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The Christian Community Tradition of Giving Alms Imitates God's Generosity

As we approach Lent, we finds the roots of our communal Lenten practices in scripture. We find in Matthew 6:1-18 what some people call the "three pillars" of the spiritual life: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The last one can be the most troublesome to deal with at times. Yet, looking at scripture we find references which may help us grow in our understanding as well as encourage us to see almsgiving in a more positive light.

When one looks at how giving alms is seen and used, it comes down to people showing charity and justice for other people, imitating how God has shown us His love through His generosity and love for us.

This notion may be a stumbling block to a "Me" generation. If we only see our blessings as something "I" created or as something "I" deserve, then alms giving makes no sense. The first challenge to understanding almsgiving, then, is to see how blessed we are by God.

Did not God give us life, bless us with faith? Have we not been blessed with skills and many wonderful people and things in our lives? Once a person recognizes this basic fact of God's great and abundant love for us, then the concept of God's generosity can been understood (see 1 John 4:19). We begin to see ourselves as tending, or stewarding the life that God has entrusted to us, knowing that some day what we have now, will be stewarded by someone else. But God is the only "owner" of our resources...we are only temporary recipients of these blessings. And we will be accountable for the gifts entrusted to our care.

Almsgiving is an ancient part of scripture as is seen in the Old Testament. In both Leviticus (19:9-10; 23:22) and Deuteronomy (24:19-21) the Law required that part of the crops be left for the poor, the widowed, the orphaned and the alien. This was a way of truly sharing with those in need and who lacked the basic necessity of life, food. It was also a reminder that as a people they too were once in need as strangers in Egypt, as slaves, as those from a foreign country, and God provided for them.

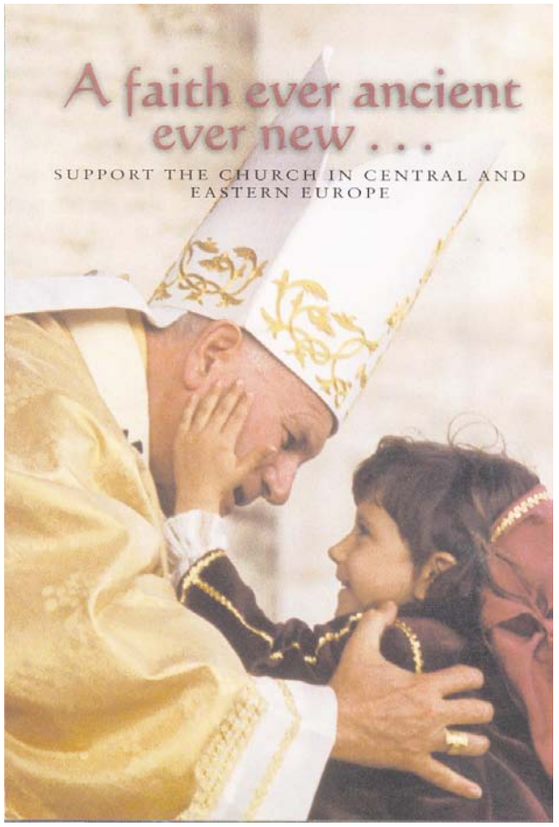
Have not we been blessed by God as well? If this aspect of almsgiving troubles us, then perhaps understanding comes from meditating on how God has helped us move beyond times when we felt alone, were weak or needed help and it came to us.

Part of almsgiving was also seen as the tithe. This was a requirement of the Law that a tenth of one's income, property and fruits of the land, flocks and herds be given to God (see Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:21-32; Deuteronomy 12:5-6, 11, 17-18; 14:22-23, 28; 26:12; 2 Chronicles 31:5f; Malachi 3:10).

The Old Testament shows that one will be blessed in giving alms for the generosity given or will not be listened to by God if the poor are neglected (see Proverbs 19;17, 21:13, 21:27; Ezekiel 16:49, 18:7-9). Almsgiving was also seen as a way to find pardon for sin (Sirach 3:30) and to make pleasing sacrifice to God (Sirach 35.2).

For Jesus, almsgiving remained as an important part of one's life. Yet, in giving alms one is not to make a show of it (Matthew 6:1-4) or to do it expecting any return for it in this life (Luke 6:35, 14:14), for the blessings one receives at the resurrection will be "awesome."

Jesus taught that almsgiving assisted the faithful by helping them live a life focused on what is important and not on things which will not help us achieve the blessings of heaven (see Matthew 19:21-30; Luke 12:13-21; 12:32-34). When we give alms we are touching Jesus directly since Jesus said "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me (see Matthew 25:31-46)." Jesus also taught that it was not the amount we gave, but what was in our hearts when we gave that was important (Luke 21:1-4).



The U.S. Bishops special Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe helps fund the rebuilding of parish catechetical centers, the training of seminarians, religious, and lay catechists, and the development of Catholic media networks.

Aid to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. Collection is February 13, 2002, in the Diocese of Owensboro.

He also sternly warns in Matthew 23 that while we should follow the teachings of the faith, the tithe included, that we should do this without neglecting the "weightier matters of the law, like justice, mercy and faith."

Following the teachings of Jesus, the early Church tried to live out the call to almsgiving. The epistles in the New testament are filled with references to caring for the poor and for members of the Church in need (see Acts 2:44-45, 11:29-30; Romans 15:25-27; Galatians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 1 John 3:17). Paul was especially upset when the faithful in Corinth were not assisting the poor when they gathered for the Eucharist (1 Corinthians 11: 20ff). Paul gives a wonderful review of almsgiving and what a person needs to consider when giving alms (2 Corinthians 8-9).

Hopefully, this brief look at almsgiving will help make this an important part of your faith life. During Lent there will be many extra collections to aid the Church and its works. On Ash Wednesday, for example, we have the chance to reach out to the faithful who are tying to rebuild and evangelize where communism tried to destroy the faith. Fortunately, the light of faith shines in these places where there was only darkness. Yet, they greatly need our help to once again thrive. They just do not have any resources or money.

Within the diocese there are also many wonderful programs which need our support and offer us a chance to fulfill what is asked of us. There are St. Vincent de Paul associations throughout the diocese who directly touch the poor. Our diocese is seeking ways to assist the Diocese of Mandeville in Jamaica. The diocese and many parishes are now tying to assist the "new aliens" among us with the Hispanic Outreach. Several parishes have adopted parishes in developing nations to assist. An example of this is St. Mary's of the Woods in Whitesville who is supporting St. Jean de Chantal, a very poor Catholic parish in Haiti. Many other outreaches by parishes and institutions in the diocese deserve your consideration and support. These provide us a direct opportunity to reach out in faith as asked of us throughout scripture.

Lastly, many of those who receive our gifts do pray for us and are thankful to the Lord for our help. As we respond to this call, each in our own way, may we do so as Paul has entreated of us - "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Public , Private Conversions Needed to Arrive At Easter Celebrations a New Person

My Dear Friends,

If you are like me, it seems that we have just finished celebrating the Birthday of Jesus and yet we are about to begin the Lenten Time—the time that follows the Light that came into the world on Christmas Day through to His Suffering, Death, and Resurrection. In these short weeks, we have the special grace of preparing for Easter—the Great Mystery of God's love for us - the Paschal Mystery.

The great question in all of our lives is, "How do I prepare for Easter during this Lenten Season?"

What do I do to make a difference in my life? We are all called to a deeper conversion, to a deeper commitment, to be a disciple of Jesus and to walk with him as He moves from the joy of the Crib at Christmas to His final call to give His life for our salvation. We learn from the Church that this preparation for joining Jesus at Calvary has to do with our prayer, penance, and almsgiving. It has to do with how we live our lives during this season of Lent.

We start the season with Ash Wednesday—this year on Feb. 13th. As we receive the ashes on this beginning day of Lent, we are blessed with the ashes with the words:

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, or

Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.

These are the two choices that are used in the distribution of the Ashes. It is important that we listen carefully to both of them. They both remind us at the very outset of Lent that we are called to a new level of conversion.

Much of this will be the theme throughout Lent. Conversion will be celebrated publicly in our special parish celebrations during Lent and it will be celebrated by us individually. Both public and private conversion experiences are important and both are necessary, if we are to come to the Easter celebrations a new person.

In both cases, they must have the components of Prayer, Penance and Almsgiving. What you do as individuals or as families will be determined by your commitment to prepare well for Easter.

The Church Requests Lenten Acts

The Church sets some special calls to us all that are to be followed during this time of Lent. The following are kind of a bare minimum of what we are called to do as a community of faithful.

1. Fast and Abstinence: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. That we are called to Fast is a law for all from the age of 19-59. This means that we limit ourselves to one full meal and two lighter meals each day. Abstinence calls all Catholics from 14 years of age and older to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays during the time of Lent. While this is the law, all those who do not fall into the age category that demands fast and abstinence are encouraged to do penance, according to their age and physical abilities.

2. Acts of Penance and Christian Charity. All disciples of Christ, all members of the Church, are encouraged to perform acts of penance and charity during the Season of Lent. This can take the form of going to Mass more often, to reaching out to those who are in need, to just being more kind to one another at home, at work, and in your neighborhood. In fact, Christian penance and charity are a part of the Gospel message that is in effect the year around. Lent just holds these acts up to remind us of our obligations.

3. The Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we follow Jesus to the Cross, we know that His suffering, dying, and Resurrection has to do totally with reconciliation. It goes without saying that to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during the time of Lent is essential to the preparation for meaningful celebrations of the Paschal Mystery Easter Sunday. You will have many opportunities to celebrate this very special and important Sacrament during these days. Please make use of these opportunities.

4. Almsgiving. While there are not laws that govern the Almsgiving part of Lent, it is very much a part of our preparation for Easter. Each one of us must take this seriously and see how we can help others by our almsgiving. We must share what we have the year around and again Lent just highlights this obligation. I can assure you that you will find this kind of charity and concern for others a great preparation for celebrating the Mystery of Jesus' Suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

World Day of the Sick - Feb. 11

I want to close this message about Lent with a reminder that our Holy Father has designated Feb. 11—the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—as the World Day of the Sick. The important ministry and service that the sick give to the faith community are often overlooked. First of all, I would ask those of you who are sick and suffering to join your suffering with that of Jesus during this time and to know that your call to this special ministry in the Church is so very important. You may not always feel that way because the community doesn't always reach out to you or acknowledge how important you are in building up the Kingdom of God in this Diocese. Your suffering takes on a special significance during this time of Lent, and we look to you to help us all by offering your suffering up to God for all of us. We thank you for your acceptance of God's will for you in these painful and difficult times. We depend on you to help us all accept God's will for us.



Most Rev. John J. McRaith, D.D.
Bishop of Owensboro, Ky.

I would also ask that each parish have something special for the sick on Feb. 11th. This will have to be determined by what is possible in your parish, but please do something to let our Sisters an Brothers know how important they are to all of us.

May you all have a joyful and spirit-filled Lent, as we together prepare for Easter.

God's blessings on you always.

Sincerely in Christ,



+ Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro

P.S. Please turn to page 13 to read a beautiful Lenten Message from Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

BISHOP McRAITH'S FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

1 Christ the King School, Madisonville, Mass, 10:00 a.m.
2 Confirmation, St. Joseph, Bowling Green, 5:30 p.m.
3 Confirmation, Immaculate Parish, Owensboro, 10:00 a.m.
4-5 Bishop's Prayer Days
6 Diocesan Administration Cmte. Mtg., 8:30 a.m.
6 Confirmation, Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro, 6:00 p.m.
7 Staff Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center
9 Confirmation, Sts. Joe & Paul Parish, Owensboro, 5:30 p.m.
10 Confirmation, St. Francis de Sales, Paducah, 11:30 p.m.
10 Rite of Election, St. Thomas More, Paducah, 2:00 p.m.
13 Ash Wed. Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, 6:00 p.m.
16 Beginning Experience - Regional Mtg., 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
17 Rite of Election, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 2:00 p.m.
17 Rite of Election, Holy Name Parish, Henderson, 5:30 p.m.
18 Priests' Personnel Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
18 Priests' Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
19 Paducah Office
19 Lourdes Foundation Board of Dir. Mtg., Lourdes Hospital, Paducah, 10-Noon
20 Consultation on Nat'l Dir. For Catechesis, MSJ, 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
21 Staff Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center
22 Development Mtg., Brescia, 9:00 a.m.
24 Confirmation, St. John Parish, Fordsville, 8:30 a.m.
24 Charismatic Regional Gathering, MSJ, Mass, 1:30 p.m.
25 Owensboro Mercy Health System Board Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
26 Catholic Conference of Kentucky Mtg., Louisville
27 Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield, 7:30 p.m.

na nue a ersona necesi a lle ar ara las con ersiones licas y ri adas ara las ele raciones de ascua de esurrecci n.

Mis queridos queridos,

Si usted es como yo, le parecerI que acabamos de celebrar el cumpleaJos de JesKs pero estamos a punto de comenzar el tiempo de la Cuaresma , tiempo que sigue la luz en que vino al mundo el dIa de Navidad a travMs de su sufrimiento, muerte, y resurrecciNn. En estas semanas, tenemos una gracia especial para prepararnos para el gran misterio de Pascua que Dios trajo para nosotros - el misterio de PASCAL.

La gran pregunta en nuestras vidas es, O CNmo me preparo para Pascua durante esta estaciNn de Cuaresma? P OQuMhago para tener una diferencia en mi vida? Todos hemos sido llamados para una conversion profunda, un compromiso mIs profundo, para ser un discIpulo de JesKs y para recorrer con MI mientras que MIse mueve desde la alegrIa del pesebre en Navidad a su llamada final a donde dio su vida por nuestra salvaciNn. Aprendemos de la iglesia que esta preparaciNn para unirnos a JesKs en su calvario tiene que hacer con nuestro rezo, penitencia, y caridad. Tiene que hacer cNmo vivimos nuestras vidas durante la Cuaresma. Comenzamos la estaciNn con el miMcoles de ceniza que este aJo es el 13 de febrero. Pues recibimos las cenizas en este dIa que comienza la Cuaresma, al recibir las cenizas en el primer dIa de cuaresma son bendecidas con estas palabras: Alejate del pecado y se fiel al Evangelio, o recuerde, que eres polvo y en polvo te convertiras.

Rstas son las dos opciones que se utilizan en la distribuciNn de las cenizas. Es importante que escuchemos cuidadosamente a ambas . Ambas nos recuerdan en el mismo principio de Cuaresma, que somos llamados a un nuevo nivel de conversion.

Estos serIn los temas a travMs de la Cuaresma. Las conversiones serIn celebradas en pKblico en celebraciones especiales en nuestras parroquias durante la cuaresma y serIn celebradas por nosotros individualmente. Ambas celebraciones tanto pKblicas y privadas de la conversiNn son importantes y ambas son necesarias.

En ambos casos, deben tener los componentes del rezo, de la penitencia y de caridad. Lo que hagas como individuo o como familia para la Cuaresma sera determinada por su compromiso. Para prepararte bien.

Las peticiones de la iglesia para la Cuaresma

La iglesia hace algunas llama das especiales a nosotros que debemos seguir durante esta MpocA de cuaresma. Los siguientes son algunos que debemos hacer comunidad.

1. Ayuna y la abstinencia: El miMcoles de ceniza y viernes Santo son dIas de ayuna y abstinencia. Es una ley desde los 19-59 de edad. Esto significa que nos limitamos a una comida completa y a dos comidas mIs ligeras cada dIa. La abstinencia llama a todos los catNlicos a partir de los 14 aJos de la edad y mIs viejo para abstenerse de comer carne el miMcoles de ceniza , viernes Santo y todos los viernes de Cuaresma. Mientras para aquellos que no clasifican entre las edades para el ayuno y abstinencia las leyes los estimula a hacer penitencias de acuerdo a su edad.

2. Actos de Penitencia y de caridad cristiana. Todos los dicIpulos de Jesus, todos los miembros de la iglesia, son alentados a hacer una acto de penitencia y de caridad durante el tiempo de la Cuaresma. Pueden ir a misa mIs frecuentemente, ayudar a los mIs necesitados, con ser mIs considerados con aquellos su casa, trabajo o omunidad. Caridad y penitencia son parte del evangelio para todo este aJo. Cuaresma solo nos recuerda los actos de nuestras obligaciones.

3. El sacramento de la reconciliaciNn. Pues seguimos a JesKs a la cruz, sabemos que su sufrimiento, muerte y resurrecciN tiene que hacer totalmente con la reconciliaciNn. Es evidente que al recibir sacramento de la reconciliaciNn durante la MpocA de cuaresma es esencial para la preparaciNn para las celebraciones significativas del misterio de Pascal durante el domingo de Pascua. Usted tendrI muchas oportunidades de celebrar este sacramento muy especial e importante durante estos dIas. Haga uso por favor estas oportunidades.

4. Caridad. Mientras que no halla leyes que gobiernan la caridad durante el tiempo de cuaresma es parte de nuestra preparaciNn para Pascua. Cada uno de nosotros lo tomara seriamente y vera cNmo podemos ayudar a otros con nuestra caridad. Debemos compartir lo que tenemos durante todo el l aJo y cuaresma solo nos recuerda esto . Puedo asegurarle que usted encontrarI esta clase de caridad y de preocupaciNn en otros, es una gran preparaciNn para celebrar el misterio del sufrimiento de la muerte, y de la resurrecciNn de Jesus. DIa del Mundial del Enfermo es el 11 de febrero.

Deseo cerrar este mensaje acerca de la Cuaresma con un recordatorio que nuestro Santo Padre a designado el 11 de febrero las festividades de Nuestra SeJora de Lourdes como el dIa mundial del enfermo.

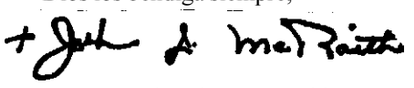
Primero que todo los que estan enfermos y estan sufriendo que unan sus sufrimientos con Jesus durante este tiempo y que sus llamadas a este ministerio son muy importantes. No siempre sentiras de esta manera, porque tal vez la comunidad no siempre se acerca a ti o no tiene el conocimiento de la importancia que usted tiene para la construcciNn del reino de Jesus en esta diNcesis. Sus sufrimientos toman un significado muy especial durante este tiempo de la cuaresma, y buscamos en ti ayuda para ofrecer el sufrimiento a Dios por todos nosotros.

Le agradecemos por su aceptaciNn de la voluntad del Dios en estos momentos tan dificiles y de sufrimiento. Dependemos de tL para que nos ayudes a aceptar los deseos de Dios para todos nosotros.

Me gustarIa pedir que cada parroquia tenga algo especial para los enfermos el 11 de febrero. Esta serI determinado por cada parroquia, pero por favor comuniquen a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que ellos son muy importantes para nosotros.

Tengan todos ustedes una Cuaresma llena de gozo, como asi nosotros nos preparamos para el Domingo de ResurrecciNn.

Dios los bendiga siempre,



S Reverendo John J. McRaith
Obispo de Owensboro

Fr. aul ose ol ioneer is ers Medi a ion arden

In 1999, as the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph celebrated the 125th anniversary of the first five Ursuline Sisters' arrival at Maple Mount, we began an effort to build an endowment for the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Donations for the endowment came in the form of donations for bricks for a meditation garden. People from all over the United States and Canada sent donations. We have now filled all the available spaces of the garden with bricks. We are truly grateful to all our friends who have helped us begin the endowment and build the garden. We pray for you every day and hope you will come for a visit to this beautiful garden where so many friends and loved ones are remembered. You are always welcome.

The garden is finished but the endowment continues to grow with the wonderful donations of our friends. With God's help and yours, it will support the work of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center for many years to come. The Center is a sponsored institution of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and serves as the Spiritual Life Office of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Thank you and God Bless you for your wonderful support and generosity.

- Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, Director

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"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, 1921

Tribute to Father Lucian P. Hayden (1924-2001)

By Fr. Paul Pike Powell



The Church on earth and the whole civic community lost a great friend and leader in the passing of Fr. Lucian Paul Hayden on Dec. 30, 2001. Born January 7, 1924, he gave his all to the priesthood in which he was ordained in June of 1949.

His concerns were not limited to the spiritual welfare of people, although that was always uppermost in his ministry. He was active in civic affairs wherever he was. The uplifting of the economic and social life of the citizens in the area in which he lived was important to him, too. Everyone who approached him for help went away richer, even though they might not have received at the time any material goods. He always had a "preferential option for the poor.."

The St. Vincent De Paul Society and Legion of Mary enjoyed a high priority in every parish where he was pastor for 15 years the diocese was blessed to have him as Chaplain of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Both societies work to bring material and spiritual blessings to those in need. His many "letters to the editor" in papers wherever he resided bore out his wide range of concerns. In his mind any improvement in a community had to be based on sound moral principles. His articles addressed life and death issues, racism, government waste, economic injustices, poverty and even proper apparel in public. Often he confronted others' letters to the editor and editorials that contained less-than accurate logic or morality.

Sometimes misunderstanding by those whose faith was less than his or whose insights were less than profound caused some to fight back when his articles appeared in the papers, but he always held his ground. The public knew his stand, and his reasoning for it was hard to contradict. He was patient with people in error, but intolerant of error itself, with gentle insistence he appealed to those who were "off base" to seek guidance for a change of heart.

Many across the 32 counties of western Kentucky--which comprises the Diocese of Owenboro--were privileged to have him in their midst, and they were the richer for it.

Wherever the broad spectrum of his interests took him he was first and foremost a priest and he tried to pattern his heart after the priestly Heart of Christ. He knew he had to be a priest before anything else, ordained to reach out to souls and convince them that only one thing is necessary, namely, their salvation. His other endeavors did not compromise that conviction or lessen his effectiveness in it.

No opportunity was ever passed up to evangelize, to talk to people about Christ. He knew Christ and he wanted everyone else to come to that knowledge, too. Christ was the center of his life.

His practice of handing out countless holy cards, religious pictures and papers on about every occasion became legendary in his own time. Toll booth operators were disappointed when another priest came by and didn't have worthwhile literature to leave with them.

Father got his spiritual dedication honestly. They say the fruit never falls far from the tree. That was one family where the religious education, training and example was not left to the mother. His father, as well, as the mother, set the religious pace for the whole family. Fr. Hayden shared this legacy with all the parish families with whom he worked.

Forever a man of prayer, the smallest cookie or a cup of coffee never touched his lips without a blessing.

Had he not worked so hard he might have sustained his health and lived longer. But I'm sure the Lord in heaven nor he would change anything. A man with a great devotion to Mary and the rosary, when praying it with others, his meditations on the individual mysteries often went longer than most of us preferred!

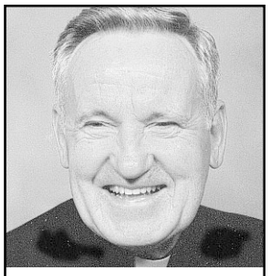
Though always serious about matters of religion, he also had a sense of humor. His temperament made him blush at the most innocent of jokes, the only kind that ever came forth from his lips. One of his favorite stories was about the expectant mother who came into the rectory to get the special blessing before childbirth. The young priest didn't know much Latin (in those days all blessings were given in Latin), he got the whole blessing wrong...but you would have to have known Latin to appreciate this story!

In many ways his many months in the wheel chair and the infirmary bed was his toughest assignment but, no doubt, very productive. They were not easy months for him, knowing there were souls out there who needed to be contacted and influenced. This was indeed, a great suffering for him. But his time was not wasted. His prayers for them and his redemptive suffering kept him in the "active" ministry. (The beauty of knowing what life is all about makes it possible to "shift gears" and continue in the service of God and His Church.

Fr. Hayden, Owensboro, Central City, Livermore, Knottsville, St. Lawrence, Paducah, Fancy Farm, Russellville and the Carmel Home are better places for your having been there!

We will miss you, Fr. Hayden, but God did not see fit to delay your reward any further. You were born on the Feast of St. Lucian, but your middle name is Paul, quite appropriately named after the great apostle Paul. Now you understand more fully what St. Paul meant when he said: "for me to live is Christ, but to die is gain." (Phil 1:21)

Fr. Lucian P. Hayden Died Dec. 30, 2001



Fr. Lucian Hayden

Father Lucian Paul Hayden was born on January 7, 1924, in Daviess County, Ky. He was the son of Walter and Mayola Hayden. He attended elementary/high school at St. Frances Academy, Owensboro, Ky. ,1930-1940. He then attended seminary at St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md. from 1940-1944 and St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, MD, from 1944-1949. He studied canon law in Washington, DC and in Rome, Italy during his sabbatical years.

Ordained by Bishop Francis R. Cotton on June 7, 1949 at St. Stephen Cathedral, Fr. Lucian Hayden was first assigned as Assistant Pastor for St. Stephen Cathedral from June 1949 to 1958. Fr. Hayden was Pastor of the following parishes: St. Joseph, Central City, with the Mission of St. Charles at Livermore from 1958-1966; St. William, Knottsville, and St. Lawrence from 1966-1973.

He was Pastor of St. Joseph, Bowling Green from 1973- 1982; St. Thomas More, Paducah 1982-1989; St. Jerome, Fancy Farm 1989-1992; and Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville from 1992 to June 1999.

Fr. Hayden sponsored and supervised the Lay Extension Volunteers who taught at Mary Carrico Elementary in Knottsville and Trinity H.S., Whitesville, from 1965-1970.

Fr. Hayden is survived by six brothers; Paschal Hayden, Huber Heights, Ohio; Henry Walter Hayden, Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York; Father Michael Hayden, Chaplain for the Little Sisters of the Poor at San Pedro, CA; Dr. Raymond Hayden, Barbourville, Ky.; Dr. David Hayden, White Plains, Maryland; Dennis Hayden, Owensboro, KY; and 3 sisters: Sister Marie Michael Hayden, Mount Saint Joseph; Rose Marie Cassidy, Eugene, Oregon; and Rachael Hayden, Decatur, Georgia.

Fr. Hayden was preceded in death by siblings, Mary Nell Lackey, Anne Hayden, Paula Wayne, Richard Hayden, Theresa Hayden and Gemma Hayden.

Fr. Lucian Hayden is buried in the cemetery at Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky.

Homily for Fr. Lucian Hayden's Funeral Mass

By Monsignor George Hancock



To you, Father Hayden's sisters and brothers, his relatives and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy. Our hearts go out to you. We are with you in our prayers.

I am here today fulfilling the request of Father Hayden that I give the homily at his funeral Mass. I consider it an honor to do so.

Whether we live or whether we die we are the Lord's. We go from this earthly life to meet the Divine Master and Friend, Jesus. For years he has passed out pictures of this Divine Friend to waitresses, toll booth takers, mailmen and bums as well as parishioners. I have received a number of them myself as I was on his bulletin mailing list. As he passed out a holy card he would say. "Here's a picture of your friend." I don't know of anyone who refused to take the holy card.

During the past several years Father Hayden has undergone the sufferings of his passion in preparation for his meeting with the Lord. Perhaps more than any person on earth, the image of every priest is a mixture of the human and divine. His ministry is in the world. His vocation is from God. He has a divine mission and frail human nature for its accomplishment.

When God made his plans for the universe and did the casting for all the parts that must be filled down to the end of time, to speak in human terms, He looked over the pictures of all the souls, limitless in number, whom He could create. He came to the image of Lucian Hayden. He stopped and said: "This is a person who moves me to create. This is a person whom I need to fulfill a part of my plan. This is a soul whom I shall create. He will be my priest."

And so God made Father Hayden. He made you and me because we evoked his love more than a billion other possible souls whose images were in His Divine Mind. And, even

Continued on page 5

Homily for Fr. Lucian Hayden's Funeral Mass

By Monsignor George Hancock

(Continued from page 4)

though there were other souls He might have loved equally well, there was a part of his plan, a job that needed doing that no one else could do quite as well. And so God made each of us rather than one of the other billion "possible."

Our Christian vocation makes us aware that we are called to fill a special place in this world and be a unique object of God's love both here and hereafter. It is a vivid day to day realization that we matter to God, that we are not just one of several billion souls tossed off by God in an absent-minded moment of creativity. It is the realization that we are individually important to God and that God has a personal, an intense interest in each us.

That same Christian vocation imposes on us the obligation to justify God's love for us. We do so when we try, day by day, to do God's will to the best of our ability. This means that we make God's will the norm and guide of our lives. In all our decisions and choices "What God would want me to do" takes precedence over "What I would like to do." How many times have you, relatives, friends and parishioners of Father Hayden heard him say or seen in his bulletin this very imperative, Ask yourself "What would God want me to do?" Then he would add, quoting Our Blessed Mother at Cana in Galilee "Do whatever He tells you." Doing God's will was surely the norm and guide of his priestly life.

An unswerving attachment to God's will justifies God's choice of us for his world. We rarely know what the particular job is for which He has chosen us, a job that no one else can do quite as well. It may be some certain person whom God can reach with his grace only through us. It maybe some chain of events that only we can initiate or some evil that only we can avert. In most instances we shall not know until eternity what the particular task it was for which we and we alone were best fitted. Father Hayden now knows the particular task God wanted him to do. And I feel sure that it was well and fittingly done.

Our Christian vocation carries responsibilities, but it also has its compensations. One such compensation is the wholesome feeling of personal worth that should be ours. If we are important to God then we are indeed important persons. Our talents may be quite limited and to those who know us we may be just an average sort of person. Other people may not rate us very highly. Our task may be a relatively humble one. We may be tempted to feel inferior when we see others making their mark in the world. Then we remember that money, position, popularity, all the yardsticks by which the world measures success, are to God nothing more than a child's plaything. Eventually they must be cast aside and left behind. It matters little that we do not know the nature of our essential role in God's plan. It is enough to know that we are valuable to God, as valuable as the most distinguished person whom the world has ever acclaimed. Father Hayden certainly valued every person with whom he came in contact. I think especially of the alcoholics, the down and out persons whom he brought into his house to help. He thought of them as valuable to God, as souls to be saved and he did everything possible to help them.

The Scripture readings today happily reflect both the promise and the reality of immortality. It is in this light that we celebrate the life, the dedication and the service of Father Hayden as he, together with all of us who are united to Christ, move from our temporary home on earth to the eternal and perfect union with God. For the moment, we will speak of his mortal life.

Father Hayden, as God's priest, was specially chosen as an object of God's love. Ordained by Bishop Cotton on June 7, 1949 he began his priestly life here at the cathedral, as was the custom in those days. Here he labored for some nine years. His fellow co-workers were Father Powell and Father Tiell, with whom he has had a close friendship throughout his priestly life. While here at the cathedral his dedication and zeal for souls were evident. He was always available to people day or night.

That dedication and zeal continued through the years.

Father Hayden had a special devotion to our Blessed Mother. In the parishes he pastored there was an active Legion of Mary. Devotion to our Lady was part of his background. In his home which consisted of a large family, the recitation of the rosary, devotion to Mary, prayer were as natural as breathing. His father and mother were genuinely religious. They often attended weekday Mass at St. Paul's Church. As an assistant at Sts. Joseph and Paul's, I have seen Mr. and Mrs. Hayden many times sitting in a meeting of the Legion of Mary in one of the rooms at St. Paul's rectory. Father Hayden's devotion to his faith took roots early in his life in his home.

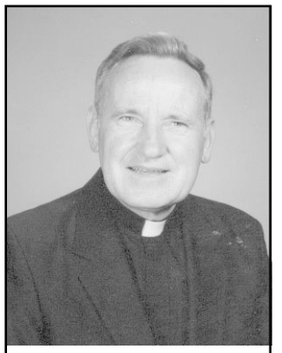
Father Hayden also had a great love for the poor. His heart went out to anyone who was in need and he did what he could to relieve that need. A St. Vincent de Paul Society could be found in his parishes. His love for this program made him the Spiritual Director. His approach to ministry and work for souls was such that often times for him the difference between day and night was blurred. His work more often extended into the wee hours of the morning.

Father served in parishes in Central City and Livermore, Knottsville and St. Lawrence, St. Joseph, Bowling Green, St. Thomas More, Paducah, Fancy Farm and Russellville, each a different and unique parish which brought out his special talents. While at Central City he helped in the marriage tribunal. I am not sure that shuffling papers was his cup of tea.

Being a deeply religious person, he wanted to share his faith with everyone. Sometime his homilies got a little long as he tried to cram every morsel of religious teachings possible into them. He was totally about religious matters. He would often seek to draw a conversation away from some frivolous subject to a more serious topic with some kind of religious reference.

Father Lucian liked to write and especially to write to the editor of the local newspaper. His topics more often were right to life issues and family values. He was completely dedicated to the right to life movement and the need for a restoration of Catholic family values among our Catholic people. His own wonderful family had shaped and formed these values in him and he knew how important they are.

Father Hayden loved the priesthood. He loved the people he served, children and adults. He loved the Church. His life was not easy. It had its ups and downs as every life does. But Father Hayden was a man of prayer. He prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. He prayed in his car. He prayed in the rectory. He considered saying his divine office as a sacred trust. He knew that, as God's priest, he existed not for himself but for others. He knew that he was a priest because God wanted it so. "It was not you who chose me, It was I who chose you." He went about his priestly tasks seeking to fulfill that part of God's plan which God intended for him.



Fr. Lucian Hayden

Being a priest meant, for him, to offer himself each day to God in spite of all the imperfections which mar the beauty of the gift, to unite himself each day with the Great High Priest at Holy Mass, to communicate thus with Christ and then communicate His heavenly gifts to others. This was the unchanging pattern of his life, living out what it meant for him to be God's priest.

When we add up the accomplishments of Father Hayden, his holy Masses, his preaching of the Word of God, the baptisms, souls reconciled to God in the Sacrament of Penance, converts instructed and received into the church, marriages witnessed and rectified, his concern for the sick and the dying, help given to the down and out, all these and many more priestly works were his response to his particular Christian vocation of a priest.

Now his earthly life is finished, God has called him to Himself. We are gathered today for the final rites of Holy Church for Father Hayden. It is a time to say good-by. It is a time of farewell. You shed a tear. You tell him that you love him, that you will miss him, that you will never forget what he has been to you. As you do so, in your heart of hearts you remember that in a very short time you will be reunited with him. Today for him, tomorrow for any one of us. In the meanwhile, keep his memory alive. Pray often for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Sister Ancilla Marie Warren, OSU, 88 Dies



Sister Ancilla Marie Warren, 88, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, of Maple Mount, Ky., died January 5, 2002, at Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse. She was in her 65th year of religious life.

A native of St. Joseph in Daviess County, Ky., Sister Ancilla Marie taught music for 50 years. She ministered at St. Peter School, Stanley, 1938-43; St. Peter School, Waverly, 1943-44; and St. Paul School, Leitchfield, 1944-45. She also taught in St. Francis, Ky.; in Affton, Mo.; and in Farmington and San Fidel, N.M. She retired to the Motherhouse in 1988.

Survivors include one brother, John Warren of San Antonio, Texas, several nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

Services were January 7 at Mount Saint Joseph Chapel, Maple Mount, Ky. , with burial in the convent cemetery at Maple Mount.

Gifts in memory of Sister Ancilla Marie Warren may take the form of donations to the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

True Friend Of Downtrodden And The Unborn Goes Home

By Jim Helm, a writer for the Ord, Nebraska Quiz.

The World lost a compassionate advocate over the weekend; Heaven gained a new cornerstone. A solid rock, rooted in faith. My close friend and spiritual advisor, Father Lucian Hayden, Owensboro, KY, died early Sunday morning after a long battle with brain tumors. This column is written between tears and I feel sad, even wounded; on the other hand, I am also somewhat relieved. Father Hayden's death was not a surprise. I kept in touch with his sister, Sister Marie, a lovely nun, at least weekly and I knew the end was near. But it still hurts deeply. You see, the man once helped remove me from the Highway of Death and opened the door to a New Life. The Catholic priest, a living example of restrained humility, was never truly comfortable in a bed in the first place and the tumors eroded his eyesight, alertness and, eventually, his earthly life. He suffered, to the end, without complaint, with far more concern for others than himself.

Father Hayden served the Lord—in the strictest sense—for more than 50 years. His days were always too short and were spent counseling, studying and opening the doors for anyone in need. I know of the open door policy firsthand; his home was thrown open to me in 1987 when I was trying desperately to escape alcoholism's fatal grasp and I remained there for six weeks. Actually, in the figurative state, I never left. I was not a Catholic then or now—although I still often say prayers gleaned from that faith—and, while hoping to be wrong, I thought if God did, in fact, exist, He wouldn't have much time or thought for me.

We prayed, prayed and kept praying, a communication form alien to me. We prayed about everything—so it seemed—under the sun and were reaching out for the boundaries of the universe. Later, Father Hayden admitted that the marathon prayers were directed at my thick-headed ignorance, hoping a twinkle of God's Light might, somehow, pierce my ongoing spiritual darkness. He gave me Godly topics and asked me to research and write short essays on the subjects. And he actually used my work during services; at the time, I thought, my feeble writings might very well send a few good Catholics to Hell and told him my fears. Don't worry, he said, I'm blessing your efforts. He said God was my Director under those circumstances and it was impossible to do damage. For the first time in ages, I felt needed.

This was very important. A turning point; maybe there was Hope.

A television reporter, Ernie Mitchell, introduced me to Father Hayden. He and I worked at the same station, where I was the Outdoor Reporter. A good man and a good Catholic, he knew of my trials and was trying to help. I am forever grateful to Ernie.

Later, I brought a King of the Road, an alcoholic hobo, to Father Hayden in the middle of the night. Sober, but literally reeking from his lifestyle. Filthy. Father Hayden gave him his bed and took to his chair for sleep. I still feel little when I remember this incident.

We talked often when he was still lucid. We worked with other alcoholics—long distance. Father Hayden visited here and I gave him food and shelter. I was so proud to return his earlier kindnesses.

Father Hayden was famous in West Kentucky for his defense of the unborn. Newspaper articles, letters to the editor, he held the True Course, despite many critical responses. I should be so strong.

I'll miss Father Hayden, but my loss is God's gain. I hope to see him again and think I have a chance to do just that.

Goodbye, Old Friend, and thank you for giving.

Comfort & Hope... a message about grief



Jeannie Boone

By Jeannie Boone

It seems there is always a time just in front of us that reminds us of our losses. Usually a special day of some sort, a birthday, anniversary, or holiday: we know it's coming and there is a sense of sadness, even dread. Loneliness may be more acute, as well, and the reasons why God questions plague our thoughts.

Why did my father have to suffer so terribly?

Why can I not carry a child to term? Is there something wrong with me?

Why me? Are you punishing me or testing my faith?

Why did my wife/husband leave me?

Why did my child have to die?

Why do you allow such sorrow?

Why did this have to happen, God?

Why have you turned away from me?

It seems the more we hurt the more we question the relationship we have with God. Our beliefs are turned inside out and doubt is a thorn growing sharper with each agonizing query that has no answer.

Wake up, Lord! Why are you asleep? Get up! Don't reject us forever! Why are you hiding from us? Don't forget our suffering and trouble! Psalm 44: 23-24

A dose of doubt now and again is a good thing; like fertilizer for the roots of our faith. It is natural and normal to have these questions and feelings. It is an awesome testament of faith, when you stop to dwell on it. To talk to God this way, shake our fist and pour out the anger, guilt, and blame of our grief at his feet declares the security of the relationship. This is prayer, powerful and profound.

When in Doubt, Sing by Jane Redmont is a book about prayer in daily life. Published by HarperCollins in 1999, it has become a companion for me, a source of solace and strength. It is listed at $25, so you might ask the your local library to find it before you lay down the cash, but it's the kind of book you'll turn to again and again… in sadness and in joy.

We know there are questions that will have no answers in this life. We know, too, that God is with us… hearing, loving, not blaming, and even when we can't feel his presence.

Fr. Bob Willett once commented on the probable number of people planning to ask "why" questions when they got to heaven; he guessed it would be a very long line and by now I'm sure he's seen it first-hand. I decided that since I abhor waiting in long lines I'd skip that one, figuring by that time it wouldn't matter anyway! In reality, I know myself well enough to know that when the gates of heaven appear my first thought will be, "Phew! I made it."

Joking aside, grief is painful, confusing, and difficult work. Faith, friends, prayer, and perseverance will get you through the maze and somewhere in there you'll learn to laugh again.

Send correspondence to Deborah J (Jeannie) Boone , kyboones2@hotmail.com

What is Normal/Abnormal Grief?



Betty Medley

Submitted by Betty Medley/Family Life Office

Following are some general observations noted by teachers of grieving students. Use the scenario that the father of a student in your classroom was killed suddenly in an industrial accident at the beginning of the school year. Please note if, over the remainder of the school year, you would find each of the following behaviors to be NORMAL (N) or ABNORMAL (A).

1. ( ) Student retells events of father's death and funeral.
2 ( ) Student dwells on all the things he used to do with his/her father.
3 ( ) Student is disruptive in school, even instigating fights.
4 ( ) Student uses excuses she/he cannot concentrate when she/he fails to complete work.
5 ( ) Student rejects old friend and teams up with classmates whose parent is also dead.
6 ( ) Student, at times, appears unmoved by death of father.
7 ( ) Student drops out of after-school activities.
8 ( ) Student attempts to call home often during school hours.

QUIZ RESULTS: NORMAL/ABNORMAL GRIEF REACTIONS

If you completed this quiz, you may have found that all the behaviors could be NORMAL. Retelling the event of a parent's death over and over is the young person's way of internalizing, reliving the event to convince him/herself of its reality. She/he simply needs an acknowledgement of the story and of how hard this event is to tolerate.

When dreams and plans for the future are crushed, it is only natural to cling to the past. How comforting to recall all the good times, the fun times and the safe times with the parent who died! The student needs to recall these times so she/he can say his/her goodbyes. The

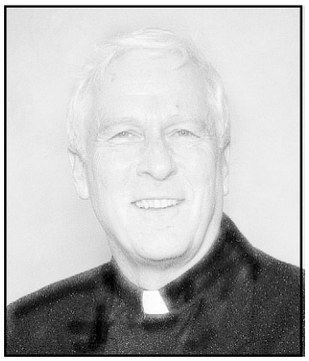
Continued on page 8

Diocese

In commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of TEC
And in joyful gratitude of one of our founders,
Western Kentucky TEC announces
The establishment of

A scholarship Fund in honor of Rev. Bob Willett

This Scholarship Fund will help sustain the ongoing ministry of Western KY TEC by providing funds to help those who cannot afford to make a weekend and training for our leaders.



Donations can be sent to:
The Rev. Bob Willett Scholarship Fund
c/o
Western KY TEC
600 Locust St.
Owensboro, KY 42301

25 Years and Still GROWING

By Sharrie Cinnamond

On Sunday, November 11th, the Western KY TEC family celebrated its 25 years of ministry to the youth of our Diocese. We gathered at Christ the King Parish Hall in Madisonville to renew old acquaintances, reminisce, and meet new friends. Fr. Larry McBride was the principal celebrant in a Mass of Thanksgiving as we remembered those who paved the way with their vision and faithful support. Pictures of the past weekends brought back memories of the fun we shared. The pot luck dinner gave us a chance to catch up on the lives of those we had not seen in a while.

As we look back on these years, we are grateful and amazed at all that has happened. We have had 139 weekends impacting the lives of approximately 3600 youth and 400 adults in Western Kentucky. In 1983 we hosted the National Convention with over 500 people in attendance. Many of our leaders have played key roles in the leadership of the National TEC Conference and helped write the original manual and revising it in recent years. Leaders from our Center have helped other dioceses begin their programs in Evansville, IN, Atlanta GA, Chicago, IL, Shreveport, LA, and even in Germany and , most recently Lithuania.

We have many hopes for the future of our TEC Center--

* That TEC will continue to be around as a gift of faith for future generations of youth in our Diocese, supported by a strong adult faith community.
* That, as a Center, we will continue to refine our vision of who we are and where we are going, always keeping a strong spiritual component in all that we do.
* That our present organization can be transformed into one that is more efficient and effective in meeting our needs.
* That we find ways of meeting the need for formation and training for our leaders, both the youth and adults who give so willingly of their time and talents.
* That each of us may continue to grow in faith as we travel together into the future.

It was right that we celebrated all that has been and look forward to what is yet to come. As a commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of TEC in the Diocese of Owensboro, we are pleased to announce the creation of a Scholarship Fund in honor of Fr. Bob Willett, one of our founders and a great supporter of TEC. In doing so, we give thanks for the great treasure of TEC that he brought to us in 1976.

Memories of Father Bob Willett

By Edie Keeney

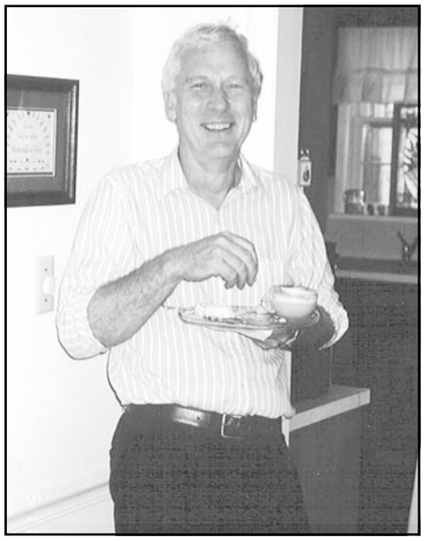
PADUCAH,Ky. - Father Bob Willett was the pastor at St. Francis de Sales in Paducah from June of 1989 until June of 1997. During those years he touched the lives of so many individuals and families. Here are some of the memories of Father Bob that several parishioners shared with me.

"These are my remembrances of Father Bob: TEC with my daughter, QUEST for my son, KONINONIA at St. Francis, his laugh, his smile, homilies which I always felt were directed toward me and my life situations, helping me understand why my 18 year old daughter was pulling away from the church of her birth, being with me and my children during the ordeal of losing our husband and father, sharing his trips to the Holy Land with my fifth graders, praying for St. Mary Elementary School at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, parish council meetings, church picnics, retreats, meals, sharing his love of the Catholic religion with my students, watching him portray Jesus at the Last Supper during Holy Week, his last homily and Mass at St. Francis when he told us he was leaving, seeing him at the St. Mary High School basketball games, his blue Honda, his truck, his rabbits, his dad and farming, Fancy Farm, being a priest, being a great confessor." **- Molliann England.**

She went on to say, "This has been a great opportunity for me to heal the pain that I feel on losing Father Bob and to express my sorrow and the love I felt for him."

"I remember Father Bob as a kind and compassionate person to everyone he met and also he was kind to animals. His homilies really hit home, they made me think," **- Christine Quigley.**

"Father Bob started TEC in the Owensboro Diocese. He was so good with kids. He would take as many young kids as he could fit into his car and off they would go, usually someplace out in nature. The kids truly loved him. He made the scriptures come alive for them. He liked to use "visual aids" with the kids but also in his homilies. One that I especially remember was a bird cage. I don't remember all of what he said. He made it from pipe cleaners as he was talking about being in a cage or opening the door and flying free.



"Another memory I have of him is of his rabbits or bunnies, as he called them. He loved to talk you into taking one of his bunnies but he usually would give one of the females that had already been bred so that soon you had a cage full of bunnies. He also would bring his special "fried chicken" to the frequent St. Francis potlucks. Our bunny was named Bun Bun, we had him for several years," **- Brenda Hayden**

"Father Bob didn't preach, he would involve himself in whatever problem or situation he was talking about. I would take notes during his homilies so I could review them later and think about the message. He was a gentle person; I never saw him angry. He seemed tireless, he worked on many TEC and Koinonia weekends, sometimes at the last minute when no other priest was available. He had a talent for bringing out people's gifts and talents. I loved him very much," **- Ed Puschaver**

"I met Father Bob in 1991 through a friend. I was raised a Catholic but was not in the church at that time. My friend kept talking to me about returning but I wasn't ready. I felt so comfortable abound Father Bob that I was able to talk to him about myself and why I had been away from the church for 20 years. He was never judgmental and was so kind. I started to attend Mass at my children's school. He listened to me but he didn't

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Memories of Father Bob Willett

(Continued from page 7)

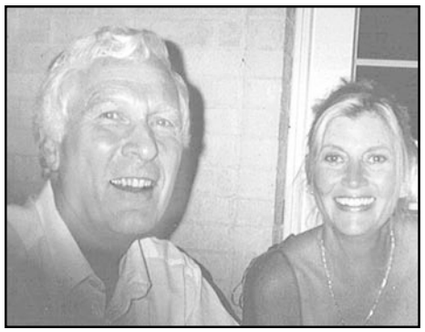
tell me what I should be doing. Father Bob got me involved with things at church but never made me feel pressured. One time he asked me to talk to some of the older girls about what it means to be a Christian woman. That was difficult and I prayed a lot about what to say and how to say it. I am very involved in the church now and am so thankful and grateful for all of the support Father Bob gave me. He helped me so much spiritually.

"Father Bob kept his bunnies at my husband, David's, and my place in an old barn. We kept noticing that sometimes there were lots of bunnies and then there would only be a few. David asked him what happened to the bunnies and Father Bob told him that he raised them to be eaten but he said, 'Don't tell Karen because she won't like that.'

"One time he brought some barbecued rabbit to me but I couldn't eat it. I put it in the freezer and it was there for over a year before I threw it away. When Father Bob was in the hospital I told him I had a confession to make. I threw the barbecued rabbit away because I couldn't eat it. He just threw up his hands and laughed at me. Everyday when I am outside I think of him. He was such a kind-hearted person; he loved nature and he loved people. He was always giving away something that he felt another needed more than he needed it. He didn't seem to keep much for himself. I will remember him always," **- Karen Hogancamp**

"We thought a lot about Father Bob; he was a very compassionate person and so kind. He had a way of letting you know how much he appreciated anything that you did or help that you gave. My husband, Roscoe, has been an Eucharist Minister for many years. Father Bob gave him a watch with a picture of St. Francis de Sales on the face of it to show his appreciation to Roscoe for all he had done. That watch is very special to him. Father Bob's homilies were beautiful, they always left you with something to think about," **- Wanda Shoulta**

"I will always remember Father Bob coming down the hall dressed in his jeans ready to go see about his rabbits. He would raise his shoulders and with a happy little smile and be on his way. He loved nature. He raised flowers from



Fr. Bob Willett with Karen Hogenkamp in Paducah. Submitted photo

seeds and the would plant them in the flower boxes around the rectory. He was so easy going, no matter what you asked him to do he would always find a way to help. I remember so many good things about him. He was such a down to earth fellow," ***- Gladys Lambert , church receptionist.***

"I spent a year in internship with Fr. Bob; it was a wonderful year. I looked to him as my mentor; he was a great influence on me as a young priest."
- Fr. Larry McBride, pastor of St. Francis de Sales

"When my wife, Frances, died Fr. Bob wrote me a letter. It was the nicest letter I ever got. It made me feel like she was in heaven sitting on God's lap." ***- Stan Walter***

"I was on a Koinonia team with Fr. Bob; it was very special. He was a great pastor. He was with my uncle when he died. He read from 2 Corinthians 5-1, 'For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven',etc. I remember that passage, it was a great comfort to all of us."***- Rita Walter***

"Fr. Bob was very easy to work with, he had certain expectations but as long as you did your best that was all he expected. He brought Koinonia to our diocese; St. Francis held the first weekend. That weekend meant a lot to me, it brought a lot of healing to me. I think those weekends brought a lot of healing to the parish. Fr. Bob had a really neat sense of humor. He told me one time, 'Don't you wish everyone's idiosyncrasies made as much sense as yours and mine?' Fr. Bob was special to me, he touched me like few priests ever have."
- Martha O'Neill

"One time I told Fr. Bob I wished we would have a fourth reading at Mass sometime. The next Mass we did have one and after Mass Fr. Bob came up to me and said, 'Jack, that one was for you'. He was a special person." ***- Jack O'Neill***

"Fr. Bob was very close to our family. I could go to him with my problems and he would always be a help to me; even after he left Paducah I would call him and he would help me. He was such a good person, he had such a good heart. He was very involved with our family, he would take the kids with him hiking, lots of different places and to take care of his bunnies. He spent every Christmas Eve with us. He would come after the Children's liturgy, have dinner with us and then go back to St. Francis for Midnight Mass. After he moved, he called to apologize for missing Christmas Eve, he said it was too far to be able to make it. He did one of the readings for our daughter Carly's wedding. She was very close to him and that meant a lot to her. Carly did not want to make a TEC and even though Fr. Bob had talked to her about it she did not go. For his graduation gift to her, he paid for her to go to TEC. She still didn't want to go but did because of his gift to her. She really loved it and got a lot out of it. Fr. Bob had the most wonderful and supportive family I have ever been around. I was at the hospital a lot with him and they always made me feel comfortable and welcome. It was an honor to know them."
- Leslie Bassi

Hearing so many stories about Father Bob has taken me on my own trip down memory lane. Father Bob was an exceptional priest and an exceptional person who was loved and will be greatly missed by many many people.

What is Normal/Abnormal Grief?

(Continued from page 6)

student is also saying goodbye to dreams of events which could have been shared with the parent in the future.

The teacher does not have to tolerate disruptive behavior in the classroom. The student is scared and is reaching out for help. Often she/he becomes defiant, insolent or intolerant. When a grieving student is involved in an altercation, she/he must pay the consequences for his/her actions; at the same time, the source of his/her anger must be investigated. Often the source can be traced to the death of his/her father and this is a normal response. Contact the school counselor, psychologist or a bereavement specialist.

The student is telling the truth. The grieving child will find it very difficult to concentrate. Grieving people do not choose when to feel confused or out of control. The teacher may find she/he is able to excuse the student from some paperwork with the understanding that the student will be responsible for knowing core material.

Grieving people seek out others who can relate to their pain. Students who have experienced loss or death unwillingly and tragically belong to an exclusive club. In the company of each other they probably feel comfortable.

The key words are "at times." When the young person has experienced enough painful thoughts or memories for that hour, as a protective mechanism she/he may close the door to that part of the mind and simply go outside and ride a bike, shoot some baskets or take a walk.

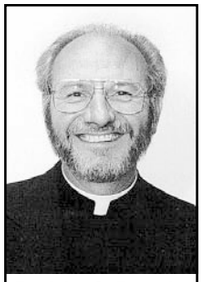
The student simply may not have the time or energy to continue after-school activities or may feel guilty enjoying them. Give him/her the opportunity to explain reasons for dropping the activity, offer options, but then abide by his/her decisions. The student may only need reassurance that it would be a healthy decision to continue with after-school activities.

We can never anticipate the anxiety of a grieving young person when separated from the surviving parent. Arrange appropriate times during the school day when the student can call home. This activity should be permitted but given structure… "You may call during library, lunch and study hall." The student needs to be assured that the surviving parent is still alive.

Betty Medley is an Associate in the Diocesan Family Life Office. She is a bereavement counselor working with Catholic school students and others who have suffered loss. She also facilitates other support groups for the Family Life Office.

"Not Poor" Versus Self-Sufficient

By Fr. John S. Rausch



Fr. John S. Rausch

April walked into the church center holding a disconnect notice from the electric company. Unless she paid the $89 due, she would start the new year in the dark. She and her husband, James, barely make ends meet in good times. This month when their hot water heater quit and they had a minor accident with the car, it meant financial crisis.

April works full time at a convenience store in a small Appalachian community. After five years making minimum wage, she got a raise this past year to $6.65 /hour, $216 take home per week. James works seasonally at logging, but winter and rainy days cap his income. Their combined earnings qualify them for $227 a month of food stamps. April and James with their two children, ages 7 and 8, represent a family living in poverty. More precisely, they are the working poor.

According to the official definition of the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty threshold for a family of four in 1999 was $17,184. In 1963 Mollie Orshansky, a researcher with the Social Security Administration, developed the methodology to define poverty. She identified as poor an individual or family that lacked sufficient income to afford a nutritionally adequate diet. She then fused two pieces of information. First, from the 1950s the U.S. Department of Agriculture determined that a moderate-income family spends one-third of its earnings on food. Second, the agency developed a series of food plans that provided the minimum calories necessary to survive. Orshansky chose the economy food plan and multiplied by three. Adjusting for the number and age of family members and accounting for the average increase in consumer prices, this method still establishes the federal poverty line today.

While the Orshansky method helped define poverty in economic terms for the 1960s, forty years later this approach limps. The early budgets omitted the cost of child care assuming one parent stayed home. And, since the 1950s essential family costs like housing, health care and transportation have risen faster than the cost of food. Whereas formerly food costs represented one-third of a family budget, today it comprises only an eighth. Using the Orshansky method the poverty line would be calculated at eight times, not three times, the cost of food.

If together April and James earned above the poverty line figure of $17,184, they would be classified "not poor," yet still lack the resources to live self-sufficiently. One study by Diana Peace and Jennifer Brooks defines self-sufficiency as "maintaining a decent standard of living and not having to choose between basic necessities." For April and James this would eliminate the trade-off of fixing the family car essential for going to work and paying the electric bill.

From a faith perspective self-sufficiency means affirming everyone's human dignity by allowing each person to participate in society and make a contribution. Different from the concept of "rugged individualism," self-sufficiency represents an interdependence between families, churches and local organizations that knits together the fabric of community.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development continues to remind us that 32 million Americans still fall below the poverty line. Of these 12 million are children. Another 7.2 million represent the working poor. Public policy that encourages living wage laws and universal health insurance would target the neediest among us. CCHD's support for self-help efforts will forge an alliance between the marginalized and church members. Authentic development goes beyond supplying just enough calories to survive. It allows families like April and James to drive on the road to self-sufficiency.

Editor's Note: Readers may contact Fr. .John S. Rausch at jsrausch@bellsouth.net

LIFE ISSUES FORUM

Bishop-Bashing Abounds in D.C.

By Gail Quinn

In the Nation's Capitol the Pageant of Peace surrounds the national Christmas tree. But ride the subway or stand at a bus stop and the message of peace is no more. In its place are signs accusing Catholic bishops of contributing to the deaths of millions.

Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC) launched an ad campaign recently charging that the bishops "ban condoms" and don't care if millions die from AIDS. The statement is ludicrous on its face. In fact, it might be called Stupid Statement #1. When was the last time you saw a bishop demand the pharmacy shelves be cleared of condoms? The ads are laden with anti-Catholic bigotry. They would be laughable, as most CFFC statements are, if people too busy to be informed did not take them seriously.

CFFC is funded generously by foundations pleased to help undermine the Church's teachings here and abroad. Its president Frances Kissling is known for her cynical statement: "I spent twenty years looking for a government that I could overthrow, without being thrown in jail. I finally found one in the Catholic Church" (*Mother Jones,* May/June 1991, p. 11). With overthrow of the Church as an agenda, disinformation campaigns are the norm. That's what CFFC accepts big money to do.

But to claim that the bishops don't care if millions die from AIDS is to expose one's ignorance. The Catholic Church provides over 25 percent of the care for AIDS patients *worldwide*. Its teaching, urging sexual abstinence before marriage and fidelity within, is the only sure way to avoid contracting the disease sexually. Condoms, on the other hand, have a 15 percent failure rate.

D.C. Metro transit officials reportedly saw the ads as simply an "opinion." Yet the system is tax supported, and many Metro riders are Catholics who were deeply offended by the ads. Would it post ads mocking and misrepresenting another faith group? I can't imagine seeing Metro ads that claimed the NAACP's actions or beliefs were a cause of harm, even though someone somewhere might hold that opinion.

Maybe there's an anti-Catholic bacteria in the waters of the Potomac. In 2002 the City Council passed an ordinance to force employers with prescription drug coverage to provide employees with coverage for all contraceptives, including those that act as abortifacients. The Council refused to exempt the Church, although to comply with the law the Church would have had to violate its own beliefs.

Ridiculing Catholic bishops or the Church seems to be taken lightly in Washington, as ridicule of politically correct issues and groups is not. But selling ad space to charge that Church teaching kills and the bishops don't care is beyond the pale. It is irresponsible and an abuse of the public trust.

Gail Quinn is Executive Director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. SOurce: January 4, 2002, release from the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat.

Catholic Educators See New Education Package AS Mixed Blessing

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President George W. Bush's signing of the Leave No Child Behind Act represents an important step in the right direction foreducation policy, but much remains to be done to reach the goal of access toquality education for all of the nation's children. That is the view of Michael J. Guerra, president of the National Catholic Educational Assoc. (NCEA), representing 200,000 Catholic educators.

"The new legislation signals a return to the original concept of thelandmark 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act with its emphasis on benefits for children and its continued insistence that public educational agencies provide services to eligible students in Catholic and other private and religious schools. With President Bush's leadership, a bipartisancoalition put the needs of children first and broke important new ground incalling for standards and assessments. These are not small accomplishments,given the resistance of some sectors of the educational establishment to accountability" said Mr. Guerra.

The new education bill, valued at almost $30 billion, includes funds earmarked for helping disadvantaged children meet high standards, improving teacher quality, strengthening skills and enhancing education through technology. The legislation also includes provisions to foster greater control and increased flexibility at the state and local levels in deciding how to spend some of the federal funds.

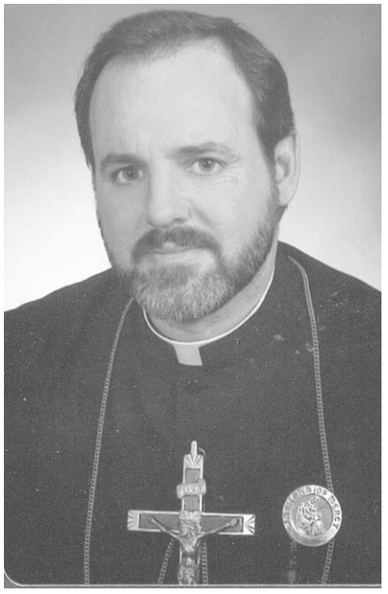
"While there is some progress in the area of educational choice, it is modest at best, and a disappointment to Catholic educators," said the NCEA president. He continued, "Although the bill holds public schools responsible for improving the academic achievement of all students, it provides little support for low income parents whose children are trapped in failing public schools."

According to the new legislation, after three years in a designated failing school, a poor parent may be able to obtain financial support for after-school tutoring from a broad range of providers, including religious organizations.

"Politically that's an important new initiative, but it falls far short of the help we believe parents deserve to choose the schools they want for their children," noted Mr. Guerra.

Continued on page 14

Mission 2002



Father Bill Casey, an experienced and dynamic speaker, wil present the St. Martin Parish Mission Feb 4-7.

St. Martin Catholic Church

5856 KY Highway 81, Rome, Ky.

Reverend Bill Casey, C.P.M., missionary and dynamic speaker will present the mission conferences.

February 4,5,6,7, 2002 at 7:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to this special time of grace and blessing for spiritual development and renewal in faith following the Lord!

8:00 A.M. Mass and Conference
7:00 P.M. Holy Hour with Conference

I Found Myself In Life Teen

By Matt Hogancamp

PADUCAH,Ky. - A year ago I hardly imagined that my life would be as entirely different as it is today. I wasn't particularly bored with life, nor was I especially unhappy with myself, but now, as a changed person, I have a whole different group of friends, and I'm a much happier person. I have found new meaning and life in myself and what I do. I have found Life Teen.

As the fledging Life Teen Masses grew in Paducah, there was desperate need for musicians. A girl at school who knew that I played guitar asked if I would join. I happily agreed to play with the band the following Sunday. After all, this was a chance for me to play guitar, which is really all I was interested in at the time. My life has not been the same since.

The people that I met at Life Teen were all extraordinary. They all loved music, they loved Jesus, they were happy people, and they were not afraid to show it. Their uniqueness was apparent immediately and saturated every aspect of their personalities, their actions, senses of humor, and even their clothing was strikingly individual. As they became my friends, I was inspired to change my life, to be unique without apprehension or inhibition, and I found myself.

The Life Teen Masses eliminated any and all of my preconceptions that church must be a boring, routine chore in which I am merely



Matt Hogancamp

an unwilling observer. I was introduced to not just a Mass, but an intimate experience. The music was enthusiastic and attention-grabbing, the homilies related to teenagers, and the youth gathering afterwards was very edifying and fun. Life Teen was an immediate success.

I used to be a conforming quasi-heathen and I was afraid to be my true self. Through Life Teen, I have become a better musician, a better friend, and a better person. I rediscovered faith, and found an entirely new life as a result. I have been resurrected.

Calendar of EVENTS 2002

FEBRUARY MARCH

FEBRUARY 2001

4 DRE/Youth Minister Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
5 DRE/Youth Minister Meeting, St. Joseph Learning Center, 9:30 a.m.
10 2:00 p.m. Rite of Election, St. Thomas More Church, Paducah.
13 Ash Wednesday
16 Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, (1st session), St. Joseph Church, Bowling Green, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
17 2:00 p.m. Rite of Election, Cathedral. 7:30 p.m. Rite of Election, Holy Name Church, Henderson.
19 Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, (1st session), St. Romuald Church, Hardinsburg 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
26 Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, (2nd session) St. Joseph Church, Bowling Green, KY, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

MARCH 2002

2 Small Christian Communities Gathering - 9:00 to 3:00 - Mount Saint Joseph conference and retreat Center (Auditorium)
9 Annual Prison Ministry Workshop, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Catholic Pastoral Center Basement
16 Black Catholic Reflection Day, Blessed Sacrament chapel, Owensboro, 9:30 am - 3:30 p.m.
17 Brescia University Catholic Schools Award for Excellence, Brescia University, 4:00 p.m.
18 Evangelization: Called and Sent, CPC, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Religious Ed. Office
24 Palm Sunday
26 **Chrism Mass** 6:30 p.m., Owensboro Sportscenter
29 Good Friday **31** Easter Sunday

Celebrate New Life

a source of hope for survivors of sexual abuse

The month of April each year is "Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month." The Celebrate New Life Ministry of the Diocese of Owensboro will sponsor a Healing/Prayer Service for victims and survivors of sexual abuse as well as anyone interested in helping a spouse, family member, or friend work through their pain; and anyone interested in learning more about the devastation of sexual abuse. This ecumenical service is open to all members of the community. This year's service will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, KY. More information, date and time will be announced next month.

In addition to the Healing/Prayer Service, counselors will be available during and after the service for any interested participants. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall.

For more information, please contact Edwina Hyland, Family Life Office, Diocese of Owensboro at 270.683.1545, ext. 143.

Experiencing A Problem Pregnancy?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE has a toll-free number that anyone experiencing a problem pregnancy throughout the state can use - **1-800-222-5824**

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FRANKFORT,Ky. - The Catholic Conference of Kentucky's (CCK) statewide advisory committees and CCK staff have prepared CCK's legislative priorities for the 2002 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Kentucky's Roman Catholic bishops serve as CCK's Board of Directors and have approved the following list of legislative priorities. CCK makes use of the following scale of priorities for legislative activity during a session:

1. 4eadership; 2. 5nvolvement 63. Monitor.

The 2002 Regular Session of the General Assembly convenes January 8, 2002 and is expected to deal with many of the following issues. CCK staff's level of engagement is added parenthetically.

2. Education 7 Kentucky 4eague for Educational Alternatives:

L Maintain state funding for nonpublic school student transportation (1)
L Create tuition tax credits for families of children in nonpublic schools (1)

3. Finance 5ssues:

L Revisions to charitable gaming law (1)
L Revisions to cemetery law (1)

4. **Healthcare Ministry 5ssues:**

L Protecting Medicaid recipient services (1)
L State funding for free health care clinics (1)
L Provide quality treatment for mental health issues (2)

5. **Respect 4ife 5ssues:**

L Abolition of capital punishment (1)
L Prohibition against execution of juvenile offenders ages 16 to17 (1)
L Prohibition of execution of the mentally retarded retroactively (1)
L Oppose mandatory contraceptive benefit coverage for employers (1)
L Establish conscience clause protections for pharmacists (2)
L Create safe havens for unwanted newborns (3)
L Establish fetal personhood in statute (3)
L Strengthen informed consent law (24-hour waiting period) (3)

6. **Social Concerns:**

L Create Individual Development Accounts (IDA) for low-income families (1)
L Oppose expansion of for-profit video lottery terminal gambling (working in coalition with KY Council of Churches) (1)
L Expand access to safe affordable housing (e.g., Affordable Housing Trust Fund) (1)
L Increase state excise tax on tobacco products (2)
L Correct inequities in state income tax structure (EITC) (3)
L Restore justice to the criminal justice system (3)
L Oppose state budget cuts impacting delivery of social services (3)
L Allow state driver's licenses to be issued without applicant's social security number (3)
L Improve adoption law (3)

Each bishop serves as a liaison to one CCK advisory committee. When appropriate, the responsible bishop will act as a public spokesperson on his selected issue.

P **Arch8ishop □homas C. Kelly, ; .P.**	Respect Life Issues
P **Bishop John J. McRaith**	Social Justice
P **Bishop J. Kendrick □ illiams**	Health Issues
P **Bishop Ro8ert □ . Muench**	Education issues

CCK will again promote citizen **4 egislative Advocacy** visits to the state Capitol during the 2002 Session of the General Assembly. The objective of the advocacy program is to educate a greater number of Catholics on public policy issues, the Church's role in making law and relate the social teachings of the Church to the process. CCK encourages all Catholics to actively participate in the legislative process as faithful citizens. Pastors and parishioners from all four dioceses will once again be invited to come to Frankfort or communicate with their legislators from their home districts.

General Assembly Convenes

Time To Visit Legislators in Frankfort

OWENSBORO,Ky. - Dick Murphy and Rita Brothers from the Offices of Social Concerns/ Parish Social Ministry invite Western Kentucky parishioners to visit legislators in Frankfort . Representing the Kentucky bishops, the Catholic Conference of KY hosts these visits.

Participants will receive briefings by Catholic Conference staff on the legislative process, lobbying strategies, issue updates and appropriate ways to communicate with legislators. After these briefings, people will observe the legislature and lobby on important issues. Crucial issues coming before the legislature are education, finance, health care, pro-life, social concerns, domestic violence and capital punishment.

If you are a Kentucky voter or within one year of voting, you are encouraged to join a Western Kentucky delegation in Frankfort.

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Please return this form by to go to Frankfort on the February 6, 19 or March 6 dates to Rita Brothers (rita.brothersMpastoral.org) or Dick Murphy (richard.murphyMpastoral.org), Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301 -1 call 270-683-1545 or fax 270-683)-6883.

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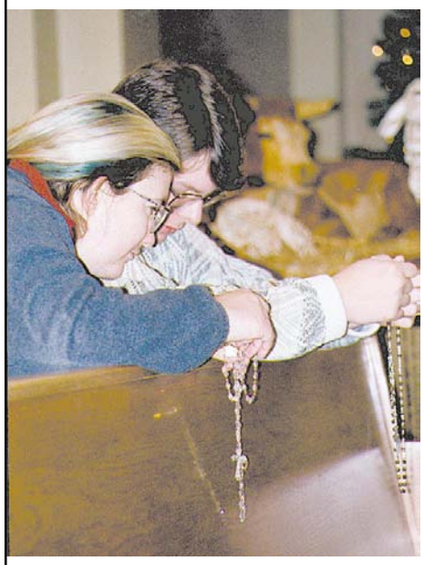
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Take a Deep Breath--

Reciting the Rosary May Improve Your Health



Bob and Gina Adams prayed a Rosary together in St. Stephen Cathedral while waiting for Christmas midnight Mass to begin. The Adams are from Virginia and were visiting relatives in Owensboro. Lois Rutigliano photo

By Jeff Carpenter, ABC □ews

According to a new study in the most recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*, activities like reciting the rosary, mantras, and practicing yoga may have something in common that could make you feel better--deep breathing that can positively alter many of the body's vital signs.

"There is a great deal of evidence built up over the last 30 years that breathing exercises are extraordinarily important in health and well being," said Dr. Herbert Benson, president of the Mind/Body Medical Institute in Boston.

The 23 test subjects were told to either recite the rosary in Latin or to repeat typical yoga mantras or prayers that they were taught by an instructor unfamiliar with the study. At no time were the subjects told how long they should take to perform the prayers.

The results of the study found that the slow deep breathing associated with these practices synchronized the subjects' cardiovascular rhythms, leading to favorable psychological as well as physiological effects.

Timing is Everything: It's the timing involved in reciting the rosary or yoga mantra, that is responsbile for the benefits shown in the study, believes Dr. Luciano Bernardi, the lead author of the study and associate professor of medicine at the University of Parvia in Italy.

Bernardi adds that this practice has been used on patients with heart failure, and has been effective in improving irregular breathing as well as increasing calmness and well being. Regular practice of reciting the rosary or other techniques can also reduce the normal rate, suggesting more than just a short-term effect.



William and Martha Zogleman, parishioners from St. Pius Tenth Church, Owensboro, were praying the Rosary together during Life Chain, a public awareness campaign to end abortion in the USA, October, 2001. Lois Rutigliano photo

Christmas Wishes Filled



"Jesus in me loves you."

The meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus which we celebrate all during the Christmas season is that God became one of the human race in order to bring salvation to the world. Jesus told His disciples to "...go and do likewise ..." as He did in His earthly ministry. Jesus, by becoming human, showed for all time that being human is good.

On Dec. 18, 2001 at Catholic Pastoral Center, Associate Director of The Office of Social Concerns Rita Brothers listened as a young mother expresses her appreciation for clothes, toys, and household supplies she received from Catholic Charities. Two of her children try on new shoes in the foreground. Staff photo.

Youth Working To Save Lives From Ravages of Second Hand Tobacco Smoke



On Dec. 20, 2001, at the Celebration of Community and Its Achievements in Owensboro, Ky. , YAC (Youth Advocacy Council) was recognized by the Hager Foundation for making a difference in the community during the year 2001, especially for their efforts in getting the Sportscenter smoke-free for high school athletic events. From left in the picture are only a few members of YAC: Tara Robertson, Chad Gesser, Ginny Grant, Patrick Stiff, Brittany Cole, Ross Stephen, Anne Bielfeld, Alex Ebelhar, Jennifer Howard, and Jonathan Whitehouse. OCHS Counselor Bev Howard, second from right center, co-sponsored the group. OCHS Photo

WHOLE AGAIN

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED PEOPLE □Meetings are held the 1st 7 3rd □hursdays of each month. 7:00 pm □8:30 pm, Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 4 ocust Street, ; wens8oro, KY 42301 □270A683□1545 eBt 105

Message o is oliness ohn Paul or ent

You recei ed without paying, gi e without pay -- (Mt. 10:)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. We are preparing to follow the path of Lent, which will lead us to the solemn celebration of the central mystery of faith, the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. We are preparing for the favorable time which the church offers the faithful, so that they may contemplate the work of salvation accomplished by our Lord on the Cross. The heavenly Father's saving plan was completed in the free and total gift to us of the *only begotten Son. No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord* (Jn 10:18), Jesus declares, leaving no doubt that he decides to sacrifice his own life for the salvation of the world. In confirmation of so great a gift of love, the Redeemer goes on: Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." *(Jn. 1) :13)*

Lent, the providential time for conversion, helps us to contemplate this stupendous mystery of love. It is a return to the roots of our faith, so that by pondering the measureless gift of grace which is Redemption, we cannot fail to realize that all has been given to us by God's loving initiative. In order to meditate upon this aspect of the mystery of salvation, I have chosen as the theme for this year's Lenten Message the Lord's words: *You recei ed without paying, gi e without pay (Mt. 10:)*

2. God has freely given us his Son: who has deserved or could ever deserve such a privilege? Saint Paul says: "All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God, but they are justified by his grace as a gift" *(Rom 3:23-24)*. In his infinite mercy God loved us, not permitting himself to be blocked by the grievous state of separation to which man had been consigned by sin. He graciously stooped down to our weakness, and made it the cause of a new and still more wondrous outpouring of his love. The Church does not cease to proclaim this mystery of infinite goodness, exalting God's free choice and his desire not to condemn man, but to draw him back into communion with himself.

You recei ed without paying, gi e without pay. May these words of the Gospel echo in the heart of all Christian communities on their penitential pilgrimage to Easter. May Lent, recalling the mystery of the Lord's Death and Resurrection, lead all Christians to marvel in their heart of hearts at the greatness of such a gift. Yes! We have received without pay. Is not our entire life marked by God's kindness? The beginning of life and its marvelous development: this is a gift. And because it is gift, life can never be regarded as a possession or as private property, even if the capabilities we now have to improve the quality of life can lead us to think that man is the "master" of life. The achievements of medicine and biotechnology can sometimes lead man to think of himself as his own creator, and to succumb to the temptation of tampering with the "tree of life" *(Gn 3:24)*.

It is also worth repeating here that not everything that is technically possible is morally acceptable. Scientific work aimed at securing a quality of life more in keeping with human dignity is admirable, but it must never be forgotten that human life is a gift, and that it remains precious even when marked by suffering and limitations. It is a gift to be accepted and to be loved at all times, received without pay and to be placed without pay at the service of others.

3. In setting before us the example of Christ offering himself for us on Calvary, Lent helps us in a unique way to understand that life is redeemed in him. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus renews our life and makes us sharers in the divine life which draws us into the intimate life of God and enables us to experience his love for us. This is a sublime gift, which the Christian cannot fail to proclaim, with joy. In his Gospel, Saint John writes: *This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you ha e sent (Jn 17:3)*. This life is passed on to us in Baptism, and we must nourish it constantly by responding to it faithfully, both individually and communally, through prayer, the celebration of the Sacraments, and evangelical witness.

Since, we have received this life freely, we must in turn offer it freely to our brothers and sisters. This is what Jesus asked of the disciples when he sent them out as his witnesses in the world: *You recei ed without paying, gi e without pay.* And the first gift to be given is the gift of a holy life, bearing witness to the freely given love of God. May the Lenten journey be for all believers an unceasing summons to enter more deeply into this special vocation of ours. As believers, we must be open to a life marked by "gratuitousness," by the giving of ourselves unreservedly to God and neighbor.

4. *2 hat do you ha e,* Saint Paul asks, *that you did not recei e3* (1 Cor 4:7). The demand which follows this recognition is that of loving our brothers and sisters and of dedicating ourselves to them. The more needy they are, the more urgent the believer's duty to serve them. Does not God permit human need so that by responding to the needs of others we may learn to free ourselves from our egoism and to practice authentic Gospel love? The command of Jesus is clear: "If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?" *(Mt.) :46)*. The world prizes human relationships based on self-interest and personal gain, and this fosters an egocentric vision of life, in which too often there is no room for the poor and weak. Every person, even the least gifted, must be welcomed and loved for themselves, regardless of their qualities and defects. Indeed the greater their hardship, the more they must be the object of our practical love. This is the love to which the church, through her countless institutions, bears witness in accepting responsibility for the sick, the marginalized, the poor, and the exploited. In this way, Christians become apostles of hope and builders of the civilization of love.

It is highly significant that Jesus spoke the works "*You recei ed without paying, gi e without pay* as he sent the Apostles out to spread the Gospel of salvation, which is his first and foremost gift to humanity. Christ wants his Kingdom, which is already close at hand (cf. Mt. 10:5ff), to be spread through gestures of gratuitous love accomplished by his disciples. This is what theApostles did in the early days of Christiantiy, and those who met them saw them as bearers of a message greater than themselves. In our own day too the good done by believers becomes a sign, and often an invitation to believe. When, like the Good Samaritan, Christians respons to the needs of their neighbor, theirs is never merely material assistance. It is always a proclamation of the Kingdom as well, and speaks of the full meaning of life, hope, and love.

5. Dear Brothers and Sister! Let this be how we prepare to live this Lent: in practical generosity towards the poorest of our brothers and sisters! By opening our hearts to them, we realize ever more deeply that what we give to others is our response to the many gifts which the Lord continues to give to us. We have received without paying, let us give without pay!

What better time is there than Lent for offering this testimony of gratuitousness which the world so badly needs? In the very love which God has for us, there lies the call to give ourselves freely to others in turn. I thank all those throughout the world--lay people, religious, and priests--who offer this witness of charity. May it be true of all Christians, whatever the circumstances in which they live.

May The Virgin Mary, Mother of Fair Love and Hope, be our guide and strength on this Lenten journey. Assuring you all of an affectionate remembrance in my prayers, I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing to each of you, especially to those engaged day after day on the many frontiers of charity.

From the Vatican, 4, October, 2001, Feast of Saint Francis Assisi.

Black Catholic Reflection Day

The Annual Black Catholic Reflection Day, to be facilitated by Sr.Dr. Oralisa Martin, Washington, D.C., will be held on March 16, 2002, at Blessed Sacrament Chapel Community Center, 604 Sycamore Street, Owensboro, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The Theme for the day is Prayer, a Path to Holiness. Sr/Dr. Martin will follow up the Reflection Day with a Lenten Revival at Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evening, March 17-19 at 7:.00pm. Both events are free and open to all who wish to attend.

Sr. Oralisa is an incisive African American woman, a prophetic preacher, an ardent teacher, revivalist. She has profoundly affected the lives of more than 20,000 African American youth with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the cultural heritage that is theirs. Dr. Martin received her Doctorate of Ministry degree from Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, D.C., graduated summa cum laude from Xavier University in New Orleans, and earned a Master of Religious Education from Loyola University in New Orleans. Dr. Martin is founder of the African American Catholic Catechetical Conference and the African American Catechetical Institute and is founder of ORACLE program. She travels extensively giving revivals, retreats, and keynote addresses. In addition she provides in-service training for Christian educators and elementary and high school teacher.



Sister Oralisa is a Doctor of Ministry, founder of the AfricanAmerican Catecheticel Conference, and author of ***Oracle: A Text for African American Youth Ministry.*** Photo from Oracle Religious Association web page.

Helping Your Children Maneuver the Internet Safely



By Pauline Rowan

New parents childproof their homes so toddlers can't meddle in the medicine cabinet or rummage under the sink. But have you taken the same precautions with your home computer?

According to *Your Family and Cyberspace*, a statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, "the starting point for safe internet use is to recognize that the rules you live by in the real world apply to Cyberspace too. If you tell your child not to talk to strangers, the same applies on the Internet."

Here are four helpful hints from Your Family and Cyberspace to help make the Internet safe for children in your home:

If possible, obtain your internet access through an ISP that excludes at least some of the inappropriate material from one of their "servers" (the computers that provide internet Check your yellow pages, and call to see if this service is available in your area.

Choose an ISP that offers parental control features to activate them. These can be used to restrict access to chat rooms, newsgroups (a small number of which account for much of the worst material), and some websites.

Some ISP's offer the possibility of keeping a record of sites visited. If you have this feature, keep it active. You can use it to double-check sites visited by your children when there is reason for concern.

Be sure to install filtering software. Popular titles include CyberPatrol, CyberSitter, NetNanny, Surfwatch, X-Stop or Rated-PG. Remember that the methods - such as keyword screening or individual assessments - and criteria used by these software packages differ.

In addition, consider these tips to ensure your child' while surfing:

• Put the computer where you can keep an eye on the kids while they are using it. The family room is a better spot than your child's bedroom.

• Children should never give out their addresses, telephone numbers, or school names to anyone. Teach this to your kids and post a reminder near the computer so they won't forget.

• Restrict e-mail correspondence to friends only and the time to read some of the e-mail your children receive. Even e-mails between school friends can get out of hand if dad doesn't provide some occasional supervision. Don't think they are always helping each other out with homework!

• Consider limiting the time your children spend on-line the same way you might limit television viewing.

The bottom line? Set your own rules and don't be afraid to stick to them no matter what "everyone else" allows.

For additional information on internet safety refer to: *Family and Cyberspace, a* statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, June 16, 2000 on the web site: www.usccb.org

Pauline Rowan is the Principal of Ascension Catholic School in Melbourne, Florida. Reprinted from View In The Pew, a Newsletter of the Catholic Communication Campaign, January, 2002.

Catholic Educators See New Education Package As Mixed Blessing

(Continued from page 9)

Catholic educators have been longtime supporters of school choice, arguing that giving parents an opportunity to choose schools is a matter of justice.

"School choice is only a reality for those who have financial resources for tuition or housing in good school districts," said Mr. Guerra. "We cannot forget that the children of the poor are our children, too. Giving their parents the power to choose their schools is the right thing for us to do as a nation," he added.

NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic education at all levels.

Carolyn B. Stratford is a Public Relations Assistant for the National Catholic Educational Association.

Charismatic Conference/Retreat

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

February 22-24, 2002

The 2002 Charismatic Conference/Retreat has already been empowered by the Holy Spirit. Rooms at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center are filled. The Best Western Owensboro Inn is accommodating overflow guests at a discount rate. Commuters are sharing transportation. Guest presenters Barbara Schlemon-Ryan and Father Bill Halbing are eager to share their charisms of healing. The Center staff is planning a warm welcome and delicious meals for everyone's enjoyment.

Registrations for commuters are still being accepted. For more information, contact Kathy McCarty, (270) 229-0200, ext. 413, or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org. Conference fee for commuters is $95, with a minimum $50 deposit with registration. The discounted rate at the Best Western Owensboro Inn is $53 plus tax.

Have You Been Asked?

Daughters of Isabella Are Asking You to Join Us.
WE need good Catholic Women
Who care about others.

CALL: Sheila Thomson, KY State Regent at 270.683.2397
Ann Newby,Owensboro Regent at 270.685-4001
Reva Hagan Paducah Regent at 270.442.0101

THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

A Gift to Give Yourself

A weekend for widowed, separated, and divorced persons.

This is a weekend for those who have been married and are now single either because of separation/divorce or the death of a spouse. This program creates a safe space where persons come together, reevaluate themselves and their lives, and move into the future with renewed hope.

The weekend is for those who have worked through the initial stages of anger, despair, and denial and who have reached the point of desiring a new beginning. This is usually about one year after the death, separation, or divorce.

This weekend is scheduled for **February 15-17, 2002** at MSJ Retreat Center. For more information or to register please call Betty Medley at (270) 683-1545 ext. 105

The Living Liturgy

By Jacob Petri

Over the holidays, I was back in my hometown of Madisonville. Every Christmas, a local Protestant church there re-creates Bethlehem in their gymnasium and invites the general public to attend.

The experience is unique and it is clear that much time and energy is spent on the project. The gymnasium is dark and the floor has become a series of dirt roads. There are shops and stables (complete with live animals). Before entry, you're given recreated Roman dinars (the currency of the time) and invited to haggle with the merchants.

The entire experience is intriguing and somewhat humorous (I bargained with a high-school classmate over the price of a goat). I've enjoyed it the few times I've been.

This practice reveals the core of Christian longing: to be present to Christ. It is a desire to step out of our own time (and mindset) to find Christ and to be with him. It is a wish to go back somehow to Bethlehem.

Elucidations

This desire is not unique to my Protestant friends. It is intrinsic to Christian living to be connected with Christ. In our own Catholic history there are the Passion Plays of the Middle Ages and still today the festive Christmas pageants in our schools. However, there is a major difference between liturgical dramas (whether Catholic or Protestant) and the liturgy which Catholics celebrate throughout the liturgical year.

How is it that we Catholics go "back in time," so to speak, to witness the nativity, the crucifixion, and the resurrection? The tradition of the Church has long been that we participate in the mysteries of Christ's life not through dramatic plays but through the sacramental liturgy.

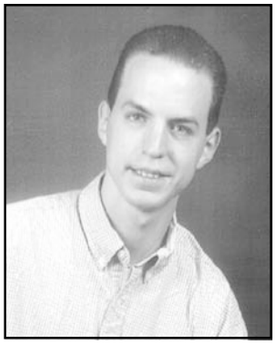
Everything we do in the Church's liturgy is a participation in the mystery we celebrate. Everything from the priest's vestments, to the music, to the unique smell of incense, to processions that seem to be redundant and unnecessary serve to bring us sacramentally into the mystery we celebrate. From these less important elements to the central elements (bread, wine, readings, hymns, etc.), everything serves to bring Christ's presence among us.

In the liturgical year, all the Christian mysteries from the nativity to the Last Supper to the resurrection and ascension, are not simply recreated but they are celebrated and in that celebration, we believe, the mysteries become present.

Pope Pius XII once wrote that the liturgy is "not a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, or a simple and bare record of a former age. It is rather Christ Himself who is ever living in His Church. Here He continues that journey of immense mercy which He lovingly began in His mortal life…" so that we might "know His mysteries and in a way live by them."

Our Christian longing, however, is not just for the past. We long for the future, for heaven. We await that day when we, in the company of the angels and saints, will praise God in the heavenly city. The liturgy satisfies this desire. Just as it is a memory of the past, the liturgy is a "remembering of the future," according to Saint John Chrysostom.

In the liturgy, the Second Vatican Council said, "we share in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the Holy City of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God…. With all the warriors of the heavenly army we sing a hymn of glory to the Lord…."



Jacob Petri is a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Owensboro at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Email: jpetri@catholic.org

So in the liturgy both past and future are made present? How? We believe that it is through the work of the Holy Spirit. Christ poured the Spirit onto the Church as the "guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it…" (Eph 1:14). The Holy Spirit is the living memory of the Church (Jn 14:26). Without the power of the Spirit at work in the Church, our memory of Christ—his saving life, death, and resurrection—would be limited to our feeble minds. (And we know how easy our minds forget and distort the past.)

In the liturgy, we pray and praise God in the Holy Spirit whose mission is to "prepare the assembly to encounter Christ; to recall and manifest Christ to the faith of the assembly; to make the saving work of Christ present and active by his transforming power; and to make the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1112).

Respectfully, this is what distinguishes the liturgy from the plays my Protestant friends in Madisonville and Catholics around the world employ during the holidays. Plays re-create an event of history in front of an audience. The liturgy, however, is an event that enfolds the participants (who are more than an audience). The assembly doesn't just watch a re-creation of the Passion of Christ. We are caught up into it.

While not taken physically back in time, we can be sure that the sacramental significance and the grace we receive in the liturgy is the very same grace the Apostles received at the Last Supper and at the foot of the Cross. That's what happens when the eternal Son of God becomes man: everything he does carries eternal significance.

This, I think, is one of the greatest demonstrations of God's love in the plan of salvation. The very point of the Incarnation is that God, who is eternal, becomes a man, limited to a certain time. But in that very act, God pulls humanity into eternity with him.

At the Last Supper, and now in the liturgy, Christ gives his followers an extraordinary gift. He gives us the opportunity to live the eternal moment with him at his table and at the foot of the Cross where he shows the depth of his love.

You Are Invited To Join Tour Leaders

Fr. Richard Meredith and Fr. Ken Mikulcik
on a 5-Day Pilgrimage to

Guadalupe



September 12-16, 2002

$1,099 from St. Louis;$300 deposit

Day 1: Thursday, Sept. 12 - USA/Mexico City
Day 2: Friday, Sept. 13 - Guadalupe/Mexico City
Day 3: Saturday, Sept. 14 - St. Michaels/Octolan
Day 4: Sunday, Sept. 15 - Guadalupe
Day 5: Monday, Sept. 16: Mexico City/USA

Morning and Evening Prayer; Reconciliation and Daily Mass

From the Tour leaders: "While Pope John Paul II toured Mexico in late January, 1999, he asked Our Lady to fuse the Americas together, for us to pray as one body and for us to grow in holiness. How very much our beloved Pope loves Our Lady of Guadalupe ...and so do we! Let us pray for the conversion and openness of heart for all people of the Americas toward the appreciation of life. Please join us on our pilgrimage to receive anew the message of Mary with the people to whom she appeared."

For further information, please contact Gwen Taylor, 2404 South York St., Owensboro, Ky. 42301. Phone 1-270-926-7694. e-mail: gwent@brescia.edu

Family Pastoral Associate

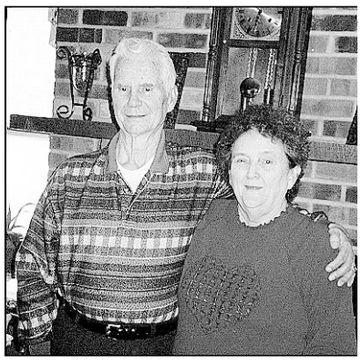
Small, urban, clustered Catholic parish seeking an experienced professional to coordinate volunteers in a Family Pastoral Ministry program to provide for the spiritual, catechetical and recreational needs of youth & adults: religious education; youth ministry; parent group; retreats; Bible study; Renew; liturgy. Self-initiator/Collaborator/Empowerer/Pastoral.

Send resume to Nativity Catholic Church, 3635 Pollack Ave. Evansville, IN 47714. Spring/summer 2002.

WISDOM

By Ginny Knight Simon

Bill and Verna Rightmyer
St. Sebastian, Calhoun, KY
Buttonsberry Baptist Church



Regarding marriage: **Verna** "We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this past June 18th.. We met on "sorta" a blind date - we went fishing with a mutual friend.

Bill- I caught a headache! I slipped on a wet rock and fell in! We married in 1951 and I went to the Army for 2 years, but I wasn't involved in any kind of combat. We lived in Michigan for awhile, about 17 years, I think. We moved back here approximately 30 years ago.

We raised 7 daughters, and it wasn't always easy. But you have to take the good times with the bad in a marriage. Now, young people don't seem willing to do that.

Verna - You haven't lived until you have raised 7 daughters! We had two weddings in one spring! But it was all worth it. We have wonderful children, who would absolutely do anything for us. We have 28 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Marriage takes a lot of work from both people. Sometimes you feel like you could just walk away, but your values, morals and vows won't let you. Life is tough sometime, but you learn to be strong together.

Regarding faith - **Bill** - My grandparents, Charlie and Mamie Towery, raised me. M mother died when she was 26 -my grandparents were strict Catholics. My faith has always been the same from the beginning to now. It has always been there never ending.

I was pleased to be the winner of the Sophia Award. (St. Sebastian Parish 2000) We both enjoyed the celebration very much. I used to be a member of the Knights of Columbus and helped raise money for retarded children. I worked the pancake breakfasts and did several other things at the church, but my health has kept me from some of it. I am able to once again be a Eucharistic Minister and attend weekly mass.

Being a Senior citizen - **Bill** -Well, it isn't what I thought it would be. I have too many dishes to do! No, I don't mind helping out with the housework now. I plan on putting out a small garden this spring. I wasn't able to last year.

Verna- It's a time when you realize you aren't immortal. I don't put as much emphasis on the same things now that I did when I was younger. Things like being a fanatic on house keeping. I see where spending valuable time with family is more important.

Verna - I am a member of the Baptist Church. As a Christian, I find it hard to see how people who aren't Christian handle life. Jesus is my rock...I always have Him to talk to. I can't imagine what my life would be like without that.

Bill-My Biggest Blessing - My wife. My daughters.

Verna-Yes, my family.

"Introibo Ad Altare Dei ..."

Father Gregory Arflack will Celebrate the Tridentine Latin Rite at Saint Francis de Sales Church in Paducah, Ky on the following dates:

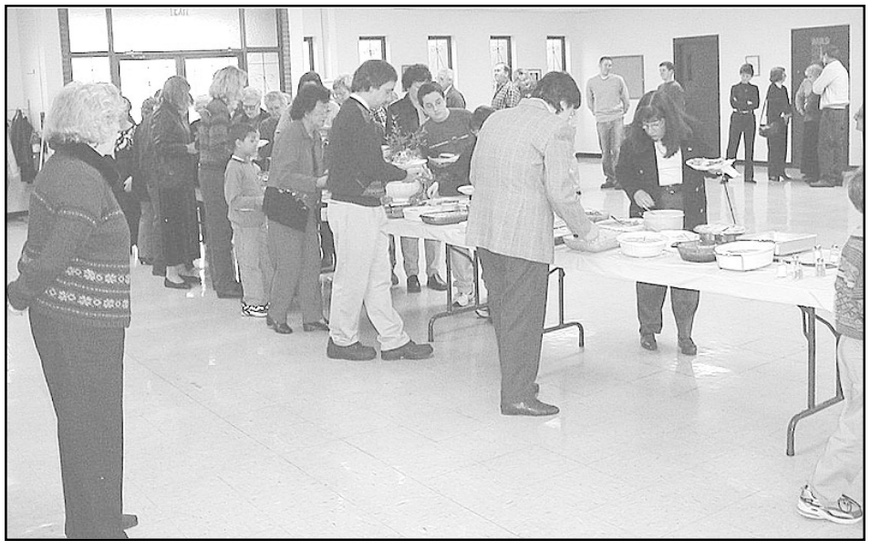
Pentecost - 19 May 2002 - 2pm

Corpus Christi - 2 June 2002 - 2pm with Eucharistic Procession

These Masses will be High Solemn Chanted Masses in accordance with Missale Romanum 1962.

Latin-English Booklet Missals will be provided for praying the Traditional Mass. The Masses will fulfill the Sunday obligation.

Epiphany Pot Luck Dinner celebrated Sunday January 6th at St. Joseph, Mayfied.



Parishioners enjoyed an Epiphany Pot Luck Dinner celebrated Sunday January 6th at St. Joseph, Mayfied. Submitted photos



Left to right. Juanita Hutchins, Ann Hayden and Ernestine Sumner are always on call at St. Joseph Church, Mayfield to come to rectory and help fold items for mailing. Here they are folding Stewardship inserts to be mailed out to all members. They also come faithfully every Friday morning to fold the Sunday Bulletin.



Stephanie Muir, daughter of John and Teresa Muir, proudly showing off her cake she baked and brought to the dinner.



Michael Skinner, church organist, played Christmas music while parishioners enjoyed the meal.



The youngest member of the church attends the pot luc is ,Ethan AJenkins, held by grandparents Steve and Linda Jenkins iMother Holly looking on.

February 2002 Prayer Intentions

February General Intention - Leadership by Catholic hospitals in defending human life.

The search of men and women for meaning in suffering has challenged philosophers and theologians for thousands of years. Dr. Viktor Frankel, a concentration camp survivor, believed that there must be a meaning in suffering because it is everywhere in our lives.

The Church's search is seen in Catholic health services, especially in our Catholic hospitals which are a tribute to the sacrifices of Catholic Sisters. The excellent services of Catholic hospitals and health care services also deal with the supernatural value of suffering as we are sharers in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

As Jesus offered all His physical and mental sufferings of His Passion and Death to the Father who transformed this suffering into graced spiritual blessings, so we also can offer each day's struggles in all aspects to the Father who transforms everything into graced blessings for us and others.

Jesus and the saints spent their lives doing good (Ac 10, 38). Our hospitals and health care centers struggle against suffering and attempt to proclaim the Gospel of Life and Respect for the human person.

Catholic health care is the visible sign of the meaning and practiced charity of Jesus.

We try to make a strong difference in our present "Culture of Death." We are "A Love and Service to Total Life." Catholic health services are very different, as we provide an atmosphere of prayer, provide a sacramental service and offer the spiritual assistance of chaplains. Our spiritual outlook is seen in our manner of treating physical and mental suffering which reflects the presence of the Holy Spirit of "love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, truthfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Ga. 5,22).

For reflection:

1. What do you expect from a Catholic hospital?
2. Can you give some examples of very concrete practices of the "gospel of life"?

February Mission Intention - Vocations in Cambodia and Laos.

Our Holy Father, John Paul II, spoke to the bishops of Laos and Cambodia, Feb. 11, 1999, encouraging them in their efforts to promote priestly and religious vocations. He praised the great and continuing sacrifices made by the priests in difficult conditions relying on the presence of Jesus Christ in their ministries. A great emphasis is placed on the solid basis of faith and prayer that will inspire them to provide a solid spiritual service to the faithful. John Paul II encourages the bishops to treat their priests "as sons and friends" as Jesus treated his disciples. (Lumen Gentium, n. 28). In addition, he urged the bishops to involve their priests in the administration of the dioceses as stated in Vatican II and canon law.

Our Pope praised the bishops' care and concern for religious women and men as they sacrifice courageously and fully share in the Church's care of society's poor and weak. The religious sacrifice themselves with a love of God and their sisters and brothers. He also praised the great contributions made by religious for the Church's welfare and cautioned the bishops to promote and safeguard the proper forms of the active and contemplative forms of religious life. The increase of vocations in Laos and Cambodia is noted and he praises the bishops' efforts to form youthful vocations. Our Pope urges the bishops to tell young people that he is pleased and thanks them and their directors for being workers in the service of the Church.

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive a set of 10 or more of these leaflets, please contact: Apostleship of Prayer, 3211 South Lake Drive - Milwaukee, WI 53235, Phone: 1-414-486-1152 - Fax: 1-414-486-1157; E-mail: aposprayer@aol.com. Web site: www.cin.or / ap

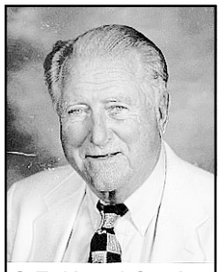
Croatian Jesuit Seminary Needs Books, Journals

The Library of the Jesuit Faculty of Philosophy and Institute of Theology in Zagreb, Croatia is in urgent need of book and journal donations.

For additional information please contact:

Fr. Zeljko Rakosec, SJ
Jordonovac 110, pp 169
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
rakosec@libero.it

Carrico's Ramblings


G.E. (Jerry) Carrico

Christ's Legacy of Love Left Us Several Souvenirs

Many Americans, both young and old, are autograph and souvenir collecting, seeking autographs and souvenirs from celebrities, athletes, politicians and various rich and famous people. Later, some become very valuable, like Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

To my knowledge, collecting autographs and such was not in vogue in Christ's day and time but other comparable practices prevailed, like touching his garments, climbing a scamore tree to get a better view, meeting and talking with him at group meetings. Also, to my knowledge, Christ's teachings and parables were spoken, never delivered in writing. Nor have I heard about him going to school to learn the ABC's, spelling and such. At the same time, we read and hear about him teaching in the Temple, that he had a good knowledge of Scripture.

Christ did, however, leave some earthly souvenirs: a wooden cross, a crown of thorns, some bloody clothing and an INRI inscription. Undoubtedly, such items were saved as keepsakes by some of his followers in attendance at the Crucifixion. Generally speaking, they have been lost or hidden so well that they cannot be found today.

At Christ's death, he didn't leave an earthly estate, like a home or wealth any kind, but he did leave his teaching, parables and philosophy for leading a good life. So many of these have been preserved by his followers, the Gospel writers. His teachings are practiced by millions today. In this respect, just think how many Bibles have been bought by Christians. . . and the trend is still increasing year by year. The Bible has been the best selling book in America the past three months.

Of course, it is too late for us to seek Christ's autographs today, or touch the hem of his garments, or climb a sycamore tree to get a better look, or witness his miracles, but it is not too late for us to adapt his teachings to our daily lives, and it is not too late for us to enjoy the souvenirs he left us - the Holy Eucharist and all of the other sacraments. It is not too late for us to practice charity, visit the sick, help the poor and downhearted. . . . and the difficult command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

While on the subject of legacies, let's not forget Mary, Christ's Mother. Her legacy of love is exemplified by living a life of motherly love in every sense of the word. She raised her Son from infancy and now she is regarded as the Mother of all Christians. We ask her to pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

WHOLE AGAIN

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED PEOPLE

Meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month. 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 (270) 683-1545 ext 105

Once More With Love

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, Ky. 42301

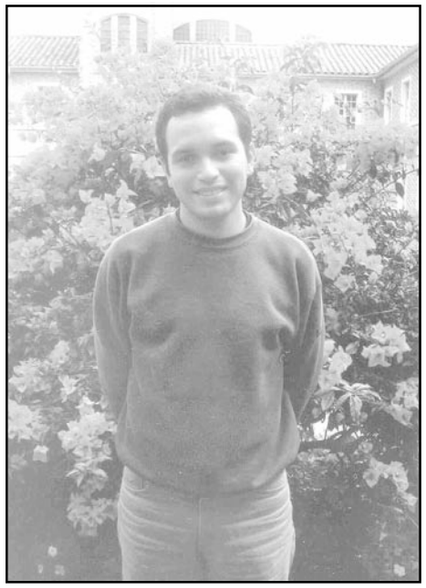
A Marriage Preparation Program for couples preparing for marriage after one or both persons have experienced a divorce or loss of a former spouse.

Phone 1-270-683-1545
Sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.

Christian Foundation For Children

CFCA Program Helps Support Religious Vocations

To date, 51 sponsored seminarians have been ordained





Seminarian Maciel Rodgriguez da Silva, pictured at left, and Sister Noemi Chahua Ruiz, right, are among vocation candidates awaiting a sponsor through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Maciel is studying for the priesthood at Valmaria Major Seminary in Bogota, Colombia. Sister Noemi is preparing for final vows at the Jesus and Mary formation house in Lima, Peru. CFCA photos

By Loretta Shea Kline, LorettaK@cfcausa.org

Since his boyhood in Brazil, Maciel Rodriguez da Silva wanted to be a priest. "I want to be with people, to share with them, to make a total commitment with Jesus through those persons who are mostly in need of the love of God," Maciel wrote to the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging.

The 23-year-old student at the Valmaria Major Seminary in Bogota, Colombia, was among those awaiting a sponsor through CFCA's vocation sponsorship program. He is preparing for service with the Congregation of Jesus and Mary, directed by the Eudist priests.

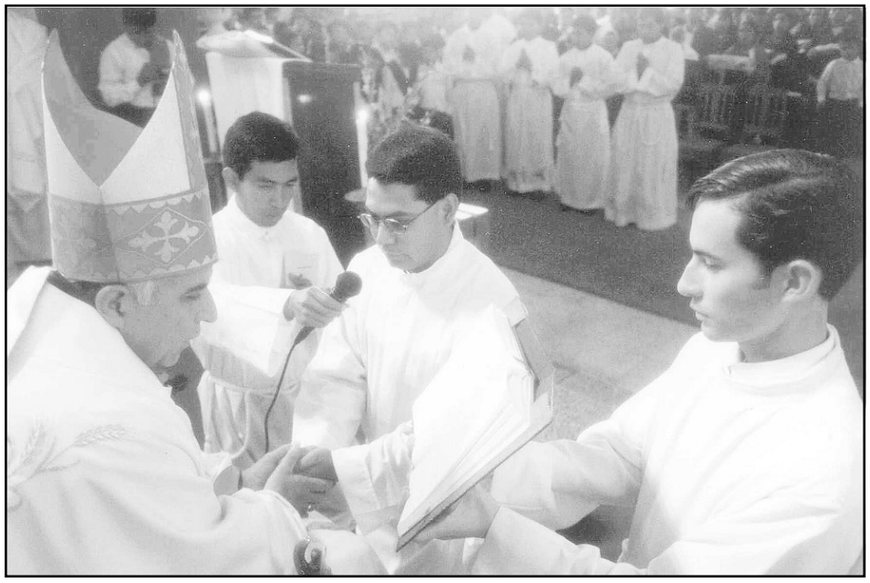
NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK, Jan. 14-20, is a time to celebrate religious vocations and highlight efforts that support them. CFCA vocation sponsorship offers a way for Catholics to encourage and nurture vocations for the Church in the developing world.

"It's our contribution to the evangelization we are all called to," said CFCA co-founder and board member Bud Hentzen. "One of the attractive things about it," he added, "is that candidates are sponsored and ordained to serve in their own countries."

CFCA sponsors assist 271 candidates studying for the priesthood or religious life in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. The program helps with needs such as tuition, room and board, transportation and medical care. Since the program's inception in 1997, 51 sponsored seminarians have been ordained. Catholic groups such as Serra Clubs, Knights of Columbus Councils and parish organizations, are among sponsors.

CFCA assists more than 220,000 needy children and aging persons in 25 countries. The organization, founded by Catholic lay people, is based in Kansas City, Kan.

For more information, call CFCA at 800.875.6564, send email to mail@cfcausa.org, or visit CFCA's Web site at www.cfcausa.org.



Father Wilson Randolfo Xicara, center, at his ordination. As a seminarian, Father Wilson was sponsored by CFCA co-founder and board member Bud Hentzen. The priest now serves in Guatemala. CFCA photo

Persecution Against Catholic School-Goers 'Worse Than Ever'

By Frank O'Day *[foday@worldnet.att.net]*

Some of the worst clashes in months took place last night in north Belfast after fighting erupted as Catholic parents walked their children home from their neighborhood school.

The Holy Cross girls school in Ardoyne has been the focus of loyalist intimidation in north Belfast since June, when children and parents were attacked by loyalist stone throwers. The escalating scenes of violence and bigotry against school-going families have reminded many of the US civil rights campaign. Although loyalists agreed to "suspend" their blockade of the school last month, the trouble flared up again yesterday when a Catholic mother was punched in the face by a loyalist. The loyalists had been hanging about verbally abusing and spitting at women making their way to the school at the end of lessons.

"We were walking down the road when three men tried to push into one of the mothers who had her daughter's hand," she said.

"When she put her hand up to protect herself one of them punched her in the face. After that everyone just started to run. Then the loyalist siren went off and they started to come from everywhere."

As news of the incident spread and parents made their way to the school, sirens and horns were sounded in the loyalist Glenbryn estate and a car containing some loyalists and followed by a crowd of up to 30 others drove into the school grounds, blocking the gates. The loyalists then attacked the school. Glenbryn residents then blocked the Ardoyne Road and forced a stand off. Pupils trapped in the school and their parents were eventually brought out through an emergency exit and were bussed from the school along the Crumlin Road to the Ardoyne Shops.

Another parent, John Murphy, had been collecting his child from the school when loyalists tried to ram the school gates with a car. "They drove right into the school grounds and tried to knock people down," he said. " They reversed and knocked the school principal, Mrs. Tanney, off her feet.After that we had to take the children out of the school through the back gates."

The bus evacuating the Holy Cross girls, some as young as four, was attacked by loyalists on Ardoyne Road, who pelted it with stones and missiles. The bus was attacked when it was forced to stop as it approached a lorry working on speed bumps on Ardoyne Road, leaving the children terrified and crying hysterically.

"I could not believe what was happening as grown men and women were throwing missiles at children as young as four, five and six years old," said one mother. She said she believed the attack had been planned. "Where did they all come from? How did such a large group of people get to the bus so soon after it had stopped?" she asked.

Continued on page 19

Persecution Against Catholic School-Goers 'Worse Than Ever'

(Continued from page 18)

"The whole thing is madness. They have terrorized these children for months and when they suspended their protest they got £18 million to help their area.

"When I went back to get to the school to get my other girl, I couldn't even get to it because of all the trouble on the Ardoyne Road - is that what they call a suspension of the protest?"

The trouble intensified as loyalists came out onto the Upper Ardoyne Road from Hesketh and another mob came from Twaddell Avenue. It was at this point that three nationalist men were hit by gunfire, believed to be shotgun blasts. One of the men was taken to the hospital with serious head injuries.

Fr Aidan Troy, who said he was deeply shocked by the scenes, revealed that he had received a telephone call from police shortly after 2.30pm.

"It was the one phone call I was dreading. I hoped that call would never come, but it did and now things are worse than ever before," he said.

"I went up to the school and spoke to the teachers and parents who were deeply shocked. It was very tense and there were children still in the school at the time. Luckily they were able to be brought out of the school through the back gate to safety."

Fr Troy said the school would be closed today and he did not know when the children would be able to return to classes.

"We hoped that this was all over but now it is worse than ever," he said.

As the situation deteriorated, loyalists and nationalists threw missiles across RUC police lines. A number of Catholic homes came under attack in the same area.

After a lull of about two hours, the nearby Mercy primary school on the Upper Crumlin Road was also attacked by loyalists and as the RUC police moved in, at least two nationalists were run over by Land Rovers. One suffered serious leg injuries. Another woman was injured in a hit and run by a car believed to be driven by loyalists.

Serious rioting then spread throughout the area and loyalists petrol bombed an unmarked armored police car. The RUC fired a number of plastic bullets at nationalists, injuring two.

Holy Cross parents spokesman Brendan Mailey said that tensions had been high since the children's return to school on Monday.

"There were a number of incidents on Tuesday when loyalists taunted and spat on some of the parents," he said.

"We hoped that we could diffuse these incidents through dialogue. The last thing we wanted was to be back in this situation. It looks as if everything has been lost. Now we're in a situation where we don't know when or even if our children will get back to school."

Sinn Féin MLA for North Belfast, Mr. Gerry Kelly, said the attacks were clearly coordinated. "It is obvious to me by the way in which the mobs came out of Glenbryn, Twaddell Avenue and Hesketh at the sound of horns and sirens that loyalists were planning this. I blame the UDA. Their sectarian agenda is once again coming to the fore."

He urged unionist politicians to challenge those responsible for the violence and "get it under control".

Education Minister Martin McGuinness said he was deeply concerned that Holy Cross children had been caught up in more violence. "I am profoundly disappointed at today's developments and I would urge local political and community representatives to engage in an honest dialogue to prevent further escalation and to resolve this situation," he said.

The Holy Cross school remained closed indefinitely Jan. 11, 2002, pending a new round of emergency talks to end the conflict.

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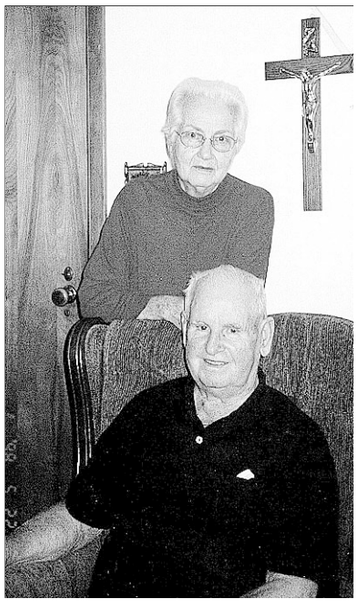
Engaged Encounter 2002 Weekends

February 1-3, 2002
April 5-7, 2002
May 10-12, 2002
August 9-11, 2002
September 13-15, 2002
October 25-27, 2002

For information, contact the Diocesan Family life Office at 1-270-683-1545

WISDOM

By Ginny Knight Simon



Bernard and Jane McCarty Payne
St. Martin Parish, Rome, KY
Congratulations! Married 65 years February 23, 2002

Jane- It doesn't seem like it's been 65 years since were married, but it doesn't seem like yesterday either. Time just has a way of slipping by.

Weddings have certainly changed since we got married. We had to wait for the '37 flood water to go down before we could be married at St. Elizabeth's in Curdsville. Fr. Glenn married us in the most simple ceremony with just our immediate family present. My mother had a breakfast for us afterward. Now days the weddings cost way up in the thousands of dollars and it could be put to better use on down the road, for down payment on a house, maybe.

I grew up the 2nd oldest girl with brothers so I was kept busy. We had to bake our bread, slaughter our own meat-well there was very little store bought. The whole day was spent nearly in food preparation. I also remember standing for hours and ironing my brothers' "Sunday" shirts. As far as work, I think times have changed for the better.

He (Bernard) grew up thinking you had to have homemade biscuits three times a day...I soon taught him better! He told me my biscuits weren't as good as his mother's, so I don't make them. When he was living at home he would feed the cornbread to the dogs so his mother would make biscuits!

We have three children, 7 grand hildren and 17 great-grandchildren. I worked at G.E. for 33 years. I have worked all my life. I still keep busy working around the house. What would I tell a young couple just getting married? Well it isn't as easy as it looks. Marriage has plenty of ups and downs. You can't run from it - you have to stay and figure it out, fuss it out or whatever it takes. It's a commitment.

We were both raised Catholic. My mother was a very religious person and really believed in prayer. My religion has always played a major part in my life as a child, and in married life.

Bernard-Our first house cost $700 and my dad went the note on it for me. I had it paid off in a couple of months though, which was good back then. I grew up on a farm and I farmed for awhile then I went into carpentry work. I worked for a guy one day shucking corn from early morning to late at night for $2.00. I didn't go back, either. I got a job at Camp Breckinridge doing carpentry work. I drove to Morganfield everyday, making $2 per hour! That was really something. Gas was only twenty cents a gallon then. I built this house we are in today. I built it in my spare time-weekends, nights and holidays - it took me two years.

I would tell a young married couple today to be aware of your finances. You can get in a bind thinking you have to have everything. Finances can cause problems.

Now, I enjoy just sitting in this chair a lot! I work in the yard in the summer and grow a small garden. Keeping things up is a full time job.

Jane-I really don't have a hobby. I like to do needlework and do things around the house. I don't watch much T.V. I like my flowers in the summer.

Our greatest blessing is our family - our entire family. His parents and siblings as well as mine and our children.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Strengthening The Church At Home
Helping small parishes keep their doors open.
Supports religious education programs enabling adults to deepen their knowledge of the Faith and pass it on to the next generation.
Collection taken up in the Diocese of Owensboro on April 28, 2002

Catholic Home Missions APPEAL

"Issues of Lay Ministry"

Sponsored by the Council of Lay Ecclesial Ministry

The laity's role in the daily work of the Church has grown tremendously in the past two decades. The National Catholic Parish Survey revealed that, since 1982, the number of lay ministers serving the average parish grew by 54 percent. This kind of growth brings change, challenging the norms and routines of Church life. It requires open and honest discussion along the way so that, in the end, collaboration and acceptance of a new and evolving Church environment becomes the norm.

This program provides an opportunity to discuss some issues which lay ministers deal with on a daily basis. It will be facilitated by Brother Tim Smyth using the "Open Spaces" process. This process provides an opportunity for a large group of people to hold small group discussions on a variety of topics at the same time. Topics are identified spontaneously and groups of interested individuals gather around those topics in open-ended discussion. Please join us!

Friday, February 8, 2002, 10 am – 3:30 pm,
Catholic Pastoral Center,
Basement Conference Area, 600 Locust St., Owensboro
Cost: $15 Members; $20 Non-members
For information, contact Sr. Pat Froning or Gayle Strehl,
Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301



Glenmary Sisters

`The Glenmary Sisters are a religious community of Roman Catholic women working to establish a Catholic presence in the home mission areas of rural and small town America. They have missions in Kentucky and Georgia.

WANTED: FULL-TIME YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

A Catholic woman with a Masters Degree and experience working with an developing youth programs. Transportation required. Benefits are available. Send resume to P.O. Box 22264, Owensboro, Ky. 42304

Charismatic Conference Coming In February 2002

The 2002 Charismatic Conference will be held at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Friday, February 22, through Sunday, February 24.

Father Bill Halbring will bring his Gift of Healing talks to replace Father Ralph Di'Orio, who is unable to come because of personal needs and demands.

"It is with great joy and delight that we welcome Father Bill Halbring and Barbara Schlemon-Ryan," states Leslie Hughes, program director for the Center. Father Bill and Barbara will join charisms to lead all participants in a meaningful and dynamic prayer experience.

Those wishing to participate should plan now to attend this weekend of immersion in the Holy Spirit. Space is limited, so early reservations are crucial.

Conference fees are $135 for residents and $95 for commuters. There is a $50 deposit for both.

For registration, contact:
Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center
Kathy McCarty, Facilities Director, 270-229-0200, Ext. 413.
kmccarty@maplemount.org

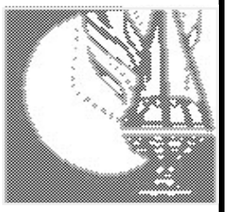


First Friday and Meditation Days Offered Monthly At Mount Saint Joseph

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, the spiritual life office for the Diocese of Owensboro, offers opportunities each month for prayer, reflection, and spiritual enrichment.

Meditation at the Mount is offered on the second Thursday of each month, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. This quiet day of reflection provides an opportunity for slowing down, breathing in the presence of God, and centering oneself in mystery and prayer.

On February 14, Brother Tim Smyth will guide retreatants in prayer and meditation using the Psalms as tools of reflection. Crying out to the Lord in celebration and lament, the Psalms are the ancient expressions of the Israelites' troubles and fears, hopes, aspirations, and trust. As a source for public and private devotion, these ancient prayers bring modern people to the presence of God.



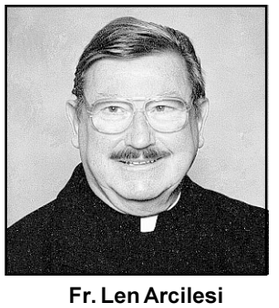
First Fridays for Faith are offered on the first Friday of each month, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Focus is on Catholic belief and practice in the light of Vatican II. Each program includes time for prayer, questions, discussion, and quiet reflection.

On March 1, Center Program Director Leslie Hughes will explore the changes in celebrating the Easter vigil. The highest holy day of the Church Year is reserved for the initiation of new members into the Catholic Church. The Easter Vigil now lasts longer and involves many people, especially the community of the faithful. Bring your questions and plan to learn more about the renewal of this ancient ritual.

The retreat fee for each day's program is $18. To register for any of these programs and to learn of other offerings, contact:

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center
Kathy McCarty, Facilities Director, (270) 229-0200, Ext. 413.
kmccarty@maplemount.org

You are invited to join Spiritual Director
Fr. Len Arcilesi
on a 14-Day Pilgrimage to
England
Scotland
and
Ireland



Fr. Len Arcilesi

May 6, 2001
$2,699 from Cincinnati, For a brochure, please call Fr. Len at 270-685-0339

Journey of Faith

Dying For Love

By Rev. John Buckel St. Meinrad School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Indiana 47577
jjbuckel@juno.com


Rev. John Buckel

Death is the ultimate question. Even Jesus asked, "why?" when it was his turn to die (Mark 15:34). The divine response to this "ultimate question" invites Christians to view their death in the light of Christ's death. The crucifixion of Jesus lies at the heart of Christian teaching.

We are so accustomed to viewing the cross as a sacred object and referring to the day that he died as "Good Friday" that we often forget the tremendous amount of suffering and humiliation that accompanied this most terrifying form of capital punishment.

The crucifixion of a condemned person was a slow and painful process. Once an individual was firmly bound to a cross (with nails or rope), a cramping of the muscles took place. Lack of movement also resulted in a severe decrease of the flow of blood in the lungs. Air could therefore enter the lungs but could only be expelled with a tremendous amount of effort. One had to push one's self upon one's feet, which obviously resulted in terrific pain as the feet were usually nailed to the cross, in order to expel the air. With the passing of time, one had less and less strength to lift oneself up and thus experienced even greater difficulty in breathing. One who was crucified eventually suffocated.

Jesus must have also experienced a great deal of emotional trauma. Even before he was arrested, Jesus had a good idea of the suffering that was in store for him (Matt 26:38: "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death."). Moreover, he foretold that his closest companions would desert him, Judas would betray him and Peter would deny that the two had ever met (Mark 14:17-31).

Jesus may also have felt abandoned by God ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me"). Nevertheless, according to St. Luke, Jesus' last words on the cross were those of trust ("Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

The focus of the New Testament is not on the intense suffering and anguish that Jesus experienced but rather on the great love that God has shown for humanity by sending his only begotten son into the world to die for us (John 3:16). What value we must have in the eyes of God that his beloved son underwent such tragedy!

The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that suffering and death do not have the final word. God's all-encompassing love changes everything. The crucifixion of Jesus is now understood in terms of redemption instead of tragedy. Because of the resurrection, we no longer look upon the cross as an instrument of torture but rather as a sign of divine love.

The gift of liberation from sin and death should always be treasured as a precious gift. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the followers of Jesus view their own death differently than non-Christians. Death is not thought of as a "dead-end" but rather as the gateway to eternal life and unending joy. Death may be the ultimate question but Christ is the ultimate answer.

St. Mary, Trinity High School Principal Search Continues

The Catholic parishes of Eastern Daviess County seek a Principal forTrinity High School and St. Mary of the Woods Elementary in Whitesville, Ky., grades K-12, with 400+ students. Candidate must have a strong Catholic Faith, knowledge of schol finances, and good organizational skills required.

Requirements are at least four years teaching experience in a Catholic School system, a Masters Degree in School Administration or a Kentucky Principalship Certificate.

For more information, call 1-270-233-4196. Please send resume to Fr. Richard Powers at St. Mary of the Woods Church, P.O. Box 1, Whitesville, Ky. 42378. Or e-mail Thomas.Mattingly@lgeenergy.com.

Catholic Schools - Nurturing the Faith Choice

Your Source llc
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Owensboro

Your Catholic Connection in Western Kentucky

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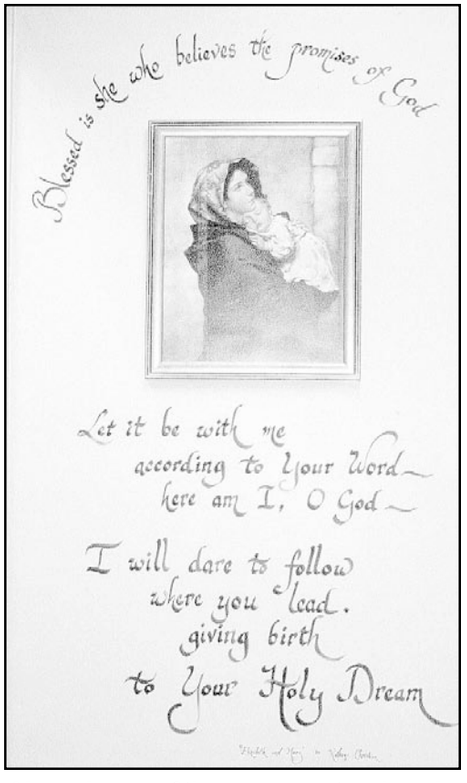
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Your Source is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m., until 5:00 p.m., and on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The location is on the corner of 18th & Breckenridge Streets in Owensboro. You may call and place an order or ask for materials to be ordered at 270.689.9665 or toll free: 877-689-9665.

The staff is currently working on putting out a brochure and catalog featuring some of the store's items. When this is developed it will be distributed throughout the parishes and Catholic community throughout the diocese.

"We are living in a time when people are more alert and are trying to understand their own faith and the faiths or other religions. It is my hope that *Your Source* can provide a greater understanding about our own faith values and that of other religions and belief systems. Especially after the September 11 attacks people are reaching out for answers. My hope is that *Your Source* can do this."

Above is one of the many quotes done in calligraphy painted on the walls of *Your Source* Bookstore in Owensboro.

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

Calendar of Events, February-August 2002

February 2002

1 **First Fridays for Faith**
1-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
1-3 Youth Retreat, St. Joseph Parish, Central City
3-8 Directed Retreatant
6-8 Green River Area Development District Workshop
8-10 Marriage Encounter
12-14 Murray's Quilt Lovers
14 **Meditation at the Mount**
15-17 Beginning Experience
16 Project Empower
20 National Catholic Directory/Draft I
21 Jesu Caritas
22-24 **Charismatic Conference**
23 Ministry Formation Program, Brescia University
24 RCIA, Precious Blood Parish
24 Marriage Encounter Follow-up

March 2002

1 **First Fridays for Faith**
1-3 Teen Leadership Conference
2 Confirmation Class, Lourdes Parish
2 Catholic Pastoral Center
7-8 Parish Social Ministry Planning Meeting
7-9 Basket Weavers
14 **Meditation at the Mount**
10-17 **Women's Week at the Mount**
15-17 **Women's Retreat**
16 Project Empower
17 RCIA, Lourdes Parish
21 Jesu Caritas
21 Center Advisory Board
22-24 Christian Women's Retreat
23 RCIA, St. Mary Parish, Whitesville

April 2002

5 **First Fridays for Faith**
5-7 Catholic Engaged Encounter
10-11 **Anna-Simeon Retreat**
1 **Meditation at the Mount**
11-14 Men's Cursillo
18 Youth Group, Precious Blood Parish
18 Jesu Caritas
18-21 Women's Cursillo
23 Spiritual Care Ministers
26-27 Methodist Women's Retreat
26-27 East Ministers Presbyterian
29 Environmental Day, Second Grade St. Angela Merici School



Center-sponsored programs in capital letters are open to the public. For information about scheduling a program or event for your organization, contact Kathy McCarty, Facilities Director, (270) 229-0200.

May 2002

2 First Graders, Sutton Elementary
3-5 Retrouvaille
6-7 Leadership Owensboro
9 **Meditation at the Mount**
9-10 Fourth Graders, St. Romuald School, Hardinsburg
10-12 Catholic Engaged Encounter
11-12 OHS/Natural Helpers
15-16 Environmental Retreat, St. Gabriel School, Louisville
16 Jesu Caritas
17-19 Mount St. Joseph Alumnae Weekend
18 Diocesan Encuentro
28 LCWR/Sub Region VI
31-2 Kentucky Breast Cancer Survivors

June 2002

9-22 **Music at Maple Mount**
23-28 Christian Leadership Institute
27 Center Advisory Board
29-30 Associates/Sisters Day

July 2002

7-12 Watershed Workshop
12-14 General Assembly
14-20 Sisters' Conference Retreat
21-27 Sisters' Directed Retreat

August 2002

4-9 TOPS Retreat
9-11 Catholic Engaged Encounter
16-18 Retrouvaille
23-25 Catholic Marriage Encounter

99th Death Row Exonoree To Be Freed In Florida

Prosecutors drop all charges after Judge rules that State withheld critical evidence

WASHINGTON, DC — Juan Roberto Melendez will become the 99th innocent person to walk free from death row since 1973, according to an announcement made today by the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC). Prosecutors dropped all charges against Melendez after Judge Barbara Fleischer of the Thirteenth Circuit Court in Florida overturned his conviction. Melendez spent more than 18 years on Florida's death row.

Fleischer overturned Melendez's 1984 capital murder conviction after determining that prosecutors in his original trial withheld critical evidence, thereby undermining confidence in the original verdict. The judge noted that no physical evidence linked Melendez to the crime. The state had used the testimony of two witnesses whose credibility was later challenged with new evidence. Prosecutors announced on Jan. 3 the state's decision to abandon charges against Melendez, who is the 22nd Florida death row inmate to be exonerated and freed, more than any other state.

In its 2001 Year End Report issued in December, DPIC noted that five inmates were freed from death row in 2001. These exonerations, as well as revelations from state and independent studies showing unfairness in the capital punishment system, have contributed to a continuing decline in support for the death penalty. Executions, death sentences, and the size of death row have all declined recently. Wrongful convictions have also caused a number of former proponents of the death penalty to question its value.

It is expected that Melendez will be physically freed from prison shortly.

Source: Rev. Patrick Delahanty Policy Analyst, 613 Zane Street Catholic Conference of Kentucky, Louisville KY 40203-3029 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort Ky. 40601

Reflection for Prayer

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN: Before He came, God was either known or unknown. When He came, He would be either passionately loved or passionately hated. One can never be indifferent before the Infinite. Death in a certain sense was inevitable, for once Love and Innocence confront brute force and sin, a crucifixion follows. Suffering is always the form that love takes in an evil situation. Every mother who ever had an erring son, and every wife who ever had a drunkard husband knows that. How else could Divine Love meet sin, except by a cross? Evil breaks some human hearts. Sin broke the heart of God. "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man law down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) (Reading: "Preface to Religion," P.J Kenedy & Sons, 1946, p. 66)

Source: Communique - a pro-life news update from Judie Brown, January 4, 2002 Vol. 12, No. 1. Questions? Write Ms. Brown at jbrown@all.org.

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Franklin Delivers Thanksgiving Baskets

For eight years, the members of St. Mary's Catholic Church have taken the time to prepare and deliver baskets to needy families for Thanksgiving. This event is sponsored by the Ladies Guild, but Marie Buchanan states that "many donations from parishioners" help to make this a successful event.

This year twelve families were given baskets with everything they needed to make a complete Thanksgiving meal. The baskets included a variety of food items from a turkey to nuts and candy. Additional can goods were also placed in the basket that the families could use for several days.

This is an event that members of all ages can participate in to share their blessings with others.

The gate of Heaven is very low; only the humble can enter it.
— St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

A Christmas Story at Holy Name School in Henderson





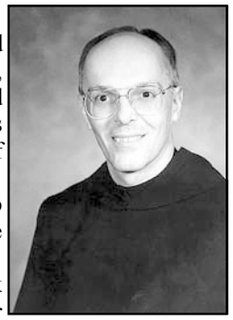
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Top right: Gerardo Villavicencio (right) and Zachary Jost (left) are dressed as camels in the Christmas Story at Holy Name School. The second graders annually perform the Christmas Story.
Middle Photo: Fr, Andy Garner's mother came to visit Holy School as "Mrs. Claus" and read stories and is surrounded by preschool and second grade students. Holy Name Photos.

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Fr. Nathaniel Reeves, OSB, 50, monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, dies



SAINT MEINRAD, IN. - Fr. Nathaniel Reeves, OSB, 50, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, died Monday, December 31, 2001, of an apparent suicide. His body was found Wednesday afternoon in a lake on the Archabbey property. He was the academic dean and taught canon law at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Fr. Nathaniel was born in Detroit, MI, on January 13, 1951, to Edward and Lucille (Vanderbosch) Reeves, and received the name Gregory Edward at his baptism.

Fr. Nathaniel professed his vows as a Benedictine monk and took the name Nathaniel on August 24, 1974; he celebrated his silver jubilee as a monk in 1999. He was ordained a priest on April 30, 1978, after completing his master of divinity degree at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1977.

Surviving are his father, Edward of Fort Wayne, IN; two sisters, Pamela Maloney of Southfield, MI, and Sandra DeWald of Roanoke, IN; and one brother, Richard Reeves of Augusta, GA.

Who are the SERRA CLUB of Owensboro?

Submitted by Harold Clark

The Serra club is an organization of devoted lay men and women whose ministry is to foster vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life through prayer and service.

Serra Activities involving young people as future seminarians and religious include:

*"Vocation" essay contests for grade and high school students.
*Posters contest in schools regarding vocations.
*Serrans support and promote the "Altar Server" program.
*Prayer is vital. Serrans believe that most effective means of fostering vocations are prayer and building a strong Christian community in which vocations flourish naturally.
*Discuss and encourage young people to consider a religious vocation.

SERRA GOALS AND FUNCTIONS

*Summer picnics, luncheons, or dinners are held for all religious each year.
*"Adopt" a seminarian or religious and pray that they persevere in their vocation. Help seminarians financially.
*Assist at the Chrism Mass.
*Assist at the Rite of Ordination for Seminarians.
*Assist, pray, and encourage priests in their vocation.

Pope John Paul II told Serra leaders, "the Church needs Serra...blessings in your work." He challenges Serrans to live a life of holiness and to observe and practice the beatitudes.

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF SERRA

*Grow spiritually through prayer and good example.
*develop leadership qualities.
*Enjoy good Christian fellowship, be inspired by associates. Receive blessings from our work.
*Fulfill our vocation to service by bringing Christ into our lives and the lives of others. Serrans believe this is the responsibility of every Catholic layperson.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A SERRAN

*Maintain a good attendance record, attend a minimum of one meeting per month. Meetings are held on the first and third Fridays, at 11:45 a.m. at Settle Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 East 4th St. Each meeting has a short spiritual reflection by Fr. Joseph Mills and a religious related program.
*Dues are $60.00 per quarter; includes meals, national dues and Serra functions ($100.00 per couple).
*Assist in Serra functions and serve on committees.

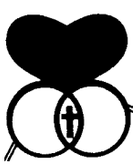
An associate membership is available to professional and other Catholics who are unable to attend meetings but would like to support Serra financially in its' ministry of fostering vocations.

For more information contact the following: Serra Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Mills, 683.1545, ext. 149; Serra Membership Committee member, Harold Clark, 684.2181; or Serra President, Larry O'Bryan, 684.3237 or 729.5117.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Available weekends Just for the Two of You in the Diocese of Owensboro for 2002

February 8-10, 2002
August 2-4, 2002
November 15-17, 2002





Jerry and Gail Critchelow with Fr. Joe Mills and Bishop John McRaith on Diocesan Marriage Celebration Day, 2001 in the Cathedral. Staff Photo

For more information, contact Jerry and Gail Critchelow, 270-298-4637

St Anthon eon a Re o s E at on ass e



Our Religious Aducation Students participated in all elements of the Sunday morning Mass from lecture to singing. Pictures provided by Theresa Rough. Father Dan KreutEer, Jimmy Hoben, G Travis Clemons observing Keidre Pulley, Tommy Braun, G Mary Beth Meador presenting Baby Jesus Birthday cake.

Visitors from Clinton, Fulton, Hickman Enjoy Tour of Mount Saint Joseph



Visitors from Sacred Heart Parish, Hickman, St. Adward Parish, Fulton, and St. Jude Parish, Clinton, enBoyed a visit to Mount Saint Joseph on December 28, 2001. From left: Sister Mary Agnes VonderHaar, OSC, pastoral associate at Sacred HeartDJoni Beth Lattus, Sacred HeartD Jason SchwartE, St. JudeDKaleight Lattus, Sacred HeartDJay F illiams, Sacred HeartDMaegan Jones, Sacred HeartD Jona Somerfield, Sacred HeartDSister Cecilia Joseph Olinger, OSC, pastoral associate at St. JudeD Father Mike F illiams, pastor of the three parishesDNatasha Beyer, St. AdwardD Josh Taylor, St. AdwardD Ryan Fenwick, youth representative on the Parish Council, St. AdwardDSister Joan F alE, OSC, outreach minister at Sacred Heart. The group received a tour of the Mount led by Sister Pam Mueller, director of vocation ministry.

Unique Gifts From Ten Thousand Villages Available From Mount Saint Joseph Shop

Anyone looking for unique gift ideas need go no farther than Mount Saint Joseph Gift and Book Shop at Maple Mount. Beautifully crafted pots, vases, candle holders, and trinket boxes are among the many items that come to the shop from Ten Thousand Villages, an organization that "provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America," according to its mission statement. Proceeds from the sale of this work go directly to the artisans and "help pay for food, education, health care and housing."

Artisans are from Third World nations in Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, South and Central America. Their works include baskets, pottery, sculptures, and metalworks, using unique materials such as Kissi stone and soapstone. "The baskets are especially unusual and attractive," notes shop manager Lynda Henderson.

Besides enjoying the beauty of these items, those who purchase them also know that they are supporting an effort toward international understanding and cooperation. "It touches me to know that what we sell here touches the people of the Third World and makes a difference in their lives," Lynda Henderson says.

The photos on this page give just a few examples of the many beautiful gift items available at the Mount Saint Joseph Shop. The shop also features crafts by the Ursuline Sisters, as well and religious and liturgical items, religious education resources, and a generous selection of books and cards.







Above: Display of gift items from Ten Thousand Villages.Above right: Pots and candle holders from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Below right: pots and vases from Indonesia.

ould you li e to ma e an income from yourcontri ution to your parish

1.) Are you 65 or older?
2.) $5000 minimum in some cases.
3.) Guaranteed for LIFE!

Call 683-1545. Ask for Tom Lilly for further details.

St. Thomas More Endo ment

As the result of an act of generosity from the St. Thomas More Paducah community, a $49,000 gift has enabled the parish to start an endowment, realizing a dream that the parish has had for many years. The endowment fund is set up so that after its principal reaches $750,000 it will return a perpetual income to STM Parish.

The endowment is established to Fund capital improvements, religious education, general fund requirements. St. Thomas More Parish is launching a campaign to promote their endowment with its parishioners and the community in an effort to begin growing the fund.

LIFE QUEST

A Weekend of Vocation Exploration

February 22-24, 2002

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Saint Meinrad Indiana



Life Quest is a weekend retreat for young adults who wish to explore their vocation options.



Life Quest offers the participant the opportunity to ask questions, to hear real stories, and to see a seminary, convent, and monastery up close.

Life Quest will help the participant to discover if God is calling him or her to the life of a priest, brother, sister, or lay minister.

For more information, Contact the Owensboro Diocesan Vocations Office 3306 Fenmore Street, Owensboro, Ky. (270) 684-6880 by Friday, February 8, 2002 or e-mail jbwhistle@juno.com

The Goodbook Store

Serving Catholics of far Western Kentucky

Lenten opportunity begins Tuesday, Feb. 19, 9:30 A.M.

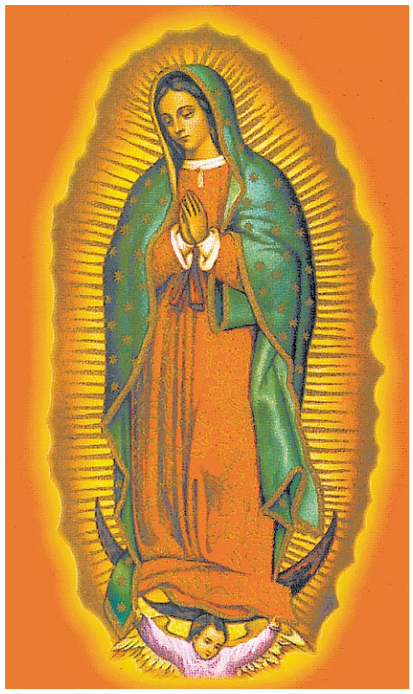
Free weekly 1 hour sessions for adults on the fruits of the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary - one each week.

Space is limited. Call 1-270-443-2677 to reserve your seat.
Afternoon and evening sessions available if there is a demand.

310 Broadway Paducah, Kentucky 42001

Youth 2000

A Eucharistic Centered Retreat
March 8-10, 2002
Join Us For A Festival of Prayer and Praise



Catholic Diocese of Owensboro

Sponsored by Marian Shrine Committee and the Office of Youth Ministry

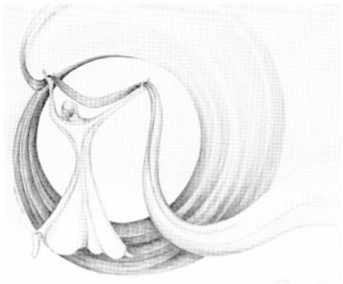
Brescia University
Owensboro, Kentucky

The charism of YOUTH 2000 is to lead young people, through prayer and instruction before the Blessed Sacrament, to a personal encounter and ever-deepening union of heart and mind with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Christ. Through Eucharistic centered retreats, YOUTH 2000 responds to the call of Pope John Paul II to prepare young people to live and proclaim the Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Registration limited to 900 with registration form and money. Participants who wait to register at the door must have liability release and registration forms signed by parents. The registration fee is $25.00. Financial assistance is available for those in need. Register by February 27, 2002.

All youth and young adults, ages 13-30, are invited
For more information call 270-554-3810 or 270-683-1545

Retreat Schedule

Friday, March 8	**6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.**
Saturday, March 9	**8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.**
Sunday, March 10	**8:00 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.**



Women's Week

at Mount Saint Joseph

March 10-17, 2002

Dancing Sophia's Circle, by Doris Klein, CSA

Striving to be the ideal person, a woman often loses touch with her own sacred rhythm. Meeting everyone's needs, seldom allowing themselves the freedom and luxury just to "be," women rarely care for themselves...let themselves be taken care of, spiritually nurtured, mentally soothed, physically comforted. The "Superwoman Syndrome" is a heavy burden for women today.

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center invites all women to break out of this routine and renew themselves with a gift of time. The Center has designed a retreat especially for YOU! A daily focusing conference, followed by private spiritual direction, will center the day in prayer and contemplation. The personal care opportunities of the afternoon will include massage, aromatherapy, exercise, and relaxation. Each evening, a special presentation will challenge spiritual growth. Evening prayer will bring all participants together in sisterhood. A weekend conference retreat, led by Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, will complete the circle of renewal.

The Center staff are very excited to offer this event and hope that women everywhere will consider setting aside this special time for themselves.

P.S. Women's Week would be a true gift of the heart for men searching for the perfect valentine gift for a special person in their lives.

Schedule	Arrive: Sunday, March 10, 2002, 6 p.m. Depart: Sunday, March 17, 2002, 1 p.m.
Retreat Fee	$595 includes private room with bath, meals, spiritual director, conferences, personal care and materials. $100 minimum deposit with registration.

For Sister Cheryl's Conference Retreat only:

Schedule	Arrive: Friday, March 15, 2002, 6 p.m. Depart: Sunday, March 17, 2002, 1 p.m.
Retreat Fee	$135 includes room, meals, conferences, and materials. $50 minimum deposit with registration.

For information and registration, contact:
MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER
Kathy McCarty, Facilities Director, (270) 229-0200, Ext. 413.
kmccarty@maplemount.org

To Talk of Many Things

"The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things; of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings."



H. J. Rumage, Jr.

"The Men Called Knights"

By H.J. Rumage. Jr.

The largest fraternal Catholic organization in the world is the Knights of Columbus. This group of men that traces its origin back to St. Mary Parish,New Haven, Conn., where it was founded by Father Michael McGivney in 1882, has many accomplishments. It has an impressive record of service to the Catholic Church, the nation, and to local communities. For example in 1999, the Knights raised and distributed nearly $109 million, 55 million man hours in service to Church, communities, youth, and fellowman, through their service program. When the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was to be built in Washington, D.C., the Knights were asked to build the bell tower and furnish the carillon of bells. This they did at a cost of $1.25 million. The Knights created a $20 million " Knight of Columbus Vicarius Christi" fund— the earnings on which are conveyed annually to the Holy Father for his charities. Since this fund has been established, it has generated nearly $30 million for the Pope's good works. The Knights committed $8.8 million to the U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life educational campaign since 1990, and budgeted an additional $1 million for the production of pro-life materials. The most recent project was the establishment of a $1 million "Heroes Fund" to aid the victims of the New York and Washington, D.C. tragedy of September 11, 2001. In Kentucky, they raise thousands of dollars through the Tootsie Roll Drive each year that benefits the Mentally Handicapped

These are just some of the works that the Knights do. Catholic men from every walk of life, every color and nationality. The Knights are, without question the strongest, and largest pro-life organization in the world. It often happens that when the Pope or the American Catholic Bishops have an immense project that they need financial help with, they turn to the Knights. Mainly because we have the man-power and resources to get the job done faster and more efficiently.

The examples that I have cited in this article are just a small part of what the Knights have done, are doing, and God willing, will continue to do.

In United States there are about twenty-five million Catholic adult males. If the Knights of Columbus can do the big projects with a million- six-hundred thousand members, think what we could achieve with numbers in the twenty-five million plus category. If you are eligible; please consider joining the Knights. We need you!

Editor's Note: The Knights of Columbus in several cities and towns of Western Kentucky have willingly supported several diocesan media efforts, including the Matthew 28 Movement, the Catholic Mass of the Air, and the Jubilee 2000 celebration.

Thanks, West Kentucky, For Supporting Brescia

By Sister Vivian M. Bowles, OSU

OWENSBORO,Ky. - Brescia University and I thank all of you who so generously contributed to the August diocesan collection for Brescia University. As the only Catholic university in our diocese we depend on your support is various forms.

We are grateful for your financial gifts, for helping us promote Brescia to prospective students, for welcoming our speakers to your parishes, and especially for your prayers.

We appreciate the confidence of our Bishop, our priests, and our laity in our mission of higher education in the Catholic/ Ursuline tradition. We are very proud of our alumni and students and we rejoice as we see them in leadership positions throughout our great diocese. May God's blessings continue on you and your families.

Editor's Note: Sr. Vivian M. Bowles, OSU, Ed.D., is President of Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro KY 42301 Readers may contact her at vivianmb@brescia.edu, 270-686-4236.

Bishop Boyle Founds The Foreign Mission Society of Mandeville

"The Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary"

By Deacon Dennis Hendriks, Communications Director of the Diocese

A Historical Day for Jamaica and the Caribbean

On December 8th, 2001 our Bishop "set out into the deep," to use Pope John Paul II's expression, and founded the Foreign Mission Society of Mandeville (FMSM) formally constituting the first Brotherhood of this Society in Bull Savannah. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Bishop Paul M. Boyle celebrated mass at Saint Vincent Strambi and received the "perpetual incorporation" in missionary life of the FIRST FIVE MEMBERS of the Society: Rev. Fathers Samuel Alloggia, Roland Dessine, Michael Palud and Brothers Brad Smith and Raymond Sorin. The formal name of the first Foreign Mission Society in the Caribbean is "The Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary." Mary Immaculate being the principal Patroness of this Society of Apostolic Life.

A Society of Apostolic Life

Some years ago, Rome had suggested that our Bishop begin a Foreign Mission Society. At the time, Bishop Boyle felt that this project would be a little difficult to begin because this would suppose a core group of men ready to embark in such a venture. However, when the Congregation of the Sons of Mary left Jamaica, Bishop felt that he could give this charge to the missionaries who stayed behind to continue serving God's people in our Diocese. He suggested the project to them, and after prayer and reflection, the above-mentioned men who have been serving our Diocese decided to go forward with this endeavour.

This Society is defined as "a group of diocesan clerics and lay persons living a fraternal life in common, united by the bond of charity pursuing the apostolic purpose of their society as defined in their statutes." The AIM of the Society of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is "to participate in the Missionary Activity of the Church through the spread of the Gospel and service of the Church firstly in the Caribbean and in other Mission Territories of the Catholic Church."

After a period of probation, members take a temporary engagement in missionary life. After three years they make their perpetual



Fr. Michael Palud with parishioner. Mandeville Diocesan photo

incorporation in the Society. In choosing this lifestyle they pledge to "share the joys and anguishes of their apostolate in a spirit of true fraternity. They help each other through the link of fraternal charity to grow in perfection. While not all might feel called to profess the private vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience, all members live in perfect continence, simplicity of life and obedience to their superiors in virtue of their incorporation in the Society."

Patron Saints: A Missionary Spirituality for this New Foreign Mission Society

The Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary have entrusted their spirituality to the Mother of Jesus. As Mary brought Jesus into the World and brings us to Jesus so these men model their spirituality on the Blessed Mother. The Founder being none else than Bishop Boyle, it was only natural that Saint Paul of the Cross, patron saint of our Cathedral, the great preacher of "popular missions" of the 18th century, be chosen as secondary patron of the new Society making of it a spiritual branch of the world wide Passionist "family." Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus were chosen as special protectors of the new institute as well as Saint Vincent Strambi, the patron saint of the parish where the Foreign Mission Society has been founded. For prayer the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary have chosen a white Benedictine-style habit with the Passionist leather belt and rosary indicating their Consecration to the Blessed Mother.

The First Members

1. The Founder

Bishop Paul Boyle, our beloved Pastor, is the Founder of the new Society. As such he is also the Ecclesial Superior of the Institute. We are all well acquainted with him as he has been truly our "father" for the past decade, working as the Apostolic Vicar of Mandeville then being appointed by the Pope as FIRST BISHOP of our Diocese. We wish to congratulate him for this new Society he has given to Jamaica and the Caribbean.

2. The Prior

The Prior of the first Brotherhood and "Prior General" acting on behalf of the Bishop is the Vicar General of our Diocese, Father Michael Palud. Most of us are familiar with him having seen him at various diocesan functions or filling in for priests gone on holidays. Who is this priest L a t h e r Michael is o r i g i n a l l y from western Canada. He has been a priest for 15 years and has had world wide experience in vocation work and formation to the priesthood. He has specialized in Canon Law in Rome and wrote a thesis on diocesan institutes of consecrated life that was published in 1992.



3. The Sub-prior

The Sub-prior of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is Brother Brad Smith. Brother Brad, an American from Sorgho, Kentucky, known in Bull Savannah as "Bredda Brad" is the Vice-Principal of Saint Vincent Strambi High School. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Saint Thomas in Rome (the "Angelicum") and has been actively involved in youth ministry since his arrival in Jamaica. He was at the Youth Rally in Curacao and is also a beloved math teacher !

4. The Bursar

Brother Raymond Sorin came to Jamaica as a Volunteer Teacher after his graduation from the University of Manitoba in Canada. He fell in love with our Island and realized a dream he had nurtured since his youth: to be a missionary all his life. He was elected as bursar of the new Institute.

5. The Guest-Master and Vocations Director

Father Samuel Alloggia, originally from Paris, France, but of Italian origin, has been with us almost since the inception of the Vicariate. Holding a Master's Degree from the Angelicum in Rome, he came to Jamaica and worked in the teaching field at Manchester High and Bishop Gibson High. Later he taught at Saint Vincent Strambi and now is in his third year as Principal of the Saint Vincent Strambi High School. A gifted musician who studied at the Conservatory in Paris, Father Sam has graced our Diocese with his talent, making his violin sing at our diocesan celebrations. Deeply interested in mission work, he has been involved in our diocesan Pontifical Mission Societies. Father Alloggia is the Guest Master and Vocations Director of the new Society.

6. Home-grown 4Don Bosco5

Anyone who knows Father Roland Dessine, our French Missionary who learned English in Jamaica, knows that he has a special charism: the care of children. Some years ago, he felt inspired to begin a Children's home and, encouraged by the Bishop set the base for what would become the first diocesan children's home later directed by the Daughters of Mary. Since July he is the full-time Director of Our Lady of Hope Children's Home in Black River. The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi will be coming shortly to give him a hand. Father also ably handles the pastorship of the Saint Vincent Strambi Church Community in Bull Savannah. May the Lord bless him in his numerous responsibilities.

Interested in Joining the Society 7

Naturally, this Society of Apostolic life is open to new members and hopes to attract Jamaican vocations who would be ready for a life of adventure as missionaries. Any one, lay or cleric, wishing to join this venture can contact Father Samuel Alloggia, FMSM at: 995-8564 or 607-8016.

E-mail: mikepal@infochan.com or mitchfmsm@netscape.net.

Support of our help and prayers

We wish to assure the members of the FMSMs of our prayerful support and help as they shoulder this charge the Church has given to them. We want to thank them for having chosen under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to dedicate the rest of their lives to mission work and pray that God may send to them many vocations.

Go with God and may Our Lord bless all of you !

"I Am a Missionary."

Mr. Vanessa Calvin and Mrs. Diane Fukersaon's first grade class at Holy Angels in Sorgho was visited by Sister Chris Beckett from theGlenmary Sisters on November 19. Sr. Chris presented each child with a sticker that read "I am a missionary" as part of a service project.

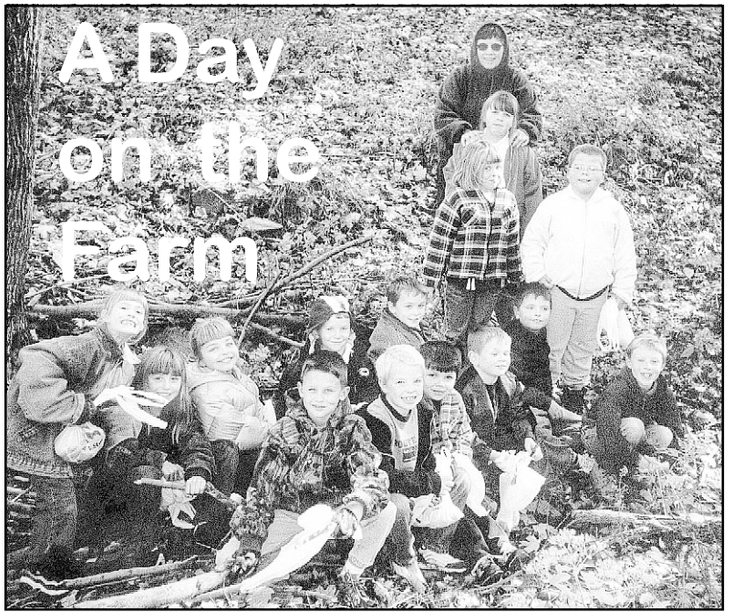
The children brought in shoeboxes and filled these boxces with items such as gloves, hats, pencils, toys, toothbrushes, toothpaste and school supplies. The boxes were then wrapped and decorated. The Glenmary Sisters then distributed them to needy children.

As a school, the Holy Angels children gave their can goods that were collected at Thanksgiving to the sisters also.

The first grade visited the Hermitage Nursing Home on Monday, December 10. Each made a Christmas card to give to a resident and sang carols.



Children of Holy Angels School in Sorgho are all smiles as they pose with Sister Chris Beckett of the Glenmary Sisters. Photo submitted by Holy Angels.



A DAY ON THE FARM--St. Romuald Second Graders on a field trip at the farm of Joe and Betty Payne in Breckinridge Co. Submitted by Valarie Buckman, Development Director

During October, the second grade class at St. Romuald Interparochial School from Hardinsburg, Ky., took a field trip to the farm of Joe and Betty Payne. The class had been studying "the woods" in Science class.

Accompanied by some of their parents, the children saw different kinds of trees, gathered hickory nuts and, walnuts and toured a hog house and crossed a creek by walking across a log. They hunted for gourds and went on a wagon ride around the farm. All those activities helped the sutdents work up an appetite for the ice-cream and cookies they enjoyed before returning to school.

The students who spent a day at the farm were: Rebecca Garrett, Hannah Gedling, Kendall Jarboe, Katie Anderson, Logan Payne, Curtis Carwile, Jordan Poole, Bryce Glasscock, Jack Medley, Brandon Henning, Josh Bowlds, Todd Lasley, Nicole Campe and Robby Alexander. Betty Payne is their teacher.

The National Catholic Youth Choir

at St. John's Abbey and University

Spreading theCatholic Faith Through Great Music

The National Catholic Youth Choir is accepting applications for its second season - June 23-July 11, 2002. This choir, directed by Dr. Axel Theimer, is open to Catholic students entering grades 10, 11, and 12 and is held on the beautiful wooded campus of St. John's Abbey and University in central Minnesota. Students are accepted on the basis of their application and audition tape. For the entire camp there is a special price of $450 that includes both room and board. Curriculum includes intensive daily choral rehearsal of classical literature, and daily music and religion classes. Applications are due March 15, 2001. Contact for information and application materials: Michelle Plombon, St. John's University, School of Theology, Collegeville, MN 56321. Telephone number: 320.363.2062,
FAX: 320.363.2614,
Email: mplombon@csbsju.edu
Website: http://www.CatholicYouthChoir.org

Adoption is an Option!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES/DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

***Free pregnancy counseling *Your choice of adoptive parents * Assistance with prenatal care * Open Adoption * Confidentiality assured!**

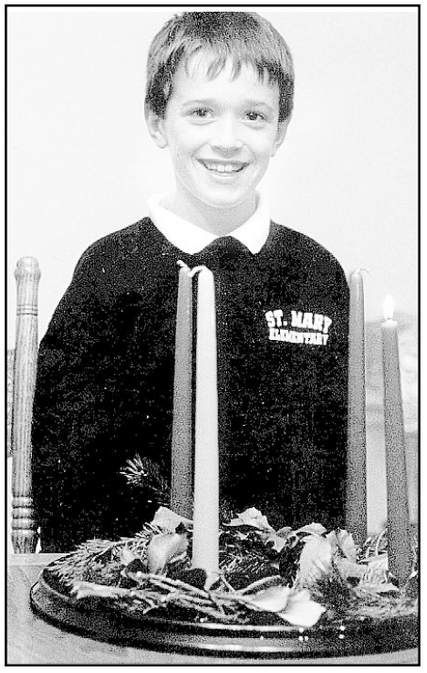
Call 270.683.1545, ext. 128. Toll Free: 1-877-803-5064

St. Thomas More's Advent Wreath Party

Submitted by Debbie Bray

The annual Advent Wreath Making party was held at St. Thomas More in Paducah on Dec. 2nd with approximately 125 in attendance. The Summerall family generously donated the wreath making materials. Parishioners brought fresh greenery clippings from their yards for the wreaths and were given an Advent book of prayers to use with their families at home. Extra Wreaths were also made after the 11:00 a.m. Mass and lunch was catered by Fazoli's Restaurant.

Featured in the photo is Joey Bray standing next to an Advent wreath he made.



Paducah Life Teen's Homeless Night



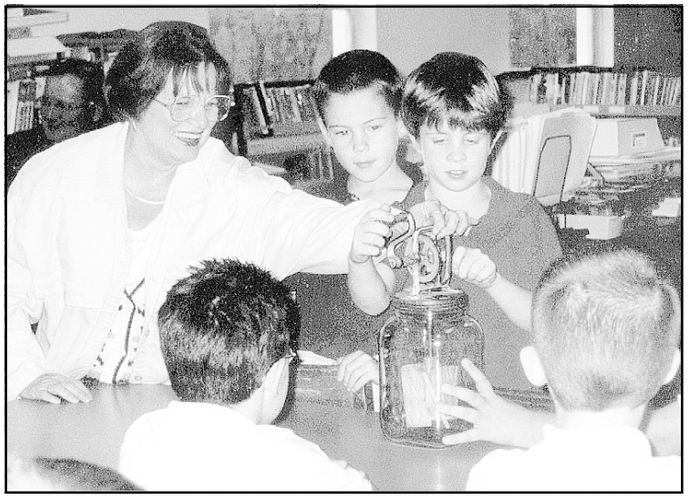
By Eddie Grant

On November 17, Paducah Life Teen held their second annual Shantytown, a night in the elements to benefit the homeless. Over 60 teens and 10 adults from St. Francis de Sales, St. Thomas More, Rosary Chapel and St. John's parishes spent the night i n cardboard boxes or just i n sleeping bags o n the lawn at St. Francis de Sales. The night was not all fun and games, however, the teens spent the bulk of the time panhandling for donations before and after each of the Masses at St. Francis de Sales and Rosary Chapel and on nearby street corners.

There weren't any gourmet meals for the teens either. In true soup kitchen style, the teens' dinner consisted of a choice between chicken noodle or vegetable soup, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Over the course of the 20 hour long experience, the teens were visited by many curious passersby, some of which were, in some cases, homeless themselves, many of which appreciated what the teens were doing on their behalf. Also, *as* a bonus for the teens, the clear crisp winter night offered a special show, the Leonids meteor shower which the teens watched excitedly; some of them were seeing the "shooting stars" for the first time. After the long chilly night, the teens were treated to a breakfast of oatmeal and donuts. The teens then did some more panhandling before going home after the 11:30 Mass. When all of the donations were counted, the teens had collected $1200, which was distributed among local charities.

Parents,Grandparents Teach Artifacts

Submitted by Valerie Buckman, Development Director for St. Romuald Interparochial School, Hardinsburg



Patsy Oeize shows students how to use a butter churn. Submitted photo

HARDINSBURG,Ky. - Third graders at St. Romuald Interparochial School watched presentations given by some of their parents and grandparents last week. The class has been studying "artifacts"' as part of their Social Studies curriculum. Their teacher, Ms. Modella Mattingly, describes "artifacts" as " any thing made and used by humans of the past." She adds that "the things we are using now will be artifacts in the future."

Everyone who brought an item talked about what its' purpose was. Among the items displayed were arrowheads, a butter churn, a washboard, lye soap and how it was made, an iron form for repairing shoes, a blow torch, a 78 rpm record album, a cow's horn hollowed so it would make noise if blown into, a clothes iron that had to be heated on a stove, a pick axe, a plane for making wagon wheel spokes, a 70-year-old teddy bear and an ink bottle used to fill fountain pens.

Students watched Mrs. Patsy Oeize demonstrate how butter is made using a butter churn.

Catholic Schools Nurture The Faith Choice

HENDERSON,Ky. - Faith is a choice and a Catholic School is a place which nurtures it. This is why the Catholic Community of Henderson so strongly supports religious education, including a Catholic School.

Holy Name School's Annual Grandparents' Mass and Lunch was held Nov. 21, 2001, in the school gym. The theme was a special salute to our Grandparents. The flag was made of the handprints from all 607 students' handprints at Holy Name Elemantary. Over 1,300 students and Grandparents celebrated the day.



Grandparents Bobby Joe and Betty Christian with Grandparets Malcolm and Betty Farley carry the gifts at the offertory of the school Mass Nov. 21, 2001. HN photo



In photo at right, Outstanding Grandparents! Pat Workins, left, and Dean Bobo receive the First Annual Grandparent Volunteer Award from Daryl Hagan, Principal HN photo

Learning To Answer Those Tough Questions



Fr. Louis Giardiola, second from left, teaches a class in apologetics at Sacred Heart Church in Russellville on Monday nights. Deborah Plummer photo

By Deborah Plummer

RUSSELLVILLE,Ky. - Apologetics Class taught by Fr. Louis Guardiola at the Sacred Heart Parish Center here is teaching 16 Catholics from Sacred Heart Parish how to answer some of those tough questions which people have about the Church.

The class studies a series of books entitled Beginning Apologetics; each booklet focuses on a different subject. The book for the above class was "How To Answer Tough Moral Questions" dealing with such topics as abortion, contraception, euthanasia, test tube babies, cloning, and sexual ethics.

Fr. Louis also prepares handouts for study and presents insights from Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other reference books.

Your Catholic Wedding Checklist

Submitted by Betty Medley/Family Life Office

Planning the perfect wedding is a job that requires advance thought, and the diocese of Owensboro requires a six-month engagement period for couples to reflect prayerfully on their relationships and their readiness for marriage.

Here is a checklist for your Catholic Wedding:

* Immediately after making the decision to marry, you should visit your parish priest to make arrangements for sessions.
* Discuss with the priest any special circumstances that might affect your marriage.
* Complete a premarital inventory, a series of written questions responded to by the couples separately. The priest will analyze the results, which will help assess your readiness for marriage.
* The priest will discuss the premarital inventory with you and review the strengths and weaknesses of your communication process. Presuming you are ready to go forward, you can begin making your liturgical wedding plans.
* Decide on a marriage preparation program, depending upon your circumstances:

• **Engaged Encounter** (for couples entering marriage for the first time)

• **Sponsor Couple Program** (for couples marrying for the first time, which takes place in a married couple's home and usually is one night a week for a four-to six-week period)

• **Re-Marriage Preparation**(Once More W/Love Program for couples seeking the marriage after a previous marriage was terminated by death or divorce)

The priest working with you can direct you. If you would like further information on these programs, you may contact the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. at (270) 683-1545.

Two Parishes Experience Community Through Mission

By Eula Johnson, S.C.N.

Members of St. Lawrence and St. William parish communities shared an Advent mission Dec. 8-12 presented by Fr. Eric Riley, Assoc. Pastor of Blessed Mother Church, Owensboro. Many who accompanied Fr. Riley on pilgrimage to Guadalupe in November continued their spiritual journey.



The mission participants shared a pot luck supper, music, fellowship as they focused on family, community, reconciliation and Eucharist.

Fr. Riley will return for a Lenten mission.





St. Lawrence and St. William parishioners enjoyed a pot luck supper at start of the Advent Mission. At right, carolers from the parishes sang for residents at Bishop Soenneker Home. Submitted photos

A Gift of Giving

At left, Chase Buck, grade 3 in the Religious Education program at Precious Blood Church in Owensboro, holds an envelope with money he wants to be given to nursing homes. This was an act he did on his own. Truly, an act of giving. On the envelope is written "I will be giving money to the nursing home every week, OK? Prize - $2.58." Precious Blood Church photo

Opening Our Home To Young Man Looking For Work Was A Rare Experience

By Joan Emberton

BOWLING GREEN,Ky. - As we become mature adults we appreciate the many experiences that have formed our lives. Having raised five children, my husband and I have had many of those experiences.

Last year we met a young man from the Republic of Georgia who was here in Bowling Green. We were very impressed with his courage and his dream of a better life for his family. He spoke little English but was never without his dictionary and a great eagerness to learn.

Georgia is one of the breakaway countries that had once been Russia. Living conditions and quality of life are almost unspeakable there. Considering his needs, we invited him to live with us for the length of his visa. Physically he stayed in our home for several months and will stay in our hearts forever. He missed his wife and daughter a great deal and talked at length about them. He has been educated as a civil engineer but has no opportunity to work in his country.

Sitting in my kitchen with me while I used my electric stove and microwave with running water at my fingertips, he was in awe of our conveniences. On a good day they may get two hours of electricity. He compared it to America 200 years ago. With just $300 and about 20 words of English he showed amazing courage in leaving his family and country to come to America - the driving force always to provide a future for his family.

Our parish priest spoke one Sunday about how we must step out of our box, take risks and reach out to each other. This concept was clear in the actions of this young man. We, in turn, stepped out when we offered to help him. Little did we know the many blessings and lessons we would receive from this young man in our lives.

God sent him on a long journey from Russia to Georgia to New York to Lexington and then to Bowling Green and our home. We feel there are reasons for this journey.

Our family and parish friends raised money so he could return to his family as his visa expired. The corruption in his country is widespread so funds would be necessary to survive and perhaps find someone who could help get him the freedom he so desires.



Anna, Elaine and Alec. Alec, a civil engineer from the Republic of Georgia, is trying to find a way to immigrate to this country to build a life for his family. Submitted photo

Meanwhile, our family has been changed forever due to the experience with this young man. He refers to us as his "American parents," and we are very complimented by that.

All the warm people in Bowling Green that touched his life greatly impressed him. He could not believe that they were so generous! In his country they were led to think that all Americans were rich and had no morals. That way they would not want to leave Russia and come here for a better life.

A year has passed since his return to his country and we miss him every day. We talk often and he is totally optimistic about his return to America and our home. We have written and called many politicians to help us but to no avail.

Our country grew from the mixed backgrounds of all immigrants, however, the system of coming into America is very difficult. A message board on a local church recently said "God's delays are not necessarily his denials."

With that thought in our hearts and constant praver for guidance to help this young man and his famiy, we remain always optimistic. God sent him on this journey to our home and we experienced again something special in our lives.

Joan Emberton ia a parishioner at Holy Spirit Church in Bowling Green, Ky.

A Different Experience of Immigration...

St. Joseph Hosts Colonial Days Trade Fair

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Mrs. Betty Anne Watt and Mrs. Jennifer McElwain's 4th Grade classes at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, Ky. hosted a "Colonial Days Trade Fair" on Monday, November 19, 2001. The classes learned about the Colonial Days through the study of the Northeast Region in Social Studies. The students also read the "Mayflower Adventure," a story of the pilgrims from Holland who traveled on the Mayflower to the New World.

Through the study of the hardships these people faced, the starting of the first settlements, and the necessities of life in the colonies, the students learned about the different trades of the first settlers. The students brought props, wrote scripts and dressed in costume for the different trades.

The students were Chandlers, who made the candles and soaps, Barbers, who cut the men's hair and offered baths to the men, Blacksmiths, who made tools and toys, Goldsmiths who made jewelry and even filled teeth with gold, General Store Merchants who sold everything the pilgrims needed, and the Limners who were portrait artists. Many other trades were represented and the students learned a lot from the experience.

"St. John the Evangelist Family News"



By Richard Durbin

As I start this column I can't help commenting on the beauty of this day, Jan. 12, 2002. It is such a nice day and, to think, January is almost half gone.

We offer condolences to Alberta Wurth who lost her sister, Mary Dunn and her brother, Lewis Gunn in December. Also to the Family of Firman Wurth, 93, a life-long member of St. John who died in December.

I'll remind you if you have anything for the Church bulletin, the deadline is noon on Wednesday. The "Giving Tree" which was a first at St. John was well received, and a truck load of gifts found their way to the tree, which went to help those in need so they could have a Merry Christmas. Thanks to all who gave gifts and helped in any way; our Parish and the Sisters were grateful.

Father Bruce McCarty also said thanks to those who sent cards and gave gifts to him for Christmas. A New Year's Eve Dance was held at the St. John K of C Hall and it was a big success. Music was presented by the Cruisers from 8:30 to 12:30 and then Breakfast was served by the K of C men. Thanks to those men who prepared and served that breakfast. The Knights of Columbus at St. John will be having their annual Fish Fries starting the 1st Friday in Lent. They will again feature the best fish, hush puppies, slaw, potatoes baked or fries, and the drink of your choice. The cooking will be done at the hall facilities but will be served at the gym at St John School .

The Paducah Cooperative Ministry really appreciated the food donated to them by St. John Church. "We were blessed to receive the grocery items," said Heidi Suhrheinrich, "it keeps us going." The St. John Youth Group along with the leaders and Fr. Bruce say thanks to every one who helped make possible the trip to Indianapolis for the National Catholic Youth Conference, where 215 young people from the Owensboro Diocese met young Catholics from Central America for prayer and a Spiritual renewal, December 6 through 9. A total of 24,000 attended the Conference.

A 5 day Pilgrimage to Guadalupe, Mexico will be September 12-16 with Frs. Ken Mikulcik and Richard Meredith as leaders. Total cost is $1,099.00 which includes 2 meals per day, hotel, air fare, tips and admission fees. For more info call 926-7694.

Anniversaries— Mr. & Mrs. John Durbin, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lindley, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Crider, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wurth, Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Gardner, Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Wheat, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Weitlauf, Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Haas, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Poat and Mr. & Mrs. David Scheer.

An appreciation Dinner for all members of the St. John Knights of Columbus and their Wives was held in the Knights Hall on Sunday January 27. Don't forget the Bingo games that are held at the St. John Knights of Columbus Hall each Thursday and Friday. Income from these games goes toward paying for the facilities and a large portion goes to charity to help the poor and needy.

Someone once said; "We have 35 million laws trying to enforce the 10 Commandments."

SUNDAY'S FOR THE FAMILY

Submitted By Betty Medley-Family Life Office
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
February 3, 2002
Luke 4:21-30
Theme: We Are Called To Be Prophetic People
Family Life: A prophet's role is to call persons to accountability: Can one spouse challenge the other on an apparent problem with alcohol? Can a child question a parent as to an apparent lack of attention or time at home together? Can a teenager be called to responsibility in regards to his/her dating practices? These are the "tough-love" questions that families must deal with each day.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
February 10, 2002
Luke 5:1-11
Theme: When We Fall, We Rise
Family Life: Every week I swear it's going to be different. I'm going to do all the things my wife wants me to do. I'll make sure I'm not so tired next weekend so I can play with the kids. I'll be a positive force around the house. But then by the time the next weekend rolls around, I'm out of sorts, and by the end of the weekend I'm disappointed in myself that I've messed up again."
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 17, 2002
Luke 4:1-13
THEME: Education of Children
Family Life: My children have been baptized, received First Communion, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Confirmation. I take comfort in this; I've done my job. My daughter phones home from college. She is miserable about failing in her major. I reassure her that God has a purpose for her and encourage her to pray with a listening heart. "Mom", she said, "Don't you know my most fervent prayers right now are when I talk to you?" For a moment I am stunned by the impact of her words. In a flash of insight, I recognize the grace of the "intimate communion of life and love"....in action!
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 24, 2002
Luke 9:28-36
Theme: Transforming Power of Prayer
Family Life: My dad and I sit in the doctor's office, waiting to hear the updated prognosis on his advancing cancer. On the radio I hear the words of a song, "You'll never love someone, you'll never love someone, the way I love you". I lose myself for a moment in the experience of love for him and feel God's calming presence come over me. Isn't it odd how the most vivid experiences of hope and peace come in sharp contrast to context of loss and hopelessness?

Parish Picnic Chairpersons

By Mel Howard

The Western Kentucky Catholic prints the Diocesan Picnic Schedule in April and again in May. Please be aware that if you have a change in time or day for your parish/school picnic to call Lisa Gardner at 1-270-683-1545 so we can get this schedule correct.

Many Western Kentuckians use the picnic schedule to plan vacations, class reunions, family gatherings and to plan which picnics they can atttend.

Help us all out,guys. Get your time and dates set early so that when we call your parish secretary for the date and time of your parish picnic, we'll all get it right. Thanks for your help

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries for February

St. Paul, Leitchfield
William & Rita Allen, 25 years
St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers
John & Anne Bradshaw, 50 years
Donald & JoAnn Wardynski, 51 years
St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
Thomas & Geraldine Grooms, 55 years
Wm. Henry & Ann Neel, 60 years
Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Harold & Anne Clark, 50 years
Anthony & Mary Brown, 56 years
Russell & Marjorie Hayden, 53 years
Wilbur & Mary Jones, 60 years
Dennis & Betty Keller, 55 years
Paul & Joan Edge, 51 years
St. Paul, Princeton
Tom & Anne Harris, 60 years
St. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Ken & Mary Ann Masters, 25 years
Jim & Jackie Mann, 40 years
William & Katherine Thomas, 51 years
William & Irene Tichenor, 57 years
Henry Leo & Kathleen Wedding, 55 years
St. Thomas More, Paducah
Tom & Mary Francis Galvin, 52 years
Bernard & Lovetta Whalen, 50 years
St. Martin, Rome
Mr & Mrs William Schrecker, 40 years
Mr & Mrs William Shelton, 51 years
Mr & Mrs Bernard Payne, 65 years
Holy Name, Henderson
James & Isabelle Braddock, 53 years
James & Aileen Willett, 62 years
George & Rebecca Hartmire, 25 years
St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
James & Dorothy Calhoun, 56 years
Marion & Maxine Cecil, 59 years
St. Paul,Princeton,
Bob and Pat Hayes, 25 years
Tom and Anne Harris, 60 years
St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro
Mr & Mrs Wayne Tipton, Sr. 62 years
St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
John & Jean Carpenter, 59 years
Tom & Colene Jennings, 55 years
Paul & Kay Meisenhelder, 55 years
Immaculate, Owensboro
John & Charles Etta Conkright, 54 years
Richard & Degborah Latanzio, 59 years
Earl & Betty Wells, 58 years
Precious Blood, Owensboro
Tom & Dora Higdon, 61 years
St. Ann, Morganfield
Mr & Mrs Franklin Hancock, 54 years
Mr & Mrs Joe Henshaw, 56 years
Mr & Mrs Faust Simpson, 55 years
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
John & Geneva Glasscock, 52 years
St. Stephen, Cadiz
Mjohn & Megdalen Weaver, 55 years
Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Dr. & Mrs John Banasiewicz, 59 years
Mr & Mrs Clayton Nosbusch, 55 years
St. Peter, Waverly
Mr & Mrs Charles Brown, 62 years
Sts. Mary & James, Guthrie
Harley & Betty Fletcher, 66 years
St. Joseph, Mayfield
Robert & Rose Coplen, 51 years
Albert & Tressa Hayden, 54 yearss
Ned & Margaret Moore, 54 yearss
St. Agnes, Uniontown
Geroge & Janice Thompson, 53 years
St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Mr & Mrs Charles B. Hayden, 56 years
Mr & Mrs Harold Carrico, 61 years
St. Columba, Lewisport
Harmon & Martha Long, 53 years
Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Glenn & Alta Stenn, 50 years

Serra Club To Sponsor Vocations Essay Contest

The Serra Club of Owensboro is sponsoring an essay contest on the subject of religious vocations; the topic is "Why would God call me to a religious vocation?"

The contest is open to all students in grades 7-12 attending Catholic Schools in Daviess County. The competition will be by grade level. Each participating school will determine the best essays submitted by class. A maximum of three from each class can be submitted for judging.

The essays will be finally judged by a panel with Fr. Joe Mills, Serra Chaplain, who will determine winners and runners-up.

The essays must be typed and of appriximately 250 words in length. Forward the essays to Fr. Joe Mills, Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Ky. 42301 before March 1, 2002.

Each first place winner will receive $50; second place winers freceive $25.

Essays will be read by authors at Serra noon luncheon on March 3, 2002 at Settle Memorial Church building, corner of 4th and Daviess Sts., Owensboro.

For information, contact Marti Castlen, 1-270-683-9627.

Tridentine Mass Celebrated At St. Francis de Sales

By Randy Shelby

PADUCAH,Ky. - Out of concern and compassion for the faithful, Pope John Paul II gave permission in 1984 for the offering of the Tridentine Mass with approval of the local bishop. The Tridentine Mass is the traditional Mass that was offered around the world prior to the Second Vatican Council.

A Tridentine Mass was celebrated on Sunday afternoon, November 25, Christ the King Sunday, at St. Francis de Sales Church in Paducah.

Fr. Gregory Arflack, Parochial Vicar at St. Francis de Sales, one of two priests in the Owensboro Diocese authorized to celebrate the Tridentine Mass, was the celebrant. Fr. Larry McBride, Pastor at St. Francis de Sales, and Fr. Eric Riley, Parochial Vicar at Our Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro, assisted. Fr. Riley was the homilist.

As a convert, I had not had the opportunity to attend a Tridentine Mass before. I knew Masses in Latin were said from time to time in other places. I had never really given much thought to try to attend one. I wasn't sure they were even relevant. Was I ever wrong.

When Fr. Gregory asked me to be an altar server for this Mass, I first thought I'd never be able to learn the Latin responses. Learning to read Latin is one thing, learning to speak Latin (with a southern accent no less) is another. I recruited Kenton Pope who speaks Spanish fluently to help out. He agreed to also be an altar server which took the pressure off me to have to say the responses alone.

The choir, directed by Doug Arnold, did a superb job singing the Gregorian Chant. It was some of the most beautiful music I have ever heard. Just knowing this was the same Mass that was offered for hundreds of years made it so special. It also made me appreciate that much more, the Mass we currently are used to celebrating.

Approximately 120 worshippers gathered from parishes throughout the Paducah Deanery to participate in this special sacrifice of the Mass.

I am so thankful Bishop John McRaith granted Fr. Arflack the induit to celebrate the Tridentine Mass. Most converts to the Faith and most younger Catholics brought up in the Faith have never prayed a Tridentine Mass. While I would not want to turn the clock back and have Latin Masses everyday, I very much appreciate experiencing the richness of this Ancient Rite.

Next year Tridentine Masses are scheduled at St. Francis de Sales on the following feast days: Epiphany, Jan. 6; Pentecost, May 19; and Corpus Christi, June 22.

As a member of St. Francis de Sales, I would like to personally invite the faithful throughout the Diocese of Owensboro to come celebrate the Tridentine Mass with us on these feast days.

Laudate Dominum--*Praise the Lord.*

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The International Reading Association and Book Adventure has done the library work for every parent. Their website offers a quarterly, age-appropriate guide to books that children will enjoy. No Superman comics here. Both classic titles, like Charlotte's Web, and new titles appear by age group. Go to www.bookadventure.org, explore their offerings, make your choice, then flip to amazon.com for your order. All this during football commercials. E-M

A preferential option for the poor who do not have computers would suggest that those Catholic Christians who do have computers can teach poor families to find good books by inviting a family who doesn't have a computer to the house and show them how to access this website. E-Mier.

□ource for this article was ***Reflect***, *A Christian newsletter dedicated to service to the poor, Christmas, , . . 1, from Pro□ect R e f l e c t , 6 a s h v i l l e , T 6 . www.pro□ectreflect.org*

Retrouvaille Couples know all about 'Ground Zero'

KANSAS CITY, MO--(CNS)--The hope and dealing that Retrouvaille ministers bring to couples in hurting marriages is vitally needed in a world still reeling from the Sept. 11 attacks, Fr. Daniel F. Schlegel told more than 1,000 Retrouvaille chaplains and lay ministers at Retrouvaille's recent convention.

The priest said Retrouvaille ministry demonstrates that nothing is hopeless. The ministry, devoted to helping couples in troubled marriages, draws its name from the French word for rediscovery.

"When all seems hopeless, when destruction seems so complete, our God calls people of faith into service," said Fr. Schlege, a Retrouvaille chaplain in Rocky River, Ohio.

Father Schlegel told the Retrouvaille lay ministers, whose own troubled marriages had been saved by the unique ministry, that their own survival through the pain of a marriage on the brink of collapse stands as a beacon of hope.

"It is precisely into hopelessness and heartache that the people of Retrouvaille are sent," he said. "You know the pain. But you say, IIt's not too late. We've been there. We understand.' By sharing your stories, you send a message of hope and promise."

Father Schlegel said newscasts and newspapers since the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania have been filled with images and stories of heroes --ordinary people giving their lives to save others, rescue workers and charity workers toiling endlessly through the rubble of the World Trade Center Towers in New York. Likewise, the ministers of Retrouvaille wade into marriages on the verge of collapse.

"You've been to IGround M-ero.' You know what it takes," he said. "It is not easy, but your willingness and courage to do so gives hope. Our world needs your witness. We need your stories more than ever before. Your marriages have shown us the power of the journey that leads from the cross to glory."

For more information on Retrouvaille contact Tom or □aren Heilers at , □ . □0□.12□□ or heilersoky□ aol.com

□rgent □ction Needed on Juvenile □ill

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It is urgent that all readers contact House Majority Floor Leader, Rep. Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, as soon as possible.

On Saturday, December 8c the Courier-Journal reported that he doesn't find a great deal of support for passing a bill ending the death penalty for juveniles. He said, "My sense is there is overwhelming support for keeping the death penalty as it is."

Stumbo implied that legislators do not want to go out on a limb: "Most of us in public office try to be viewed as being tough on crime," he said. "This will be one of those bills that neither chamber wants to be the first to pass...Overall, I don't think it's insurmountable, but I think it will be a difficult task to get enough votes in both chambers."

The article notes that Stumbo is considering running for the Office of Attorney General. Therefore, he should be listening not only to his House district (District 95) constituents, but to all Kentuckians.

When you contact him, there are several important points to make. First of all, even without the death penalty, the punishments for a 16-or 17- year old convicted killer would be severe. Under the proposed legislation, the jury can impose a sentence of life-without parole for 25 years, or life, or a term of 50 years. The jury can add another 20 years to each of the above to be served after completing the first sentence. A violent offender must serve 85O of a sentence before the parole board will see him.

Let Rep. Stumbo know that a juvenile given a 70-year sentence will not see a parole board before the age of 75, 59.9 long years of loss of freedom, and may still not be paroled. If the parole board denies him, the youthful offender will be 86 or 87 when released from prison. This is not soft on crime.

Secondly, the University of Kentucky reported in The Spring 2000 Kentucky Survey that almost all Kentuckians (79.5O) believe that juveniles should not be executed. Only 15.5O believe that death is the most appropriate penalty for a juvenile convicted of an aggravated murder.

Because Stumbo is powerful and influential with other legislators, your contact with him is of the utmost importance.

Contact at: Rep. Greg Stumbo, 587, N. Lake Dr., PO Box 511, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Phone: 606.886.1515 (office), Frankfort: 502.564.7460. www.kcadp.org/pdfO 20files/Juvenile.pdf.

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Living The Sacraments: The Catholic Woman's Role

"When the Parish Mission Asked… 'Who is Jesus to YOU?'"

By Pat S. Smith

When I first moved into my new neighborhood on September 30, 1998, I thought I knew only two things about my new neighbor, Margaret: that she was Catholic and elderly. Well, I was correct on the former and much misinformed on the latter. Within a few short months, I learned many other things about Margaret…and about neighborly love, Christian love and Catholicity. Margaret became to my small family, and me, at first a good neighbor, then somewhat of a "Mom" figure, and finally she became like Jesus to us.

Now 77 years old, Margaret was widowed over 30 years ago when her husband, Moye, died of a massive heart attack. Left behind for Margaret was the loving task of being both mother and father to Jane, Beverly, Peggy, Norma, and Tina. Peggy was scheduled to be married just a week after her Dad's funeral and although she wanted to postpone the wedding, Margaret insisted that Dad would want her to go on with the wedding. She and Vic were married at the Newman Center on the campus of Western Ky University on May 22, 1971.

After the wedding things started to get back a little to normal for Margaret, if there is such as thing as "normalcy" after losing your one true mate that you vowed to love forever. "Many days I sat on the edge of my bed and watched the sun come up; couldn't sleep much in my grieving stage. I'd get up, get the girls ready for school and then get myself ready for work," she shared. She was becoming exhausted and starting to feel "sorry for myself" when once again the sun came up, and squaring her shoulders, she lectured herself, "Now Margaret, you can sit here and feel sorry for yourself or you can get up on go on living." And go on living she has! She began sleeping and enjoying life again…her daughters, God and her Church (Holy Spirit) and her crafts. Now "retired" she quipped, "People told me I would get bored. HA! I don't know what bored is," she said, putting the finishing touches on a stained glass bird bath she is making for a Christmas gift.

Speaking of Christmas, at first exchanging cards at Christmas and waving on our way out the door was about the extent of our relationship. Then things began to change for me. I had developed endometriosis, which is a very painful and chronic condition but was afraid of the surgery the doctor prescribed. One winter day in mid-December I left work in such severe pain I couldn't move off the bed. When my spouse came home from work, I was crying. After several minutes of trying to reason me into having the surgery, he left the house in frustration. I thought he was angry, but he returned quickly with Margaret at his side. Margaret sat down on the bed with me and began rubbing my feet. "You can't go on like this," she said. "You need to call the doctor. Don't be afraid. You have to call on your faith." Her story was much longer, but when she left, I was much better. I called the doctor the next day and scheduled my surgery. A few days after Christmas, after traveling to see Fr. Jerry Calhoun in Paducah to receive "anointing," I had my surgery. Lying there awaiting the anesthesia I so feared, I felt calm. Even if I did die, I thought, everything would be ok. Afterward, at home the next day, Margaret stayed with me all day, fixing toast and anything I felt like I could eat. That night my family was treated to her wonderful chicken casserole.

I am one of several people that this amazing, petite, white-haired "young" elderly lady gifts with her soothing words and her Corporal Works of Mercy. She has many friends she takes to appointments in her little beige Volvo, tooling around Bowling Green with more confidence than I've ever possessed! And the strength she has….now that my surgery was over she shared how Beverly (whom I knew was deceased) had been diagnosed with throat cancer. Beverly did not die in a hospital or with a hospice worker. She went to her eternal rest peacefully in her Mother's house, nursed and nurtured constantly by her own special Mother, Margaret. Now it was again a time of grief and real heartfelt sorrow, for as we women and Moms know, we never expect to outlive our children.

When working late at the doctor's office, I would call Margaret if I couldn't reach



Margaret and her family

my son on the phone after school. When the electricity was cut off suddenly one evening (I forgot to pay the bill!) it was Margaret our son ran to and she quickly calmed his fears. As the months wore on, the phone calls and visits back and forth became frequent. Our little family watched enviously as her big family gathered often for holidays. My favorite one was when all the girls and their husbands came to Bowling Green for a huge Halloween party and they all dressed in costumes. Margaret was dressed as a "hippie" and we marveled at how cute she looked, along with all the others.

Slowly, we began to share each other's lives more and more. We were included in her granddaughter's "couples' shower," a Hawaiian luau in her backyard. Creative daughter Norma came down from Louisville and decorated the yard so skillfully that you actually FELT like you were in Hawaii. A couple of months later I made photos of the wedding at Holy Spirit. What a joyous, happy occasion as all of Margaret's children, most of her 8 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and all of her own siblings came to see Tina's only daughter, Natalie, wed. I loved photographing this big, happy family and felt like it was a little something I could contribute. Oh, and how beautiful the bridesmaids were dressed in their blue chiffon gowns, all hand-made with loving care by Margaret.

Margaret has never re-married. I don't think she could find the time, even if she had wanted to, I joke with her. In addition to caring for all the friends in her life, all her big, wonderful family and whomever else needs it (like me), she also volunteers at Holy Spirit, answering the phone and filing. One day a week she works at Greenview Hospital as a volunteer. When she is not "busy" counseling me, she is baking homemade breads, cooking pot roasts and making chicken salad and potato soup. She is often called upon to bring food for gatherings after funeral Masses or on happier occasions at Holy Spirit, like the recent Parish Mission in October.

Margaret and my family have shared many joyous occasions as well as some sad ones. The joyous ones include my son's Confirmation on June 3 and the inspiring letter that she wrote to him will always be treasured. The September 11th terrorist attacks, as well as a small tornado, were times we were comfort to each other. Recently, daughter Tina has learned she has several blocked arteries and will go into the hospital right after Thanksgiving for open-heart surgery. Once again her special Mother will be there waiting when she comes out of the OR, faithfully loving and praying for her as Our Blessed Mother did for her child, watching and waiting. We are praying with her and know there will be a happy ending.

Last fall, my mother-in-law died in Memphis, after a long illness. Then approached the holidays. Christmas would be especially hard, since now both my spouse and I were "parentless." But Margaret and her family would not let our Christmas be a sad one! We were invited to their Christmas Eve holiday dinner, with table abounding with the holiday fare specialties of each family member. There were gifts under the tree for us, too. Margaret had acquired another daughter and son-in-law. And a teenage grandson, too, to go along with her other four.

During the Parish Mission, Fr. Brett Hoover took the microphone and walked out into the audience. His question, "Who is Jesus to YOU?" Several people began raising their hands and giving their answers. Beside me, my husband raised his hand and while the priest reached over and he gave his testimony, I began to tremble. I have terrible stage fright, often sweating nervously just serving as Eucharistic Minister! But I had something to say to the large community of 250+ Catholics in our parish. "My neighbor, Margaret, has been JESUS to us! She has cared for us when we were sick, listened to our stories and been non-judgmental. My own Mom died in 1989 and Margaret has been like a real Mother to me," I said timidly into the mike.

Jesus Christ taught us many lessons in His short thirty-three years, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and "Whenever you have done to the least of these, you have done it unto Me," are just two of them. As a Catholic woman living the sacraments daily, Margaret has lived these Bible verses daily in her life. She has been a wonderful blessing to many here in Western Kentucky, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. She is a rock, a gentle lamb, a friend and neighbor. God bless you, Margaret, for all you are to all of us!!

Sitios de la Internet para la espiritualidad diaria.

P[illegible]

Si usted tiene un computadora en su casa o en su trabajo, la cual puedas usar para buscar informaciTn en la internet y usar el correo electrTnico, aqui te sugerimos unas direcciones para una espiritualidad diaria, mencionada en la ediciTn de CatTlicos de los Estados Unidos del 21 de octubre del 2001, en su historia frontal, " ganancias netas" CTmo la Internet esta cambiando la iglesia. Retiros en lUnea, correo electrTnico, peticiones, los monjes ciberneticos: Puede la espiritualidad catTlica sobrevivir a una generaciTn creciendo en una realidad virtual? RenRe M. LaReau revela la fuerza de la electrificaciTn del trabajo que conecta CatTlicos con la Internet. Encuentra estas sugerencias de direcciones Vtiles en www.uscatholic.org http://hmrc.claretianpubs.org/ es el Centro Hispanos de Recursos Claretianos. Otros recursos para personas de habla hispana estan conectadas a esta direcciTn.

He aqui algunas otras direcciones que encontramos: informaciTn sobre la Cuaresma: http://www.mcgill.pvt.k12.al.us/jerryd/cathmob.htm; para discusiones en grupos sobre la espiritualidadS work:e-mail GAPierceS aol.com para subscribirse; para el Catecismo de la Iglesia CatTlica www.christusrex.org/www1 cdhn/ccc/html;para rezar la liturgUa de la hora: www.universalis.com/cgi-bin/display/index.htm.

Lo siguiente es un artUculo que llegTal correo electrTnico en enero del 2002. Es presentado como ejemplo de cosas buenas en la cual catTlicos pueden encontrar en la Internet:

Apoyate en mi

" Confia en el Señor con todo tu corazón y no te apoyes solo en tus conocimientos" Proverbio 3:5.

P[illegible] att [illegible]y [illegible] h i tia ity [illegible] ay. [illegible]

En mi clase de primer grado en una escuela pVblica, algunos estudiantes estaban presentando problemas con el comportamiento. La otra maestra y yo nos reunimos para ver que podiamos hacer para mejorar esa situaciTn. Les quitamos el receso, llamamos a los padres. Un dUa cuando manejaba para el trabajo, comenze a rezar por mis niWos individualmente por sus nombres. Le pedi a Dios que me diera la sabidurUa necesaria para tratar a cada niWo de acuerdo a sus necesidades.

Algo interesante paso ese dUa. Los niWos no eran unos angeles perfectos QYue es divertido con todo esto? Pero se comportaban mucho mejor. Muchos respondieron a la disciplina con cambios en su comportamiento. Aun estudiantes con mayores dificultades comenzaron a verme como el adulto responsible quien cuida de ellos y quiere que tengan Rxito.

Yo creo que este cambia comenzo cuando deje que Dios guiara mis pensamientos y acciones durante el aWo escolar. Para un hombre como yo esto no es fZcil, aVn me encuentro a veces analizando mZs de lo debido en muchas situaciones. Pero estoy convencido que cualquiera que sean nuestra aventuras, deberZn ser exitosas, deberan comenzar, continuar, y terminar con una dependencia de Dios quien hablT todas las cosas dentro de una existencia.

QCTmo estZn? Estan apoyZndose en Dios, o estan manejando sus vidas propias? Si usted cree que puede manejar si vida sin Dios, cuidado. Cuando todo se derrrumba nunca sabras que te golpeo primero hasta cuando es muy tarde.

Fuente: ChristianityToday.com Connection, una carta semanal en el correo electrónico, 8 de enero de 2002.

We Sites or ver a S irit alit

By [illegible]

If you have a computer at home or work which you can use to find information on the Internet and use e-mail, here are some suggestions for useful web sites for everyday spirituality listed in an edition of *U.S Catholic*, October, 2001, in their cover stoiry, "Net gains: How the Internet is changing the church." Online retreats, e-mailed prayer petitions, cybermonks: Can Catholic spirituality survive a generation raised on virtual reality? RenRe M. LaReau reviews the electrifying forces at work connecting Catholics over the Internet. Find his suggestions of useful web sites at www.uscatholic.org. http://hmrc.claretianpubs.org/ is the Claretian Publication's Hispanic Ministry Resource Center.

Here's just a few from his list we tried when looking for information about Lent: http://www.mcgill.pvt.k12.al.us/jerryd/cathmob.htm; for a discussion group about SpiritualityS Work:E-mail GAPierceS aol.com to join; for the Catechism of the Catholic Church, www.christusrex.org/www1/cdhn/ccc.html; to pray the Liturgy of the Hours: www.universalis.com/cgi-bin/display/index.htm

Following is a brief article which came here to The Western Kentucky Catholic e-mail address in January, 2002. It is presented as a sample of good sources for Catholics on the internet:

Lean On Me

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

By att [illegible]y th h i tia ity [illegible] ay. [illegible]

In my public school class of first graders, some of the students were experiencing behavior problems. The other teacher and I were at our wits end trying to figure out what we could do to make our unruly students settle down. We took away recess, used time outs, and called parents.

Nothing seemed to work until I stopped and realized that I was relying on my own wisdom to improve the situation. As I drove to work the morning following a particularly trying day, I began to pray for my kids by name. I asked God to give me wisdom to deal with each child according to his or her particular needs. More importantly, I acknowledged that I had been trying to go it alone up to that point, and I repented.

An amazing thing happened that day. The kids weren't suddenly perfect angels — what's the fun in that? — but they were much better. Many responded to discipline with a change in behavior. Even some of the more difficult children began to see me as an adult who cared for them and wanted to them to succeed.

I believe this turnaround began when I began to trust God to guide my thoughts and actions during the school year. For a guy like me, that's not easy, and I still catch myself overanalyzing situations. But I am convinced that if our ventures, whatever they may be, are to succeed, they must begin, continue, and end in dependence upon the God who spoke all things into existence.

How are you doing? Are you leaning on God, or are you handling life on your own? If you think you're doing pretty well managing your life without God, watch out. When it all comes crashing down, you'll never know what hit you until it's too late.

Source: ChristianityToday.com Connection, a weekly newsletter on e-mail, January 8, 2002

An Appeal to Fellow Catholics in the Diocese of Owensboro

By [illegible]

OWENSBORO,Ky. - I write this article as an appeal to my Catholic brothers and sisters in the Diocese. It is no secret that I am and have been very active in Hispanic ministry and we have a great challenge before us. The "challenge" is one that is not for one or only a few to face, but one given to each of us by our baptism. As part of the mystical Body of Christ, we are called to a life of holiness. "There is no separation between faith and works in our daily response to the universal call to holiness" (Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia in America).

At this very moment, several local Protestant churches have begun an aggressive campaign to "reach out" to the Hispanic community. This happened in Paducah as well. When I first began working in Hispanic ministry in Paducah, there was a Baptist Church with a large Hispanic outreach. Once we began offering the Mass in Spanish and reaching out ourselves, that mission folded. I am not insinuating that we should be competing with one another, but I think we have something to learn here. Many of the Hispanics, (90O) are Catholic. What are we doing as members of the Body of Christ to become welcoming to the stranger among us.

I used the word challenge, but according to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the presence of the Hispanic community in the United States is addressed as a "blessing from God" (The Hispanic Presence in the New Evangelization in the United States). Many people have expressed that they don't know how to communicate because of the language barrier. When I began working with Hispanics, I could not speak a word of Spanish. A smile and body language goes a long way, trust me! To be welcoming is nothing more than that. It does not mean that you have to invite someone over for dinner, or offer money, or food. It is simply respect for the presence of the life and dignity of the person standing in your presence.

The Protestant churches have done an excellent job of this. Some people may say fine, let them do it. But what does that say about my life as a Catholic Christian? Jesus

Continued on page 42

St. Joseph School Celebrates "National Children's Book Week"

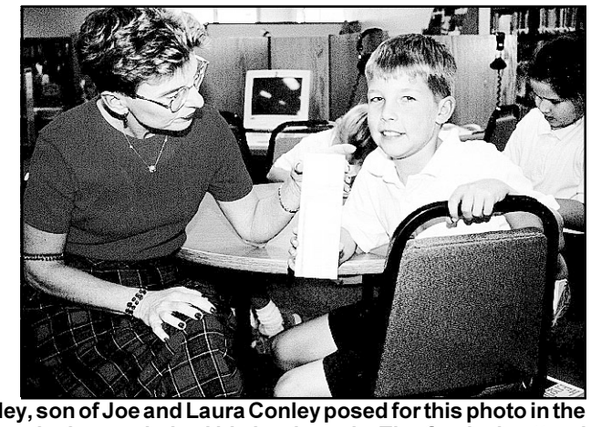
By Pat S. Smith

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - National Children's Book Week was celebrated at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green November 12-16. The event included contests for each grade, including Book Covers, Kindergarten and first grade; Book marks, 2nd – 4th grade; and Posters, 5th – 8th grades.

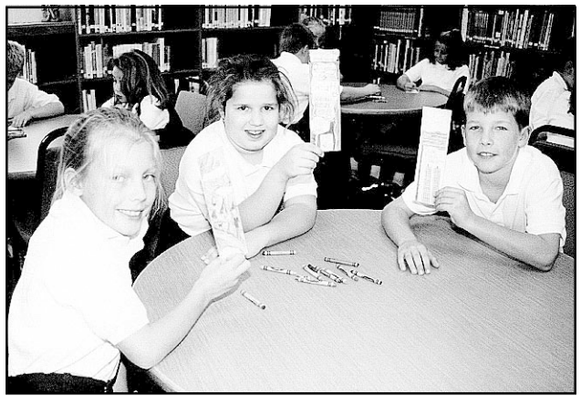
The poster contest is always of special interest to the older students. This year, fifth grader, Missy Pitcock, daughter of Janie and Mike Pitcock, parishioners at Holy Spirit, was the winner. Her theme was "Get carried away—Read!"

Ms. Sally Jackson, who is the school's new librarian, was especially proud of the students and stresses the importance of books and reading to the children.

The event is held annually.



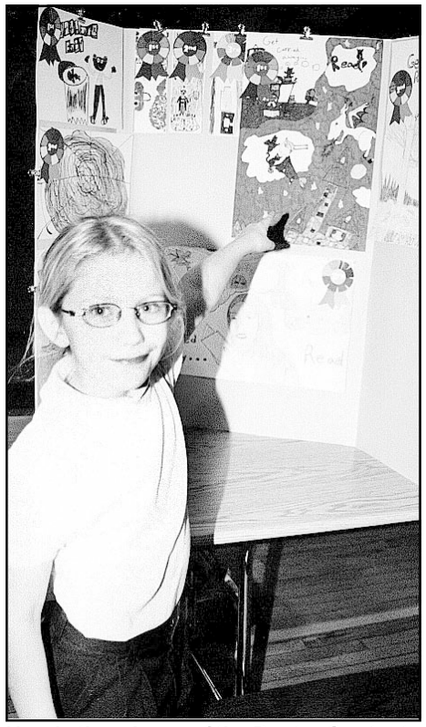
Patrick Conley, son of Joe and Laura Conley posed for this photo in the library as Mrs. Jackson admired his book mark. The Conley's attend Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.



Amelia Hyatt, Anna Colburn and Patrick Conley proudly display their artwork.



Here is Missy Pitcock, second from the left, front row, with several other fifth grade students. Mack Mullins is hamming it up for the camera (head only showing) as he looks over the winning articles. He attends Holy Spirit and is the son of Mr. And Mrs. Jeff Mullins.



Here's the winner of the Poster Contest, fifth grader Missy Pitcock. Missy is in Mrs. Simpson's class.



Mrs. Jackson and Jay Beard hold the Mayor's Proclamation for National Children's Book Week. Jay is the son of Cathy and Doug Beard and attend Holy Spirit.



Michael Reid, fourth grader in Mrs. Watts' class, decorated his bookmark in a timely, patriotic theme. Michael is the son of Missy and Mike Reed of Holy Spirit.

The Beginning Experience

A weekend for widowed, separated, and divorced persons. B.E. creates a safe space where persons come together, reevaluate themselves and their lives, and move into the future with renewed hope.

A GIFT TO GIVE YOURSELF

February 15-17, 2002
Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center
Arrive at 8:30 p.m. Friday and depart about 3:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Plan to stay the whole weekend. Cost is $99, $25.00 nonrefundable deposit due with registration form.

To obtain a registration form or for information, contact the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. 42301. Call Betty Medley at 1-270-683-1545.

Jones. On April 29, 1900, Casey Jones was able to miraculously save the lives of all his passengers and crew in a tragic train wreck, the only person killed was Casey Jones.

Reelfoot Lake was created by a severe earthquake in 1812, and many streams in the vicinity actually changed their course.

Covington's Bishop Robert Muench named to head Baton Rouge Diocese

WASINGTON **(CNS)** - Pope John Paul II has appointed Bishop Robert W. Muench of Covington as bishop of Baton Rouge, LA. The appointment was announced in Washington on Dec. 15 by Archbishop Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the States.

Bishop Muench, who turns 59 on Dec. 28, succeeds Bishop Alfred C. Hughes, who was appointed coadjutor archbishop of New Orleans in February.

"I will eternally regard my six years of shepherding the church of Covington as a singular Privilege and joy," Bishop Muench said in a statement Dec. 11. I have grown very attached to you, the people of this highly blessed church and the entire area.

"From the beginning you received me back near my birthplace as one of your own. I will never forget you or your graciousness. When installed as the ninth Bishop of Covington, I pledged I would love you, no matter what. I testify before God and before you today that proved to be the easiest promise in my life to fulfill. My love for you will continue to grow in my heart," he said.

Bishop Muench has been head of the Covington diocese since 1996. Before that he was an auxilary bishop of New Orleans, having been appointed in May, 1990.

At his March 19, 1996 installation in Covington, Bishop Muench said he was "back in my old Kentucky home." A native of Louisville, he moved to New Orleans when he was 3.

Bishop Muench said he had two special items in his pockets during the installation. One was a prayer book in German that came from his paternal greatgrandfather's family, and the other was a rosary that his matemal grandfather had given him.

Both of those forebears were German, he said, but "I'm also pleased to say that I have Irish in me, and on Sunday (St. Patrick's Day), I had a lot more."

The new Baton Rouge bishop attended Notre Dame seminary, New Orleans, from 1962 to 1964, and Theological College at The Catholic University of America in Washington from 1964 to 1968. He was ordained a priest of the New Orleans Archdiocese on May 18, 1968.

Bishop Muench was a faculty member and later rector at St. John Vianney Preparatory School from 1968 to 1976. He was vicar of Christian formation in the New Orleans Archdiocese from 1977 to 1981 and director of vocations there from 1981 to 1983.

He was serving as vicar general in New Orleans when he was named auxiliary bishop of New Orleans on May 8,1990.

Since his appointment as bishop of Covington on Jan. 5, 1996, Bishop Muench has joined with his fellow Kentucky bishops in speaking out on such issues as the death penalty, abortion training in medical schools and Christian unity. In 1998, he was among some 300 religious leaders who signed a letter urging Mexican and U.S. officials to act to end violence in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

In a 1997 homily at a Mass for Catholic men, Bishop Muench drew on sports themes to illustrate the challenge of Christian discipleship.

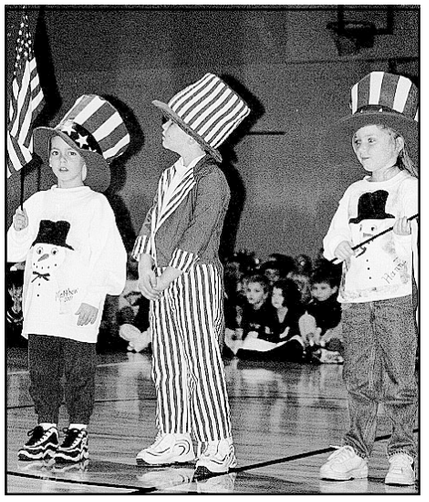
"We're at half-time and it seems the enemy is winning," he said. "And the coach impassionately pleads for us to give forth our very best effort in the second half."

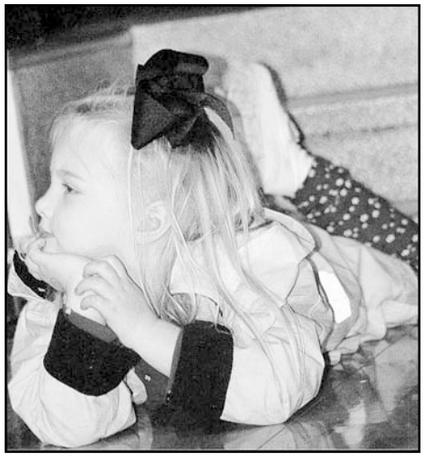
The Baton Rouge Diocese, established in 1961, has a Catholic population of approximately 216,000 in a total population of more than 831,000.



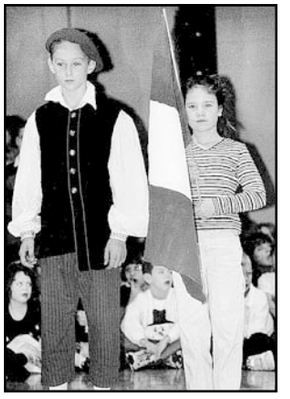
Saint Angela Merici Elementary students dressed as world figures a day in December, 2001, to represent how countries celebrate Christmas; from left to right, Jacob Kotarek, Olive Hardesty, Mason Miller, Nicholas Drury and Elizabeth Buntin representing France and Spain in "A Christmas Around The World." Lois Rutigliano photo

"A Christmas Around The World."





A little girl watched the big kids at St. Angela Merici Elementary who were portraying the colors and flags of countries in " A Christmas Around The World." Lois Rutigliano photo



Above photo, from left to right, Matthew Aud, Kyle Alvey, Hannah Aull, St. Angela Merici kindergartners representing the United States in " A Christmas Around the World."

In photo at right, St. Angela Merici Elementary Fourth graders Jacob Kotarek and Olivia Hardesty representing France in " A Christmas Around The World." Lois Rutigliano photos

Director of Development Needed

A Development Director is needed to design and manage a development program for a Catholic grade school and high school in eastern Daviess County. The Director will coordinate the development effort and design a cohesive program to establish a reliable and long-term financial base for the schools and build upon a broad base of community support. Three to five years experience in development, marketing, sales, public relations or related field. Must be a person of strong faith, committed to Catholic education. The chosen candidate will be a self-starter, highly organized, a superb communicator with strong writing skills and a degree. Competitive salary and benefits package. Send letter of interest and resume by February 28, 2002 to: St. Mary of the Woods Development Director Search, P.O. Box 1, Whitesville, KY 42378.

Healing and Regaining Health Come First at Owensboro Mercy Health System

By Lois Rutigliano

OWENSBORO,Ky. - An optimistic outlook on life and being around upbeat, interesting people can help a person heal and get back to work or life at home as fast as anything in a hospital. But the holidays can be a tough time to be a patient in a hospital working to regain one's health and physical abilities. A little help from some friends makes the healing go better.

The patients and staff on the Rehabilitation unit at a New Year's Eve Party in Owensboro Mercy Health System found the patients and staff enjoying desserts and snacks with some punch. They sang songs and played bingo; the big prize was $200 worth of play money.

Most of these patients in the rehab unit on New Year's Eve and who shared their New Year's resolutions had suffered a stroke:

Rodney Bolton: "Just to get well, be with my family. Go home." Rodney, 34, is from Calhounand works for Peters' Construction Co.

Lena Crabtree, 84: "Not to fall down any more steps."

Kathleen Dillow, 83: "Go home. Get Well."

Virginia Jewell, 75: "Be a better person."

Margerine Finley, 70th birthday on Dec. 31, 2001: "Not to fall on the floor any more."

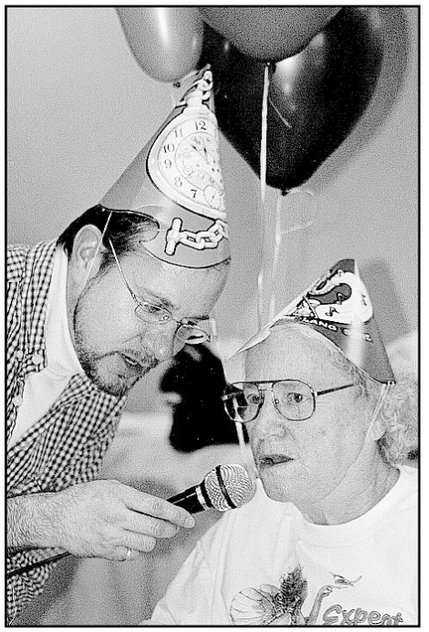


Rodney Bolton sang "Thunder Rolls" as his Mother and Dad, Joyce and Lannie Bolton, listened at right back. Seated are from left, Kathleen Dillow, Lena Crabtree, Damien Howard, Occupational Therapist helping Rodney sing the song, and Virginia Jewell. Lois Rutigliano photo



Rodney Bolton was getting into a bingo game in the Rehab unit on New Year's Day in Owensboro Mercy Health System. Lois Rutigliano photo.

Margerine celebrated her 50th wedding aniversary with her husband who was also in OMHS hospital.



Damien Howard, Occupational Therapist at OMHS, sang Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender" with Margerine Finley. The patients and staff of the Rehab unit sang "Happy Birthday" to celebrate her 70th birthday on this same day. The little community also helped Margerine celebrate her Golden wedding anniversary with her husband who was also a patient in the OMHS New Year's Eve. Lois Rugitliano photo



Pam Jones, Activity Director for the Owensboro Mercy Hospital Health System Rehabilitation unit, counted out $200 in play money for bingo winner Kathleen Dillow during a New Year's Eve party at the hospital. Lois Rutigliano photo

Roman Congregation Tells Inquiring Bishop That Women Are "Capable of Being Admitted" To Service at the Altar

Bishops cannot require priests of the diocese to make use of female servers, the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said in a letter published in late December.

The letter, in English, responded to an unidentified bishop. The letter upheld the diocesan bishop's authority to permit use of female servers, while noting that "such an authorization may not in any way exclude men or, in particular, boys from the service of the altar nor require that prietss of the diocese would make use of female altar servers."

The congregation added, "The obligation to support groups of altar boys will always remain, not least of all due to the well-known assistance that such programs have provided since time immemorial in encouraging future vocations."

The congregation underscored a diocesan bishop's freedom, after having heard the episcopal conference's opinion, to decide whether to allow female altar servers. The letter said: "With respect to whether the practice of women serving at the altar would truly be of pastoral advantage in the local pastoral situation, it is perhaps helpful to recall that the nonordained faithful do not have a right to service at the altar, rather they are capable of being admitted" to this service.

The letter said that if the inquiring bishop decides to authorize female altar servers, it is "important to explain clearly to the faithful the nature of the innovation, lest confusion might be introduced, thereby hampering the development of priestly vocations."

Source: Catholic Trends, a publication of Catholic News Service, January 5, 2002

By □ndy □ay

On September 11, 2001, I was on my way west for vacation with Father Richard Powers, a great friend of mine. As we traveled, we listened to the news of that day. That evening, we got a hotel room, and I began writing in my journal as I had resolved to do every night. This is an excerpt from my journal, maybe to let everyone know how we all feel...

Sept 11, 2001

A day of infamy that I will never forget. Today could have gone by without a word being said, and I would not have noticed. It seemed as if my whole being was in Manhattan through the car radio. As we drove this morning, I was awakened by a radio broadcast stating the effects of a terrorist plane hijacking. We listened for an hour, and suddenly our vacation turned into some kind of unreal tape recording, like an audio book on tape. We thought about coming home, but decided against it, at least for today. We are in Chamberlain, South Dakota, on the coast of the Missouri River. It is beautiful. Just on the other side of the river, the mountains begin to rise and fall. I took pictures of the sunset today.

Though I was not in Washington, D.C. today, nor New York, the tragedy hit me. To see the sunset I saw, one need not think of sorrow or tragedy. For those few moments this evening, all I could think about was how much God is in control. For the people who suffered today, this sunset is for you. Because we are "One nation under God," I can sit here tonight and connect with the hurting people in the east. I feel like they hear my prayers and know that I am wishing for them. Oh, but it seems there is only so much I can do. Everyone across the world praying tonight is the most help the victims can have.

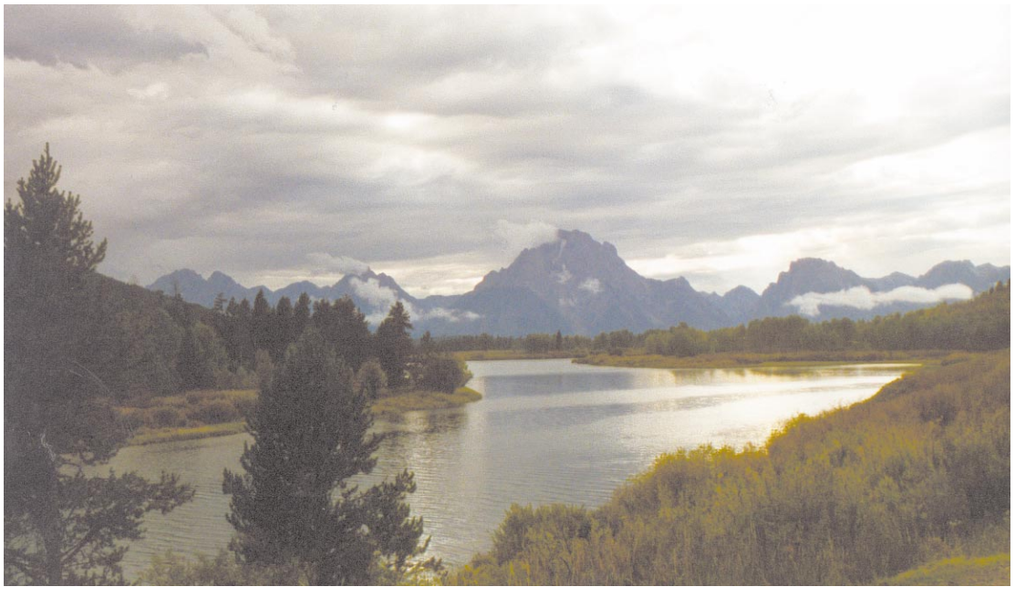
The president quoted the 23rd Psalm tonight: " Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

Need I say more? Through listening all day on the radio, no words were spoken between Father and me. Moved to tears, I sat and stared in silence. Every town we stop in has a solution to this tragedy. I will offer none, only to glance back to the president's previous quote.

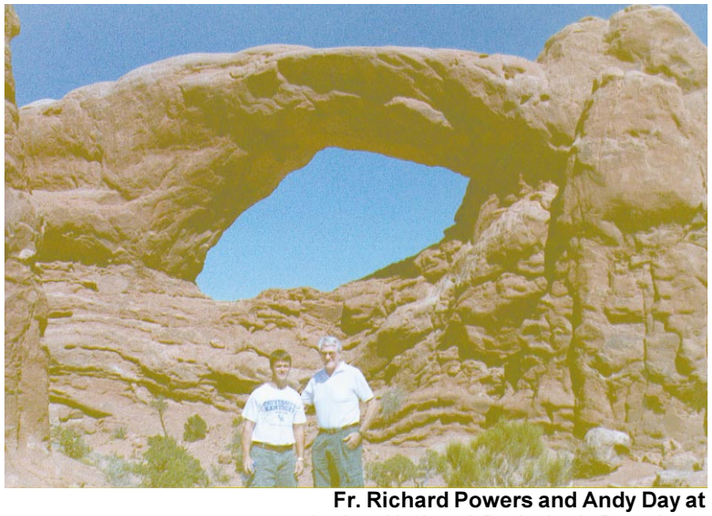
Tonight, as I see the millions of stars, I know there is that one hurt guy in New York looking at them also, and that connects us. So to all you children who have lost parents today through these attacks, I see you through this Big Dipper. Know that I am traveling for you now, and that every beautiful moment I witness, I share it with you.

Today is a wake up call to bring us closer together. God has put these people in this situation because He knows them. I was not involved directly. Maybe I could not have handled it. Who knows?

My grandkids will read about this tragedy in their History books one day... the Day of Infamy, September 11, 2001.



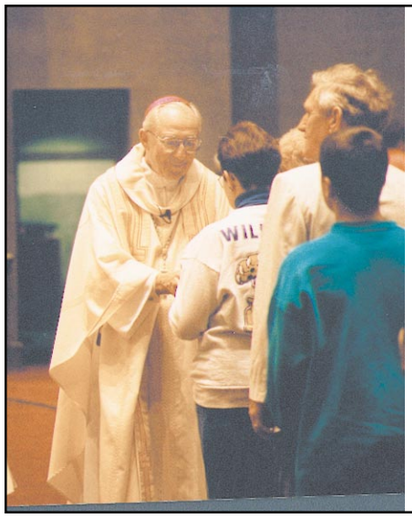
Sunset, Grand Tetons National Park. Andy Day Photo



Fr. Richard Powers and Andy Day at Arches National Park. Andy Day photo



U.S. Flag at half mast, Sept. 12, 2001, Mount Rushmore. Andy Day photo



March 26, 2002
Chrism Mass
6:30 p.m.
Owensboro Sportscenter

MARCH 18, 2002

EVANGELIZATION: CALLED AND SENT

CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER
9:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

For information, Contact the Diocesan Religious Education Office, 1-270-□□3-1?4?

2001 Children's Christmas Liturgy at St. Peter of Alcantara

By Bill Wathen

STANLEY,Ky. - The Children's Christmas Liturgy at St. Peter of Alcantara Church was the most spiritually uplifting experience that I have witnessed in a long time. In fact, there were times during the liturgy that my wife and I had tears of joy in our eyes.

Fr. Stan preached the homily that he adapted from the story about the elderly man who was lonely because his wife had died. He had considered not putting up a Christmas tree at all. Eventually he did put it up, but instead of putting it in the usual place by the staircase, he decided to put it in front of the window. When he finished trimming the tree he was tired. He pulled out his favorite rocking chair and sat so that he could see the finished product. "Not bad," he thought. As he looked out the window into the dark night, a couple walked by and waved to him. He returned their greeting. He smiled...the first time in quite awhile. A sense of lightness entered his life.

January came and went. The tree still twinkled in the window. More and more neighbors looked for the man in his favorite rocking chair. Many waved or called greetings. Some stopped to visit. A few plates of cookies found their way across his threshold. The months marched on. The Christmas tree in the window brought some ridicule as a few remarked, "Is he getting senile?" No, the old man had discovered light in the darkness of loneliness. He had discovered the true meaning of Christmas. He intends to leave the tree up year round, to greet passersby, to bring light and life to all who see it. The true meaning of Christmas, which lightens the darkness of our world with hope. (Adapted from *Homily Helps*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Dec. 25, 2001.



At right, Fr. Stan's Homily with the children, Taylor Fogle, and Carly Murphy. The shepherds are: Michael Hardesty, Nolan Wimsatt, Dylan McKay, Erica Pendleton, Jesse Settles, and Zach Settles.



A Savior is Born! The Holy Family, the shepherds, and a host of angles gather at the foot of the altar while Fr. Stan Puryear proclaims the Holy Gospel according to Mark. Mary is played by Mary Megan Wimsatt and Joseph is played by George Morgan. The lead angel is Lauren Settles. The other angels are: Allison Fogle, Kelsey Settles, Caitlin Coomes, Hanna Millay,



Left, Youth Choir Director Terry Murphy and several parents put it all together. Terry is seen here playing during the Liturgy. Thirty-four children and young adults, ranging in ages kindergarten through college students, blended their talents and voices together to give worship to the New born Baby in joyous song and praise.

The Young Adult Choir

At right, members of the Young Adult Choir, with the assistance of Cathy Wimsatt, performed during the liturgy. They are front row, left to right: Cathy Wimsatt, Jordan Wimsatt, Lauren Wimsatt, Carly Murphy, and Taylor Fogle. Back row, front to rear: Tera Murphy, Natalie Hardesty, Ashley Warren, Andrea Millay, and Gabrielle Murphy. Jessica Fogle is in front leading this selection.





In photo at left, Maestro Dakota McKay leads the youth Choir.

All photos by Bill Wathen

Above, The evening began at 4:30 p.m. with the younger members of the choir singing Christmas Carols. The choir members in above photo are: Front row, left to right: Hanna Millay, Caitlin Coomes, Allison Fogle, Kelsey Settles, Lauren Settles, Melissa Settles, Jesse Settles, Nolan McKay, and Carly Murphy. Back row, left to right: George Morgan, Zach Settles, Michael Hardesty, Bradley Pendleton, Dylan McKay, Erica Pendleton, Taylor Fogle, Kaycee McKay, Jordan Wimsatt, Lauren Wimsatt, and Mary Megan Wimsatt.

What the Abortion-Breast Cancer Link Means for Women in the Developing World

By Steve Mosher

The news that breast cancer has now overtaken lung cancer as the most common British cancer came as a surprise to many. Not to Patrick Carroll,however, the author of a new study from Great Britain that links the huge increase in breast cancer to the widespread practice of abortion. Dr.Carroll's study demonstrates that abortion actually doubles the risk of cancer in women.(1)

And the worst is yet to come. In England and Wales the breast cancer rate is expected to rise by over 2 per cent per annum between now and 2023 some 60 percent among women aged 45 to 49. The total number of breast cancer cases for women of all ages is expected to more than double over the next 26 years. This is largely because, Dr Carroll tells us, of the high rate of nulliparous abortions, that is, of abortions performed on women who have never carried a child to term. "Perhaps as many as 50 per cent of the breast cancer cases of the future will be attributable to abortion," he concludes.

Professor Joel Brind, an endocrinologist at the City University of New York who is perhaps the world's expert on the abortion-breast cancer link, praised the study for its scientific rigor. "Those who undergo abortions clearly have an increased risk, which can be precisely calculated, of contracting cancer of the breast. We are talking about thousands of cases of cancer over the next twenty years. These are very sobering numbers."

"Out of 37 independently published studies, 28 show a causal connection," Brind said. "And of those, 17 provide positive associations that reach statistical significance suggesting a 95-percent certainty that this association is not due to chance. That is scientific evidence which simply cannot be ignored."

Shortly after the publication of Dr. Carroll's study came the news that an abortion doctor in Australia had settled with a breast cancer victim. The woman had sued the abortionist for not telling her about research findings linking abortion to breast cancer. Although a confidentiality agreement prevents details of the settlement from being released, Australian attorney Charles Francis is confident that other cases can be brought against abortionists on the same grounds. "It seemed to me that the evidence [of an abortion/breast cancer link] was fairly strong," Francis remarked, "certainly strong enough for a good chance of winning."

Another suit involving the abortion-breast cancer link is moving forward in Australia. "In another case to be heard in New South Wales shortly," Francis said. "'Mary' is suing a hospital and an abortionist for failure to warn her that she might subsequently have a bad psychiatric reaction and for failure to warn of the increased breast-cancer risk."

Other litigation is pending as well. Assisted by the Thomas More Law Center, three California women are suing Planned Parenthood to force the nation's largest provider of abortions to reveal scientific evidence of a substantial link between induced abortion and increased risk of breast cancer.

In the developed countries, despite access to regular mammary exams and excellent treatment regimens, many of those who develop breast cancer will die. As Dr Carroll remarks of the British situation, "Unless there is a major improvement in treatment, including a reduction in the waiting-lists, the number of women who die from the disease will rise alarmingly."

In the developing world, unfortunately, this grim picture grows much grimmer. Because of the poor state of primary health care, women who get breast cancer are unlikely to have it diagnosed until it has reached an advanced stage. Those who do have it diagnosed are unlikely to get treatment. And even the lucky few who receive the relatively unsophisticated treatments available are unlikely to survive.

By promoting, performing, and lobbying for the legalization of abortion, the International Planned Parenthood Federation claims to be reducing "maternal mortality." Yet "safe, legal" abortion poses many dangers to the mother, not least of which is a greatly increased risk of breast cancer in succeeding years. And in the developing world, breast cancer is a death sentence.

Endnotes

(1)Patrick Carroll, "Abortion and Other Pregnancy-Related Risk Factors in Female Breast Cancer," Pension and Population Research Institute (PAPRI), 4 December 2001. Copies are available from PAPRI at 35 Canonbury Road, London, N1 2DG, UK.

Steve Mosher is the president of Population Research Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to debunking the myth that the world is overpopulated. *© 2002 Population Research Institute. Permission to reprint granted.* *PRI hosts the Global Family Life Conference in Santa Clara, California, April 3-7, 2002. Check out our website at http://www.pop.org/conference.html for more information.*

The Population Research Institute is committed to ending human rights abuses committed in the name of "family planning," and to ending counter-productive social and economic paradigms premised on the myth of "overpopulation."

Population Research Institute , 1190 Progress Drive, Suite 2D, P.O. Box 1559, Front Royal, VA 22630 USA http://www.pop.org

Source: PRI Weekly Briefing , 4 January 2002, Vol. 4/ No. 1

With a release of a new study in Great Britain, evidence of a link between breast cancer and abortion continues to mount. Legal efforts to penalize abortionists who do not inform women of the risk of breast cancer are also bearing fruit, notably in Australia. But who will speak for women in the developing world, victimized by abortion, who will endure untold suffering from breast cancer in the years to come?

Catholic Charities offers affordable counseling

Counseling is now available in the Owensboro area for families, couples and individuals of the Diocese of Owensboro. Catholic Charities and parishes will subsidize the cost of services, making counseling affordable to all ($5 to $55 per hour, based on income). For more information or an appointment with Catholic Charities' Catholic counselors Tom Mudd, C.S.W., or Kathleen Peters, L.M.F.T., call Cornerstone Counseling, 2720 Frederica Street, Owensboro, at 270-685-0110. Complete confidentiality assured. Expansion of services throughout the diocese is planned for the near future.

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www.owensborodio.org/cc.html

Outstanding KYA Speakers



Emily Hooper and Davis Jackson, students at St. Ann Interparochial School in Morganfield, won Outstanding Speaker Awards at the Kentucky Youth Assembly. Only eight students received outstanding speaker awards. This annual conference sponsored by the KY YMCA is a hands-on legislature experience with students writing and debating bills. The two bills SAIS sponsored were: require that all schools have four bomb threat drills each school year and the other bill was to require all teachers to have current certifications in first aid and CPR. The bomb drill bill was named one of the ten outstanding bills. Twelve SAIS students attended KYA. SAIS Photo

Sts. Peter and Paul Choir, Hopkinsville, Reach Oout With Music For Advent

By Jane Byrd

Saints Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville reached out to their community with music this Advent. Members of the choir and their families went caroling, then warmed up with apple cider and goodies.

Three second year violin students practiced hard on Christmas music beginning in October and were ready to go by December.



From left, Becky Weimer, John Jolissaint and Elizabeth Magdycz warmed up before the first performance at Brookfield Manor Nursing Home in Hopkinsville. Submitted photo



Members of the Sts. Peter and Paul parish choir and their families went caroling, then warmed up with apple cider and goodies. Submitted photo



Music teacher Jane Byrd played violin with students Becky Weimer, John Jolissaint and Elizabeth Magdycz at Hopkinsville Personal Care Center during Advent. submitted photo.

Three U.S Bishops Resign From Food For Poor Board

Three U.S. bishops have resigned from the board of Food For The Poor, and another, Miami Archbishop John Favalora urged priests there not to raise funds for the organization, which collects millions yearly for anti-hunger projects in the Caribbean and Latin America. Robin Mahfood, Food for the Poor president, said the bishops resigned after the majority of the board refused to make changes that would have put the organization under control of the Miami Archdiocese. One who resigned, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, told Catholic News Service that "we were window dressing, not a governing board." He said having bishops on the board lent Catholic credibility to the organization. The others who resigned are Bishop Norbert Dorsey of Orlando, Fla., and Auxiliary Bishop Bennett of Baltimore.

Archbishop Favalora said in a priests of the Miami Archdiocese that "the founders of Food for the Poor have elected to associate as a sectarian Christian organization but not to operate under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church." Favalora said that allowing sectarian organizations to solicit funds at your parish could be problematic" since the funds' ultimate use "is beyond our control." Mahfood described the organization as a Christian interdenominational apostolate which is inclusive and ecumenical." Mahfood said that in 200 1, Food for the Poor sent $275 million in food, medicines and supplies to the poor. He said less than 7 percent of money collected in 2001 went for expenses. Food for the Poor was hit with scandal in September 2000 when its founder and then-president, Ferdinand Mahfood resigned after saying he diverted donations estimated at more than $400,000 to two female employees.

An Appeal to Fellow Catholics in the Diocese of Owensboro

(Continued from page 35)

calls us to be a community of believers. Remember the verse, "I was hungry and you fed me," it goes on to say that "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35-36). What will your answer be? I am appealing to each and every Catholic to join in the effort to reach out and becoming a welcoming, hospitable community of believers. There are fears and uncertainties that exist among the Anglo community that can be answered by people who have experience in Hispanic Ministry. The mission of evangelization falls not only on a few shoulders, but upon each and every one of us by our very baptism.

There are currently Spanish and bilingual liturgies in a few parishes across the Diocese. Some people object to that, while I am appealing for more! The Bishops also tell us that "culture assimilation (to make alike) is contrary to the rights of the human person" (Prophetic Voices). By continuing to separate we are making a statement that "unless they become like me, let's keep them separate". My appeal is that we begin our own "mission" as Catholics. The very word "catholic" implies universality, inclusion of all. Because of the language barrier we have to make some adjustments. This is not just a personal opinion; quoting Pope John Paul II again from Ecclesia in America, "The gift of his Spirit and his love are meant for each and every people and culture, in order to bring them all into unity after the example of the perfect unity existing in the Triune God. For this to happen, it is necessary to inculturate preaching in such a way that the Gospel is proclaimed in the language and in the culture of its hearers.".

We can sit back and rest assured that there are a few people doing some work in Hispanic ministry in this Diocese and that is good enough. OR… we can choose to join in the efforts of "welcoming the stranger among us" by becoming a welcoming and hospitable community as Jesus would have it.



Gwen Taylor is studying in the Ministry Formation Program at Brescia University. File photo

EWTN Foundress Mother Angelica Hospitalized



IRONDALE, AL– Doctors at the Birmingham, Alabama hospital where Mother Angelica has been a patient since suffering a stroke on Christmas Eve say they are pleased with how the Foundress of EWTN is responding to treatment. Mother Angelica underwent a two-hour operation soon after the stroke to remove a blood clot from her brain. The Mother Vicar of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Sister Mary Catherine, said doctors told her Friday that Mother is doing very well.

Doctors said the stroke left Mother partially paralyzed on the right side of her body. The stroke also affected her speech and she is undergoing speech therapy to improve this condition.

An interesting side note from her second stroke is that Mother Angelica no longer wears an eye patch over her left eye and no longer has the partial face paralysis that she had after her first stroke in September.

EWTN also announced that it has initiated a "Spiritual Bouquet" for Mother Angelica on its web site www.ewtn.com where visitors may indicate their offering of prayer for Mother's full recovery. This may include Rosaries, Novenas, Masses, Holy Communions, Holy Hours and individual prayers. A similar Spiritual Bouquet for Mother Angelica was offered on EWTN's web site last year to celebrate her 77th birthday.

"Prayers are what Mother Angelica needs now more than anything else," Sister Mary Catherine said.

Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare Nun of Perpetual Adoration, founded EWTN more than 20 years ago. Today the network is the largest religious media organization in the world, reaching more than 70 million households on cable television and by direct broadcast satellite. In addition, the network's programming is satellite delivered to AM and FM radio stations in the U.S. and abroad and via worldwide short wave radio. EWTN also maintains an active presence on the Internet (www.ewtn.com).

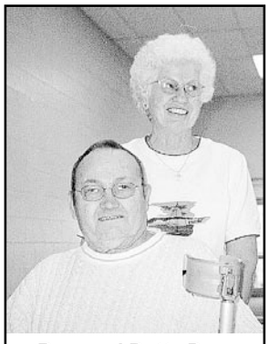
Source: E-mail news releaseS by Scott Hults on Dec, 26, 2001 AND JAN. 3, 2002..

WISDOM *By Ginny Knight Simon*

Ben "My faith has kept me going since I've been disabled with a back injury. I have had eight back surgeries and I had to learn to walk again seven times. I've had three strokes and cancer, so I've had a lot of help from prayer. I have always worked all my life, starting at a young age, and being in a wheelchair was hard.

I was a convert to the Catholic church in 1956 - Fr. Bolin gave me instructions. Faith has always been a major part of our lives.

This motorized wheelchair is really a blessing. A friend passed away and the family needed to sell the van. We bought the van and the wheelchair came with.



Ben and Patty Day
St. Joseph Parish,
Bowling Green, KY

Patty "We have been married for 51 years. We have two adopted children that we got through Catholic Charities in Louisville-now we have great grand children!

We lived in Evansville, IN for about 30 years. When I retired from USS Holland Trucking we moved back to Bowling Green, since we are both from here. I used to do volunteer work at the Marian Day school for special children in Evansville. Now, I keep pretty busy at home helping Ben. He is a wonderful patient though and I'm thankful I am able to take care of him. Prayer has sustained us. We have many people who pray for us. There is much power in prayer.

Noted scholar Marty talks on Lutheran and Catholic issues

Noting the significance of the signing of the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" by Lutherans and Roman Catholics two years ago, Dr. Martin Marty suggests that controversial issues within Lutheranism parallel similar struggles with the Roman Church.

Dr. Marty, eminent ELCA pastor, author and professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, addressed a dialogue at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church in Carmel October 28. The event was sponsored by the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue of Northcentral Indiana, a group supported by the Ecumenical Ministry Committee of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

Bishop James R. Stuck of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Bishop William L. Higi of the Lafayette Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church participated in the session. Dr. Thomas Ryba, Notre Dame theologian-in-residence at Purdue University, posed questions to Dr. Marty after his formal presentation.

Dr. Marty noted that two preoccupations of churches in the 21st Century are issues over authority and those dealing with sexuality and gender. He said some view the Lutheran and Catholic churches striving for different ecumenical objectives-Lutherans in the ELCA toward "full communion" and Catholics for a return to "full communion with Rome."

He said the debate within Lutheranism seems to deal with whether Lutheran is a "self-sufficient church" or a "movement in the church catholic."

The main theme of Dr. Marty's presentation focused on the concept of "dialogue." He said that dialogue could be seen as conversation or as argument. He observed that "one is ruled be the answer." He said both are "necessary" and that is "how the life of faith is lived."

The signing of the joint declaration by Lutherans and Catholics would seem to show that the churches are able to articulate a common understanding of justification, Dr. Marty noted. He said any remaining differences, according to the joint declaration, are said to be no longer "an occasion for doctrinal condemnations." Rather, he added, the remaining differences between Lutherans and Catholics are less about doctrine than lived experiences.

In response to a question, Dr. Marty said, issues relating to authority and the Eucharist are primary among those "remaining differences." Papal infallibility and devotions to Mary are likely stumbling blocks in future dialogues between Lutherans and Catholics, he pointed out.

Following the presentation a reception was held at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Carmel.

The Lutheran-Catholic dialogue is one of several ongoing efforts being encouraged by the Synod's committee on ecumenism.

Reprinted with permission from the December, 2001, KY-IN Lutheran.

Contemporary Women: Continue Your Education With Brescia Programs

The Brescia University Contemporary Woman Program is offering continuing education courses this semester. New sessions are: **"Color Us Beautiful - Secrets of an All-Together You,"** which began Jan. 29 and continues for Feb. 5, 12, and 19; **"Dance of the Spirit - Seven Steps of Women's Spirituality,"** which begins Feb. 4 and is held every Monday through March 11; and **"Archetypes,"** which begins Feb. 20 and is every Wednesday through March 27. All classes are held in Room 221 of the Brescia University Science Building.

For more information on any of these sessions, contact Sister Marita Greenwell at (270) 686-4275 or e-mail maritag@brescia.edu. A complete schedule of classes can be seen at www.brescia.edu/events/events.htm.

Diocesan Family Images



Above, Sr. Isabel greets Elizabeth Connor of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. Elizabeth volunteers each Tuesday to help answer the telephone at the parish office.

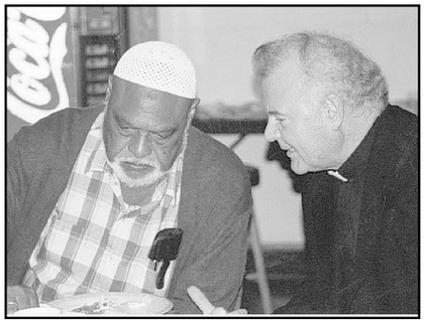
Below, Sr. Isabel Gonzalez met with Fr. Ken Mikulcik of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah to discuss plans for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. St. Thomas More Parish has a growing Hispanic Community. Photos by Elizabeth DiCicco



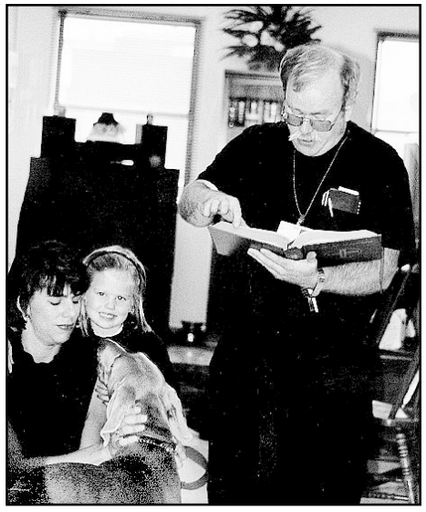


Above left, parishioners from Christ The King Church in Madisonville lined up after Mass December 16, 2001, to receive Christmas baskets and food to take to people of the parish area. At right, Jim Doone, Gary Phillips, Dona Phillips and Angela Phillips arranged food baskets on the gym floor in Christ The King Parish Hall, Madisonville. The parish prepared Christmas for eighty families. Each of the qualifying families received a loaded bushel basket of food obtained through donations made by the school children of the parish and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Hams were added to the baskets and each family also received a fruit basket donated by the Eddie Ballard family of Madisonville. Besides the food baskets, all the children in each recipient family received beautifully wrapped Christmas presents donated by members of the parish. CTK parish photo





Fr. Ed Bradley, right, shared a reflective moment with Muhammad Khalid Mkrubwa, a Muslim, who came for a meal on Thanksgiving Day at the Pitino Center in Owensboro. Lois Rutigliano photo.



In photo at left, Fr. Maury Riney, pastor of St. Augustine Church in Reed, Ky, and a chaplain at Owensboro Mercy Health System, gave a Blessing of Animals on October 4, 2001, in a ward of the hospital as he was visiting. Jody Slaughter and her daughter, Mary Catherine, who attends St. Stephen Cathedral Pre-School, presented their pet, Bailey Blue, for a blessing. Lois Rutigliano photo



Lifelong Learning in Religious Education

Continuing Religious Education with Rose Ann Payne, DRE at St. Stephen Parish in Owensboro,who was teaching a class in RCIA Dec. 2, 2001, in the Cathedral Undercroft are from left, Bill Wright, Lupe Ellis, Steve Myer, Rose Mary Brewer, Ruth Ann Carrico, and Sr. Mary Thomas Simon, A.D. In such groups everyone is a learner. Lois Rutigliano photo

Fellowship Breakfast Provides Family Meal, Helps Pay For Hall

Parishioners from Blessed Sacrament Church in Owensboro sponsor a breakfast every third Sunday of each month to help pay for the new Parish Hall.

"The primary goal of the Fellowship Breakfast," said Ray Weaver, breakfast organizer, "is to feed everybody who comes. If the people can't afford to pay, we want them to eat anyway. When growing up, we all had a family meal, and we feel it is important to have a church family meal."

The profit for the breakfast which the group served around Thanksgiving was about $106.00.



Parishioners from Blessed Sacrament Church in Owensboro, Dottie Morrison, Suresh Sallan, Pat and Ray Weaver, helped serve the Fellowship Breafast. around Thanksgiving time. Lois Rutigliano photo

Diocesan Family Images

Editor's Note: Frequently pictures or articles sent from parishes and individuals don't appear in the Western Kentucky Catholic edition of the month after they were submitted. People want to know why. Sometimes we have to wait until a later edition to print a picture or small article coming from parishes when longer documents such as a Financial report or special photo spreads such as a Vocations picture essay pre-empt page space. We do try to find a time for every useable photo we receive, and so WKC readers may see pumpkins in February and Christmas pictures in March in this diocesan paper. Normally we try to place pictures in a timely fashion, but we figure that if a parish minister thinks enough of an event to take a picture of it and send it to us, we ought to find a way to print it. Some of the pictures here are printed late for these reasons.

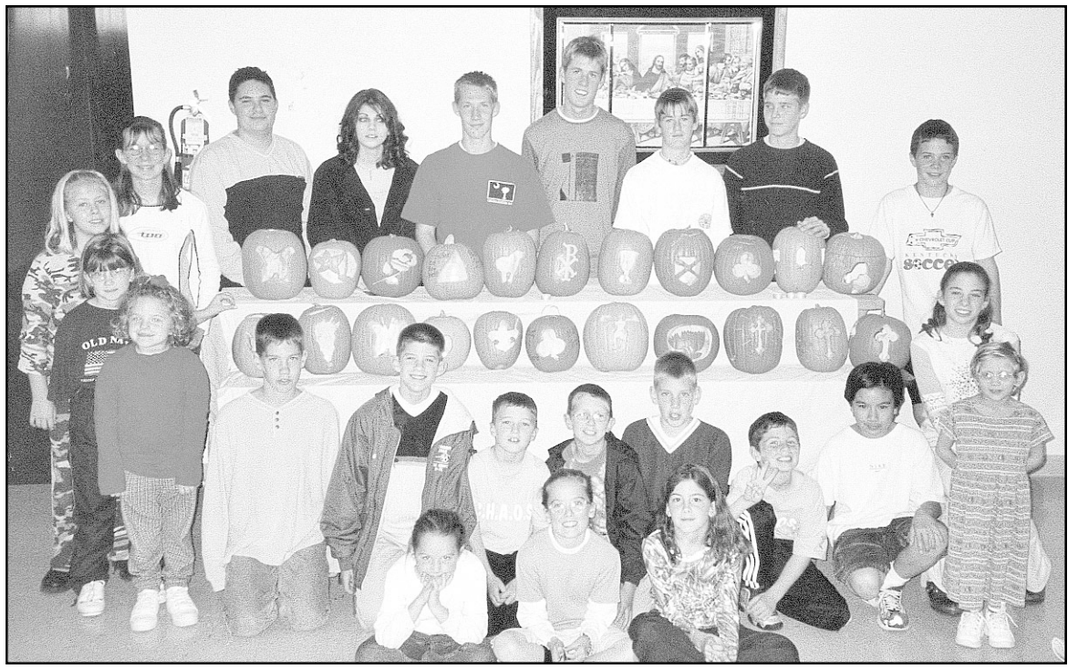
St. Ann, Morganfield Koinonia #3



Row 1: Melissa Polites, Barry Wolfe, Matt Buckman, Kelly Hendrickson, Kathy Hancock, Andy Manley, Karen Davis.; Row 2: Diana Day, Jacob Hancock, Jona Schermerhorn, Adam Funk, Lori Hancock; Row 3: Darrell French, Bob Beaven, Kathy Thomas, Brent Powell, Kelly Powell, Rebecca White, Amanda Duncan, Ashley Frick, Shannon Greenwell, Karrie Thomas.; Row 4: Emma Whitfield, Jane Brown, Cecilia Thomas, Diana Haulk, Arletta Bickett, Lou Lovell, Kay Owen, Maddona Wyatt, Diana Alvey, Nick Polites, Ladonna French, Kate Winders, Julie Kinder, Janet Butler, Dorothy Buckman, Cathy Welden, James Buckman, Peggy French, Ray French, Fr. Pat Bittel; Row 5: Karen Steward, Gina Loxley, Lisa Brown, Jane Holt, John Russelburg, Micahel Haulk, Bill Butler, Wayne Bickett, Bobby Davis, Sue Beaven, Geraldine Duckworth, Ann Bickett, Anita Buchanan, Gayle Hancock. Submitted photo

Carving Sacred Images

Below, the St. Mark Parish youth group in Eddyville, Ky. celebrated All Saints Eve on October 31, 2001, by carving saintly and sacred images in pumpkins. They put all their art work together and posed for this photo. Standing at back from left, they are Rachael Place, Celeste Laurent, Joseph Bachi, Megan Birdsong, Wes Martin, Gordon Sims, David Sims, Thomas Webber, Steven Norris; Renee Laurent, Taylor Hagan, Jake McKinley, Timmy Norris, Nickey Rivera, Anna Laurent, Sammy Gonnella; in front are Emily Ebelhar, Ellen Ebelhar and Seagram Aycock. Not shown here were Bryan and Elise Aldridge. Photo by Paul Bachi



"Once More With Love"

February 9, 2002, Catholic Pastoral Center

A marriage preparation program for couples entering marriage after one or both persons have experienced a divorce or death of a former spouse will be held on Saturday-February 9, 2002 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. This one day workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with a candlelight dinner at a local restaurant. Topics to be covered will include spirituality, sexuality, communication, budgeting, legal issues, family systems, family of origin, and step-parenting. Presentations will be given by counselors, priests and an attorney.

This workshop has been well attended previously. It is given in response to an identified need. Many couples today are entering a second marriage with little or no preparation. Often they are bringing to this union unresolved issues from childhood or an earlier marriage. Blending of two families requires much more than a desire to "make it work this time." This program is designed to address the critical issues of a second marriage and to offer an opportunity to establish a solid foundation for a new intimate relationship.

All participants will be required to complete a Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory at the beginning of the day. For more information, please call Betty Medley (270) 683-1545 ext 105. The workshop is open to couples of all faiths. The cost of the workshop is $75.

Diocesan Family Images





Always A Teacher

Lisa Tom□kins, a member of the Hall Street Ba□tist □hurch in □wensboro, teaches Third grade at □oust Elementary. She went to a yard sale at □ur Lady of Lourdes □hurch □ctober , -, . / / , , and visited with Monica □am□os, right, and Moemi Segura. Monica is from □olombia, South America, is a student in Lisa0s class at □oust, and invited her teacher to attend the S□anish1English class with her at Lourdes. Lisa said she thought she was to learn some conversational S□an2 ish there, but is now hel□ing teach S□an2 ish2s□eaking □eo□le to s□eak English. Lois Rutigliano □hoto.



A ste□ in the R□□A Rite of Acce□tance is the blessing of the catechumen or candidate0s feet to better walk in the footste□s of Jesus. Here Mary Ann □alhoun washed the feet of R□□A candi2 date Brandy Hamilton at St. Ste□hen □a2 thedral □ec. . , . / / , . Lois Rutigliano □hoto

Engaged Encounter Weekends

3 or information, contact Diocesan 3 amily life 4 ffice at 1-250-663-1787

Feb. 1-3, 2002
April 5-7, 2002
May 10-12, 2002
Aug. 9-11, 2002
Sept.13-15, 2002
Oct. 25-27, 2002

Students Share Christmas Spirit With West Ky. Mission Families

By Sharrie Cinnamond

WHITESVILLE,Ky. - The students and faculty of Trinity High School in Whitesville, KB "adopted" three families in the mission areas of the Diocese. Two families from Smithland and a family from Guthrie received Christmas gifts and food baskets provided by the religion classes and some faculty members. The students then decided on the gifts, went shopping and had a gift wrapping day at the school. When the gifts were picked up they filled two vansC

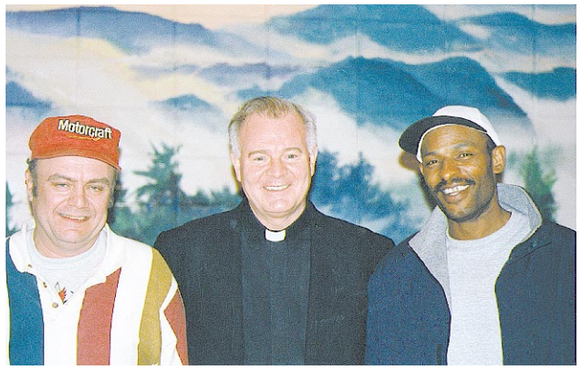
The students in the St. Mary's PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) had a "baby shower" for Glenmary Sisters. Students brought diapers, blankets, toys, clothing, and many other items for infants to the school library on December 16, 2001. These much needed items were distributed by the Glenmary Sisters in mission areas of the Diocese.

Owensboro Catholic High School also "adopted" several families and provided gifts and toys for the families in Smithland and Livermore. A second family from Guthrie received Christmas gifts from the Owensboro St. Pius Tenth Bouth Group.

Editor□s Note: Sharrie □innamond, a , olunteer for the - lenmary Sisters, who pro, ided information about the families, made arran. ements for the pro□ect. 0he . enerosity of these 0rinity students and faculty made the □hristmas season much bri. hter for se, eral families in 1 estern Kentuc2y.



Rev. Garswa Matally, Pastor of 3 ing Avenue Ba□tist □hurch in □wensboro, accom2 □anied on guitar a grou□ of singers from his church, from front left, □oneto Matally, □elisha Milley, □enace Milley, Jen Maschek, Martha Porter, Junior Kittinger, □alerie Kittinger, Harriet Matally, Starr Johnson; and □ave Slaughter from □irst Ba□tist □hurch. Lois Rutigliano □hoto



Mike Shoemaker, left, a , □77 graduate of □wensboro □atholic H.S. and □avid Green, □lass of , □7□ at □□HS,□osed with their former teacher □r. Ed Brad2 ley who said that when he walked into the Pitino □en2 ter and saw them there for the Thanksgiving □ay din2 ner, he was sur□rised. The men had fallen on hard times, are working to get back, and came to the □en2 ter to eat, they said. Lois Rutigliano □hoto

Nos han pedido que hagamos Nuestro Trabajo Sagrado, en el Mundo que Dios nos ha dado.

El 11 de septiembre del 2001, traj□a Am□rica a nuestras rodillas. Muchos de nosotros estamos ahora sin trabajo despu□s de aquel ataque contra America. Nos hace pensar y preguntarnos de que se trata todo esto?

Cuando nos preguntamos que es en realidad la vida podemos sentir que Dios nos esta invitando a que □cambiemos" para hacer algo diferente. La fe ense) a que cada persona bautizada es un co-creador con Dios que contin, a creando vida, creciendo hacia su reino.

Los Jesuitas de Am□rica una revista, dej□ ver una maravillosa labor en su edici□n en la v.spera de Navidad del 2001, la venida del reino esta total y completamente al trabajo de Dios. De la misma manera, la llegada del reino es total, y completamente el trabajo de los seres humanos. □Una tercera labor de ese editorial es que Jes, s se convirti□en humano y sab.a la alegr.a de la vida humana, la paz de la vida humana, y el dolor de la vida humana; el ser humano es bueno.

Ahora cual es "el trabajo de los seres humanos □en este pa.s? La fuerza de trabajo de los Estados Unidos ha sufrido grandemente desde el 11 de septiembre del 2001, desde el ataque de los terroristas contra tres s.mbolos del trabajo americano e ingeniosidad, tray□ndolas a la tierra y a Am□rica a sus rodillas.

Muchos en Am□rica est2n sufriendo hoy de desempleo, y m2s reducciones habran en las corporaciones de Am□rica. Editores dijeron en v.spera de Navidad aqui en Am□rica " Dios nos ense) a la manera de confrontar el sufrimiento de otros. Cuando se enfrentan con el sufrimiento, su primera respuesta era el no ignorar, sino curaci□n y sanaci□n. El nos provee con el modelo por excelencia de la compasi□n.

□Perder un trabajo nos hace pensar que hago ahora? □u□mejor hacen los seres humanos? Jesus con 33 a) os de vida humana nos mostr□que lo mejor que hacen los seres humanos es nuestro rezo y nuestro trabajo, y que el ser humano es bueno. El trabajo diario de un ser humano para ganar un cheque es realmente un rezo y una cooperaci□n con el trabajo del Dios en la venida del reino. Por lo tanto, nuestro trabajo diario es la mejor cosa que podemos hacer. Muchos americanos no lo ven de esa manera. Cu2nta gente usted conoce que puede decir que sus trabajos es lo mejor que usted puede hacer? Muchas personas podrian decir que ellos solo trabajan por su cheque de pago y que quisieran estar en alguna otra parte si pudieran. □ Por qu□tal desesperaci□n en el lugar de trabajo?

A medida que las corporaciones grandes contin, an ganando propiedades de lugares de trabajo y cortando mano de obra para su propio beneficio m2ximo, devaluando la autonom.a de los trabajadores locales en f2bricas y ventas al por menor, los trabajadores americanos sufren una p□rdida de tiempo del trabajo y de cheques m2s peque) os que conducen a un sentido de la desesperaci□n en el trabajo y en la l.nea del bienestar de trabajadores parados. Los medios de comunicaci□n de los Estados Unidos han dado a conocer los n, meros recientes del desempleo. Los americanos een los n, meros y ruegan que su trabajo no este entre esos que seran recortado.Las iglesias y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos necesitan ayudar a la gente en este pa.s a ganar desde adentro de la Navidad de la encarnaci□n que el ser humano es una buena cosa, que un trabajo com, n es una buena cosa, y que es m2s que lo que ella o □l hace. □ui□n se levanta y habla por la gente de los Estados Unidos hoy? En el mundo del trabajo, los sindicatos son los , nicos que el p, blico ve en los medio de comunicaci□n constantemente defendiendo los derechos de los trabajadores. Los sindicatos contin, an llamando para que la acci□n directa entre los trabajadores y las fuerzas de negociones se reunan para hacer negociaciones en nombre del trabajador americano. Pues m2s trabajadores pierden sus trabajos, los trabajadores empleados ven m2s claramente la necesidad de ordenarse para la negociaci□n con los due) os de los negocios y las corporaciones para compartir igualmente las cargas y las recompensas de su trabajo. En la p2gina 6 de esta edici□n imprimimos un art.culo escrito por el Padre Frank Pavone del cap.tulo de los sacerdotes para la vida que cotiz□a Martin Luther King: □usted tiene absolutamente raz□n en llamar para la negociaci□n. De hecho, □ste es el mismo prop□sito de la acci□n directa. La acci□n directa de no violencia intenta crear tal crisis y fomentar tal tensi□n que fuerzan a una comunidad que ha rechazado constantemente negociar enfrentarse al tema. Intenta dramatizar el problema que no puede ser ignorado. □ Gregory F. Augustine Pierce, (las publicaciones del ACTA, 4848 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL60640) escribe con frecuencia sobre el Espiritualismo del trabajo, y dio esta informaci□n a esta edici□n del peri□dico Cat□lico del Occidente de Kentucky □Espiritualidad se puede encontrar y practicar en el lugar de trabajo, pero permanence oculta por la mayor.a de la gente. Muchas instituciones religiosas comunican que el Dios puede ser encontrado fuera de la prisa y del alboroto de la vida diaria m2s bien que en el medio de □l. Una iglesia no es un refugio del mundo. Una iglesia es una comunidad y un lugar adonde la gente que est2 construyendo el reino del Dios □en la tierra mientras que est2 en cielo □va a llegar con uno a, a encontrar la ayuda y a ser entrenada para salir en el mundo. Las personas necesitan la iglesia para celebrar sus victorias y a lamer sus heridas en derrota.

El 11 de septiembre del 2001, ataque contra Am□rica fue m2s bien un ataque a la fuerza laboral. Hemos visto la santidad del trabajo de los rescatistas y otros que tratan de protegernos y hacer de este mundo un lugar m2s seguro, m2s justo para cada uno. Si vamos a transformar el lugar de trabajo en algo m2s cercano a la manera que Dios tendr.a las cosas (que los cristianos llamamos el Geino del Dios), entonces la principal manera de hacer esto es a trav□s de nuestro trabajo diario. □En el oeste tenemos un h2bito de dividir cosas y a la gente. Tenemos nuestro trabajo y nuestro juego, nuestra iglesia y nuestro hogar, nuestro p, blico y nuestros propios asuntos privados, nuestra familia y a otras personas extranjeras. El ataque contra Am□rica es las pistas para que los americanos dejemos de dividir y poner m2s en la fabricaci□n de algo del mundo de Dios, ayudando a otros nos damos cuenta que los seres humanos somos mucho m2s semejantes que diferentes. A trav□s de nuestro trabajo diario nos llaman para hacer del reino del Dios m2s verdadero para m2s gente.

Ahora es un tiempo verdadero para cambiar a una nueva forma de trabajo y de relacionarse con las personas.

Visitar personas que no pueden salir de sus casas o que estan en la carcel. Hacer trabajos diarios y honestos, Be honesto en los examenes. Da comida y ropa a las personas que realmente lo necesitan. Obedece a tus padres o a tus superiores m2s r2pidamente. Piensa en otros. Di algunas oraciones en voz alta, por ejemplo, para antes de las comidas y desp, es de las comidas. Encuentra la manera en que puedas ayudar al tr2fico andar m2s seguro en los caminos y calles. Sonrie cuando conozcas a alguien. Pon necesidad primero,

Trabaja ocho horas por ocho horas de pago. Sientate, parate, y camina con la cabeza en alto. Escoje solo una caridad para contribuir con alg, n dinero ganado. Trata de ser positive, trata de no criticar a otros. Haz actos de caridad. Chequea tu Iglesia. Anda a una iglesia cat□lica y solo sientate en frente del altar por algunos minutos. Di "lo siento" aunque sea solo para uno, cuando cometemos errores, Di algunas oraciones por tus enemigos.

Considera lo que dice el Padre Pike a su tributo al Padre Lucian Hayden en la p2gina de esta edici□n " La belleza de saber de que es realmente la vida hace posible el cambia de maneras y continuar en el servicio de Dios y de su Iglesia".

Desde el momento que el Padre Lucian cambio de ser un ministro en sus pies a ser un ministro desde su silla de ruedas y desde la cama de la enfermer.a, nosotros americanos hemos sido llamado a seguir adelante y regresar a nuestros trabajos, pero esta vez con una clara realizaci□n de que nuestro trabajo es sagrado, hecho por la gloria de Dios. El ataque del 11 de septiembre del 2001, ense) o a toda la naci□n, que el mundo vio por la televisi□n, que todo puede acabar en un momento.

Todos nosotros hemos sido llamados a hacer algo glorioso con la vida que Dios nos dio. Hemos sido llamados a hacer lo mejor que podamos, a trabajar y rezar. Hemos sido tambien llamados a ser verdaderos humanos unos con otros, y estar con personas m2s visibles, las personas que Dios ve m2s adentro de cada uno de nosotros.

Nos sentimos mejor cuando vemos a la persona que Dios mismo ve en nosotros, nos sentimos mejor, la vida es m2s sagrada, con m2s paz para cada uno. El mes de mayo de 2002, sera un a) o mejor de buenos trabajos para cada uno de nosotros. El mes de mayo de 2002, ser2 un tiempo sagrado para las personas que trabajan. J MDH

We Are Asked To Make Holy The Work, The World God Gives Us

Sept. 11, 2001, brought America to our knees. Many were out of work before 9/11; now more of us are unemployed.It makes us think and wonder what is it all about?

When we wonder what life is all about, we can sense that God may be inviting us to "shift gears," to do something differently. Faith teaches that each baptized person is a co-creator with God who continues creating life, growing toward His Kingdom.

The Jesuits' *America* magazine gave a wonderful insight in their Christmas Eve, 2001, edition: "The coming of the kingdom is totally, completely and utterly God's work. At the same time, the coming of the kingdom is totally, completely and utterly the work of human beings." A third insight from that editorial is that Jesus became human and knew the joy of human life, the peace of human life, and the sorrow of human life; being human is good.

But what, now, is "the work of human beings" in this country? The U. S. workplace has suffered greatly from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists' attack on three big symbols of American work and ingenuity, bringing them to the ground and America to our knees.

It seems that more cut-backs of average Americans' jobs keep happening in America's corporations.

America's ChristmasEve editorialist said, "Christ shows us the way to confront the suffering of others. When confronted with suffering, his first response was not to ignore it, but to heal and to console. He provides us with the model par excellence of compassion."

Losing a job makes one ask what do I do now?

What do humans do best? What do humans make the best? Jesus' 33 years of human life showed us that the best things humans do is our prayer and our work, and that being human is good. A human's daily work for a paycheck is actually a prayer and a cooperation with God's work in bringing about the coming of the Kingdom. Therefore, our common everyday work is about the best thing we can do. Many Americans don't see it that way.

How many people do you know who would say that their job is (was) the best thing they do? Many people would say that they only work for the paycheck, and would rather be just about anywhere else they could. Why such hopelessness in the workplace?

As large corporations continue to gain ownership of American workplaces and to downsize the workforce for their own maximum profit, devaluing local workers' autonomy in factory and retail, American workers suffer a loss of work time and smaller paychecks which lead to a sense of hopelessness on the job and on the welfare line of unemployed workers.

The U.S. media is adept at blithely giving out recent unemployment numbers. Working Americans read the numbers and pray their job is not the next to be cut. U.S. churches need to be helping corporations and governments in this country gain the Christmas insight from the Incarnation that being human is a good thing, that common work is a good thing, and that a worker is more than just what she/he does.

Who lifts up and speaks for working people in these United States today? In the world of work, labor unions are about the only ones the public sees speaking out in today's media consistently to defend the rights of working people. Labor unions continue to call for direct action to produce negotiations among labor and management on behalf of the American worker.

As more workers lose jobs, employed workers see more clearly the need to organize for negotiation with businesses and corporations to share more equally the burdens and the rewards of their work.

On page 6 of this issue we printed an article by Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests For Life who quoted Martin Luther King: "You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored."

Gregory F. Augustine Pierce, (ACTA Publications, 4848 N. Clark Street, Chicago,IL60640) frequently writes about the Spirituality of Work, and gave ***The Western Kentucky Catholic*** this comment:

"Spirituality can be found and practiced in the workplace, but this truth is foreign to most people. Many religious institutions communicate that God can only be found away from the hustle and bustle of daily life rather than in the midst of it. A Church is not a refuge from the world. A Church is a community and a place where people who are building the kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven" go to check in with each other, to find support and be trained for going out into the world. People need a Church where they can go to celebrate their victories and lick their wounds in defeat.

"**The September 11, 2001, Attack on America was an attack on the workplace itself.** We have seen the holiness of the work of the rescue workers and others who are trying to protect us and make the world a safer, more just place for everyone. If we are going to transform the workplace into something closer to the way God would have things (which we Christians call the kingdom of God), then the primary way we will do this is through our daily work."

We in the west have a habit of dividing things and people. We have our work and our play, our church and our home, our public and our private selves, our family and our outsiders. The Attack on America is a huge heads-up to Americans to quit dividing and to put more into making something of the world God gave us, helping all to realize that we humans are much more alike than different. Through our daily work we are called to make God's Kingdom more real for more people.

Visit people who can't get out of the house or who are in prison. Do daily work honestly and well. Be honest on tests. Give food and clothes to people who really do need them. Obey one's parents or superiors more quickly. Think about others. Say some prayers out loud, for example, grace before and after meals. Go out of the way to help drive-time traffic flow more safely on American roads and streets. Smile when you meet someone. Put one's own needs second.

Work eight hours for eight hours' pay. Sit, stand, and walk with head up. Choose just one more charity to support with a few hard-earned dollars. Hold back a smart remark just a little while; the urge to hurt will ease. Try harder to be positive; withhold criticisms of others. Do random acts of kindness. Check out Church. Go into a Catholic Church and simply sit in front of the tabernacle for a few minutes. Say "I'm sorry," even if only to oneself, when mistakes happen. Say a little prayer for enemies.

Consider what Fr. Pike Powell said in his tribute to the late Fr. Lucian Hayden on page 4 of this issue : "The beauty of knowing what life is all about makes it possible to 'shift gears' and continue in the service of God and His church."

Just as Fr. Lucian shifted from a priestly ministry on his feet to a ministry from a wheelchair and an infirmary bed, we Americans are now called to get back on our feet, get back to work, but this time with a clearer realization that our work is holy, done for the glory of God. The Sept. 11, 2001 Attack on America showed this whole nation, indeed the world watching on TV, that it can all end in a flash.

We are each called to make something glorious of the life God gives us. We are called to do and be the best we can, to work and to pray. We are called to be truly human with one another, and in this, to be with people more visibly the person God sees inside each of us.

When each of us is being the person God sees in us, we all feel better, life is holy, more peaceful for everyone. May 2002 be a year of good work for each of us and a holy time for more working people.

-MDH

Related Articles: **See page 31 for Joan Emberton's article "Opening Our Home To Young Man Looking For Work Was A Rare Experience." Also Jacob Petri's Column, Elucidations, on page 15.**