

Reach beyond your parish boundaries through the DRF

My Friends in Christ,

In the readings of the day from Saint Paul for September 11, 2005, we are reminded that whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

In this year of the Eucharist, our beloved John Paul II asked of us, "May all of you, the Christian faithful, rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for your daily lives in the world, in the exercise of your respective professions amid so many different situations. Rediscover this above all in order to experience fully the beauty and the mission of the family."

Our mission as a family is to reach out to others in need. That is what we do when we participate in the "Disciples Response Fund." It's an opportunity for each one of us

that have agreed to live and follow Jesus, to reach beyond our parish boundaries and to extend the hands of Christ. If we continue to live and share the faith with others, through the work that occurs in our parish and our Diocesan faith community, we will feel the fullness of God's love for us.

This year I am asking each one of you to prayerfully consider supporting the Disciples Response Fund annual appeal. We especially want you to know that a portion of each year's proceeds goes toward helping our retired priests of the diocese. So please be generous and keep in mind the contribution our priests have made to each us through their many years of service.

Finally, I beg you to continue to pray for me and the success of the mission as I promise to remember you and your families in my daily prayers. I am very blessed to be the Bishop of the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,



Most Rev. John J. McRaith
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro



Priesthood Sunday: A Time To Give Thanks To And For Our Beloved Priests



Retired priests of the Diocese of Owensboro gathered here are from left, Fr. Joseph Rhodes, Fr. Aloysius Powers, Fr. Phil Riney, Fr. Joseph Mills, Fr. Leonard Reisz, Fr. Carl Glahn, Fr. Pike Powell; seated, Fr. Charles DeNardi. Msgr. Bernard Powers was absent when the picture was taken.

By Donna Sauer, President, Serra Club of Owensboro

Priesthood Sunday, October 30, 2005, is a special day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the central role of the priesthood in the life of the Church. In recent years, the image of all priests has been tainted by the actions of a few. Priesthood Sunday is an opportunity to show appreciation and respect for the overwhelming majority of priests, both active and retired, who are instruments of Christ's ministry here on earth. This nationwide event is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International, with the local assistance of the Serra Club of Owensboro, the Serra Club of Holy Name, Henderson, and the Diocesan Office of Vocations.

This year we join with Bishop John McRaith in paying a special tribute to the retired priests of the Diocese of Owensboro. Retired Fathers Joe Mills, Carl Glahn, Aloysius Powers, and Joseph Rhodes all reside at Bishop Cotton Apartments, and each continues to provide holy and valuable service to the people of the Diocese. Similarly, Fathers Charles DiNardi, Paul Powell, Leonard Reisz, and Phil Riney, and Msgr. Bernard Powers all continue to reside in the Diocese, and each renders sacred ministry to the faithful according to his own individual talents and capacity.

On October 30, 2005, please join Serra International and all Catholics in our Diocese by praying for our priests. Watch your parish bulletins closely in October for events and activities in which you can share in order to show appreciation and respect to all the men who have so selflessly chosen to dedicate themselves to service through the ordained life. Together we can honor our priests and build a stronger working relationship for the future.

For more information on Priesthood Sunday, please go to <http://www.priestsunday.org>.

I know God will reward you for being good stewards

Dear Friends,

You have likely received notice from your pastor of the request from the Ad Hoc Committee for the Church in Africa, a subcommittee of the United Conference of Bishops. The Committee's letter, re-printed in this *WKC*, will give you more background on the need for a special collection. Each parish may respond to this information and invitation in that way that is most appropriate for your particular parish.

We as a diocese have not been involved in financial support of the poor in Africa, except through the money that you give for the Catholic Relief Service collection. This request helps us to realize the needs in the continent of Africa.

We are very blessed to have three priests from Africa serving in our diocese; they have come to the United States to help our diocese in this time of a shortage of priests. We are most grateful to them and welcome them as they make the sacrifice to leave their homeland to come and serve in this diocese. We are in hopes that we will be able to welcome more African priests next year and in the future. We are most grateful to their bishops for allowing them to come to the United States.

This is a clear case of Africa helping us, and now we are given the opportunity to show our appreciation by way of this proposed collection.

By the time that you receive this letter, you will also have been given the opportunity to help the people in other dioceses who are suffering because of the unbelievable damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Bishop Skylstad, the president of the United Conference of Catholic Bishops, requests that those of us who have been spared this damage do what we can to assist them in this special time of need. Also, he makes the point that there is a real possibility that there will be more damage from more hurricanes that will affect parts of our country. Bishop Skylstad asks us to consider taking up a collection for the relief of the victims of the hurricanes of this season.

As we have done in the past, I again encourage each parish to consider how they are going to help and to do so in a way that is appropriate for them. I have heard that some families in our own diocese have lost their homes due to flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina. I assure all victims of this disaster of my constant prayer for relief. And we bishops thank you for your generosity. If you have not been able to respond at this point, I would ask you to consider an appropriate way that you might respond to this request.

I realize that these requests come at the same time that our own diocese is asking you to be generous to the Disciples Response Fund. I know this is a lot to ask of you, but I also know — after 23 years of serving you as your bishop — that there is no end to your generosity when called upon to be good stewards of what God has so generously given to you. God will reward you as you share what God has given to you with those who have needs.

Many thanks for all you have given to the Disciples Response Fund and to the many collections that you are asked to give to each year. I know God will reward you for being good stewards. There is one thing for sure: God will not be outdone in generosity.

Again, many thanks, and God's blessings on each of you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

This is the letter that I received from the Ad Hoc Committee for the Church in Africa:

Your Eminence/Excellency:

The **Church in Africa** is the fastest growing part of the Universal Church and the poorest part of our family of faith. Spiritually rich, but desperately poor, the Church in Africa needs our support to meet both its current needs and its enormous potential.

We invite you to support the **first annual appeal** for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. Voluntary contributions to the Fund will build the **pastoral capacity** of the Church

in Africa and strengthen the fraternal relationship between the bishops of the United States and the bishops of Africa.

The Church in the United States has distinguished itself in its history of concern and support for the Church in Africa. The Solidarity Fund represents the next step in building a stronger, more **coordinated and accountable** effort to aid the Church in Africa.

This initiative builds upon the historic work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Catholic Relief Services. It is designed to **complement, not duplicate**, their work in Africa. The Fund provides a vehicle for bishops to provide sustained, effective and accountable support for the Church in Africa.

The Solidarity Fund will address an **extraordinary need** in an exemplary way. No new offices or staff positions are being established as we launch this major new initiative. Instead, offices of the Conference, Propagation and CRS will work together to guide this effort.

Our Committee is asking every diocese and eparchy to consider making a **voluntary contribution** to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa in 2005. As you can see from the enclosed response form, we are offering bishops **several ways to contribute** to the fund.

We are happy to report that a number of dioceses have already made **generous contributions** to the Solidarity Fund. Some took up a special collection in parishes; others made a contribution from diocesan funds. And there are many other ways to make a voluntary contribution.

As you know, this initiative to aid the Church in Africa was overwhelmingly affirmed at our November 2004 Plenary Assembly. In response to the mandate of our brother bishops, the newly established Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following **mission statement**: "The work of Ad Hoc Committee for the Church in Africa is guided by the vision of *Ecclesia in Africa* and *A Call to Solidarity with Africa*. The Committee works in partnership with the Church in Africa, with all of its gifts and challenges, to build the pastoral capacity of the Church in Africa through a Solidarity Fund and relationships of solidarity that enrich the Church in both Africa and our own nation. This work is focused on areas of greatest need, builds upon and extends existing relationships, and encourages planning and accountability."

With support from the Committee on International Policy, the Committee on Migration, the Committee on African American Catholics, the Board of Catholic Relief Services, and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the United States, we are **developing a plan** for a more sustained, coordinated, effective, and accountable method of aiding the Church in Africa.

The Solidarity Fund will help respond to the **pastoral needs** and mission of the Church in Africa; it will not duplicate the humanitarian or development assistance provided by Catholic Relief Services.

We assure you that your contributions will be effectively used. The Ad Hoc Committee is building relationships and capacity before distributing grants. We are also developing **clear criteria** for grants.

All grants will be administered on a national conference to national conference basis. By this we mean that our Conference will work with national episcopal conferences in Africa to **review and monitor grants**. The Committee has agreed that the Solidarity Fund will reach at least \$1 million before distributions are made the following year.

We invite every diocese to consider a **voluntary contribution** to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa in 2005. Please return the enclosed form by September 1, 2005 to help us in our planning. We ask that contributions be sent by December 31, 2005.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the urgent needs and the great promise of the Church in Africa. With kind personal regards, we are

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Church in Africa: Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, Chairman, International Policy Committee; Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, International Policy Committee; Bishop Robert N. Lynch, Board of Catholic Relief Services; Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Past President, USCCB; Bishop Joseph N. Perry, African American Catholics Committee; Bishop Gerald R. Barnes, Migration Committee; Bishop Daniel F. Walsh, World Mission Committee.



**+Most Reverend
John J. McRaith, D.D.**
Bishop of
Owensboro, Ky

Western Kentucky Catholic Parishes Celebrate Priesthood Sunday, Oct. 30, 2005

The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2005 **3**

Catholic parishes throughout Western Kentucky and the United States will rally in support of their priests on Sunday, October 30, 2005, with prayer, celebration and dialog.

"Priesthood Sunday," a one-day celebration of the American priesthood, is backed again this year by a wide array of Catholic organizations seeking to show their support for priests.

Priesthood Sunday was first observed in October of 2003 as a reaction to the shadows cast over all priests by the sex abuse crisis.

"The purpose of Priesthood Sunday is to engage every level of the church in the United States in a national conversation about the priesthood," said Rev. Robert J. Silva, President of the National Federation of Priests' Councils, organizer of the event. NFPC represents more than 26,000 U.S. Priests.

Only 4 thousand of the 19 thousand parishes in the U.S. currently have more than one priest. Some priests serve two or more parishes by themselves.

Priesthood Sunday is meant to be led by a parish's lay leaders. Last year, an estimated 10% of U.S. parishes took part in the event. Rev. Silva predicted as many as 25% of parishes may be involved in the 2005 event.

Bishop McRaith said that he hopes "that all parishes and Catholic Institutions will do what they deem appropriate to a call attention to the great need we have for more people to answer the Lord's call to the Priesthood and to Religious life. Obviously we must all join together in prayer on this special Sunday and all the days of the year for more people to answer 'Yes' if they are being called to the priesthood and religious life. While Oct. 30 is set aside to do something appropriate for the faithful priests of this country, we take this opportunity to pray that we all will discern God's call to us and answer 'Yes'."

Father Andy Garner, Diocesan Director of Vocations, sees this as an occasion to invite and encourage others to respond to God's call. "Priesthood Sunday," he said, "provides a great opportunity for the priest to talk about Priest Heroes in his life, his own vocation story and experience of being 'called' to the priesthood. It is also a chance to talk about the sacredness of Christ's priesthood and that priesthood matters ... and then to invite others to be open to God's call and to respond to that call with courage."

The lay faithful of each parish, school, or other ministry are asked to develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring both the priesthood and their own priests. Special liturgies, celebrations



Thank You, Father

Father Tony Stevenson takes the time out of his busy schedule as pastor of Saint William and Saint Lawrence Parishes and Priest-Pastor for Mary Carrico Elementary School in Knottsville, Ky. to cut Mr. J.B. Payne's hair. Mr. Payne is a resident of Bishop Henry Soenneker Home in Knottsville. The Home has been truly blessed with Father Tony's presence both as a leader of prayer and worship and as a willing helper whenever any of his talents are needed. Submitted by Pat Mattingly

and the opening of a dialog between priests and lay people are encouraged.

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY 2005 - A website has been established (www.priest-sunday.org) to provide ideas for liturgies, social celebrations, reflections, dialogs on the priesthood, and other events. In some dioceses there will be special Catholic newspaper sections devoted to honoring

priests. A mailing was sent at the end of August to every parish in the United States.

NFPC, which represents a majority of America's 44,000 priests, focuses on improving collaboration in dioceses between bishops and priests.

Would you like to thank a priest who has made a difference in your life? One way is to send a priest a message of support through the web site, <http://www.thankyoufather.com/>

As Catholics, we believe that we must remain anchored in prayer, especially during this difficult time.

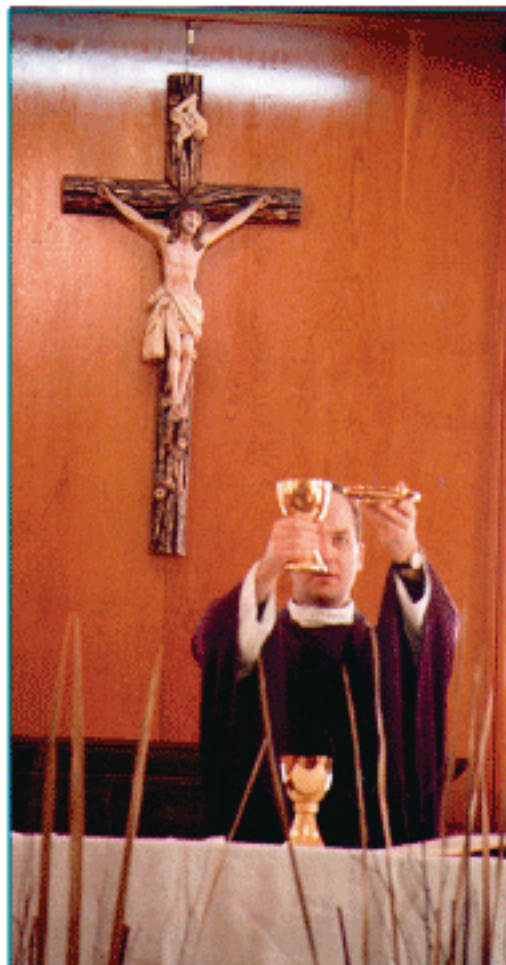
Please take a moment to offer this prayer found at [www.thankyoufather.com.](http://www.thankyoufather.com/)

PRIESTHOOD

a most precious gift

The priest ... is something transcendent: through baptism he brings souls to birth, through the sacrament of penance he purifies them, through communion he gives them our Lord's body as He himself did at the Last Supper, and at their deaths he helps them appear before the Beloved by giving them ... their final forgiveness and their supreme strength ... Every single day of his life, he does what Jesus did during his three years of ministry - he teaches people to know, love and serve their Master. What a vocation!

- Charles de Foucauld, from a letter to a young friend preparing for ordination, 1897



Prayer

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We pray for... Healing for victims; Reconciliation for those who need reconciliation; Wisdom for the decision-makers.

We pray that... Strength will be given to our dedicated and dutiful parish priests, so that they may continue their life's work with conviction; Courage will fill the hearts of priests everywhere, so that they may carry out their work free from fear; Love from those they serve will support our priests, so that they may be energized as they shepherd us through our faith journeys.

We pray for... Continued blessings for the priests who we so often take for granted, and who do so much for us every day. **Amen**



St. Ann Receives Outstanding Middle School Y Club Award

MORGANFIELD, Ky. - The 2004-2005 St. Ann Y Club of Saint Ann Elementary here has received the George Williams Award as the most outstanding middle school club in Kentucky. The club earned 1,915 points and also received an Excellence Award for attaining 1,000 points. Only 4 middle school clubs in the state received the Excellence Award. Last year's Y Club had many service projects and other fun activities throughout the school year. The club provided care packages to the men and women from our community who were serving in the military, sent Christmas packages to children overseas through Operation Christmas Child, collected food for the needy, and performed many services at school and church. Fun activities included Boo-Grans, Valentine treats, and Red Ribbon Week. Many members participated in the KYA and KUNA events in Louisville. The club plans to be very active this year and continue to have fun and rewarding projects.

St. Ann School held its first Y Club meeting on Tuesday, September 6. Officers elected include the following: President - Alix Clements, Vice President - Madison Dayberry, Secretary - Taylor Davis, Treasurer - Bryan Bickett, Chaplain - Isaac Greenwell, 6th grade representative - Maggie Downen, 7th grade representative - Jalyn Houston, and 8th grade representative - Ashlee Manley. Advisers are Mrs. Debbie Padgett and Mrs. Mary Reeder. KYA advisers are Mrs. Jennifer Wurth, Mrs. Tammy Goebel, and Mrs. Julie Davis. KUNA advisers are Mrs. Leigh Ann Vowels and Mrs. Renee French.



Kayla Mann, Fourth Grader, St. Ann School, putting in checks from her mom and grandmother for the Catholic Schools Hurricane Katrina Aid Collection. St. Ann School photo



'05-'06 Saint Ann School Y Club Officers with plaque, from left, front row: Alix Clements, Madison Dayberry; middle: Bryan Bickett, Taylor Davis, Isaac Greenwell; back: Maggie Downen, Jalyn Houston, Ashlee Manley. Saint Ann School photo

Youth Ministry Position Available

St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro has an immediate opening for a Coordinator of Youth Ministry for students in grades 7-12 (approximately 151 students in public and Catholic schools). The Coordinator will have direct ministry with the youth, train parish volunteers to work with youth and also function as an advocate for this age population. To apply or for more information, contact Fr. John Vaughan, 610 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130. Tel: 270-683-6525. john.vaughan@pastoral.org

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-Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Bishop McRaith's October 2005 Schedule

- 4 KC Appreciation Dinner for Priests, KC Hall - Sorgho, 6pm
- 5 Paducah Office Day
- 6 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 6 Catholic Foundation Mtg., St. Raphael, 5pm
- 8 Brescia University Auction Fundraiser, 6pm
- 9 Mass, Diocesan Marriage Celebration, Cathedral, 2pm
- 9 Mass, Blessing of new windows, St. Peter, Waverly, 6pm
- 12 Bishop Boyle visit (retired bishop of Mandeville), CPC, 11am
- 12 Serra start-up mtg., St. Thom. More, Paducah, 6:30pm
- 13 McAuley Board Mtg., Healthpark, 7am
- 15 Serra Club Picnic for Religious, St. Martin, Rome, 12noon
- 16 Marian Congress, Bowling Green, 2-5pm
- 17 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 17 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 18 Sexual Abuse Review Board Mtg., CPC, 5:30pm
- 19 Administration Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 8:30am
- 19 Priests in the First Ten Years Conference, Lake Barkley, Mass - 4:45pm
- 21 Staff Mtg., All Day
- 24 Priests' Retreat, Mount Saint Joseph Conference & Retreat Center, Oct. 24-28
- 25 CCK Healthcare Summit, Lexington, 10:30am-4pm EST
- 26 Mass, Priests' Retreat, Mount Saint Joseph Conference & Retreat Center, 11:15am
- 27 Brescia University Board Mtg.
- 28 Brescia University Board Mtg., All Day
- 29 Right to Life Banquet, Executive Inn, 6pm

A Homily by Father Timothy Sweeney, Pastor of The Immaculate Church, Owensboro, Ky., for the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, 2005; Is 22, 19-23; Rom 11, 33-36; Mt 16,13-20



Many here remember former President Nixon and the troubles he had. But what always struck me as outlandish was a response he made when being interviewed by the British journalist, David Frost. Frost questioned certain of Nixon's actions. And in all seriousness, Nixon declared, "When the President does it, that means it is not illegal." Really? Is the President above the law? But still it's not just political figures who have difficulties with the use of their authority. Certainly those who have wielded religious authority in the service of others have not been above reproach. In the dark days of the Avignon papacy, it took the repeated efforts of a Catherine of Siena to urge Pope Gregory XI to use the authority that was his wisely and well. In 1375 Catherine wrote this to the Pope: "Be a man, Father. . . Do God's will. . . I am begging you. . . I am telling you. . . These are the things which God requires of you. . ."

In today's gospel, the Matthew tells us the occasion and the circumstances that Peter's authority was conferred. Notice that Peter was not asked to compile Curriculum Vitae with detailed information as to his talents and suitability for the task at hand. He was not required to present personal references or recommendations; nor was he expected to accumulate a long listing of his educational and work-related experiences that would have proven him capable of sharing in Jesus' authority. On the contrary, Jesus was not conducting a job-interview on that long ago day in the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi; he was enlisting the help and loyalty, the love and service of a friend. To that end and by way of preparing him for the authority that would be his, Jesus asked Peter one simple question. "Who do you say I am?"

So Peter is entrusted with the keys to God's reign. And that image of the "keys" recalls our first reading where Shebna proved an unworthy keeper of the keys. It happens! Yet the responsibility of keeping the keys, here conferred on Peter and in chap 18, more broadly on the whole church, means that the church has the power to "bind and loose." And that expression is interpreted in various ways: laying down rules and making exemptions, imposing and lifting sanctions, forgiving and not forgiving sins, performing exorcisms, admitting or not admitting to the community. The idea here is that God will ratify, support and authorize what Peter and the others enact. As Catholics especially, that's what we have always seen in this text. But there's still more here.

Notice that the church is necessarily rooted in the firm acceptance that Jesus is Messiah (Christ) and Son of God (Lord). What makes Peter and the church so special is nothing intrinsic in them. It's not their brilliance or fidelity, not their cunning or courage. Rather Peter and company draw their distinctiveness from the confession they make about Jesus. And that confession is not the product of erudite human reasoning; no, that confession is prompted by the "heavenly Father," and through our hearing this read from time to time reminds us who Jesus is.

But in our day perhaps the statement of Jesus that "the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it" is a little more telling. The fact is that the church, by its nature, is a church in conflict. For those "gates of the netherworld" tell us rather vividly that the church is the designated opponent of evil in our world. However you translate it, "gates of the netherworld," "the gates of Hades," "the jaws of death," the church is established in the context of conflict. The persecutions by Nero, Domitian, the Third Reich, Soviet Russia, from the earliest beginning the church has withstood and survived those "jaws." At other times, those "jaws of death" gnaw away at the church from within, as in the ongoing sexual scandal. Nevertheless, and at all times and through every conflict, the church strives simply to be true to its nature as a champion of truth, goodness, justice and right. You see, Jesus is clearly telling us that the church is not a place to seek repose but it is the site of mortal conflict, until such time as goodness and Godliness overcome all evils.

With knowledge of Christ, with a loving relationship with the Lord Jesus, one is mindful of who the "boss" really is and enables those who represent the "Boss" before others to do so faithfully, humbly, and without ostentation or self-importance. By maintaining our focus on Christ rather than on ourselves, the disciple can help the church to grow, better in its service, more courageous in its challenges to the evils in our world. By maintaining our center on God in Christ, we can lead, by example. By keeping our eyes focused on Christ rather than ourselves, we can be what we're called to be, a servant of the servants of God.

Contemporary Woman Program Celebrates More Than Forty Years

Brescia University's Contemporary Woman Program enters a new season, with Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rose Marita O'Bryan as its new director. The brochure for the fall semester lists new and former programs available to both women and men.



Among the programs offered are:

- **Contemplative Dialogue**, presented by Sister Rose Marita, guided by Steven Wirth of the Centre for Contemplative Dialogue, which began on Tuesday evening, September 6, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and continues through December.
- **Soup and Spirituality**, presented on the first Thursday of each month by Sister Rose Marita and other members of her community from 10:30 till noon, is characterized by inspirational input, opportunity for shared prayer, and a bowl of soup.
- **Menopause: Initiation into Power**, offered on five consecutive Thursday evenings beginning in October from 6:30 to 8:30, is presented by Sara McNulty.
- **God's Politics**, which explores a new vision for faith and politics in America, is presented by Sister Rose Marita on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-3:30.
- **The Canticle Group**, dialoging around the book *Jump Time* by Jean Houston, meets on Friday morning from 10 till noon.
- **The Partnership Group**, in its 17th year, gathers to study and discuss *Power vs. Force* by David Hawkins on the second Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m.

For a brochure and more information regarding programs, dates, and costs, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301; 270-686-4275; rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu. Participants are asked to pre-register at least one week in advance for each program.

Diocese to appeal bankruptcy court decision that parishes are assets

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) -- Citing the "national consequences," Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane said he will appeal a federal bankruptcy court's ruling that parish properties must be included in the Spokane diocesan assets used to settle millions of dollars in clergy sex abuse claims. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Patricia Williams of Spokane ruled Aug. 26 that civil property laws prevail in a bankruptcy proceeding despite any internal church laws that might bar a bishop from full control over parish assets. Diocesan lawyers had argued that in church law parish assets belong to the parish itself, not to its pastor or to the bishop. They said that, while the diocesan bishop was nominally the owner in civil law, even in civil law he only held those properties in trust for the parishes themselves. "It is not a violation of the First Amendment," Williams wrote, "to apply federal bankruptcy law to identify and define property of the bankruptcy estate even though the Chapter 11 debtor is a religious organization."

Saint Benedict School reunion

will be Oct. 16, 2005 in the basement of St. Benedict Church, Wax, Ky. Pot luck lunch after the 10 o'clock Mass. Everyone welcome. For more information call LaMont Miller, 270-259-3303.

The Land Of Cotton

Reflections on the life of the founding Bishop of Owensboro, Francis R. Cotton, and the beginning days of the Owensboro Diocese, Part I

By Rev. Benjamin F. Luther

The Archivist of the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, asked me a favor - "would you like to write a life of Bishop Cotton for the Western Kentucky Catholic?" I responded, "if you will help me do the research and if Bishop McRaith approves." Both came about, and so with this first installment, we begin a series on the life of our founding Ordinary, the Most Reverend Bishop Francis Ridgely Cotton (1938-1960). As his life is necessarily intertwined with the beginning days of our diocese, in effect, this series will attempt to offer some insight into the first two decades of the Church of Western Kentucky. In so doing, I am not only indebted to my good friend, Sister Emma Cecilia, whose well organized archives at our Pastoral Center in Owensboro have contributed so much information, but also to the several priests who knew Bishop Cotton. I also draw on my memories of comments made decades ago by priests, about our founding bishop and the beginning days of our diocese. At this writing, there are 13 priests living in our diocese who go back to Bishop Cotton's days, and but one who was of the original priests of our presbyterate, Father Charles A. DeNardi, who at 95 years of age, lives at Carmel Home.

Several times, some of our younger clergy have asked me about Bishop Cotton, thinking that I actually knew him and was ordained by him. I recall that one of the recently ordained asked me, "are you preconciliar or postconciliar?" meaning, of course, were you ordained before the II Vatican Council, or after that Council? My response was, "No, I am *intra*conciliar, for I was ordained in 1964, and so *during* that Ecumenical Council, hence not by Bishop Cotton, who died in 1960, but by the second Bishop of Owensboro, Henry J. Soenneker." Quite a few "Soenneker priests" survive in our diocese.

So, did I ever meet Bishop Cotton or have any kind of contact with him? Yes, I did, but believe me, the encounters were very ephemeral, indeed, so much so as scarcely worth repeating, but I'll tell you what I know. My first encounter was on October 13, 1949, when I received the Sacrament of Confirmation from him at St. Joseph's Church in Mayfield. I was the last in line to be confirmed, as "converts" followed the children in the lineup; I had been conditionally baptized Catholic by Fr. Leo J. Dienes on April 13 of that year. I can recall kneeling before him and looking up at that tall mitre, which seemed to loom several feet high; I can still hear Father George Boehmicke call out my Confirmation patron saint's name, "Thomas," and Bishop Cotton's anointing with the sacred chrism with the then Latin formula in use, "Thomas, signo te signo crucis, et confirmo te chrismate salutis, in nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen" - "I sign you with the sign of the cross and I confirm you with the chrism of salvation, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

After four years in the U. S. Navy (1951-55), I matriculated at Brescia College and lived in an apartment at 614 Allen Street, very near the College. Bishop Cotton used to park his Dodge on Allen Street, and with satchel in hand, head to 3rd Street, and the old Chancery Office on the second floor of Gant and Butterfield Office Supplies. On my way to class at the college, we passed one another any number of times, always in the same manner - "Good morning, Bishop" and his response was always, "hello."

There was an alley between Allen and St. Ann's Streets, and once I was about to turn right and go up the alley from St. Ann to Allen, and Bishop Cotton's Dodge almost literally hit me; he seemed to drive rather fast.

I also attended the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday in St. Stephen's Cathedral. Naturally, Bishop Cotton was the celebrant, and various priests had other roles to play in the ceremonies; in those pre-Vatican II days, there was no "concelebration" (except at a priest's ordination and a few other times). There were few laypersons in attendance at such ceremonies, I recall.

I can definitely recall my encounter with Bishop Cotton at St. Maur's Priory in the summer of 1957. I was a student at Brescia College, 1955-56, and then entered the seminary under the Salvatorian Fathers in Menominee, Michigan. After a year there, with its concentration on Latin studies, I felt the need for additional education in that language, and broached the question with my pastor, Father Dienes. He discussed the matter with Bishop Cotton, who arranged for me to study Latin at the Benedictine Monastery at South Union, under the Prior, Father Alexander Korte, OSB. On one occasion, Bishop Cotton visited the community, accompanied by Father George Boehmicke.

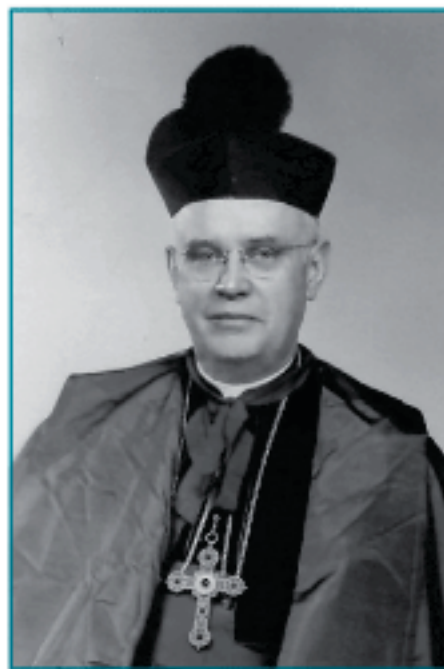
I was introduced to the Bishop by Fr. Alexander; was I ever nervous! Seminarians in those days had no contact with the Bishop, but only with his representative, Msgr. Gilbert Henninger. We shook hands, and he said, "Well, Mr. Luther, have you learned to decline 'rosa' yet?" Meaning, an elemental level of Latin! "Oh, yes, Bishop, we are into the 'subjunctive' level now." End of the fleeting conversation. Later, I remembered that I forgot to kiss his ring, then the common custom.

The last time I had contact with Bishop Cotton was next to Precious Blood Church in Owensboro. I was with Msgr. Henninger. Precious Blood Church was then under construction. Bishop Cotton appeared to look over the site. He walked up to Msgr. Henninger and myself. Msgr. Henninger took off his hat in respect, and said, "Bishop, this is your seminarian, Mr. Luther." He pointed to me, and said, "Oh, yes." That was it! He died some weeks later at his residence at 1535 Frederica Street in Owensboro.

Obviously, all these brief encounters are indeed ephemeral! Given the context of the time, they could not have been otherwise. Bishop Cotton did show his esteem for me in two ways. One was in a letter from his Chancellor, Father Robert Connor, sent to me at Jordan Seminary in Menominee, Michigan, in which he informed me that Bishop Cotton had decided that I was to do my studies in philosophy at St. Mary's College near Bardstown, adding that the Bishop gave me this advance information "with the assurance that you are more mature and will not be upset by the news." Not only was I not upset, but I received the letter in March, 1958, the first in my class to be given a new seminary assignment! The second gift I received from him was conveyed from Bishop Cotton through the Rector of St. Mary's College, who asked me to choose a seminary for theological studies; I chose St. Maur's at South Union, as I had studied there under the Rector, Fr. Alexander.

As I researched the cache of documents Sister Emma Cecilia gave me, and some also by the good graces of Sister Vickie Cravens at Mount St. Joseph, I slowly realized that the contributions of Bishop Cotton were wide and significant, and that he began, as

he once put it, as a "baby bishop in a baby diocese," with a Catholic population still under the pull of the "Depression" which came about in the "crash" on Wall Street in 1929 - in a word, money was in short supply! Priests were salaried at \$33.33 per month, and every fourth month, at \$33.34 - Bishop Cotton admonished his priests, "now, don't spend all of that in one place!" Sisters taught in our schools for virtually nothing - \$35 a month. In those days, a quarter or a dollar in the collection basket was considered generous. Bishop Cotton had to "rake and scrape" to raise money to pay the seminary for the education of his men to the priesthood; his first pastoral letter in 1938 to his priests and people was to beg for money to pay those bills, with the note that tuition was up to \$700 per year (today, more like \$10,000!). He began with little, but was organized, frugal, and very prayerful. He laid the foundation of the Church of Western Kentucky. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.



**Most Reverend Bishop
Francis Ridgely Cotton**

Ursuline Sisters Christmas Craft Sale

Saturday, November 5, 9:00 A.m.-3:00 P.m.

Precious Blood Parish Hall, 3306 Fenmore Street, O'Boro..

Homemade Chili And Bread. Come And Shop Now For Christmas!!!

For More Information Call 686-7098.

**Otto & Mary Jo (Toon) Hayden
St. Joseph Parish
Mayfield, KY**

Otto and Mary Jo Hayden have been married 75 years and March 2006 will make it 76. To my knowledge they have been married the longest of any couple in the Diocese. What a tribute to the sacrament of matrimony!

Meeting the Hayden's at their residence was quite a pleasure.

"We moved from our home to our apartment here (assisted living home) about a year ago," Mary Jo said, as she showed me around. "My favorite thing is this huge bathroom," she said. "There are beautiful caged birds out in the public area. There is a small garden area and yard too. We have activities, and good food. This is a good place to live if you can't live in your own home.

"I'm 92 and Otto is 96. We don't see as well as we use to, so the children thought it would be better for us to move in this apartment. We do like

it here. We have 10 children and most of them are all scattered around. We have a daughter close that is able to visit and take us to church each week."

"I have been blessed all my life. I had 8 brothers and sisters. Dad wished the girls would all be nuns. He would kneel us down and teach us to pray: Angel of God and Hail Mary. He would hold us in his lap at night and sing to us. He was very good."

"Otto's mother died when he was one and he was raised by a very nice couple."

"We first met in school. When we got married I was 20 and she was 17. I remember nobody was good enough for his daughters according to her father!

Otto said, "I've had many jobs over the years. I worked on the WPA for 35 cents an hour. We didn't have machinery -just horses, mules, and shovels. I sold Speed Queen washers when they first came out. They had gas and oil mix powered motors and wringers. We had one, and all the women from around would come to watch on washday. I told the guy at the store I thought I could sell some. So I loaded 5 on the back of my model A and went house to house and I sold them all. That's something you don't see today. Door to door washer salesman!"

"We got our first car 70 years ago. The first cars had no glass, but looked more like Surreys with curtains," explained Mary Jo.

"I had a Model T and tore the back out of it and made it truck so I could carry more people in it," said Otto.

"I worked 18 years as a Nurse and dietitian and I worked in dime stores and did sewing. I made all of our clothes. I even made all of our linens and sheets.

"Before we got a television in the evenings we would sit together with the children and he (Otto) would read aloud and I would sew. It was a pleasant time. Our yard was always filled with children playing games. When we got our first TV all the neighbors would gather and watch it.

We lived in Los Angeles, California for about 18 months in the '50's. I knew Otto wouldn't stay because he was disgusted with all the traffic and people. So, I decided to see as many things as I could while we were out there. We went to Disneyland and we saw the Petrified Forest too.

"Over the years our faith has been such an important part of our lives. To live this long you have to have faith. In all the years we have been married we have never gone to bed angry with each other. We are truly blessed.



2005 Jubilarians

Marking the anniversary of a person's commitment to a vocation in life is an important witness for the whole Christian community. Every year, the Diocese of Owensboro together with our Bishop John McRaith acknowledges the men and women who have dedicated their lives to God as priests, Sisters, or brothers. This celebration is normally held in the spring of the year. The picture here is from that celebration in April of those Jubilarians who were able to be in St. Stephen Cathedral for the Mass and this group photo afterwards. From front Row L to R: Sr. Marietta Wethington, Sr. Teresa Rilely, Sr. Agnes Catherine Williams, Sr. Mary Victor Rogers, Sr. Marie Brenda Vowles, Sr. Mary Mercedes Knott, Sr. Agnes Irene Bickett; Second Row L to R: Sr. Marie Michael Hayden Sr. Margaret Marie Greenwell, Sr. Joan Walz, Sr. Barbara Jean Head, Sr. Philomena Cox, Sr. Marie Joseph Coomes, Sr. Ann McGrew, Sr. Agnes Cecilia Speaks; Third Row L to R: Sr. Catherine Lauterwasser, Sr. Carolyn Thomas, Sr. Lucy Boniface, Sr. Francis Louise Johnson, Sr. Rita Lechner, Sr. Mary Henning, Sr. Teresa Margaret Hite. Top Father John Meredith, Father Pat Reynolds. Photo by Lois Rutigliano Photo

Chapel Items Available

St. Mary Middle and High School in Paducah, Kentucky recently built a new chapel. They now have available items from their chapel. These are

1. Two panels containing the Stations of the Cross
2. One large standing candle holder
3. One large cross for the wall
4. A tabernacle with stand
5. Assorted candle followers

Please call the school if you are interested in these items or know a mission that does. The phone number for the school is 270-4421681.

Immigration & the Church

"As pastors to more than . sixty-five million U.S. Catholics, we witness the human consequences of migration in the life of society every day. We witness the vulnerability of our people involved in all sides of the migration phenomenon, including families devastated by the loss of loved ones....and children left alone when parents are removed from them."

(Pg. 1-2, no. 4)

- *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, a joint statement from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States. To learn about the USCCB's Campaign for Immigration Reform visit: www.justiceforimmigrants.org

Sisters of Charity Get Reacquainted With W. Ky. Roots

On August 11, 2005, three Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and four novices to-be made a pilgrimage to Union County in Western Kentucky. Why to Union County? It was to this site outside Morganfield that three SCNs arrived in 1820 to establish a school which became St. Vincent Academy. These first sisters rode the one hundred fifty miles on horseback from Bardstown spending nights along the way with early pioneer families which no doubt, had been prearranged by Fr. Eliza Durbin. The tired sisters spent their first few nights in a chicken house because a newly married couple had taken up residency in the house designated for them. From this very humble beginning, the prestigious St. Vincent Academy was established and SCNs served there for one hundred forty-six (146) years.

Our first stop was at Sacred Heart Cemetery, formerly St. Vincent Cemetery where fifteen SCNs are buried, including S. Mary Lucy Dosh who died nursing the Union and Confederate soldiers. Her death brought a truce in the fighting while her body was escorted up the river to Uniontown by soldiers from both armies. She was then buried at St. Vincent's. We held a prayer service honoring all the sisters buried there and visited each of the sisters' graves.

From St. Vincent we traveled to St. Agnes in Uniontown (1872) for a visit to this beautiful church, then to St. Ann in Morganfield (1912), and then on to Holy Name in Henderson (1872) where SCNs ministered for one hundred twenty-nine years, the last SCN leaving in 2001.

The pilgrimage then proceeded to Owensboro and the site of the old St. Frances Academy (1849), the first educational institution, public or private in Daviess County. Pictures brought to life this ven-

erable structure, and then the pilgrims moved on to Owensboro Catholic High, birthed by the closing of St. Frances in 1951. St. Stephen Cathedral, Catholic Pastoral Center, site of the former Stephen School (1939) completed the tour of some of the twenty-two sites ministered to by SCNs and of their rich history in Western Kentucky.

At a delicious meal at Moonlite the candidates of which two are from Belize, one from Mexico and one from Florida, were introduced to Western Kentucky barbeque, an important first for them. Following dinner, they toured Boulware Mission, a homeless shelter and site of the only SCN ministry now in Western Kentucky. Glenmary Sr. Pat Leighton, offered hospitality to a tired but happy group of travelers.

All agreed this brief pilgrimage to Western Kentucky, along with other sites of rich history in Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and Tennessee gave the novices-to-be an inspirational orientation to the history and present ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in the U.S. Western Province. The four were received as novices on August 28 at Nazareth, Ky. As canonical novices, their first year will be spent at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Sister of Charity of Nazareth Educational Ministry in Western Kentucky:

St. Vincent Academy, Union Co, KY, 1820



From left, Elisa Arivla, Dorothy Thomas, SCN, Eula Johnson, SCN, Paris Slapikas, Carlette Gentile, Isamary Gracia at the cemetery in Union County.



August 28 Reception day in Saint Vincent Chapel: front row, from left, Carlette Gentile, Elisa Arivla, Isamary Gracia, Paris Alspikas; 2nd row: Teresa Rose Nabholz, SCN, Barbara Flores, SCN, Eva Kawolski, SCN, and Nancy Gerth, SCN.

- St. Frances Academy, Owensboro, 1849
- St. Mary Academy, Paducah, 1858
- St. Columba Academy, Bowling Green, 1863
- St. Agnes, Uniontown, 1872
- Holy Name, Henderson, 1872
- St. Romuald, Hardinsburg, 1876
- Sacred Heart School for Boys, Union Co., 1885
- Boys Parochial School for Boys, Owensboro, 1887
- St. Raphael, West Louisville, 1886
- St. Jerome, Fancy Farm, 1892
- St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville, 1901
- St. Joseph, Morganfield, 1912
- St. Charles, Bardwell, 1924
- Blessed Sacrament School, Owensboro, 1940
- Blessed Martin School, Waverly, 1944
- Owensboro Catholic High, Owensboro, 1951
- St. Pius X, Calvert City, 1954
- St. Edward, Fulton, 1956
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, 1959
- Sacred Heart, Hickman, 1960
- St. Francis de Sales, Paducah, 1965



Owensboro Catholic Schools Sisters in Faith

In the picture at left, the 'Sisters in Faith' group, worked at the Mount St. Joseph's Picnic by washing the pots and pans. Great job Ladies! "Sisters In Faith" is a new and exciting faith filled club for young girls. Sisters in Faith has three main goals: . 1. To share faith with friends, pray, and learn from the teachings in the Bible; 2. To do good for others through the giving of their time and talents; 3. To have fun and develop Christian friendships that will last a lifetime.

For more information on the Sisters In Faith Club, call Lori Whitehouse at 281-4774. The group is currently made up of 20 girls in 7th grade. Sisters In Faith has big plans for ways in which they can help the OCS community, by volunteering their time and doing service projects for others, especially the elderly.

Source: OCS In The Loop, Owensboro Catholic [publications@owensborocatholic.org]

Our Roots

Mount St. Joseph Academy - Mother Aloysius Willett

By Bob Cinnamon

"What an incredibly beautiful place!" I remarked, as I stood looking out over the majestic maples that surround this place called "the Mount." I have been here before, many times, on quiet retreats, workshops, TECs, Cursillos, youth retreats, and the feeling is always the same. Once I brought a large group of teenagers from Henderson just to slide down the hills in the snow and to be with our daughter Anne who attended school at the Mount. The buildings remind me of a small city, yet so isolated and picturesque!

The peacefulness, the tranquility, the beauty, are so remarkable at this most unusual place far out in the country of Western Daviess County. How did all of this get here? What is its history? "It's Divine Providence," I was told. "But who built it?" I probed. I wanted a name and I was given one: Mother Aloysius Willett.

Mary Leona Willett was born on September 8, 1862, at a little town called "Crossroads," now called Waverly, Ky., the only daughter of Mary Ellen Wathen and Samuel Griffin Willett. Her grandparents were Dr. Thomas Wathen, Nettie Sue Davenport, Samuel Willett and Mary Dant. "Leona" was baptized by the Rev. Elisha Durbin into a historically rich family from Holy Cross Catholic Church in the Pottinger Creek area near Bardstown.

Her early life was filled with flowers, trees, the woods, riding horses, playing with her brother, and watching things grow. Then her life took a dramatic turn for the worst. Her mother, Mary Ellen, died of T.B., and Leona was soon faced with a stepmother who beat her and mistreated her constantly, forcing her to work like an adult.

At age ten Leona was removed from the home and given to her loving grandmother. At age twelve she made her first communion at St. Vincent and went to live with her aunt and uncle -- "the Robbs." She enjoyed ice skating and playing ante-over for hours. Leona loved challenges and once memorized a long list of words so she would be allowed to ride the fastest and most dangerous horse (Red Chief) that the Robbs owned.

By age fifteen Leona was tall and walked with unusual grace and dignity. Her blue-gray eyes shone with unusual brilliance. Her grandparents recognized her giftedness, and in September 1877 they raised enough money to send her to the new Mount St. Joseph Academy. She and Kate Roberts became the first from Union County to attend the Mount. Only God knew that she would become the foundress of the Ursuline Community of Western Kentucky.

At that time the Mount contained only five acres of land and struggled hard for survival. Leona and Kate made up almost half of her class at school. Leona loved the academic challenge at the Mount. She studied Pope Leo's encyclical on the ills of modern society and immersed herself in the principles of St. Angela Merici.

Leona developed a close friendship with Sr. Johanna. Often they were seen walking together in the woods picking roots, bark, and leaves to make ointments and powders for most common ailments such as poison ivy and the flu while saying the rosary. Somehow that year Leona learned that she could be a leader for Christ, and she was never the same again.

Her excitement about the Mount was contagious. The next year she returned from Union County with three more recruits. Leona excelled academically in all areas, but

she impressed others by her radiating cheerfulness, serene composure, and peaceful countenance.

Leona loved to read and read often to the other students. Upon graduation from the Mount, she attained the Union County teaching certificate and taught there for five months. But she could not forget the Ursulines. In July 1882 she entered the community in Louisville. In September, as Sister Aloysius, she returned to the Mount and began her work at the Academy as teacher and director of studies.

Her charismatic personality attracted more young women to the Mount. In 1895 she was chosen as Mistress of Novices. She loved to sing and play guitar for the other sisters. Sr. Aloysius was always positive, progressive, and an excellent disciplinarian. She embraced the joys and sorrows of her community and made countless friends and benefactors. My great grandfather once wrote: "Sr. Aloysius had an eye for beauty and an ear for peace and solitude."

Sr. Aloysius developed a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her life principles were:

- 1) Strive for perfection in little things.
- 2) Complete ordinary actions in an extraordinary manner.
- 3) Always pray well for your life depends upon it.
- 4) Be in union of one heart and one soul.

In 1913 Sr. Aloysius was elected the first Mother Superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, which had become an independent community in 1912. (Up to this time the Mount had been a mission of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville.) The Mount grew rapidly under her leadership. By the time of her death in 1920, 175 Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph staffed 41 schools in Kentucky, Indiana, Nebraska, and New Mexico. The Kentucky schools included St. Romuald in Hardinsburg, St. Peter in Waverly, St. Peter in Stanley, St. Elizabeth in Curdsville, St. Anthony in Browns Valley, St. William in Knottsville, St. Rose in Cloverport, St. Charles in Livermore, St. Huberta Academy (later Sts. Joseph and Paul) in Owensboro, St. Martin in Rome, St. Alphonsus in St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception in Earlington, and St. Lawrence School in St. Lawrence.

Mother Aloysius never lost her love for nature and walks in the woods. She is responsible for planting one hundred maple trees in 1912, adding to the maple grove that Father Paul Joseph Volk had planted at "Maple Mount" in 1875.



Mother Aloysius Willett

In her latter years she initiated college level courses for her sisters setting the stage for Mount Saint Joseph Junior College and Brescia College/University. St. Angela Hall, which housed the Junior College for 25 years, was built under her direction. Mother Aloysius died on a trip to California on October 1, 1920, as she planned for more schools in the west.

The death of Mother Aloysius brought letters of sympathy from many bishops, priests, civil leaders, and friends from all across America. Her knowledge, love, and service were passed on to her sisters and through them to our ancestors and to many of us. From a poor, mistreated young girl, she rose to change our world. Yes, that is Divine Providence.

Owensboro Catholic Schools/Director

The Owensboro Catholic Schools, a unified, progressive K-12 system with an enrollment of over 1300 students in four schools, is currently seeking applications for the position of Director. Requirements: Practicing Catholic; Master's degree or higher preferred; excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills. OCS is seeking a dynamic leader who is committed to a team approach to school administration. The Director must be a problemsolver, a self-starter, and have a strong record of achievement that predicts success in leading the development and growth of OCS. Send resume to the following address: Jim Mattingly, Superintendent, Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301, 270-683-1545. Application materials will be reviewed upon receipt.

St. Stephen Cathedral - "Keeping The Faith Afloat"

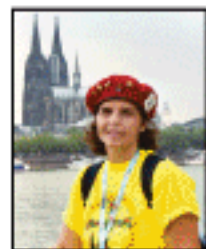
Western Caribbean Cruise

June 24-July 1, 2006 - 7 days. From \$1,462 from Louisville. For information and reservations, contact St. Stephen Cathedral, 610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301. Call 270-683-6525.

Father John Vaughan, Pastor and Cruise Chaplain, Michael Conley, Music Minister on board. Mass provided daily; other opportunities to share Faith and Fellowship; AM scripture study/mini retreat at sea.

\$400 deposit by October 18 saves a cabin on this adventure! Don't be left behind.

A Journey of Joy



Pope John Paul II beckoned them to, "Come and worship Him."

By Larena Lawson

Just as the Magi came from the east and followed the star

where Jesus lay, young people from all corners of the world, the north, the south, the east and the west, came from afar to worship Him, "to follow the Cross, the sign of light." The star rested upon Cologne, Germany, the host of the XX World Youth Day 2005.

In his message for the XX World Youth Day 2005 Pope John Paul II wrote, "It is true to say that the light of Christ had already opened the minds and hearts of the Magi, 'They went their way,' says the Evangelist, 'setting out boldly along unknown paths on a long, and by no means, easy journey.'" (Mt 2:9)

A group of 21 pilgrims from the Diocese of Owensboro, for many different reasons, were prompted to make the long journey across the ocean, accepting the invitation to come and worship Him, in this year of the Eucharist. They wanted to see the new Pope, to grow stronger in their faith, to go back to their homeland and see the culture, to experience being with hundreds of thousands of people who share their faith and beliefs, to make a spiritual journey, to answer a call from God, to follow the universal Church, to renew a hope and enthusiasm for working with young people, or to foster and encourage



Shrine of the Black Madonna, "Jasna Gora", in Czestochowa. Matt Monsour photo

World Youth Day A Special Report



vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Whatever their personal reason for going, their hearts and minds, too, were opened, and they set out boldly, along unknown paths, just like the Magi, seeking to fulfill their desires to see Christ.

I was richly blessed to be among these pilgrims. Our pilgrimage of faith began on August 10 as we made our way from Owensboro to Warsaw, where a pre-trip was planned before we made our way to Cologne



Owensboro Diocesan World Youth Day Pilgrims outside of Wawel Cathedral, Krakow, Poland - front row, L to R: Ashley Morris, Katie Wright, Amy Fogle, Sraah Rhodes, Alexa Ebelhar, Robbie Merritt, Martha House; second row, L to R: Lindsey Riney, Jerrod McCarty, Jessie Franey, Rachael Rhodes, Larena Lawson; back row, L to R: Kenneth Ebelhar, Matt Monsour, Brent Hayden, Melinda Prunty, Jarrod Rhodes, Andrea Conder, Father Richard Powers, Tim Fogle, Father Andy Garner. Submitted by Larena Lawson.

for WYD activities. Upon arrival in Poland, we were greeted by our Polish tour guide, Agnieszka, who proved to become very instrumental in making our stay in Poland a most memorable, admirable and inspirational one.

We first visited the Shrine of the Black Madonna, "Jasna Gora," in Czestochowa. We arrived

early in the morning at 6:00 a.m. to witness the unveiling of the beautiful painting of the Black Madonna. According to tradition, it was painted by Luke, the evangelist, and has been in the care of the Pauline monks since 1382. The golden curtain protecting the magnificent, jewel-vested Madonna was lifted to the sounds of trumpets and drums, melodiously invoking an overflowing Church to prayer, in honor of our Blessed Mother. With the singing of hymns and the celebration of holy mass in their native tongue, one instantly could feel that this holy place was very precious to the Polish people.

We observed a wall filled with crutches, braces and supports left behind by people who had been miraculously healed at Jasna Gora, "the bright mountain," as Pope John Paul II so fondly called it. It was a place that he visited many times growing up and on retreats as the Bishop of Krakow. We were blessed to be able to celebrate our own private mass in the chapel area, in the presence of the holy icon, as others remained in the outer Church. At Mass, we were deeply inspired by the faith of the people there, young, old, and disabled, who most reverently and penitently, crawled on their knees, circling the altar by way of a special passageway that surrounded the chapel, all the while deep in prayer and adoration. Lindsey



A group of pilgrims arrive at Jasna Gora after walking long distances to join the celebration on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, a tradition with the Polish people. Melinda Prunty Photo

Continued on page 11

Riney, a junior at Apollo High School, commented, *"The Shrine of the Black Madonna was incredible! The people there were so alive and excited about their faith! It is not something that you see at home everyday."*

Many times we saw signs of people's devotion to Our Lady - young people were pouring into the courtyard and outside of the Church, some walking distances of up to 20 miles we were told, making their pilgrimage walk to Jasna Gora to celebrate the upcoming feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. They arrived joyously singing, playing music and waving flags, happy to have finally arrived after days of camping out and walking. This is a common way for the Polish people to honor Mary, whom they considered to be their safeguard all throughout their long history of oppression as Polish citizens. The impact of our experience at the Shrine of the Black Madonna, and the effect that it had on us, was most eloquently described by Brent Hayden, a junior at the University of Kentucky, when he said, *"Seeing the devotion of those hard-working people, their Catholic faith, to Mary, to Jesus, provided an inspiration and a model of how I hope to lead my own life."* What we witnessed there was truly a gift to us that left a remarkable impression on us all... and the journey had just begun.

Our next stop was Auschwitz to visit the martyrdom places of St. Maximilian



The celebration of the Opening Mass at Europaplatz Arena in Dusseldorf, Germany, where over 25,000 pilgrims gathered. Matt Monsour photo

Kolbe and St. Edith Stein. We made our way through the Auschwitz camps I and II, walking slowly on the grounds where over a million innocent people were the victims of terrible atrocities, tortured and murdered. We saw the close quarters where they were forced to live, the cold, dark cell blocks where some of them were placed, the starvation bunker where St. Maximilian Kolbe died, the gas houses and chambers, the crematory with the furnace

that burned the bodies, the rooms full of the victims' personal belongings that they had carried with them when they were forced to leave their homes, rooms full of hair cut from their heads, shoes they had worn. Seeing all of these things brought to light how cruel and inhumane these innocent people were treated and how they were viciously and brutally slaughtered.

As we returned to our bus and awaited departure from these camps of death and the horrors that occurred there heavily bearing on our minds, Father Andy Garner, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Owensboro, called our attention to the daytime prayer for the day in the Liturgy of the Hours. We prayed together Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? ... You are far from my plea and the cry of my distress... Do not leave me in my distress; come close, there is none else to help... O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!" Was it providential for this to be the prayer of this day, for us to be placed in the mindset of what it must have been like for a victim of the Holocaust, feeling abandoned and yet calling to God for help? It was a solemn experience, filled with mixed emotions and questions as to how and why all of this happened, but also one of thanksgiving in knowing that God does not leave us alone.

We had the opportunity to visit the birthplace of Pope John Paul II in Wadowice, and the Church where he was baptized. Everywhere we looked there were memorials to our late Holy Father and flowers left in his memory, clearly indicating how much



Fr. Andy Garner, left, posing with an unidentified Franciscan priest (center) and Father Juniper, a Franciscan priest who frequently preaches at Youth 2000 retreats in the Owensboro Diocese. Larena Lawson photo

he was loved by his native people and all those who visited his homeland.

We toured Wawel hill, the Cathedral and Castle where Pope John Paul II was ordained Bishop of Krakow and the Crypt Church down below it where he said his first holy mass. Majestically it rested upon a high hill overlooking a river, a most treasured place of worship for our late Pope, rich in Catholic and royal history.

While in Krakow, the hometown of our tour guide, we were able to experience the culture of the Polish people when we stopped in Market Square which was bustling with tourists, people shopping, singing, dancing, entertaining and dining.

We had the opportunity to celebrate holy mass at the chapel on the grounds of the Divine Mercy Shrine and to see where St. Faustina lived. There we met up with other pilgrims also making their way to WYD in Germany. We even knew the priest that was with them, Father Juniper, from our Youth 2000 retreats. It certainly seemed like a small world seeing someone we knew so far from home.

We learned that many of the Polish people depended upon the mines for making a living. Unfortunately, many of these mines are now closed, thus raising the unemployment rate in Poland and putting a hardship on many families to find work. Many have to leave the country in search of employment, especially the younger generation. We visited one of these mines that had closed, but was now only opened to tourists. It was a salt mine, in Wielszka. Our guide Agnieszka told us that it was one of the most beautiful places that she has ever seen. We discovered why when we reached the bottom of the mine, over



The Nazis left rooms full of braces and crutches taken from disabled people deemed of no value and then killed. These crutches adorning a wall at the Shrine of the Black Madonna at Jasna Gora were left by people with disabilities who received miraculous cures at the Shrine. The irony of the Nazis' rush to judgment was striking. Matt Monsour photo

300 meters below the surface. We saw the most spectacular, artistic work of three men, whom they said started as amateurs, who spent 70 years working on sculpting a chapel out of salt. Carved, in great detail, were beautiful statues, the altar, scenes from the bible, the floor, everything that you would see in a Church. The time devoted to building this holy place bespoke the ultimate gifts of Stewardship from the three men who created it. Making our way across and out of Poland, we stopped in one of Poland's main cities, Wroclaw, which was the home of St. Edith Stein. We visited her home parish and celebrated Mass there, together with the group of 11 from Texas, who had been traveling with us all along the way. Their home parish is St. Edith Stein, so it was very special for

them to be in her home parish.

From there we drove into the Kakanosze Mountains, and the city of Karpasz to relax in a beautiful mountaintop inn which was especially graced with a breathtaking view. Upon our departure from Poland the next morning, the rains fell, and so did our spirits, as we left this welcoming country that taught us so much. We learned about the country's struggles throughout all of its history, the Nazi occupation, the loss of their own independence as a country, the Communist rule, and their poor economy. Throughout it all they endured, persevered and overcame all obstacles because of their faith and love of God and neighbor. They are 95% Catholic, 75% practicing. Their faith prevailed and continues to guide them to this day.

What a witness of hope they are for us and it is no wonder that this country produced a man such as Pope John Paul the Great. They are a testament to St. Paul's letter to the Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer." As the rains continued to fall, Agnieszka told us that, "Poland cries because you are leaving."

Melinda Prunty, the director of the Office of Youth Ministry, when asked if our Polish pre-trip set the stage for our WYD pilgrimage, said, "It set the stage beautifully! Perfect preparation!"

Alexa Ebelhar, a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School, also added, "*The pilgrimage to Poland is one I will never forget. When I saw the devotion of the*

Polish people, I was in awe. They were an inspiration. Even after all of the troubles their country had, the people still remained strong in their faith in God. Seeing people with disabilities struggle to kneel at the Cathedrals when they could have easily just sat down in the pew, was amazing! They loved God so much that they didn't even mind the pain they went through. It was beautiful to see these people praising God with all their hearts."

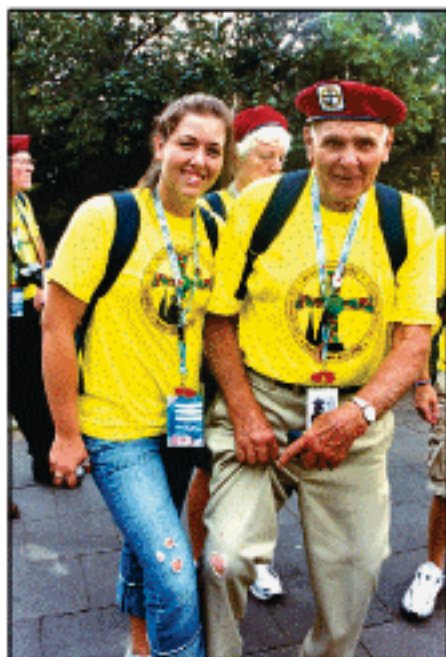
We all hated to leave Poland but left with great expectation of what we were about to encounter in Germany. Thus far we had made a "journey of joy" with the Polish people and now we embark upon a "festival of faith" in Germany.

A Festival of Faith

"They said to each other, 'Wasn't it like a fire burning within us when he talked to us on the road and explained Scriptures to us?'" Luke 24:32

By Larena Lawson

We settled in a hotel in Düsseldorf, unlike many other pilgrims, who had not as luxurious a place to stay, some of them camping out in schools and churches, wherever they could be accommodated. We ventured out in the neighborhood to the post office, the bank and the market. It was nice to know that we would be here for about a week without having to pack up and be on our way again every day as we



Lindsey Riney and Kenneth "Pop" Ebelhar proudly show his skinned knee after falling, but maybe he just trying to be in style like Lindsey with his holey britches. Larena Lawson photo

were in Poland, however, we soon found out just how much we would have to travel on foot and by train.

Most of the first day was spent checking in with WYD officials, getting our credentials, backpacks, and learning how important it was going to be to stay together, to know where we were going and how to get there and what to do if we

got lost. After getting all of these items of business squared away, we put on our highlighter yellow WYD t-shirts that we designed ourselves, our unique red berets, our pilgrim packs and off we went to our first encounter on the German rail system, toting proudly our WYD, Ky. and USA flags everywhere we went. We were ready for the festivities to begin.

We made our way to Europaplatz Arena, following many other pilgrims going in the same direction, to attend the opening Mass. After being processed through the security gates we entered the stadium to the sounds of lively music preparing us for worship. As young people continued to come in we found ourselves in the middle of 25,000+ excited and jubilant pilgrims all waving

their country's flag, smiling, singing and so happy to be there! It was a "Kodak Moment" of the universal Church. Jessie Franey, a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School, was one of those bright, shining faces; soaking it all in she later said, "The faith of the people, the youth, made the greatest impact on me. To see so many young people gathered together for the sole purpose of worshipping Christ, was beautiful!" The place was overflowing with people and with a huge amount of priests, bishops, and cardinals in attendance that concelebrated at the Holy Mass. Our group quickly surmised that we had entered into a "festival of faith."

On our second day we went to Bay Arena, this time to attend our scheduled Catechesis session. It was a beautiful day to praise the Lord! We listened to and sang along with wonderful, uplifting music played by well known Catholic Christian music artists, Steve Angrisano, Cooper Ray, and Tony Melendez. They were very successful in getting the crowd pumped up and alive in song, starting the "Wave" that looked like crazy dominoes falling up and down around the stadium to the sound of a horrendous roar!

Our catechetical speaker for the day was Cardinal Theodore McCarrick from Washington D.C. He boldly challenged us to, "Let the world be quiet and listen to Jesus Christ." He said that there is, "No other journey in the world that is worthwhile." There are, "No rose gardens. If you give your life to Jesus, He will use you and there is nothing more important than to be used by God." The cardinal wanted us to take from these days of catechesis three things: 1. God loves us. 2. God needs us. 3. Each one of us is wonderful! His final remarks were for us to look for the truth, to find it,



Father Andy Garner taking a much needed nap after the long hike to Marienfeld. Larena Lawson photo



Andrea Conder silently prays during a candlelight adoration service in Marienfeld. Larena Lawson photo

and then asked us, "What are you going to do with it?"

After listening, Matt Monsour, a Brescia University graduate and Dicoesan Technology Director, chose Cardinal McCarriek's reflection as one of the things that impacted him the most. It was certainly full of wisdom and thought provoking. We closed this day of learning with Holy Mass and our priests, Father Richard Powers, pastor at St. Mary Magdalene, and Father Andy Garner, concelebrated the Mass with many other pilgrims who attended that day. Day two ended - a beautiful day to praise the Lord!

The next morning we got an early start, in order to travel the longer distance to Cologne. We hoped to avoid the crowds at the train stations, and make it to the meadow near the Rhine River where Pope Benedict would later arrive by boat.

The stations and trains were always filled with many pilgrims, representing 193 different countries from around the world. There were so many friendly, young people joyfully singing native songs, chanting catchy, upbeat phrases, sharing stories and where they were from. Many times they were singing harmoniously, beautiful hymns in honor of our Lord and Mary. Their charisma was contagious! Everyone was singing along, or clapping hands to the beat of the music. Amy Fogle, a member of St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho, said, "We were envious of their ability to break out into song." Robbic Merritt, a teacher at St. Mary's grade school and a coach at Trinity High School in Whitesville, added, "There was just something in the air!"

That was the way it was each day, people alive in Christ, trading their country and state pins and any other items that they had brought along to swap. Some tried to persuade us to trade our berets, but they were our lifeline in a crowd, so we held on to them. Once people met us they always recognized us in a crowd with our bright shirts and red berets. They'd say, "Hello Ky." We came to enjoy people asking us where we were from and being easily recognizable in our attire, even though we did not always like wearing it. We were proud to be Ky.-USA pilgrims.

We arrived at the meadow on the Rhine early, around 10:00 a.m. We staked out a place on the riverbank and another up on the hill, near the facilities, overlooking the river. We eagerly awaited the Holy Father's arrival around 5:15 p.m. All day long we watched many groups of young people gather near the river in great anticipation of seeing Pope Benedict XVI. Many prayed while they were waiting. Some of our group joined in praying the rosary with the Germans, even though it was said in their native tongue. Others were heard chanting, "Be-ne-de-to! Be-ne-de-to!" over and over again. It was easy to see that our youth already had developed a love for our new Pope. When he finally arrived on the boat, escorted by others, each representing a continent of the world, a roar of applause exploded in the air! People rushed closer to where he had stopped to get a better view of him and to listen to what he had to say. He cheerfully welcomed us all and looked forward to what was planned in the days to come.

We returned to Cologne the following day as well, to make our appointed pilgrimage time at the Cathedral, a landmark for the city, and known variously as the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Mary, The Cologne Cathedral, or, in German, The Kolner Dom. The journey of World Youth Day 2005 was focused around this mammoth Cathedral that was begun in 1248 and finished in 1880. It is a Gothic wonder 472 ft. long, 282 ft. wide, and featuring



Trying to pass the time on a long ride, Andrea Conder makes a macrame necklace to trade, showing Father Richard Powers how it is made. Larena Lawson photo.

twin spires 515 ft. tall. It takes 509 steps to reach the observation level. The belfry houses the largest free-swinging bell in the world. Most importantly, for our WYD pilgrimage, it is the home of the relics of the Three Magi which dictated this year's theme, "We have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:2)

There were droves of people in Cologne that day making it difficult to maneuver through the streets and around the Cathed-



Kentucky pilgrims proudly waving the United States flag while excitedly singing along and doing motions to Praise and Worship music at Bay Arena during the day of Catechesis. Larena Lawson photo



Father Andy Garner and Father Richard Powers concelebrated Mass at the Divine Mercy Shrine Church on the grounds of the Monastery where Saint Faustina lived. Larena Lawson photo

dral. We took the pilgrimage walk which took around 30 minutes, slowly walking along the pathway leading up to the Cathedral, all the while reflecting on the Beatitudes and the writings of the saints that were written on the banners up above and stretched across the pathway. It was also a time to pray the Rosary or just to place yourself in the presence of God. As we got closer to the towering Cathedral, it began to rain, but all who waited outside to get in remained as eager as before to enter. It was a sight to behold when we entered

the massive Church. The Sarcophagus of the Three Magi was prominently placed, so golden and shiny it seemed to glow and radiate its significance. We ended our stay with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in thanksgiving for all we were able to see and do.

The time finally came for the climax of our pilgrim journey, the final services to be held with Pope Benedict. We had long prepared for this day, carefully

packed our backpacks with the necessities that we would need for the next 32 hours or so. We "set out boldly along unknown paths on a long, and by no means easy, journey." We were traveling to the hill on the Marienfeld, a former Cistercian monastery and later a mine field. Now a temporary Cathedral was built there where we would celebrate the Vigil and concluding Mass. It was a hill that would remind us "of the hills in the stories of God among His people on earth, where humans encountered God, where Jesus withdrew to pray, and the hill of Golgotha where the Cross was created as a sign of life." - from the *WYD Liturgy Guide*.

When we reached the train station where we would catch the train to take us to Marienfeld, we immediately encountered a herd of people, all trying to get on the same train, all going to the same place, a look of utter chaos, if one did not know what was going on. We quickly synchronized our plan of action, where the stop was, trying to stay all together in a sea of people. We miraculously were able to finally jump on the same train.

Being packed solidly onto the trains, elbow to elbow, called to mind the victims of the Holocaust and how they too were herded onto the trains, toting only the personal belongings that they could carry. Martha House, a kidney dialysis nurse at Owensboro Mercy Health Systems, commented, "Sometimes it's hard to understand all that was happening. Often I felt like the concentration camp prisoners- endless walking, crowding, heat and cold."



Illustrating how world travel can expand a person's reach, Sarah Rhodes creatively measured the length of this compact European car in Dresden, Germany. Larena Lawson photo

We ended up getting separated into two groups upon arrival and did not meet up again until we found each other again in Marienfeld. We ventured out along the road mapped out for us to take. We were pilgrims on a journey, all behind and beside one another.

Andrea Conder, graduate of Brescia University, commented on the walk saying, "Pop (as we all called Kenneth Ebelhar, longtime member of St. Mary Magdalene) said to me at the start of the hike to Marienfeld, as he watched people pass, that not a single face was alike. God made all these people different, unique. How true that is. The faces, the people, are a reflection of God! The million we saw is only a fraction of the Church. Seeing the universal Church can be a renewal in itself."

I kept recalling what I had read about the Magi and how they had set out on an unknown path and a long, and by no means, easy journey, and how this journey for us correlated so well with their's; all of us going to worship Him.

Katie Wright, a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School, was overwhelmed, and said, "To see so many people come together in the heat, the cold and the crowds hit me hard. The people had a huge impact on the way I look at my religion now. Seeing how devout and dedicated they are made me want to be like that at times."

Along the way we walked through neighborhoods where the hometown folks welcomed us with open arms. They waved greetings from their doorways and windows, graciously met us with water,



We Ky.-USA pilgrims found ourselves in the middle of 25,000+ excited and jubilant pilgrims at Merienfeld for the Vigil Mass and the Closing Mass for WYD; all were waving their country's flag, smiling, singing and so happy to be there! It was a like "Kodak Moment" of the universal Church. Matt Monsour photo

cookies and cheer. They asked us where we were from and smiled in support of our long journey. Finally, after trekking through towns, following roads, up and down hills, cutting through wheat fields, guided here and there, we arrived at our destination. We could see the altar rising high above on a hill overlooking the campsite. We marched into the area searching for our designated spot to find a place to stop, rest and sleep. The task proved difficult. So many people had already settled in a place and little room was left available. (I thought of Joseph and Mary and after their long journey to Bethlehem finding no room in the inns.) Finally, we parked along a busy roadside, dividing the sections and close to the loud speakers. We laid out our sleeping bags and took a long awaited rest from the arduous journey.

When one finds oneself in the middle of a million people from many different countries, from every race and color, many things run through the mind. Jerrod McCarty, a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School, observed, "I believe the connection among all the pilgrims, despite the diversity, had the biggest impact on my life. I have come to realize what a true universal Church incorporates. It is very encouraging to see foreigners relate amicably, especially in the present global atmosphere. Stereotypes are placed on certain ethnicity or nationality. The people here awakened me to the possibility to overcome the barriers of discrimination

and prejudices. Somewhere beneath the surface of our features resides an inherent nature to love one another. Too often we let this virtue be disguised by skin color or another particular prejudice."

We could feel the presence of our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, with us. We felt his closeness knowing that he chose the theme and time for this XX World Youth Day and had begun to prepare us for it long before his passing to eternal glory. In showing our deep gratitude and respect for him and of all of the memories that we have of him, a gigantic bell was rung, in his honor, at the opening of the Vigil service. The sound of it echoed all through the camp, calling to mind for us, the special place we hold in our hearts for him.

The evening Vigil contained two parts, the vespers service which included the procession of the Cross and the Icon of Our Lady, and the singing of the Psalms, all leading up to the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction with Pope Benedict. His arrival into Marienfeld was one that will long be recalled as a greeting of jovial proportions. Everyone was blissfully happy to be with him. He instructed us, "It is important to discover the true face of God. The Magi from the east found it, when they knelt before the child in Bethlehem. In Jesus Christ, who allowed His heart to be pierced for us, the

true face of God is seen. We will follow Him together with the great multitude of those who went before us. Then we will be traveling along the right path... He invites us to that inner pilgrimage of the spirit and let us ask Him to be our guide. Amen."

Amid the illumination of over 12,000 burning candles that lighted the way, a light that was brought from Bethlehem to Europe and Germany in Advent of 2004 by the members of the scout movement from the Nativity Grotto in Bethlehem, and the light that each of us lit our candles from, we offered benediction and adoration to the Blessed Sacrament with the Holy Father presiding. A procession followed to the makeshift chapel, a tent set up for us to come and worship Him throughout the night.

The evening was unseasonably cold, in the upper 40's some had said, and heavy dew had fallen, blanketing the ground and all who slept there during the night. It was not necessarily a comfortable night's sleep. Ashley Morris, a student at Apollo High School, said, *"Sleeping outside when it was freezing cold had a great impact on me because it was almost like a sacrifice if you think about how many people sleep outside every night. I felt like it made me a stronger person!"*

We awakened early, those of us who managed to get any sleep because of the discomfort, the cold and the endless singing and talking we heard throughout the night. We greeted the new, cloudy day with the praying of Morning Prayer (Lauds), and in the singing of, "Jesus Christ, You Are My Life." We, enthusiastically, awaited the return of our Holy Father and the celebration of the concluding Holy Mass, the grand finale of our festival of faith.

All throughout the week and weekend celebrations the theme of WYD 2005 was emphasized and exercised with incredible fervor. It was a challenge at times to put it all together because of the language barrier, but with the help of our liturgy guide and our radios we could interpret everything that was going on. The music was magnificently orchestrated and provided enlightenment and uplifted our very souls. All throughout the liturgy we were led on a journey to see the face of God.

One of the greatest impacts that Father Andy Garner experienced, in the context of Holy Mass, was "when the gifts were brought forth, gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were included. The folks bearing those gifts knelt before Pope Benedict to present them. The Holy Father received them and he touched the cheeks of the gift-bearers. Then the bread and wine were



Father Richard Powers, Pastor of Saint Mary Magdalene Church, Sorgho, elevates the Host during the Consecration Prayer while celebrating Mass at Jasna Gora, The Shrine of the Black Madonna. Larena Lawson photo

presented. The young man carrying the bread was in a wheelchair and could not get as close to the Pope and he certainly could not kneel. And so the Holy Father got up from his chair, went to this young man and knelt before him to receive the gift of bread. This just struck me as a tremendous gesture of humility."

Pope Benedict XVI gave a powerful homily bursting with wisdom and challenge. He taught, *"The Eucharist must become the center of our lives... This is because the Eucharist releases the joy that we need so much, and we must learn to grasp it ever more deeply, we must learn to love it."* He encouraged, *"Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to Him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on."* He also challenged, *"Help people to discover the true star which points out the way to us: Jesus Christ! Let us seek to know Him better and better, so as to be able to guide others to Him with conviction... Bring to all the joy of Christ that you have found here."* It was an awesome message of hope for all Catholics to adopt and strive to share with all people in their lives.

We did not want our time with Pope Benedict to end, but it ended with the realization that our new Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ, indeed has been a priceless

gift to us and one who will most assuredly shepherd us ever closer to God in the days, weeks and years to come.

Before facing the Holy Father's challenges we first had to face the most difficult challenge of making the journey back to Düsseldorf. Imagine one million people leaving upon dismissal, all wanting to find the transportation needed that would lead them back home. An unbelievable undertaking! We literally walked four and a half hours, always in close proximity to the countless other pilgrims walking the same way. We'd travel one way and get turned in another direction by security. We nearly, at one point, arrived at the first train station and found that it was closed, so we had to walk to another one... for miles! You had to always keep reminding yourself that you were on a pilgrimage, "and that pilgrimages are marked with a certain amount of hardship and prayer... sometimes the hardships become your prayer," as Father Andy described it. Once we finally reached a station that was open, it took another three hours of waiting and riding the train back to Düsseldorf, where a late supper was waiting for us.

What a festival of faith! What a journey of joy!

In recounting all of the facets of our pilgrimage, Tim Fogle, a member of St. Mary Magdalene declared it to be, "A life encouraging time and moment, from the sights to the journeys... Well worth the sacrifices and hardships."

Will we go home by a different route, like the Magi did? Have we been transformed and renewed in spirit? The conclusion of this story has yet to be written. The fruit of our journey is ripening, but has not yet been picked. Sarah Rhodes, a member of St. Lawrence Parish, shares her thoughts, "I'm going home aware that something should be different in my life. I think I will be more alive and ready for anything God gives me and I will accept it with a joyful heart." She went on to add, "I would recommend a WYD pilgrimage especially for anybody who is feeling like they are the only Catholic in the world, and the world can make us feel like that sometimes. I think it was a very encouraging experience."

I close in total understanding of what Father Andy said to me, knowing I was writing this article, "Of course we know that words and pictures will never be able to capture the experience that took place in our hearts and souls,"... but I hope it helps.

World Youth Day Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the World, You became man, to give us a life in abundance. You promised to remain with us in Your Church until the end of time. Then Your Kingdom will come: a new heaven and earth full of love, justice and peace. This is our hope, our foundation. Thanks be to You.

Lord, we pray: Bless the young people around the world. Reveal Yourself to those who are searching for You. Awake those who do not believe in You. Strengthen the faith of those who confess You. Let them continuously set out to You like the three Wise Men from the East. Make them architects of a new civilization of love and witnesses of hope for the whole world. Through them be close to those who suffer from hunger, war and violence.

Inspire by Your Holy Spirit those who are contributing the preparations of World Youth Day 2005. Make them serve Your kingdom with the power of their faith and their love and let them welcome their brothers and sisters from all over the world with open hearts.

Lord, You gave us Mary as our mother. Let Her be our advocate for World Youth Day so that it becomes a celebration of faith. Bless Your Church with new strength these days, so that She can become a credible witness for You.

We ask this through You, our Lord and God, living in the unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, reigning forever and ever. Amen.

Youth Minister Position Open at Parish of the Immaculate in Owensboro

Immaculate Church (715 households) in Owensboro, Ky. is seeking a full-time, energetic, qualified person to lead and direct our Middle and High School Youth Groups. Start date July 1, 2005. Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and 3 references to: Youth Minister Search, Parish of the Immaculate, 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301



Lourdes Foundation Assists Hurricane Victims

Lourdes Foundation Director Missy Hendley (left) assists Carol VanderBoegh in loading clothing and supplies to deliver to victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Lourdes Foundation accepted donations and supplies to support relief efforts in the Gulf Coast area devastated by the natural disaster.

Sister Lucy Bonifas, manager of Spiritual Services at Lourdes, was recently selected as a winner of WPSD NewsChannel 6 "Six Who Make A Difference" award. Sister Lucy was chosen from dozens of nominees for her commitment to community and care and compassion for others. Sister Lucy (left) selected Lourdes Foundation's Patient Mission Fund as the recipient of a \$500 donation in her honor and is shown presenting the check to Missy Hendley, Director of Lourdes Foundation.



More than 100 golfers took to the fairways in support of Lourdes Foundation's Sixth Annual Drive for Foundation Golf Tournament. The popular annual event raised over \$30,000 to help support the needs of Lourdes and extend the healing ministry of Jesus to the poor and underserved.

Lourdes Foundation's 19th Great Pumpkin Race

Saturday, October 22, 2005
 5K Run and Fun Walk – 9 a.m.
 Half-mile Little Pumpkin Classic (ages 5-11) – 10:15 a.m.

Lourdes campus, 1530 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, Kentucky

\$200 grand prize to overall male and female winners

Race categories:

- 5K run / walk
- Physician division
- Lourdes employee division
- Wheelchair division

Fees:

- 5K – \$20 advance registration / \$30 race day
- Wheelchair division – \$20 advance registration / \$30 race day
- Little Pumpkin Classic – \$15 advance registration / \$25 race day
- Lourdes employees – \$15 advance registration / \$25 race day

Call for information (270) 444-2733. Registration form can be printed from Lourdes website, www.lourdes-pad.org or register online at www.active.com



Present: Valerie McCoy, Fr. Al Bremer, Sr. Cheryl Uebelhor, P. J. O'Donoghue, Barb Carper, Jeff Lamb, Marilyn Chandler, Bill Rodgers, Paul Bachi, Fr. Jerry Calhoun, Mary Prante, Perry & Betty Elder, Delphine Operle, Homer Barton, Janet Thomason, Linda Frakes, Charles Rucks, Bishop John McRaith, Cathy Hagan – Executive Secretary. Absent With Notice: Denny Mann; Absent: SuzAnne Wilson; CPC Staff: Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, Sr. Pat Froning, Tom Buehrle, Melinda Prunty; Guests: Sr. Pam Mueller, Joe Bland, Ben Warrell, Kathy Buehrle, Martin Frakes.

Marilyn Chandler, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Sr. Cheryl Uebelhor led the opening prayer.

I. Approval of Minutes - Minutes from May 16, 2005 were approved as mailed.

II. Bishop McRaith's Remarks - Bishop McRaith had no remarks to make at this time.

III. Welcome and Introduction of New Members - Charles Rucks, Paducah Deanery, and Linda Frakes, Owensboro Deanery, were welcomed to the DPC.

IV. Camp Dreaming Presentation - Melinda Prunty, Joe Bland, Ben Warrell, and Sr. Pam Mueller made a presentation to the DPC on "Camp Dreaming". This group met with the Kentucky bishops in February of this year. The group was requesting that the four dioceses (Louisville, Lexington, Covington and Owensboro) work together to create a summer camp for youth. Their mission statement reads: "The Kentucky Catholic Summer Camp's mission is to provide a safe, enjoyable experience within the Catholic tradition which will lead to a deeper commitment to God." Currently, no diocese in the state of Kentucky has a Catholic camp. The four Bishops were very affirming and thought this was a great idea. Financially, however, the other three dioceses could not commit to this effort. Bishop McRaith has since asked this committee to continue researching and talking to the people of this diocese to see if interest is out there for the establishment of a Catholic camp. This group met with the Priests' Council earlier in the day and the Priests' Council recommended that they proceed. If the DPC recommends to Bishop McRaith that this group proceeds, the next step of the Catholic Camp Dreaming Committee is to hire an individual (they have received a \$25,000 grant for this – they also have a \$21,000 refund from NCYC that can be used) for one year to go out to the parishes in the diocese to see if there is support for this. Fundraising would also be a part of this individual's job. The Diocesan Pastoral Council recommended to Bishop McRaith that the committee proceed with it plans to hire a person and begin to seriously work on making a Catholic Camp a reality.

V. Stewardship Conference Report - The Stewardship Conference was held at Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center on June 3 & 4 of this year. There were 103 participants. Twenty-three parishes had representatives at the conference: Blessed Mother, Owensboro; Christ the King, Scottsville; Christ the King, Madisonville; Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson; Holy Spirit, Bowling Green; Holy Trinity, Morgantown; Immaculate, Owensboro; Immaculate Conception, Hawesville; Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro; Precious Blood, Owensboro; Saint Anthony, Browns Valley; Saint Anthony, Axtel; Saint Augustine, Reed; Saint Columba, Lewisport; Saint Francis Borgia, Sturgis; Saint Henry, Aurora; Saint Mary of the Woods, Franklin; Saint Pius X, Owensboro; Saint Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro; Saint Stephen, Cadiz; Saint Thomas More, Paducah; Saints Joseph & Paul, Owensboro; Saints Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville. The evaluations were all positive and participants requested that more conferences of this type be held in the diocese.

Those members of the DPC who had attended the conference had very positive things to say about it. Bishop McRaith commented that the conference was superb and that he wished more people of the diocese would have come and taken part in it. He added that he would like to see another conference scheduled in the future and to find ways to draw more people. He concluded by saying that we all have to realize what stewardship means. One definition of stewardship is: "My need to share what God has given to me."

VI. Mandeville Report - Currently Martha House and Sr. Jacinta Powers, both nurses, are in Mandeville for a three-week stay to help take care of the healthcare needs of the people of the Diocese of Mandeville. The 4th Mission Trip is planned for October 11-18th. Eleven people from this diocese will go to Mandeville to be immersed in the culture of the people and to offer limited assistance. The Diocese of Owensboro sent \$47,653.60 to our Sister Diocese in Mandeville from the Lenten collection.

VII. World Priest Day Update (October 30) - Mel Howard will have an article in the October issue of the Western Kentucky Catholic. Fr. Andy Garner, Vocation Director, is sending materials to the priests and to the parish pastoral council chairperson of each parish. The website www.priestsunday.org has many good ideas and suggestions for celebrating Priesthood Sunday. Bishop McRaith supports Priesthood Sunday and hopes that all parishes will do something to recognize their priests. It could be as simple as a petition in the Prayers of the Faithful, or donuts after Mass. He highly encourages the laity of all parishes to find some way to express their appreciation for their parish priest. It will mean a lot to the priests. Bishop McRaith said that he would love to hear the stories of what the parishes around the diocese do to honor their priests.

VIII. Committee & Council Items - Questions from Written Reports:

Diaconate Program Update: The Priests' Council is in consensus that this moves forward. The next step is for the task force to find a Director of the Diaconate Program. After this is done, the work of the task force is completed.

The minutes from one of the parishes in the deanery council report included some information that could be considered potentially libelous. DPC members were asked to be careful about what information was included in the minutes.

Concern about the lack of attendance at deanery council meetings was mentioned. At one of the deanery meetings only six of the twenty representatives were present. Another deanery council had only three of their thirteen parishes represented. The question was asked "How viable are the deanery councils if we don't have the representatives coming?" It was then mentioned that a number of parishes do not even have a representative on their respective deanery council. Also, some of the deanery council representatives are frustrated because they are not allowed time on their Parish Pastoral Council agenda to make a report on what is happening at their deanery meeting.

One of the purposes of the deanery councils is to bring the concerns, questions, etc., of a parish to the deanery council who in turn will bring it to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. After going to the DPC the information is then filtered back down through the deanery council to the parish. If the DPC is looking for feedback, etc. it is channeled to the deanery councils and then to the parishes and back. So, if there is no representative from a parish on the deanery council that parish is not able to send or receive information. Deanery Council representatives decided to go to the pastors and parish councils in their deanery who do not have a representative on the council and ask them to please appoint someone. Deanery Councils need to know that what they do is important. They were asked to affirm each other in that respect. It is everyone's job to carry out the mission of the church. Not just the priests and religious – but every baptized person in the diocese. Bishop McRaith commented that on every parish pastoral council agenda should be the question: "Are we carrying out the mission of the Church?"

Future Agenda Items: Unity in Diversity Action Plan; Lay Ecclesial Ministers; Diaconate Program Update; Diocese of Mandeville Update.

IX. Announcements - "Catholics at the Capitol" is a 2-day event that will take place in Frankfort on February 21 & 22, 2006. More information will be forthcoming. The next meeting of the DPC is Monday, November 21. Jeff Lamb will lead the opening prayer.

X. Adjournment - The bishop asked for prayers as the Priest Personnel Board begins to look at the priest assignments for next year. For each parish to have the priests that they have had in the past, the diocese is in need of two additional priests. We currently have four priests serving in our diocese from other countries. Bishop McRaith adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. with a blessing.

Submitted by Cathy Hagan



From Owensboro Catholic High School: in addition to the 'Loose Change Drive' through the Religion Department, several school clubs raised additional money from various activities. Each morning this past week, the Y-club conducted a bake sale. Left to right: Rachel Franey, Jennifer Renshaw, Jessie Franey, Brittany Howard, and Destiny Payne (Destiny is purchasing baked goods). OCS Photo



Students from Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus participated in a 'Loose Change Drive' to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims. The attached picture illustrates the students pooling their resources to work together for a common goal - helping out the victims of the Hurricane. From Left to right... Allie Payne, Andrew Carlisle, Helen Merritt, Rebecca Gross, and Clark. OCS Photos



This is a picture of students from Owensboro Catholic Middle School counting the money from the 'Loose Change Drive' to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims; from Left to right, Aaron Payne, Jason Cooper, and Kelsey Ruth.



The students and faculty at Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus are collecting money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Pictured above are Kindergarten students Lucy Wright, left, and Annie Miller holding collection bags. At right, Madelyn Lyon and Hannah Latham collecting coins for the Loose Change Drive. OCS Photos



Loose Change Drive for Shreveport Diocese

All of our school sites joined the Diocesan schools in a Loose Change Drive to help re-open some school buildings in Shreveport, LA. These schools will house and teach Catholic school children that have been displaced from New Orleans. Students may begin bringing in their loose change immediately. The drive will run through September 9th. If you would like to make a donation by check, please make the check out to the school site marked for Loose Change Drive. One check will be sent in from each school site. It is important that we all come together to help those who are in need. Please keep all the hurricane victims and their families in your prayers.



August 31, 2005, Letter from Mr. Jim Mattingly Superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.

Dear Friends,

Hurricane Katrina has caused tremendous damage to portions of the South. Many people have lost homes, schools, and churches. A large number of refugees from the storm have moved to the upper parts of Louisiana.

Sister Carol Shively, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, is Superintendent of the Catholic schools in Shreveport, Louisiana. On August 30, she announced that the Catholic schools she is responsible for will accept any child affected by Hurricane Katrina in the Catholic schools in Shreveport Diocese at no cost. The children will be staying with their parents in buildings around the city including some schools closed in past years that are now being used for shelters. These parents and children have come with nothing but the clothes they have. They need clothing, school supplies, and books to use until they can return to their homes. The schools of the Diocese are accredited so they will keep a transcript of grades to pass back to the schools when they reopen in southern Louisiana. Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, former

superintendent of the diocese of Owensboro, and director of Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center will travel to Shreveport Thursday, September 1, to help with the coordination of the registration of the students.

The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Owensboro have begun a fund drive to raise money to send to the Catholic Schools of Shreveport to help get the supplies these children will need. The students here will be "adopting" the children there. They will send letters of encouragement along with the money they collect.

Sister Carol said, "Our schools could double in number, but we will take them until we have no more room. This is a terrible disaster for all of us here in Louisiana. The teachers have come as well as the children. Many have nothing to go back to. We will help them as much as we can. All of us are God's children and we have to help each other."

Superintendent Jim Mattingly will coordinate the donations through the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Owensboro. All donations can be sent or brought to the Catholic Schools Office at Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301. For information, please call Catholic Schools Office 270-683-1545.

Once More With Love

A Marriage Preparation Program for Couples preparing for marriage after one Or both persons have experienced a divorce or death of a Former spouse.

Saturday-November 5, 2005

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 Tel: 270-683-1545 ext105

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

Calendar of Events, September-January 2006

September 2005

- 11 Mount Saint Joseph Picnic
 16-17 New Hope Women's Retreat
 16-18 Catholic Engaged Encounter
 20-23 Runaway Quilters
 23-24 Sts. Joseph and Paul Men's Retreat
 24 Brescia University Ministry Formation Retreat

October 2005

- 1 Wedding Reception
 3-7 Spiritual Direction Institute
 8-9 ALANON
 14-15 Nativity Women's Retreat
 14-16 Mount Hope Weekend
 19 Diocesan Committee for Aging
 21-23 Marian Retreat
 24 Audubon Area Community Services Retreat
 24-28 Priests' Retreat
 28-30 Catholic Engaged Encounter

November 2005

- 5-6 Academy for Young Leaders
 11-13 Marriage Encounter
 18-19 Thomas Merton Retreat
 19 Immaculate Conception Confirmation Retreat

January 2006

- 13-20 St. Meinrad Retreatants
 20-22 Retrouvaille
 23-27 Spiritual Direction Institute
 27-28 First Christian Church Retreat
 27-29 Brescia University Ministry Formation Program



Center-sponsored programs in bold 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, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org.

DEVELOPING OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE



With Emphasis on the Life and Writings of Thomas Merton
 Directed by Rev. Dan Kenneth Phillips

November 18-19, 2004

This retreat is for persons who want to discover why we need to begin anew our spiritual journeys. How do we start? You will spend time learning how to develop your own spiritual journal with special emphasis on the journals of Thomas Merton. This retreat will help you travel the road of spirituality to a more meaningful life.

Rev. Dan Kenneth Phillips, with over 20 years of pastoral experience, is a frequent retreat leader and writer on issues of spiritual development. He has studied Merton's life and work for more than 30 years. His website, *Thomas Merton: Monk and Poet* (<http://gn.to/merton>), is a primary target for persons interested in Merton's spiritual life. Phillips, who holds a master's of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is chaplain at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville. He and Janet, his wife of 37 years, have one grown daughter.



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center

For more information, contact Kathy McCarty, (270) 229-0200, ext. 413, or kmccarty@maplemount.org.

Live in Christ Through Mary

Marian Retreat, October 21-23

directed by Msgr. Bernard Powers



Jesus, from the cross, spoke to Mary, his mother, and made Mary our spiritual mother. We have a spiritual life and Mary, our mother, nurtures that life and cares for it. Our cooperation is necessary.

Our Marian Retreat will offer the opportunity to reflect on our spiritual life and give some insight into what it is, how to enrich it, how to live it more fully.

Mary, our mother, has directed us to do what Jesus asks, and Jesus says: "Live! Live in me!"

Schedule: The retreat begins Friday, October 21, at 6 p.m., and closes Sunday,

October 23, at 1 p.m. (All times CST.) The first meal is Saturday breakfast.

Costs: for residents, \$150 includes the retreat, materials, meals, snacks, socials, and overnight accommodations. For commuters, \$105 includes the retreat, materials, meals, snacks, and socials. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is due with registration.

For a brochure or further information, or to register, contact Kathy McCarty at (270) 229-0200, ext. 413, or kmccarty@maplemount.org.



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

thank all who helped in any way to make our 35th annual picnic such a joyful day for everyone!

All picnic proceeds go to the Ursuline Sisters retirement fund.



MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR GREAT GENEROSITY.

Mass Times in the Diocese of Owensboro

Parish Name	City	Saturday P.M.	Sunday
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	4:00	8:00, 10:00, and 5:30p.m.
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro		10:00
Brescia University	Owensboro		10:00
Carmel Home Chapel	Owensboro	8:55 am	8:55 am
(Monday through Friday - 6:55 am)			
Chapel of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph			10:30 a.m. (Sat. & Sun.)
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., & 2nd Saturday of the month: 7:15a.m.; Wednesday: 4:30 p.m.			
Christ the King	Madisonville	5:30	8:00, 10:30
Christ the King	Scottsville		11:00
Weekday: Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. (Word and Communion if Father can't be there.)			
Holy Cross	Providence	5:30	
Holy Guardian Angels	Irvington	5:00 EST	11:00 EST
Holy Name of Jesus	Henderson	4:00	7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 5:30 p.m.
Spanish: every Sunday at 1:00 p.m.			
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	6:00 (Spanish)	10:00 (English)
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	4:30	8:00, 9:30, 11:30
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	12:00 (English)	2:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Immaculate	Owensboro	4:30	8:00, 10:00
Immaculate Conception,	Earlington		8:00
Immaculate Conception,	Hawesville	5:00 p.m. (Apr.-Sept.)	10:30 a.m.; 8:00 p.m.
Newman Center	MSU, Murray		6:00 p.m.
Newman Center	WKU, Bowling Green		10:00 a.m., 8 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	4:30	8:00, 11:00
Precious Blood	Owensboro	5:00	8:00, 10:30
Resurrection	Dawson Springs		10:00
Rosary Chapel	Paducah		10:00
Sacred Heart	Hickman	5:00	
Sacred Heart	Russellville	5:00	10:00
Sacred Heart	Waverly		8:00
St. Agnes	Uniontown	5:30	11:00
St. Alphonsus	St. Joseph	6:00	8:30
St. Ambrose	Henshaw	5:30	
St. Ann	Morganfield	5:00	8:00, 10:30
St. Anthony	Hardinsburg	6:00	10:00
St. Anthony	Utica-Brown's Valley	6:00	9:30
St. Anthony	Peonia		8:00
St. Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers		8:00
St. Augustine	Grayson Springs	5:00	
St. Augustine	Reed	5:00	7:00
St. Benedict	Wax		10:00
St. Charles	Bardwell		9:30
Weekday: Mon., Fri 8:30 am; Wed. 6:30 pm.			
St. Charles	Livermore		8:00
St. Columba	Lewisport	Sat: 8:00 a.m. (Apr.-Sept.)	Sun: 8:30 a.m.
St. Denis	Fancy Farm		8:00
Weekday: Tues., 6:30 pm.; Thurs., Sat. 8:30 am.			
St. Edward	Fulton		8:30

Parish Name	City	Saturday P.M.	Sunday
St. Elizabeth	Clarkson		11:00 a.m.
St. Elizabeth	Curdsville		10:00 a.m.
St. Francis Borgia	Sturgis		9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
St. Francis de Sales	Paducah	5:00	9:00, 11:30, 5:00 p.m.
St. Henry	Aurora	4:00	10:30
St. Jerome	Fancy Farm	5:00	8:00, 10:30
St. Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	4:30	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 (Spanish - Noon)
St. John Baptist	Fordsville		8:00
St. John Evangelist	Paducah	5:00	8:00, 10:00
St. John Evangelist	Sunfish		9:00
St. Joseph Monastery	Passionist Nuns, Whitesville		8:00
St. Joseph	Bowling Green	Saturday - 5:00	English: 6:30
Spanish Sunday - 8:00, 10:30, (Spanish: 12:30 p.m.)			
St. Joseph	Central City	5:30	9:00
St. Joseph	Leitchfield	5:00	7:00, 11:00
St. Joseph	Mayfield	5:00	8:00, 10:30 (2:00pm-Spanish)
Weekdays Mon, Wed, & Friday 8:00 am.; Tues & Thurs at 6:00 pm			
St. Jude	Clinton		10:30
St. Lawrence	Philpot		8:00
St. Leo	Murray	6:00	8:00, 11:00
St. Mark	Eddyville	5:00	8:30
St. Martin	Rome	6:00	7:00
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7:00 am.			
St. Mary of the Fields	LaCenter		8:30 a.m.
Weekday: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.			
St. Mary & St. James	Guthrie		8:00
St. Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	5:00	8:00
St. Mary of the Woods,	Franklin	5:00	9:00; Noon, Hispanic
St. Mary of the Woods,	McQuady		8:00
St. Mary of the Woods,	Whitesville	5:00	7:00, 8:30, 10:00
Weekday: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am; Wednesday 6:30pm			
St. Michael	Oak Grove	5:30	8:00, 11:00 a.m.
St. Michael	Sebree		10:30, (Spanish: 3:00 p.m.)
St. Paul	St. Paul (Leitchfield)	5:00	9:00
St. Paul	Princeton	5:00	10:00
St. Peter	Stanley	6:15	9:00
St. Peter	Waverly		9:30
St. Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	5:00	8:00, 10:30 (Spanish, 1:30 p.m.)
St. Pius X	Calvert City	4:30	9:30
St. Pius X	Owensboro	5:30	8:00, 11:00, 8:00 p.m.
St. Romuald	Hardinsburg	5:00	7:00, 10:00
St. Rose	Cloverport	6:00	8:00
St. Sebastian	Calhoun	4:00	8:30
Weekdays: Tuesday 8:00am, Wednesday 6:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am			
St. Stephen	Cadiz	6:30	8:00
St. Stephen (Cathedral),	Owensboro	5:00pm	8:00, 11:00, 5:00 p.m.
St. Susan	Elkton		10:00, (Spanish 12:30a.m.)
St. Thomas More	Paducah	5:30	9:00, 11:00 (Spanish 3:00p.m.)
St. William	Knottsville	4:00	6:30, 10:00
St. William	Marion		11:00

Marriage Encounter modifies weekend format to accommodate couples

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (CNS) -- Worldwide Marriage Encounter, which offers weekend programs to help couples revitalize their marriages, is now also offering its program in weekday sessions to accommodate couples who find it difficult to get away for a weekend. The modified sessions, called Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience, provide the couples an opportunity to benefit from about 13 talks by married couples and clergy in a nonresidential setting. Oblate Father Joseph DiMauro, a Marriage Encounter presenter and coordinator of teacher certification and education in the social sciences department at DeSales University in Center Valley, said the Worldwide Marriage Encounter national office permitted the program to be divided over the course of three or four days after a growing number of couples found it difficult to leave jobs, children and other tasks behind for a full weekend normally conducted at local hotels or retreat centers.

Do you have questions

about Declarations of Invalidity (annulments)?

Call the Tribunal at the Catholic Pastoral Center at (270) 683-1545

Carrico's Reflections

Today Is The Best Day Of My Life



When I awoke this morning I rather quickly decided to make today THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE. There have been days when I wondered if I could make it through another day. But I did anyway. And because I did I'm going to celebrate it all this very day. Yes, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I've had so far by being thankful to Almighty God; thankful for my accomplishments, the many blessings, and yes, the many hardships too. These have made me stronger. I'll go through today with my head high and with a happy heart. I'll marvel at God's seemingly small gifts: the morning dew, cloudy days, biting insects, snakes and such. Today I'll marvel at all of God's creations, trees, beautiful birds, and other fragrant flowers. None will escape me. Today I will share my gifts with other people. I'll make somebody smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness, someone I don't even know. Today I'll give a sincere compliment to someone down and out. I'll tell a child how special he is to the world and to God. Today I'll quit worrying about things I don't have and start being grateful for the wonderful gifts God has given me. I'll remember that worry is just a waste of time because of my faith in God and his Divine Pleasure. Yes, everything will turn out fine.

And tonight before I go to bed I'll go outside and marvel at the myriad stars in the skies, the moon and the Milky Way. I'll stand in awe at God's heavens, check for the North Star and the Dipper and marvel at God's heavenly creation. As the day ends I'll lay my head upon my pillow. I'll thank God Almighty for the BEST DAY OF MY LIFE... and I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know that tomorrow is going to be another BEST DAY OF MY LIFE.



Holy Souls in Purgatory Novena

October 25th-November 2nd, 2005

Join with others in prayer at the Diocesan Marian Shrine: Mary, Mother of the Church & Model of All Christians. The Shrine is located at historic St. Joseph Church, 434 Church Street, Bowling Green, Ky.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THE NOVENA

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

O gentlest Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of Your servants. Be not severe in Your judgment, but let some drops of Your Precious Blood

fall upon our beloved departed, and do You, O merciful Savior, send Your angels to conduct the souls of your servants to a place of refreshment and peace. AMEN.

Dear Diocesan Marian Shrine Committee,

Please include the names of my deceased family and friends in the prayers of those who gather at Mary, Mother of the Church & Model of All Christians Diocesan Shrine for this Holy Souls in Purgatory Novena. Please accept this donation for my intention(s) of Holy Souls in this Novena.

NAMES OF THE DECEASED TO BE REMEMBERED: 1) _____
2) _____, 3) _____,
4) _____, 5) _____.

Donor's Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Send to: Marian Shrine Committee, c/o Jean Fulkerson, 526 E. 13th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101

Diocesan Marriage Celebration

Married couples wishing to celebrate their marriage vows are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Marriage Celebration with Bishop John J. McRaith at St. Stephen Cathedral on October 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. A reception will follow the mass.

Please RSVP to Betty Medley by October 3 at 683-1545 ext. 105. Families welcome.

15th Diocesan Marian Congress

to be held at the Diocesan Shrine, "Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of all Christians"
St. Joseph Catholic Church,
434 Church St., Bowling Green, Ky.
THEME: "OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST"
SUNDAY OCT. 16, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center
Address Bishop John J. McRaith; Speaker: Fr. Lou Guardiola, Fathers of Mercy; Music; Display of religious articles. Refreshments
Outdoor Procession/Rosary w/Our Lady of Fatima statue, Knights of Columbus, Porters
Speaker- Fr. James Walling, Fathers of Mercy. Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
Visit the Shrine Chapel, attached to back of Rectory.
EVERYONE WELCOME!!



Help us help her and her baby

Opportunities For Life

Call to find out more about how you can help...
(502) 223-5330

www.opportunitiesforlife.org
(800)822-5824

A Pro-Life Ministry of the Catholic Bishops



Multicultural Festival Opens People To Share Own, Another Culture

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The First Presbyterian Church in Owensboro hosted a Multicultural Festival for the community on August 21, 2005. 90 degree weather and a thunderstorm notwithstanding, people came to the festival, talked, mingled, watched dancing, listened to music, watched some interesting foods being cooked, inspected crafts and artwork made in the style used in their homelands, and made by people whose families emigrated here from other countries. People from several faiths shared prayer and spoke of their church's beliefs with whomever asked.

What prompts people's interest in other cultures? To answer this question with observations from the Multicultural Festival, some of the appeal stems from colors, textures, and designs of clothing or of food preparations. For some, interest in another culture begins with knowing an emigrant who works where they do or worships where they do. In either case, it is that contact with someone from another culture that sparks an interest in learning more about another culture. Just their presence makes one want to know more about what the culture of their birth or family is like and how they blend their homeland culture into their life in America. For example, someone from Thailand who greets another person, has the custom of folding their hands in front of their face and bowing. After one sees this a few times, it is polite and even habit-forming to return the greeting in kind. Attending a multicultural festival exposes one to this type of interaction.

After coming into contact with someone from another culture outside of the United States, one gains a sense that the world is a big place, and that the Church is a bigger community than the one in

which a person may worship on weekdays or weekends.

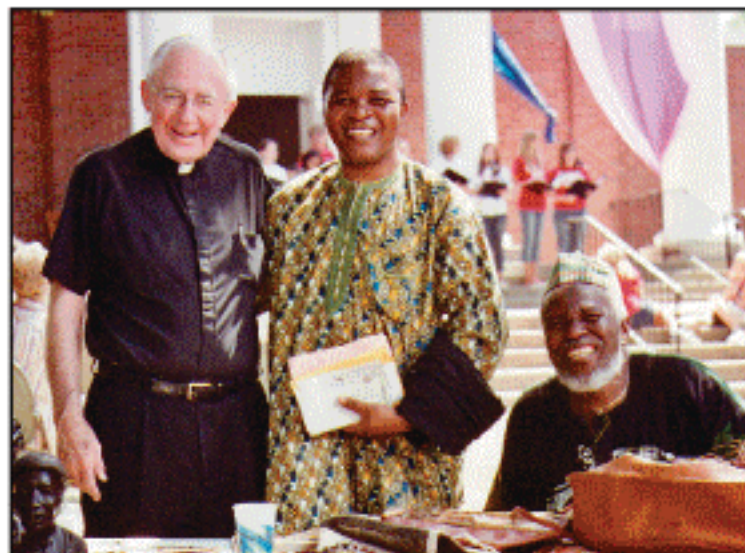
Travel is very broadening for one's character, but may not be economically possible for many. The next best thing may be a personal contact with someone from another culture. As believers in God, and in the case of most readers of this paper, as Catholic Christians, we are charged with helping anyone we can in Matthew's Gospel. To help someone, you have to know from where they come. The other side of that coin can be very true, too: to accept and receive help from someone, it is good to know from where the help comes.

For any or all of these reasons, a multicultural festival is an interesting and educational event, as well as being just plain old fun to share.

A priest ministering at St. Stephen Cathedral parish in Owensboro, Fr. John OKoro, attended the Aug. 21 festival, and among other ways he shared the day, Fr. John prayed an intercessory prayer in his own language, Igbo, one of three major languages in his native Nigeria which together have 240 dialects, he said.

A few days after the festival, we spoke with Fr. John about some of the similarities and differences between his homeland and here.

The first quality he noticed, he said, was the hospitality of the people. He has found that hospitality is just as important to Americans as it is to Nigerians, and is one experience he has felt and seen everywhere he visits in America. "I find that people here are accommodating and really try to make me as a visitor in their home or church feel welcome. It is like that in my



Bishop John McRaith visited with Nigerian Father John OKoro at his country's table for the Multicultural Festival; seated is Jubemi Ogisi, head of the Psychology Department at Brescia University. Lois Rutigliano photo

country, too," Fr. John said.

Speaking about the Multicultural Festival, Fr. John said, "I was very impressed with this event. I noticed how the people valued the ways of other cultures, and were very interested in listening to learn more about other people. That makes people from other cultures feel valued."

Something Fr. John finds different in this country from his native land is the time consciousness of the people. He said that a typical Celebration of the Mass, for instance, could take 2 to 3 hours in Nigeria. "The people use lots of drums, singing, and dance at Masses in Nigeria," he

Continued on page 23



Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministries Patti Murphy, left, worked the Mexico table Aug 20 at the Multicultural Festival, showing artwork and handmade crafts from Mexican artisans. Lois Rutigliano Photo



The Middle Eastern dance troupe The Lotus Dancers, from left, Kimberly Green, LeOra Day, and Gloria Dockery, performed Aug. 20 during the seventh annual Owensboro Multicultural Festival at First Presbyterian Church. Lois Rutigliano Photo

Happy Anniversary

Marriage Celebrations for October 2005

Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50
and over 50 years of marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

David & Mary Lanham, 25
James & Lisa Gallagher, 25
Tim & Donna West, 25
Thomas & Janice Hobbs, 40
H. Leo & Angela Thompson, 59
George & Mary Virginia Ballard, 62
J. C. & Mildred Higdon, 51
Jack & Lilly Wilson, 58

Christ the King, Madisonville

David & Ann Harkins, 40
Maurice & Patricia Jolley, 53

Christ the King, Scottsville

Samuel & Annette Harris, 52

Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington

Kenny & Martha Nell Barger, 57

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Dean & Mary Ann Jorgesen, 40
Tommy & Sue Hagan, 50
Bill & Virginia Thomas, 59
Hudson & Dorothy Payne, 59
Herman & Mary Ruth Thomas, 52
Rudy & Agnes Gibson, 54
Ray & Evelyn Shoemaker, 58
Les & Sarah Jennings, 61
Clarence & Margaret Kaminski, 56

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

George & Jean Bickett, 52 years
Patrick & Debra Gillstrap, 25

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Steve & Mary Jane Swigonski, 54
Francis & Wilma Roos, 57
William & Melina Baribeau, 64
Camille & Margaret Picciano, 62
Jake & Polly Leibfreid, 55

Immaculate, Owensboro

Mark & Denise McCarty, 25
George & Jennie Howard, 59
Billy & Anna King, 55
Andrew & Charlotte Reynolds, 52
Lester & Helen Schaick, 56

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

David Alan & Rosalyn Jane Carter, 25
Dennis & Karen Clouse, 25
Joseph & Marilou Blanford, 53
Elwood & Joanne Castlen, 59
Jack & Margie Clark, 56
David & Patricia Hamilton, 53
Kenneth & Wilma Jones, 56
George & Margaret Terry, 59

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jerry & Virginia Morgan, 25

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 51

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Douglas & Benola Dant, 55

St. Ann, Morganfield

Eddie & Peggy Salyers, 54

St. Anthony, Axtel

Charles & Patricia Bissinger, 40

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

James & Dorothy Thompson, 54

St. Columba, Lewisport

John & Mary Jo Snyder, 40

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

James & Mary Scott, 40
Siro & Marcella Pandolfi, 57
James & Mary Streit, 52

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Mr. & Mrs. James Clay Willett, 40

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Charles & Rosella Shoulta, 51

Larry & Paula Ellington, 40

St. Joseph, Central City

Victor & Rose Rogier, 58

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Henry & Mary Jo Viles, 25
Harold & Barbara Hayden, 50
Joseph & June Elliott, 58

St. Leo, Murray

Bruno & Helen Zubko, 61

St. Martin, Rome

James & Margaret Bickett, 50

John & Eloise Chandler 50

Bill & Patti Wink, 50

St. Mark, Eddyville

Joseph & Patricia Merimee, 40
Sts. Mary & James, Guthrie
Norbert & Helen Hoek, 50

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Thomas & Catherine Saltsman, 60

St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter

Frank & Lydia Oliver, 53

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

John O. & Mildred Boarman, 61
William M. & Opal Boarman, 62
Audry & Martha Hagan, 59

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Daniel & Linda Clark, 40
Virgil & Darlene Keown, 40
Murrell & Ann Sims, 40

St. Paul, Princeton

George & Carmen Richardville, 54
Larry & Margaret Osting, 54

St. Peter, Waverly

Louie & Rita Mills, 50
Anthony & Betty Wolfe, 61

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Riek & Kathy Clary, 25
Thomas & Libby Johnson, 40
Gene & Bernadette Bickwermert, 58
Richard & Betty Greenwell, 57
Melvin & Eleanor Wathen, 53

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Greg & Karen Sturgeon, 25
Merl & Marty Kannapel, 59
Charles & Louise Roach, 57
Harold & Libby Osborne, 52

St. Rose, Cloverport

James & Mary Jo Carter, 55

Richard & Dorothy Carter, 56

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Mark & Rita Heinz, 25

Doug & Karen Thies, 25

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Frank & Peggy Block, 25

Ed & Helena Schultz, 25

Charles & Lynda Hatton, 40

Ed & Pat Kortz, 53

Sts. Joe & Paul, Owensboro

Robert & Mary Lou Steele, 25

Charles & Mae Young, 25

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Phillip & Ruby Carsone, 51

William & Kathryn Whittinghill, 57

George & Cindy McCouch, 25

You are invited ...

To celebrate the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by the Holy Father, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are observing a weekly time of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the motherhouse chapel. This time of adoration takes place every Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m., with Evening Prayer at 4:45.



All are invited to come and pray with us.

You are also invited to pray Vespers with the sisters at 6:30

on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

For more information, call (270) 229-4103, ext. 229.

Multicultural Festival *(Continued from page 22)*

said. Here, one may find that we in Western Kentucky like to get in and out of Mass in an hour. Another aspect of the liturgy he finds a bit different is that in his country "not many have the wealth to afford wine, so most receive Jesus in the Host, and on their tongue from a priest, deacon, or seminarian. In a few of the larger cities, there are only a few nuns trained to administer communion. Most of the time, one priest gives Communion to a whole church full of people; that can take a long time."

The development of lay ministry is further advanced here in Western Kentucky Catholic parishes than in his homeland, Fr. John noticed, and he finds that a very good development for the Church. "Back home," he said, "only the priest touches the sacred vessels and the Host. Here, the people help in the liturgy." In his native Nigeria, Fr. John said, the composition of church people is about 50% Christian and 50% Muslim. Of that Christian population, Catholics make up nearly 25%. In the Eastern part of the country where he lives, Catholics make up nearly 80% of the population.

Another festival participant, Patti Murphy, Director of Hispanic Ministries for the Diocese of Owensboro, worked a table with art and crafts from Mexico. One handout at her table, she said, was a pamphlet which explains why the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is so special to Mexicans. The pamphlet explains the familiar image of Our Lady of Guadalupe standing on the moon with an Angel at her feet, and sun rays streaming around her. This image shows Mary as she appeared to Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac and which miraculously appeared on the tilma of Juan Diego after roses tumbled out while he was in the Bishop's office trying to tell him Mary asked for a temple to be built in the valley. The many symbols are like a hieroglyphic, a story in pictures, for Mexicans, because the symbols had a special meaning to Indians, who because of their culture could decipher the code in the Image.

Multicultural Festivals are like that - one can find out lots of fascinating facts about people and experience some of the customs of other countries at first hand as well as have a good time there.



Help Is On The Way!

Saint Joseph School, Mayfield, students collecting and donating for the Hurricane Relief to the Catholic Schools in Shreveport, La., in the picture here include: front row, left to right: Hannah Lamb, Kincer Amett, Katie Elder. Back row, left to right: Hunter Mahler, Brittany Willett, Carson Weber, Alex Jackson. St. Joseph School August 6, 2005, photo

Prayer for New Orleans

"Lord, hold the people of New Orleans in your loving hands. Protect them in their time of need and bring an end to their suffering. Bless them and their families and let your will be done. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

The Owensboro Diocesan Schools Office reported that on September 16, 2005, the total for assistance to the Diocese of Shreveport Catholic Schools from the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools is \$41,754.53.



Sister Amelia Stenger, O.S.U., in the photo at right with school children, visited Sister Carol Shivley in Shreveport, La., during Labor Day weekend. She sent these photos and captions: "This (above) is a picture of Sister Carol Shivley, O.S.U., with a child from Blessed Sacrament School in Shreveport, La. These are children who have come into the school just days after the August 29, 2005, hurricane hit the South Louisiana coast. They have had people lined up outside the doors since August 30 when Sister Carol announced they would take them. The really great thing about Blessed Sacrament is that most of the children there are not Catholic. They come to the school because they want a good education." Photos courtesy of Sr. Amelia Stenger, O.S.U.



Above is a picture of Sister Carol with a woman and her husband who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The lady is a doctor from New Orleans who lost her office and her home; both have been under water. She was crying and thanking Sister Carol for making them feel so welcome. Photo by Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU.



Happy To Help Out

At left, Saint Mary Elementary School in Paducah collected loose change and dollars in the school during the first weeks of September. Here some of the students hold money collected to help the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Shreveport, La.; from left to right, Cole Urhahn, Noe Ramirez, Shelby Browning, Rachel Thompson, and Paige Winfield from Mrs. Farrell's 2nd Grade Class. St. Mary Elementary Photo

"I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters and that it is my duty, in return for the lavish life God has devolved upon me, to help others He has placed in my path. This is my highest and best use as a human."

- from Ben Stein's final column, "Monday Night at Morton's" in E-Online, 9/06/2005: <http://www.eonline.com/Gossip/Morton/Archive/2003/031220.html> For many years Ben Stein has written a biweekly column called "Monday Night At Morton's." (Morton's is a famous chain of Steakhouses known to be frequented by movie stars and famous people from around the globe.)



At Holy Name Elementary, Tyler was having his second 'First Day of Kindergarten' in Miss Judy's classroom. Tyler was only in school for two days when his school was damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The students made the banner to welcome Tyler to our school. Holy Name Elementary Photo Bowling Green,

Holy Name School registered four new families with eight students on Tuesday, September 6, due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The students are living with relatives and needed a school to attend. In the picture at right, from left, three Holy Name Elementary first graders Rachel Payne, Sidney Cain, and Maddie Butler posed with the money being collected to assist the families in Shreveport, Louisiana. Our school has raised over \$1,000 in the first three days of collecting money! Holy Name Elementary Photo



At left, fifth Grade student from Saint Joseph Elementary, Olivia Perry, drops a bag of coins for the coin drive for the students from the New Orleans area who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina and relocated to Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Shreveport. La.

Below, 7th grade students from Saint Joseph School in Bowling Green, Ky., count and roll money collected at the school for the Diocese of Shreveport. La.



Saint Romuald Interparochial School Welcomes Hurricane Victims

The tally of deaths and destruction caused by the hurricane continues to climb day by day. The numbers of homes, jobs and businesses destroyed are immeasurable. We can only grasp now some of the enormity of the human toil- say nothing of the physical destruction of cities and towns in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Buried among all of this; are the children displaced by this disaster struggling to inch their lives back toward normalcy. Just as many Catholic schools have done, St. Romuald opened their doors to three new children displaced by the hurricane last week. They are Drew 5th grade, Brianna 3rd grade and Anna Stacia preschool.

In addition to welcoming three students in the St. Romuald family, St. Romuald staff and students began raising money for hurricane victims. To date, they have raised over \$1500 for the children displaced from their schools due Hurricane Katrina.

St. Romuald Interparochial School Students welcoming hurricane victims Anna Stacia , Brianna and Drew (front row) to their school. St. Romuald School photo

Wisdom

By Ginny Knight-Simon



**Pat Cairney, St. Thomas More Parish
Director of St. Mary School System, Paducah, KY**

"My wife, Anna and I most recently moved from Kansas where I was President of Maur Hill -Mount Academy, a Catholic boarding and day school. Anna, a librarian by trade, spent more than a decade as the head of the library at Benedictine College (a Catholic, liberal arts institution) in Atchison, Kansas. I was born in Graceville, Minnesota. I graduated from St. Mary of the Plains College in Kansas.

I met my Anna while teaching at Sts. Peter and Paul high school in Kansas. We have been married 33 years and we have 4 children: Nathaniel, is a writer and graphic artist. He lives in Germany with his wife, Turi. Jeremy, a software engineer lives in Aurora, IL. with his wife, Carol, and 3 children. Luke is an admissions counselor at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Madeline is a sophomore at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. She will spend her second semester this year studying in Ireland.

I am not yet involved in many parish activities here in Paducah. I have been in the past a lector, served on parish and school councils. Anna and I have chaired the annual fundraising festival, chaired the Parish Renewal, and headed or participated in several fundraising campaigns.

I have just begun involvement with the local Chamber of Commerce. In the past I have been involved with a wide variety of boards (Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, professional groups, schools, fraternal groups) and participated in a myriad of volunteer activities.

I have always been a Catholic. My faith is very important to me because it gives me perspective. It tells me that I am not in control, that I am not that important, that life is hard, that my life is not about me. It's important because it reminds me how imperfect I am and it keeps ever before me this simple mantra: Do good. Avoid evil.

Has my faith changed with age? As I near my dotage, I see that faith is not a destination, it is a state of mindfulness. Can one ever have complete confidence that they possess faith, or are possessed by it? Our human inclination to see ourselves as bundles of flaws makes it difficult to believe that we can be truly faith-filled. I try to keep my faith objective uncomplicated. Do good Avoid evil. Believe that God recognizes the difference. That's pretty good advice. One does not have to be a theologian or dogmatist to understand that

One thing that has not changed during my life is the recognition that there must be a greater, more exalted meaning for our existence than any monument of rationale man can create. It is important the we know right from wrong and act accordingly.

How do I feel I am shepherding God's gifts? It's not something I dwell on. My duty is to make the best of what talent I have been given. When it occurs to me, I give thanks for this great life and the many blessings received.

Dr. Jane Thibault to kick off First Annual Fall Wisdom Day November 14, 2005

The Diocese of Owensboro through the Office of Wisdom is presenting the first annual Fall Day of Wisdom. on Monday, November 14, 2005 at St. Thomas More Catholic parish hall in Paducah, KY. As with the annual spring Day of Wisdom that is held in Owensboro, the day is geared toward those 55 years and over.

We are very excited to have Dr. Jane Marie Thibault as our presenter for the day. In May, 1996, Dr. Thibault initiated the spring Day of Wisdom series at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro, with a very powerful presentation. We thought it very fitting that she be on hand to do the initial Fall Day of Wisdom presentation in Paducah.

Dr. Thibault is a Clinical Gerontologist and Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the School of Medicine at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Dr. Thibault's primary research is in the area of vocation and spiritual growth in later life. She is a contributing writer on issues of aging for numerous medical journals. She is a highly sought workshop presenter and retreat leader on issues of spirituality and aging. She is on the National Task Force for Spirituality and Aging for Catholic Charities, USA, and serves as a board member for the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Dr. Thibault has developed a model for contemplative community for older adults and works with a number of local congregations to develop spiritual companionship groups which enable elders to re-envision



Dr. Jane Marie Thibault

aging in the Christian context.

Dr. Thibault has authored two books: *A Deepening Love Affair* and *10 Gospel Promises for Later Life*.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together from across the diocese and share a day of Spirituality customized for seniors and the unique needs that are faced each day.

The day is free and is open to anyone aged 55 or better, or who is a caregiver of a senior. There will be food, fun, and learning. Seating is limited so call now and make your reservations!

For Reservations contact Ginny Knight-Simon at 270-683-1545 or Email: ginny.knight-simon@pastoral.org

The Gift of Love
ADOPTION
Catholic Charities Adoption Services
1-877-803-5064, ext.128

By Patti Murphy

Delegates from the parishes of Sts. Susan, Elkton; St. Joseph, Mayfield; St. Thomas More, Paducah; St. Michael, Sebree; and Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville were sent to the Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Encuentro to analyze and prioritize the results of a six-week parish process. In each of these 5 parishes, teams of young adults led a process of reflection and consultation for Hispanic youth & young adults. The sessions followed the themes of *Ecclesia en America: An Encounter with the Living Jesus, the Path toward Conversion, Communion, Solidarity and Mission*; ending with a Parish Encuentro. The prophetic voice of the youth shone through in the responses they sent with the delegates to the diocesan gathering.

After studying the responses, church documents and the principles of Youth Ministry, the 21 delegates prioritized the information and offered suggestions for pastoral actions. The final results may be found at www.owensborodio.org/hispanic, but a few examples follow this article.

At the end of the Diocesan Encuentro, 10 delegates were chosen to represent the Diocese of Owensboro and bring our results to the Regional Youth & Young Adult Encuentro in March 2006. They are Byron Macias and Raul Contreras from Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville; Alejandra Diaz, Rolando Pastor and Sr. Beatriz Taneco



Symbols used during process
 - boat = Church; net & red fish = our gifts; sea & white fish = our challenges; helm = suggested actions for parishes; compass = suggested actions for Diocese

from St. Joseph, Mayfield; Paul Witte and Rosa Salas from St. Susan, Elkton; Pepe Lopez and Noe Rosales from St. Michael, Sebree; and Marisa Perez from St. Thomas More, Paducah. Patti Murphy, director of Hispanic Ministry and Melinda Prunty, director of Youth Ministry, will accompany the delegates.

The Diocese of Owensboro greatly appreciates all the work that these young adults did, both in their parishes and in the Diocese, to analyze the reality



St. Susan, Elkton, Parish Encuentro

of Hispanic youth and young adults. This information will be used in the parishes, diocese, regions and nation to further develop a ministry for Hispanic youth & young adults that truly responds to their needs and offers a place to use and develop their gifts. Please pray for the delegates as they continue this work. If you would like to support the Hispanic Ministry office in any way or find out more about the ministry, please feel free to contact Patti Murphy: Patricia.Murphy@pastoral.org or at (270) 683-1545 ext. 142.



Parish delegates working during Diocesan Encuentro

Some results from Encuentro process:

- The young Catholic Hispanic community of the Diocese of Owensboro has:
 - * Gifts & positive elements - accepting people as they are; rich Catholic & cultural traditions; humility and respect for family and elders.
 - * Challenges & negative elements - destructive criticism among peers; addictions to drugs and alcohol; machismo and disrespect of the gifts of women; and egoism.
 - The most urgent needs of Hispanic young people are the fear of deportation, adequate housing, and help overcoming addictions.
 - The most important contributions of Hispanic young people are their mutual comprehension, acceptance and support; following the example of Jesus and having a good relationship with God.
 - Highest priority suggestions of pastoral actions at the parish level: organize more group games and activities to build community; the priest needs to get to know us more and let us get to know him, especially when it comes to our cultures; and hold more spiritual retreats.
 - Highest priority suggestions of pastoral actions at the diocesan level: have priests that know and love our culture; provide more biblical instruction to give us the ability to defend our faith; and organize a diocesan consultative body of Hispanic leaders.
- All results may be found at www.owensborodio.org/hispanic



Honoring Our Mother, Mary

A grotto dedicated to the Blessed Mother was built by Jerry and Earlene Abney at Saint Sebastian Church, Calhoun, Ky. It stands behind the new church building and was blessed by Father Peter Hughes to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. Submitted by Jerry Abney



August Students of the Month

This year at Mary Carrico the school will be recognizing a Student of the Month for each grade based on different values. For the month of August students were selected based on effort, cooperation, promptness to class, and responsible behavior. The students pictured are: Ian Mudd (K), Amanda Roby (5), Chelsea Bickett (6), Mason Lanham (3), Jonathan Hurm (4), Rene Howard (8), Brett Roberts (7), Sami Jo Lanham (1), and Mikaelyn Aud (2). Submitted by Erin Kamuf



Comfort & Hope... a message about grief

By Jeannie Boone

It's dark and gloomy as I look through the front door I've left open in order to hear the rain. We need the rain and I pray it continue, gently, throughout the day.

I'm wondering how many people are watching this rain and asking, "Is this God crying with me as my heart breaks?" I used to ask that question and sometimes walk out into the rain to feel His tears on my face, mingling with mine... shared anguish, dangling questions, and then a calm... like a brief respite from the raging storm that was my grief. This had to be months after my daughter was killed because for a long time I could not speak to God, nor feel His presence. I felt so angry, so betrayed and abandoned, yet when I knelt, from the depth of my soul came the plea, "help me. Please, help me!" Looking back I can see that even in my greatest sorrow when I felt the most removed from He whom I blamed, there was not a moment I was out of His arms. Before I believed, now I know: I am branded on the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49:16) and He will not leave

me (John 14:18). The child lashes out and the parent holds on... this is love.

There are situations in life that cause such profound disappointment that we actually grieve, with all the accompanying physical and mental torment, but we grieve an ideal, a dream, or a path not taken; choices that hurt and destroy. Very often these involve our children. Unlike our Father in heaven we human parents sometimes grow weary of the hanging on, and sometimes we hold on for so long we don't know how to let go.

A friend has a grown son who moved 'back home' after his wife died. Refusing to seek counseling he grows daily more entrenched in a self-imposed exile from reality. In her so-called golden years she worries for him, copes, and cares for other ill family members while ignoring her own needs. Another friend struggles to maintain hearth, home, and sanity, while caring for grandchildren who cannot begin to comprehend their mother's apparent indifference. And the lifestyle Mom leads is far more exciting than the one their grandmother nurtures so they lash out at her. For 25 years I have tried to hold on to

a boy; yes, his hair is getting gray, but his mind seems to have stopped learning when as a teenager he began to use drugs, so in many ways he's like a boy. This boy/man is capable of such sweetness and promise when he's clean but can only maintain that state for brief periods of time. It's always just long enough to start building hope, collect a few belongings and work a month or two, then we crash. A year ago there was a near successful suicide attempt. I'm tired to the bone of this cycle that seems to have no end. He has finally entered a long-term rehabilitation program and I'm trying to catch my breath and be hopeful. We have a couple here in our community, in their 80's, caring for small grandchildren, while praying and trying to redeem the children's mother. These situations, and many others just as heartbreaking, are happening all around us, everyday. How people hold on... I don't know.

But I do know: When I get beyond the frustration, on the other side of anger and fear, I know and I understand that our inability to let go is nothing less than the power of love. We may not like what they do, how they live, or the choices they make, but we love these people with a love that has no end, and a heart engraved with their name; thus the eternal hope that one

day we will see them rise... whole, healthy and happy. And so we try and we try and we try to keep picking up the pieces and gluing these loved ones back together. We hold them up in prayer through sleepless nights.

There are many who do not understand this perseverance, scoffing at our hope: often it's other family members who resent it so harshly, and who can blame them? There are times when the struggle is just too painful and we have to step out of the picture for a while to gain a new perspective, a brief rest. And we hold on... we are, after all, created in His image... the child lashes out and the parent holds on, tighter. And we are commanded to "love as I have loved you." We can do no less. Even when it hurts.

As the days grow cooler and shorter depression often deepens, or recurs. For those grieving a deceased loved one the approaching holiday season can cause extreme anxiety. Let's be mindful of those around us who suffer and do whatever we can to weave comfort and hope into their lives.

Email your thoughts: kyboones2@hotmail.com

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."

By H.J. Rumage, Jr.

"The Old Man"

The old man had seen the frost of over ninety-five winters, and like all living things, the years had taken their toll. His wife had long been dead and a few years ago he had gone to live with his daughter and her family. In spite of his aches and pains, he still tried to be as active as possible. Living in a rural area, his activities were limited mostly to taking walks when the weather would permit. It was summer, so he did his walking late in the afternoon or early evening. It was on such a walk that he met God. Now, God did not have a sign around his neck saying, "I am God," but the old man somehow knew who He was. He looked forward each day to these walks because he had a companion to share memories with and to just have general conversation with. He would tell God little items about his children or something that the grandchildren had done that he found humorous. God would share with him some of the different things that He had seen going on in the world. Some things good, and some not so good.

The old man, from time to time would admit to God that he had failed to meet the standards expected by the higher power. God would remind him that forgiveness was free just for the asking. These walks and encounters continued for the remaining days of summer. With the approach of autumn, God notice that his old friend's steps had slowed considerable, so being the considerate Being that he was, God slowed his steps to match his old friend. On this particular day when they reached their point of separation, God paused and watched the old man as he continued on his trek home. God could not help but notice how much more effort the old man exhibited just to continue his walk home.

The next day as they finished their walk the old man was sweating and his breathing was labored. As they approached the point of separation, God turned to the old man and said: "You're tired, old friend, my house is closer; so just come on home with me."



H.J. Rumage, Jr.

St. Stephen Cathedral In Owensboro, Ky Wins \$2,000 Scholarship

HUNTINGTON, Ind. – St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, KY has been chosen to receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the International Catholic Stewardship Council's (ICSC) Annual Meeting this October, in San Francisco!

Each June, Our Sunday Visitor holds a raffle to send 5 parishes to the International Catholic Stewardship Council's Annual Meeting. Scholarships must be used to cover conference registration, ICSC membership dues and travel expenses. To be eligible for the raffle, parishes sent their contact information to Our Sunday Visitor during the month of June.

The ICSC's annual meeting is an opportunity for parishes & dioceses to gather together with international stewards to experience how Christ's love can renew the face of the earth! Hundreds of pastors, parish leaders, diocesan development and stewardship directors, professional firms, Catholic associations and religious congregation leaders attend the annual meeting, held each year at in a different city across the nation. The 2006 ICSC annual meeting will be held October 1-4, 2006 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Other parishes that won scholarships include St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford, MI, St. Patrick Parish in Hortonville, WI, and St. Brigid Catholic Church in Alpharetta, GA.

Parishes who would like to participate in Our Sunday Visitor's 2006 ICSC scholarship program should call Our Sunday Visitor at 800-348-2886.

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., has two divisions. The Offering Envelope Division manufactures and distributes offering envelopes to Catholic churches throughout the country. The Publishing Division produces Catholic books, parish-based faith formation materials, stewardship resources and six periodicals, including a national Catholic weekly newspaper, Our Sunday Visitor.

The not-for-profit company was founded in 1912 by then Father John F. Noll, later the archbishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese in northern Indiana. The company is based in Huntington, Ind., where it employs 275.

More information about Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. – its products, history and mission – can be found on the company web site at www.osvenvelopes.com.

Adult Spirituality: Building a Relationship with God



By Bob Cinnamon

It was the spring of 1972 and I was about to reach the ripe age of 33 years. I felt very successful, after all I was a high school teacher, coach, boy scout leader, husband and father of four. But behind the scenes problems were brewing, problems that I chose to ignore. My wife was not happy, I was seldom at home, and I wasn't as loving as I should have been to my family.

I let work and play occupy most of my time. After all they were what I enjoyed the most out of life. Why shouldn't I do what I enjoyed the most? Sure, we disagreed over things at home, wasn't that normal? I took my kids to church on Sunday morning; and I sat in the back pew and paid more attention to those around me than I did to the service; wasn't that normal? I was heading for disaster but I could not see it!

Then some of my friends talked me into making a Catholic Cursillo. That weekend I heard other men share about a close family life that I did not have. They talked about God as if they knew Him. And most of all they had a peace about them that I did not have. That weekend I decided that my life needed a new direction!

Gradually I began to change my priorities. I began to realize that whatever I did with my life, the only thing that really mattered was how well I loved others. I began to experience a peace inside that was new to me. I felt for the first time that I was beginning to live the way God wanted me to live.

I chose to follow the Cursillo guidelines on how to have a happy joy filled life. Yes, it took years of practice but it was certainly worth it. Cursillo helped me to build a relationship with God. I began to experience his guidance in my life. Cursillo opened up a new way of life for me that was better than anything that I could have imagined.

It is always nice to do good things for God and others. After all Jesus called us to love God and one another as we love ourselves. But adult faith goes one step further. It challenges us to let God do good things through us. Adult faith lets us be in tune with what God is doing through us. And as we see it happen we receive a joy that is unimaginable.

Down through the years our family has been involved in just about every movement in the Church. TEC, YES, HELP, Prayer Groups, Koinonia, Marriage Encounter, Search, and more. All of them are great ways to experience God in Christian Community but there is more! Cursillo provides the method that gives more!

Leaders of TEC, Koinonia, and all of the other movements can benefit from the Cursillo method. It can give you the tools to lead your local community to a deeper faith. And, if you were like me and need a change in your life. Well, give it a try. It sure worked for me!

Immigration & the Church

"We speak as two Episcopal conferences but as one Church, united in the view that migration is necessary and beneficial. At the same time, some aspects of the migrant experience are far from the vision of the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed: many persons who seek to migrate are suffering, and, in some cases, dying; human rights are abused; families are kept apart; and racist and xenophobic attitudes remain. (Pg. 1, no.2)"

- Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope, a joint statement from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States. To learn about the USCCB's Campaign for Immigration Reform visit: www.justiceforimmigrants.org

Lourdes Foundation's First Annual Charity Buddy Bass Tournament

Saturday, October 8, 2005, Kentucky Dam Marina, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Coordinated by Wal-Mart FLW Outdoors

Guaranteed Purse: \$3,000 First Place; \$1,500 Second Place; \$750 Third Place; Big Bass Contest; 80% of entry fees paid to 20% of the field. \$80 per boat entry fee (postmarked by October 1); \$100 after October 1; cash-only at registration. Download registration form www.lourdes-pad.org. Or call (270) 444-2353 for information

Pre-Tournament Gathering (not mandatory); Friday, October 7, 2005

Lourdes Marshall Nemer Pavilion, 6 - 8 p.m. Family-friendly event featuring food, exhibits, Q & A with professional fishermen (Terry Bolton, Mark Menendez, and Dan Morehead), displays of boats, trucks and sporting goods equipment, and a live auction of the first 10 boat starting numbers and Tennessee Titans tickets.



St. John in Fordsville receives a \$2,500 grant

The Reverend Eric Riley has received notice that St. John Catholic Church in Fordsville was awarded a Board of Directors grant from Oregon Catholic Press. The grant for \$2,500 will help to supply the new St. John Catholic Church with needed supplies such as a Baptismal Font, Paschal candle stand, censer and boat, sprinkler, music stands, hanging hymn board, number sets, and flower stands.

The blueprints and funding for the new church have been approved by the Diocesan Building Committee and an architect is presently drawing plans for the new church. Join us in prayer and celebration as we prepare for our new church.

Knights, other groups appeal new ruling on Pledge of Allegiance

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Knights of Columbus and other parties in a lawsuit filed over the Pledge of Allegiance have appealed a federal judge's ruling that the pledge cannot be recited in public schools because of its reference to God. U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton of Sacramento, Calif., said Sept. 14 that under a previous ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which found the practice unconstitutional, the current case is legally resolved already. In the previous case, the Supreme Court ruled in June that Dr. Michael Newdow lacked the legal standing to sue his daughter's California school district over the practice of reciting the pledge. The high court declined to decide whether the words "under God" made it unconstitutional to recite the pledge in public schools. The new lawsuit was again filed by Newdow, a physician and an attorney who represented himself before the Supreme Court last March, but this time with the participation of other students who live in four Sacramento-area school districts.

Building community, welcoming keys to stewardship, speakers say

By Peter Finney Jr., Catholic News Service
NEW ORLEANS (CNS) -- Catholics in the U.S. contribute about 1 percent of their income to the church while Protestants contribute 2 percent to 2.5 percent, a Villanova University economics professor told a stewardship conference sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Charles Zech, an expert in Catholic Church finances and author of "Why Catholics Don't Give ... And What Can Be Done About It," said the large variation in the levels of sacrificial giving among denominations is something that demands attention by Catholic leaders.

If U.S. Catholics gave at least 2 percent of their income to the church, the increase would mean an extra \$7.5 billion annually and an average of \$400,000 more for the typical parish, Zech said.

"Do you think your parish could do something with an extra \$400,000 a year?" Zech asked the 175 participants, including priests and lay members of finance councils and stewardship committees.

Zech was a keynote speaker at the daylong stewardship workshop. Another was C. Justin Clements, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Evansville, Ind., who said that unless a parish transforms itself



C. Justin Clements, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Evansville, Ind., speaks at the New Orleans archdiocesan stewardship conference Aug. 20. He said that unless a parish is a welcoming community, other parish programs won't work. (CNS photo by Peter Finney Jr., Clarion Herald) (Aug. 26, 2005)

into a "welcoming community ... all the other things you try to do aren't going to go anywhere."

Both Zech and Clements said the stewardship model -- in which people understand that all they have in terms of physical, spiritual and material possessions is a gift from God -- requires a constant education, not just a homily one Sunday a year.

"Building community is the key," Zech said. "If you're not going to build community, don't even bother with stewardship. Building community is a never-ending process, but it's got to start somewhere."

A major component in building community is lay involvement in decision-making, Zech said. It's not that lay persons want the final say in making parish decisions, but they want to be included in the process.

Zech told the story of a pastor who decided his church needed two new front doors. Without consulting anyone, he bought two doors and had them installed, at a total cost of \$38,000.

"I asked him, 'Father, do you know how much \$38,000 is?'" Zech said. "Most Catholics in their lifetime won't give \$20,000 to the church. He essentially used up the lifetime contributions of two parishioners. The pastor was not dishonest, but he didn't understand the importance of consulting with parishioners in his decision-making."

Zech said pastors must turn "volunteers" into "ministers," a term that recognizes the importance of lay people living out the full responsibility of their baptismal call.

"We have to let people know, what you do is important to this parish," Zech said. "We have to train them, support them and endow them. ... Money follows ministry."

Zech is not a big fan of pledging or tithing -- which in its literal sense means giving 10 percent of your income to the church -- because he believes it is unrealistic based on current giving levels. He also said Jesus taught stewardship, not tithing.

However, a good idea is to promote incremental giving, such as a person committing to contribute 1.5 percent of income this year and 2 percent the next, and so on.

"Thirty-eight percent of Catholics decide weekly on what they are going to give," Zech said. "How can we plan our finances if that remains the case? We can't sur-

Continued on page 43

Three Union Co. parishes collaborate to plan Stewardship ministries

By Edna Messamore

Members of three Union County parishes pastored by Fr. Terry Devine, St. Agnes, Sacred Heart, and Saint Peter of Antioch, met with Diocesan Stewardship Director Kevin Kauffeld to discuss plans for their annual stewardship month which is October.

This committee has been formed for approximately seven years and serve their parishes' stewarding ministry together. This year, a plan has been implemented for each weekend in October. The three Union

County parishes will hang a banner, and arrange for Parish Religious Education students to make posters to hang in church, have a lay speaker at all Masses, followed by Fr. Terry speaking on Stewardship. A skit will be performed during the last weekend

Mass in October followed by parishioners filling out their form and dropping it in the collection basket. A member of the committee will end the weekend with a 'thank you' and a stewardship prayer.

Follow-up phone calls are planned to those who do not return their form. A packet will be mailed to each family which includes a census, a ministry form with a ministry explanation, and a tithing card. An attachment on stewarding will be added to the parish bulletins during three weeks of the month.



Above, Fr. Terry Devine, Kevin Kauffeld, Diocesan Stewardship Director, Charlie Wolfe & Sandy Wolfe.

In picture at left, Edna Messamore, Danny Ricketts, Louise Tennyson & Kristie French Not Pictured: Susan Clements, Beth Wilson, Michelle Whitfield. Edna Messamore Photos

Making Good Marriages Great

By Theresa Notare

Maybe I've just watched too many MGM musicals in my life, but I think most marriages are good. I believe that most people enter marriage wanting the best for their spouses and themselves. They want their love to last forever. They hope life won't be too hard and that they too can have the American dream of children, a home and a happy life. These are good things to aspire to. The Catholic Church has similar desires for married couples but goes further – the Church wants good marriages to become great marriages.

How can a good marriage become great? Our faith suggests how – by knowing and loving God, and by living in a way that reflects that relationship. As Christians, the starting point for all human relationships is our relationship with the Triune God. It is only in light of that love that we can love the other person fully. As members of the Body of Christ we are called to love as Christ loves – faithfully, generously, and permanently. That's a huge calling, but grace makes it possible.

This common Christian vocation to love God and neighbor takes on a unique focus in the lives of married couples. Its uniqueness is related to God's original gift to humanity: God blessed man and woman to be "no longer two but one flesh," and said, "Be fruitful and multiply." The couple's shared vocation is embodied in the unitive and procreative nature of marital sexuality. To make a good Christian marriage great, these

two aspects of marital sexuality must be understood, nurtured and lived.

The marriage bond is formed by a free act of the will, and nurtured by selfless love. That means putting your spouse's needs before your own. If both spouses strive to be mindful of each other, a real communion of persons can be built. Not "me," but "we" can become second nature and their bond will become strong enough to blossom into a greater love for all human life.

The Church teaches that marriage involves a radical act of giving. This is nowhere more clear than in the marital embrace. Husband and wife give all of themselves to each other – body, mind and soul. Pope John Paul II has said that "nothing that is part of themselves can be excluded from this gift." Their fertility, their power to create a new person to love in union with each other, is part of that gift. Here lies the reason why contraception is wrong – it breaks

Help For Hurting Marriages



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or 1-800- 470 2230

that "inseparable connection" between the two meanings of the conjugal act, the unitive and the procreative" (Humanae vitae, no. 12). Doing something that is against what God designed us for can only harm us.

Living your marriage according to God's design can only make you happy. It can make your good marriage great!

- Theresa Notare is the Assistant Director of the Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning, Pro-Life Secretariat, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Am I Suppose To Feel Like This?



Betty Medley

By Betty Medley

Grieving the death of someone you love is overwhelming enough. But actually understanding your grief? That's asking too much!

Surprisingly, you can understand your grief, and be better off for it. Here's a simple look at the basics of your journey of grief.

- Grief has changed your life completely. You cannot go back to being who you were, but you can learn to live fully as who you are now.
- Grief is a natural, normal, and necessary response to loss. It is your way of adjusting, physically, spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, and socially.
- You may feel tired, unable to sleep, or want to sleep most of the time.

- You may feel hungry or you may not want to eat at all.

You might feel worried and excited at the same time. Maybe your heart is racing and you can't catch your breath.

Do you feel empty and hollow inside? You might have trouble concentrating and remembering things. It's normal to feel deep emotions when you are grieving the death of someone you love. Sadness, anger, fear and guilt are common; don't let them scare you, even if you experience several different emotions at the same time.

Are you confused by the swirl of emotions you're experiencing? It's okay. It will help you to talk with someone you trust about your feelings, or to write them down in

a notebook. Although many people will expect you to "get over" your grief in a few weeks, you want to be patient with yourself. You will never get over your loss, but you will get through it. Give yourself plenty of time to experience all the emotions associated with the loss.

Don't be surprised or discouraged when grief shows up out of the blue. Just when you think you might be "over it," you find yourself crying while in line at the store. It's normal and okay. Support groups are available. There are books, videos and brochures for anyone who may need them. To find about the help ready for you, call (270) 683-1545 ext. 105

ONCE MORE WITH LOVE

A Marriage Preparation Program for couples preparing for marriage after one or both persons have experienced a divorce or death of a former spouse.
Saturday, November 5, 2005,
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Catholic Pastoral Center,
600 Locust Street,
Owensboro, KY 42301
Telephone: (270) 683-1545, ext 105 or betty.medley@pastoral.org

Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest



The Serra Club of Owensboro has launched a program to provide prayerful support for the priests of our Diocese called ADOPT A PRIEST. It is open to all members of the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro.

A lapel pin has been designed as shown below. The initials of the priest and his date of ordination have been engraved on the back of each pin. Along with each pin, a card and envelope will be included,

designed especially to be sent by the wearer to the adopted priest. The Serra Club is asking that you pray daily for your adopted priest.

To order a pin, send a check or money order for \$15.00 to: Serra Club of Owensboro, 4213 Spring Bank Drive, Owensboro, KY 422303

Please note that requests for the name of a specific priest cannot be honored. All priests have been included and are listed randomly.

The Institute of John Paul The Great

A day of Conferences and Prayer on John Paul II's Life and Writings

Saturday, October 22, 2005 at St. Martin's Catholic Parish, Rome

- 8am Breakfast; 9 am - 1st Conference: Fr. Tony Bickett on Christian Unity
 - 10 am - 2nd Conference: Fr. Brian Johnson on the Meaning of Human Suffering
 - 11 am - Confessions during Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary; 11:30 am - Mass in Honor of Pope John Paul II; 12 Noon - Lunch
 - 1 pm - 3rd Conference: Fr. David Kennedy on World Youth Day Themes with Seminarian Eric Ebelhar
 - 2 pm - 4th Conference: Fr. Ken Mikulcik on Theology of the Body
- No fees or cost, only a donation taken up during Mass for St. Martin's & for our new Seminarian from St. Martin's, Eric Ebelhar

"Can you hear Me now? Dare to put out into the deep!"

With this issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, we introduce a new page focused on the important work of Vocation Ministry: "Can you hear me now? Dare to put out into the deep!" (Luke 5:4).

In a well-known scene from the Gospel of Luke, Jesus encounters the first disciples after a night of fishing that has yielded nothing. Jesus instructs them to "put out into the deep" and to let down their nets for a catch. Peter and his companions ... skeptical though they are ... trust Jesus' words and they cast their nets out into the deep. The catch turns out to be a marvelous one!

In this regular feature page about Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life, you will encounter men and women who still trust Jesus' invitation to "put out into the deep." On this page, look for glimpses into the daily life and ministry of priests and consecrated religious men and women. Find stories of men and women that will give you a glance into religious formation. Watch for pictures to get snapshots of people active in ministry. Read articles from people who want to make a difference with their lives. Discover ways to renew the invitation of Christ to young men and women to "cast out into the deep."

Seven New Men Affiliate With The Diocese For Priestly Formation

It's fall. School has started. Classes are underway. And seven new men have entered formation for priesthood, bringing the total number of seminarians studying for the Diocese of Owensboro to 10.

In a specific way, these men are generously responding to the invitation Jesus extends to Peter and the first disciples: "Put out into the deep" (Lk 5:4). What faith and courage they demonstrate!

A person needs community to properly discern God's call. That means we all have a particular task in supporting and encouraging these young men. When we Christians show ourselves capable of revealing the face of Christ in our own word and example, these men and other young people will be more ready to welcome Christ's demanding message, stamped as it is with the mystery of the Cross.

We invite you to let our seminarians know of your support. Write them a note. Tell them how you're praying for them. Send them Spiritual Bouquets. Ask them what God is doing in their lives. Have your students send them cards. Invite your friends to join you in praying for them. Be creative and explore other means of encouragement. Now, let us introduce you to ...



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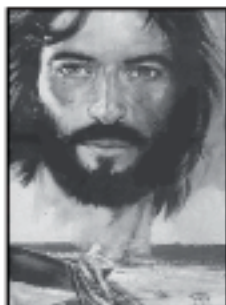
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"Can you hear Me now? Dare to put out into the deep!"

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Supper With Batman

By Father Andy Garner

One of the nicest things about being a priest is being invited to different parishioners' homes for supper. People tend to go out of their way to make the evening enjoyable with good food and drink, sparkling conversations, some laughs, and the offer of friendship.

While all of these suppers are memorable, the one that stands out in my mind as the most interesting is the supper I had with Batman.



Batman is a 4-year-old boy who could charm the socks off even the crustiest old sourdough. The supper table featured Batman, his parents, his two-year old sister (who was wearing a panda hat), four folks from next door, and myself.

While dad sat at one end of the table entertaining some of the guests, mom was up and down serving everyone and feeding the two-year old girl. Batman sat at the opposite end of the table and spent the evening dazzling some of the neighbors and me with tales spun from the magical inner world of a 4-year-old.

After seeing me eat a roll. Batman asked, "Do you like the rolls?"

"Yes, I do. They're delicious!"

"Well, I made them," Batman said.

"You did?! You did a very good job!"

After seeing how impressed I was with the

rolls, Batman said, "Yes. As a matter of fact, I cooked everything that's on this table," waving his arm over the table.

"Wow! You must be very tired," I exclaimed.

"Oh, no. It was no trouble at all. In fact, you know what? I made three movies today down in the basement."

"You made three movies? Did you star in them?"

"Of course I did. I directed them too."

"What were they about?"

"Batman movies," he explained. From the look on his face, he was probably thinking, "Of course they were Batman movies you silly goose. What other kind of movies would Batman star in?"

"And you know what?" he continued. "I'm in the circus. I'm a clown."

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked one neighbor.

"A priest," Batman replied. "I'm already a priest. I can say Mass and everything."

"Good choice!" I replied. A priest storyteller. The world certainly needs more good priest storytellers!

Then the conversation deepened as Batman entered into a theological discussion on the idea of God's omnipresence. "God is everywhere," Batman explained. "He's on the windowsill over there, on top of the tables, on top of my head. He's everywhere!"

"Is He in your heart?" asked the man from next door.

"Yes, He's in my heart. He's everywhere!" he exclaimed with passion.

After he finished eating, Batman asked me to pin his little black cape on him so that he could show us how he could fly. He was on a roll! Having a few of us hang on his every word and marvel at his conversation and great feats was a treat which didn't come along every day!

He showed us how to fly by jumping off furniture – until mom caught him and made him stop. Then he ran through the house and jumped – er, flew – as far as he could.

After dinner, as I sat in the living room, he and his sister noticed that I took a Spanish olive to eat. "Oh, do you like those?" Batman asked.

"Yes, I love green olives."

They then began feeding me green olives, along with squares of cheese. Batman informed me, however, that I was not eating olives at all. Rather, I was eating special

tigers' eyeballs.

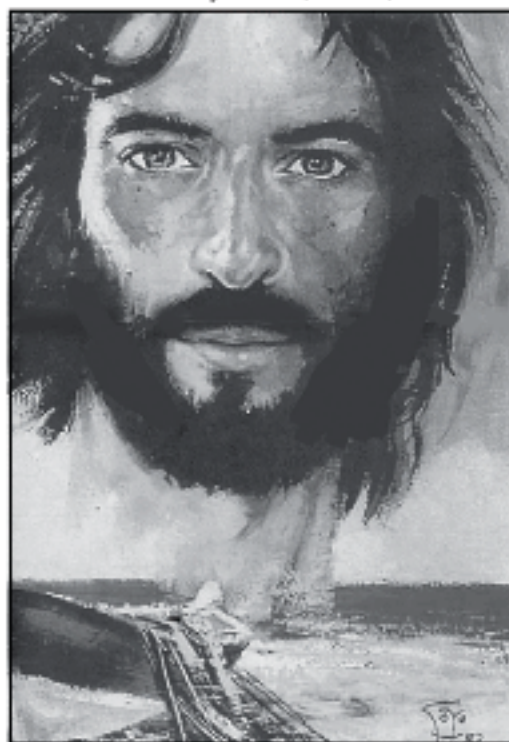
While I nibbled on the eyeballs, Batman said, "My dad took me hunting. And we were very, very brave. And we were courageous, very courageous."

At first I thought that 4 was bit young to be taken hunting, but then Batman let me know that he was still in the magic realm. "Yes, we hunted a giant panda bear. And we went k-pow!" Here he showed me a karate chop. "And the bear was dead. And we put a wire around his neck and pulled so hard that his head fell off. And so I brought the bear's head home so my sister could wear it." And that is how his little sister came to be wearing her panda hat.

Finally the evening ended, and Batman was told to get ready for bed. He hoped that he wouldn't have any nightmares as he sometimes had, like being eaten alive by bees. After getting into his comfortable and torn bedclothes, he said goodnight to us all and somersaulted down the hall to his room.

Batman was calling it a day.

When I left the house, I wondered what effect going to school would have on Batman and his wonderful imagination. Would school dampen his creativity and spontaneity? Would he eventually become like most of us and experience stage fright when faced with



"Can you hear Me now?
Dare to put out into the deep!"

giving a speech? Would he have to take courses in creative writing in order to recapture some of that magic which he now possesses in such great abundance?

Probably. But then, who knows, maybe he'll be one of the lucky ones who is able to keep the magic of his heart alive.

God bless you Batman. May all your dreams come true.

Celebrate!

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Living With Depression

By Robin Beatty

A dark, dreary cloud hanging over your head. Day after day. A lack of appetite. Day after day. A desire to talk to no one. A need for lots of sleep and extreme edginess. Day after day. Sound familiar? Sounds like someone who is blah and distant. This could actually be someone dealing with depression.

My name is Robin Beatty. I'm 36 years old & I'm from Whitesville Kentucky. My husband of eleven years is Joey and we have three beautiful daughters: Kirsten, Mollie & Erin. As you may have guessed, I live with depression. I'm not always blah or distant. Those are just some of the effects of depression that I live with. Depression is a disease that I have lived with my whole life and have had to learn to adapt to its comings and goings. It has not been easy or pleasant. And it has affected my entire life and family. Blah or distant aren't the only descriptions of this horrible disease. There's despair and hopelessness and many more.

Hopefully the descriptions above are enough to turn your head and read on to recognize that something doesn't seem right in your life or someone else's life. Think about it. Do you know someone who just seems blah and negative all the time? Do you just wish they could get out of that rut and be a little positive? Do you just wish they could laugh a little? Do you or someone you know have no energy to do anything, to go somewhere or to even clean the house? Do you or someone you know seem to be distant, cold or even have an appearance that they seem better than you? Has one of your friends that you've known for years seem to have nothing to say anymore, and you begin to wonder what has happened to your friendship? Maybe, something else is going on. Sometimes it's not just having the blah's or being distant. It honestly could be a serious disease that affects every area of your life. It could be depression.

First, I would like to give you some background information on depression before I give you a more detailed account of my life living with depression.

Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety

Depression:

*Feelings of persistent sadness, worthlessness, or guilt *Difficulties concentrating, organizing thoughts, remembering *Fatigue, loss of concentration to past interest *Marked changes in sleep or appetite *Loss of interest in formerly pleasurable activities *Withdrawn, socially isolated *Thoughts of suicide

Anxiety:

*Panic attacks *Phobias *Tensions *Restlessness *Irritability *Excessive worry *Obsessive thoughts *Poor sleep *Change in appetite

Source: Barbara Delker, LMFT, CADC, Health Park EAP and Counseling Center, 1006 Ford Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42301 688-4811

It is difficult to begin my story. I have dealt with depression some in my childhood, but it was more evident during my high school years. Even then I knew something was wrong, but what? All I knew was that I was not happy. My schoolwork suffered. I didn't want to get involved in functions and I pulled away from my friends. It wasn't until I put myself in counseling at the

age of 19 that I knew what it was. Someone finally put a name on it for me. Someone with knowledge and education of what depression is. That was the beginning of a long journey. But at least it was a journey with a name and with a destination. It was only then that I was able to begin to cope with the disease called depression. Depression is one of those things that can go unnamed for years, and as a result can lead to alcoholism, drug abuse or even lead to suicide. Some go to many extremes to mask the feelings of unworthiness, sadness and so many other feelings that are present but unnamed. Naming depression for myself actually was what saved my life. Before the name came about I went as far as planning my funeral and had planned the means of ending my very own life. So with the name came a process of unraveling my previous years of depression and how to cope with what my future had in store for me.

My junior and senior years in high school were difficult years. 95% of those days I woke up with this huge, dark gray cloud covering my very existence. No one knew what was going on because I had learned the art of laughter to cover it all up. This cloud that I spoke of led to my distancing myself from friends. Some even classified me as a snob. It also became apparent from some of my teachers that I would not graduate if I did not bring my grades up. I wasn't a straight "A" student, but I did pretty well. I did what I had to do to bring my grades up, but I also did enough so that I would not bring any more attention to myself. I was scared to let anyone know what thoughts and feelings were going on inside of my head. I lived in deep fear for many years. The fear of not knowing what was going on was far greater than finding out that I was dealing with depression. Actually finding out lifted a huge weight from my shoulders. I found out that I wasn't alone, that many other people feel or have felt the same way.

Now I know that I began to reach out to save myself in high school. Katie Williams was my geometry and algebra teacher then. She helped me with those classes many times outside of class. It wasn't that I was trying to save my grades; I was actually trying to save my life at that point. That was my way of reaching out. Going to a Catholic school was also a huge asset for me. My junior and senior retreats allowed me other means of reaching out. As I look back I realize that God had His hand on me the entire time without letting go.

God placed a variety of people in my life that became stepping for me, and led me to counseling. Margaret Ann Huston, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Counseling Associates in Owensboro, gave me the means and the tools to begin to discover who I am and what I am dealing with.

A whole new world began to open up for me. It wasn't easy. I would continue to have



Joey and Robin Beatty with their daughters Kirsten, Mollie & Erin.

my ups and downs, but I was learning how to live with depression. I discovered that the fears and feelings that I held inside were the same feelings of many others. And for many it is the disease of depression. For some depression is situational. The loss of a job, a move or a divorce and many other life changes can bring on bouts of this disease. Some women have post partum depression, temporary changes in a woman's body chemistry and hormones can cause this. But for others like myself, it is constant struggle. My brain doesn't make enough of the "happy drug" serotonin that my brain needs to release to keep me balanced. There are no tests to determine our serotonin levels. That makes depression a very mysterious disease to name. Determining depression by your feelings and your changing behaviors is not easy to do. Actually it is very difficult, that's why it is good to have someone else to help you with this. A professional has the knowledge to help to put it all in perspective.

After many years of recurring episodes, it became evident that I needed to try an anti-depressant. After a trial and error process of many different ones, I began to feel "normal," if there is such a thing. The feelings of hopelessness and despair reduced greatly. I began to enjoy my husband and my children once again. I finally felt that I had the life that God had intended for me to have. I do not believe that He wanted me to be so miserable in life that I felt like I didn't want to live. To be completely honest with you, I did not want to be on an anti-depressant. At times I would even wean my body from these, only to find myself quickly drowning in a sea of depression once again. Still at this point in my "recovery" process very few people knew that I was dealing with any of this. It wasn't until my niece was killed in 1999 that I came out in the open about this. I held the mentality in my head that I was weak. First, because of the depression. Second, because I needed medicine to help me get better. From my viewpoint I felt that society would think that I was "crazy" if I needed to be on medicine for depression. I still held the old belief that psychiatrist, psychologist and counselors and even drugs were a bad thing. I didn't want to be labeled in the class of the mentally unstable. Depression stems from a chemical imbalance in the brain, as does bi-polar disorder, SAD (seasonal affective disorder), anxiety, and extreme sadness. But with the right help, these diseases are liveable and do not have to be classified as negative.

Joey, my husband, has had his own mini-course in depression. It's not like a class that he would take at Brescia University. It was a class in reality when he chose to marry me. Our marriage vows said in sickness and in health and we both take them very seriously. God blessed me with a wonderful husband who has taken the time to understand what I'm living with, what we are living with. I know that it has not been easy for him, but he has stood beside me during some very tough times. Tough

Continued on page 35

All I could do was to understand, be supportive, and listen to Robin when she needed me

By Joey Beatty

Depression is a disease that affects not only the person dealing directly with it, but also the ones who live with and love that person. My name is Joey Beatty and I am married to a person who lives with depression. My wife of 11 years, Robin, and I have 3 wonderful children. We have a nice home, and I have a good job where she is able to be a stay at home mom. I was asked to write this article to let people know what it is like to live with a person who deals with this disease.

I have always heard about people who have or are dealing with depression, but I never did understand what was involved and what they meant by "depression." I thought we all deal with depression. Just do something to get happy was my theory. I have been depressed or so I thought by not getting that new job I wanted or when someone close to me had died. I always thought it to be a short-term situation. I've been lucky enough that when I get "depressed," I would do something to pull myself out of it relatively quickly. I did not enjoy being depressed, so I would do fun things to get out of it, and it worked for me. When I would hear people talk about being depressed, I would do the same thing for them - tell a few jokes, take them somewhere fun - do whatever it takes to make them happy.

I learned recently that is not always the case for everyone. For those people dealing with true depression, it is never a temporary fix. Sure they may go along with whatever I think is helping, but actually it could be the opposite. It could actually be taking energy from them to humor me, when they could have been using that energy to battle their depression cycle.

This was probably when I began to understand the disease. I was beginning to see signs of depression that Robin could not control. I would notice that she was always tired, always seemed to have something on her mind, or seemed to be distant. At first, I thought it was something that I had done, and somehow caused it. She would push me away and not want me around. I would take that as I was not needed, so I would try to do other things to help. When the depression would be bad, I would take care of the kids, do additional things around the house, do anything I could to lessen the burden of everyday life so that she could focus on what she needed. I thought these things were helping but really they weren't. What she needed was support and understanding.

After a few discussions of what I could do to help, we decided that I could go to a counseling session with her, maybe I would understand more. I went and it was enlightening. Margaret Ann helped me to understand that I was doing nothing wrong, and in no way I causing it. There was nothing I could do to put Robin into depression and I could not bring her out of it. All I could do was to understand, be supportive, and listen to her when she needed me to.

Things are better now. I know that depression is not a disease a person would want and is not something you can just get over by thinking good thoughts. I know that we will always have to deal with this, but with me knowing more about it, I can help. It is easier to see the signs when it is coming since I am aware of it and know what to look for. Times can be difficult when the depression begins to take over. It is not an easy thing to overcome. I will probably never know everything about it. It's a challenge to be the person on the outside of depression knowing there is nothing anyone can do to prevent it or stop it once it is there.

I hope this article has helped if you are the one on the outside looking in. It is tough, but you can deal with it the more you take time to understand. With knowledge, it gets easier. It's hard to watch those you love suffer, and we suffer right along with them. So take time to care for yourself as well, because at times it can get the best of you too. Always remember there is help out there and you're not alone.

Living With Depression *(Continued from page 34)*

times that very few others have any knowledge of. He takes the time to do whatever is necessary to help me. He goes to my therapist with me if I need him to, to gain more understanding. He gives me time and space when I need to sort things out and begin my own procedure of self-help. And he supports me wholeheartedly in that process. He knew that I had dealt with depression before we were married, but didn't get the full experience until after we were married. To show you some of his lack of understanding at the beginning, he told me one day "When I feel down, I just think happy thoughts, and I start to feel better." I actually wanted to slap him that day.

Today our lives are much better in dealing with this. We both are better skilled at detecting it sooner and allowing me to do whatever is necessary to get a better grip on things. Yes, at times I have felt crazy, at times I felt completely alone, even though

October is Depression and Mental Health Month

National Depression Screening Day® (NDS) began fifteen years ago as the first nationwide, community-based mental health screening program. Today it is the largest provider of mental health screening services in the country through its partnership with thousands of community-based, college and primary care screening sites. NDS has expanded in recent years to offer both in-person and online screening for four of the most common and frequently co-occurring mental disorders: depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

NDS Mental Health Screening is designed to call attention to mood and anxiety disorders on a national level, to educate the public and clinicians about the symptoms and effective treatments, to offer individuals the opportunity to be screened for the disorders, and to connect those in need of treatment to the mental health care system. Each fall, thousands of health care providers throughout the country conduct NDS events that reach roughly 200,000 individuals with educational resources, and screen

more than 100,000 people for mood and anxiety disorders. In addition, more than 350,000 mood and anxiety disorder screenings will be conducted this year through our year-round, interactive screening programs.

October 6 Is National Depression Screening Day
Places Western Kentuckians May Contact for Screenings or Information:

The Medical Center's Health&Wellness Center
2625 Scottsville Rd. (Greenwood Mall) Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-796-2250

October 6, 2005 4:30pm-6:30pm

Clinton Family Care Clinic
351 Moss Dr.
Clinton, KY 42031
270-653-4041

October 6, 2005 9am- 5pm

Caritas Health Services
1850 Bluegrass Avenue
Louisville, KY 40215
502-361-6794

October 6, 2005 9am- 5pm

Joey was always right there beside me. Yes, at times I wanted to chuck it all and be done. But I'm so blessed that I have taken the steps in going forward to living with it. I probably will always have to be on medicine. But that's okay. I accept that now. It can be difficult finding the right medicine, completely trial and error until one can find the right one that fits. And honest to goodness, it's hard. Very hard. But it's worth the time going through the process when you come out on top in the end.

It's tough on my entire family. Depression is not a personal illness that affects me and only me. It affects each one of us. It affects all of my relationships. It affects my duty as a mother, wife, friend, sister and daughter. When there were places to be I would send Joey with the girls, while I stayed home. It affects society. When I worked in the public it affected my relationship with my co-workers and my work. My children will have a greater risk of developing depression because of me. And actually our third child, Erin, will have a greater risk than Kirsten or Mollie, because I went through extreme depression during her pregnancy. So, not only do I keep a careful watch on myself, but my children as well. Joey at times not only had to be a father to our 3 girls, he had to be mother also. Not just at home, in school too. When it hits I want to do nothing. I have no energy at all. I want to go nowhere; I want no one to come see me either. Social occasions drain my energy even more. Cleaning? Cooking? Again, no more energy. The only place I want to be when depression occurs is my bedroom. It wounds my soul to see how this

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From left, Brittany McCarter, Josh Clary, (kneeling) Juan Mincez, Ariel Gadea, Dr. Dan Kuntz. Photo courtesy of Brescia University

Brescia sends supplies to Shreveport, La.

On Friday September 9th, Brescia University's chapel was filled with school supplies donated for the displaced children of Hurricane Katrina. Brescia students as well as West Louisville Elementary School students filled Ziploc bags with pencils, pens, notebooks, and other school supplies while faculty and staff contributed over 100 backpacks to be sent to the Ursuline Sisters in Shreveport, Louisiana. These sisters are assisting in the effort to admit dislocated students into the Shreveport school system. These children do not have the articles necessary to begin classes and the school system cannot provide the needed supplies to their new transfer students.

During a Mass celebrated in Brescia's Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at noon on September 9th, a special blessing was offered over the school supplies as well as prayers for the victims of this terrible natural disaster and those who will help them in the weeks and months to come. Following Mass, the Student Government Association and others began loading the supplies into a mini-van. The mini-van was too small to hold the thousands of donated items, requiring the University to get a cargo van instead. With the bigger van loaded to the ceiling, Father Larry Hostetter and Professor David Stratton set off on their 12-hour drive to Shreveport.

At noon on Saturday, Sister Carol Shively received the donated school supplies for the 551 refugee children now attending local Catholic schools.

Brescia Hosts Fall Preview Day and Fall Open House

On Monday, October 10th you can experience Brescia University first hand. From 8:15 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. students can attend a class, take a tour of campus, meet with academic advisors, athletic coaches, faculty members and even the housing director. At noon, students can attend Mass in our chapel and then eat lunch in our dining hall. Parents are also encouraged to attend, as there is a special parent seminar covering a wide range of topics, including financial aid.

On Saturday, October 29th Brescia will host its Fall Open House. From 9:00 a.m. until noon, interested students and their parents will have a chance to learn more about Brescia University. Tours of the campus will be available as well as a symposium featuring various academic programs and campus organizations.

For more information or to register for Fall Preview and Fall Open House, please call the Office of Admissions at (270) 686-4241 or call 1-877-BRESCIA.



Starting Catholic School Careers

The St. Stephen Cathedral PreSchool four-year-old classes gathered for a picture in the new parish directory August 19 on the steps outside the Catholic Pastoral Center next door to the parish offices. Students in row one from the bottom are in Mrs. Connor's class: from left, Preston Mattingly, Layne Draeger, Maddie Rice, Abbie McDowell, Brooklyn Robertson, Hunter Stowers, Parker Johnson, Lindley Morris; students in row 2 are in Mrs. Weafer's class: from left, Mason Thompson, Emma Stovall, Grace Goedde, Anna Lovekamp, Mary Grace Hemingway, Molly Willis, Emily Robertson, Elizabeth Ford; students in the top row, also in Mrs. Weafer's class, from left, are Cecelia Clemens, Gracie Millay, Quentin Miller, Jude Neal, and Grayson McFarland. Lois Rutigliano photo



Bishop Blesses Newly Renovated Saint Joseph Church, Mayfield

Bishop John McRaith dedicated and blessed the altar and ambo of the recently renovated Saint Joseph Church in Mayfield, Ky. on August 21, 2005. During the Mass Bishop JOHN's homily connected the physical surroundings of our remodeled church with a renovation done in earlier years which he also dedicated. He noted the present beauty of the church building here in our center of attention, and reminded us that it, too, would diminish and fade in future years, creating a need for future renovations. Bishop John taught us this day that this church is only a building, that the Church is the people, the people of Saint Joseph Catholic community connected in union with the Catholic Church throughout the world. Photo and text submitted by Nancy Wells for Saint Joseph Church.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SEPTEMBER-MARCH 2006

October 2005

- 1 Wedding Reception
- 3 Western Kentucky Professional Development Retreat
- 3-7 Spiritual Direction Institute
- 8-9 ALANON
- 14-15 Nativity Women's Retreat
- 14-16 Mount Hope Weekend
- 19 Diocesan Committee for Aging
- 20 Jesu Caritas
- 21-23 **Marian Retreat**
- 24 Audubon Area Community Services Retreat
- 24-28 Priests' Retreat
- 28-30 Catholic Engaged Encounter

November 2005

- 4-5 Bellevue Baptist Women's Retreat
- 5-6 Academy for Young Leaders
- 11-12 First Christian Church Women's Retreat
- 11-13 Marriage Encounter
- 17 Jesu Caritas
- 18-19 **Thomas Merton Retreat**
- 19 Immaculate Conception Confirmation Retreat

December 2005

- 1 Hopkins County Gardeners Tour
- 2-4 Fort Knox Women's Retreat
- 15 Jesu Caritas

Center-sponsored programs in **bold letters** are open to the public. For information about scheduling a program or event, contact: Kathy McCarty, Facilities Director, (270) 229-0200, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org.

January 2006

- 13-20 St. Meinrad Seminarians Retreat
- 20-22 Retrouvaille
- 23-27 Spiritual Direction Institute
- 27-28 First Christian Church Retreat
- 27-29 Brescia University Ministry Formation Program

February 2006

- 3-5 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 9-11 Basket Weavers
- 16-19 Men's Cursillo
- 22-23 Women's Cursillo
- 25 Brescia University Ministry Formation

March 2006

- 3-5 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 10-12 **Charismatic Conference**
- 17-19 **Women's Retreat**
- 24-25 First Church of God Retreat
- 24-25 **Spirituality at Work**
- 24-26 Immaculate Conception LaGrange Confirmation Retreat
- 31-02 Catholic Engaged Encounter



“Walk in the Spirit”

Catholic Charismatic Conference will be held on the weekend of September 30, October 1 and 2, 2005 at the Holiday Inn South - Airport, 2715 Fern Valley Road in Louisville, KY. Two energetic world traveled priests, Fr. Tom Forrest and Fr. Joseph Bill will talk on how to be led by and how to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. Two Charismatic Masses and two healing services will be a part of the weekend. Music will be provided by the Alleluia Community of August, GA. The registration fee covering all three days is \$85 and includes two meals. But if you can only come for part of the conference, the cost is \$15 for Friday evening, \$50 for Saturday, and \$20 for Sunday. For more information or a brochure, call Pat Sloan at (502) 968-0004.



Catholic Barbecues Help Families Share Work, Faith, Ministry, and Fun

Among the many joys of working for or attending summertime parish picnics, some are: to give parish communities another way to share fellowship and hospitality with the public, to provide a time and place for parish families to reunite, and to help raise funds to provide for Catholic ministries in parishes and schools, and, lastly, the food: Catholic parish cooks are among the nation's best! Here, three generations of members of the Gordon and Helen Millay family of Knottsville, Ky. gathered at the Mary Carrico School Picnic Sept. 18, 2005; they were looking at senior portraits. From left, seated are three Millay sisters, Mary Patterson, Helena Conyers, Kathleen Kirk, standing at left is Laura Colyer; at right are cousins, Ashley and Samantha. Staff Photo

Pope says sacred reading of Scripture could help spiritual life

ROME (CNS) -- The ancient tradition of "lectio divina" or sacred reading of Scripture should be promoted as a way to enrich the spiritual life of the church, Pope Benedict XVI said in an address to biblical experts. "The church must always renew and rejuvenate herself" through "the Word of God, which never gets old or expires," he said. The pope urged a renewal of this ancient tradition, saying he was convinced it would "bring a new spiritual springtime to the church if promoted effectively." The pope's message came in a Sept. 16 address at his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo to some 500 biblical experts, scholars and pastoral leaders attending an international conference in Rome. The Catholic Biblical Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity sponsored the congress commemorating the 40th anniversary of "Dei Verbum," the Second Vatican Council's document on Scripture and revelation.

Principals see new advances in technology for Catholic Schools

HENDERSON, Ky. - On Friday, September 9, Holy Name Catholic School here hosted the first meeting of the year for all Diocesan Principals. Mr. Jim Mattingly, Superintendent for the Diocese of Owensboro, also invited personnel from each school that coordinated and/or taught technology in our schools.

The principals and technology personnel had the opportunity to learn from each other in both large and small groups. The large group presentations came from Holy Name School and Owensboro Catholic Schools, which included topics on United Streaming Videos, effective web sites for better communication, and Read and Write Gold software to help students who need modifications to achieve success in the classroom. The second half of the meeting allowed the opportunity for the technology personnel to meet together to discuss avenues of how they could share information and ideas with each other. The outcome of the discussion has been to meet at the various school sites throughout the year and work together as a team to help all Catholic schools in the Diocese achieve the technology needed to prepare our students for life.



Principals and Technology Personnel gather at Holy Name School to learn about new advances in technology for Catholic Schools.



Bill Hagan (right) and Jim Duffy listen to a presentation from Holy Name Librarian Sabrina Farley on new technology for Catholic Schools

Living With Depression *(Continued from page 35)*

affects Joey & the girls. At times, I wish this was never a part of my life. At other times, amazingly enough, I feel blessed that this is my cross to bear in this life. Who I am today is because of who I was yesterday, and I believe that God has fashioned me so that I can help others in this capacity. I don't have a college degree; I pulled out both times because of my depression. With 17 or so years in counseling I feel as though I have first hand knowledge that no book could ever teach me. So I believe that God has used my life experience to write this article to help you become more aware of this awful disease that affects so many lives.

If this article has raised some questions for you, then allow me to share a few things that have helped me to better myself as far as my depression is concerned. Counseling has been number one for me in surviving this disease. I'm not saying everyone needs to do this. But if you try things on your own to help yourself and you don't seem to get better, then please give it a fair try. Putting myself on an anti-depressant has also been vital in my survival. It was a rocky road, but one that I'm thankful that I took. Some things that I did on my own were very simple. I do journal writing and I also keep an art journal. I would like to share an excerpt from one of my writing journals when I wasn't doing so well. I wrote, "My version of what depression means is when you wake up in the morning and you have this dark, bleak, gloomy cloud hanging over your head and the sun is shining elsewhere. It's when you have a wonderful husband and 3 beautiful daughters and they can't even lift a smile to your lips. If you remember how stressed the holidays get, depression is when everyday feels like a damn holiday. Depression is when everyone around you sees that you have it all; family, money, education; but to you those things cannot possibly fill that hole in your soul that feels so deep and the spiral down so sharp cannot seem but like an endless ravaging roller coaster ride with spins and turns so intense that the possibility of any type of focus is all but an illusion of your imagination. Depression is that very first thought even before you open your eyes that in just 12 more hours I can go back to bed."

Pretty intense, huh? I'm thankful that I'm not at this point in my life.

Putting words on paper helps me to clear my thoughts and I begin to think much clearer. But my art journal, wow! It amazes me still that I can get to the very core of my soul with my artwork. My art speaks louder than any of my writings. I went to Your Source, the Christian Bookstore on Triplett Street and picked up the book entitled "Visual Journaling: Going Deeper than Words" by Barbara Ganim and Susan Fox. It leads you through exercises to help you get in touch with your true self. It was such an eye opener for me. I also send many prayers to Saint Dymphna, she is the patron saint of mental illnesses. Check out local Christian bookstores; her prayer cards are available. Prayer never harms anything.

I truly hope this article helps you. There is help available for you, I promise you can get better. Please reach out and take the first step. May God bless you and may He continue to shower you with His blessings.

STUDENTS FOR A DAY

The Kindergarten students at Sts. Peter and Paul had a surprise visitor for one day. Lizzy, the iguana, and her owner, Tracy Gapp, visited their classroom. All of the students petted Lizzy and learned about her third eye and what she eats. Lizzy was a pretty neat "i" word and new friend. Students in the picture are Zach Hale and Luis Macario. Sts Peter and Paul School Photo



Patricia Romero from Venezuela, left, gets some instruction for working the booth for the American Cancer Society from Charlotte Paez. Lois Rutigliano photo

Father Manuel Rivas, Pastor to Hispanics, Saints Joseph and Paul Church, Owensboro, Ky. preaching during the Mass during the Hispanic Health Fair. The faithful celebrating Mass August 28, 2005, at the start of the Hispanic Health Fair in English Park, Owensboro. Lois Rutigliano photos

Annual Latino Health, Education, and Safety Festival A Great Success

On Sunday, August 28, 2005 the Annual Latino Health, Education, and Safety Festival was held at English Park in Owensboro. It was a fun event for all those involved. Approximately 150 adults and 83 children attended the event, as well as many workers and volunteers that donated their time to make the festival a success. The festival is a social event as well as educational that gives Latinos in our community an opportunity for free screenings and to obtain information in their native language on various topics. It is sponsored by HAGO, Hispanic Alliance of Greater Owensboro, formerly known as Champions for Latinos. HAGO members and friends of the organization work very hard to prepare for the festival, organizing the screenings and exhibitors, soliciting interpreters, gifts, door prizes, and food donations.

The festival began with mass officiated by Fr. Manuel Rivas at 2:00. Registration followed, and exhibits were open from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Many participants took the opportunity to be screened for diabetes and high blood pressure at the Green River District Health Dept. exhibits. Exhibits covered a wide variety of topics and services available to the Hispanic population, such as information on, dental hygiene, cancer, library services, smoking cessation, health, banking, migrant education, product safety, English classes, nutrition, immunizations, and child



About 150 people attended the Health Fair in English Park, Owensboro, August 28. Lois Rutigliano photo



Volunteers who helped work the booth for personal care items at the Health Fair are from left, Lisa Ails, Beth Satterly, and Lucy Paez. Photo by Lois Rutigliano

care to name a few. Each participant that attended received a gift of personal items donated by individuals and community businesses. There were outdoor activities for the children to enjoy, including a bouncer provided by Bellevue Baptist Church. At 5:50 PM, a meal of grilled chicken, rice, refried beans, pico de gallo, and tortillas was served, and enjoyed by all. The festival concluded with door-prize drawings.

Other information:

Susan Langan, Kentucky Cancer Program - Chair of Festival & Publicity,
Maureen Kohl, Green River District Health Department - Exhibits and Screenings
Sr. Fran Wilhelm and Staff of Centro Latino - Interpreters and Decorations
Deborah Zaborac, Owensboro Migrant Education - Drinks
Micheal Erwin, New Hope Church - Sound System
Joyce Nation - Bellevue Baptist - Children's entertainment
Lissa Ails - Donations, Gifts and Door Prizes; Maggie Pierson - Food

Reflections on the Role of Mary in the Ministry of Jesus

.... A Retreat for Women

By Edie Keeney

Paducah, Ky. - The San Damiano Retreat Center and Shrine in Southern Illinois was the destination of the 45 women who attended a weekend retreat led by Fr. Tony Shonis from St. Francis de Sales in Paducah. Fr. Shonis led a men's retreat at San Damiano in the spring and planned one for the women in the fall. Women attended from Paducah, Murray, Boaz, Calvert City, Gilbertsville, and Owensboro in Kentucky and Brookport and Metropolis in Illinois. The first Conference "My Soul Magnifies the Lord" followed the welcome and opening prayer Friday evening. The Saturday morning conference "A Sword Shall Pierce Your Heart" was followed by "They Have No More Wine" and finally the Saturday evening conference "Behold Your Mother" expanded on the theme of Mary's role in the early church and her new role as the first disciple in the post-resurrection community.

Fr. Shonis spoke about discipleship and what it means to be a disciple. Jesus said that disciples are the ones who hear the word of God and keep it. In Luke chapter 2 verse 19 after the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the shepherds glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. Again when Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple after searching for him for three days they did not understand what he was saying when he said, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Mary kept all these things in her memory and pondered them. Mary was prepared by God for her role as the Mother of God but she did not know or understand that that meant or what the future would bring anymore than the rest of us. She had faith in God, she heard His Word and lived it day after day.

Father Shonis explained that Jesus had to draw away from his biological family to establish



Fr. Tony Shonis with Elders of the Presbyterian Church, Barbara Slyder and Janet Proctor. Edie Keeney photo

a new family, a family of those who would hear the word of God and keep it. This would be a family of disciples that would be a post-resurrection community. When Jesus spoke to Mary from the cross, "Women, there is your son," and to John, "There is your mother," he was not only speaking of her human welfare but he was defining Mary's role in the new community of faith. Symbolically Mary became the first disciple and the mother of the new family of believers. She had heard the Word of God and kept it, as all of us must do. Jesus told his disciples that he did not come to be served but to

serve. We are all challenged to be members of this new family of believers and to do as Jesus did, to be foot washers.

There were very prayerful morning and evening meditations, songs, psalms and Mass on Sunday morning in the chapel. On Saturday afternoon those who chose to boarded a tour boat for a cruise down the Ohio River from Elizabethtown to Cave in Rock followed by dinner at Ma & Pa's restaurant in Elizabethtown where the other women joined us. One of the ladies at the retreat had been raised in Goloonda, Illinois and attended the First Presbyterian Church there. She is a convert but her family still attends the church there. It is the oldest continuous Presbyterian congregation in the state of Illinois having been established in 1819. The congregation is very small as few as 20 - 25 members attend each Sunday and the elders of the church conduct a worship service on Sundays except when a visiting pastor comes to administer Communion. Father Shonis asked if we could tour the church and along with an enthusiastic welcome the elders invited everyone to their Sunday worship service and asked him to give the sermon. The members were very welcoming and gracious and had prepared coffee and doughnuts for us in their fellowship room.

Lest you think all was serious business there was plenty of laughter, talking, singing, eating and just a great weekend that was spiritual, renewing, and relaxing. Father was urged to plan another women's retreat next year.

Sr. Martha Schuler - One of the Good Ones

By Kristin Foulke

When I told a friend about the passing of Glenmary Sister Martha Schuler he asked, "Was she a good one?" Without thinking too much, I responded that yes, she was. Later that night, however, I was thinking about that one little question and the qualities that Sister Martha exhibited that made her one of the sisters I truly enjoyed working with.

I started working for the Glenmary Sisters shortly after they moved their central offices to Owensboro from Cincinnati, Ohio in July of 1991. Sister Martha worked in the office directly with the co-workers. She took care of the mail and some other light office duties. Over the course of a couple of years I got to know her fairly well, especially her interest in sports—she was an avid sports fan and we would sometimes discuss the college basketball teams that competed in March Madness. It didn't seem to make a difference what season it was, Sister Martha always knew quite a bit about the teams and how they were doing, their strengths and weaknesses.

She loved to travel, too. But, she didn't just want to travel for travel sake. She always made a point of finding the small mission churches wherever she went. Her mind was always on the people of the missions. In fact, when Fr. William Howard Bishop founded the Glenmary community his vision was to serve the home missions in the United States maybe even Alaska! This is one of the places Sister Martha always wanted to visit, not just for its beauty, but because it is very rural and definitely home mission territory. So rural, in fact, that the Archbishop of the diocese of Anchorage has a small plane he flies around



Glenmary Sister Martha Schuler visits one of the small mission churches in Alaska during a cruise in May, 2005.

to visit the outlying regions. This May, Sister Martha had a chance to make that trip on a cruise the Glenmary Sisters sponsored. She disembarked every place she could and searched for the little mission churches in the area so she could go in and pray.

My parents, who are in their early 80's, went on the trip as well. My father said that they couldn't have asked for a better person to travel with. He laughs when he pictures the three of them making their way around the ship on unsteady legs kind of propping each other up. As they discovered on the cruise, it doesn't matter how long or

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Fr. Tony Shonis, Rose Lowery, and Mary Beth Durnell - Women's retreat at San Damiano, Aug. 18-20, 2005. Photo by Nancy Smith.

Annual Owensboro PumpkinFest

The Owensboro Sportscenter, Moreland Park, and Hickman Avenue will be the place to be October 6-9th as the Glenmary Sisters once again sponsor the annual Owensboro PumpkinFest and Scrapheap Challenge. There will be food, crafts, games, carnival rides, raffles and live music during the four days of the festival. Pumpkins, straw, cornstalks and mums will be for sale by the Glenmary Guild on Moreland Park side of Hickman Avenue. Parking



is available just across the street in the Armory/Sportscenter parking lot.

On Thursday only, the National Guard will have a rock-climbing wall that will be free to those who want to climb it. They have their own guidelines regarding the ages or heights of kids who are interested.

As in the past the youth version of the Scrapheap Challenge will take place on Friday evening beginning at 4:00 PM. The next morning follows up with the adult teams competing for the honor of being the "top of the heap" earning a traveling trophy they can hold onto until the next year. The adult challenge will begin at 10:00 AM or a bit earlier if all teams are checked in and ready to go. The Scrapheap Challenge is held just outside the Sportscenter in a roped-off area of the parking lot. Limited seating is available for those who wish to watch.

The Showmobile will be located across Hickman Avenue near 12th Street and will play host to a variety of music, from oldies and rock, to gospel and country. There are bands to suit everyone's taste. Thanks to John Calhoun with Bad Kitty Band who has done a great job lining up the entertainment. Speaking of Bad Kitty—they will be the headliner on Saturday night from 8:30-10:00 PM in their farewell concert. We wish them well in their future endeavors. A schedule of events and entertainment will be published in a special section of the Messenger-Inquirer on Wednesday, October 5th if you want to find out when your favorite band plays.

Saturday, October 8th, will be a special day for the kids with many different activities and displays. The D.A.R.E. car and classic police car will be there as well as a firetruck, Methbuster, Humvee from the National Guard and free bucket truck rides from Owensboro Municipal Utilities. In the afternoon there will be the Pumpkin relays for the smaller children on the softball field at Moreland Park. Late in the afternoon the classic and antique car clubs will have a Cruise-In. As always there will be plenty of games and rides for kids of all ages.

Vendors will be on hand selling pulled pork and ribeye sandwiches, pumpkin pie, apple cider and lemon shake-ups, as well as walking tacos, chili, and hot fudge cake. Typical carnival fair will be available as well.

The Owensboro PumpkinFest will be open from 4-10 PM on Thursday and Friday, 10 AM -10 PM on Saturday and noon - 6 PM on Sunday. If you would like to see a detailed schedule of events and a map of where to find things at the festival, be sure and check out the Messenger-Inquirer on Wednesday, October 5th and look for the special Owensboro PumpkinFest section.

Clinton Franciscan Sister Teresa Ann Ellegood Celebrates 75th Jubilee

CLINTON, Iowa - Sister Teresa Ann Ellegood celebrated her 75th year as a Sister of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, at a special Mass and dinner in mid July at The Alverno Health Care Facility, here, where she resides. Several of her family members from Kentucky attended, including her sister, Dorothy, of Mayfield.

Sister Mary Teresa Ann was born on August 8, 1914, in Fancy Farm, Kentucky, the fifth of ten children of Lawrence W. and Teresa Hobbs Ellegood. She was baptized Mary Florence on September 14, 1914, at St. Denis Church, Fancy Farm. She had six brothers, Howard, Earl, Evans, Romauld, Lindell and Willard, and three sisters, Marie, Lois and Dorothy.

Mary Florence attended St. Denis Parochial School in Fancy Farm and graduated from Mount St. Clare Academy, Clinton, before joining the Clinton Franciscans. She earned an Associates degree from the former Mount St. Clare College (now Ashford University), Clinton, and her B.A. from St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Ia.



Sr. Martha Schuler (continued from page 40)

how often you travel by plane or ship, as you age you lose your sea legs so it is good to have someone to hang on to.

As a missionary she was always very busy in the Livingston County area with attending board meetings, visiting hospice patients, writing letters to prisoners in addition to all the responsibilities she had within the Glenmary Sisters' community. She was so detail oriented that whenever the community had their twice a year meetings, Sister Martha seemed to be the one in charge of making sure there were things to do in the "off" time, snacks and games to play. She never failed to do a good job.

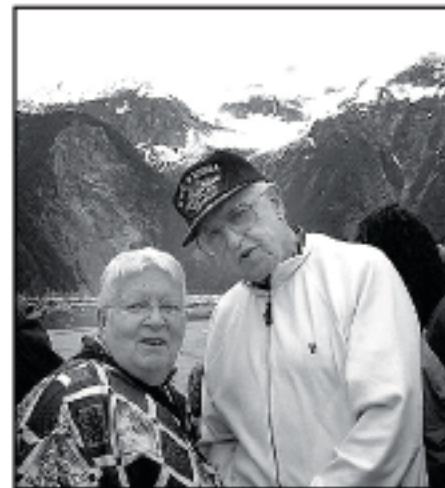
I think in part because of working in the office with us, Sister Martha knew the kinds of things we needed. For example, the statues that the Glenmary Sisters designed and now sell are produced in northern Kentucky near Cincinnati. When the Sisters relocated to Owensboro we maintained the relationship with the manufacturer which meant we sometimes had an order to pick up or have shipped. Every time that Sister Martha was headed to Cincinnati for meetings, or a visit with her friends, she would call and let us know that she could pick up any statues that were ready. It was a little thing, but it made our jobs easier. Just knowing she thought about us made us feel like more than just employees.

Sister Martha Schuler was a member of the Glenmary Sisters community for over fifty years. Although she was born and raised in Cincinnati, it seemed she felt at home just about anywhere. She had ministered in Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Texas where she helped thousands of people over the years and made friends all along the way. There aren't enough people like her in the world. I am sure I have not done her justice in my reflections on her, but I feel like she would think, "the simpler, the better."

Sister Martha will be missed. She truly was "one of the good ones."

Sister Teresa Ann taught children in the primary and elementary grades for over 50 years at parish schools staffed by the Clinton Franciscans in Toluca, Ill., Carrollton, Mo., and in Oak Lawn and Chicago, Ill., where she was stationed for 11 years at St. Francis de Paula School. Iowa missions on which she served included Vail, Denison, Lourdes, Perry, Hawarden and Fonda, her last mission, where she taught for 10 years at Our Lady of Good Counsel School.

After retiring to Mount St. Clare Convent in 1990, she assisted for a time with the Mount St. Clare elementary tutoring program before moving to The Alverno.



Sister Martha with Ed Pickett, father of the author, aboard the cruise ship. Author's parents and Sister looked after each other while traveling. Submitted photo



National Guardsman Carries Tabernacle From Damaged Chapel In Mississippi

Staff Sgt. Michael Martin of the Indiana National Guard carries the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament from the rubble of the church at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian, Miss., Sept. 9. The church suffered extensive damage from the winds and estimated 30-foot storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina. Guardsmen accompanied by their chaplain and the parish pastor had their first look at the coastal church since the Aug. 29 hurricane. (CNS photo by Ed Foster Jr.) (Sept. 12, 2005)

(Editor's Note: As of September 19, 2005, the total collected for Hurricane relief within the parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. is \$151,365.01. Collected from Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Shreveport Catholic Schools : \$41,754.53)



Volunteer Workers – Sister Carol Shively, OSU, (second from left), superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Shreveport, poses with three volunteers who worked in her

Letters To The Editor

Update on Marriage Encounter In Owensboro Diocese

Hello everyone,

Just wanted to keep everyone updated on Marriage Encounter in Owensboro. We are sorry to say that at the present time we have cancelled "all" weekends that are scheduled in the Owensboro area due to low counts of couples and the last three cancelled weekends. As of this date (8-19-05), we will be sending all couples from this area to Louisville, Nashville, Indy, or wherever is closest for them.

If a couple contacts you, you may give them our names and we will be the contact for the Owensboro area.

We want to graciously thank Agnes and Dan Murphy for all they have done for us as our registration couple; Rhonda and Mike Jones for all the years they have served as our Prayer Couple Coordinators; Tommy & Mary Chinn for helping with Friday Night Registration and all the teams and priest who have given so much of their talent and time to Owensboro. Hopefully and if it is in God's Plan, we will again someday have more weekends in Owensboro.

We love you all and we hope to continually serve our Lord in whatever capacity we can and wherever He leads us as faithful Companions on this great and wonderful journey!

- Gail & Jerry Critchelow

August 24, 2005, Dear family and friends of OCS,

When I accepted the position of Director of OCS three years ago, our school board was facing several issues, primarily stabilizing enrollment and tuition increases, and figuring out how to provide tuition assistance so families can afford a Catholic education. Because I had volunteered on several committees and was knowledgeable in these areas, I felt called to take this position. OCS has always provided an excellent, faith-filled education, and these challenges were not necessarily education-related, but business issues. I won't pretend that we have solved them, but through your efforts, and the work of our excellent staff, school board and committees, I hope you will agree we have come a long way in addressing these issues and ensuring a very positive future for Catholic education in Owensboro.



Al Thompson

I firmly believe the Lord has a plan for each of us. After much prayer, I have made a decision to return to work for a former employer in early October, in a position that I feel better fits my strengths. My family and I will still live in Owensboro; our children will still attend OCS; and we will still support and volunteer in our schools.

This job is important, but I am confident about leaving our school system in a good place. Our enrollment this year has stabilized, and even more important is our growth in kindergarten. These enrollment results, excellent test scores, inspiring professional development for teachers, renovations and construction projects, and overall student enthusiasm have all led to an exciting start to a new school year. Our school system has excellent people, committees, and a process in place to continue this ministry. The busiest time in our Central Office occurs before the start of school, with registration and financial aid. Our Superintendent (Jim Mattingly) and the school board executive committee have already started a search process. The next director will bring his or her own gifts as our schools continue to grow and serve our mission.

I've appreciated the chance to get to know many of you and your children over the last three years, and I will miss being on campus and seeing students on a daily basis. Thank you for your prayers and for the blessing it has been to serve each of you and your families. Let's continue to pray for each other.

Yours in Christ,
Al Thompson

schools and in the hurricane evacuee shelter at the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum at the Shreveport Fairgrounds. The volunteers are, l. to r., Scott McCain of Owensboro (Blessed Mother parish), Jennifer Birge of Jersey City, New Jersey, and Maggie Birge of Owensboro (Precious Blood parish). MSJ Photo

To all Western Kentucky Catholics:

My name is Becky Pedley from St. Pius X parish in Owensboro. I have been married to the wonderful Tim Pedley for 28 years and we have 3 perfect sons, 2 beautiful daughter-in-laws and 2 precious grandchildren. You could say I am very blessed and you would be correct.

On July 7, of this year I was diagnosed with a rare form of melanoma under my right thumbnail. I was told I would possibly have to have my entire thumb amputated and of course if the cancer had spread that would mean chemotherapy or other forms of treatment. As soon as we heard about the cancer my husband and I banded together and turned to the Lord. I was prayed over by numerous people from all over the United States. I told everyone I came in contact with about the cancer and asked for their prayers. The outcome was tremendous! I think I was on every prayer chain in Owensboro and religious background was not a factor. I would wake up in the middle of the night sometimes and I could feel that someone was praying for me! I had a great peace about all that was going on at the time. Those prayers gave me the confidence of Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future and a hope".

On August 19, at MD Anderson Cancer Clinic in Houston, TX the surgeons did remove about 1/2 inch of my right thumb and in doing so removed all the cancer and it had not spread to my lymph nodes. Praise God!!

I didn't know how to thank everyone from all the churches who prayed for me so I hope you see this letter and know the prayers were answered. Prayer is so powerful. I have been an active prayer chain member for years but you can bet I pray stronger now than ever before because I know the impact of prayer. Thank you so much for the time you spent contributing to my healing.

A special thank you to my St. Pius parish family. Thank you for the prayer shawl that I wore the entire 10 days while in Houston. It gave me such comfort. Thank you for all the wonderful meals after I came home. Thank you, Father Richard Meredith for keeping the congregation up to date through every step of the process and for continually reminding the parish to pray for me. A special thank you to the 30 women who sent get well cards to Houston with their beautiful make-up free photos of themselves. Those cards made my day and kept me uplifted!

I know there are others who had special candles lit for me or special masses said for me, thank you! I am so grateful for my faith and my faith family. May God bless each and everyone of you.

I have some therapy to go through to use my new shorter thumb but I know as I look back on this time that 1/2 inch of thumb is such a small part of what I have gone through. I have met so many wonderful people and had such fantastic experiences through this time that my thumb will be a constant reminder of God's love and the outstanding future He holds just for me.

With deep appreciation and love,

Becky Pedley, St. Pius Tenth Parish, Owensboro, KY

Vatican official decries lack of public funding for Catholic schools

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The lack of public funding for religiously sponsored schools in the United States is an injustice and an "incredible anomaly" in the world, a Vatican education official said Sept. 14. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, said Europeans "are absolutely amazed at the situation in the United States," one of the few nations in the world that provides little or no public funding for the education of children in religiously run schools. That policy puts the United States "in the company of Mexico, North Korea, China and Cuba," he said. Citing "the enormous contribution to society made by Catholic schools,"

Keys to Stewardship (Continued from page 30)

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vive."

Zech has no definitive answer for why Protestants generally give more than Catholics to their church.

"When I was growing up I was told to attend Mass every Sunday," Zech said. "No one talked about stewardship or pledging. Protestants are taught from a very young age, support your church, support your church. Attendance was almost secondary."

Clements said he has monitored the activities of "megachurches" in his diocese and across the United States for the things they are doing to promote community and fellowship.

"As many as 30 (percent) to 40 percent of their parishioners are former Catholics," Clements said.

The megachurches understand the importance of good liturgy, good music, exciting activities for kids and universal child care, he said.

"How can we get to the point where our children are taking their parents to church?" Clements said.

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A Clarification

Dear Editor,

In the September issue of Western Kentucky Catholic on page 18 in the article entitled, "Our Roots as a Diocesan Church" Bob Cinnamon states, "Reverend Nerineckx had big plans for the area. In 1812 he had founded the first Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, so in 1820 he lured three brave Sisters to ride the 150 miles by horseback to St. Vincent." That is not correct. Father Nerineckx founded the Sisters of Loretto. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth were co-founded by Father John Baptist David, later Bishop David, Co-Adjutor of Bishop Flaget, and by Mother Catherine Spalding.

- Respectfully, Sister Mary Wedding, SCN, Motherhouse, Nazareth, Ky.

"WE KNEW ABOUT HOSPICE, AND YOU SHOULD, TOO."



Some frequently asked questions regarding Hospice care:

Who qualifies for hospice care?

Hospice care is for any person who has a life-threatening or life limiting illness. Most reimbursement sources require a prognosis of six months or less if the illness follows its normal course. Patients with both cancer and non-cancer illnesses are eligible to receive hospice care.

Who pays for hospice care?

Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance cover hospice care for patients who meet eligibility criteria. These benefits cover virtually all aspects of hospice care with little out-of-pocket expenses to the patient or family. Many hospices also rely on community support for donations and contributions. Hospice care is based upon need, rather than ability to pay.

How do I arrange for hospice care?

Anyone may inquire about hospice services by telephone or in person. Hospice care normally starts as soon as a formal request or "referral" is made by the patient's physician.



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he said providing public funding for that service is a matter of distributive justice. Archbishop Miller, a Canadian who was president of St. Thomas University in Houston for six years before his appointment to the education congregation in 2003, was the keynote speaker at a conference on Catholic elementary and secondary education held at The Catholic University of America.

Ursuline Sisters ministering to evacuees in Louisiana

Five hundred fifty-three Catholic youths from New Orleans, driven from their homes and schools by Hurricane Katrina, are back in school thanks to their being welcomed into the seven schools in the diocese of Shreveport, free of tuition, fees and all expense. Sister Carol Shively, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, is superintendent of schools for the diocese of Shreveport. It was her idea, her decision to enroll the misplaced victims of the hurricane. Sister Carol recalls, "I decided at the very beginning that we had to do this, no matter what."

Sister Lorraine Lauter, also an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, heard there was a need for medical help in the field in Louisiana and she reacted quickly. Sister Lorraine, founder of La Plaza Immigrant Community Center in Owensboro, issued a call for volunteers and supplies. On September 6, she and her volunteer group departed for Louisiana in a van loaned by the Ursuline community. The La Plaza remote medical unit is located in small room of Sacred Heart Church in New Iberia, about an hour and a half from New Orleans, where they have been coordinating medical relief for evacuees in a wide area. As of September 15 the local team had served 450 evacuees. "We are the medical team for two Red Cross shelters in New Iberia," Sister Lorraine explained, "and we also worked shelters throughout the area. We worked a Vietnamese shelter in Louisiana and a Laotian shelter in a Laotian Temple in Coteau."

Both sisters are thrilled with the support they have been receiving from Owensboro and Western Kentucky.

On August 31, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Owensboro began a fund drive to raise money to send to the Catholic Schools of Shreveport to help get the supplies the children need. On September 13, Superintendent Jim Mattingly reported the children had raised over \$39,000 for the Shreveport schools and said the figure was sure to go over \$40,000.

Students at Brescia University have been collecting school supplies and other items for the new students at Shreveport. Father Larry Hostetter and Associate Professor David Stratton of Brescia personally delivered the first van full of supplies to the Shreveport diocesan office September 10.

Among other initiatives in support of the Shreveport diocesan schools, the Ursuline Sisters are sponsoring a teacher for the year.

"I am amazed at the support and love that has come from the diocese of Owensboro," says Sister Carol, "particularly the participation of Brescia University who sent a van loaded with supplies. It was just so overwhelming, they drove it down themselves."

She continued, "I'm extremely overwhelmed with the students and schools who have shown such outreach, the Catholic schools have certainly achieved their mission. I am thoroughly amazed."

Sister Carol told of a need for backpacks for her new students. A call went on the Mount Saint Joseph web site, emails were sent all over the country, and within three weeks over 400 backpacks had arrived in Shreveport. More are still needed and can be sent to Sister Carol in care of North Louisiana Catholic Schools, 3500 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA, 71104.

Sister Lorraine's support team includes Dr. Jeff Carrico of Mayfield, a member of St. Joseph parish in Mayfield; Dr. Melissa Whitson, a pediatrician from Mayfield; Father Fidelis Levri, a nurse and a Glenmary Priest from La Plaza Community Center; and Sarah Ihrbeck, a pediatric respiratory therapist from Mayfield.

Sister Lorraine says she is pleased with the support she has received from the area. Thanks to financial contributions and contributions of various supplies, the remote medical unit has been well stocked continuously.

"We are especially grateful to all those who have made this possible through their generosity," says Sister Lorraine. "We give glory to God, for everything we need for this work has been provided, and more, from near and far away. Please keep all the hurricane victims in your prayers, and be as generous as you can, as long as the need continues."

Financial contributions can be made to the Sister Lorraine Hurricane Fund at all Republic Banks.



Father Larry Hostetter (r.), associate professor of theology at Brescia University, and David Stratton, associate professor of art, personally delivered a van full of school supplies and other items collected by Brescia students and staff for the Katrina hurricane victims now attending schools in the Diocese of Shreveport. The van arrived at the Shreveport diocesan center September 10. Sister Carol Shively, OSU, superintendent of North Louisiana Catholic Schools: "It was just so overwhelming — they drove it down themselves!"



Sister Carol is pictured with New Orleans evacuee Nigel after getting him fitted with a school uniform and helping him enroll in a Catholic school in Shreveport. Nigel is one of 553 Catholic youths from New Orleans now attending school in the diocese of Shreveport.



Sister Lorraine Lauter, OSU, (center, holding young girl), and members of the mobile medical clinic from La Plaza Immigrant Community Center of Owensboro, are shown assisting Laotian evacuees from Hurricane Katrina's destruction in New Orleans. The shelter is located in a Laotian Temple in Coteau, Louisiana. Clinic team members include Dr. Jeff Carrico (r.) of St. Joseph parish in Mayfield, Sarah Ihrbeck (second from r.), a pediatric respiratory therapist from Mayfield, Father Fidelis Levri (white shirt, center), a nurse and Glenmary priest from La Plaza Community Center, and Dr. Melissa Whitson, (administering to patient, front center), a pediatrician from Mayfield. Photos and article submitted by Mount Saint Joseph Communications Office

Encuentro Juvenil Diocesano

¿Cuáles son los desafíos de los jóvenes hispanos en este país? ¿Cuáles son los dones que nos ha dado Dios para enfrentar esos desafíos? ¿Cómo puede la Iglesia ayudar a esos jóvenes que se encuentran en una situación difícil de estar entre dos culturas distintas y no saber cuál escoger?

Estas son algunas de las preguntas que han contestado los jóvenes de Kentucky occidental. Las respuestas fueron recogidas por los líderes jóvenes durante las sesiones consultivas en las parroquias de Mayfield, Paducah, Hopkinsville, Elkton y Sebree. Los delegados elegidos de cada parroquia llevaron esa voz profética de los jóvenes al Encuentro Juvenil Diocesano. Allí trabajamos todos, analizando las respuestas, priorizando las más repetidas y sacando sugerencias para la Iglesia a la luz de los documentos que estudiamos. Se puede encontrar todas las conclusiones de los jóvenes en la página web de la Diócesis: www.owensborodio.org/hispanic, pero aquí están algunos ejemplos:

- La comunidad de jóvenes hispanos católicos de la Diócesis de Owensboro tiene:
- Dones y elementos positivos – aceptar personas tal y como son, tradiciones ricas católicas y culturales, humildad y respeto a la familia y los mayores.
- Desafíos y elementos negativos – la crítica destructiva de los jóvenes mismos, adicciones al alcohol y drogas; machismo y falta de respeto a las mujeres; y el egoísmo.
- Las necesidades más urgentes de los



Los delegados trabajando en el Encuentro Juvenil Diocesano

jóvenes hispanos son: el miedo de deportación, vivienda adecuada, y ayuda en dejar las adicciones.

- Las contribuciones más importantes de los jóvenes hispanos son: su comprensión, aceptación y apoyo mutuo; su seguimiento al ejemplo de Jesús, y su buena relación con Dios.
- Las sugerencias más prioritarias de acciones pastorales al nivel de la parroquia: organizar más dinámicas y actividades para crear comunidad; que el sacerdote nos conozca y que nosotros lo conozcamos, especialmente nuestra cultura; y tener más retiros espirituales.
- Las sugerencias más prioritarias de acciones pastorales al nivel de la diócesis: tener sacerdotes que conozcan y que amen a nuestra cultura; proveer más instrucción bíblica para poder defender nuestra fe; y organizar una junta directiva consultiva de líderes hispanos.

Sigue en la página 3



El proceso parroquial del Encuentro en San Miguel, Sebree

Los Hispanos Católicos, Hoy y Mañana

Por Patti Murphy

El pueblo hispano en los Estados Unidos está creciendo más cada día. Miremos los datos del censo - en el año 1950 había 11.5 millones de hispanos en este país; en el año 2000 había 35. millones y en el año 2005 se calcula que son 44. millones. Con esta nivel de crecimiento, en el año 2050 habrá 102 millones de hispanos aquí en los EEUU. La Iglesia Católica de los EEUU ha visto el crecimiento de este pueblo en sus parroquias, siendo la mayoría de hispanos católicos. Si uno agrega la cantidad aproximada de los migrantes indocumentados que no fueron contados en el censo y toma en cuenta el porcentaje de esta gente que es Católica, se llega a la conclusión que la mitad de la Iglesia Católica en este país es hispana. O sea, actualmente más del 50% de los católicos en este país son hispanos. Y en el año 2050, según el crecimiento, los hispanos serán el 85% de los católicos en este país.

Aquí en Kentucky occidental se puede ver hispanos en cada condado y en cada pueblito. Hay actualmente ___ parroquias (Iglesias Católicas locales) que ofrecen una misa y un ministerio hispano y ___ parroquias que están por empezar. La Iglesia de Kentucky occidental reconoce la bendición que esta comunidad es para todos los católicos. Uno puede ver en varias Iglesias que la gente hispana ahora es

mayor que la gente que habla inglés.

Hay otra estadística muy importante, que también se ve en los bancos de las Iglesias – la Iglesia Católica Hispana es joven. Si uno va a la misa en inglés y después a una misa en español, se da cuenta muy pronto que el pueblo hispano en este país es muy joven. De los 44. millones de hispanos que están aquí, la mitad tienen menos de 27 años. Y aunque no tenemos pruebas oficiales, yo diría que aquí adentro de la Diócesis de Owensboro, es aún más joven. La mayoría de hispanos que están aquí son hombres jóvenes y familias jóvenes con niños.

¿Qué está haciendo la Iglesia con toda esta información? Primeramente está buscando como hacer que la gente hispana se sienta bienvenida en las Iglesias. Somos una Iglesia universal, entonces cada persona bautizada católica es miembro, donde quiera que

EL ROSARIO EN MI VIDA

Por María Celeste Schmidt

Mi Mami me dice que cuando ella era novia de mi Papi, conversaba con él que su primera hija se llamaría Celeste María, en honor a la Virgen María. Y así fue. Mi mami me platica que mientras estuve en su vientre leía mucho Las Sagradas escrituras y rezaba el Rosario, dice que cuando ella descansaba, colocaba el Rosario en su vientre. Mi Mami por razones médicas tuvo un embarazo complicado y dice que tenía miedo y lo que le daba fuerza era una estampita de la Virgen de la Medalla Milagrosa que sostenía su Mamá y el gran deseo de tenerme entre sus brazos.

Cuantas veces yo lloraba, mi Mami me tranquilizaba con el canto del Ave María. Hace dos meses cumplí 12 años y desde que tenía 3 añitos Mami me enseñaba a rezar el Santo Rosario. Lo rezo desde entonces. Si

al acostarme, después de una larga jornada de estudio me siento cansada con sólo ganas de dormir de una vez, mi mami me dice, aunque sea reza 10 Ave Marías.

He encontrado que siempre que estoy triste, que algo me preocupa, que creo que no la voy hacer bien en la escuela, al rezar el Rosario encuentro la tranquilidad y el apoyo para seguir adelante.

Rezarlo en todo momento, no sólo cuando estoy en apuros me hace sentir que nunca, pero nunca estoy sola.

Si eres una jovencita como yo, engalana tu vida con la joya más preciosa, El Santo Rosario, te adornará toda tu vida con la virtud más preciada la Pureza. Y nuestra Madre que está en el Cielo sabrá guiarte en todos tus caminos. Con mucho amor para todas las niñas que están floreciendo a la vida.

Sigue en la página 3

Sé que Dios les recompensará por ser buenos administradores de sus bienes

Queridos Amigos,

Ustedes probablemente han recibido el aviso de su pastor de la petición del comité ad-hoc para la Iglesia en África, un subcomité de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los EE.UU. La carta del comité, reimpressa en este Católico, le dará más información sobre la necesidad de una colecta especial. Cada parroquia puede responder a esta información e invitación de la manera que sea la más apropiada para su parroquia particular.

Nosotros, como una diócesis, no hemos estado participando en la ayuda financiera de los pobres en África, excepto a través del dinero que ustedes dan para la colecta de Catholic Relief Services. Esta petición nos ayuda a darnos cuenta de las necesidades en el continente de África.

Somos muy afortunados de tener tres sacerdotes de África sirviendo en nuestra diócesis; han venido a los Estados Unidos para ayudar a nuestra diócesis en esta época de una escasez de sacerdotes. Estamos muy agradecidos a ellos y les damos la bienvenida al mismo tiempo que hacen el sacrificio de salir de su patria para venir y servir en esta diócesis. Tenemos la esperanza que podremos dar la bienvenida a más sacerdotes africanos en el próximo año y en el futuro. Estamos muy agradecidos a sus obispos por permitir que vengan a los Estados Unidos.

Éste es un ejemplo claro de que África nos ayuda, y ahora nos dan la oportunidad de demostrar nuestro aprecio a través de esta colecta propuesta.

Para cuando ustedes reciban esta carta, también les habrán dado la oportunidad de ayudar a la gente en otras diócesis que están sufriendo debido al daño increíble causado por el huracán Katrina. El Obispo Skylstad, el presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los EE.UU., solicita que nosotros que hemos sido salvados de estos daños hagamos lo que podamos para ayudarlos en este tiempo de necesidad especial. También, él ha comentado que hay una verdadera posibilidad que habrá más daños de otros huracanes que pueden afectar partes de nuestro país. Obispo Skylstad pide que consideremos tomar una colecta para ayudar a las víctimas de los huracanes de esta temporada.

Como hemos hecho en el pasado, animo otra vez a cada parroquia que considere cómo va a ayudar y a hacerlo de tal manera que sea apropiada para ellos. He oído que algunas familias en nuestra propia diócesis han perdido sus hogares debido a las inundaciones causadas por el huracán Katrina. Aseguro a todas las víctimas de este desastre de mis oraciones constantes para su consuelo. Y nosotros, los obispos, les agradecemos por su generosidad. Si ustedes no han podido responder hasta ahora, pediría que consideren una manera apropiada que ustedes pueden responder a esta petición.

Me doy cuenta de que estas peticiones vienen al mismo tiempo que nuestra propia diócesis les está pidiendo que sean generosos al Fondo de la Respuesta de los Discípulos. Sé que éste es mucho pedir de ustedes, pero también sé – después de 23 años sirviendo a ustedes como su obispo – que no hay límite a su generosidad cuando los invite ser buenos administradores de lo que Dios les ha proporcionado tan generosamente. Dios les recompensará tanto como ustedes comparten lo que Dios les ha dado con los que tienen necesidades.

Muchas gracias por todo lo que ustedes han dado al Fondo de la Respuesta de los Discípulos y a las muchas colectas a que les piden dar cada año. Sé que Dios les recompensará por ser buenos administradores. Hay una cosa segura: Que no sobresaldrán al Dios en generosidad.

Una vez más muchas gracias, y las bendiciones de Dios a cada uno de ustedes. En Cristo,

+ John J. McRaith

Juan J. McRaith
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro



Esta es la Carta Recibida del Comité Ad Hoc para la Iglesia en África:

Su excelencia:

La Iglesia en África es la parte de la Iglesia Universal que crece más rápidamente

y la parte más pobre de nuestra familia de fe. Rica en espíritu, pero desesperadamente pobre, la Iglesia en África necesita nuestro socorro para satisfacer sus necesidades existentes como también alcanzar su capacidad enorme.

Te invitamos apoyar a la primera súplica anual para el Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África. La contribución voluntaria al Fondo edificará la capacidad pastoral de la Iglesia en África y se fortalecerá la relación fraternal entre los obispos de los Estados Unidos y los obispos de África.

La Iglesia en los Estados Unidos se ha distinguido en su historia por su preocupación y apoyo para la Iglesia en África. El Fondo de Solidaridad representa el paso próximo en crear un esfuerzo más fuerte y más coordinado para ayudar la Iglesia en África.

Esta iniciativa aumentará el trabajo histórico de la Sociedad para la Propagación de la Fe y Catholic Relief Services. Es diseñada para complementar no duplicar, el trabajo en África. El Fondo proporcionará el vehículo para que los obispos provean apoyo sostenido, eficaz y responsable a la Iglesia en África.

El Fondo de Solidaridad responderá a una necesidad extraordinaria en forma ejemplar. Ninguna oficina ni posición ha sido establecidas mientras empecemos esta amplia iniciativa nueva. En su lugar, las oficinas de la Conferencia, la Propagación y CRS trabajarán en conjunto para guiar este esfuerzo.

Nuestro comité pide a cada diócesis que considere hacer una contribución voluntaria al Fondo Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África en 2005. Como usted puede ver del documento de respuesta, estamos ofreciendo a los obispos muchas formas de contribuir al Fondo.

Estamos alegres de reportar que un gran número de diócesis ya han dado contribuciones generosas al Fondo de Solidaridad. Algunas hicieron una colecta especial en las parroquias; otras han hecho una contribución de los fondos de la diócesis. Y hay muchas otras formas de hacer contribuciones voluntarias.

Como usted sabe, esta iniciativa para ayudar a la Iglesia en África fue afirmada universalmente en nuestra Asamblea Plenaria de noviembre de 2004. En respuesta al mandato de nuestros hermanos obispos, el comité Ad-Hoc, establecido recientemente, ha adoptado esta declaración de su misión:

El trabajo del comité Ad-Hoc para la Iglesia en África es guiado por la visión de Ecclesia en África y un Llamado a la Solidaridad con África. El comité trabaja junta con la Iglesia en África, con todos sus dones y desafíos, para construir la capacidad pastoral de La Iglesia en África a través del Fondo de Solidaridad y relaciones de solidaridad que enriquecen la Iglesia tanto en África como en nuestra nación. Este trabajo es enfocado en las áreas con mayor necesidad, aumenta y extiende relaciones existentes, y anima la planificación y la responsabilidad.

Con apoyo del Comité de Política Internacional, el Comité de Migración, el Comité de Católicos Afro-americanos, la Junta Directiva de Catholic Relief Services, y la Sociedad para la Propagación de la Fe en los Estados Unidos, estamos desarrollando un plan para un método más sostenido, coordinado, efectivo, y responsable para ayudar a la Iglesia en África.

El Fondo de Solidaridad ayudará a responder a las necesidades pastorales y a la misión de la Iglesia en África; no duplicará la asistencia humanitaria o desarrollo proveído por Catholic Relief Services.

Le aseguramos que sus contribuciones serán usadas efectivamente. El comité Ad-Hoc está construyendo relaciones y capacidad antes de distribuir las contribuciones. Estamos desarrollando un criterio claro para las concesiones.

Todas las concesiones serán administradas con base de una conferencia nacional a una conferencia nacional. Con esto queremos decir que nuestra conferencia trabajará con las conferencias episcopales de la nación de África para revisar y controlar las concesiones. El comité ha hecho el acuerdo que el Fondo de Solidaridad alcance por lo menos un millón de dólares antes de que las distribuciones sean dadas el año próximo.

Invitamos a cada diócesis a considerar una contribución voluntaria al Fondo de Solidaridad para La Iglesia en África en 2005. Por favor regrese la forma adjunta antes del primero de septiembre de 2005 para ayudarnos en nuestra planificación. Pedimos que las contribuciones se envíen antes del 31 de diciembre de 2005.

Gracias por su consideración de las necesidades urgentes y la gran promesa de la Iglesia en África. Con miradas personales de bondad, Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

El Comité Ad-Hoc para la Iglesia en África: Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, Chairman, International Policy Committee; Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, International Policy Committee; Bishop Robert N. Lynch, Board of Catholic Relief Services; Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Past President, USCCB; Bishop Joseph N. Perry, African American Catholics Committee; Bishop Gerald R. Barnes, Migration Committee; Bishop Daniel F. Walsh, World Mission Committee.



Celebrando el Trabajo de los Jóvenes

Después de meses trabajando en sus parroquias, y una noche y mañana trabajando en el encuentro diocesano, los jóvenes hispanos merecieron una gran celebración. Todo empezó con una misa muy bonita celebrada por el Monseñor Juan J. McRaith con los Padres Mario Vizcaino, Jason McClure, Manuel Rivas, Victor Subb, y John Thomas, y con música del grupo ¿Quién Dices que Soy? (Who Do You Say I Am?). Después de la predicación por el Padre Mario, el Obispo envió a los delegados del Encuentro Regional. De allí todos pasaron al gimnasio donde comieron mientras vieron los bailarines de Mayfield y de Owensboro presentar sus danzas típicas. Cuando ya se habían terminado casi todos de comer, un grupo de jóvenes de Beaver Dam ayudaron que bajara la comida con algunas dinámicas – ¡hasta el obispo participó! A las 8pm terminó el gran día con un concierto en español por el grupo Who Do You Say I Am?. Todos bailaron, cantaron y disfrutaron la noche con la buena música del grupo – ¡hasta que sacaron a los padres Jason, John, Mario y Andres! ¡Gracias al grupo WDYSIA por ayudarnos celebrar y alabar a Dios con música y danza!

Gracias también a las siguientes personas y grupos por ayudar tanto con el Encuentro y la celebración: Melinda Prunty, Mike Bogdan, P. Andres Garner y Theresa Ballard y su equipo de la Diócesis, Byron Macías y su grupo de hospitalidad, los Caballeros de Colon, los grupos de líderes jóvenes de Sebree, Mayfield, Paducah, Hopkinsville y Elkton y todos los que nos echaron la mano. Como dijo el obispo a despedirse de los jóvenes, “¡Qué bueno ha sido pasar la tarde con ustedes y espero para la próxima vez tener por lo menos cinco veces más participantes hasta tener que buscar un lugar suficiente grande para que entren todos!”.



Arriba: El Obispo participando en la dinámica. Derecha: El grupo WDYSIA arreglando el sonido



Los Hispanos Católicos *Sigue de la pagina 1*

se encuentra. Hay muchos sacerdotes, religiosos y gente laica que están aprendiendo español para extender la mano a los hispanos y hacerlos sentir bien en nuestra Iglesia. Segundo, la Iglesia está buscando como ayudar específicamente a los jóvenes. Por eso hemos participado en el proceso que nos lleva al Primer Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana. Se puede encontrar más información de este proceso en esta edición. Tercero, la Iglesia busca la manera de capacitar a los líderes hispanos. Hay líderes hispanos que ayudan en sus parroquias y aseguran que las tradiciones ricas de la cultura hispana no se pierdan en este país. Pero hacen falta muchos más. Imagínense cuando la Iglesia Católica sea 85% hispanos. Hay dos opciones para el futuro: 1) Formar al liderazgo hispano, el cual toma su papel y ayuda a guiar la Iglesia hacia una Iglesia multicultural y rica de unidad en la diversidad o 2) los hispanos siguen saliendo de la Iglesia Católica para unirse con las sectas, los líderes hispanos no se capacitan y la Iglesia resulta sin guía, dirección ni dinero.

Mi desafío a cada uno de los hispanos católicos que viven Kentucky occidental es que vean que la Iglesia Católica de hoy y de mañana los necesite. Su compromiso es lo que puede ayudar a la Iglesia de los EEUU seguir creciendo y abriéndose a toda la gente que



llega. Ustedes y sus dones son los que la van a ayudar ser un lugar de acogida para los recién llegados. Y el trabajo que ustedes hacen durante su tiempo aquí, aunque si sea poco, asegurará que la Iglesia Católica seguirá y estará aquí para sus niños y sus nietos. Sabemos que siempre habrán migrantes de Mexico, centroamérica y suramérica, pero si cada uno de nosotros no ayudamos, no habrá una Iglesia Católica para ellos.

Les exhorto que sigan adelante, aún en la cara de discriminación, dificultades, separación familiar, sentimientos solitarios y las adicciones. Sé que no es fácil, pero como me han enseñado mis amigos hispanos – con Dios, todo se puede.

Encuentro Juvenil Diocesano *Sigue de la pagina 1*

Todas las conclusiones del Encuentro Juvenil Diocesano se llevarán al Encuentro Juvenil Regional del Sureste, que se llevará a cabo el 24-26 de marzo de 2006 en Atlanta, Georgia. Los delegados que fueron elegidos para llevar la voz de los jóvenes de Kentucky occidental son: Byron Macías y Raúl Contreras de Sts. Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville; Alejandra Díaz, Rolando Pastor y Sr. Beatriz Taneco de San José, Mayfield; Paul Witte y Rosa Salas de Santa Susana, Elkton; Pepe López y Noe Rosales de San Miguel, Sebree; y Marisa Pérez de San Tomas More, Paducah. Los alternativos son: Rodrigo Martínez de San Tomas More, Pablo Rosas de San José y Magdalena Pérez de Santa Susana. Patti Murphy, directora de ministerio hispano, y Melinda Prunty, directora de ministerio juvenil, acompañarán a los delegados. De este grupo irán seis delegados al Primer Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana en Notre Dame, Indiana el 8-11 de junio, 2006. La Diócesis de Owensboro es muy agradecida a todos los jóvenes que ayudaron y que participaron en este proceso. Sus conclusiones van a ayudar mucho en crear una pastoral juvenil hispana que llega realmente a la realidad de los jóvenes hispanos en este país.

¿Y ahora qué? Las parroquias que participaron han visto la entrega de los jóvenes hispanos durante estos últimos meses, y ahora están preguntando, ¿y ahora que hacemos? ¡Crear grupos juveniles hispanos! Los grupos juveniles siempre han sido una manera de crear espacio para un ministerio con la juventud, desde la juventud, y hacia la juventud. Los grupos pueden ofrecer un lugar de pertenencia, apoyo mutuo y relaciones sanas. Si hay unos jóvenes en tu parroquia interesados en crear un grupo, llama a Patti Murphy y ella te puede explicar un proceso muy bueno de SEPI de cómo empezar. (270) 302-2782.

Toda la Iglesia tiene que dar la mano a los jóvenes, especialmente a los jóvenes hispanos que muchas veces luchan en este país. ¿Porqué? Porque como el P. Mario Vizcaino suele decir cuando escucha a la gente decir que los jóvenes son la Iglesia del futuro – sí, pero también son la Iglesia joven de hoy.

El Festival Anual Latino de Salud, Educación y Seguridad un Gran Éxito



El P. Manuel Rivas, Pastor a los hispanos, Iglesia Sts. José y Pablo, Owensboro, Ky. predicando durante la misa antes del Festival Latino de Salud. Los fieles celebrando la misa 28 agosto 2005, antes del comienzo del Festival Latino de Salud en el Parque Inglés, Owensboro. Fotos por Lois Rutigliano.



Patricia Romero, de Venezuela, izquierda, recibe instrucción sobre el trabajo de la mesa de la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer de Charlotte Paez. Foto por Lois Rutigliano.

El domingo 26 de agosto de 2005, se realizó el Festival Latino Anual de Salud, Educación y Seguridad en el English Park en Owensboro. Fue un evento muy divertido para todos los involucrados. Aproximadamente 150 adultos y 83 niños participaron en el festival, así como también muchos trabajadores y voluntarios que donaron su tiempo para que el festival fuera un éxito. El festival es un evento social y educativo que ofrece a los latinos en la comunidad, la oportunidad de recibir revisiones gratis e información en su lengua nativa sobre varios temas de interés para ellos. El evento es organizado por HAGO, Alianza Hispana del Área de Owensboro, antes conocido como Campeones para Latinos. Miembros y amigos de la organización de HAGO trabajaron muy duro preparando el festival, organizando las revisiones de salud y las exhibiciones, solicitando intérpretes, regalos, comida y premios de donaciones.

El festival comenzó con una misa en español oficiada por el Padre Manuel Rivas de la Iglesia San José y San Pablo a las 2:00 de la tarde. Una vez concluida, los participantes se registraron y luego visitaron las exhibiciones desde las 3:00 hasta las 5:00 de la tarde. Muchos participantes aprovecharon la oportunidad para hacerse la revisión de la presión arterial y de la diabetes, las cuales fueron ofrecidas por el departamento de salud de Green River. Las exhibiciones fueron acerca de muchos temas y servicios variados ofreciendo información disponible a los hispanos sobre la higiene dental, el cáncer, servicios de la biblioteca, el dejar de fumar, la salud, los servicios en los bancos, la educación para los inmigrantes, la seguridad de productos, las clases de inglés, la nutrición, las vacunas y los cuidados para los niños, para nombrar solo algunos. Cada participante que asistió al festival recibió un regalo de artículos de cuidado personal donados por individuos y comercios del área. Hubo actividades para los niños en el parque que incluyeron un castillo inflable proporcionado por la Iglesia Bautista Bellevue. A las 5:30, una comida de pollo asado, arroz, frijoles, pico de gallo, y tortillas fue servida y disfrutada por todos. El festival concluyó con rifas de premios. Fue en realidad un evento de mucho provecho para los latinos de la comunidad y esperamos verlos a todos en el festival el próximo año.

Otros datos:

Susan Langan, Kentucky Cancer Program – Presidente encargado del Festival - Publicidad

Maureen Kohl, Green River District Health Department- Exhibiciones y revisiones de salud

Sr. Fran Wilhelm y Staff de Centro Latino- Intérpretes y decoraciones

Deborah Zaborac, Owensboro Migrant Education- Bebida

Micheal Erwin, New Hope Church –Sistema de sonido

Joyce Nation- Bellevue Baptist Church– Diversiones para los niños

Lissa Alls – Donaciones, regalos y premios

Maggie Pierson- Comida

LA PRECENCIA DE JESUS EN MI VIDA

Por Lily Schmidt

Cuando era una niña de 4 años, mamá me mandaba con mis hermanas mayores a escuchar el catecismo. Yo iba con gusto, sé que no entendía mucho, pero sabía que había un Papa Diosito, que estaba en el Cielo y que desde allí nos observaba y como decía Mamá, todos tenemos dos Madres, la que está en la tierra y la que está en el Cielo. No recuerdo si sabía rezar, lo que sí recuerdo era la gran alegría que me causaba la hora del canto, cantaba mirando al techo de la Iglesia, pues en mi inocencia buscaba a Jesús y sin darme cuenta lo que hacía, le rezaba con alabanza al cantarle.

Más tarde al aprender a leer, empecé a conocer la Biblia, mis hermanas decían que yo no entendería nada. Me escondía en el closet para leerla. Sentía muchas ganas de conocer más a Jesús, recuerdo la gran paz que sentía al salir del closet, mis hermanas nunca me descubrieron. Con el transcurso de los años; no sólo leía la Biblia; si no todo libro que hablase de Jesús y de Nuestra Madre del Cielo. Sentía que tenía que compartir lo que iba aprendiendo, el no hacerlo era como si me asfixiara, platicaba, conversaba y hablaba mucho de todo lo que aprendía y mi hambre por saber más de Dios se hacía cada vez más grande, hasta que me di cuenta; que no era suficiente con conocerlo y darlo a conocer; tenía que amar a Jesús, seguir sus enseñanzas y ver el Rostro de Jesús reflejado en el hermano. Esta fue para mí la tarea más difícil y lo sigue siendo hoy en día. Ver el Rostro de Jesús reflejado en mi

hermano, pero como hacer si este hermano nos causa tristeza, sin sabores, dolores; si es un pesado y lo menos que quisiera hacer es estar lejos de él. Cómo amar a un hermano así.

A lo largo de lo que he aprendido; hay un hecho que se menciona en todos los Evangelios. Que Jesús se entregó a la Muerte para lavar con Su Sangre preciosa el precio de nuestros pecados. Entre esos pecados iba aquel que nos causa sin sabores, dolores y que es un pesado y Jesús los perdonó a todos, caminó rumbo al Calvario con el peso de la Cruz y la supo soportar porque sabía que nos liberaría del yugo de nuestras culpas. Eso es lo que nos enseñan las Sagradas Escrituras, "renunciar a uno mismo como Cristo renunció a sí Mismo por la salvación del mundo". En esto consiste el verdadero amor a Cristo y a los hermanos.

Es difícil, pero no imposible, porque quien tiene a Dios presente en sus vidas, sabe que puede vencer todo obstáculo que se interponga en el camino de la salvación.

¿Tiene usted algunas

preguntas sobre las Declaraciones de la Nulidad de un matrimonio? Llame al Tribunal en el Centro Pastoral Católico a (270) 683-1545