate themselves to a profession in the field of education.

Even with erratic bus schedules, I nearly always arrive early enough to sip a French-roasted espresso in the garden café while listening to others engage in French conversation, all the while enjoying the aroma of fresh bread and pastries coming out of the oven. In what must be a great relief to Mel Howard, the garden is exceptionally conducive to reflection and writing.

French is becoming important for working in the Dominican Republic as interaction with a growing Haitian population has now become an everyday part of life. Haiti and the Dominican Republic are two very independent countries on the same island of Hispaniola. For numerous reasons, Haiti has not been able to recover from the January 2010 earthquake that devastated the capital, Port-au-Prince. Nations that promised millions of dollars to rebuild have given up in frustration as they saw so much money squandered. With no realistic future in their home countries, Haitians are flocking to the Dominican Republic – and any other nation to which they can make a desperate escape.

Interestingly enough, all the things I heard from a few folks in Kentucky regarding the growing Hispanic population, I hear that regard-

ing Haitian immigrants: “They’re taking our jobs”; “They put a strain on social services and infrastructure”; and my favorite of all time, “They’re marrying our women”. Even disregarding the obviously detestable idea that women are predetermined possessions, I still have to concede that, as in the United States, some truth does exist amidst the hyperbole. For example: health care and education are both stretched far too thinly even for the Dominican population, and the addition of so many immigrants truthfully is putting a strain on services. Would that the nations who promised money to rebuild Haiti would give some of the money to the Dominican Republic, but given the amount of corruption that accompanies money here, many of those countries would probably soon become equally frustrated with this part of the island.

Haitians speak Haitian Creole (Kreyòl Ayisyen), a fusion of colonial French and West African tribal languages, with contributions from Spanish and English. My plan is to begin with French, and once I master that language with an all-expense bishop-funded month-long visit to France (including Lourdes, Lyons, Avignon, and Paris), it will be time to study Kreyol. Plan B involves once again driving to Montreal and Quebec City on my own dime. I’m told that the wine is better in France, but French Canadian *bière noir* is not bad at all.

The soup kitchen for shoeshine boys is where I originally made inroads into the Haitian presence here in the Parish of Saint James the Apostle in Paya. Many of the young men were of Haitian descent and often felt comfortable enough in my presence to switch into Kreyol. In the meantime, the soup kitchen has had to be changed significantly as a result of the situation here. In a neighboring town, a shoeshine boy was mysteriously killed, causing fear in the local group of young men. The police reported the incident as being the result of being hit by a car, but with anti-immigrant sentiments around, truth is often the first casualty. Secondly, it came to light that an important member of the Catholic clergy in the country had engaged shoeshine boys in illicit liai-



sons. As we all know in the United States, scandals caused by a few bishops acting stupidly hurts many innocent people. And finally, the money ran out. The original plan was to close down completely, but Plan A never seems to come to fruition for me. As most of the boys only come to shine shoes on the weekend, Plan B means the shoeshine boys’ soup kitchen operates only on Saturdays. Last week, I bought enough food to feed five or six people, and ended up feeding 14 plus myself. The multiplication of the bread and fishes translated into a multiplication of the rice and beans.

Never one to be deterred by reality, I have found a new endeavor that helps even more needy children with less need for direct contact with children. (I hate having to be so cautious, but it is the sad reality of ministry sometimes.) President Danilo Medina has made it a goal of his administration to provide classrooms so that children in the poorest communities will be able to attend school all day with a hot meal provided. Currently, children attend school around four hours each day, divided between morning groups and afternoon groups. A piece of bread and a half-pint of milk are given to each student. Providing a hot meal will guarantee that children are getting adequate nutrition.

There is, however, a glitch with the new plan. All children wear uniforms to school, including public

school children. With two-a-day sessions, two children in a family could share a uniform, with one child wearing the khaki pants and blue shirt in the morning, and a second child of equal or smaller size wearing the same uniform in the afternoon. With full day classes, those same children sharing a uniform attend school alternate days, with one child attending Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the second child on Tuesday and Thursday. During my last trip to the United States, I visited every Goodwill, Salvation Army, and, naturally, Saint Vincent de Paul store looking for gently used children sized khaki pants. Those were delivered to the school principal, who then gave them to teachers, to give them to the neediest students. Cash donations from a few friends in the States and negotiations with local business owners here are expanding that outreach, providing education, nutrition, hope, and love to children.

For the moment, I have my own class to attend, and I still have to climb the stairs before the espresso wears off. May you have a joyful Advent Season and Merry Christmas, may the winter be cold enough to kill the bugs but not so bad as to keep you confined to the cabin, and may the shopping season be stress free. But should the stress get to be too much, come to Santo Domingo, and we can enjoy a quiet French garden café together. Au revoir. Joyeux Noël.



## Saludos de Baní.

Por El Padre Stan Puryear

En realidad, este artículo en particular llega desde el jardín tranquilo de la Alliance Française Saint-Domingue, un pequeño oasis de calma que descubrí en la capital. Como si no tuviera suficientes responsabilidades para ocupar mi tiempo, he retornado al mundo educativo con clases para aprender el francés. Todos los martes y el jueves por la mañana, hago la caminata de una hora a Santo Domingo, tomo dos horas de clase, y abordo el autobús para el viaje de una hora a la casa. Habiendo intentado dar clases de inglés como segundo idioma desde hace muchos años en México, estoy agradecido que tengo una maestra energética e inteligente. Como profesor, no tenía esas calidades, y por eso tengo mucho respeto por aquellos que se dedican a una profesión en la educación.

Aun los horarios del transporte en las "guaguas" son irregulares, casi siempre llego a la escuela temprano para tomar un café francés en la cafetería del jardín mientras escucho a los demás en conversación francesa y, al mismo tiempo, disfruto del aroma de pan y pasteles saliendo del horno. En lo que debe ser un gran alivio a Mel Howard (redactor de este periódico), el jardín es excepcionalmente propicio a la reflexión y la escritura.

Hablar el francés se está convirtiendo importante para trabajar en la República Dominicana con un crecimiento de la población haitiana, resultando en interacción con ellos en una parte de la vida cotidiana. Haití y la República Dominicana son dos países muy independientes en la misma Isla Española. Por varias razones, Haití no ha sido capaz de recuperarse del terremoto de enero de 2010 que devastó la capital, Puerto Príncipe. Las naciones que prometieron millones de dólares para la reconstrucción han renunciado en frustración como vieron tanto dinero desperdiciado. Sin futuro realista en su país de origen, los haitianos están escapándose para la República Dominicana – y a cualquier otro país a la que pueden llegar.

Curiosamente, todas las cosas oía de algunas personas en Kentucky con respecto a la población hispana, he oído aquí con respecto a los inmigrantes haitianos: "Nos están quitando nuestros tra-



bajos"; "Presionen sobre los servicios sociales y la infraestructura"; y mi favorito de todos los tiempos, "Se van a casar con nuestras mujeres". Primero, déjame notar públicamente, que considero detestable la idea de que las mujeres son posesiones predeterminadas. Sin embargo, tengo que admitir que, al igual que en los Estados Unidos, existe algo de verdad en medio de la hipérbole. Por ejemplo: el cuidado de salud y la educación están sufriendo porque ya no hay suficiente dinero para cubrir todos los gastos ni para la población dominicana, y la adición de tantos inmigrantes sinceramente está poniendo presión sobre los servicios. Ojalá que las naciones que prometieron dinero para reconstruir a Haití le diera algo de dinero a la República Dominicana – pero, con tanta corrupción que existe aquí, muchos de esos países que probablemente pronto serán igualmente frustrados con esta parte de la isla.

Los haitianos hablan criollo haitiano (Kreyòl Ayisyen), una fusión de francés colonial e idiomas tribales de África occidental, con aportes de español e inglés. Mi idea es empezar con el francés, y una vez que puedo el idioma (después de una visita a Francia incluyendo visitas a Lourdes, Aviñón, Lyon, y París, todo pagado por el monseñor obispo), será tiempo para estudiar el Kreyòl. El plan B consiste en conducir una vez

más a Montreal y Quebec City con mi propio dinero. Entiendo que el vino es mejor en Francia, pero el bière noir de los franceses canadienses también es bueno.

El comedor para los niños limpiabotas es donde originalmente hice incursiones en la presencia haitiana en la Parroquia Santiago Apóstol en Paya. Muchos de los jóvenes son de ascendencia haitiana y sentían bastante cómodos en mi presencia que hablaban el Kreyòl. Entretanto, el comedor ha tenido que ser cambiado significativamente como consecuencia de unas dificultades en otras partes del país. En un pueblo vecino, un limpiabota fue asesinado misteriosamente, causando temor en el grupo local de jóvenes. La policía informó del incidente como el resultado de ser atropellado por un auto, pero con sentimientos anti-inmigrantes, uno no sabe que es la verdad. Después de eso, salió a la luz que un importante miembro del clero católico en el país había pagado a unos limpiabotas por relaciones ilícitas. Como todos sabemos en los Estados Unidos, los escándalos causados por algunos obispos actuando estúpidamente duelen muchas personas inocentes. Y finalmente, el dinero se acabó. Traté de cerrar la cocina, pero había una gran necesidad. Lo que pasa ahora es que los chicos sólo llegan a limpiar los zapatos en el fin de semana, y por eso, sólo funciona la cocina el día

sábado. El sábado pasado, compré comida para cinco o seis personas, y llegaron 14 para comer. La multiplicación de pan y peces se convirtió en la multiplicación de arroz y habichuela.

Nunca uno a ser disuadidos por la realidad, he encontrado un nuevo esfuerzo que ayuda a niños necesitados aún sin tanta necesidad de contacto directo con los niños. (No me gusta que tenga que ser tan prudente, pero es la realidad de hoy). El Presidente Danilo Medina ha declarado que en una meta de su administración es construir aulas de escuelas para que los niños en las comunidades más pobres puedan asistir a la escuela todo el día con una comida caliente proporcionada. Por el momento, los niños asisten a la escuela cuatro horas cada día, dividido entre grupos de mañana y tarde. Un pedazo de pan y una media pinta de leche se dan a cada estudiante. Darle una comida caliente garantizará que los niños están recibiendo una nutrición adecuada.

Sin embargo, hay un problema con el nuevo plan. Todos los niños usan uniformes en la escuela, incluyendo a los niños de la escuela pública. Cuando hay dos sesiones por día, dos niños de una familia pueden compartir un solo uniforme, con un niño usando los pantalones caqui y la camisa azul en la mañana y otro niño usando la misma ropa en la tarde. Con clases de día completo, esos mismos niños compartiendo un uniforme tienen que asistir a días alternos, con un niño asistiendo lunes, miércoles y viernes y el segundo niño martes y jueves. Durante mi último viaje a los Estados Unidos, visité a las tiendas de ropa usada, especialmente las de San Vicente de Paúl, buscando pantalón caqui de tamaño de niños. Los pantalones fueron entregados a la directora de la escuela, que luego les dio a los maestros, para darles a los estudiantes más necesitados. Las donaciones en efectivo de unos amigos en los Estados Unidos y las negociaciones con la dueña de negocio local ayuda con la entrega de educación, nutrición, esperanza y amor.

Y hablando de educación, la clase mía ya va a comenzar, y todavía tengo que subir las escaleras antes de que se me vaya el café de mi sistema. Que tengan una feliz Adviento alegre y una Navidad sin estrés. Pero si el estrés llegue a ser demasiado, uno siempre puede llegar a Santo Domingo, y juntos podemos disfrutar un café en el jardín francés. Au revoir. Joyeux Noël.



## Obispos estadounidenses aprueban el uso de traducción mexicana del Misal Romano; El Orden de Celebración del Matrimonio, Opciones para la Ceremonia de Matrimonio

BALTIMORE—La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB) aprobó cinco puntos presentados por el Comité de Culto Divino el 12 de Noviembre, durante la Asamblea General en Baltimore. Los puntos presentados incluyen el uso del misal mexicano para servir de guía en la creación del misal estadounidense en español con adaptaciones adecuadas, incluir adaptaciones a la ceremonia de matrimonio, y traducciones al inglés del Orden de la Celebración del Matrimonio y el Orden de la Confirmación.

Con 193 votos a favor, 11 en contra y 4 abstenciones, los obispos aprobaron el uso de la traducción al español del Misal Romano de México como una guía para la creación de la versión en español del misal estadounidense con textos y adaptaciones adicionales.

Las adaptaciones aprobadas incluyen el reemplazo del calendario mexicano con el calendario litúrgico para los Estados Unidos; traducciones de las Normas Estadounidenses para la Santa Comunión bajo el pan y vino; añadir traducciones de textos litúrgicos y oraciones para los santos, incluso San Francis Xavier Seelos; agregar 20 fiestas patronales latinoamericanas para el uso de grupos inmigrantes de esos países respectivos; y agregar las adaptaciones estadounidenses para las instrucciones generales del Misal Romano.

Los obispos también aprobaron el Orden de la Celebración del Matrimonio con 212 votos a favor, 5 votos en contra. La traducción final del Comité Internacional sobre Inglés en la Liturgia (ICEL por sus siglas en inglés) incluye algunas oraciones y ritos no incluidos en la primera edición. Tras la aprobación, el libro será enviado a Roma para reconocimiento y luego publicado como la versión en inglés del rito del matrimonio.

También se aprobó por un voto de 218-5-2 cuatro adaptaciones al Orden de la Celebración del Matrimonio. Estas incluyen la opción de formas alternativas de los votos, la opción de mover la Bendición Nupcial del Rito del Matrimonio, a seguir la Oración de los Fieles durante la Misa, la opción de incluir una Letanía de los Santos —incluso la invocación de muchos santos que estuvieron casados— y traducir al inglés las adaptaciones culturales de la entrega de “arras” o monedas y la Bendición del Lazo o Velo durante la bendición nupcial.

Los obispos también votaron 213-4 sobre el Orden de la Confirmación. Esta es una traducción realizada por ICEL sobre la Confirmación según las normas del documento Liturgiam Authenticam. La versión estadounidense del Misal Romano en español se espera que esté disponible a fines del 2014 o la primavera del 2015.

## U.S. Bishops Approve Use of Mexican Translation of Roman Missal; Order of Celebrating Marriage, Options for Marriage Ceremony

BALTIMORE—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved five liturgical items presented by the Committee on Divine Worship during the annual Fall General Assembly in Baltimore, November 12. The approved items include the use of the Mexican missal to draft the U.S. Spanish-language missal with appropriate adaptations, adding adaptations to the marriage ceremony and on proposed English-language translations of the Order of Celebrating Marriage and the Order of Confirmation.

With 193 votes in favor, 11 opposed and 4 abstained, the U.S. Bishops approved the use of the Spanish-language translation of the Misal Romano from Mexico as the base text for the U.S. version of the Spanish-language Missal, which will include additional texts and adaptations.

Those approved adaptations include replacing the Mexican calendar with the liturgical calendar for the United States; translation of the U.S. Norms for Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds; adding translations of liturgical texts and prayers for U.S. saints, including Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos; adding 20 Latin American patronal feasts for use by immigrant groups from those respective countries; and adding the U.S. adaptations for the General Instructions of the Roman Missal.

The bishops also approved the Order of Celebrating Marriage by 212 votes in favor, 5 votes against and 1 abstaining. The final translation from the International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), includes some prayers and rites not previously included in the first edition, for example, an additional text that may be used after the exchange of vows, and a rite for the renewal of marital commitment on anniversaries. Upon approval, the book will be sent to Rome for recognition and later published as the English-language ritual for marriage.

Also approved by a 218-5-2 vote, were four adaptations to the Order of Celebrating Marriage. Those include the option of an alternative forms of vows (already an option in the current Rite), the option of moving the Nuptial Blessing to follow the Prayer of the Faithful during Mass, the option to include a Litany of the Saints (including the invocation of many married saints) at the beginning of the Marriage Rite, and translating into English the Hispanic cultural adaptations of the Exchange of Coins and the Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or Veil over the couple during the nuptial blessing.

The bishops also voted 213-4 on the Order of Confirmation. This is a retranslation by ICEL of the order of Confirmation according to the norms of the document Liturgiam Authenticam. The U.S. version of the Misal Romano in Spanish would be available by late 2014 or the spring of 2015.

## La Musica en la Liturgia



**La Sra. Mary, explica a los participantes que tan importante es escuchar la musica antes de emitir cualquier nota. Felicitamos a ella por su gran talento de dirigir los coros de la Iglesia Catolica. F.Luis Aju.**

**La Sra. Mary Frances Reza, hace su presentacion en el Centro Pastoral, sobre la importancia de la Musica en la Liturgia.**

**Nos ha dado las pautas de como cantar y que cantamos en la Misa. Incluso informo como fue el inicio de Fillo y Canto. F.Luis Aju**



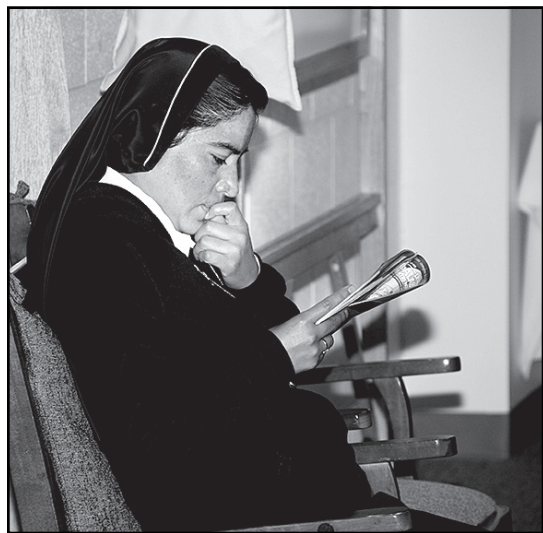


## Ministros Hispanos Diocesanos se reúnen en Monasterio Pasionista para Retiro Espiritual

WHITESVILLE, Kentucky - El 24 y el 25 de octubre del 2013 los Ministros Hispanos de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron en el monasterio de San José de las Hermanas Pasionistas para su segundo retiro este año. El líder del retiro fue el P. Isaias Gálvez un sacerdote de la diócesis de la Ciudad de Guatemala y el actual Director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Houma, Louisiana.

Orar y estar conectados con Dios y en presencia de los otros en espíritu en verdad es el corazón de lo que significa ser Iglesia, y también hacer el trabajo de la Iglesia. Orando diariamente y viviendo la vida sacramental de la Iglesia, por ejemplo, estar presente durante el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa, son obras básicas de la Iglesia Católica.

Es por estas razones, en primer lugar, que los Ministros Hispanos de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reúnen dos veces al año para un retiro espiritual dirigido por un sacerdote. Asimismo, el grupo se reúne para discutir y planificar la manera de construir el Reino de Dios dentro de nuestra Diócesis. El Director de la Oficina de Ministerios Hispanos, el Sr. Luis Aju, dijo: "Si estamos construyendo el reino de Dios en esta diócesis, no hay pregunta de que si los ministros hispanos deberían seguir compartiendo estos retiros semestrales. Ya que estamos en retiro, estamos "caminando hacia Emaús", nuestro líder nos explica de que se trata nuestro trabajo por el bien de la Iglesia y la salvación de nuestras almas."



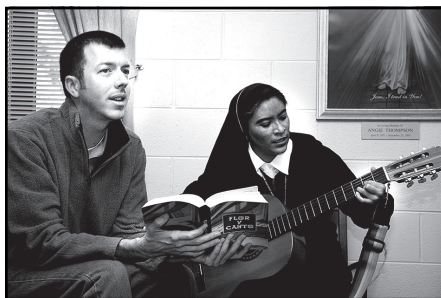
La Hna. Maria Luisa, en su momento de oracion y lectura, hace su retiro aun mas interesante. Tambien las 3 Hnas de Adgentes, colaboran arduamente en apoyar al Ministerio Hispano de la Diocesis. F. Luii Aju



Tambien se atiende con carino a los ninos que inician su vida en ambiente de oracion y se espera de los papas, ser buenos maestros.

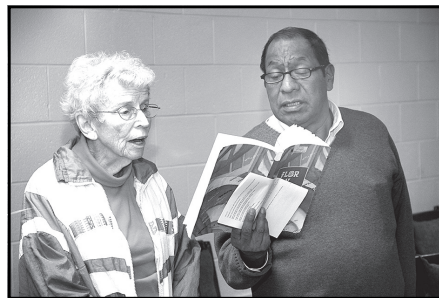


Luis Aju. Director del Ministerio Hispano da labien venida en nombre del Ministerio Hispano y la Diocesis de Owensboro, al P. Isaias Galvez, maestro del retiro y aprovecho para dar la bienvenida a todos los demas miembros del ministerio Hispano, dijo que es oportuno profundizar nuestra fe, y como ha sido nuestra mision, ahora es de accion, sabemos mucho que es tiempo para entrar en accion. No mas teorias, sino identificarnos con la realidad y actuar en la realidad nuestra.



En la foto a la derecha, Hna. Fran y Luis Aju, tambien cantan y se hacen participes en cantando durante la Misa celebrada al final del evento.

En la foto a la izquierda, El P. Josh, con la Hna. Maria Luisa, tambien han trabajado juntos en las mesas redondas de reflexion sobre los temas. Ellos en el retiro han sido una clave de seriedad en los omentos de reflexion. F.Luis .



Momento en que todos los ministros resuman la reflexion y el mensaje que nos traia el P. Isaias. P. Isaias pide nuestra ayuda, en su proyecto de atender ninos con sindrome de down. Es un sueno, esperamos que lo llegue a realizar. F. Luis Aju

## Diocesan Hispanic Ministers Meet at Passionist Monastery for Spiritual Retreat

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - On Oct. 24-25, 2013 the Hispanic ministers of the Diocese of Owensboro met at the Passionist Nuns' Saint Joseph Monastery here for their second retreat this year. The retreat leader was Fr. Eisaías Galvez a priest of the Diocese of Guatemala City. ▯

Praying and staying connected with God and in the presence of one another in spirit and in truth is at the heart of what it means to be Church, and also to do the work of the Church. Praying daily and living in the sacramental life of the Church, for example, being present during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, are basic works of the Catholic Church.

It is for these reasons, first of all, that the Hispanic Ministers of the Diocese of Owensboro meet twice each year for a spiritual retreat led by a priest. The group also gathers to discuss and plan for ways to build the Kingdom of God within our Diocese. The Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministries for the diocese, Mr. Luis Aju, said, "If we are building the kingdom of God in this diocese, there is no question whether Hispanic Ministers should continue to share these semi-annual retreats.



ELKTON, Ky. - El 21 de octubre de 2013, el Sr. Luis Aju, Director de la Oficina Diocesana de Ministerios Hispánicos, hizo una visita pastoral a la Parroquia Santa Susana.

Los lectores pueden preguntarse, “¿Cuál es el propósito de la visita pastoral de un Director Diocesano en una parroquia? ¿Con quién se visitan? ¿Qué puede una ganancia entendimientos director diocesano de una visita personal en una parroquia?”

The Western Kentucky Católica pidió al Sr. Aju. Él nos dijo:

**WKC: ¿Cuándo visitó St. Susan parroquial en Elkton?**

**LUIS:** “Oct. 21. Visita a la Parroquia de Santa Susana, Ky.”

**WKC: ¿Que hizo en la comunidad?**

**LUIS:** “Invitarlos a sentir parte de la comunidad y parte de la Iglesia, en su parroquia, diócesis, nación y universal. Hacerles ver la grandeza de su comunidad. Compuesta por varias nacionalidades de Latinoamérica y el Caribe.”

**WKC: ¿Por que ha visitado a la Parroquia de Santa Susana, Ky.?**

**LUIS:** “He visitado la parroquia de Sta. Susana, porque creo y veo la necesidad de convivir con ellos. Tienen al Coordinador parroquial, pero tanto el cómo la comunidad necesitan estímulo y apreciación de su presencia. Yo como miembro del personal diocesano, es mi responsabilidad apoyar a las comunidades de la diócesis.”

**WKC: ¿Cómo reaccionó la gente de su visita?**



**Luis Aju, Director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis, visito la comunidad con el fin de animarlos, en seguir haciendo Iglesia, no obstante las dificultades que enfrentamos en la vida diaria, con relacion al trabajo, familia y sociedad donde vivimos. Adelante Hnos. y poner mucha esperanza en Dios. F. V. Aju.**

**LUIS:** “Mi visita como director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis, fue bien recibida y agradecidos de que existe alguien que les puede escuchar y llevar sus inquietudes a donde corresponde.”

“Usualmente visito las parroquias, especialmente donde esta la presencia de la comunidad Hispana. Mi rol, es animarlos, invitarlos y escuchar su historia personal y de su familia. Lo cual hay que acompañarlos.”



**Estos son los rostros de los miembros de la comunidad de Sta. Susana en Elkton. Niños que yo como director del MH. los conocí cuando eran más niños, incluso bebés, pero ahora son niños grandes y jóvenes adultos. Felicidades por su perseverancia. F. Luis Aju**



**P. Julio B. y el P. Frank R. celebraron la Misa dominical, Como siempre, se disfruta el Coro de la comunidad. A esta comunidad se les admira la perseverancia y amor con que ejecutan sus ministerios en bien de la comunidad.**



**En la foto a la izquierda, Momentos de reflexión y oración de la comunidad, al finalizar la celebración de la Eucaristía. Gracias por su presencia, que hace posible, a que la Misa sea una fiesta con Jesús. F. Luis Aju**





Los niños se reunieron para la sesión de fotos de la tarjeta de Navidad del Obispo Medley en la parroquia de St. Edward, Fulton, KY



Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

“En esa misma región había unos pastores que pasaban la noche en el campo, turnándose para cuidar sus rebaños. Sucedió que un ángel del Señor se les apareció. La gloria del Señor los envolvió en su luz, y se llenaron de temor. Pero el ángel les dijo: No tengan miedo. Miren que les traigo buenas noticias que serán motivo de mucha alegría para todo el pueblo. Hoy les ha nacido en la ciudad de David un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor....De repente apareció una multitud de ángeles del cielo, que alababan a Dios y decían: Gloria a Dios en las alturas, y en la tierra paz a los que gozan de su buena voluntad.” Lucas 2: 8-14.

Los ángeles del Señor tienen un papel importante en nuestra historia tradicional de Navidad, una historia que sacamos de los Evangelios de Mateo y Lucas. Un ángel anuncia el nacimiento de Juan el Bautista, el ángel Gabriel viene a María para anunciarle que el Espíritu Santo vendrá sobre ella y ella va a concebir un hijo que será Emmanuel; viene un ángel a José en un sueño para asegurarle que

el la mano de Dios es, en efecto, la que esta en todos los acontecimientos inexplicables, y los ángeles despiertan a los pastores para darles la buena noticia de que el Mesías ha llegado.

Según el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, los ángeles fueron creados por Dios para ser servidores y mensajeros de Dios. Los encontramos en todas las historias de la salvación.

Recordemos que fue un ángel que detuvo la mano de Abraham cuando estaba a punto de sacrificar a su hijo Isaac. □ Han anunciado nacimientos y vocaciones y asistido a los profetas.

Nuestras tarjetas de Navidad pronto postrarán ángeles pintados por artistas principales contemporáneos. Los ángeles disfrutaban de una gran popularidad en nuestra cultura y aparentemente tienen poco que ver con la fe.

La pregunta que hago como mensaje Cristiano es si todavía tenemos los ojos para ver y reconocer a los ángeles que viven en medio de nosotros. No muchos de nosotros nos

encontraremos con los ángeles no corporales. Pero ciertamente encontramos con servidores y mensajeros de Dios que han sido enviados por Dios. □ Los ángeles más cercanos a nosotros a menudo no son reconocidos y recompensados; no valoramos su bondad y santidad. Tal vez en una época de tanta duda y el escepticismo podríamos considerar el lugar de los ángeles en la historia de la revelación de Dios y nos podemos preguntar: ¿si fuésemos llamados a ser mensajeros y sirvientes hacia los demás para que puedan escuchar lo que los pastores escucharon en los campos de Belén? □ Que nuestra voz tranquilice y calme a un joven o una mujer que se enfrenta el nacimiento de un niño que no planeado? ¿Estamos dispuestos a anunciar la paz en la tierra a los hombres de buena voluntad?

¡Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo!

*William F. Medley*

+ Mons. William F. Medley,  
Obispo de Owensboro



Monseñor  
William F.  
Medley  
Obispo de  
Owensboro

### Colecta especial para las víctimas del tifón Haiyan en las Filipinas

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Se le pide a los católicos del Oeste de Kentucky a participar en una colecta especial para las víctimas del tifón Haiyan, que azotó a las Filipinas el viernes 7 de noviembre, y dejó miles de muertos y cientos de miles de desplazados.

La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU., reunidos en Baltimore, acordó en que el 11 de noviembre fuera designado para la colección especial de las víctimas. Parroquias individuales, incluyendo las de la Diócesis de Owensboro, se les pide que tomen la colecta de la semana de noviembre 16/17 o el fin de semana de noviembre 30 y diciembre 1. Como ya es tradición, la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano anual se recoge en el fin de semana de Acción de Gracias, el 23 y 24 de noviembre. Todos los fondos recaudados para el alivio del tifón irán a Catholic Relief Services, que está trabajando en la zona afectada por el tifón. De hecho, Catholic Relief Services estuvo presente en las Filipinas antes del tifón, y están situados para dar ayuda directa.

Caritas Internationalis, la confederación del Vaticano con sede de los organismos humanitarios de la Iglesia Católica, informaba el 11 de noviembre que más de 9.5 millones de personas están en necesidad de ayuda, y que 600,000 personas se han visto obligadas a abandonar sus hogares. La cifra de muertos por la tormenta se estima en más de diez mil.

Las colecciones pueden ser enviadas a nuestra Oficina Diocesana de Finanzas que asegurara su rápido envío a CRS.

Suyo en Cristo,

+ Reverendo. William F. Medley, obispo de Owensboro

### Calendario del Obispo Medley para Diciembre 2013:

Diciembre 1	10:30 a.m.	Admisión para candidatos, Michael Charles Ajjo Abiero, San José, Bowling Green
Diciembre 2 -4	6:00 p.m.	Reunión Provincial Consejo Sacerdotal, Knoxville
Diciembre 5	10:30 a.m.	Reunión mesa ejecutiva CCK, Louisville
Diciembre 6	9:00 a.m.	Misa Estudiantil, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Diciembre 9	10:30 a.m.	Misa Estudiantil, Owensboro Catholic
Diciembre 11	9:00 a.m.	Misa estudiantil, Christ the King, Madisonville
Diciembre 12	7:00 p.m.	Misa de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, San José, Bowling Green
Diciembre 16	9:45 a.m.	Reunión de mesa de personal sacerdotal, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Consejo sacerdotal, CPC
Diciembre 17	9:00 a.m.	Misa y reunión del personal del CPC
Diciembre 18	8:30 a.m.	Reunión del consejo financiero diocesano, CPC
Diciembre 25	Medianoche	Misa de medianoche de Navidad, St. Stephen Cathedral



## Cultivando Un Futuro Mejor , Joven de Russellville Gana Segundo Lugar en un Concurso Nacional



Jovani Pacheco-Ramírez de la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón (Russellville) ganó el segundo lugar en un Concurso de Arte se llama Jóvenes del Campo. Fue patrocinado por la Asociación Nacional de Programas de Oportunidad para Campesinos Migrantes.

Para Jovani el tema del concurso: "Cultivando Un Futuro Mejor" le acordó de su madre, Austreberta Ramírez. Con lápices colorados, el dibujó a su madre llevando un bote de tomates en su cabeza que acabó de recoger en el sol del día.

El dijo: "Aunque mi madre trabaja mucho para mi y a mis hermanos, siempre pasa tiempo con nosotros. Y nos anima hacer el mejor en los estudios y en nuestras vidas."

### Jovani Pacheco-Ramírez

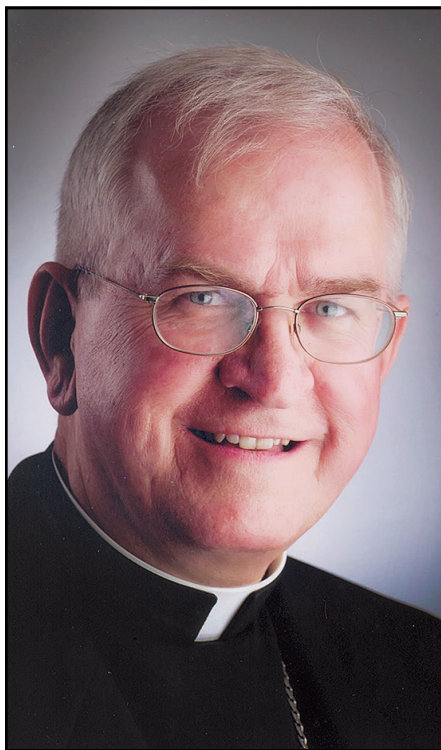
La madre de Jovani, Austreberta Ramírez, es el objeto de su dibujo premiado Cultivando un Futuro Mejor. Imágenes presentadas.



## Arzobispo Kurtz Elegido Presidente de los Obispos de Estados Unidos

La Conferencia Católica de Kentucky está muy contenta en anunciar que su presidente ejecutivo, el Arzobispo Joseph Kurtz, es el nuevo presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. La Conferencia ya se beneficia de su liderazgo y sensibilidades pastorales y ahora los demás también se beneficiarán de ellos. Su apoyo a las cuestiones en cuanto a la vida humana y la dignidad es inquebrantable. Él defiende firmemente la vida de los inocentes que están por nacer y al igual la vida de un preso sentenciado a muerte en Eddyville.

Bajo su dirección la Conferencia trabaja para garantizar el derecho al voto a los ex delincuentes, aboga de los límites a los préstamos para las personas necesitadas, conserva normas estrictas para proteger



**Arzobispo Joseph E. Kurtz, presidente entrante de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos desde usccbmedia.blogspot.com, 13 de noviembre 2013**

la libertad religiosa, y busca maneras de promulgar políticas que ayuden a los padres que prefieren un entorno de escuelas privadas para la educación de sus hijos. Lo felicitamos por asumir este nuevo reto.

Los obispos también votaron unánimemente en emitir un "mensaje especial" sobre la aplicación del mandato de Salud y Servicios Humanos que viola los derechos de los creyentes religiosos. En el mensaje de los obispos se afirma lo siguiente: "El mandato coercitivo HHS, del gobierno se niega a respetar su obligación de respetar los derechos religiosos. En marzo del 2012, en Unidos por la Libertad Religiosa, se identificaron tres problemas básicos con el mandato HHS: establece una arquitectura falsa de la libertad religiosa que excluye a los ministerios y así reduce la libertad de religión, a la libertad de celebrar, sin embargo obliga a los ministerios a participar en proporcionar a los empleados con las drogas abortivas y dispositivos, equipos de esterilización y anticoncepción, lo cual viola nuestras creencias profundamente, y obliga a los fieles en las empresas para que actúen en contra de nuestras enseñanzas, sin proporcionarles ninguna excepción en absoluto."

Como resultado del impasse entre el gobierno y la iglesia sobre este tema los obispos dicen: "Vamos a continuar nuestros esfuerzos en el Congreso y en especial con las iniciativas prometedoras en los tribunales para proteger la libertad religiosa que garantiza nuestra capacidad para cumplir con el Evangelio sirviendo al bien común".

