

Rite of Acceptance Celebrated in Parishes



In the photo above are candidates for the catechumenate from Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic Church in Whitesville standing before Fr John Broussart on Jan 11, 2015, for the opening dialogue with Candidates for the Catechumenate during the Rite of Acceptance. Candidates are first listed here and sponsor's name next: Marty Rhinerson, Michelle Rhinerson; Caroline Massie, Matthew Johnson; Sarah Mills, Troy Mills; Samantha Gossett, Dottie Pogue; Shana Wright, Nick Edge; Jeremy Smith, Kerry Pence; Colby Smith, Gena Boarman; Derek Howard, James "Bill" Howard. Mel Howard Photo

In the initial phase of Christian initiation, an unbaptized adult or child over seven is moved by some experience to inquire about the Catholic Church. Through some informal contact with a member of the Church, he or she begins to explore issues of faith, questions they've always had about the Church, or anything that has moved them to seek some kind of relationship with the Church. This part of the process can happen anytime for as long as needed.

When the inquiring person and the Church community believe that the person is starting to show some signs of a Christian faith and is ready to commit to becoming Catholic, the person is invited to celebrate a ritual called a "Rite of Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumenate."

By celebrating this rite, the person is officially and publicly declaring his or her intention to enter into a formal relationship with the Church, learning its ways and participating in its lifestyle. The Church, in turn, accepts their commitment and pledges its support throughout the person's journey of faith. This rite makes the person an official member of the Church as one who is preparing to be baptized. Therefore, the person is given an official title and role to play in the Church, that of "catechumen" which means "one in whom the Word of God echoes."

Rite Of Election

For more information about the RCIA Rite of Election celebrations in the Diocese of Owensboro, in February, turn to page 6.

Reasons I Feel Called To Become Catholic

My name is Derek Howard.

I am one of several people in the RCIA program at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. Sunday, January 11th, was our Rite of Acceptance which was the first major step in my journey to becoming a Catholic. That is us in the picture at left.

Several different things led me to be up there in front of the church that morning, but one of the most important to me is my wife and children. My wife, Maggie, is Catholic and our oldest child, Cameron, was baptized soon after birth. Recently we had our second child, Caroline, who is soon to be baptized. Before starting my family, my faith was really lacking. I would rarely attend church and when I did, it seemed as though I wasn't getting much out of it. Now Maggie and I look forward to raising our family in the Catholic Church.

Another important reason I feel called to become Catholic is my grandpa, who is also my sponsor. The way he lives his life of faith has really opened my eyes to some of the things I was missing in my own life. He lost his wife, my grandmother, a few years ago and I was amazed at the way he was able to handle her passing.

Although very saddened by his loss, Grandpa was able to lean on his faith to get through some of the toughest days of his life. Now I look forward to my own baptism, becoming closer to God, and also being part of the Catholic Church.

Liturgies of Lent and Triduum 2015

• Rite of Election:

Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Jerome, Fancy Farm•
 Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral•
 Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral•

• **Chrism Mass -- Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Owensboro Sportscenter**

• **Easter Vigil --** in 2015, the Easter Vigil falls on April 4. The earliest the vigil may begin is approximately 7:45 p.m. (To determine exact time of "end of twilight" for your city, please visit: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.php)

Source: *Worship Newsletter, Diocese of Owensboro, January, 2015*

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Please Consider Joining With The Universal Church In Praying For Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions



Most Reverend
William F. Medley,
Bishop of
Owensboro

There is hardly a day that goes by, hardly a human encounter we experience, that someone does not say, "Pray for me." Almost reflexively we might reply, "Of course, and please pray for me." For people who believe in God's favor it is as simple as saying, "Hello. Have a good day. See you soon."

Now, many of us may not believe that we pray often enough. And we very well may be right about that. If that is the case, the solution is simple enough. Pray. Pray more often. Pray always.

But let's get back to these everyday requests for prayers, for intention prayer. In the Mass at the Prayer of the Faithful, someone on behalf of us all articulates particular prayers, specific intentions. Often this may call us to present to God persons or intention we may not otherwise have thought about. It calls us to pray beyond our own needs, our own small world.

A month of the New Year has passed, but there is no law that we cannot still add a good resolution or two. Might we find a moment every day to very consciously add to our prayer, very specifically, anyone who has asked for our prayer? Can we lift a name to God for special blessing? Often when I assign a penance in confession, I ask the penitent to pray by name for anyone who may have been hurt by their sins. Maybe that can help the sinner see the one harmed with new eyes of charity.

The Church, apart from the Prayer of the Faithful, advocates intentional prayer. In fact, each year the Church identifies a universal intention for each month of the year. Whether your daily, weekly, monthly prayer is long and fervent or on the run, consider joining with the universal Church in praying for these

Monthly Papal Intentions:

February: Universal: That prisoners, es-

pecially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.

Evangelization: That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

March: Universal: That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

Evangelization: That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

April: Universal: That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

Evangelization: That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

May: Universal: That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Evangelization: That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.

June: Universal: That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.

Evangelization: That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.

July: Universal: That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity.

Evangelization: That, amid social inequalities, Latin American Christians may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.

August: Universal: That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy.

Evangelization: That setting aside our very selves we may learn to be neighbors to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

September: Universal: That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.

Evangelization: That catechists may

give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

October: Universal: That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.

Evangelization: That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

November: Universal: That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their

flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

December: Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

May God Bless You all!

William F. Medley

+Most Reverend William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro

Bishop Medley's Calendar for February 2015:

February 1	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation, Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro
February 2-4		Bishops Bio Ethics Conference, Dallas, TX
February 7		Mass, Catholic Men's Conference, St. Stephen Cathedral
February 8	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation, St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
	2:00 p.m.	Owensboro East Deanery Faith Formation Gathering, Blessed Mother, Owensboro
February 9	8:15 a.m.	School Mass, St. Paul School, Leitchfield
February 10	12:05 p.m.	Mass, 5 year Episcopal Ordination Anniversary, St. Stephen Cathedral
February 11		CCK meeting, Louisville, KY
February 12		Province Meeting, Louisville, KY
February 13	6:00 p.m.	Town Hall Meeting, Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
February 14	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation, St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
February 15	9:30 a.m.	Confirmation, St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
	2:00 p.m.	Rite of Election, St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
February 16	9:45 a.m.	Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, MCC
	1:30 p.m.	Priests' Council Meeting, MCC
February 17	9:00 a.m.	MCC Staff Mass and Meeting
February 18	8:30 a.m.	Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, MCC
	12:05	Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral
February 19	6:00 p.m.	Town Hall Meeting, Blessed Mother, Owensboro
February 20	9:00 a.m.	Mass, PACES meeting Christ the King Madisonville
February 22	2:00 p.m.	Rite of Election, St. Stephen Cathedral
	6:00 p.m.	Rite of Election, St. Stephen Cathedral
February 23	9:00 a.m.	St. Meinrad Seminarian Visit
February 24	10-3:00 p.m.	Paducah Office, Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
February 26-27		Brescia Board Meeting, Brescia University

Immigration Forum

Why would a person leave the familiarity of his/her native land, family and friends and move to the uncertainty of a foreign country with a different language and culture? What it is like to be an immigrant to western Kentucky? What is the position of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops on the treatment of immigrants and comprehensive immigration reform? What can we do to help resolve a problem that has been years in the making?

For a discussion of the issues surrounding this topic all are invited to attend an Immigration Forum presented by the Diocese of Owensboro Hispanic Ministry director, Chris Gutierrez and his wife Patti. The event to be held at the parish hall of Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church, 609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, Kentucky and sponsored by its Social Justice Team, will take place on Feb 24, from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm.

"God who is mighty has done great things for me, Holy is God's Name" – Luke 1:49
Bishop William Medley invites you to join him as he celebrates his 5 year
Episcopal Ordination Anniversary as the 4th bishop
of the Diocese of Owensboro with Mass at Saint Stephen Cathedral
on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 12:05 p.m.



The call to Consecrated Life has its foundation in a relationship with Christ. It is that profound experience of Christ's love that impels someone to let go of everything in order to follow Jesus.

Joining a congregation and participating in Christ's MISSION is a response that both expresses and enables the call to consecrated life.

Currently there is one School Sister of Notre Dame in the Diocese of Owensboro. Three other SSND's serve in the State of Kentucky, one in Lexington and two in Sandy Hook.

Our Mission is to proclaim the good news as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. (JN 17:21) As He was sent to show the Father's love to the world, we are sent to make Christ visible by our very being, by sharing our love, faith, and hope.

We are members of an international congregation of women religious founded by Caroline Gerhardinger in Bavaria in 1833. As founder, Caroline grounded the congregation in Eucharist, anchored it in poverty and dedicated it to Mary. At her profession of vows, Caroline took the name Mary Theresa of Jesus.

Following a discerning retreat, she writes: "I cannot describe my interior peace. Now I am in Jesus! He may do what He wants with me; I trust in Him. Remain in me, as I remain in you." (John 15:4) "On Him, I will build."

Our charism, gift of the Spirit, was embodied in our founder, Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus, (beatified on November 17, 1985.) She was a woman of great faith, always seeking God's will. She fostered unity in our international community, responded to needs of her time and educated girls and young women toward a world vision.

In 1847, the first School Sisters of Notre Dame arrived in North America. As immigrants themselves, their impressions of American children are insightful and humorous. Sister Caroline Friess, a courageous and innovative leader, adapted the congregation to life and ministry in North America. Caroline and Theresa, discerning God's will, balanced the adaptations to the new world while maintaining the unity of the congregation.

The formation and education of girls and women has always been a priority for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Mother Theresa believed education was a holy work and encouraged sisters to serve children with selfless love. Since Vatican II (1962-1965), School Sisters of Notre Dame, adapting to the needs of the time, shifted from focusing primarily on classroom education to an understanding of education in its broadest sense, happening informally as well as formally.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are educational leaders...

- empowering and companioning others in their spiritual and faith journey
- educating in both formal and informal settings
- addressing social justice endeavors, focusing on the poor, especially women and children
- discerning our response to areas of urgent need throughout the world
- fostering systemic and structural changes that further the Mission of Jesus

Check out our website www.ssnd.org

School Sisters of Notre Dame minister in 34 countries.



World Day for Consecrated Life: February 2, 2015
(Celebrated in Parishes February 7-8)





YOU ARE INVITED!

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Bishop William Medley
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tel: 800-206-TOUR (8687) or email:
Liz@206tours.com or Natasha@206tours.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
www.pilgrimages.com/bishopmedley




The Western Kentucky Catholic

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

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

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

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Cathedral Preschool



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Cathedral Preschool registration for the 2015-2016 school year begins on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

Cathedral Preschool will provide your 3, 4, and 5 year old children with:

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- Age appropriate loving & caring environment in a Christ-centered atmosphere
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- Listening skills, independence & learning to follow routines

All in all, Cathedral Preschool has what your child needs to be prepared for kindergarten and they will have a great time doing it!

Families are welcome to visit at 600 Locust Street in Owensboro or request information and forms by calling (270) 926-1652. You can also check the website at:

www.cathedralpreschool.com.

OWENSBORO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Free Tuition Raffle

Tickets Are Limited... Only 250 To Be Sold

So Act Right Away

Tickets Are \$40 Each

Purchase Your Ticket

At The K-3 Or 4-6 Campus

Deadline For Purchase: Tuesday, February 17Th

Drawing Will Be Held At The OCES Dinner & Auction

On Saturday, February 21, 2015

For more information contact: Jonathan Estes @ 270-313-2111

In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Father Carl Glahn



Father Carl J. Glahn, 89 of Owensboro, died Sunday, January 11, 2015 at the Carmel Home. He was born March 16, 1925 to the late George J. and Catherine Froehlich Glahn and was ordained a Catholic priest April 30, 1952. He is preceded in death by his brother, Father Jerry Glahn, sister Betty Lambert, brothers-in-law Charles Lattus and Leon Boarman, and a sister-in-law Virginia Glahn. He is survived by a brother, Tony Glahn, sisters Johanna (Kenny) Boarman, Alice Boarman, Mary (Charles) Russelburg, all of Owensboro and Martha Lattus of Hickman, KY; and many nieces and nephews.

His first assignment was St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church of Paducah under Fr. Thompson from 1952-1955. From there, he was assigned to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Earlington from 1955-60; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hickman and St. Edward Catholic Church, Fulton from 1960-1965. His longest assignment was Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville from 1965-1976. During this time, Bishop Soenneker realized the need for a Catholic Church at Cadiz, KY, near Kentucky Lake and with the assistance of Father Carl and his generous parishioners, St. Stephen Catholic Church, Cadiz, KY was established. Within the next

five years, 1976-1981, the bishop directed that a Catholic Church at Sebree and Providence be built and realizing Father Glahn's missionary zeal and his untiring financial ingenuity, the mission church of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Providence was built. While St. Michaels Catholic Church in Sebree was being built, Father lived in a mobile home and had Mass in the Sebree Deposit Bank across the street. The next four years, 1981-1985, Father was made pastor at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hickman and St. Edward Catholic Church, Fulton in 1986. While in Fulton County, Father was instrumental in the building of St. Jude Catholic Church, Clinton, due to his unrelenting pace, contributions from Catholics and non-Catholics alike and parishioner's donations of time and talent. The first mass was held on Christmas Eve 1982 and dedicated by Bishop McRaith in May, 1983. Later, his assignments included St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph, KY and a return to Sebree and Providence until his retirement in 1995.

Father Carl was a dedicated Catholic priest in every sense of the word; obedience, humility and love of his faith and family.

Funeral Mass was January 16, 2015 at St. Stephen Cathedral. Burial followed in Resurrection Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Masses or donations may be made to David and Christopher Boarman Memorial Fund at Owensboro Catholic High School, 1524 Parrish Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42301.

“It Is Right and Just”

The Ash Wednesday Collection on February-18-15 will again be for our Sister Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica.

As the Priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, he says “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God” and our response is “It is right and just.”

As we share from our sacrifices for the needs of our Sister Diocese in Mandeville Jamaica, we respond not only with words, but also with deeds to thank the Lord for His many blessings to us and share in His ongoing mission to tell the whole world of His kindness.

Please consider a generous response to this collection again this year.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 602 Sycamore Street, Owensboro, KY (279-926-4741) will host its 20th Annual BLACK HISTORY MONTH Gospel Explosion featuring local gospel choirs on Sunday, February 15 at 2:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join us for this rhythmic celebration of praise and worship. Refreshments will be served immediately afterward.

Pilgrims Of Hope Give Hope To Families In The Diocese Of Mandeville, Jamaica

February, 2015 5

Article and photos published by the Diocese of Mandeville, December, 2014, submitted by Suzanne Rose

Pilgrims of Hope is a lay organization in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky which is dedicated to empowering poor Jamaicans to help themselves and their families through the funding of micro businesses.

On Tuesday, December 23rd, Hope Wood-Salmon, manager of the Bishop Boyle Resource & Outreach Centre, made a number of presentations to needy families in order to give them a start towards becoming self-sufficient.

Several persons, many of whom have experience in rearing livestock, received chickens and chicken feed to start their own backyard farm. Judy Anne Stewart, whose business had closed several years ago, was determined to make a new start with the stock provided for her small snack shop. Danville Channer who makes cakes, grater cakes, gizzadas, wedding cakes and other baked goods, was grateful to receive ingredients to expand his business in order to better support his eight children, one of whom is physically disabled. For Channer, it was a timely intervention as he was unable to purchase ingredients to take advantage of the busy Christmas season.

The recipients were identified through the various ministries that are run by the Diocese. Some families have been receiving assistance for their children through the scholarship programme. Others were identified and recommended through their parishes.

All the recipients were interviewed to determine their business plan, and were advised as to what was expected of them. They must keep proper records for their businesses and be committed to re-investing a portion of the profits back into it in order to ensure its continuity and growth.

"They are all so grateful," says Hope Wood-Salmon, manager of the Bishop Boyle Resource & Outreach Centre. "You can see it in their eyes." For these struggling families, Pilgrims of Hope has truly provided hope for their future as they look for-



Danville Channer and his family receive baking supplies



Tracey Baker stands beside her chicken coop

ward to being able to better provide for their families in the years to come. We at the Diocese wish to express our sincere gratitude for Pilgrims of Hope and for all that they have done and continue to do for the people of Jamaica.



Alvin Williams tends to his newly acquired chicks



Judy Anne Stewart shows off her newly stocked store.

You Can Help and Support Pilgrims of Hope: Here's How!

Pilgrims of Hope funded 10 additional microbusinesses for families in 7 parishes in 2014. These efforts will help these families support themselves and educate their children.

You can help Pilgrims of Hope continue this work among poor families in Jamaica in 2015. In order to continue this important work of helping the poor become self-sufficient, we need you to join us in our meetings and planning for this work. Pilgrims of Hope is open to all the Catholic faithful. Our next meeting will be held Saturday, March 14, from 1-3 pm at the Villa meeting room of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph.

You can also help Pilgrims of Hope by donating to fund micro-businesses in Jamaica. You can do this in two ways. You can send donations to our new address: Pilgrims of Hope, P.O. Box 101, Maple Mount, Ky. 42358

Or, you can use the Amazon Smiles program to order all of your Amazon purchases. Simply indicate Pilgrims of Hope as your charity of choice, and Amazon Smiles will donate a portion of your purchase amount, at no cost to you, to Pilgrims of Hope so that we may continue to help families like those featured in the article above.

“Remaining Relevant: Why Summer Camp is important for Generation Y”

The following article is from Camp Business Magazine and offers some great insights to the benefits of summer camp. Young adults born between 1984 and 2002-known as Generation Y or the Millennial generation-are the most educated in American history and, like the generation of baby boomers, one of the largest. Yet these adults have grown up in an age of instant gratification: iPhones, iPads, instant messaging, Instagram, and Snap-Chat all provide immediate access to data. The young people have hundreds or even thousands of Facebook and Twitter “friends,” but often very few real connections. On the flip side, a child who goes to a sleep away camp makes real connections. Camp may be the last place a child can have quality face-time, a place where he or she may away from parents, the same people who have seemingly shifted from teaching self-reliance to hovering like helicopters, protecting their children at all costs.

According to Wendy Mogel, Ph. D., who wrote the best-selling *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, “Parents today find it harder than ever to uphold their own values within their families, when they seem so at odds with those of the current culture. We seek security in a society that seems more and more dangerous, grace that thrives on competition, and gratitude in an age of ever increasing materialism. How can this generation of parents raise self-reliant, compassionate, and ethical children?” The answer is simple: summer camp, where kids go outside and play!

At home, some parents fill their children’s spare time with organized activities, do homework for them, and resolve their conflicts at school with both friends and teachers. Children often receive trophies for just showing up. We must prepare children for the future by letting them fall, fail and fear. If they don’t risks early on-like climbing the monkey bars and possibly falling off-they are fearful of every new endeavor at the age of 27.

There is more to preparing children for adulthood than receiving an academic education, however. Children who spend their summers at camp are better prepared to for later decisions in life, such as, whether to attend college and how to make the best life for themselves. Teens in particular need mentors they can trust,

separate from their parents. These role models provide guidance and help the children lay a solid foundation. At camp, children learn to stretch their boundaries; experiencing life through the eyes of someone whose whole life is not a mirror image of their own. By doing so, camp increases their self-confidence and self-esteem, and fosters their independence. That’s what makes camp such a life-changing experience.

Charles Eliot, a former president of Harvard University, said, “I have a conviction that a few weeks spent in a well-organized summer camp may be of more value educationally than a whole year of formal school work.”

His statement still holds true, especially for the Millennial generation. Some of the coolest kids at camp might be labeled as nerds, geeks or worse at home. At summer camp, children are accepted for who they are. When children are taken out of their usual environment, the rules are altered. Authenticity is rewarded. Responsibility is cool. Maturity adds clout.

Camp Counselors are also members of Generation Y. Since the 2008 recession, they have been facing one of the worst job markets in decades. They are in debt. Many of them make sacrifices. They will follow all kinds of rules and adhere to all kinds of rituals that they would likely fight at home.

College students working at camp learn the importance of focusing attention on others. Counselors are trained to be present for the campers rather than for themselves. College-aged students possess a completely different type of authority than parents have, so they can get children to set tables, make beds, keep track of their clothes, take showers, and more importantly, take risks and accept challenges that would normally make parents extremely anxious.

Counselors often teach complex, challenging skills: sailing, horseback riding, rock climbing, kayaking and survival techniques. They also teach character and community, caring for others and sacrifice. Campers typically rank counselors as some of the most influential people in their lives.

I was at a camp fair a few years ago when a mother said to me, “I don’t want to get rid of my kids for a week.” I told her that camp was one of the greatest gifts

she could ever give her child. Camp is an investment for the parents so their child can become a more independent and confident person.

Camp teaches a child how to grow up. Camp teaches a child about responsibility and the importance of meaningful relationships. Sleep-away camp, in particular, is an intense experience because it is 24/7/

Unlike “friends” on Facebook, camp friends often become lifelong relationships. Children can be who they want to be at camp; the pressures that exist at home do not exist at camp. At camp, kids don’t worry about being “cool.” They can truly be themselves.

Elphram Caflun of Ridgewood Camp in Maine

As I read this article, I thought of the

past eight years at Gasper River and have realized that all of this is true. The best part of Gasper River is that we add the teachings of the Catholic Faith and Sacraments to a camp experience and that only make the week that much better! I have seen friendships, growth, healing, faith and confidence in hundreds of young people who have attended camp. Please visit our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for more information or give us a call at 270-781-2466. To see young people grow and change is one of the best parts of the job. Each summer, I’m contacted by parents who cannot get over the change in their child after a week at camp. Invest in your child. Help them to become the man or woman that God created them to be. Send them to camp!

Submitted by Ben Warrell

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA: The Period of Purification

As the name implies, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is marked by the liturgical celebration of the journey towards full initiation through the Easter Sacraments. Lent is also known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, and is marked by the celebration of several important rites.

For Catechumens

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election is celebrated. In order to be admitted to the Easter Sacraments, individuals must be elected by the bishop (or his delegate). By this rite, catechumens become “the elect” and enter the “period of purification and enlightenment” that culminates in the sacraments of initiation (see RCIA # 118-28). The Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election should be celebrated in the parish prior to the Rite of Election.

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies are celebrated. These rites should take place within the ritual Mass “For the Celebration of the Scrutinies” and use the Lectionary readings for Year A (see RCIA #146). The Prefaces for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are used—and these are now found in Proper of Seasons and not with the other Prefaces. The Eucharistic Prayers include specific inserts for the godparents (I) and the elect (I, II, III). The Presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer take place during the 3rd and 5th weeks of Lent, respectively.

For Candidates

Candidates are those who have already been validly baptized but wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. For a previous baptism to be considered valid, it must involve the use of water and the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) – and express the same belief in the Trinity as defined by the Church. Communities that baptize only in the name of Jesus (e.g. some Pentecostal communities) and those who do not share our belief in the Trinity (e.g., Mormons) are not considered to have valid baptisms. If there is a question regarding the validity of an individual’s baptism please contact the Office of Worship.

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, Candidates take part in the diocese’s celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion—which is preceded by the Rite of Sending Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop, celebrated at the parish.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in our Diocese

The Rite of Election will be celebrated as follows:

Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. -- St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm
Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. -- St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. -- St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Source: *Worship Newsletter, Diocese of Owensboro, January, 2015*



2015 Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!!!

Dates:	Ages	Camp
May 25 to May 29	18+	Eucharistic Life Camp
May 31 to June 5	5th & 6th Graders	Expedition I
June 7 to June 12	7th & 8th Graders	Quest I
June 14 to June 19	High School	Camp LIFE I
June 21 to June 26	7th & 8th Graders	Quest II
	5th & 6th Graders	Expedition II
June 28 to July 3	High School	Camp LIFE II
July 5 to July 10	5th & 6th Graders	Expedition II
July 12 to July 17	High School	Camp LIFE III
July 12 to July 15	3rd & 4th Graders	Explorer I
July 19 to July 24	7th & 8th Graders	Quest III
July 26 to July 29	3rd & 4th Graders	Explorer II

For information, look online at <http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/> and click on Camp Forms. Please contact Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center by phone at (270)-781-2466 or by email at gasperriver@hotmail.com

To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

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Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331).

In addition, to report to the diocese abuse by church personnel (paid or volunteer) either past or present, please call the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator at this confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro revised its sexual abuse policy, effective July 1, 2014 and it is available at parishes and also on the diocesan web site (www.rcdok.org/safe).

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett (Vice-Chair), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Chair), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, and Ms. Kelly Roe. Sr. Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Review Board. The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

Reportar las Acusaciones de Abuso Sexual

Cualquier persona que sepa de un abuso de un menor de dieciocho años es obligado por ley informarles a las autoridades estatales apropiadas: policía local o la línea dedicada para el Abuso Infantil de Kentucky (gratis: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331).

Además, para informar a la Diócesis sobre el abuso por parte de algún personal (pagado o voluntario) de la Iglesia, en el pasado o presente, favor de llamar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral a esta línea confidencial: 270-852-8380. La Diócesis de Owensboro acaba de revisar su reglamento sobre el abuso sexual, efectivo el 1 de Julio del 2014 y está disponible en todas las parroquias y también en el sitio web diocesano (www.rcdok.org/safe).

Los miembros de la junta que responden a las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Mr. Ken Bennett (Vice-Presidente), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Presidente), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, y Ms. Kelly Roe. La hermana Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y la Junta de Revisión Diocesano.

Thanks for Being There

By Rebekah Kates Lemke

Abbe Yeelen Waongo blesses water and prays over a woman in Central African Republic. She is one of 500,000 people who fled their homes because of violence. CRS is helping to restore peace. Abbe Yeelen Waongo blesses water and prays over a woman in Central African Republic. She is one of 500,000 people who fled their homes because of violence. CRS is helping to restore peace. Photo by Catianne Tijerina for CRS

Every November, we sit down with friends and family, have a big meal and give thanks. It's a time to reflect and count our blessings. But at Catholic Relief Services, we need more than one day to say "thank you" for your tremendous support, so we do it every day through our work.

It's been a year of strife and instability in many parts of the world. But one thing has remained constant: your commitment to CRS and the people we serve. You are right there with us.

You are there in West Africa fighting the Ebola virus that already has killed more than 4,500 people. CRS is working in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone to educate communities about Ebola prevention and debunk dangerous myths about the illness. Even as this health crisis continues, you are making a difference by helping CRS provide trained personnel, medical equipment and support to suffering communities.

In the Middle East, you are providing food, water and



living supplies to families who desperately need these essentials in Gaza. And you are in Iraq as CRS provides counseling, education for children, and shelter to thousands of displaced people.

You are helping people in Central African Republic work together to resolve conflict peacefully so they can rebuild their country. Although other countries have dominated media coverage recently, you have demonstrated to the people of CAR that you are still standing beside them. With your support, we have implemented peace-building workshops in 2014 for nearly 300,000 community



Abbe Yeelen Waongo blesses water and prays over a woman in Central African Republic. She is one of 500,000 people who fled their homes because of violence. CRS is helping to restore peace. Photo by Catianne Tijerina for CRS

leaders of all faiths. They are learning how to transform their communities and develop their country.

Thanks to your generous hearts and spirits, we are helping nearly 100 million people in 93 countries every day. Thanks for caring, thanks for giving. You are among our biggest blessings.

Rebekah Kates Lemke is a web producer for Catholic Relief Services.

So, Your Daughter Wants To Be A What?!

Editor's Note: *The following reflection was written by Matt Wenke on the occasion of his daughter Nora entering our monastery.*

When other men's daughters might have expressed an interest in the convent or the cloister, I wouldn't have questioned it at all. I would have been respectful of their choice and genuinely happy for them. "What a noble and beautiful vocation!" or "What a meaningful life with a holy purpose!" I, no doubt, would have thought.

When I heard of my own daughter's interest in the cloister, my immediate thought was, "Oh my gosh, I hope you get a vacation... how often can you come home to visit?!!!" Isn't this sad... that my first thought wasn't just about Nora's vocational fulfillment and spiritual well being? My initial thought was about the fact that I might be missing my daughter's presence in my home and her gentle, delightful company.

The reason I had these thoughts is that I did know some things about the cloister. I'd read Saint Therese's autobiography, "Story of a Soul", with its description of her entrance into the cloister and having to say goodbye to her grieving father and sister, Celine. I've always had a hard time with goodbyes, so even then, when I was in my twenties, I could hardly imagine saying goodbye to my family and homeland to embrace religious life, largely away from those I'd been closest to and loved, dearly.

As time went on, I observed Nora's spiritual confidence and serenity in her vocational choice as she first visited the Passionist nuns for a week-long "Come



Nora Wenke, second from left above, is standing at the door about to enter the cloister of the St. Joseph's Monastery of the Passionist Nuns in Whitesville, Ky. With Nora are her parents, Matt and Mary Wenke, and her five brothers: Jude, Bro Emmanuel, O.F.M. Conv., Matthew (front), Sam and Abe. Passionist Nuns Photo

and see" discernment in November-December of 2013 and her three month "Aspirancy Visit" from February to May of 2014. Before February, I'd been dreading that goodbye to my only daughter. I will never forget my pain and dread of parting as months led up to that tender February day.

While waiting and praying through that time, I asked myself... "Should I try to make her stay?" Should I "guilt trip" her into worrying about my grief and sadness, as some of my more sentimental family members might have done? I pondered the selfishness of that and the manipulation and misuse of power and control dynamics which that might have represented. I thought of guilt feelings I would have if I looked at my daughter, en-

trapped by my selfishness and knew that, due to my selfishness, she was trapped into a life she wasn't choosing for herself, just to placate me and/or relieve herself of unearned guilt and/or unhealthy desire to please selfish others in her life.

The thought of that horrified me! Especially, since I'd considered religious life for years, myself. I wondered how I might have felt if someone had emotionally entrapped me from making a free choice about my vocation and lifestyle. I know that I might have come to resent that person and to grieve for what I thought I should have pursued in order to answer our loving Lord's attractive calling.

I looked at my daughter. A pure soul. A deeply spiritual young woman, wanting to discern God's call for her, freely. She has the desire to conform herself to God's Will that I have prayed for, for all of my children, whether God's call be to the single life, marriage, lay ministry or consecrated religious life. To be authentic followers, we have to be open to all choices, not just for ourselves, but for all of those we love and for all of God's children.

When Nora came home from her three month aspirancy visit to Kentucky,

she never fully returned. Her body was home, but her spirit belonged to a cloistered convent in Kentucky. She loved us the same and "adjusted" to being home. However, she reminded me after a day or two that this was "no longer her life". She assured me that "I don't have a life here, anymore." "I need to be going about God's work for me, and it isn't here, anymore." She didn't say this, meanly. It was just a statement of fact. I was shocked and, I will admit, somewhat tender about her words... but, deep down, I knew the truth of them. From that moment, I began to prepare myself for a more final parting to take place at the end of July, 2014, when Nora began her year long postulancy. At the end of that time, if she still feels called to the cloister, she will never return home to Olean, New York.

Nora's words to me reminded me of Jesus' words to his Mom and Dad, (Mary and Joseph) at the finding in the temple... "Did you not know that I must be about my father's business?" Certainly, his words cut them a little... but they had to "know" the deep spiritual truth of them. Like Jesus, Nora obediently followed the plan... to be with us until the end of July. However, she had spoken the words. This visit was temporary. We must not mistake that. She had to be about her Heavenly Father's business, later in the Summer.

From May 22nd until July 26th, when we returned to Kentucky, I prayed for courage and faith and love to let my daughter go. I prayed to have the courage and love to give back to God, she whom He'd only loaned to us for nearly nineteen years, my only daughter. God gave His Son for me. Could I place back in His loving arms the beautiful daughter He had created?!

I won't lie to you or pretend to be a strong, courageous man. I cried and cried countless times as I looked at my beloved daughter, praying the rosary beside me each night, and tears came to me as I looked at her, across the room at Morning prayer or during our recitation of the Angelus, many days at Noon. I memorized the sound of her voice and really concentrated that she was asleep at night, safe in her own room, in my house, under my roof. Not one day of her two month visit did I take her presence for granted. Like

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“God Will Not Be Out-Done In Generosity!”

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before her aspirancy visit, I treasured the time with my daughter.

Because of her vocational choice, I

did a lot of reflection on the contemplative lifestyle... giving all to God and focusing on Him and His sorrowful moth-



Community photo taken July 27, 2014. Sr. Ann Miriam is missing from this photo. Christie Anna had not entered the aspirancy program yet. Front: postulants Elizabeth and Nora. Seated: Sr. Mary Veronica, Sr. Mary Agnes, Mother Catherine Marie, Sr. John Mary, Sr. Mary Magdalen. Standing: Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Oblate Affiliate Christie, Sr. Marie Michael, Sr. Mary Therese, Sr. Rose Marie, Sr. Cecilia Maria, Sr. Therese Marie, Sr. Mary Dolores, Sr. Mary Andrea. Not shown: Sr. Ann Miriam.



Official Kentucky Citizens - Passionist Nuns postulants Nora and Elizabeth

er, around the clock. I contemplated the peace and deep meaning and power of that lifestyle. While I still dreaded saying goodbye to Nora, I could understand her excitement and joy and even envy it, at noisy times of chaos at home or at work! I surmised that some spiritual part of me will join her in her new home and that her prayers in the cloister will be united with ours at home or at Mass as is known as the “Communion of Saints”. Dear God, give us courage, comfort and deep love as we live this out!

Well, the 27th of July came. The Gospel reading was perfect for that day... about finding a precious pearl and buying the field, in order to hide and later possess that valuable pearl or “treasure”. Nora had found her love for the Lord and desire to give all to Him and to be totally possessed by Him! My daughter is a singular treasure who needs to be in a place worthy of the treasure which she is! This “pearl” will be joined to the string of precious pearls, which is the Sisters. She will be balanced and placed in just the right place to further enhance the beauty of Jesus’ chain of pearls who are already there, in the cloister. Each pearl is unique. One is not more beautiful than another. Yet, they all add to the beauty and completeness of the chain!

I contemplated and contemplated that reading. I observed with joy and wonder and awe Nora’s radiant joy upon returning to the cloister. Nothing bad for her could bring her this visible joy and peace and ecstasy she seemed to be experiencing! I prayed more and more for courage and joy in me, as well. Guess what... God gave them to me! I was shocked on the morning of Nora’s entrance, that her joy and love were infectious. I couldn’t think about myself. I could only think about my daughter’s joyful, unselfish, pure and FREE decision to enter cloistered religious life... and

to give ALL to God! What is sad about that? Nothing! My daughter entered the cloister with my smiles and my blessing and my glorifying God... For calling my dear daughter. She belongs to Him! So do you and me!

Are you thinking of joining?

Is your daughter/granddaughter or other loved one thinking of joining the sisters or embracing a religious vocation?

Are you encouraging free choices of vocations or are you just protecting your own sentimental feelings or dread of tender moments of sacrifice?

I challenge you to give up all. My wife’s frequent words keep coming back to me. “God will not be out-done in generosity!”

Don’t be ashamed of your sadness, tenderness and hurt. These are normal feelings as we have a lifetime of love for our daughters, granddaughters, sisters and friends! Celebrate that love, but don’t spoil it by having it be an obstacle to your loved one’s free choice.

Pray for courage and love and generosity. It will take all of these. As our parish priest reminded us... we’re not giving up our daughter, we’re just learning to hold her in a new way!”

Don’t deprive yourself of a chance to sacrifice. Don’t deprive God of His Beloved Bride... your loved one!

Be assured of my prayers for you, whether you are the aspiring nun or her family and/or loved ones.

May God bless you all. May God’s Will be done unto and by all of us...for only with conformity to the Will of God will we know peace and love and contentment in this life as well as in the next!

Prayerfully, Matthew R. Wenke, Father of Nora Wenke, postulant at Passionist Nuns, St. Joseph’s Monastery, Whitesville, Kentucky. August 3, 2014, (One week after our daughter’s entrance).

St. Paul Catholic Church in Grayson County is selling bricks to raise money for its new Parish Hall. The bricks will be used in a design in or around the new hall as a way of connecting our past loved ones with our present and future church.

The bricks can be in memory or in honor of some one.

The 4 x 8 bricks are \$50.00 each and 8 x 8 bricks are \$100.00 each.

For more information contact St. Paul Church. Phone number

270-242-7436 or email stpaulgrayson@windstream.net or

Stpaulgraysonamy123@windstream.net.

10 February, 2015

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Awards Banquet and Dinner Honors Vincentians

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council hosted their annual Awards Banquet and Dinner on January 16, at St. Stephen Cathedral. A Mass was celebrated at 5:00pm, with Bishop William Medley and Fr. Jerry Riney, will be followed by a banquet.

Vincentians honored this night were:

20+ years of Service: Jim Hodgkins, Blessed Mother Conference; Doris Maden, Holy Name of Jesus; Paul Coomes, Holy Name of Jesus; May Oliver, Holy Name of Jesus; Jackie Harris, Paducah, KY; Thomas Weitlauf, St. Francis de Sales; Rose Marie Weitlauf, St Francis de Sales; Ina Sowell, Rosary Chapel; Patty Day, St. Joseph-Bowling Green; Zita Hayden, Holy Spirit.

30 + years of Service: Bill Hayden, Blessed Mother, and Paul Fritz, Holy Name of Jesus

Vincentian of the Year: Bill Hayden, Blessed Mother

Outstanding Associate Members: Sharon Speaks (20+ yrs), Holy Name of Jesus; Tammy Slack, Store Manager/Associate Vincentian, Owensboro Super Store (20+yrs)

In Memoriam: Albert Fambrough, St. Sebastian; Martha Crisp, St Stephen; Wendell Booth, St. Stephen; Mary Hilda McFarland, St. Stephen; Alice Bagot, St. Stephen; Ed Welch, St Stephen; Norman Reisz, St Stephen; Fred Smith, St Stephen; "Pat" Wedding, Sts. Joe & Paul (40+yrs); Frank Alvev. St. Thomas Moore.



Stephen Wathen, President, SVdP Diocesan Council, center, gave the Vincentian of the Year Award to Bill Hayden, left, as St. Vincent de Paul Society Executive Director Richard Remp-Morris leads applause at right. Mel Howard Photos



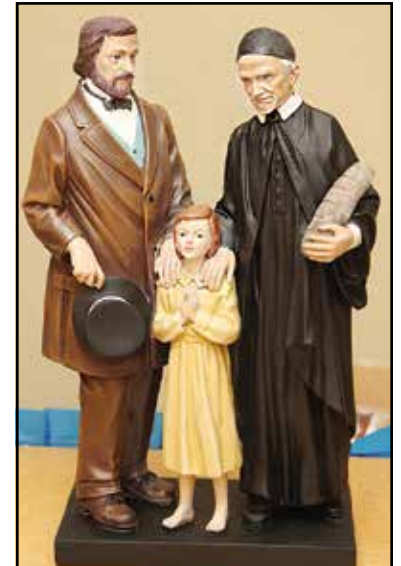
Jim Hodgkins, Blessed Mother, at right, and three others who were awarded Jubilarians Crosses for 20+ years of service.



Vincentians Bill Hayden, Blessed Mother, and Paul Fritz, Holy Name of Jesus, were awarded Jubilarians Crosses for 30+ years of service.



At right, the Vincentian of the Year Award features SVdP founder Blessed Frederick Ozanam, a child (whom the Society helps), and patron St. Vincent de Paul.



Don Speaks, Holy Name, Henderson, accepted an Outstanding Associate Member award for his wife, Sharon who was on retreat Jan. 16.



Bishop William Medley blessed the Vincentians at the close of the ceremony: "They're waiting for someone to lead them to Jesus."

Who Are Vincentians?

"Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, Saint Vincent de Paul. As a reflection of the whole family of God, members known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule. Organized locally, Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served, because in them Vincentians see the face of Christ."

To Make Donations, or to
Contact the Saint Vincent de Paul
Society:

Society of St Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Owensboro, P.O. Box 1203, Owensboro, KY 42302-1203.
Phone: 270-686-4265/270-315-5747.

Email: svdp.owensboro@att.net.

OnThe Web: svdpusa.org



Vincentnian Tammy Slack, Store Manager, Owensboro Super Store, above right, was honored as an Outstanding Associate Member Jan. 16, 2015. Above, Angela Alfaro attended the 2015 Annual Mass and Banquet with her children, Malia, Kaien and Gabriel. Angela works at the Owensboro SVdP Store.



Principal's Job Opening

Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School has an opening for Principal beginning in June of 2015. Central Catholic is located in Lafayette, IN and serves 412 students in grades 7 - 12. Central Catholic is seeking a visionary Principal to sustain a tradition of academic excellence within a Catholic environment. The successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church, hold a Master's Degree in Education Administration and have administrative experience in a Catholic school. The Principal reports to the LCSS Executive Director. The Principal is responsible for implementing the policies of LCSS and the Indiana State Department of Education. The Principal is expected to provide spiritual, educational, and professional leadership to the school community. For more information, please visit <http://www.lcss.org/about/workforless/>.

Your Unwanted Items Can Bring Hope To Struggling Families

When you donate your gently used clothing, furniture and household items to St Vincent de Paul, you are helping families right in your local community. Proceeds from our Stores-Donation Centers help local families in need. See below to find a store near you:

- Beaver Dam - 213 Midtown Plaza 270-274-5118
- Bowling Green - 655 US 31 W Bypass 270-904-1832
- Bowling Green - 1901 Russellville Road 270-783-7533
- Fordsville - 327 East Main St. 270-276-5102
- Henderson - 116 North Alvasia St. 270-827-4138
- Hopkinsville - 902 East 9th St. 270-885-8522
- Lewisport - 8185 US 60 West 270-295-3494
- Madisonville - 101 East Arch St. 502-821-2159
 - Morganfield - 218 Jim Veatch Road 270-389-4281
 - Oak Grove - 15088 Ft. Campbell Road 270-640-6241
 - Owensboro - 200 East 18th St. 270-683-1747 (new location)
 - Paducah - 2025 Cairo Road 270-442-9351
 - Whitesville - 10534 Walnut St. 270-233- 5118

As always, volunteers are needed and welcome to help at any of the stores. Please call the store location for information on how you can volunteer."



TEC 50th Anniversary Cruise

Join the TEC Family for a 7 Night Alaskan Cruise. We will leave Vancouver on August 7, 2015, arriving in Anchorage the morning of August 14, 2015, sailing on Royal Caribbean's Radiance of the Seas. Points of interest include: Ketchikan, Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Skagway, Hubbard Glacier and Anchorage. Train ride from Seward to Anchorage. Meet with Archbishop Schwietz in Anchorage. Fly back home on the 15th.

\$2770 a couple or \$1385 a person. Inside cabin-double occupancy. Airline prices won't be available until after the first of the year and will depend on your point of departure. The initial deposit of \$770 will be due by April 1, 2015 and final payment due May 15th.

What's Needed: Name (s) As it appears on your passport. We also need a copy of your passport), Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone Number, and E-Mail.

For information, Contact Darlene White at 2031 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301 Phone: 270-713-0144 Or Sharrie Cinnamond at sharriecinnamond@gmail.com.



Epiphany Party

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish hosted an Epiphany party at St. Stephens on Jan. 4, 2015. The choir members headed by Michael Conley sang carols from 4 to 4:45 pm in the Cathedral and then there was a international potluck at Fr. John Vaughn Community Center. People brought different food from their country of origin. It was a great evening.

The Three kings in the picture at right are Justin Millay, Clayton Lewis and George Kurts. Photos submitted by Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN



your Lenten journey starts here

Pray as a family
Fast in solidarity
Give to change lives



CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
40th ANNIVERSARY

Bring YOUR Lent to life. Start today.
Download the CRS Rice Bowl app!



And visit crsricebowl.org or contact your CRS Diocesan Director to get involved!

Richard Murphy, McRath Pastoral Center.
Richard.Murphy@pastoral.org. 1/270/683-1545.

Catholic by Grace

Lent is a time we are called to come back to the faith and bring others with us.

By Denise Bossert

It is disheartening when people walk away from the Church.

Sometimes, when we try to talk, they run at us like some kid on the opposite team in a game of Red Rover. They want to break through our line and pull somebody else from the Church. They may even attempt to pull us away.

We have a choice. When they run toward us, even if it is with a kind of adversarial spirit, we must be ready to receive them, ready to hold them tightly in our arms, ready to defend the faith, and maybe even ready to reclaim them for Our Lord and His Church. Red Rover, Red Rover, send them on over, we pray.

It has happened to me many times. I write an article or post something on

social media. Someone sends an email explaining why he is glad I am happy being Catholic, but he wants me to know that his choice was clear. It was time to walk away. Somebody disappointed him. Something someone did scandalized her. She lost the joy of being Catholic. He decided to walk away from God or just find God in some other faith community.

Many do build a relationship with Jesus somewhere else. Usually, it is in a church with a name that does not fit categories. No denomination. No labels. No hierarchy. They find a place where they can begin again. It feels wonderful and they are happy, they say.

It makes me think. I believe we all

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Lent is a time we are called to come back to the faith and bring others with us.

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have reasons to be bitter and walk away. There are plenty of offenses to send us through the exit doors. Most of the ones who left didn't hate the faith. There were just things that rubbed them the wrong way. Their love for the Sacraments and the Church was not enough to keep them here. It sometimes makes me wonder. Will my love endure?

Am I strong enough to persevere when others scandalize the faith? If I encounter a priest who is far from pastoral or an administrator in a Catholic workplace who has more vices than virtues, will I stay?

What about the young Catholic whose spouse cheats – after sponsoring her husband into the faith? Will he have

the strength to stay when she leaves their family and the Church?

What about the young person who hears about a charitable organization squandering funds, and it becomes common knowledge that those who could have stopped the whole thing just looked the other way – will the spiritually fragile young person stay after that?

What happens when a bishop or cardinal causes scandal? What will we do when a high profile Catholic falls off the pedestal in a very public way – or in a quiet way and nobody else has any idea?

These are not made-up scenarios. For some people, these things were enough to send them in the opposite direction. For others, nothing would take them away from the Eucharist. The ones who

stick around seem to have some things in common. For them, truth is true, and God is God. If the Church is the Church in time, and devotions lead to holiness; if the saints light the way, and the Eucharist is Christ; if the Word is alive, and the poor are fed, the lost are found, the sick are healed; if miracles still happen, and Christ still calls disciples; if angels still aid, and the confessional still cleanses; if martyrs still die, and others rise to take their places; if a still small voice can be heard above the betrayal, wounds and doubts--

Then the Church is still the Church. In that moment we realize that God never fails, even when people sometimes do. And the person running toward us with division in her heart is really a lost

lamb running toward us. A soul in need of strong arms that wraps around her and gathers her back to the safety of the Church. Red Rover, Red Rover. Send her on over. She looks up, a bit disoriented, because she didn't break through the line. She was, in fact, caught in loving arms. Hopefully, she sees a smile. A welcoming nod. Not gloating. Not condescension.

Make room for her at your side. Squeeze her hand a couple of times to let her know you are glad she's back. And brace yourselves. Someone else is barreling at the line. But he is not the enemy either. Hold the line, and let it wrap around him – with love.

<http://www.denisebossert.com>

Sts. Joseph and Paul Church Invites All To Feb 24 Immigrations Forum

Why would a person leave the familiarity of his/her native land, family and friends and move to the uncertainty of a foreign country with a different language and culture? What is it like to be an immigrant to western Kentucky? What is the position of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops on the treatment of immigrants and comprehensive immigration reform? What can we do to help resolve a problem that has been years in the making?

For a discussion of the issues surrounding this topic all are invited to attend an Immigration Forum presented by the Diocese of Owensboro Hispanic Ministry director, Chris Gutierrez and his wife Patti. The event to be held at the parish hall of Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church, 609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, Kentucky and sponsored by its Social Justice Team, will take place on Feb 24, from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information, contact *Sr. Maria Del Pilar Hinojosa* 270 683-5641, Ext.227; srpilarsjc@yahoo.com

The Light Is On For You

The Diocese of Owensboro will once again be implementing The Light Is On For You initiative in our diocese. The Light is on for You was created by the Archdiocese of Washington and has since been implemented by dioceses throughout the United States. The purpose of the initiative is to invite people to experience God's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It both highlights the importance of this sacrament in the life of Catholics and increases its availability, hoping that every Catholic will visit this source of God's love and forgiveness.

All parishes are asked, to the extent they're able, to offer an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the Wednesday evenings of Lent from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It is also recommended that parishes keep a holy hour during that time, encouraging parishioners to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

More information and some resources for parishes may be found at: www.rcdok.org/lightison

You Are Invited!

During the season of Lent, Catholic churches in the Diocese of Owensboro will turn on their lights and open their doors for Confessions, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please come and experience Christ's healing love.

An Ignatian Retreat

March 6-8, 2015

A silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola will allow participants to take time to dwell in the unchanging reality that we are loved just as we are, to listen to the call of God and God's hopes for us and to respond more deeply from our hearts.

Retreatants will develop deeper pathways to prayer, keener discernment, the ability to see God actively involved in the world and intimately involved with us in every moment and place.

Saint Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in the 16th century, in whose footsteps our beloved Jesuit Pope Francis follows.

Retreat director Monica Armstrong founded Mission of the Spirit in Knoxville, Tenn., to bring Ignatian spirituality to the region.



Presenter:

Monica Armstrong, MS

Time:

Begins 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday

Cost:

\$180 (program, meals and accommodations)

Contact **Kathy McCarty** to register
270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
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Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

"It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord," Pope Francis said. "Religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women able to wake the world up!"

On the first day of the Year of Consecrated Life, Nov. 30, 2014, we, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, decided to celebrate big by launching our new Future of Charity blog!

We welcome you to the Future of Charity blog! You might be wondering a few things. Who are "we," and what is the Future of Charity?

We are younger, newer vowed members or women in formation with religious congregations from the Sisters of Charity Federation. This Federation is comprised of 12 unique congregations who recognize their particular character and spirit in the charism of the tradition of Charity founded by St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. To learn more, see <http://futureofcharity.blogspot.com/p/the-sisters-of-charity-federation.html>

The Future of Charity is a group that has formed to build relationships among the younger, newer members of the Federation. As our congregations grow

smaller, we recognize an exciting opportunity for collaboration! In August, 2014, our Future of Charity group gathered for the first time at the House of Charity in New Orleans, Louisiana. We spent time getting to know one another and dreaming about how we might journey together. One idea that emerged was this blog. We are thrilled that it has taken shape, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

This project is one way that we choose to respond to Pope Francis' call for the Year of Consecrated Life: Wake Up the World!

We hope, through this blog, to communicate our love of God and of religious life. We hope to draw others ever more deeply into "the beauty of God." We hope to challenge all to a more fervent commitment to the Gospel. We hope to grow closer as a Future of Charity community. We desire to generate hope and joy in our Charity congregations (and others).

And, we hope to be a place of accompaniment and encounter for discerners to freely explore what is stirring in their hearts. We offer to you an honest picture of our lives as younger, newer religious. And we invite your comments, thoughts, and questions.

Will you journey with us?



The Future of Charity is a group that has formed to build relationships among the younger, newer members of the Sisters of Charity Federation in Nazareth, Ky. Six Sisters of Charity of Nazareth from Kentucky are represented in this photo. The next meeting of The Future of Charity will be in the second weekend of March, 2015 in South Carolina. Photo courtesy of http://www.scnfamily.org/become_a_sister/

compassionate
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FAITH-FILLED
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If these words describe who you are, we invite you to consider being a Sister of Charity of Nazareth. To find out more about our formation program, look at www.facebook.com/scnfamily, or http://www.scnfamily.org/become_a_sister/

Let's Wake Up the World together! <http://futureofcharity.blogspot.com>

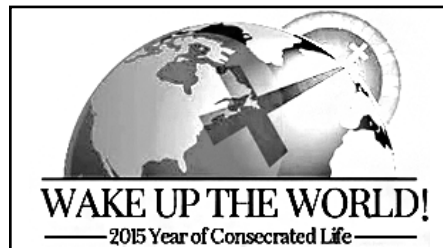
Year of Consecrated Life: Waking Up the World Through Humble Service

By Sister Constance Veit, I.s.p.

This year Pope Francis has asked consecrated persons to "wake up the world" with their "prophetic and counter-current witness." This might sound like a tall order – but religious life is, by its very nature, countercultural. For us Little Sisters of the Poor, giving the kind of witness our Holy Father is calling for means being faithful to the spirit of our foundress.

Saint Jeanne Jugan lived her vocation without illusions: "Call me now the humble servant of the poor," she told an old friend soon after she began welcoming the needy elderly into her home. Humility and servanthood – I can't imagine two more countercultural values! Even Christ's first disciples squabbled about who was the greatest among them!

Today radical feminism and a secularized culture make the concept of humble service somewhat incomprehensible. Taking the last place, letting others have the credit for a job well-done, or



putting others' needs before one's own – such acts are seen as servile, demeaning, even unhealthy. A young woman in discernment once told me, "I really like your community, except for the humility thing." I've had plenty of chances to tease her about this over the years, because she did, in fact, become a Little Sister of the Poor!

On the other hand, a fellow religious recently voiced her concern that if we see ourselves as bending down to serve others (as Pope Francis asks us), we risk getting caught in an attitude of condescension

toward those less fortunate. The antidote to this temptation is simple: When we accept the yoke of service in imitation of Christ, who was gentle and humble of heart, we cannot be vain. Christ teaches us that servanthood is the greatest demonstration of love – not pride.

Before he gave his life for his friends, Jesus washed their feet and told them, "I have given you an example. As I have done for you, so you must do." These words are for Christians of all ages, but none more so than those in religious life. "If, on the one hand, the consecrated life contemplates the sublime mystery of the Word in the bosom of the Father (cf. Jn 1:1)," Saint John Paul II once wrote, "on the other hand it follows the Word who became flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), lowering himself, humbling himself in order to serve others" (Vita Consecrata, n. 75).

In his words and gestures, Pope Francis gives the world a powerful wit-

ness of what it means to be a humble servant. His bending low has nothing to do with condescension and everything to do with love: "As living icons of the motherhood and of the closeness of the Church, we go out to those who are waiting for the Word of consolation," he said to consecrated persons, "and we bend down with motherly love and fatherly spirit towards the poor and the weak."

Writing to the whole Church in the Joy of the Gospel, our Holy Father articulated a beautiful vision: "True love is always contemplative, and permits us to serve the other not out of necessity or vanity, but rather because he or she is beautiful above and beyond mere appearances: 'The love by which we find the other pleasing leads us to offer him something freely.' The poor person, when loved, 'is esteemed as of great value,' and this is what makes the authentic option

Continued on page 15



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

2015 Philadelphia

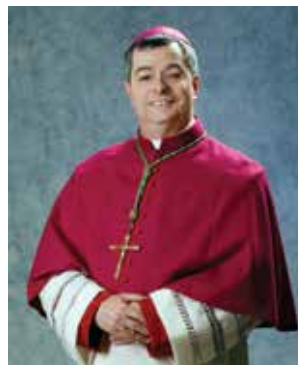
September 22-27, 2015

7 days/ 6 nights Pilgrimage



Come join Bishop Medley in Philadelphia for the 2015 World Meeting of Families.

The World Meeting of Families is a weeklong celebration of families with a concluding festival and Mass with our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

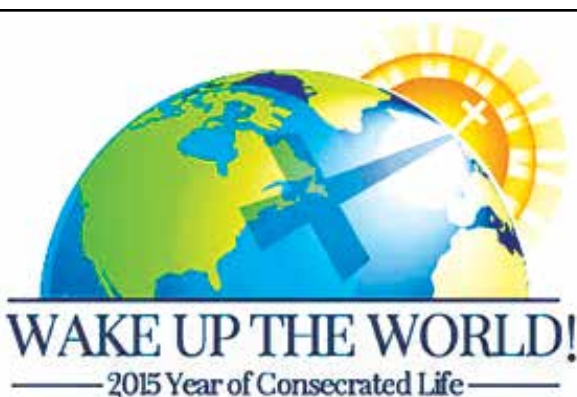


Prices start at \$841 person based on quad occupancy.

Price includes motorcoach and hotel accommodations with breakfast daily.

Price does not include conference fees for the WMOF which range from \$125–\$325 for adults and some meals.

More detailed itinerary to come. Watch Facebook, rcdok.org and listen to Catholic Radio for more details or contact Joe Bland in the Family Life Office at the McRaith Catholic Center at 270-852-8377



Jugan, in these words of Pope Francis. I also sense in them the countercultural witness we Little Sisters of the Poor are called to offer the world during this Year of Consecrated Life. We have received a priceless gift in the charism of Saint Jeanne Jugan and the call to follow her, but at the same time we know that without God's grace we can do nothing. Please pray for us, that we will live our charism authentically and offer the world a prophetic witness of God's merciful love.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.



Continued from page 14

for the poor differ from any other ideology, from any attempt to exploit the poor for one's own personal or political interest ... Only this will ensure that 'in every Christian community the poor feel at home....' " (E. G. n. 199).

Making the poor feel at home – I find my foundress, Saint Jeanne



The St. Romuald Preschool held a New or Gently used coat and mitten Drive in lieu of exchanging gifts for Christmas. Submitted by Erin Waddell



“Parsley, Sage, Rose Marie, and Thyme!”

If you have ever wondered whether contemplative nuns ever have any fun, wonder no more. As this photo taken during recreation at the Passionist Nuns' monastery in Whitesville shows, Sr. Rose Marie, CP, and her companions have a great sense of humor!

Learn more about them at www.passionistnunsblog.com

(WKC Editor's Note: In the January, 2015 Western Kentucky Catholic, Bishop-Emeritus John McRaith thanked "... those giants on whose shoulders we stand today. The pioneer Catholics who came to western Kentucky ..." Inspired by the thought, we asked Saint Denis Catholic Parish for reprint permission of their parish history because it mentions many of those pioneer Catholics.)

HISTORY OF SAINT DENIS CHURCH

Updated 10/26/2014 by Shirley Toon

NOTE: (Most of the information for this history was obtained from the HICKMAN COUNTY GAZETTE, CLINTON, KY, 1953 ANNIVERSARY EDITION. The article was a reprint of an earlier edition. The information for the article was provided by local historians Mrs. Henry Hunt and Mrs. O.M. Dalton of St. Jerome and St. Denis Parishes.)

Historical Background: The history of the parish actually begins with the building of a little white country Catholic Church—the first Catholic Church in Hickman County. However, for many years prior to having their own church the community counted on the roster of the church at Fancy Farm. Their background is intimately associated with the history of that parish. Like many other Catholics of the state, together with their Catholic brethren at Fancy Farm and thereabouts, most of the clients of St. Denis are lineal descendants of the historic Catholics who founded the State of Maryland.

When Lord Baltimore sailed from England in 1634 on his ships, "The Ark" and "The Dove," he brought with him a number of persecuted English-Irish Catholics who were seeking refuge in the new world. Landing on the present site of Baltimore, they set up the Cross, planted the English Flag and claimed the land all about in the name of the English Queen Mary and called their little domain "St. Mary's" or Maryland. As time passed (about 150 years) some 60 Catholic families in and around Baltimore agreed to buy lands in Kentucky and to settle there at the earliest possible date. They came by wagon train across the mountains of Pennsylvania. From there on, they came down the Ohio River on rafts, as far as what is now Maysville, Ky. Moving inland, they founded in all, with the aid of

On Whose Shoulders We Stand Today



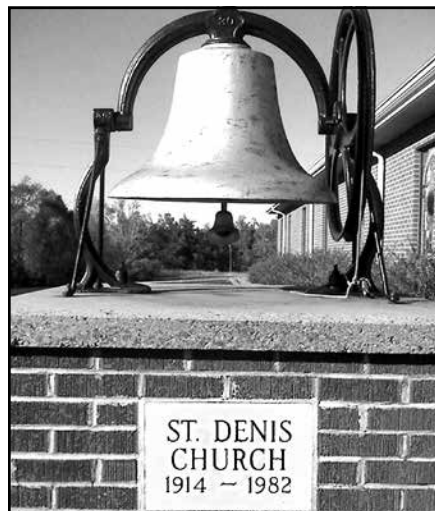
Original St. Denis Church - standing on the front are the late John Toon and the late Carole Jean Higgins.

others that followed, eight original Catholic settlements between the years 1775 and 1790. These were made in what later became Marion, Washington, Nelson, Scott, Bullett and Jefferson counties.

Soon after Jackson's Purchase was opened to civilization, the first Catholics in the territory moved in. From one of the eight original Catholic communities, that of St. Rose, Springfield, Washington County, in the early 1830's came a handful of enterprising pioneers. They took up lands in Graves, Carlisle and Hickman counties. Among them were the names Willet, Cash, Carrico, Curtsinger, Hayden, Hobbs, Elliott, Toon, Ballard, Roberts and Thomas.

The first Church of St. Jerome, a log chapel, was built by them in 1836, under the leadership of Rev. Elisha Durbin. It stood on a spot, around which later sprang up the town of Fancy Farm. The Hickman and Carlisle people attended church there for many years - at first in the log church and later in the second Church of St. Jerome, a brick structure erected in 1858. By 1890 the Carlisle remnant had their own Church of St. Charles. The present Church of St. Jerome was dedicated in 1893 and the Hickman County residents remained a part of that parish.

The first Catholic to settle in the vicinity of St. Denis, as far as is known, was James Cash, who came in 1834 and made his home near the site of the present church. He reared a large family, most of whom stayed in the community: Madams Mary Jane Burgess Hobbs, Lucinda Courtney Elizabeth Hayden, and Sarah



Bell taken from the original St. Denis Church. The Stand was built by Mr. Paul Carter (deceased) member of St. Denis Church and the old bell still rings today. Photos submitted by Shirley Toon

Dalton Burgess were his daughters and Bennett and Louis Cash of Fancy Farm were the sons of James Cash. The Thomas Hayden homestead was built about the same time near what is now known as "Rule's Shack". William, Hilary and Lloyd Toon all settled somewhere in the circuit of the Fancy Farm community. Most of the present parishioners are descendants of these pioneers.

The building of the church: Early in 1913, at the request of the St. Jerome pastor, Rev. Charles A. Haesely, the Most Rev. Denis O'Donoghue, Bishop of Louisville, sent Rev. John A. Fowler to establish a new congregation and to build the present St. Denis Church. Great was the rejoicing among the people when the possibility of a church in their own neighborhood loomed into view. For eighty years, all told, they and their forebears had worshiped at Sunday Mass under the most trying circumstances - distance and almost impassable roads. Subscriptions were taken and all set to work, making preparations for building. The men gave of their time and energies toward cutting and hauling timber which had been donated by the patrons of the church-to-be. The plot of five acres upon which the church stands was donated by L.W. Ellegood. It is located about midway between the towns of Dublin, Graves County, and Beulah, Hickman County. Ground was broken, the cornerstone was laid, and work was

begun on the new church on May 18, 1914. It was completed the same summer. The contractors, Messrs. John and Mack Vessells and Ed Brumlow of Fancy Farm. They were assisted by the men and older boys. The people assembled for the first service in the new Church for its dedication, October 7, 1914. Rev. Edward J. Lynch of Henderson, KY performed the ceremony in the absence of the Most Rev. Bishop O'Donahue, who, owing to failing health, could not be present for the happy occasion. The church was placed under the patronage of St. Denis, honoring Bishop O'Donahue. The St. Jerome choir, under the direction of the organist, Miss Minnie Carrico, (Later, Sister Amanda of the Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa) sang the High Mass of the day. Some of the elders of the parish at that time and who can be recalled here are: Messrs. Joe Pete, Tom and Ed Burgess, Gentry Courtney, Oscar M. Dalton; the Hayden brothers, Marcellus, George, Jack, Gus, Damien, Joe and Jesse; Mr. Elisha Toon and sons, Fred, Harrison, and Ezra; Mrs. Emma Ellegood and sons, Ike, Lawrence, Rafe, and Leeland; Messrs. Alec Sanders, Gregg and Pete Hayden, George Elder Hayden, Bill Pete Hayden, Jim Conrey, Pete Toon, George and Fred Thomas and Mrs. Wyley Higgins.

Succeeding Pastors: Rev. Albert J. Thompson also former pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, Paducah, came to replace Father Fowler and to assist with the ministry at Fancy Farm, June 1915. With the outbreak of World War I, Father Thompson volunteered his service as Chaplain in the Armed Forces, leaving in August 1917 to assume his military duties. Whereupon, the care of the little flock again fell to the shoulders of Father Haesely who was then getting old, and who, at that time, had begun his 40th year in the ministry. With heroic fortitude, he welcomed the people back to St. Jerome as occasions permitted, while at the same time he went to St. Denis twice a month to say Mass and administer the Sacraments. When in the fall of 1918, the "flu" broke out in the form of a serious epidemic, Father Haesely was constantly on the move, assisting at the bedside of the sick and dying. He answered calls far and near, thus taxing his strength and exposing himself to the contagion. After strenuously carrying on in this manner, he himself came down with the malady and was, for some

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HISTORY OF SAINT DENIS CHURCH (Continued from page 16)

time, unable to give further assistance to his parishioners.

With the end of the war, Father Thompson returned to his former charge, where he received a hearty welcome in July 1919. In 1920 Fr. Thompson began building St. Denis School, but before the school was completed, Fr. Haesely retired and Fr. Thompson became pastor of St. Jerome in Fancy Farm. Fr. Mark Parette was then appointed to replace Fr. Thompson at St. Denis. It was under his care that the school was finished. The Ursuline Sisters came to teach at the school in the fall of 1921. Fr. Parette also built a small rectory at St. Denis and took up part time residence there. Fr. Durbin followed him the early part of 1926.

In March 1929, Fr. Harold Luckett was appointed to serve the people of St. Denis. Fr. Luckett remained as pastor until Rev. William Jarboe came in the early part of 1932. Fr. Jarboe took a special interest in the revival of church music and spent many hours practicing with the choir. After serving the people for 1 ½ years, Fr. Jarboe was replaced by Rev. James Mills a great moral enthusiast. Fr. Robert Wilson came to St. Denis during the great flood of 1937 and remained pastor until 1939. In October 1939, Fr. Benedict Huff succeeded him as pastor. Fr. Huff devoted much time to his flock and still found time to wire the church and school as well as install a water system. He remained pastor of St. Denis until 1948. During this time the rectory was sold and the priests took up permanent



**St. Denis School Graduating Class
graduation class of 1941**

residence at Fancy Farm. (Note: The little rectory still stands. It was moved to Fancy Farm and was the home of Clarence (Top) and Wilma Jean Higgins.)

In September, 1948 the Benedictine Fathers, wishing to open a religious house in Kentucky, sent Rev. Alexander Korte, Rev. Harvey Shepherd and two Christian Brothers to St. Denis to begin work on establishing a new community. The Benedictine Fathers found a more suitable location in 1951 and moved to

near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Fr. Huff once again took over as pastor of St. Denis.

Rev. Charles Carrico came to replace Fr. Huff on August 19, 1951. Fr. Carrico remained as assistant at St. Jerome and pastor to St. Denis until May 1954 when Fr. Pike Powell assumed the duties. (The priests at St. Denis were actually assistant or associate priests and the pastor resided at St. Jerome. St. Denis and St. Charles were actually Missions of St. Jerome Church.) After Fr. Powell left in August 1957, other priests assisted the needs at St. Denis. They include: Revs. Danhauer, William Allard, William Hagman, and Clark Field—all under the Pastoral leadership of Rev. Edward Russell. In 1963, Rev Charles DeNardi assumed the responsibilities of St. Jerome and the missions of St. Denis and St. Charles.

While Fr. DeNardi was pastor the heating system in the church became worn out. When he suggested that the little white church be closed, Fr. DeNardi discovered how strong the faith of the parish really was as money was raised on the spot to have a new gas heating system installed. The system was installed and the church remained open. St. Denis did lose its school in June 1963 due to lack of teachers. After that, the school was renovated to become a fellowship hall.

Rev. Walter Hancock replaced Fr. DeNardi in August 1972. Fr. Hancock was concerned with the physical appearance of the Church, lawn and cemetery as well as spiritual needs of the parish. Rev. Robert Willett succeeded him in 1973. At that time St. Denis and St. Charles ceased being missions and became parishes of their own. Fr. Willett, looking at the needs of the people, formed a parish pastoral council. On April 27, 1975, Jerry Hayden, Joe Kunkle, David Hayden, Frank Higgins, Donnie Toon, Shirley Goatley, Thomas Ellegood, and Carole Higgins were elected. They along with lay trustees, Joe Thompson and John Toon became the first members of the St. Denis Parish Council. Fr. Willett commissioned Eucharistic Ministers to assist with Holy Communion at Mass and to minister to the sick of the parish. The first Eucharistic Ministers were: John Toon, Thomas Ellegood, Jerry S. Hayden, and Joe Kunkle.

As the parish continued to grow there was need for a new church. Father Willett along with the people began to

February, 2015 **17**

talk, discuss, plan, and of course pray about the change. Before the project got underway, Fr. Joe Bommensatt replaced Fr. Willett in 1979. Fr. Joe continued with the planning and took much interest in the growth of the parish as well as the new building. In spite of his spiritual work, he found time to directly supervise the construction of the new church building. It was not unusual to find him on a ladder checking the work of the contractors. Before dedication of the new church, Mr. Paul Carter made a brick stand to permanently hold the bell from the old church building and it still rings today. Two stained glass windows from the sanctuary of the little white church were also moved to the new church building in order that the little white church might never be forgotten.

Bishop Henry J. Soenneker dedicated the new St. Denis Church on May 30, 1982. The dedication was attended by many of the former priests who ministered to St. Denis in years past and who would minister in years to come. In July 1984, Fr. Allen McIntosh replaced Fr. Joe Bommensatt. He was at St. Denis one year and was replaced when new Bishop John McRaith appointed Fr. Jerry Riney pastor of St. Jerome and St. Denis and Fr. Bruce Fogle, associate pastor. They renewed the spirit of St. Denis with their enthusiasm and the need for a new fellowship hall arose. Plans began and the building was begun. During construction, Fr. Terry Devine replaced Fr. Bruce Fogle as associate pastor. Frs. Jerry and Terry continued the building supervision and on November 29, 1987, Bishop John McRaith dedicated the new St. Denis Parish Hall. Fr. Jerry Riney was reassigned in June 1989 and Fr. Terry Devine assumed the duties of pastor of St. Denis. Fr. Terry was much concerned with the spiritual needs of the parish and the parish thrived under his spiritual leadership.

In June 1994, Fr. Tony Stephenson replaced Fr. Terry Devine as pastor of St. Denis. Fr. Tony was a man of many talents. During his tenure, he undertook the cemetery beautification project, church remodeling, as well as brought a greater beauty to the liturgy with a new organ. He also had a rare talent of making everyone feel special and loved, thus making him a favorite with young and old alike. Parishioners mourned when he was reassigned



Current St. Denis Church and Parish Hall

Continued on page 18

(Continued from page 17)

in June 2001.

Fr. Delma Clemons was appointed pastor in 2001 along with Fr. Tom Buckman, Associate pastor. Fr. Clemons was busy with the spiritual needs of St. Jerome, so he delegated pastoral responsibility of St. Denis and St. Charles to Fr. Tom. Fr. Tom had been a priest only a short period of time. He had a great spiritual knowledge and was much concerned with the sick and shut-ins of the parish and made weekly visits to them as well as to the hospitals. He also offered more opportunities to attend services during the week as well as ministered to the Hispanic community. During his tenure the church furthered its beauty with new stained glass windows that match the ones from the original church. The windows also bear the names of those families who donated them—family names that made St. Denis a reality in 1914 as well as in the present and will continue for generations to come, God willing.

In January 2006, Rev. Richard Cash replaced Fr. Tom Buckman as pastor. Fr. Cash, the son of Charles and Betty Goatley Cash of Fancy Farm, had gone to school at Fancy Farm with many members of the parish, so it was like the prodigal son coming home. Fr. Cash was a gifted speaker who made the liturgies come alive. He offered adult Bible study and had several individuals join the church.

In June 2007, Fr. Masilamani Suvakin (Fr. Masi) replaced Fr. Cash. While Fr. Masi was here, we obtained new wooden doors for the church. Fr. Masi was also a very spiritual man who visited the sick and shut ins and offered many opportunities of reconciliation. In June 2011 Fr. Richard Cash returned (a first for us to have a priest come for a second time). He stayed less than a year and had to leave in April 2012 on a sabbatical directed by Bishop Medley. Fr. David Willett, well known to St. Denis as well as he also was a Fancy Farm boy replaced Fr. Cash. Fr. David was retired Military and a very spiritual man. Fr. David worked diligently to improve the CCD programs and music ministry. He also had worship aids prepared for each liturgy. He retired in June 2014 and was replaced by Fr. Chrispin Oneko. Fr. Chrispin has only been here a short time but will go down in history as the priest who was installed

as pastor on the 100th anniversary of St. Denis Church.

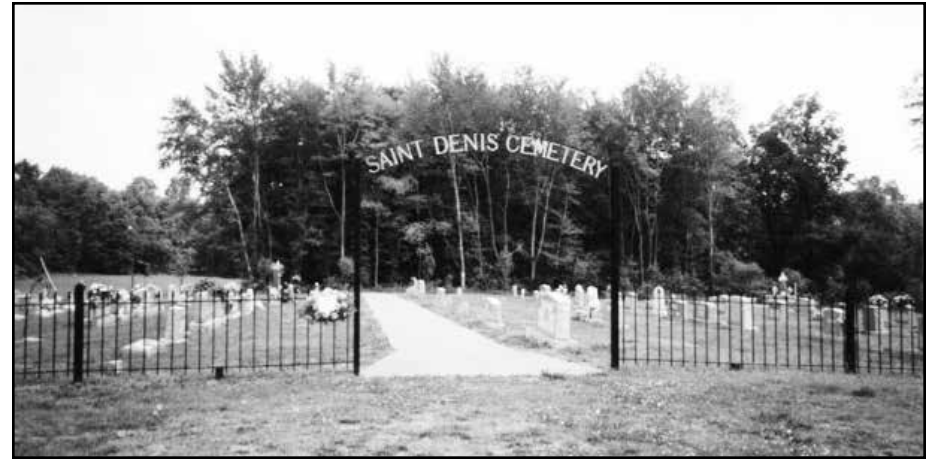
Sandra McRath, member of the parish as well a member of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century nominated St. Denis as a historical site. It is awarded and a plaque placed on the bell stand and blessed by Bishop Medley at the 100th anniversary celebration by the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. Many members of the parish are great great great Grandchildren of James Cash who was one of the first settlers to St. Denis including this writer.

No history would be complete with remembering the religious from our parish: Sisters Paul Joseph Durbin, Albert Mary Durbin, Teresa Ann Ellegood, Joseph Mark Hayden, and Brother Ferdinand Hayden. Thanks to our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents for giving birth to St. Denis Parish and for the priest, brothers and sisters who have breathed life into it for the past 100 years. God Bless.



John William Burgess, Ezra Toon, Harrison Toon. Photo taken 10/20/1974. As boys, the cousins helped build the original church by packing material to the builders.

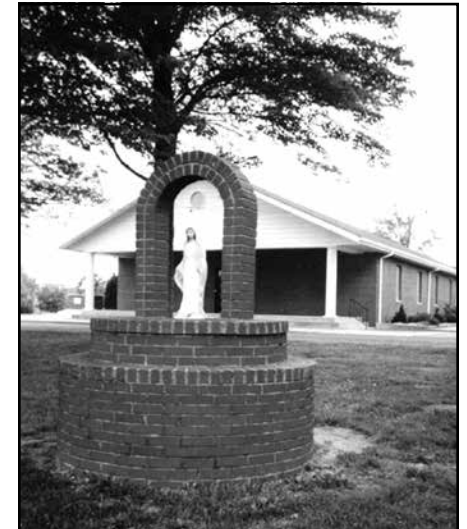
Photo at right: Oscar & Cordelia Dalton 50Th Anniversary held in the basement of the school which is where we served picnic dinners. This couple was original members of the parish as well. Mrs. Dalton helped write the original history.



St. Denis Cemetery after Cemetery Beautification project with Fr. Tony Stephenson



Harrison Toon and Maude Ballard with St. Mary Statue.

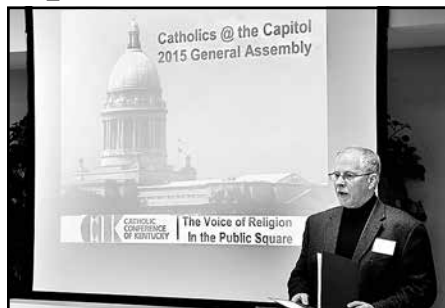


Blessed Mother grotto erected after new St. Denis Church was built.



Catholics @ The Capitol Allows The Voice of Religion in The Public Square To be Heard

February, 2015 19



Mr. Richard Murphy explained why Western Kentucky Catholics ought to consider going to a Catholics@The Capitol forum, "Your presence says that I am a Catholic and I vote, so please consider these important issues." Mel Howard Photos



Bishop William Medley welcomed the people and opened the Owensboro Catholics @ The Capitol with a prayer.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky and Owensboro Diocesan Office of Social Concerns hosted "Calling all Faithful Citizens," a forum with state legislators to discuss legislative agendas in upcoming 2015 Kentucky legislature sessions.

Called "Catholics @ the Capitol: Owensboro Regional Gathering" the forum was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on Saturday, January 10, 2015.

About 35 people from the Catholic Community in the Owensboro area came to participate in an opportunity to learn about critical issues that are likely to be considered in the next legislative session in Kentucky, reflect on them in light of Catholic Social Teaching and engage with area legislators close to home. Catholic Conference of Kentucky Executive Director Jason Hall detailed the history and background of various bills which make up the 2015 CCK Legislative Agenda: Women have a right to know, Abolish the death penalty, parents have a right to choose, cap payday lending rates, restoration of voting rights and expungement, and tax reform (EITC) and minimum wages.

Richard Murphy, Director of the Office of Social Concerns, said, "This was a wonderful opportunity for people of faith to meet their state legislators and discuss upcoming legislation related to life issues, economic justice, immigration, criminal justice and education.

"The legislators representing the following districts were invited to attend this Owensboro Regional Gathering: Senate districts 4,5,6,& 8; House districts 7,10,11,12,13,14, & 18. The presence of Catholics who attended Catholics @ The Capitol said to legislators, 'I am a Catholic and I vote, so please consider these important issues.'"

Legislators attending the Owensboro forum, Rep. Jim Glenn (D), Rep. Tommy Thompson (D), Rep. Dean Schamore (D), Rep. David Watkins (D), and Suzanne Miles (R) were each given time to speak to the forum to discuss the issues mentioned at this forum.

Bishop William Medley welcomed the people, opening and closing the forum with a prayer.

Rep. Tommy Thompson, at right, responded to questions from the floor about issues coming before the KY legislature in 2015.



Catholic Conference of Kentucky Executive Director Jason Hall, a native of Owensboro, detailed the history and background of various bills which make up the 2015 Catholic Conference of Kentucky Legislative Agenda.



Listening to Jason Hall explaining the CCK Legislative Agenda are Andrew J. Vandiver, Associate CCK Director, Ken and Helen Bennett of Owensboro, and Bishop Medley.



Chad Mills listened as Sister Eula Johnson, SCN, expressed a view about one of the upcoming bills in the KY legislature. At back are Todd Johnson, Joe Bill Millay, and Rep. Dean Schamore.

No place like home for faith formation



By Patrick J. Buechi,
Tuesday, December 23, 2014

What draws teenagers into a life of faithful church worship? The answers might surprise you.

The National Study on Youth and Religion conducted between 2001-2015 found that the most important factor in whether teenagers would practice their faith into adulthood is whether their parents did. The study found that youth from religiously active families tend to follow their parents lead. More than 70 percent of youth who do something religious with their families five to seven days a week aspire to be like their father, while 74 percent of those surveyed strongly agree with wanting to be like their mother.

“Which sounds a little counterintuitive when we presume that teens don’t respect their parents or they want to get as far away from their parents and ignore what their parents say and do,” said Mary Beth Coates, director of the diocesan Department of Lifelong Faith Formation. “The research showed, not just in Catholic circles, but across denominations, that if parents practice their faith, if they had what is referred to as ‘God talk’ – prayed at meals, night prayer, went to church regularly – that formed a foundation that as young people grow, they then emulate that. They incorporate those same practices into their faith. That being said, the challenge is that fewer and fewer of this generation of parents are practicing their faith.”

Coates has seen the common drop off/pick up model of parenting, where parents drop their children off at catechesis classes, then pick them up an hour later. By doing this, they turn the respon-



Diana Stanczyk teaches her son Neil, 7, about the sacrament of reconciliation at the St. Clare Center, Tonawanda. (Patrick McPartland/Staff Photographer)

sibility of educating their children over to someone else.

“The parish, the catechist, they can all be wonderful,” Coates said. “We have over 3,500 volunteer catechists in this diocese. Even if every one of them was the best ever, if every one of them was Pope Francis, if these kids are going home to a family that isn’t involved with their faith, there’s no reinforcement of what they may be learning.”

The research has caused catechists to look at how they can better partner with parents to help educate their children. There are many more distractions in the family than a generation ago. Many sports, clubs and school activities take place on Sunday. The culture doesn’t support a priority on religion. The church used to be the central hub for gathering and social contact. Strong faithful families built up strong parishes, which in turn built a strong diocese. Coates thinks it’s time to help bring faith back into the home.

“We need to come at things with a different attitude and a different point of view, and say to families, ‘How can we as Church support you in developing your own household of faith so that we can have a stronger parish?’” she said.

A few years ago, the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation brought the “Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth” initiative into the diocese, in

cooperation with the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Family Life Ministries and Catholic schools. This initiative is the stepping stone for parishes to motivate and inspire their parents to take more ownership for the faith formation of their children. By doing some parent and family workshops, parents can learn how to teach their children about the faith and sacraments. The parish becomes a support for the parents rather than the prima-

ry educators of the children.

“Many families do create beautiful traditions of practicing their faith, but statistics are going to point to many who don’t. Not because they’re consciously choosing not to, but maybe they don’t know how to or it just never occurred to them that that’s their role,” said Coates.

Church documents speak of parents being the primary catechists of their own children.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Athol Springs uses the “Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth” program. “Strong Catholic Families,” which developed in 2012, is designed to motivate parents to embrace the responsibility for the faith growth of their children and family as a domestic Church. The parish had been using a similar self-designed program for a number of years, following their use of Generations of Faith. The parish has regular sessions throughout the year with parents and their children, often with service projects. Parents also receive materials for the family to study while at home.

“First of all they need the tools to know how to make faith formation happen in the home,” said Jean Hymes, religious education and youth ministry coordinator for St. Francis. “Faith formation not only happens in the home, but it happens over the whole spectrum of your life. We’re trying to teach them to do this as a family. For instance, on Columbus

Continued on page 21

EUCCHARISTIC 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 **Feb. 8 and on the second Sunday of each month in 2015** from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the **Motherhouse Chapel**

(located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). We will conclude with evening prayer. During this special time of the Year of Consecrated Life, we ask you to join us in praying for a deeper awareness and openness in response to God’s call to consecrated life.



Ursuline Sisters
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info.ms@maplemount.org

Day, we had our whole gym filled with families making those tie blankets for the needy around the city. It was a wonderful experience. The families were doing it together, the mothers and the fathers and the kids. We put a little Scripture teaching with it. 'You're doing the corporal works of mercy now, did you know that?' then give them sheets to bring home to learn about the corporal works of mercy."

With distractions such as sports, work, home repairs and family obligations taking priority over Church, the parish has to be accommodating. Sixty sessions are offered throughout the year for parishioners to pick from. They are asked to take part in eight.

"That's a lot of work on our part, but we're willing to do it," said Hymes. It will take some time before Hymes will know if this program keeps teens in Church, but she has seen parents understanding what it means to pray the rosary and being able to take that home to their children. "We are seeing more families at Mass on Sundays. Our church mainly had older people coming. Now in the past three or four years, we've seen more families coming," she said.

At St. Francis of Assisi in Tonawanda, Michael and Sue Ann Saltarelli help parents prepare their children to receive the sacraments of the Church, focusing on First Communion and first reconciliation. It started as an initiative for small Christian communities for adults in the parish and realized that getting people together in small groups was very beneficial. So, they looked at doing the sacramental preparation that way as an alter-



Jennifer Garver talks with her son Talan, 7, about the sacraments during a session at the St. Clare Center in Tonawanda, NY. (Patrick McPartland/Staff Photographer)

native to the classroom. "The idea really was to help build community amongst the families in the parish," said Sue Ann Saltarelli. "We did an experiment four years ago with the first class and it went over super well."

The families lead the sessions with plans designed by the Saltarellis. There are five or six families in a group. Some groups hold sessions in their homes, others in a homey room at the parish's faith formation building. "It's definitely not a classroom situation," Sue Ann Saltarelli said. "We figure kids are in school all week sitting at desks. To come here on

a Saturday morning and sit at desks and learn about God kind of puts God not in the light He should be put in." Saltarelli still has a hand in the education process. She has adapted the Last Supper into a play format for a lesson on First Eucharist. "They will actually act out the Last Supper," she said. "There are parts the children can read and adults can read."

At home, parents help their children with prayers and fun worksheets. The parish has been conducting family-based faith formation for nine years, so parents are used to taking materials home. It wasn't that much of a jump to add sacra-



mental preparation into the mix.

"I think it's working very well," said Saltarelli. "I guess a testimony to the sacramental prep in particular is that the families that have met together in reconciliation try to get together with the same families in First Communion. They've even had a reunion of those families during the summer. Some of them get creative and have a session around a picnic or a meal." She hasn't done a formal evaluation yet, but she does see a good group of kids who want to attend Mass and rosary during the week.

"From what I can see, there are more youth growing up in the Church. Our music ministry is mostly young people, and we have a lot of young people who are Eucharistic ministers. Now that they are older they're helping with the younger kids in different ministries."

Reprinted with permission from Western New York Catholic, December, 2014. wny catholic@buffalodiocese.org

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp

Camp Health Care Providers (Nurse): Someone who is an EMT, Nurse or Doctor who can volunteer to work as our Camp Health Care Provider for a week. While we cannot pay someone to do this great service for us, we do offer a full scholarship (equivalent to the week of camp that you volunteer) that can be used to send a child, sibling, etc to camp. If interested, please contact our office for more details.

Volunteer Counselors: Must be at least 16+ and two grades older than the group they wish to counsel for. Counselors are required to attend one of the Counselor Trainings and complete a Volunteer Form (forms available after you have attended a training).

Training dates will be held at the following locations/times:

Feb 8 @ St John's Catholic Church, Paducah 1-5 PM
 March 29 @ Gasper River, Bowling Green 1-5 PM
 April 25 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro 1-5 PM
 June 20 @ Gasper River, Bowling Green 1-5 PM

Summer Staff: Must be at least one year removed from High School.

Staff In Training (SIT): Must be at least 17+ and/or a Jr in High School

Staff and SIT are required to apply and interview for the position. Applications must be received NO LATER THAN Feb 28. Any applications received after the deadline will be ineligible for a position. Interview Weekend is Friday, March 6 @ 7 pm--Sunday, March 8 @ 11:30 pm. Please plan to attend the entire time.

Applications available on our website: www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org

To complete online: Click on the "Camp Forms" tab and follow the "Online Registration." Choose to fill out a Staff Application rather than a Camper Application.

To mail in: Click on "Job Postings" and choose either Staff or SIT application; print, fill out and put in mail before Feb 24 to ensure it arrives on time!

For information, contact Jessy Bennett, Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, Program Director, (270) 781-2466



The Mary Carrico Catholic School Pre-School class is the January, 2015 Class of the Month. Pictured are: Back row L to Right: Ms. Amy Mattingly, Pre-School teacher, Brennan Cunningham, Vincent Igleheart, Annie Coomes, Liam Cunningham, Ms. Karen Gilmore, Aide. Front row L to R: Aubrey Brown, Anna Beth Hamilton, Elizabeth Crowe, Maddox McManaway, Mason McManaway, Lane Morris. Submitted by Chuck Green, Principal



Living In The Past Archives Staff at Mount Saint Joseph Sarah Patterson, third from right in back row, who was director of archives at Mount Saint Joseph at the time, poses with many of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who help in the archives office at Maple Mount. They had an early holiday gathering on Dec. 12, 2014. Seated in front, left to right: Sister Rita Lavigne and Sister Marie Bosco Wathen. Standing, left to right: Sister Rebecca White, Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, Sister Paul Marie Greenwell, Sarah Patterson, Sister Alfreda Malone and Sister Pat Rhoten. Not present: Sister Delores "Dee" Long. Sarah's last day as director of archives at Maple Mount was Jan. 13. MSJ Photo

A Great Treasure . . . Improving Life Balance

Tuesday, March 3

"Evening with an Ursuline"

Time:

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Presenter:

Sister Vivian Bowles

Cost:

\$15 fee includes meal

Contact Kathy McCarty to register

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

The Ursuline Sisters will present a new topic on the first Tuesday of each month through August. Coming up on April 7: "Gratitude as Gift" with Sister Mary Matthias Ward

We want to enjoy ordinary days for the great gifts they are. Being able to appreciate them will reduce personal inevitable stressors. We will improve our "life balance," our physiological and psychological responses to stress. We can then challenge our attitudes about the treasure of ordinary times.



 **Mount Saint Joseph**
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Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Join our Spinning Retreat!

Weekend of Feb. 20-22

Whether you are an experienced yarn spinner, weaver, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the Arts at the Mount weekend retreat at Mount Saint Joseph. Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill. The group plans to "spin, knit and talk until we're done!" For information on room rates, costs, etc., or to register,

contact Kathy McCarty: **270-229-0206**

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



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www.ursulinesmsj.org

Future Spinning Days:

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015

Dec. 4-6, 2015 Weekend



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

It's Calendar Time for 2015

De Colores, everyone.

I hope you had a happy beginning of the New Year and are looking forward to a blessed and prayerful Lent this year. Prayer and palanca are needed in a special way for all our upcoming events. Our Cursillista Leaders are preparing for the men's weekend (Denis Wheatley-Coordinator) March 26-29, 2015; and the women's weekend (Mary Lee-Coordinator) June 11-14, 2015. I pray those who have been called to join us have prayed seriously about it and will answer Yes to God and our Cursillo community. We would like all Cursillistas in the 4th day to attend the Closings of the weekends. The new Cursillistas need to see as many of the 4th day as can possibly come to share their new joy and their pot luck meal. The men's closing is on March 29, 2015. The 4th day need to be at Hawesville Immaculate Conception Church before 5:00 p.m.

The Follow-Up Sunday for the men is April 12, 2015. Our Secretariat meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by a pot-luck meal at 12:00 and a short meeting (Ultreya) afterward. More details to follow in the March issue of the Western KY Catholic and on our website cursillo-owensboro.org.

The Region IV Spring Encounter will be held April 24-26, 2015, at the Manresa Center in St. Louis, MO. We should have registration forms and prices soon. More information will be in the March Western KY Catholic and on our website: cursillo-owensboro.org.

The Women's Closing will be on June 14, 2015, details to follow closer to the weekend. Our Grand Ultreya which follows the men's and women's weekends is on July 12, 2015. The Secretariat will have a short meeting at 11:00. The pot-luck meal will be at 12:00 followed by a short meeting (Ultreya). Further details in the Western KY Catholic and on our website: cursillo-owensboro.org.

Region IV Fall Encounter will be held October 9-11, 2015 at the Flaget Center in Louisville, Ky. More details to follow.

Please check out our website for news of meetings and dates of upcoming events: Leader's Schools and Ultreyas; weekends and their closing receptions; and Follow-Up Sundays and Grand Ultreyas. We will also have a Retreat Day later in the year with a pot-luck lunch for all Cursillistas of the 4th day which is very spiritual and enjoyable.

Your sister-in-Christ, , Mary Hagan, Lay Director, leomarye1789@yahoo.com



St. Mary High School's Austin Shaw Signs With Olney Central

PADUCAH, KY – St. Mary senior pitcher Austin Shaw signed his National Letter of Intent on Thursday afternoon to further his academic and athletic careers at Olney Central College.

As a junior, Shaw posted a 7-2 pitching record with a sparkling 0.96 ERA and was selected to the All-District Team and the Regional Tournament Team. He struck out 46 in 51 innings while holding the opposition to a .149 batting average.

Two of his wins came on complete game, two-hit shut-outs, one against Mayfield in the All "A" Regional semifinal and the other against Calloway County in the Regional semifinal. He ended the season on a roll, allowing just one earned run over his last 45 innings pitched. When not on the mound, Shaw sees action in right field for the Vikings, and posted a .324 batting average last season.

Shaw, who plays his summer ball with Legion Post 31, is the son of Carla and Steve Shaw of Paducah.



MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Discover your place in
God's plan...

WAKE UP THE WORLD!
—2015 Year of Consecrated Life—

FEBRUARY

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: The Art of Simplicity**
- 7-8 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 12 Rediscover Catholicism**
- 19 Diocese of Evansville Board
- 20-22 Yarn Spinners Weekend**
- 21 St. Michael's Sebree Parish Council
- 22-25 MSJ Quilter Friends
- 27-28 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program

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

To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

www.ursulinesmsj.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

MARCH

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: A Great Treasure**
- 4 Lenten Day of Prayer**
- 5-6 Owensboro Diocese Staff Retreat
- 6-8 Ignatian Silent Retreat**
- 12 Rediscover Catholicism**
- 20-22 Women's Retreat: "Holiness in Family Life" with Sr. Cheryl Clemons**
- 27-29 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 28 St. Joseph & Paul RCIA

APRIL

- 7 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: Gratitude as Gift**
- 9 Rediscover Catholicism**
- 10-12 Glory Conference - Women
- 13-17 Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 7)**
- 18-19 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 24-26 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program

24 February, 2015 **Lolek Productions' Videos Air on EWTN**

Lolek Productions was created in 2011 by Father Joshua McCarty, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, in answer to the call for New Evangelization encouraged by Pope John Paul II, its namesake. With the intention of producing high quality Catholic media that would inspire a greater love and appreciation for the Catholic Church in its fullness, Lolek Productions has sought to spread the beauty and truth of the Gospel through its work. The

LOLEK

PRODUCTIONS

short films that have been produced since its upstart have told real life stories of grace and are part of its ongoing icon Project. Its goal has always been to share God's enduring love through its multimedia productions with as many people as possible. EWTN, the Eternal Word Television Network, has given Lolek Productions the opportunity to do just that.

Through Lolek's negotiations with EWTN, the network decided that it would air two of the submitted Lolek Productions' videos. With January being Sanctity of Life Month, EWTN selected the two videos based on their strong and poignant pro life themes. "Shawn's Eyes" tells the story of a lasting friendship between Shawn, who has Down Syndrome, and his longtime friend and



The Rev. Josh McCarty, creator of Lolek Productions, stands in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bowling Green. (Alex Slitz/Daily News)

caretaker, Amy. The bond between them and their families is a beautiful story of love. "No Greater Love" is a powerful story of how a young man came to answer God's call in his life to be ordained after facing trying doubt. During his process of discernment and preparation, he also learned of the unusual and unknown details surrounding his birth. Both video productions were placed in multiple time slots on EWTN's January programming schedule.

This has been a wonderful and outstanding opportunity for Lolek Productions which greatly affirms its work of evangelization in the world today. With EWTN's potential to reach worldwide, Lolek's outreach has now been greatly multiplied and its viewership substantially increased.

You may visit the Lolek Productions website to learn more of its mission, to follow its blog, to view its released videos or to make a tax deductible donation in support of its work. www.lolekproductions.com

Get Moving at the Mount!

5K Run/Walk Saturday, May 30, 2015

8 a.m.

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are hosting their second 5K – the official 5K for the Daviess County Bicentennial! It is

open to walkers, runners, children and adults and will take place on the grounds and nearby roads.

All proceeds will support the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters.

Registration starts soon!

COST: \$20 per person if you sign up by May 1, 2015

\$25 after May 1st and on race day. (Ages 6 and under free)

Register by May 11th to be guaranteed a free T-shirt!

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.

For information, visit:

ursulinesmsj.org/help-the-sisters/5k

Find us on Facebook: Get Moving at the Mount

For more information,
contact April Ray
270-229-4103 ext. 448 or
april.ray@maplemount.org



Join the Fun!




Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Rediscover Catholicism

Thursday, February 12

Time:

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

Presenter:

Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

Cost:

\$10 fee includes lunch

Contact Kathy McCarty to register:

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



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This is a study based on the bestselling book,

"Rediscover Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly, which is quickly becoming the most read Catholic book of our time. He reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality while addressing some of the most important questions we face today as individuals and as a Church.

This year-long program meets the second Thursday of each month (except July) in 2015.

Upcoming dates: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, August 13.



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Saint Meinrad will host Black History Lecture on February 10



Dr. Lamin Sanneh

Dr. Lamin Sanneh, a professor at Yale University, will deliver the annual Black History Lecture at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, IN.

His lecture, "American Blacks and the Making of Modern Africa," will be held on Tuesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. Central Time in St. Bede Theater. He will explore the role of blacks in the antislavery movement and in the expansion of mission to Africa, which represented a major shift in which freed slaves took the initiative to plant the faith in Africa at the supply end of the slave trade.

Sanneh is the D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity, professor of history, and professor of international and area studies at Yale University. He was born and raised in Gambia, educated at the University of Birmingham (England) and the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, and earned his doctorate in Islamic history at the University of London.

He has written many books and articles on the relationship between Islam and Christianity. Sanneh has taught at the University of Ghana, The University of Aberdeen in Scotland, Harvard University, and since 1989 at Yale.

He has lectured around the world and serves on the boards of several journals and other professional societies. He is a member of the Pontifical Commission of the Historical Sciences and the Pontifical Commission on Religious Relations with Muslims.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available at St. Bede Hall and in the Guest House and student parking lots. For more information, call Mary Jeanne Schumacher at (812) 357-6501 during business hours.

We invite you to join us on a Custom Catholic Pilgrimage to

Poland

A Journey of Faith, Culture and History

September 14 - 25, 2015

11 nights & 12 days

~ RAFFLE ~

Win Two VIP Bookings!

Round trip airfare for 2 plus more...

(Must be 18 years or older to participate.)

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Glenmary Sisters

For registration and raffle info, visit our website:

www.glenmarysisters.org

800-301-2689 / 270-686-8401

Spiritual Leaders:

Reverend Fr. Brandon Williams

Reverend Fr. Jaroslaw Skrzypek

18th Annual
YOUTH 2000
 A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat
 Brescia University, Owensboro, KY

March 13 - 15
2015

"Let God surprise you with His love and care for you!"
 -Bishop William F. Medley

Ages 13-30
(270) 683-1545
marianshrineky.org

This monstrance is the vocations monstrance blessed by Blessed John Paul II and is located throughout the year at the Carmel Home in Owensboro, KY.

In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul of Jimmy Aud



James "Jimmy" K. Aud, 89, of Whitesville died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, surrounded by his devoted and caring family. He was born March 10, 1925, in Whitesville to the late John W. (Weck) Aud and Maud Leibfried

Aud. Jimmy was a lifelong member of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. He retired from L&N (CSX) Railroad after 37 years of service and continually farmed and gardened.

He was a lifelong supporter of Catholic schools and staunchly supported Trinity High School and its sports program. He was the driving force behind the planning, funding and building of the Trinity Community "Big Blue" Gym. He was one of the founding members of the Trinity Endowment Fund, which grew under his leadership. He was preceded in death by four brothers, John (Bud), Palmer, Jay and Wendell Aud; and two sisters, Ruth Cecil and Lillian Hagan.

He is survived by his wife of 64+ years, Marcella Howard Aud; three sons, Kenny (Linda) Aud, Michael Wayne and Johnny Aud; one daughter, Cathy

A Moment of Silence for Jimmy Aud



The Trinity High School community held a moment of silence for Jimmy Aud during the Jan. 6, 2015 basketball game in the "Big Blue" gym. A longtime supporter of Trinity HS, James "Jimmy" K. Aud, 89, of Whitesville died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014. In the photo at left are Jimmy's wife, Marcella Aud, and three of his children, Johnny Aud, Cathy Jarboe and Kenny Aud, and two grandsons.

Everyone applauded shortly after the moment of silence, shown in the photo below of the Lady Raiders and the THS Raiders teams lined up in tribute for Jimmy Aud.

Trinity's Athletic Director, Brock Rydecki, thanked the Aud Family for their continued support of our schools and thanked Mr. Jimmy Aud again for all he did for the schools and athletic programs of St. Mary of the Woods and Trinity High School. Anyone who has ever played basketball for Trinity High School knew Jimmy Aud was cheering for them as he attended most of the school's games.

Kim Rydecki Photos

Aud Jarboe; eight special grandchildren, James Jarboe (Amanda), Chris (Selena), Brad (Lindsey), Timmy, Eric (Mallory) Aud, Ashley Fulkerson (Nick), Mallory Brant (Matt) and Dylan Aud; 12 beautiful great-grandchildren, Thomas, Ehan, Nora Kate, Emma Jarboe, Jacob, Lydia and Hannah (unborn) Aud, Andrew, Owen and Baby (unborn) Aud; Noah and Marci Aud; and three sisters, Jean Ann (J.W.) Rearden, Florence McDaniel and Alice (Fred) Howard.

Services were Monday, Dec. 29, 2014 at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, Whitesville, officiated by Father John Broussard. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Trinity High School Endowment fund. His dream was to exceed \$1,000,000 in the endowment fund.



Business Manager Retirement News

Immaculate Parish wished Jim Hagan, Business Manager of Immaculate Parish a happy retirement with a reception on Sunday, January 11th. Jim has worked at Immaculate for 14 years. He is looking forward to spending his retirement with his wife Jinny, camping, being supportive of his grandchildren's activities, and working part-time as a field auditor for the Diocese of Owensboro.

The new Business manager of Immaculate Parish is Rachael McFadden. Rachael is a member of Immaculate along with her husband, Doug, and three children. Rachael brings to the job experience from private companies and family business.



Retired Business: Immaculate Parish Council member, Bob Borders along with his wife Jane wish Jim Hagan best of luck on his retirement.



New Business: Immaculate Parish member Laura Goins congratulates Rachael McFadden on her new position as Parish Business Manager. Photos by Diane Willis

A Confirmation Retreat – Marked In Faith

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The eighth graders from Immaculate Parish who will be confirmed February 1st gathered for retreat on Sunday, January 4th. This retreat was the third of a series called MARKED IN FAITH.

The group with their parents met in late fall to talk about “holiness” and ways their families can be more holy. They pledged to do three things which would bring them closer to Christ. The Confirmandi also met with the sponsors in November and talked about “catholic”. The group looked at ways that saints are people to emulate to help spread the message of Catholicism to the world. The third retreat was “apostolic” – not just that the Catholic church’s history can be traced back to the first apostles, but also that we are sent to be missionaries of the world. As missionaries, the group tied fleece blankets for St. Joseph Peace Mission. And luckily, they were delivered before the cold days of January set in.

The group’s final retreat before Confirmation was Saturday, January 17th at Confirmation Day with the Bishop. There they were “one” with 120 other young adults to see our mother church and hear our Bishop talk on the history of Diocese. The 34 candidates are looking forward to being confirmed Sunday, February 1st by Bishop Medley. Afterwards, a dinner-reception will be held for all Confirmandi and their extended family.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, MAY 3 at 2PM—Parish of the Immaculate

The Immaculate
Music Ministry Program Presents:

Contemporary Catholic Recording Artist

TREVOR THOMSON
LIVE IN CONCERT!



Leading others to God's heart is Trevor's primary mission. Trevor uses song, story and prayer, as the vehicle for worship, meditation and healing.

Come celebrate a wonderful afternoon of
music for all ages!!

-Submitted by Matt Gray

February, 2015 27



Facilitators Annie Pfeifer and Becca Beals lead their group in conversation about ways to be apostolic.



Making quilts for St. Joseph Peace Mission: L-R Bethany Beals, Lucy Adams, Brandon Atherton, Josafina Garcia, Alex Payne



Madelyn Hempen, Bristen Hagan, Michael Miller, Maddie Hagan, Paul Pfeifer, Megan Beals, Mattie McFadden



Another finished quilt for St. Joseph Peace Mission: Anna Crawford, Nick Mills, Katie Hampel, Carlee Widmer, Katie Belcher, Cambron, and Andrew St. Clair

**February Wedding Anniversaries
10, 25, 40, 50 and Over 50 Years of
Marriage****Blessed Mother, Owensboro**Thomas & Janice Foster, 59
Vince & Joan Frey, 56John & Mary Medley, Jr., 54
Frank & Nancy Howard, 52**Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro**

Kenneth & Jean Higgs, 61

Christ the King, Madisonville

Robert & Martha Pleasant, 40

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Larry & Teresa Baronowsky, 40

William & Martha Duncan, 61

Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 60

Brad & Kim Fogle, 10

John & Carlene Gabe, 52

Richard & Doris Market, 52

Mike & Bobbie Ann Willett, 52

Norman & Mary Anne Williams, 50

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

James & Linda Griffith, 25

Arthur & Carol Kunkel, 40

Donald & Mary Jane Scarbeau, 55

Robert & Rita Otto, 58

Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville

Denis & Martha Wheatley, 55

Adrian & Velma Wheatley, 61

Robert & Ellen Edge, 56

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Stacy & Durinda Hall, 10

Larry & Linda Field, 53

Francis & Doreen Russell, 51

John & Bonnie Popowski, 55

George & Martha Taylor, 59

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Robert E. & Mary Rumage, 50

James & Patricia Krampe, 55

Gary & Patricia Satterwhite, 55

Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 60

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Guy & Linda Connor, 54

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Ronald & Mary Davis, 58

Wayne & Loretta Nally, 54

Jack & Sue Miller, 50

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

James L. & Dorothy Calhoun, 69

Paul & Beverly Smith, 50

St. Ann, Morganfield

Bobby & Sugar Griggs, 10

Proctor & Cindy Stenger, 25

Eddie & Ruth Ann Collins, 50

Ronald & Mary Davis, 58

Willard & Joyce Greenwell, 62

Franklin & Agnes Hancock, 67

Gilbert & Pat Rudd, 54

Eva & Leroy Stone, 51

St. Anthony, Axtel

Kenneth & Michaelanne James, 53

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Dale & Flossie Walker, 40

St. Anthony, Peonia

Fred & Vida Lee White, 53

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

James & Celia Faye Johnston, 53

St. Charles, Bardwell

Ron & Dawn Kupper, 50

St. Columba, Lewisport

Robert & Ellen Edge, 56

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Carl & Paula Ball, 58

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

James & Ginger Stahr, 10

Freddy & Susan Thompson, 40

Randal & Julia Elder, 53

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Larry & Norma Clark, 50

Edwin & Mary Imogene Houser, 61

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Donald & Betty McCormick, 62

H. C. & Gustava Thompson, 62

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Sam & Rita Hodges, 40

Charles & Alice Bruce, 54

Art & Arlene Bitsky, 59

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James Mark & Frieda Payne, 57

St. Leo, Murray

Robert & Paula Beaver, 56

St. Mark, Eddyville

Ralph & Shirley Keeney, 62

St. Martin, Rome

Bill & Jane Shelton, 64

St. Mary, Franklin

Lewis & Helen Garst, 54

Basil & Hilda Trouten, 51

St. Mary, LaCenter

Bobby & Florence Lanier, 51

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

James & Marty Johnson, 51

St. Michael, Oak Grove

James & Janet Doyle, 51

Charles & Barbara Peitier, 52

St. Peter, Waverly

Jared & Jessica Watson, 10

Allen Ray & Carolyn Mackey, 63

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Denny & Sarona Grant, 40

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Wayne & Cathy Foster, 40

Bobby & Theresa Barnett, 53

Jim & Penny Howard, 55

Frankie & Betty Clark, 60

William & Martha Zoglmann, 61

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Kent & Shannon Greenwell, 10

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Jim & K. G. Ariagno, 50

Thomas & Patricia Fritsch, 50

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Bill & Rosemary Payne, 54

Thomas E. & Lucy H. Neal, 54

Virgil & Colene Jennings, Jr., 68

Robert J. & Vurble Mahoney, 58

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jose & Claudia Hernandez, 25

Al & Mary McKeown, 52

St. William, Knottsville

Derek & Samantha Crisp, 10

James R. & Evelyn Cecil, 60

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Martin & Patricia Cecil, 51

Norbert & Nancy Crowe, 59

William A. & Betty Jo Payne, 59

William & Katherine Thomas, 64

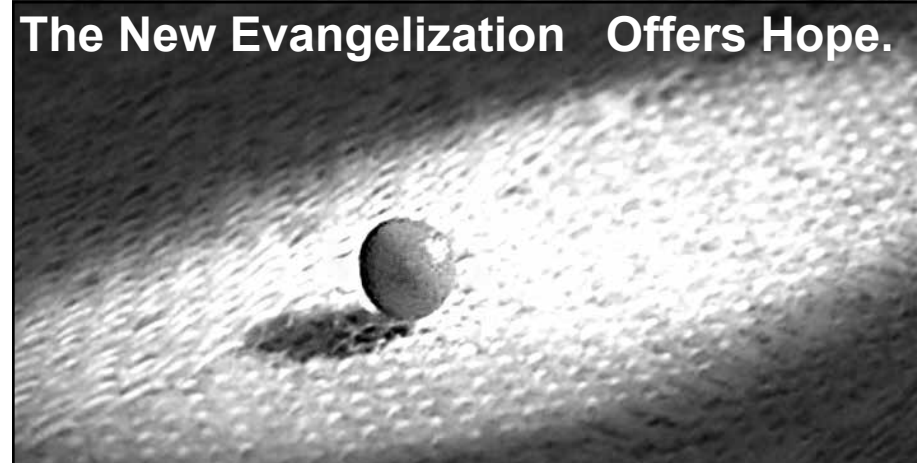
Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

David & Carol Ditzel, 50

G. W. & Joan Brockman, III, 53

What is the New Evangelization?

The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Catholics to be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize. In a special way, the New Evangelization is focused on 're-proposing' the Gospel to those who have experienced a crisis of faith. Pope Benedict XVI called for the re-proposing of the Gospel "to those regions awaiting the first evangelization and to those regions where the roots of Christianity are deep but who have experienced a serious crisis of faith due to secularization." (Pope Benedict XVI, "Homily of First Vespers on the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, 2011) The New Evangelization invites each Catholic to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. Source: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/>



"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." Mk 4: 31-32

St. Mary High School Students Put Faith Into Action

PADUCAH, KY –St. Mary School System commends its students for putting their faith into action in early January by reaching out to students of nearby Ballard Memorial High School in their time of grief after the school lost a student as well as several parents in less than one week. Recognizing the pain their Ballard friends were feeling, a student-driven prayer service for the Ballard community was held prior to the start of school on Wednesday of that week, in addition to other smaller signs and prayerful intentions.

One of the additional showings of support hangs inside the gym at BMHS, a banner painted by members of the St. Mary Catholic Youth Leaders that reads “Sending God’s Grace Your Way” and includes expressions of faith from SMHS students.

Members of the Catholic Youth Leaders presented the banner, to Mr. David Meinschein, BMHS principal, on Thursday afternoon of that week, ahead of a prayers service at the school. The next night, the Viking basketball teams played at Ballard, and at the conclusion of the varsity boys game, fans from both schools circled the basketball court and joined together in prayer.



St. Mary Middle and High School interim principal Susan Higdon, St. Mary students Karina Romero, Caroline Veatch and Emily Gipson with Ballard Memorial High School principal David Meinschein. Submitted by Heather DeHart



Book of collected prayers offers comfort to sick and dying

Those engaged in the ministry of comfort – through chaplaincy, healthcare, hospice, Stephen ministry, spiritual direction or pastoral ministry – know firsthand how belief in a God, who is close-by and loving, brings comfort, consolation and healing.

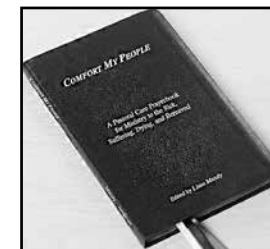
A new book offers an essential collection of prayers: for praying for and with the sick, suffering or dying; for those in recovery; for the bereaved; for funerals and more. *Comfort My People: A Pastoral Care Prayerbook for Ministry to the Sick, Suffering, Dying, and Bereaved*, edited by Linus Mundy, is available from Abbey Press’ One Caring Place.

Mundy collected these prayers from authors with rich and diverse backgrounds. They are poets, composers, biblical figures, saints and clergy of all denominations. Many hearken back to past centuries, yet their messages still ring true and strong.

Mundy, of Jasper, IN, is a former editor and publisher at Abbey Press, where he developed the CareNotes line of pastoral care booklets. He is the author of several books, including *Turning to God to Get Through Grief* and *Simply Merton: Wisdom from His Journals*.

The 304-page book features a burgundy leatherette cover, gilt-edged pages and ribbon page markers.

The book is available at this website: www.onecaringplace.com/product.asp?pn=20487.



“I was lonely and you made me welcome.”

Matthew 25:35



St. Stephen’s youth group helping at the Davco Nursing home, Owensboro. The picture is taken while they were assisting residents play their Bingo games. Their presence and their interaction with the people made them happy. Submitted by Fr. Suneesh Mathew

The night after a student-driven prayer service for the Ballard community, the Saint Mary High School Viking basketball teams played at Ballard, and at the conclusion of the varsity boys game, fans from both schools circled the basketball court and joined together in prayer. Photos by by Heather DeHart



As their semester final exam, the Owensboro Catholic High School Theatre Arts class performed "The Missing List," a play about Santa losing his Naughty and Nice list, for the 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old St. Stephen Cathedral Preschool students. OCHS Theatre Arts students include Ryan Cohen (child and race car), Madeleine Edge (rag doll), Olivia Cason (elf), Becca Ballard (elf), Annie Pfeifer (elf), Will Wright (toy bear), Jose Solorza (toy tiger), Molly Payne (child), Jimmy Stiveson (Santa), Jenna Carrico (child) Photos submitted by Katie Pagan

(Note: The WKC asked what grade the preschool students gave the high school students and we found out, "Well, an A+++ of course!")



Elf Olivia Cason explains to Santa that she found the missing list while Elves Becca Ballard and Annie Pfeifer listen.



In order to show that not all children in the world are ungrateful, Bear Will Wright, Tiger Jose Solorza, and Rag Doll Madeleine Edge take Elf Olivia Cason (who stole the list). Child Jenna Carrico reads her letter to Santa asking for help for her parents who have lost their jobs.

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Hosts A Child's Celebration of Jesus' Birthday

Cathedral Preschool had its Pre-Christmas Celebration on the 11th of December. It was a great evening. The Cathedral was packed with parents and grandparents who came to see the performances of their children or grandchildren. The kids did a great job in singing and performing a skit on the birth of Jesus. Submitted by Fr. Suneesh; photos by James Kinchelow



February, 2015 31

In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Elizabeth (Betty) Shelton, SCN



Elizabeth (Betty) Shelton, SCN, 87, formerly Sister Marie Ellen Shelton, a native of Paducah, Kentucky, died at Nazareth Home, Louisville, on Wednesday, December 23, 2014. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 69 years.

Sister Betty served in elementary education as both teacher and principal for 24 years in Kentucky and Tennessee. She also served in health care at Nazareth Home Health, in pastoral ministry at Flaget Memorial Hospital, Bardstown, and as Outreach Patient Care Coordinator at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington from 1986-1999.

Survivors include one brother, George H. Shelton, II of Wilmette, Illinois; nieces in Lexington, Kentucky, and her religious community.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on December 30, 2014, in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, followed by burial in Nazareth Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Office of Congregational Advancement, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.

Saint Meinrad plans open house for February 8

In celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life, and in conjunction with religious communities across the country, the monastic community of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, IN, is hosting an open house on Sunday, February 8, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. (CST).

Monks will lead tours of the public areas of the monastic house, as well as tours of the sacristy, the Archabbey Church and the monastic Chapter Room. Tours will begin at the Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center.

Also that day, the public is welcome to view an exhibit of abstract art in the Archabbey Library Gallery. The artwork is by fabric artist Julia Sermersheim of Santa Claus, IN, and Bob Zasadny, a sculptor from Princeton, IN.

At 3 p.m. in the Archabbey Church, the Choir School of First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, IN, will present a concert of choral favorites.

All events are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Guest House and student parking lots. For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher during business hours at (812) 357-6501. For updates on the day of the event, call (812) 357-6611.

Another Billboard For Life

Photo at left: The Fr. Connor Council (Sorgho) got it done! From right to left, KCs Gayle Rhodes Owensboro Right to Life VP; Allan Stockinger Treasurer K of C 101, Board member Owensboro Right to Life; Wayne Hamilton- K of C 6101 former member of K of C 6101; Jerome Blair, St. Peter of Alcantara parishioner; and Richard Dixon, K of C 6101. Submitted by Allan Stockinger



Houston Babbs Earns Eagle Scout Rank, Serves St. Mary School and Paducah Catholic Community

By Sheri Babbs

Houston Scott Edward Babbs celebrated earning his Eagle Scout Rank as a member of Troop 2007 sponsored by KC Council 1055 on December 28, 2014 with friends, family, and Boy Scouts at Eagle Court of Honor. Houston began his journey as a Boy Scout as a Tiger Cub under the expert leadership of the late Jerry Kite in 2006, with Pack 7 sponsored by St. Thomas More. Leaders who helped Houston through his Cub Scout and Boy Scout journey included Jennifer Hodges, Mary and Matt Austin, Steve Shoulta, and Matt LaBarge. He is a member of the Order of Arrow, White Horse Lodge 201. He earned his Ad Altare Dei and Parvuli Dei Catholic Religious awards.



Houston reciting the Boy Scout Oath at the Court of Honor with Matt LaBarge. Photos submitted by Sheri Babbs

was presented by former troop leader, Steve Shoulta. Eagle Scout, Ian LaBarge presented the Voice of the Eagle and the Eagle Charge. Houston honored his parents, Scott and Sheri Babbs with parent's pins.

Houston presented his grandfather, Bill Babbs, with the Boy Scout Mentor Pin. Houston received commendation letters from several Kentucky Statesmen and received the Kentucky Colonel. Friends and family enjoyed a reception following the Court of Honor.



Houston working on the St. Mary baseball field.

Houston earned 39 merit badges.

Along his Scout journey, Houston has enjoyed being a serious Pine Wood Derby competitor, spending summer camp at Camp Roy C. Manchester, learning invaluable life skills, assisting in other Eagle projects, helping in the community, and mentoring younger scouts.

For his Eagle Project, Houston made improvements to the St. Mary School System Baseball Fields that included installing a home team's bull pen, improving the visitor's bull pen, and installing turf in front of the dug outs. Two years of planning and preparation went into the project.

Sponsors of his project include: Apex Engineering, Lawrence Durbin, Dewain Gipson, Billy and Stacey Hardesty, Home Floor and Kitchens, KC Council 1055, KC Council 11591, Babbs Farms, and Barber Farms. Houston was assisted in the manual labor by the Boy Scout of Troop 2007 and parents, St. Mary Baseball Team, parents, and alumni, St. Mary Students, Keith Emmons, Hodges Family, Froehlich Family, Barber Family, Smith Family, and Romero Family. A total of 425 hours were donated in the execution of the project.

Troop 2007 Scout Master, Matt LaBarge conducted the ceremony. St. Thomas More Youth Minister, Matt Rochette, led the opening prayer. Colors were posted by scouts J Barber and Marshall Johnson. The description of the Eagle Award



Million Dollar Smile - a picture of Houston in his first year as a Tiger Cub Scout in 2006.

Houston is a junior honor roll at St. Mary High School and a member of the St. Mary Varsity Baseball and Soccer Teams.

Houston is active with the St. Thomas More Youth Group, Western Kentucky TEC Community, and volunteers at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp as a Counsellor. He is the son of Scott and Sheri Babbs and the grandson of Bill Babbs and the late Rose Mary Babbs, Larry Barber and Barbara Peppers, and Janice and Tom Parker.

Houston's Confirmation Saint is St. Michael the Archangel whose influence he takes very seriously. Houston's future plans are to go into Law Enforcement.



Congratulations to each of you,

the members of the Owensboro Catholic High School 2014-15 National Honor Society. John Augenstein, Jake Hayden, Cameron O'Nan, Raychel Bahnick, Sami Horsley, Annie Pfeifer, Becca Ballard, Lindsey Klump, Mikala Riney, Rex Berry, Samantha Krampe, Sarah Riney, Jackson Bittel, Lucy Kurtz, Mason Robertson, Lauren Brown, Emily Linn, Isaac Settle, Matthew Caldwell, Emily Marshal, Bridget Stallings, Mary Keaton Clemens, Elizabeth Mattingly, Miller Townsend, Michael Clore, Olivia Miller, Elizabeth Warren, Alex Danhauer, Lydia Mills, Griffin Wassmer, Madeleine Edge, Davis Mitchell, Sarah Haleman, Annabel Moore, Caroline Hayden, Michaela Murphy. OCS Photo



Part of Bible Study Group. Left to Right: The Grant Family (Alice, Alfred, Pam, Jorden), Coreen Moore, Norma Hodges, Carol Gatto, Carol Thornberry, Bonnie Grant, Robert Clark, Loretta Smith, Becky Higdon, Debbie Grant

The Bible Study Group at St. Anthony Church headed up by Father Babu & Deacon Bill Grant had a big evening December 17th with Caroling in the Peonia, KY area which included Santa Clause, a pot luck dinner, fellowship, & Bible Study session to end the evening. How

fitting was this Bible Study of the Fourth Sunday of Advent Gospel Luke 1:26-38, where Mary accepts God's will – her response shows us how a Christian should be; humble, pray about everything, not judgmental, hopeful & thankful always.



Other Part of Bible Study Group. Left to Right: Robert Clark, Loretta Smith, Becky Higdon, Debbie & Deacon Bill Grant, Frankie & Rick Smith, Father Babu. Kneeling Bonnie & Jimmy Grant

Jesus Calls Each of Us To Give the Gift of Our Time To Those In Need: Matthew 25:35

By Dr. Bob Cinnamond

I answered the phone: "Hi my name is Mary, my husband is in jail and he asked me to call you" **Tell me your story, Mary:**

"I graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School in 2000. I was a daddy's girl and he liked 'A's' so I made good grades, graduated with honors, graduated from KWC in 2004 and Murray State in 2006 with a Masters Degree.

"I moved back home but my parents treated me like a high school student with rules and laws. Then I met Bill who graduated with me in 2000. We fell in love and were married in 2005. We wanted to get away so we moved out west. He got a job in construction and I got pregnant with our first child that was born in 2006.

"The Depression hit, Bill lost his job and we moved back home, got an apartment and he got a job in a local factory. We were unhappy in our Church; all of our friends had moved away; no one seemed to care about us. I went to a women's meeting at our church one day and no one even said hello to me.

"Then one of Bill's friends invited us to his protestant church. It was so different! Everyone reached out to us, I think

that I met every member of that church that day. They invited us out to eat with them, and to join their bible study. I was pregnant again and they even had a baby shower for the new baby.

"But we were still struggling with relationships, then one day Bill came home with a big grin. Someone at work gave him a drug that made him happy, he wanted me to try it but I didn't because I was pregnant. He started to take more of it. Then one day the police came, put us both in jail and took away our children.

"I was only in jail for one week but Bill is still there. I went to our protestant church but no one wanted to have anything to do with me; they had seen our names in the newspaper. My parents don't want to see me. I am living on the streets of Owensboro, sleeping on the couch in someone's apartment.

"Last Sunday, I went back to our family Catholic Church, but it is still the same. No one would even sit next to me or shake my hand at Communion. My clothes were wrinkled and I didn't have any makeup on. Everyone had such a long face like they were forced to be there. I went for donuts and coffee but no one spoke to me, I even walked over to

the priest that I didn't know but he turned and walked the other way.

"I don't know what to do Bob, please help me! Bob, please help me!"

Authors note: I am a semi-retired faculty member from Brescia University,

teaching basic Christianity in the Daviess County Jail. I get these calls almost every week. Does anyone out there care? Names have been changed to protect the innocent.



A Gift of Time

Fr. Pat Reynolds gave the gift of time to St. Mary Kindergarten, Paducah, Ky. Mrs. La Barge's 22 Kindergarteners wait patiently as Fr. Pat asks each student's name and carefully writes them on a prayer card. Submitted Photo

A Journey Through Advent To Christmas

(The building of St Elizabeth parish crib scene)

By Bernie Powers

CURDSVILLE, Ky. - Each year I try to do something special for Advent to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. This year was my 39th year of setting up the crib in St. Elizabeth Church. I wanted to do something different. With a lot of thought I decided it was time to build a new stable for the interior of the church. After several drawings, I went to



my shop and took inventory of scrap wood and materials left from different remodeling jobs.

My plan was to build a stable that would fit the side altar where we set up the crib. The idea was to build a post and beam effect that I had seen on an old barn which I tore down many years ago. When the framework was complete I enclosed the wall with old plaster lathe. The texture of the lathe was great for distressing to make it look old. Around the bottom, I made sandstone panels to accent the woodwork. I had to purchase cedar shake shingles for the roof.

To keep the look I was striving for, lighting was the next step. Thank God for the new LED can lights. These are



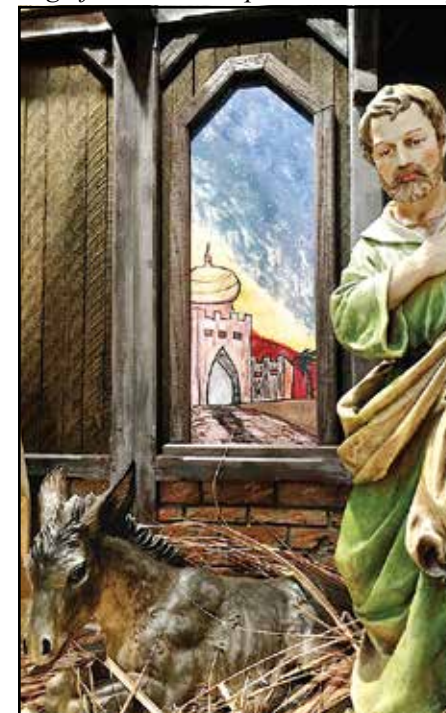
bright and can be controlled on a dimmer switch. Since these do not put off much heat, it is always a big plus not to worry about a fire hazard.

For the two windows I painted two scenes in which I pictured the city of Bethlehem to appear in the background.

Lastly, I wanted a star in the front face of the stable, but one lighted from the back. Though that light was "enough" for the Star of Bethlehem, I wanted more meaning in the star. I put a glass cross in the background. The meaning behind this - first we celebrate the birth of Christ, but then the crucifixion is going to follow which is for the salvation of all.

Now the project was complete. But I thought about the whole process. I realized that no matter how sturdy the stable was built from wood and stone; it is the real stable we build in our heart the 365 days a year that we truly prepare for Christ's birth.

Thanks to Fr. Bruce McCarty, our pastor, and the community of St. Elizabeth parish for all their support. Merry Christmas! --



CRIB VISIT
 extended
 I came
 I continue to stay
 adoring.
 I saw
 I continue to behold
 admiring
 I heard
 I continue to ponder
 silently.
 I prayed
 I continue to contemplate
 attentively
 I loved
 I continue to embrace
 peacefully
 I promised
 I continue to be faithful
 joyfully,
 I rejoiced
 I continue to celebrate
 devotedly
 I knelt
 I continue to adore
 faithfully
 I gave
 I continue to give
 generously
Msgr. Bernard Powers

LIGHT ONE CANDLE**Lincoln's Thoughts of Reconciliation and Hope**

By Jerry Costello for The Christophers

He is the man generally recognized as our greatest president, and when he sat down to write out his thoughts for his second inaugural—during the closing days of February, 1865, exactly 150 years ago this month—events would follow with dizzying speed. It was just five weeks later that Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army, ending the country's Civil War, and only a week after that that Abraham Lincoln, the president himself, was assassinated.

Now those anniversaries provide a special time to read in full the address he wrote, for, as we shall see, he felt it was his best. The assignment is an easy one; the speech zips by in a mere 703 words. But those words form an incredible whole, in which Lincoln reviewed the suffering brought on by the War and offered thoughts of reconciliation and hope to all whose lives it had touched.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Ad-

dress isn't hard to find; it has been reproduced hundreds of times. I came across my copy recently in Caroline Kennedy's *A Patriot's Handbook*, a compendium in which she referred to its rooting "in his religious beliefs" and discussed the way he had woven together the past, present and future.

It's no trick for a reader to zero in on Lincoln's religious beliefs. They permeate the address with an immediacy that helps to define his presidency. For Lincoln, God took a direct role in the affairs of men and women, this nation and its warring sons among them. He wove that role into a general discussion of the war with a plain matter-of-factness that was his trademark.

Four years before, he explained, both sides could think of nothing but the War each sought to avoid. But the subjugation of the slaves that lived in the South—"one-eighth of the whole population," Lincoln pointed out—became the cause of the conflict it

was willing to risk. Both sides read the same Bible and both pray to the same God, he said, and each invokes divine aid against the other. While



offering no prediction as to the War's outcome, the president said, he held "high hope for the future" and referred to "the providence of God," "a living God," and the will of God.

"The Almighty has his own purposes," Lincoln solemnly intoned, and it is difficult to imagine a contemporary president referring so directly to the presence of God in human affairs.

In the final paragraph of his Second Inaugural, Abraham Lincoln soars to a magnificent cadenza, one that provides a fitting capstone to the speech:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace

among ourselves and with all nations."

Lincoln regarded the address simply as the finest one he had ever delivered. "Over time," as Caroline Kennedy writes, "many have come to agree."

For a free copy of the *Christopher News Note*, *LISTENING WHEN GOD SPEAKS*, write: *The Christophers*, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

Gerald M. Costello is a former President of "The Christophers." A 1952 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, he was the founding editor of two Catholic newspapers: *The Beacon in Paterson*, New Jersey, and *Catholic New York*. Now retired, he holds an honorary doctorate in letters from St. John's University, New York. The Catholic Press Association has presented him with both the St. Francis de Sales Award and the Bishop John England Award.

**Annual Mass and Memorial Service St. John Knights**

On Oct. 15, 2014 at the 5:30pm Mass, the St. John Knights of Columbus Council 10962 celebrated a memorial Mass and candlelight service in memory of our 40 deceased council members; the council was chartered in 1992. 115 people came to celebrate this service to support our widows and friends of our Knights and light candles in their memory. Knights of Columbus provided an honor guard for this occasion; the candles were arranged on a table so they spelled K of C. After the Mass we went to our Knights of Columbus Hall and enjoyed chili and hot dogs with our widows and family members: a great celebration for all who came to this wonderful event. Submitted by Paul S. Roof

**St. John Knights of Columbus Senior Citizens Dinner**

The St. John Knights of Columbus Council # 10962 held their 22nd annual St. John Evangelist Senior Citizens Christmas dinner for Parishioners 60 years and older on Sunday Dec. 7, 2014 at 12 noon. 150 people came to enjoy this wonderful meal of roast beef, green beans, corn, rolls and cream pie. We also had 25 carry-outs to shut-ins of our parish. We were entertained by our Master of Ceremonies, Kerry Boudreaux, who told some "belly laugh" stories and our musical group, 'Back Water', who sang many Christmas Hymns to the delight of our Seniors who left with a wonderful "Christmas Spirit."

Submitted by Paul S. Roof

The Respect Life Movement in the Diocese of Owensboro

**By Deacon Nick Nichols,
Committee Chair for the Diocesan
Gospel of Life Committee**

As Catholics, we are called to defend life at all times, in all places, under all circumstances, regardless of age, ethnicity or health: from “womb to tomb” as has been often proclaimed. This is because we recognize that ALL people are created in the image and likeness of God, which alone provides each of us the dignity that demands we treat all life as sacred. As Christians, we further understand we are to be treated as individuals -- to love and be loved -- and are not to be used as mere objects for our selfish desires.

Many of our Jewish and Protestant brothers and sisters, as well of many other people of good will, embrace this sacred view of life, which affords us many opportunities to work together to promote the respect for life in our communities.

There are numerous organizations in our cities, states and our country that have missions that embrace our God-given call to respect life. All in some ways seek to inform, educate and /or assist the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters from abortion, euthanasia, embryonic experimentation and the like.

In the Diocese of Owensboro, there are a few key such organizations of which we should be aware.

The first such organization is the **Gospel of Life Committee**, our Catholic Presence in the Diocese under Bishop Medley. The GOL Committee coordinates many respect life efforts across the Diocese and works closely with other respect life efforts throughout Kentucky, helps sponsor national efforts such as 40 Days for Life and the annual March for Life in Washington DC.

The next Catholic organization is **Opportunities for Life**, a non-profit organization sponsored by our Catholic Bishops in Kentucky, whose mission is to offer non-judgmental and confidential support to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and help them recognize the many opportunities and resources that exist for those who choose life. Opportunities for Life consultants help young women find answers to their many questions about abortion, pregnancy tests, STDs, adoption, parenting, medical referrals, housing, and other issues. Their goal is to help these women gather infor-

mation and explore the many options that are available, so that they may make an informed decision. Their toll-free number, 1-800-822-5824, is available to callers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Another Catholic organization is Catholics for Children doing business as **Billboards for Life** (<http://billboards-for-life.com/bfl/>). Billboards for Life is a non-profit tax-exempt lay apostolate formed by parishioners of St. Martin of Tours parish in the Louisville, KY Archdiocese. Their sole mission is to blanket cities and towns with Catholic Pro-Life Billboards raising public awareness of the sanctity of all Human Life. This effort is dedicated to and under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn and of the Americas. In addition to typically Catholic themes of these billboards, these billboards have the Opportunities for Life toll-free hot-line number sponsored by our Kentucky bishops on each billboard, or have a direct line to a local crises pregnancy center. While the parent organization operates under the aegis of the Bishop of Louisville, the local affiliate for the Diocese of Owensboro operates under the aegis of Bishop Medley through the Gospel of Life Committee.

Catholic Charities of Owensboro offers confidential counseling to anyone experiencing a crisis pregnancy for as long as needed and at no cost to them. Adoption services are also provided when someone feels that they cannot take on the responsibility of parenting. In fact, all four Catholic Charities agencies in Kentucky have formed an affiliation called “A Caring Connection” and can offer these services anywhere in Kentucky. To learn more about services available, please visit the website at (www.KyCaringConnection.org). Catholic Charities of Owensboro also offers services at the St. Gerard Life Home in Owensboro for expectant mothers and their newborns. This resource provides free shelter and services for them from the time the mother learns she is expecting until three months after the birth of the child.

Moving to our non-Catholic affiliations, the Kentucky Right to Life Association (www.krla.org) is Kentucky's largest and oldest right to life organization and the official state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee (www.nrlc.org).



On Jan 13, 2015, the Diocese of Owensboro recognized Dr. Sam and Kathy Dunlanet with a plaque, shown above being presented by Richard Murphy. The plaque states: “With the deepest of respect and thanksgiving to Dr. Sam and Kathy Dunlany for their many years of service for the cause for life in the Diocese of Owensboro: Thank you for your words, your deeds and tireless example in proclaiming the Gospel of Life.” It was signed by Bishop Medley. Sam and Kathy served on the Gospel Of Life Committee and its predecessor, the Prolife committee, for the Diocese for about 20 years or longer. Photo submitted by Office of Social Concerns

www.nrlc.org).

KRLA serves as the state coordinating body for the local Right to Life affiliates which represent thousands of Kentucky citizens. They are a volunteer, non-profit organization composed of grassroots people of different political persuasions, various faiths and diverse economic, social and ethnic backgrounds. They are dedicated to protecting and fostering the most basic of human values, life itself. Many Catholics throughout our Diocese volunteer in their local affiliates.

In the Diocese of Owensboro, there are 6 Right to Life affiliates: RTL Barren River (Bowling Green); RTL Crittenden County (Marion); RTL Ohio County; RTL Owensboro; RTL Pennyryle (Hopkinsville); and RTL Western Kentucky (Paducah).

It should be noted that RTL has placed many RTL billboards throughout the state, as has Billboards for Life. If

you are Catholic and are blessed to have a choice of both, please do so! If you must limit your options to one, the advantage of using Billboards for Life is the Bishop sponsored toll-free hot-line.

Since all of these organizations afford tax-deductible contributions they cannot directly advocate political action. So the community has established a Political Action Committee (PAC) to afford such efforts, the Kentucky Right to Life PAC: (www.krla.org) This PAC helps identify Pro-Life candidates as well as to identify their voting records on pro-life issues.

There are many other groups working hard to assist individuals dealing with life issues throughout the 32 counties in the Diocese. Three other organizations that can be mentioned briefly are: Birthright, Care Net and Rachel's Vineyard.

Birthright, located in Owensboro, seeks to help a pregnant woman as she navigates an unplanned pregnancy and is available to women for as long as they need help. They offer love, friendship, and support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Birthright services are always free, non-judgmental and confidential. They can also provide information, referrals, and resources to help the woman help herself. Birthright is available 24/7 through their toll-free helpline, (270-926-7561.)

Care Net is a pregnancy help center offering the following services free of charge: pregnancy test and verification, limited obstetrical ultrasound (to those who qualify), pregnancy education, options education, emotional support/peer counseling, community referrals, STD/STI information, abortion recovery healing and support. All of our services are free and confidential. (Programs and eligibility are subject to change.)

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

If you or someone you know is need of any of these services and programs, please consider using these services and supporting these efforts.

Ursuline Sisters hosting a tour of Maple Mount to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life February, 2015 37

Have you always wanted the chance to ask an Ursuline Sister a question about her life? Have you driven past the beautiful grounds at Maple Mount and wished you could stop by? Now is your chance.

At 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are hosting a tour of the property and a chance to meet with some sisters to talk about their lives. This open house is part of a global celebration of 2015 being designated the “Year of Consecrated Life” by Pope Francis.

This day is open to everyone – men, women, married couples, children, non-Catholics – anyone who wants to learn more about the fascinating lives of these women who have consecrated their lives in service to God and the Church. Come see for yourself the joyful women who call Maple Mount their home.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Motherhouse Chapel. An inside tour of some of the buildings will follow, along with a question and answer session with some sisters. Refreshments will be available, as well as a chance to visit the Gift Shop. Guests are welcome to stay for Eucharistic Adoration that begins at 4 p.m. in the Chapel.

Join the Ursuline Sisters in the place they’ve called home since 1874. The Motherhouse is at 8001 Cummings Road, about 12 miles west of Owensboro along Kentucky 56. For more information, contact Dan Heckel, director of Mission Advancement and Communications, at (270) 229-2007, or dan.heckel@maplemount.org.

At right, photos of MSJ Chapel exterior and interior views.



CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
40th ANNIVERSARY

crsricebowl.org
crsplatodearroz.org

what you give up for Lent .changes lives
tus sacrificios en Cuaresma cambian vidas

Schoolgirl from the village of Tourbiy, Niger

Day of Open House with Religious (February 8, 2015)

Remarks by Sr. Marie Bernadette Thompson, O.P., Council Coordinator, Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR)

I am excited to announce to you this unique opportunity that will be taking place on February 8, 2015. In response to Pope Francis’ announcement of this special year of Consecrated Life, religious houses around the country will be opening our doors for everyone to come and meet their “brothers and sisters” as we welcome all to come and see our religious life. This event will be open to all: families, the young and the old, parishioners and those who are not part of our church, friends and neighbors.

Have you ever wondered what a brother or sister does all day? What would make a young man or woman give up their family, their home, or their career and dedicate their life to God? On February 8 at the Open House Day you will be able to find out the answers to all of these questions and learn more about the lives of those who have promised to follow Christ through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience throughout history: both the saints who were inspired first to follow the call, and the men and women who continue to follow in their footsteps today.

Pope Francis has called for this year of Consecrated Life to “wake up the world” and share the power of the Gospel through the witness of the lives of our consecrated brothers and sisters. I invite all of our religious brothers and sisters to join us in answering Pope Francis’ call in this year to “wake up the world” with the powerful evangelical witness of our lives of consecration and to consider how to best open wide the doors of their life to all who are interested in learning more about the consecrated life. This nation-wide initiative is to open our religious houses to the public on February 8 for a few hours, to welcome those interested to pray with the community, tour public areas of your home, and learn more about the community’s life and customs.

Most importantly, this is a day of encounter. Our hope is that through this initiative, many people may have a personal encounter with their brothers and sisters who live and work in their churches, hospitals, schools, homes and neighborhoods, and through their encounter with you, may they encounter anew the risen face of Christ.

More information will be available about additional opportunities with local religious during the rest of the year.

Source: <http://www.usccb.org>

Catholic Campaign For Human Development Local Grant Information

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a national social justice program of the United States Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self-help organizations, and through transformative education of the non-poor.

Each year in November, the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky participates in the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection. From that collection, a percentage of monies are retained to provide grant funding to local organizations which meet CCHD criteria. Catholic Charities administers and allocates the grant funding.

To apply, please send a brief narrative of your organization, budgeting information, how your organization would meet the CCHD criteria of systemic change, what community organizations your group receives support from, and whether your organization's policy-making board has one-third low-income members (if your board does not contain one-third of its members who are low-income also include an explanation of why this is not so).

Applications for grant funding must be received by May 20, 2015 so that grants can be awarded on or before June 20, 2015. The grant is a non-renewable and must be applied for each year. Three years is the total number of years any one group can receive this grant. Each year several grants are awarded averaging between \$800-\$1200 each. The grant application is a little shorter and a little more simplified to complete this year.

Criteria:

- The applicant's project must be within the thirty-two counties which comprise the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. These counties include: Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Ballard, McCracken, Carlisle, Calloway, Marshall, Trigg, Lyon, Livingston, Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins, Muhlenburg, Todd, Logan, Simpson, Allen, Warren, Butler, Edmonson, Grayson, Ohio, Breckinridge, Hancock, Daviess, McLean, Henderson, Union, Webster, and Crittenden.

- The applicant project's policy making board must be at least one-third low-income. If this is not the case, the applicant must explain why the board does not have setting low-income board members. (Low-income board members do not include those considered voluntarily poor such as clergy, religious sisters, students, VISTA volunteers, etc.)

- The applicant project's efforts must seek to benefit a poverty group.

- The applicant project must seek to create institutional or systemic change by changing the structures that keep people poor and powerless.

- CCHD will consider favorably only those projects which demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human person. CCHD will not consider projects or organizations which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.

- The activity for which funding is requested must be consistent with the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

- Projects should generate cooperation and solidarity among and within diverse groups in the interest of a more integrated and mutually understanding society.

- Projects should document that as a result of CCHD funding there are possibilities of generating funds from other sources or of moving towards becoming self-supporting within the time lines established in the proposal.

*Richard Murphy, Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Ky 42301, 270/683-1545, richard.murphy@pastoral.org*

Catholic Charities USA Names Sister Donna Markham New President

First Woman Selected to Lead in Organization's 105-year History

Alexandria, Va. – The Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Board of Trustees announced Jan. 12, 2015 that Sister Donna Markham OP, Ph.D., president of the Behavioral Health Institute for Mercy Health, has been selected as its new president. Sister Donna, the first female president to lead CCUSA in the organization's 105-year history, has a doctorate in clinical psychology and a proven track record in organizational leadership. She succeeds Rev. Larry Snyder, who served as CCUSA's president since 2005, and will officially be seated as CCUSA's 10th president on June 1, 2015.



"After a nationwide search, Sister Donna was selected based on her extensive relevant experience, her demonstrated leadership skills and her deep sense of commitment to the poor," said Sister Linda Yankoski, chair of CCUSA's Board of Trustees and president and CEO of the Holy Family Institute. "She has served national and local nonprofit organizations within the Catholic community at the executive and leadership levels, and brings a breadth of creativity, perspective and experience."

"I am both honored and humbled to engage in this enormously important ministry," said Sister Donna Markham, incoming president of CCUSA. "There can be no greater call than to serve and advocate on behalf of persons who struggle to get by in a world where they are all-too-frequently relegated to the margins of society and where they long for dignity, hope and compassion. I feel blessed to walk among the many dedicated Catholic Charities workers across the country who daily make the Gospel come alive through their care for their sisters and brothers in need."

Sister Donna is an Adrian Dominican sister and board certified clinical psychologist. In her current position for Mercy Health she is engaged in leading the transformation of the delivery of behavioral healthcare services across seven major geographic regions. Prior to joining Mercy Health, Sister Donna served 10 years as the president of the Southdown Institute in Ontario, Canada and as Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Congregation. She also served for eight years as a member of CCUSA's Board of Trustees, two of which as Board chair.

"Sister Donna's appointment promises a seamless transition at the end of ten years of outstanding leadership by Fr Larry Snyder who returns to special ministry in his home Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul in Minnesota," said Bishop David A. Zubik, Episcopal Liaison to CCUSA's Board of Trustees. "I welcome Sister Donna's appointment in my capacity as liaison between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and CCUSA."

Sister Donna received her doctorate from the University of Detroit and was named a Fellow in the American Association of Clinical Psychologists. She was awarded the prestigious Harold S. Bernard Training Award from the American Group Psychotherapy Association in February 2014.

"We, Donna's Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, are so proud but not in the least bit surprised that our Sister Donna Markham has been chosen to lead Catholic Charities USA – the first woman to serve as president of the organization in its 100-year-plus history," said Sister Attracta Kelly, Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Congregation. "At a time of ever-pressing need and growing despair in our world, Donna's visionary leadership, indomitable spirit, and sense of compassion will combine to make a real and lasting difference for Catholic Charities and all of the people throughout the country who are blessed by the wonderful service Catholic Charities continues to provide to those on the margins."

Photos From Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville, Ky., December, 2014 and January, 2015

A Collection of Photos from Sarah Kranz, principal



Students at Sts. Peter and Paul recently held a traditional New Orleans style funeral for "John Doe", a computer that belonged to science teacher, Lynne Hensley. As the students strolled to the dumpster, they were led by Rich Barnett, who played "A Closer Walk With Thee" on his accordion. After John was trashed, with assistance from Fr. Richard and Fr. Julio, students returned to school singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In." No professional weepers were invited.



SPPS celebrated the Nativity during two performances on December.



Fr. Julio recently spent time with the 5th and 6th grade students explaining liturgical vestments. Pictured with Fr. Julio is James Folz.



As seen in the two photos at left, Sts. Peter & Paul students recently had the opportunity to view over 125 relics of the Church. Treasures of the Church is a ministry of evangelization run by Fr. Carlos Martins of the *Companions of the Cross*. Its purpose is to give people an experience of the living God through an encounter with the relics of His saints in the form of an exposition. Prior to the students seeing the relics, Fr. Carlos explained veneration of relics. The students were excited as they saw the relics of some of their favorite saints.

Pictured at far left are: Lupita Vierya and Natalie Linares
Pictured at near left are: Kate Cayce and Brady Brown



On Saturday, January 10, 2015, the Owensboro Catholic High Swim & Dive team participated in the City County Swim & Dive Championship. The boys and girls teams each won the City County Championship and both teams scores were combined for the overall championship. The swim and dive team broke a 23 year winning streak to take the overall title. Several city county and school records were set at the meet. OCS Photo

Mardi Gras & All That Jazz! Moves to Julian Carroll Convention Center

PADUCAH, Ky. - - A local Fat Tuesday tradition continues February 17, 2015 at the region's premier charity event - Lourdes Foundation's 13th Annual Mardi Gras &

All That Jazz! This annual fundraiser will be coming home to Paducah, KY at the Julian Carroll Convention Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Lew Jetton & 61 South is back by popular demand and will liven up the party with their Blues and Southern Rock.

Mardi Gras is a fun-filled evening of music, food and fun to support the Lourdes Foundation. Raising \$75,000 in 2014, proceeds from the upcoming event help Lourdes improve clinical areas and provide excellence in care through technology and facility upgrades.

Guests can satisfy their Cajun cravings with gourmet treats from popular restaurants and caterers throughout the region, and sample delicious drinks including wines, spirits, soft drinks and gourmet coffees.

Food and beverage vendors include: A Pampered Palate, Alto Vineyards, Artisan Kitchen, Banks Market, City Rocker's Pizza, Lourdes Coffee Beanery, Culligan Water, Midtown Market, Occasions Unlimited Catering, Ozark Pride Meats, Patti's 1880's Settlement, Pepsi Mid-America, Purple Toad Winery, Rafferty's, Roof Brothers Wine & Spirits, Shandies, and WKCTC Culinary Arts. An auction of artist Bill Ford's original Mardi Gras artwork will take place at 7:30 p.m.

For information to arrange a sponsorship or purchase tickets, call Lourdes Foundation at (270)444-2205, email Anna Vanderburg at avanderburg@mercy.com or visit give.eLourdes.com/event-registration.



Ash Wednesday:

What's with that dirt on your head?

Who hasn't gotten that question on Ash Wednesday before? Do you feel silly when people ask you about your ashes? And is it hard to answer their questions? Having ashes on your forehead isn't just some weird Catholic thing: it's a tradition that finds its roots in the Old Testament. "I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). When the ashes are placed on our foreheads in the sign of the Cross, it is a reminder of several things. First, it is a call to repentance: a physical sign that we are sinners in need of forgiveness, which is how the prophets used it in the Old Testament. Second, it is to remind us that God created us from the earth and when we die, we will return to it. But here's the best part: As Pope Benedict XVI has said, "Man is dust and to dust he shall return, but dust is precious in God's eyes because God created man, destining him to immortality." God so loves us that, even when our bodies return to the dust, our souls are meant to live forever with him. The ashes symbolize all of this. Ash Wednesday is February 18 in 2015.



Not so silly anymore, is it?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar. It occurs exactly 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days not counting Sundays). It is a moveable feast that can fall as early as February 4 and as late as March 10. Ash Wednesday is named after the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of faithful as a reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. Ash Wednesday is being observed by most Christian, including Catholics, Anglicans, many Lutherans and Methodists. In the Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is observed by fasting, abstinence from meat. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer also designates Ash Wednesday as a day of fasting.

The custom of sprinkling ashes as a sign of mourning and repentance, celebrated on Ash Wednesday, is known in many cultures and traditions, including in ancient Egypt, Arabs and Greece. In the liturgy, it appeared in the eighth century — the first testimony of the practice comes from the tenth century. In 1091, Pope Urban II launched the custom as binding the whole Church. At the same time, it has been established that the ash has to come from the palm trees dedicated on Palm Sunday of the previous year. Source: http://www.calendar-12.com/holidays/ash_wednesday/2015

Lenten Day of Prayer

Wednesday, March 4

Time:

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Presenter:

Monsignor Bernard Powers

Cost:

\$20 fee includes lunch

Contact **Kathy McCarty** to register:

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



The Lenten Day of Prayer includes a program of reflection, Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a noon meal. Please join us.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4111
www.ursulinesmsj.org



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Fr. Daniel Dillard and Paul Abell along with alter servers.

FRANKLIN, Ky. - Being an altar server is an excellent way for youth to serve the Church by assisting the Priest in the Celebration of Mass. On December 6th, the second annual Christmas party for the servers at St. Mary Catholic Church in Franklin was held to honor them for

their stewardship. Thirteen altar servers and their families were able to attend the event.

Following an opening prayer by Fr. Daniel Dillard, Paul Abell presented each server with a small gift as a token of appreciation for their commitment as



Group playing Jingo

an alter server. Servers and their family members enjoyed refreshments and various activities such as Christmas and Bible Jingo, Pin the Nose on the Snowman, Snowball Toss, and Christmas Charades. The event also served as an opportunity for attendees to grow in their knowledge

about Saints with Fr. Daniel providing a brief talk regarding St. Nicholas and engaging presentations about St. John Berchmans and St. Tarcisius given by Teresa Garrett. As the event ended, Chris Kight led the group in Christmas carols.

Article and photos sent by Cathy Abell

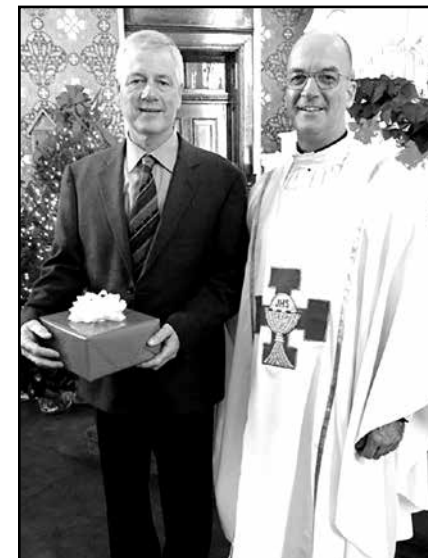


Bluegrass Is Legendary in Kentucky

The Phoebe Hunt Band presented a musical program for Mary Carrico Catholic School. Students enjoyed a wonderful Bluegrass music educational program from the Phoebe Hunt Band on January 12, 2015. Students learned about the history of Bluegrass music and instruments. Submitted by Chuck Green, Principal

Bobby Buckman Awarded Annual Waterford Crystal Cross

Bobby Buckman, at right in the picture with St. Agnes, Uniontown pastor Fr. Randy Howard, received the Waterford Crystal Cross award from Saint Agnes Parish, Uniontown, on Christmas Eve, 2014. Bobby is very active in the Knights of Columbus working Bingo and recently chaired a burgoo fundraiser. He always helps with the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Bobby works at The Saint Agnes Cemetery when needed. He has spent endless hours at the parish hall working on the cemetery spreadsheet. At the completion of the spreadsheet, a lot of information will make looking up cemetery plots much easier. The Waterford Crystal Cross is an annual award that St. Agnes gives for someone who has volunteered a lot of their time/talent. It has been given annually on Christmas Eve since 2005.



Submitted by Kathy Humphrey

Yarn Spinning Weekend Feb. 20-22

All those who enjoy yarn spinning, weaving, knitting or crocheting are welcome to attend the Feb. 20-22 "Arts at the Mount" spinning weekend at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. All skill levels are welcome. The weekend will include workshops and relaxing time to work on your projects. For information on room rates or costs and to register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org. Also planned for 2015 are spinning days on Saturday, May 9 and Aug. 8.

Catholic Schools: A Faith-filled, College-going Culture for Latino Families

By Mar Muñoz-Visoso

This year I received a very special Christmas greeting. It was not from the Pope, or the President but from the pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Wyoming, Michigan (Diocese of Grand Rapids). The two-page letter contained a summary of 2014 significant happenings and event in the life of Fr. Stephen. About half way through the second page the following sentence made me pause: "Enrollment at San Juan Diego Academy is at an all-time high with 170! It is creating a faith-filled, college-going culture for immigrant families." "Now, that's the spirit!" I remember thinking as I re-read the carefully worded sentence.

The K-8 school is the ministry of six parishes. With the support of the local bishop, San Juan Diego Academy opened its doors in 2011 through the collaboration, financial investment and shared vision of the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Holy Name of Jesus, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Francis Xavier/Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Mary.

The initiative, they say, was inspired in part by realization of the changing demographics and specific needs of the growing immigrant population, and in part by research conducted by the University of Notre Dame, which suggests that Latino children who attend Catholic schools are 42 percent more likely to graduate from high school and more likely to graduate from college than their peers who attend public schools. With only 50 percent of Latino students in Michigan graduating from high school each year, "the goal of San Juan Diego Academy is to improve the educational outcomes for Latino children in our city", states their website. Every morning, right after breakfast, the whole school gathers for prayer. Before they go to class, Mr. Brenes, the principal, rallies the kids with a "Si Se Puede," and they respond in a strong voice "Si Se Puede, I will succeed in school, I will graduate from San Juan Diego Academy, and I will go to college". And he concludes by reminding them that, "If you believe this in your heart and in your mind, it is going to be possible!" Wow. Talk about believing and inspiring! A great thing too is that half of the 20 students who graduated last summer from the Academy went on to attend Catholic Central High School.

San Juan Diego Academy is only one example among many initiatives around the country to serve the educational needs of Latino children and families and part of an effort to increase their enrollment in Catholic schools.

Another example was recently presented to the Bishops General Assembly as part of a presentation on Catholic Education and underserved populations. In the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, the diocesan Education Office, partnering with the Office of Hispanic Ministry and the community, teamed up to make Catholic Education a viable alternative for Latino children. Through the Segura Initiative, a creative "madrina" approach was developed. The *madrina* is a field coordinator and recruiter who is a trusted member of the community. She serves as an advocate for the families and helps them navigate the enrollment process. This, combined with funds raised by the Latino community itself, assisted by diocesan staff, made it possible for more children to avail themselves of a Catholic education. This approach has helped to increase Latino enrollment considerably throughout the diocese, and even prevented three parochial schools recently from closing. Recruitment is accomplished through word of mouth by pastors with Latino congregations, Latino diocesan and parish leaders, as well as satisfied parents.

Only a few weeks ago Presentation of Our Lady, a parochial school in Denver, Colorado announced that a *Escuela de Guadalupe*, a dual language Catholic school run by an independent board will be occupying its facility beginning in August. Rather than simply closing a good school struggling with finances and enrollment, like many others in recent times, the archdiocese, and the parish have decided to respond to the changing demographics and needs of the times, including being open to a different governing model. The move will allow the thriving *Escuela*, founded in 1999, to expand its present K-5 format to include pre-Kinderergarten through 8th grade by fall 2018, ultimately serving up to 240 students.

I believe in Catholic Education. And the statistics show that the system works and that Hispanics do much better in Catholic schools. Perhaps it is because "our schools function like communities rather than bureaucracies," said Arch-

bishop George Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, Chair of the Committee on Catholic Education, to the U.S. bishops recently. When economic need is a challenge, more often than not financial help is available.

Having three children in Catholic school is no small sacrifice for my husband and I. But the school was willing to work with us. And we firmly believe that a good Catholic education both sets our children up for academic success and provides them with faith and values that will help them throughout their lives. I encourage all Latino families, Catholic or

not, to explore the opportunities available around you, and to consider a Catholic school with a "faith-filled, college-going culture" for your children. It is the best investment in their future.

Mar Muñoz-Visoso is executive director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Henderson Holy Name students serving in music ministry for school Mass. Photo courtesy of Abraham Brown

Join us for a Women's Retreat

March 20-22, 2015

Holiness in Family Life: Lessons from Saint Monica and Elisabeth Leseur

The fourth-century **Saint Monica** and the 19th-century **Elisabeth Leseur** experienced family struggles firsthand. **Saint Monica**, famous for her faithful praying for the conversion of her son, Saint Augustine, lived with a violent and unfaithful husband. Neither her husband nor her son shared her faith for most of their time together. **Elisabeth** was married to an atheist, but her spiritual journals, left for him to read after her death, so moved him that he became a Christian.

Participants will learn about these two remarkably different women who were united in constant prayer that their loved ones would someday share their faith in Christ and love for the Church.

Presenter:
Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Time:
Begins 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday

Cost:
Residents \$180, Commuters \$130

Contact Kathy McCarty to register
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

Get a 10% discount if paid in full by Feb. 20, 2015

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

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, Launches Newly Revised App for Catholics Serving in the Military

App provides improved access to daily readings, prayers, saints' bios, Catholic news, video, audio, live streaming from Salt + Light TV, and The Catholic Radio Network

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), has launched a newly revised version of its AMS USA app, previously named AMS Catholic Faith Deployed. The new and improved AMS USA app is now available for free download on Google play, the Apple App Store, or Windows Phone.

Designed for use on smart phones and portable devices anywhere in the world, AMS USA provides improved access to daily readings, general prayers and special prayers for those in the military, biographical information on saints, Catholic news, video, audio, live streaming from Salt + Light TV, and The Catholic Radio Network.

The app, first launched two years ago, was developed and funded in cooperation with MyCatholicVoice, an organization that supports the creation of Catholic new media.

Dr. Mark Moitoza, AMS Vice-Chancellor for Evangelization, says the enhanced version will help practicing Catholics and religious instructors in the military stay in closer touch with fellow believers, other Catholic faith communities, and the Church at large:

"Connecting a global archdiocese on the move with over 300,000 young adults remains a daily challenge. The newly revised AMS USA app offers an effective way to bridge the gap by delivering solid Catholic content free of charge. Rather than bringing people, scattered around the world, to hear an expert at a symposium the archdiocese is now able to curate and generate relevant digital content and deliver it directly into the hands of Catholic young adults. The gift of live-streaming video from Salt and Light TV is a wonderful enhancement that will further connect active duty members to the Universal Church."

The revised version of AMS USA can be downloaded at <http://get.theapp.co/03d8>.



The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, has launched its newly revised AMS USA app.

Open House With The Carmelites

In celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life and the Year of Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Death of St. Teresa of Jesus, the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus (Carmel Home) invite you to "enter into our cloister." This will be an opportunity for you to tour some public parts of our Convent and learn more about our life and customs.

Place: Convent of the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus, Carmel Home, 2501 Old Hartford Road, Owensboro, KY

Date: Sunday February 8

Time: 1:00—4:00pm

It is open to all persons of all ages. We look forward to sharing our life with you.



Bruised, Hurting and Dirty

February, 2015 43



Hello, everyone! I'm George, a new columnist here at The Message, and a new resident of Evansville. A bit about me: I grew up in an Irish Catholic family of ten, in the DC area. When I was five, my family joined an ecumenical Christian community called the People of Praise, which included many members of our home parish. As I grew up, many of my closest friends were a part of this community, and the combination of their positive influence and the Christ-centered life of the community has anchored my faith.

I moved to Evansville this August to begin a two-year stint as a missionary sponsored by the People of Praise. I've been inspired by Pope Francis' exhortation that, "The Church must be taken into the streets," and I want to spend the next two years of my life doing exactly that! In this column I hope to share what it's like to take the Church to the streets in Evansville, and I want to start with the story of Alana.

It was just after two on a sunny Tuesday, and I was walking through the projects with Kaitlyn, a fellow missionary. I noticed that behind a nearby screen, a door was open. "How about this one?" I asked Kaitlyn, "Anything come to mind?"

As missionaries, we often share "words" with the people we meet. These words are the fruit of the daily hour of prayer we spend in preparation for our mission work. Sometimes we'll be moved to tell one of the Jesus' parables, or to share a piece of scripture that stood out to us. Other times, we'll deliver a simple message of encouragement, teaching, or even correction.

Kaitlyn had a word, so we headed toward the door. Before I could even knock, the screen door flew open and a small, middle-aged woman in a khaki head sash beckoned, "Come on in!" Kaitlyn and I grinned and laughed a little as we sat down. We don't always get such a warm welcome! "God sent us out to talk to our neighbors today," I said, "and we felt moved to share a word with you...would you like to hear it?" Alana bounded to her bookshelf and pulled out a big crimson bible. "Of course!" she said, "What is it?"

Kaitlyn explained, "In Luke 9, Jesus feeds five thousand people miraculously. When Jesus told the Apostles, 'You yourselves give them something to eat,' he was telling them to have courage, to trust in their ability as his disciples to overcome even the biggest logistical challenges. In Christ, you can have this same courage!"

When Kaitlyn finished, there was silence. Alana blinked back tears, and sighed deeply. A sad smile tugged at the edge of her mouth. Then, she began to tell us her story. In her 20's, she had been imprisoned for attempted murder and drug abuse. Once released, she had reconciled with the woman whom she had shot, but remained estranged from her family.

Now, Alana was badly behind on her bills. A known drug dealer had been visiting, offering her "free" money, but she knew better. Alana had been struggling, calling out to God for direction, right when we arrived. Alana was amazed. God knew, He was really looking out for her! By the time we left, Alana's smile was stretching from one end of the small apartment to the other.

Alana wasn't the only one who experienced God working that day. I heard God speak His Word through Kaitlyn. I saw that word strike deeply into Alana. It made her weep, smile, and regain hope amidst crushing odds.

It might be tempting to think that Evansville is already Christian, has already heard the gospel, and doesn't need missionaries. The 9mm gunshots that sound down the street, however, tell a different story. So does the rising rate of suicide in Indiana, which, according to the CDC, rose 50 percent since 1999. Clearly, violence and despair still reign in the lives of many.

We hope our conversation with Alana will be the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship. Please join me in praying for Alana, and for the rest of Evansville. In Christ, we cannot fail!

Editor's Note: The Western Kentucky Catholic would like to share with readers a new column by George Kane. Thoughts? Please reply to Mel.Howard@pastoral.org

Catholic By Grace

Family comes first.

By Denise Bossert

It was two years ago this month.

Our unmarried daughter met us for dinner and announced that she was pregnant with her third child. I tossed and turned that night as I thought about this third grandson who would be born into my daughter's single-parent family.

Less than twenty-four hours later, my son called to say that his baby girl had arrived, but was being taken by life flight to Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. They didn't know if the baby would survive. The neurological team said she would have brain damage if she managed to make it through her first day of life.

In the moment my daughter told me she was pregnant again, I immediately began doing damage control. Instantly, I knew that I would not sign a teaching contract for the following year. Maybe my daughter could move back in with us. Maybe we could babysit, and she could work. Maybe these grandchildren would have some concept of family through grandparents and extended family.

When my son called with the news about his baby girl less than a day later, I couldn't think at all. I wasn't planning. There was no strategy in my head. It was too big, the news too unexpected, too awful to analyze and process and mitigate. We took each day as it came. The first family crisis sent me into damage-control mode. The second family crisis left me adrift. No mother could wrap her arms around this.

I took the overnight shift at the hospital. My daughter-in-law could barely walk in the days that followed that traumatic birth. She and my son seemed to be in post-traumatic stress. That's how it is when a baby is born without life signs, when you are told she may not survive, when you watch her have two seizures in her first 24 hours of life, and the experts say that she will have brain damage.

Instinctively, I activated a social teaching of the Church that isn't talked about very much. The Compendium on Social Doctrine of the Church says that there is to be a "social priority of the family" (252). It goes on to say there must be "the recognition on the part of civil society and the State of the priority of the family over every other community" (254).

In short, family comes first.

That night, my husband and I talked it over, I talked to my parish priest, I prayed a lot, and then I submitted a letter of resignation. We both knew what I had to do. It was time to be a mother and grandmother before anything else.

I believe God honored our desire to put family first. Within months, my daughter and her three sons converted and entered the Catholic Church. The very next day, an MRI showed that my granddaughter had been miraculously spared brain damage. She has had two surgeries since her birth to address other complications stemming from the traumatic birth, and my son and his family stay with us often to be close to physical therapy sessions in St. Louis. But the two-year old that was supposed to have brain damage has met or exceeded all mental development milestones. And the physical therapy is helping in the areas affected by the nerve damage.

The eyes of the Church are on the World Meeting on Families in September 2015. It is an important time in the life of our Church. Now, more than ever, we are being called to put family above all earthly things, and that includes our employment.

Family comes first.

We must help to meet their temporal

needs, but we must also meet their spiritual needs. Corporal works of mercy and spiritual works of mercy begin at home. Our number one job is to get our family members to Heaven. Just as the Church helps us along our personal pilgrimage to Heaven, the domestic church is a vehicle for the salvation of the family.

Rarely is one called upon to set aside work for family. Typically, work is necessary for the financial viability of the family. But we must never get our priorities out of whack. The family has priority over every other community on earth.

Solidarity begins in the home.

Denise is a convert to the Catholic Church. She is the daughter of a Protestant minister. In 2005, she converted to Catholicism after reading books by Carmelite saints. Her syndicated column called Catholic by Grace has



been published in 60 diocesan newspapers. She has also written for Catholic magazines and appeared on EWTN's Journey Home and Women of Grace. Ave Maria Press will release her first book in 2014. <http://www.denisebossert.com>



Comboni Missionary Sister Appointed to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

On Sept. 13, Pope Francis appointed Sr. Luzia Premoli - The Comboni Sisters' Superior General - to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. It is the first time that a woman is an appointed member of a Vatican Dicastery.

"I feel deep gratitude for the trust accorded to me - she said. "This appointment does not express recognition for my person, rather for what I represent at this moment, namely the Comboni Missionary Sisters. I also consider that my appointment is in line with the desire of Pope Francis to have more women in the Vatican Dicasteries."

The Congregation directs and coordinates throughout the world the actual work of spreading the Gospel as well as missionary cooperation. It presides over the administration of the missions and examines all of the questions and reports sent by local Ordinaries and Bishop's conferences.

Source: October 15, 2014 Comboni Missionaries Release. www.combonimissionaries.org

New Americans in the Voting Booth: The Growing Electoral Power of Immigrant Communities

Washington, D.C. - On Oct 23, 2014, the American Immigration Council released New Americans in the Voting Booth: The Growing Electoral Power of Immigrant Communities by Walter Ewing and Guillermo Cantor.

Over the past two decades, the number of voters who are immigrants or the native-born children of immigrants ("New Americans"), as well as the larger communities to which immigrants and their children belong (primarily Latinos and Asians), have become the fastest growing segments of the electorate. An analysis of electoral data from the U.S.

Census Bureau reveals that the number of New American registered voters rose by 10.6 million—an increase of 143.1 percent—between 1996 and 2012, and the number of registered voters who are Latinos or Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) increased by 9.8 million. New Americans, Latinos, and APIs constitute a predictably large share of registered voters in states such as California, New York, Texas, Illinois, and Florida; however, some of the fastest growth rates are found in other states.

The impact of a rising number of New American, Latino, or API voters

goes far beyond the political dynamics of any particular election and constitutes a rapidly rising political force with which more and more candidates for public office will have to reckon. In the coming years, politicians who alienate these voters will find it increasingly difficult to win national and many state and local elections—especially in close races.

In 2013, of the 2,303,231 registered voters in Kentucky, the study* found, 2.3% are New Americans, 1.7% are naturalized citizens, and 0.6% are Post-1965 Children of Immigrants. This

represents a 120.9% percentage change in the number of New American Registered Voters in Kentucky between 1996 to 2012. In 1996 Kentucky had 17,388 New American Registered Voters; in 2012 that number was 52,602. In 1996 Kentucky had 2,701 Latino Registered Voters; that number in 2012 grew to 19,723.

* http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/new_americans_in_the_voting_booth_the_growing_electoral_power_of_immigrant_communities_final_0.pdf, page 25 ff.

Por Mary McClusky

Siempre recordaré la primera foto que vi de Christopher. Mientras pasaba las hojas del álbum de fotos de mi amiga de repente encontré una foto del ultrasonido suelta entre las páginas. La manera creativa de Andrea de anunciar la inminente llegada de su primer hijo revelaba el inmenso poder que tienen las imágenes para captar nuestra atención y despertar un vínculo humano. Los ultrasonidos no son simplemente información médica, son fotos y videos familiares.

Gracias a los avances de la tecnología del ultrasonido, los profesionales médicos capacitados en los centros de protección al embarazo pueden emplear cada vez más el poder de las imágenes y sonidos para presentarles a los padres a su hijo por nacer de una manera particularmente concreta. A menudo la madre y el padre comienzan a comprender que son padres de un niño digno de vida, y evitan los riesgos médicos y el dolor físico y emocional del aborto cuando eligen la vida para su hijo. Debido a la hermosa oportunidad que brindan los aparatos de ultrasonido para salvar vidas y comenzar la relación amorosa de los padres con su hijo, es bastante apropiado celebrar un hito en su disponibilidad y uso: Los Caballeros de Colón, una sociedad fraternal católica de beneficencia dedicada al servicio caritativo, hace poco tiempo entregó su aparato de ultrasonido número 500 de la Iniciativa de Ultrasonido a un centro de protección al embarazo de Baltimore.

Esta iniciativa impulsa a los consejos locales de los Caballeros de Colón a colaborar con los directores diocesanos de Respetemos la Vida y otros miembros de la comunidad para encontrar centros pro vida calificados en su área. Estos centros están dedicados a ofrecer apoyo y atención a los padres, a ayudarlos a escoger opciones que digan sí a la vida para sí mismos y para sus hijos por nacer. El consejo local está asociado con un centro de protección al embarazo para recaudar la mitad del costo de un aparato de ultrasonido. El Fondo Nacional para la Cultura de la Vida de los Caballeros de Colón iguala estas sumas de dinero locales, lo cual permite a los centros con escasez de fondos ayudar a los padres reacios u orientados al aborto a ver a sus hijos en una nueva luz.

Aunque difícil de medir, no cabe duda del



A new ultrasound machine donated by Massachusetts Knights to Worcester's Problem Pregnancy Inc. was blessed by state chaplain Bishop Daniel Reilly in January. Shown are (left to right) sonographer Kathy Lake, Bishop Reilly, Deacon Joseph Baniukewicz, State Deputy William Donovan and State Advocate Thomas McGinn Photo: <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/ultrasound/index.html>

impacto que este programa ha tenido en muchas comunidades. Muchos de los aparatos de ultrasonido ofrecen la última tecnología tridimensional, lo cual permite a los padres ver imágenes de video detalladas y en tiempo real de su hijo. Varios aparatos son unidades médicas móviles del tamaño de una computadora portátil, y esto permite a los técnicos compartir con sus clientes el sonido de los latidos de su bebé. Las encuestas informales realizadas por los centros de protección al embarazo confirman las pruebas anecdóticas de que la mayoría de los padres con tendencias abortivas que ven un ultrasonido terminan eligiendo la vida para su hijo. ¡Imagine el efecto de 500 aparatos de ultrasonido y miles de ultrasonidos!

La iniciativa se ha expandido a los 50 estados y a Canadá y Jamaica. “Cuando comenzamos este programa hace cinco años, esperábamos poner un aparato en cada estado”, dijo el Caballero Supremo Carl Anderson. “Pero este programa ha sido mucho más exitoso por la gran necesidad y la generosidad de los Cabal-

leros hermanos en todo el país... Este programa no solo ha salvado la vida de innumerables niños por nacer, sino que también ha salvado a muchas madres, y padres, de una vida de remordimiento”.

La Iniciativa de Ultrasonido es un ejemplo maravilloso de una asociación para apoyar a innumerables madres y padres a escoger la vida para sus hijos. Todos deberíamos pensar en apoyar este tipo de iniciativas en nuestras propias comunidades. Por medio de la Iniciativa de Ultrasonido de los Caballeros de Colón y otros programas para expandir el uso de la tecnología del ultrasonido, más padres entenderán la realidad de sus hijos por nacer y se pondrán en contacto con los muchos recursos y personas que pueden ayudar a apoyarlos durante un embarazo inesperado o difícil.



Mary McClusky es subdirectora para el desarrollo del Ministerio Proyecto Raquel en la Secretaría de Actividades Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. Para más información acerca de las actividades pro vida de los obispos, visite www.usccb.org/prolife.

La Iglesia Santos José y Pablo Invita a Todos el 24 de Febrero a un Foro sobre la Inmigración

¿Por qué abandonaríamos la familiaridad de su país de origen, su familia y amigos y mudarse con incertidumbre a un país extranjero con diferente lengua y cultura? ¿Cómo es ser un inmigrante a Kentucky occidental? ¿Cuál es la posición de la Conferencia Episcopal de los Estados Unidos sobre la forma de tratar a los inmigrantes y sobre la reforma migratoria comprensiva? ¿Qué podríamos hacer para ayudar a solucionar un problema que se ha creado a través de tantos años?

Para una plática sobre este asunto todos están invitados asistir al Foro sobre la Inmigración presentado por el Director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Owensboro, Cristóbal Gutiérrez y su esposa Patti. El evento se llevará a cabo en el salón parroquial de la Iglesia Católica de Santos José y Pablo, 609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, Kentucky y patrocinado por su Equipo de Justicia Social, será el 24 de Febrero de 6:15pm a 7:30pm.

Para más información, pónganse en contacto Sr. Maria Del Pilar Hinojosa 270 683-5641, Ext.227; srpilarsjpc@yahoo.com

Entre Amigos:

Escuelas católicas: Una cultura de éxito académico y de fe para nuestros hijos

Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso

Este año recibí un saludo navideño muy especial. No venía del Papa ni del Presidente, sino del párroco de Holy Name of Jesus en Wyoming, Michigan (Diócesis de Grand Rapids). La carta de dos páginas contenía un resumen de los acontecimientos más significativos de 2014 en la vida del Padre Esteban. Hacia mitad de la segunda página una frase me llamó la atención: “¡Las inscripciones en la Academia San Juan Diego han alcanzado un record de 170! La escuela está creando una cultura llena de fe y aspiraciones de ir a la universidad para muchas familias inmigrantes.” Releí la frase con cuidado sin poder contener mi felicidad. “¡Este es el espíritu de una buena escuela católica!” pensé.



Aldo

Con apoyo del obispo, la Academia San Juan Diego (K-8), abrió sus puertas en 2011 gracias a la colaboración, inversión económica y visión común de seis parroquias: la Catedral de St. Andrew, Holy Name of Jesus, San José Obrero, San Francisco Javier/ Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Our Lady of Sorrows y Saint Mary.

Esta iniciativa se inspira en parte en los cambios demográficos y en las necesidades específicas de la población inmigrante. Pero también en los resultados de una investigación llevada a cabo por la Universidad de Notre Dame que sugiere que los niños latinos que asisten a escuelas católicas tienen un 43 por ciento más de posibilidades de graduarse de la escuela secundaria (*high school*) y son más propensos a graduarse de una universidad que sus compañeros que van a la escuela pública. Cada año, sólo el 50 por ciento de estudiantes latinos en Michigan se gradúa de la secundaria. Por eso “el objetivo de la Academia San Juan Diego, es mejorar los logros académicos de los estudiantes Latinos en nuestra ciudad”, dice su página web.

Cada mañana después de desayunar todos se reúnen para comenzar el día con

una oración. Antes de ir a sus salones, el director, Mr. Brenes, motiva a los estudiantes gritando: “¡Sí se puede!” Y los niños responden “¡Sí se puede! Tendré éxito en la escuela. Me graduaré de la Academia San Juan Diego e iré a la universidad.” Y el director concluye recordándoles: “Si creen esto en su corazón y en su mente, entonces será posible.” Impresionante. ¡Qué buen ejemplo de una escuela y un director que creen en el potencial de cada uno de sus alumnos y los animan a tener aspiraciones! Una consecuencia positiva también es que la mitad de los 20 alumnos que se graduaron el pasado año asisten ahora a la Escuela Secundaria Catholic Central.



Johnathan Vitervo

La Academia San Juan Diego es sólo un ejemplo entre muchas otras iniciativas a lo largo y ancho del país para atender a las necesidades educativas de los niños Hispánicos y sus familias. Otro ejemplo presentado recientemente ante la Asamblea General de los Obispos es el de la Diócesis de Richmond, Virginia. La Oficina Diocesana de Educación, en colaboración con la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano y la propia comunidad latina local, se han unido para hacer la educación católica una alternativa viable para los niños hispanos. Conocido como “*Segura Initiative*”, el programa ha desarrollado un creativo sistema de “madrinas”. La *madrina* en este contexto es una persona conocida y de confianza en la comunidad que invita a las familias a conocer la escuela. Esta persona aboga por las familias y les ayuda a navegar el proceso de inscripción. Este sistema de reclutamiento, combinado con un fondo de becas creado por la misma comunidad latina, con apoyo técnico del personal diocesano, ha hecho posible que más niños hispanos tengan la oportunidad de recibir una educación católica. Esto no sólo ha incrementado considerablemente las inscripciones latinas en las escuelas diocesanas, sino que incluso ha evitado recientemente el cierre de tres de ellas. La estrategia ha

sido exitosa gracias a que todos — párrocos y feligreses latinos, líderes hispanos y padres satisfechos— colaboran en pasar la voz.

Hace unas pocas semanas, *Presentation of Our Lady*, una escuela parroquial en Denver, Colorado, anunció que *Escuela de Guadalupe*, una escuela independiente con un programa bilingüe y bicultural, ocupará las instalaciones a partir del próximo curso escolar. En lugar de simplemente cerrar una buena escuela, que como muchas en tiempos recientes ha padecido dificultades económicas y ha visto un descenso en las matriculaciones, la arquidiócesis y la parroquia han sabido responder a los cambios demográficos y las necesidades de los tiempos, incluyendo el estar abiertos a un modelo diferente de gobierno escolar. Esto va a permitir a la floreciente *Escuela de Guadalupe*, fundada en 1999, expandir de forma gradual su formato actual (K-5) para incluir servicios desde pre-escolar hasta octavo grado. Dicha escuela planea tener unos 240 estudiantes a partir del otoño de 2018.

Creo en la educación católica. Las estadísticas muestran que el sistema funciona y que los hispanos particularmente logran mejores resultados en estas escuelas. Como dijo recientemente a los obispos el Arzobispo George Lucas de Omaha, Nebraska, presidente de la

Comisión Episcopal para la Educación Católica, quizá sea porque “nuestras escuelas funcionan como comunidades en vez de burocracias”. Muchas escuelas disponen de becas y ayudas económicas para familias necesitadas.

Tener a tres hijos en una escuela privada supone un sacrificio importante para mi esposo y para mí. Pero el colegio se mostró dispuesto a trabajar con nosotros. Ambos creemos firmemente que una buena educación católica no sólo predispone a nuestros hijos para el éxito académico sino que también les inculca la fe y los valores que les ayudarán a lo largo de su vida. Quisiera animar a las familias latinas de EE.UU., católicas o no, a explorar las oportunidades disponibles a su alrededor, y a considerar para sus hijos alguna escuela católica con una cultura de éxito académico y de educación en valores éticos y morales. No hay mejor inversión en su futuro.



Mar Muñoz-Visoso es directora ejecutiva del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.



del Papa Francisco



Mons. William F. Medley, Obispo de Owensboro

Casi no pasamos ni un día, ni un encuentro humano cuando alguien no nos dice, "Reza por mí." Casi por reflejo tal vez respondemos, "Claro que sí y tú reza por mí." Para personas que creen en el favor de Dios se nos hace tan simple como de decir, "Hola. Que tengas un buen día. Nos vemos."

Ahora, muchos de nosotros tal vez no creemos que oramos lo suficiente. Y puede ser que tenemos razón. Si así es el caso, la solución es sencilla: Rezar. Rezar con más frecuencia. Ora sin cesar.

Regresemos al tema de los que nos piden nuestras oraciones, la oración de petición. En la Misa en la Oración de los Fieles, alguien por parte de todos nosotros expresa oraciones particulares, intenciones específicas. Con frecuencia eso puede llamarnos a presentar a Dios personas o intenciones que tal vez no hubiéramos pensado. Nos llama a rezar más allá de nuestras propias necesidades, nuestro propio mundo pequeño.

Un mes ha pasado ya del Año Nuevo, pero no hay ninguna ley que dice que no podemos añadir uno o dos propósitos buenos todavía. ¿Podríamos encontrar un momento cada día para añadir muy conscientemente a nuestras oraciones, alguien específico que nos ha pedido nuestras oraciones? ¿Podríamos encomendar un nombre a Dios para una bendición especial? Con frecuencia cuando deo una penitencia en la confesión, le pido al penitente rezar de nombre por cualquier persona que podría haber sido lastimada a causa de sus pecados. Tal vez eso podría ayudar al penitente ver al lastimado con ojos nuevos de caridad.

La Iglesia, aparte de la Oración de

los Fieles, promueve la oración intencional. De hecho, cada año la Iglesia identifica una intención universal para cada mes del año. Si tu oración diaria, semanal o mensual es larga y ferviente o si es a la carrera, considera unírte a la Iglesia universal en pedir por las Intenciones Mensuales del Papa:

Febrero - Universal: Para que los encarcelados, en especial los jóvenes, tengan la posibilidad de reconstruir una vida digna. Por la Evangelización: Para que los cónyuges que se han separado encuentren acogida y apoyo en la comunidad cristiana.

Marzo - Universal: Para que quienes se dedican a la investigación científica se pongan al servicio del bien integral de la persona humana. Por la Evangelización: Para que se reconozca cada vez más la contribución propia de la mujer a la vida de la Iglesia.

Abril - Universal: Para que las personas aprendan a respetar la creación y a cuidarla como don de Dios. Por la Evangelización: Para que los cristianos perseguidos sientan la presencia reconfortante del Señor Resucitado y la solidaridad de toda la Iglesia.

Mayo - Universal: Para que, rechazando la cultura de la indiferencia, cuidemos a los que sufren, en particular a los enfermos y a los pobres. Por la Evangelización: Para que la intercesión de María ayude a los cristianos que viven en contextos secularizados a hacerse disponibles para anunciar a Jesús.

Junio - Universal: Para que los inmigrantes y los refugiados encuentren acogida y respeto en los países a donde llegan.

Por la Evangelización: Para que el encuentro personal con Jesús suscite en muchos jóvenes el deseo de ofrecerle la propia vida en el sacerdocio o en la vida consagrada.

Julio - Universal: Para que la responsabilidad política sea vivida a to-

dos los niveles como una forma elevada de caridad. Por la Evangelización: Para que, ante las desigualdades sociales, los cristianos de América Latina den testimonio de amor a los pobres y contribuyan a una sociedad más fraterna.

Agosto - Universal: Para que quienes colaboran en el campo del voluntariado se entreguen con generosidad al servicio de los necesitados. Por la Evangelización: Para que, saliendo de nosotros mismos, sepamos hacernos prójimos de quienes se encuentran en las periferias de las relaciones humanas y sociales.

Septiembre - Universal: Para que crezcan las oportunidades de formación y de trabajo para todos los jóvenes. Por la Evangelización: Para que la vida toda de los catequistas sea un testimonio coherente de la fe que anuncian.

Octubre - Universal: Para que sea erradicada la trata de personas, forma moderna de esclavitud. Por la Evan-

gelización: Para que con espíritu misionero, las comunidades cristianas del continente asiático anuncien el Evangelio a todos aquellos que aún lo esperan.

Noviembre - Universal: Para que nos abramos al encuentro personal y al diálogo con todos, también con quienes piensan distinto de nosotros. Por la Evangelización: Para que los pastores de la Iglesia, con profundo amor por su rebaño, acompañen su camino y animen su esperanza.

Diciembre - Universal: Para que todos experimentemos la misericordia de Dios, que no se cansa jamás de perdonar. Por la Evangelización: Para que las familias, de modo particular las que sufren, encuentren en el nacimiento de Jesús un signo de segura esperanza.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos!

William F. Medley
+ Mons. William F. Medley,
Obispo de Owensboro

Calendario del Obispo Medley de Febrero 2015:

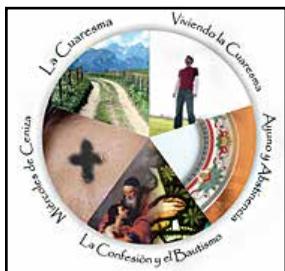
Febrero 1	10:00 a.m.	Confirmación, Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
Febrero 2-4		Conferencia de la Bioética de Obispos, Dallas, TX
Febrero 7		Misa, Conferencia de Hombres Católicos, Catedral de San Esteban
Febrero 8	10:30 a.m.	Confirmación, Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
	2:00 p.m.	Formación de Fe del Decanato del Este de Owensboro
		Madre Santísima, Owensboro
Febrero 9	8:15 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Escuela de San Pablo, Leitchfield
Febrero 10	12:05 p.m.	Misa, 5to Aniversario de Ordenación Episcopal, Catedral de San Esteban
Febrero 11		Reunión del CCK, Louisville, KY
Febrero 12		Reunión Provincial, Louisville, KY
Febrero 13	6:00 p.m.	Sesión de Escucha, Santo Espíritu, Bowling Green
Febrero 14	6:00 p.m.	Confirmación, San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
Febrero 15	9:30 a.m.	Confirmación, San Juan el Evangelista, Paducah
	2:00 p.m.	Rito de la Elección, San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm
Febrero 16	9:45 a.m.	Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal, MCC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal, MCC
Febrero 17	9:00 a.m.	Misa y Reunión del Personal del MCC
Febrero 18	8:30 a.m.	Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas, MCC
	12:05	Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza, Catedral de San Esteban
Febrero 19	6:00 p.m.	Sesión de Escucha, Madre Santísima, Owensboro
Febrero 20	9:00 a.m.	Misa, Reunión de PACES, Cristo Rey, Madisonville
Febrero 22	2:00 p.m.	Rito de la Elección, Catedral de San Esteban
	6:00 p.m.	Rito de la Elección, Catedral de San Esteban
Febrero 23	9:00 a.m.	Visita a los Seminaristas en San Meinrad
Febrero 24	10-3:00 p.m.	Horas de Oficina de Paducah, Hospital de Lourdes, Paducah
Febrero 26-27		Junta Directiva de Brescia, Universidad de Brescia

"Porque el Todopoderoso ha hecho en mí grandes cosas: su nombre es santo!"

El Obispo William Medley te invita a la celebración de su 5to aniversario de su ordenación episcopal como el 4to Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro con misa en la Catedral de San Esteban el martes, 10 de febrero del 2015 a las 12:05pm.

Cuaresma, una oportunidad de examinar

la Conciencia



Con el favor de Dios este próximo 18 de Febrero comenzaremos el camino de la Cuaresma. Con el Miércoles de Ceniza se marcara el inicio de otra oportunidad más en nuestras vidas de acercarnos a Jesucristo y de renovar nuestra fe. Otra vez seremos invitados a pensar seriamente en nuestro proceso de conversión (cambio de vida) y ver si nos estamos ya sea acercando o más bien alejando de Dios. Por eso la Cuaresma es una oportunidad de renovar el amor, de creer en la misericordia, de abrirnos a la reconciliación con el Señor, con el hermano y con nosotros mismos. En la Cuaresma se nos pide disponernos y vivir de una manera más intensa las distintas disciplinas penitenciales de estos días como son el ayuno, la abstinencia, la oración y la caridad; todas ellas con el propósito de acercarnos más al Señor y prepararnos para vivir el Triduo Pascual.

La Cuaresma es también un tiempo de hacer un serio examen de conciencia. Necesitamos de revisar nuestras vidas. Sería bueno que hiciéramos un alto y pensáramos por dónde vamos. Y no se trata de juzgar, sonar condenatorios u alarmistas sino más bien realistas y enfatizar lo necesario y urgente de darnos un tiempito al silencio y tratar de sintonizar nuestras vidas en el Señor a través de un buen examen de conciencia y del sacramento de la Confesión.

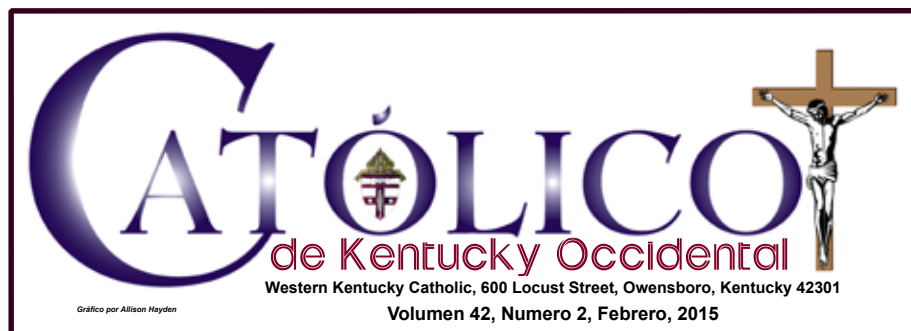
Sabemos bien que el demonio no descansa y el pensarnos inmaculados, inmunes al pecado o libres del riesgo de caer es lo que nos pone exactamente donde al maligno le gustaría tenernos; confiados en nosotros mismos y no en la Misericordia y el Amor de Dios. Una de las cosas más graves de nuestro tiempo es precisamente el que muchos nos hemos ya acostumbrado a vivir en el pecado. Es también evidente que vivimos inmersos en una cultura en la que menos y menos se respeta la vida humana o los valores morales cristianos. Nosotros la comunidad hispana/latina no somos la excepción. Por ejemplo: Entre nosotros mismos, muchos hermanos y hermanas hispanos en nuestras comunidades seguimos abusando del alcohol y de las drogas. A muchas de nuestras esposas y mujeres se les trata como meros objetos de placer sexual o como sirvientas de la casa.

Muchos nos hemos hecho del trabajo, del dinero, la televisión o del deporte ídolos y a Dios se le sigue buscando solo en momentos de aprieto o de urgencia, o se le saluda una vez al año y lo mismo le pasa con frecuencia a nuestra pobre madrecita la Virgen de Guadalupe. Otros vivimos constantemente murmurando, chismeando y apuñalando a hermanos por la espalda con nuestras críticas destructivas hiriendo la buena fama de otros. Muchos también seguimos ignorando la invitación constante de nuestros sacerdotes, de nuestras hermanas religiosas o ministros hispanos de darle la importancia necesaria a los sacramentos; especialmente a la Eucaristía dominical, la Confesión y el Matrimonio Cristiano. Desaprovechando una y otra oportunidad que el Señor nos brinda. Estos solo son algunos ejemplos de lo que nos afecta y es por estas realidades y otras que sirve hacerse un examen de conciencia.

Pero a pesar de todas estas dificultades, fallas y de nuestro pecado; lo grandioso de este tiempo de Cuaresma es que Dios nos ESPERA, nos AMA y SIEMPRE nos perdona. Nos debe animar el saber que su amor es infinito y más grande que nuestros pecados y su misericordia esta lista para correr al encuentro nuestro y abrazarnos así como leemos sobre el Padre amoroso en la historia del Hijo Prodigio. No tengamos miedo de acercarnos a Dios. No tengamos miedo de abrirnos a recibir la gracia y el amor de Dios.

Yo les deseo una muy buena y fructífera Cuaresma a usted, toda su familia y amigos.

Cristóbal Gutierrez
Director del Ministerio Hispano
Diócesis de Owensboro



Join our Spinning Retreat!

Weekend of Feb. 20-22

Whether you are an experienced yarn spinner, weaver, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the Arts at the Mount weekend retreat at Mount Saint Joseph. Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill. The group plans to "spin, knit and talk until we're done!" For information on room rates, costs, etc., or to register, contact Kathy McCarty: **270-229-0206**
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Future Spinning Days:
Saturday, May 9, 2015
Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015
Dec. 4-6, 2015 Weekend



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

"SOBRE EL AYUNO Y LA ABSTINENCIA"

Cuaresma

El **ayuno** consiste en hacer **una sola comida fuerte al día**. La **abstinencia** consiste en **no comer carne**. Son días de abstinencia y ayuno el

Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo.

(También los Viernes de Cuaresma son de abstinencia)

La Abstinencia obliga a partir de los 14 años de edad.

El Ayuno entre los 18-59 años de edad.

Con estos sacrificios, se trata de que todo nuestro ser (espíritu, alma y cuerpo) participe en un acto donde reconozca la necesidad de hacer obras con las que reparemos el daño ocasionado con nuestros pecados y para el bien de la Iglesia.

El ayuno y la abstinencia se pueden cambiar por otro sacrificio, dependiendo de lo que dicten las Conferencias Episcopales de cada país, pues ellas son las que tienen autoridad para determinar las diversas formas de penitencia cristiana.