

Western Kentucky Catholic  
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Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Change Service Requested

Volume 33, Number 8

# Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky

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October, 2006

## Who are these Cursillo people?

By Paul Bachi

The number of Cursillo people (called "Cursillistas") currently in our Diocese is approximately 1,300. If you are old enough to read this article chances are very good you know one or more of these Cursillo people. Chances are also very good these Cursillo people are active in various ministries in your parish because Cursillo people are keenly aware of the necessity for building strong Christian communities to fulfill Jesus' command - Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matt 28: 19-20)

Do Cursillo people have a halo on their head, their nose in the air, their head in the sand, their back to their friend, or their mouth closed unwilling to witness to their faith? These are not characteristics of Cursillo people. Cursillo people have a motto, "Make a friend, Be a friend, and Bring that friend to Christ." You may be thinking "But I am already a Christian. Do I need to make a Cursillo to be a Christian?" Certainly not. So what are Cursillo people about?

The goal of Cursillo people is not about preaching the Good News and becoming evangelicals, but to become the Good News and in a natural way our actions will become evangelical in our daily lives, strengthening Christianity in society through love of God and love of neighbor as experienced through three essential encounters—with Christ, ourselves, and others.

If you desire a closer encounter with God, yourself, and others—and want to learn a method for nourishing these encounters—pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and listen. To learn more about the Cursillo Movement feel free to talk to one of the Cursillo people you likely already know, any of the Cursillo people listed below, your pastor, or visit the National Cursillo website at <http://www.cursillo.org>  
Cloverport - Barbara Hertel - 788-6165; Hawesville - Martha & Denis Wheatley - 927-6540; Bowling Green - Wanda Purcell - 442-0690; Owensboro - Cecelia Hamilton - 926-4176 or Kim Haire - 785-0383; Mt. St. Joseph - Sr. Elaine Burke - 229-4103; Henderson - Teresa & Charlie Krampe - 546-7773; Hopkinsville - Norma & Bill Folz - 885-0167; Eddyville - Paul Bachi - 388-2973; Paducah - Sharon Brumlow - 442-2636  
**The next Cursillo 3-Day weekends in our Diocese are March 1-4, 2007 for men, March 8-11, 2007 for women.**



## Catholic Summer Camp: Where We Stand

By Ben Warrell

Over the summer, the Council to Create a Catholic Summer Camp visited several church picnics to receive feedback from the parishioners about this topic. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of having this type of facility for the diocese. We collected 493 surveys from young and old, married and single, parents, grandparents, and even a couple of Protestants.

The first question was on a scale of 1-10: Should a camp for youth be a priority for the church? The average response was 8.7 out of 10 that this should be a priority. Ninety-seven percent of the surveys reported they would use this facility by attending camp or sending their children to camp. Ninety-two percent of the surveys said they would financially contribute to make this camp happen. Ninety percent said they would offer other gifts of time, effort, or knowledge to make this camp happen.

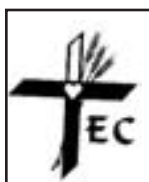
The comments from parishioners were very supportive as well. "We need this for our kids." "I want a place to send my children to learn more about their faith." "I have attended Camp LIFE for the last four years and it is an unbelievable experience. The great experience never fails to happen. I would gladly support a camp for our diocese so that other teenagers can experience the graces and memories that God has to offer all of His children." "Anything we do faith based for our kids to grow in the Catholic faith would be wonderful." "Sounds great—the Catholic faith needs to spend more time and energy on its youth." "It would benefit the entire diocese on so many levels." And the support went on and on for the camp.

If you would like more information about the camp, or if you would like to complete a survey and have your voice heard, please check out our website at [www.owensborodio.org/camp](http://www.owensborodio.org/camp). And many thanks to Patti Murphy for getting the web page up and looking great.

We have completed a case statement, budget, and business plan to ensure the camp can operate self-sufficiently and not be a burden to the Catholic Church but a blessing. We have received countless offers for help from people in construction, architects, financial planning experts, and others willing to do whatever they can to help this type of site. We have identified potential sites and had them analyzed for their benefits. We've tried to spread the word and get as many people talking about this opportunity. We know there is still much to do, but the vision is still there and the plan is coming more and more into focus.

Please keep this entire process in your prayers, and if you'd like to be involved on any level with the camp, please contact me at [ben.warrell@pastoral.org](mailto:ben.warrell@pastoral.org) or by phone 270-683-1545, ext. 330. If you've always wanted to be involved with the church in some way but didn't know how, now is your chance. We will need your help to provide this wonderful tool to serve so many in the Diocese of Owensboro.

## Attention: High School Seniors



Busy? Feeling the pressure? Trying to stay focused? Looking ahead to your future? Where's Christ in all of this? Is He speaking? Are you listening?

Want to tune in to what He's saying? Do we have an invitation for you! There is a Teens Encounter Christ Weekend: October 7-9, 2006, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 434 Church Avenue, Bowling Green. The October TEC is for high school seniors, and

is a great opportunity for you to spend some time with other seniors who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church as you make plans

for your future. The Team for this weekend is an awesome group! This weekend can be a life-changing experience if you really want to encounter Christ in a deeper, meaningful way. It could very well be one of the best experiences of your life. You've got your whole life ahead of you; why not take some time in a few weeks and spend some time with the Lord? For more information and to download an application, go to <http://www.wkytec.org/tecapp.pdf>. We hope you'll come and share what you have with us, and together we will have an awesome encounter with Christ.

## Immigration Reform: recognize that every man and woman is the image of God

My friends in Christ,

Reform of the nation's immigration laws stirs national and local interest. As we work to secure a public policy that treats immigrants justly, I and the other three Catholic Bishops of Kentucky ask that our discourse be civil and our solutions reflect that each person is the image and likeness of God.

The president and Congress acknowledge that our immigration system is broken and want to change the status quo. All parties to the immigration debate ought to be able to agree on two basic facts: 1) our nation and economy benefit from the work of immigrants, both undocumented and legal, and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future; and 2) because of economic underdevelopment in their homelands, migrants are going to continue to migrate, even risking their lives, to work and support their families.

Current policies ignore these realities. For example, after spending \$25 billion on a border "blockade" enforcement strategy for the past ten years, the net number of undocumented entering the U.S. has risen from 300,000 to nearly 500,000 per year. More disturbing is the fact that more than 2700 migrants died since the beginning of the blockades, perishing in remote portions of the American Southwest.

About eighty percent of those who make it into the United States find employment in short order. They contribute billions to our tax and Social Security systems. The Labor Department estimates that, by the year 2008, there will be six million more low-skilled jobs available than Americans able to fill them.

Our current system, instead of discouraging undocumented migration, makes it inevitable. Work visas for unskilled workers are too few in number compared to the demand—5,000 in the permanent system and up to 66,000 in the temporary one. Family unity visas can be even scarcer, with waiting times as long as ten years for Mexican families to be reunited.

For migrants desperate to find work

or to join their family members, there are few options, none of which are desirable: cross a deadly desert, pay unscrupulous smugglers, or both.

Responding to the two basic facts requires a comprehensive overhaul of U.S. immigration policies. We urge comprehensive immigration reform that includes these three major components.

First, any legalization program should permit undocumented, long-term residents access to permanent residency. This stabilizes immigrant families and the labor force.

Second, any employment-based legal immigration system must increase legal avenues to work while protecting the rights of both foreign-born and U.S. workers. This permits

future flows of workers to enter safely and legally and reduce deaths at the border.

Finally, the plan should shorten waiting times under the family reunification system. Our current system often separates husbands from wives and parents from children, a morally unacceptable outcome in a nation built upon the strength of the family.

Over the long-term, the United States must do more to promote sustainable economic development in sending countries so that migrant workers can remain home and support their families in dignity. Despite popular belief, migrants prefer to remain in their homelands.

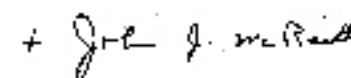
As a social service provider with global reach, the Catholic Church is

deeply troubled by the causes of undocumented migration and its consequences, especially for the migrant who we see as our brother and sister.

Those opposing comprehensive reform ignore the human tragedy and familial dislocation of the status quo. They discount the invaluable contributions immigrants make to our nation. They reap the benefits of undocumented laborers, but refuse them the protection of the law. They cannot have it both ways.

Our elected leaders know the status quo is unacceptable. Now is the time to enact comprehensive reform. Comprehensive reform of our immigration policy not only protects human rights and prepares our nation for the challenges of the future, but it also recognizes the human life and dignity of all immigrants, legal and illegal. We invite Catholics and all people of good will to welcome the benefits of migration by rejecting every form of discrimination, injustice, and contempt of the persons coming to our land, for every immigrant is the image of God.

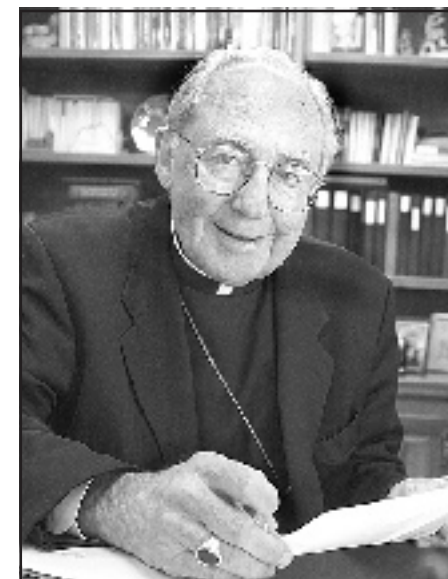
Sincerely in Christ,



+Most Reverend John J. McRaith,  
Bishop of Owensboro

### Bishop McRaith's October, 2006 Schedule

- 1 Mass, Marriage Anniversary Celebration, Cathedral, Owensboro, 2pm
- 2 International Catholic Stewardship Conference, Boston, Massachusetts
- 3 International Catholic Stewardship Conference, Boston, Massachusetts
- 4 International Catholic Stewardship Conference, Boston, Massachusetts
- 5 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 5 Right to Life Banquet, Owensboro Sportscenter, Reception 6pm, Banquet 7pm
- 7 Mass, Marian Conference, Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro, 8:30am
- 8 Spanish Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green, 12:30pm
- 10 Pitino Shelter Board Mtg., 9am
- 10 Sorgho KC Appreciation Dinner, 6:30pm
- 12 Priests' Age Group One Mtg., St. Raphael, 11am-4pm
- 14 Brescia University Knights of the Round Table Fundraiser, Hines Center, Owensboro
- 15 Mass & Celebration of 60 Anniv. of Passionists' Ministry in Owensboro Diocese, 2pm
- 16 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 16 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 18 Paducah Office Day (office located at Lourdes Hospital, across from Chapel)
- 18 Mass/Meeting with Provincial Priests Ordained 10 yrs. and under, Lake Barkley, 4:45pm
- 20 Fall Staff Enrichment Day
- 22 Marian Congress, St. Joseph Parish Hall, Bowling Green, 2-5pm
- 25 Mass, Priests' Retreat, Mount Saint Joseph Conference & Retreat Center, 11:15am
- 26 Brescia Board Mtg., all day
- 27 Brescia Board Mtg., all day
- 28 "Theology of the Body" Lecture by Janet Smith, Brescia University Science Lecture Hall, Owensboro, 10am - 3pm
- 28 Confirmation, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah, 5pm
- 29 KC Dinner for Seminarians & Religious in Formation, KC Hall, Paducah, 4pm
- 30 "Making Connections," Priests 5-9 Years After Ordination, Louisville, 9am - 6pm
- 31 Health Summit, Louisville, 11:30am-3:00pm EST



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

## Peace is not a platitude.

By Suzanne Rose

Peace is not a platitude.

To reject peace as a reality for our world

Rejects our Savior.

Lip service to peace,

Void of belief in its substance,

Rejects our faith.

Rejects Emmanuel – God With Us in the world.

To believe that peace is a sentimental ideal  
but an unrealistic one –

“Given the sinful nature of man” –

Rejects our faith in a God who came to us as  
man, the Prince of Peace.

To use peace as a holiday ornament,

Carried down from the attic and unpacked with  
the tinsel, the ornaments, the artificial lights,

Replaced in its packing beside the crèche and jolly old St. Nick  
once the needles fall from the tree,

Rejects the hunger for God, the longing of the heart, the gnawing of the soul for the  
Redeemer of the World, who rules His Creation in Peace.

If we believed our faith, rather than possessing it,

We would love our Peaceful Savior;

We would not harm Him.

We would protect Him,

Not bomb Him

We would embrace Him,

Not shoot Him.

We would caress Him,

Not mutilate Him with swords and machetes.

We would treasure Him,

Not ransom Him for war profits, for growth in the economy,  
for inflating a stock portfolio.

We would not strike Him or stab Him,

We would not maim Him with landmines or torture His Spirit,

Regardless of the world's voices justifying these actions.

We would touch the hem of His garment to be healed,

Not strip Him and raise his robe as a battle flag.

We would nestle in His arms and listen to His soothing song of God's love,

Not shriek battle cries of hatred.

We would not raise our hands violently against Him;

We would gently rub healing balm upon His wounds.

We would not point weapons at His vulnerable humanity;

We would uncurl our fingers from the barrels of guns, drop our weapons, and  
open our hands to receive His life-giving touch.

We would not mar His Body with the violence of the world.

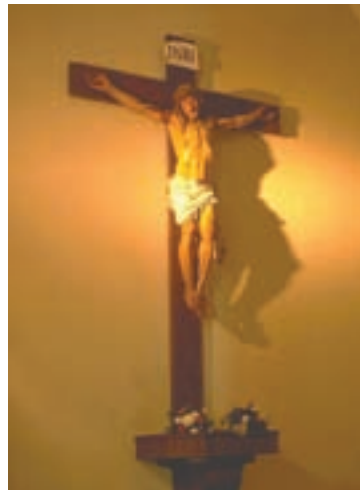
If we believe our Beloved is real,

God With Us, who brought the Light of Peace to the world,

Then our faith pulses with life,

And peace is not a platitude.

*Suzanne Rose is a member of JustFaith and attends Saints Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro.*



## St. Mary LaCenter Celebrates A Century of Faith

St. Mary of LaCenter is in the planning stages for their 100th Anniversary. The celebration will be held on October 21, 2007. The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop McRaith at approximately 10:45 with activities continuing throughout the day. The church of Ballard County was actually dedicated on November 24, 1907 by Bishop McCloskey. The little white church was under construction in April of 1907 under the watchful eye of Rev. A. O. O'Sullivan, of St. Francis de Sales Church, Paducah. Rev O'Sullivan ministered to the needs of about 12 families scattered throughout the county once a month. He served from the fall of 1906 to May 1907.

**The planning committee consists of Mary Bumpous, Shirley Marshall, Brenda Shankle, Gayle Waltmon, all having ties to the earliest Catholics in the county. Also, involved are Nancy Harris, Lena Quarles, Sr. Teresa Riley, Tammy Potts, and Elaine Wood and as time goes on there will be many others involved. Submitted by Mary Bumpous**

### The Western Kentucky Catholic

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The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars. "Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God."

-Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971  
*Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic.*

**Daughters of Isabella Card Party/ Bunco**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall**  
**Tuesday, October 10, 2006 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**\$5.00 includes lunch**

A Listening Heart, United in Christ,  
Open To The Mystery Of God

## Glenmary Brother David Henley Takes Final Oath

*Dedicates life to serving the home missions,  
being 'a brother to all'*



CINCINNATI (Aug. 23, 2006) —Glenmary Brother David Henley, 35, professed his Final Oath to Glenmary Home Missioners on Aug. 21, 2006. The Glenmary Oath commits Brother David to the practice of poverty, chastity, obedience and prayer. As a Glenmary Home Missioner, he also commits himself to his fellow missioners and to the proclamation of the Gospel in rural areas and small towns of the



**Brother David Henley is congratulated by Glenmary Father Charlie Hughes following the Final Oath Ceremony and Mass on Aug. 21. Glenmary Photo**

United States. Brother David's Final Oath celebration was held on the first night of the week-long annual Glenmary Congress held at the Sisters of Charity retreat center in Nazareth, Ky.

Brother David, a native of Columbus, Ohio, has a long history with Glenmary, beginning in 1989 when he came to the Glenmary Farm in Vanceburg, Ky., as volunteer with Bishop Watterson High School. He returned to the Farm as on-site manager of Glenmary's Appalachian Group Volunteer Program in the mid-1990s. Prior to entering Glenmary, he spent two years with the Volunteer Missionary Movement in Chicago working at San Jose Obrero Mission, a transitional shelter for homeless men. He also spent one year working at St. Elizabeth homeless shelter in Santa Fe, N.M., and traveled the country as a juggler, performing at carnivals and street fairs. A favorite quip of Brother David: "I ran away from the circus to join Glenmary."

Fluent in Spanish, Brother David professed his Final Oath in both English and Spanish. In his years with Glenmary, he has worked primarily with the Spanish-speakers living in Glenmary mission areas in Swainsboro, Ga., Crossett and Hamburg, Ark. and Beaver Dam, Ky. A congregation of both Spanish- and English-speakers joined with Brother David for a bilingual Final Oath Mass—and they celebrated with him afterward at a reception.

This academic year, Brother David will live in Hartford, Ky., and will complete a degree in pastoral ministry at Brescia University. His goal, he says, as he looks forward to a lifetime of home mission service is to be "a brother to all, to walk in solidarity with people in a ministry of presence."

Glenmary is a society of Catholic priests and brothers who, along with coworkers, establish the Catholic Church in rural regions of the United States. Currently, Glenmary staffs over 50 missions and ministries.

## Brescia University Expresses Gratitude

We wish to thank all those who participated in the August collection for Brescia University. We are especially grateful to our beloved Bishop and Sr. Joseph Angela, for their support and to pastors who personally spoke in support of our cause and who permitted Brescia University alumni to represent us in their parishes.

We appreciate all of our great alumni who were willing to give their time and testimonies to the "academic excellence in the Ursuline tradition" that they received at Brescia. We are so proud of our alumni and the leadership they display across the diocese and in many other places. They are indeed a loyal tribute to our mission of Catholic higher education.

Thank you to all of you, with or without Brescia University ties, who generously contributed to the collection. Tuition pays only a very small part of the cost of educating students and without your financial assistance we would not be able to carry on the mission and values that we offer as the only Catholic University in Western Kentucky. Our price is higher than most state universities but we have much smaller classes, many more opportunities for mentoring students, and various other services particular to a student centered education. We also keep our room/board very economical while offering contemporary apartments and campus activities such as the discernment program and athletic programs.

Please remember us in your prayers as we do you. Remember to refer students to Brescia University where they will experience a hometown feel and a world class education.

God's blessings and our gratitude,  
Sister Vivian Bowles, OSU, President

## Diocesan Review Board Members Ready To Respond To Calls

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Larry Abel, Chair, Dr. William Bach, Ms. June Bell, Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU, Ms. Susan Clark, Mr. William Craig, Jr., Dr. Darrell French, Dr. Carroll Howard, Fr. Pat Reynolds, and Ms. Shannon S. Wright. Ms. Louanne Gelarden serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Review Board.

Any person who wishes to communicate with the Diocesan Review Board is asked to call the Catholic Pastoral Center at 1-270-683-1545 and ask to speak with a member of the Review Board. To speak with a particular member of this Board, tell the receptionist. In either case, the receptionist at the Catholic Pastoral Center will give the caller's information to the member of the Review Board for follow-up. Callers may choose to remain anonymous for the initial call to the Catholic Pastoral Center receptionist. The phone numbers of the members of this Board will not be made public.

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

## Thanks So Much to Our Many Picnic Helpers

A big Thank You goes out to all of the people who volunteered at the 36th annual Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Picnic. The September 10th event was a great success! We certainly couldn't have staged this event without many dedicated volunteers. We especially wish to thank everyone who volunteered from the Diocese of Owensboro. We also wish to thank the thousands of people who attended the picnic. All proceeds benefit the retired Ursuline Sisters.

# We are called to feed the hungry at our door....

Holy Name School responds by participating in the Summer Food Service Program

## Special to The Western Kentucky Catholic

Holy Name School in Henderson, KY, is a States approved SFSP meal site, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Department of Education and is sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro Food Service Office. The Food Service Program for Children helps children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school. The Summer Food Service Program was created to ensure that children in lower-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to free or reduced-price meals which are available during the school year provided through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Children 18 and younger may receive free meals through SFSP.

Locally, Holy Name School's Food Service Program began when Lori Deckard, HNS Cafeteria Manager, realized a need that many families depended on the school lunch program for nutritional meals. She felt that many families were financially unable to provide nutritional meals due to their financial ability and the lack of time with both parents working outside the home. With the support of Owensboro Food Service Director, Theresa Ballard, the program was created. The Holy Name School Cafeteria staff received training to learn how to plan, operate, and monitor a successful food service program. Information was advertised through local churches, area apartment complexes and flyers placed throughout the community.

Since its beginning in July, 2005, the Holy Name School Cafeteria's Food Service Program has provided over 48,000 meals to low income housing complexes, the Women's Shelter, the John F. Kennedy Center, the YMCA, and local churches and daycares throughout the Henderson community. The program has grown to not only include summer but fall, winter and spring break sessions.

For more information about Summer Food Service Programs visit [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).



From left, Selena Gregory, Lori Deckard, Johnetta Perkins prepare food for the program at Holy Name School.

## St. Jerome's Barrett Wilson Receives "Servant Leader In Ministry" Award

Submitted by Angie Burgess; Photo: Sherry Jones

Every year the Office of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro asks each parish to rec-

ommend an outstanding young person for consideration to receive the "Servant Leader in Ministry Award." The criteria for selection are outstanding service to parish, deanery, and diocese. Only a few of these are awarded every year.

This year, we are much honored to have a young person from St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, Ky. selected to receive this award - Barrett Wilson, shown at left with pastor Father Dave Johnson after receiving the "Servant Leader in Ministry" Award on August 6, 2006. Barrett was presented the award by Angie Burgess, Music/Liturgy Coordinator, who made the following comments:

"We've all watched Barrett grow up and into ministry in this parish. It all began when he played Joseph in the Christmas Pageant in third grade, and continued during his altar server days when he wore braces and glasses! He began in music ministry during his 7th grade year (when he still wearing braces) and we've seen him through his broken bone days, his long hair and beard days, his pink shirt and flip flop days, his



Barrett Wilson with Father Dave Johnson

St. Patrick and the Celtics days, up through today as the handsome young man you see standing before you.

Barrett has generously shared his gift of music with St. Jerome through the years, but he didn't stop there. He also shared his gifts throughout the Fancy Farm deanery and the diocese as well, helping with Koinonia retreats, TEC, camps, Quest, lock-ins, teaching Confirmation Class not only in our parish but also in other parishes. He's witnessed his faith boldly to fellow teens in LifeTeen, and to fellow students at Graves County High School. Much of Barrett's spirit of servanthood can be summed up by something he said during an interview that was published on the LifeTeen website ([www.lifeteen.com/realteens](http://www.lifeteen.com/realteens)):

"I learned so much about Christ and why He put me here on this earth - and that God gave me the gift of music and He gave it to me to give back to Him and to do everything I possibly could to give it back to Him." Barrett recently began his freshman year at the University of Louisville where he is majoring in music.

Barrett, as you go, always remember that you will have the love, support, gratitude, and mostly the prayers of St. Jerome with you...you will never be alone. Congratulations on this award. You truly deserve it!" Barrett is the son of Ernie and Cathy Wilson of St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm.

## Monte Cassino pilgrimages to be held in October

Saint Meinrad Archabbey's pilgrimages to honor the Blessed Mother at the Monte Cassino Shrine have been scheduled for the Sundays in October 2006. The pilgrimages begin with an opening hymn and a short sermon, followed by a rosary procession. The service ends with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and a hymn. Speakers and topics for the pilgrimages are:

- October 1—Sr. Kristine Harpenau, OSB, "Mary, Model of Faithfulness"
- October 8—Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB, "A Handmaid's Lowliness"
- October 15—Br. Stanislaw Sullivan, OSB, "Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth"
- October 22—Fr. Gabriel Hodges, OSB, "Mary, Model of Benedictine Humility"
- October 29—Fr. Benet Amato, OSB, "Mary: 'Do Whatever He Tells You' "

Services begin at 2 p.m. Central Time. The public is invited. The Monte Cassino Shrine is located one mile east of the Archabbey on Indiana State Highway 62.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Marriage Celebrations For October 2006

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

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Leo & Angela Thompson, 60

Jack & Lilly Wilson, 59

George & Mary Virginia Ballard, 63

**Christ the King, Madisonville**

Maurice & Patty Jolley, 54

**Christ the King, Scottsville**

Mary & Ken Mattingly, 51

Samuel & Annette Harris, 53

**Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington**

Kenny & Martha Nell Barger, 58

Everette & Carolyn Pool, 40

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Jerry & Roberta Phillips, 25

Bernard & Patsy Thomas, 50

Rudy & Agnes Gibson, 56

Tommy & Sue Hagan, 51

Les & Sarah Jennings, 62

Clarence & Margaret Kaminski, 57

Ray & Evelyn Shoemaker, 59

Herman & Mary Ruth Thomas, 53

Bill & Virginia Thomas, 60

**Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam**

George & Jean Bickett, 53

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

William & Melina Baribeau, 65

Camille & Margaret Picciano, 63

Jake & Polly Leibfreid, 56

Steve & Mary Jane Swigonski

**Immaculate, Owensboro**

Lester & Helen Schaick, 57

Billy & Anna C. King, 56

Kenneth G. & Lisa Millay, 25

George D. & Jennie Howard, 60

Andrew A. & Charlotte Reynolds, 53

Melvin & Mary Eleanor Wathen, 54

George L. & Anna Weldon, 50

J. C. & Mildred Higdon, 52

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Joseph B. & Marilou Blanford, 54

Thomas E. & Joann Castlen, 60

Jack H. & Margie Clark, 57

David & Patricia Hamilton, 54

Jerry & Virginia Harper, 40

Harry & Doris McCrary, 50

George & Margaret Terry, 60

**Sacred Heart, Waverly**

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 52

**St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Douglas & Benola Dant, 56

**St. Ambrose, Henshaw**

George C. & Evelyn Henshaw, 68

**St. Ann, Morganfield**

Eddie & Peggy Salyers, 55

**St. Anthony, Axtel**

Herman & Thelma Howard, 52

John & Shihrlay Coffey, 55

**St. Anthony, Browns Valley**

Robert & Nancy Grimsley, 25

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

James & Dorothy Thompason, 55

**St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Charles & Pamela Wahl, 25

Siro & Marcella Pandolfi, 58

James & Mary Streit, 53

**St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**

Junior & Mary Roby, 40

**St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**

Charles & Rosalee Shoulta, 52

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Carl & Janice Haas, 25

**St. Joseph, Central City**

Victor & Rose Rogier, 59

**St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

James P. & Nellie Alvey, 57

Ted & Mylissa Torrence, 25

**St. Joseph, Mayfield**

John & Jeanette Harms, 25

David & Barbara Koonce, 40

Harold & Barbara Hayden, 51

Joseph & June Elliott, 59

**St. Leo, Murray**

Bruno & Helen Zubko, 62

**St. Mark, Eddyville**

Bryon Anthony & Sara Michele Jasis, 25

**St. Martin, Rome**

Tony & Thomasine Weise, 50

**St. Mary & St. James, Guthrie**

Norbert & Helen Hock, 51

**St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter**

Frank & Lydia Oliver, 54

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Tom & Joan Fogle, 40

Roch & Karen Greenwell, 25

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

Steve & Penny Knott, 25

Shelby & Kay Howard, 40

William & Opal Boarman, 63

Audry & Martha Hagan, 60

**St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove**

Orin & Virginia Koch, 50

**St. Paul, Princeton**

George & Carmen Richardville, 55

**St. Peter, Waverly**

Anthony & Betty Wolfe, 62

Louie & Rita Mills, 51

**St. Pius X, Calvert City**

Irvin & Helen Oser, 59

Ray & Margaret Dann, 40

**St. Pius X, Owensboro**

Joe & Jane Brand, 25

Gene & Bernadette Bickwermer, 59

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Brad & Sarah Bruner, 25

Joe & Mary Jo Hess, 25

Merl & Marty Kannapel, 60

Charles & Louise Roach, 58

Harold & Libby Osborne, 53

**St. Rose, Cloverport**

Joseph & Marie Haycraft, 40

Richard & Dorothy Carter, 57

James & Mary Jo Carter, 56

**St. Sebastian, Calhoun**

Charles & Juanita Faye May, 40

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Tom & Jennifer Welch, 25

Michael & Janice Scherm, 25

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**

Ed & Pat Kortz, 54

**St. William, Knottsville**

Harry & Betty Pedley, 58

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Thomas E. & Linda H. Hagan, 40

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Phillip & Ruby Carstone, 52

Bill & Kathryn Whittinghill, 58

## TH 110 Introduction To The Catholic Faith

A Brescia University Course at St. Mary of the Woods  
Parish Center, Whitesville, Ky.

This fall, anyone who is a parish administrator, a DRE, a Youth Minister, an RCIA coordinator, a Religious Education Teacher, a Liturgy Planner, a Eucharistic Minister, a Catholic School Teacher or simply a lay or religious Catholic interested in a deeper understanding of the great traditions of the Church is invited to attend "Introduction to Catholic Faith," sponsored by Brescia University and its Ministry Formation Program.

This Catholic Faith course is designed to be taken over the course of five (5) Saturdays with lively discussions on such issues as the Second Vatican Council, the life of faith, the structure of the Church and its tradition, its sacramental life, discipleship, reconciliation and moral theology, prayer, and salvation. We will investigate these issues, probe their general principles, and examine the elements that lead to a rich Catholic faith life.

The course will meet on Saturday mornings beginning October 7 for five weekends (Oct. 7, 21, Nov. 4, 18 and Dec. 9) and is open to everyone who is interested in taking the course for credit or auditing (non-credit). Such a course is ideal for lay ministers already "out there in the field" in our parishes throughout the diocese. All that is required is a deep curiosity about faith! Senior citizens may enroll tuition-free! Contact Joe Bland at the below address or by telephone or e-mail to learn about costs, syllabi and textbooks.

For information, contact Joe Bland, St. Mary of the Woods, PO Box 1, Whitesville, KY 42378 270-233-4196 or 270-233-9552. jbland@owensboro.net



## Most Outstanding

At left, Jason Hudgins from the Kentucky Youth Association recently awarded Chase Kauffeld, President of Holy Name's Student Y Club, the George Williams Service Award. This award recognizes the most outstanding Y club in the state. Club sponsor and teacher Phyllis Brown looks on. Submitted photo

## New Mass Schedule

for Saint Stephen Cathedral  
beginning Oct 1, 2006

Sat. Mass at 5:00pm

Sun. Masses at 7:00 am, 9:00am,  
and 11:30am

There will no longer be a 5:00pm  
Mass on Sunday.

## Nationally Touring Divine Mercy Drama Coming To Immaculate Conception Church

*The Mother of Mercy Messengers bring the message of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy to Earlinton, Ky. with "Tell All Souls About My Mercy" Monday, November 13, 2006.*

Earlington, Ky. — Garnering rave reviews from thousands of people, coast to coast, the Mother of Mercy Messengers brings its dramatic presentation "Tell All Souls About My Mercy" to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Monday, November 13, 2006.

Much more than a normal night out at the theater, or an evening of prayer, the husband and wife team, Dave and Joan Maroney, presents a compelling mix of music, lights, and sound to convey the message of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, and the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska.



The event is being organized by Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Says Fr. Bruce Fogle, "When I heard about the inspiring MOMM dramatic presentation on the Divine Mercy I knew that I had to try to bring them to our area. The Divine Mercy message has had a profound effect on my life; I just want to share it with as many as possible."

Presented within the sacredness of the church, the program progresses from an emotional drama to a deep prayerful experience as Our Lord is solemnly placed on the altar for a time of Eucharistic Adoration. During this segment, prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina are recited and there is time for silent contemplation. The

Chaplet of Mercy is prayed for the sick and dying as well as for the intentions of all gathered.

MOMM is an outreach apostolate of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception based in Stockbridge, MA at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy; however Dave and Joan live and operate their ministry in the Texas Hill Country outside San Antonio. Their mission is to bring the Divine Mercy message home to souls of all ages, families, parishes, and communities, through inspiring programs and materials that encourage and support putting mercy into action.

The Divine Mercy message and devotion is one of the fastest growing devotions in the history of the Catholic Church. St. Faustina (1905-1938) was a Polish nun and mystic who had a series of amazing, personal revelations with Jesus Christ that she recorded in her Diary. Canonized by Pope John Paul II on Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000, St. Faustina records Our Lord's desire for all to know of His mercy. The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, home to the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, is dedicated to spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion throughout the world.

For more information about the "Tell All Souls..." program at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church; call (270)-383-4743. More information about The Divine Mercy and the Mother of Mercy Messengers may be found at [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org).



## St. Agnes Parish Picnic In September Set Attendance Record



**By Mike Guillerman, St. Agnes Parish Board Member**

UNIONTOWN, Ky. - This picture is a scene of the huge crowd attending the annual St. Agnes/Knights of Columbus Picnic 2006, held on September 9. According to various sources, it is thought this picnic set an attendance record - numbering in the hundreds - from all points of the United States.

The weather was perfect and serving began immediately after the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. Seven thousand (7,000) pounds of mutton was barbecued, along with fifty (50) pork hams. Everything sold out, including all the drink vendors.

## Listen To Your Heart - A Weekend Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth will host a Hospitality Weekend on Friday, November 3, 7:00 p.m. EST to Sunday, November 5 - 1:00 p.m.. This weekend is for single Catholic women, ages 18 and over, who are interested in exploring the possibility of religious life. There is no charge for this gathering.

For information, contact Sister Eula Johnson, SCN, at 270/684-3978.

## St. Henry Church Dedicates Holy Innocents Memorial

### Memorial

By Carolyn Haas

AURORA, Ky. - On August 15, 2006, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Father Babu Kulathumkal Joseph said 8:00 AM Mass. Quite a lot of people attended that Mass at St. Henry's in Aurora. Two Knights of Columbus kept watch in full regalia, including swords.

After the Mass Father Babu Joseph and Altar Servers, including a Seminarian and the two Knights, proceeded to the grounds immediately in front of the Church. There, Aurora's Knights of Columbus placed a Pro-Life Memorial some time ago. That Memorial was dedicated. The Memorial has a special message, and our Blessed Mother overlooks it all. The grounds, improved by the Knights at St. Henry's with shrubs, flowers, stepping stones, and a special bench, add to the beauty and peace.

The message on the Memorial is:

BABY  
IN MEMORY OF THE HOLY INNOCENT VICTIMS OF ABORTION



THOSE WHO TURN A DEAF EAR  
TO THE SILENT SCREAMS OF  
THE UNBORN WILL ANSWER TO  
GOD

1996 ST. HENRY KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS COUNCIL



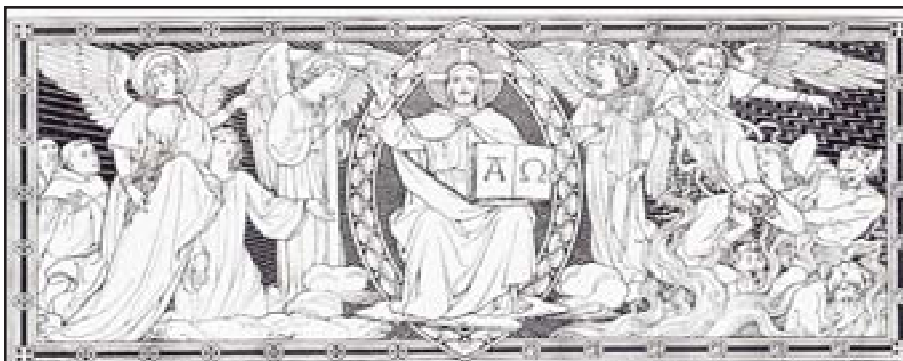
On August 15, 2006, Father Babu Kulathumkal Joseph blessed with Holy Water the statue and stone of the Holy Innocents Memorial at St. Henry Church, Aurora. Submitted photos.

## Ursuline Sisters Of Mount Saint Joseph Christmas Craft And Bake Sale

Saturday, November 4, 2006, 9:00 a.m - 7:00 p.m.

Precious Blood Parish Hall, 3306 Fenmore Street, Owensboro, Kentucky

For more information call Sr. Rosanne at 684-6888 or 686-7098



## Holy Souls in Purgatory Novena

October 25th-November 2nd, 2006

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 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

## 16th Diocesan Marian Congress

Sunday, OCT. 22 2:00-5:00 p.m. At Diocesan Shrine:

"Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of All Christians."

St. Joseph Catholic Church, 434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY

**THEME: MARY, MOTHER OF FAITH**

Parish Center - Address by Bishop McRaith;

Crowning of Statue of Mary;

Speaker: Fr. Denis Blaise, Fathers of Mercy;

Music; Display of Religious Articles;

Refreshments.

Outdoor Procession - Our Lady of Fatima Statue;

Knights of Columbus, Porters; Rosary; Hymn.Church - Drama "THE TREE" by

St. Mary, Franklin, Music & Drama Group;

Benediction; Homily;

Eucharistic Procession & Blessing of Sick;

Confessions heard throughout.

Visit the beautiful Shrine.

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

(For info, call J. Bradford 270-586-5926)

# The adventures of a young and inexperienced priest

## II. Carmelo is not a "Totic"

By Byron Macias

A few days after I arrived to Chenalho (May 2000), we had a meeting with the parish catechists, the Bishop, the (Jesuit) priest who ministered for them and the nuns. The Bishop said he wanted to re-open the parish (because in February 1998 the priest was expelled and the rectory was closed by the local authorities. Since then, no priest could enter the parish). This is why His Eminence thought it was time to recover such precious belonging to the Diocese.

The parish of Saint Peter Chenalho is 100% indigenous; the municipal authorities were the only "mestizos." There is a strong division caused by injustice, marginalization and poverty. One can identify three big groups: The Group of power (the rich people in town, civil authorities, soldiers and military); the second group was the one who defended human rights but with guns; they are called "Zapatistas" (whose maxim leader in the state of Chiapas is sub-commandant Marcos); and the third group is the "pacifist," which defends the human rights and they are called "the bees" who during a day of fasting and prayer for peace were attacked by the paramilitary, killing 45 of them at the Catholic temple where they were praying (December 22, 1997). Since then, many pacifists had to abandon their houses and communities and live (under precarious circumstances). I will talk about this in other occasions.

The catechists told the Bishop he was able to appoint the pastors we would like, yet the problem was not over, even though he may re-open the parish. And they told me when I arrived there that I was not going to be the priest (Totic) but "Carmelo." The community would tell me when I was going to be called Totic.

In May, I was symbolically received in the parish although we were not even to enter the temple. I had to live and sleep there during three days and nights in my car. After a month of struggle and legal actions, I was able to recover the parish.

In October, we started a pilgrimage from Acteal, Chenalho, the place where they martyred 45 indigenous, to Mexico City. This pilgrimage lasted 64 days and the priests arranged our schedules to accompany the pilgrims one week each, even though we had busy agendas.

I reached them in a small town that I have not been able to forget as of now: "Salinas, Veracruz," after driving for about 14 hours. I got there on time to start out their walk. That was the day they walked about 45 miles. All that day, we would walk through the road on the lake front. There were no trees because of the sand. I could only see the road so long and with so much sand. The temperature was hot, and I was not wearing comfortable shoes. When we sat down for breakfast, everyone piled up sand to improvise chairs and tables. I felt my feet hurting, yet I continued. At around 3:30pm, we met the people who took care of our food as I searched for a place apart in which I piled up sand and fell asleep kneeling. I was awakened by a voice that said: "Totic, muy'an li caro" (Father, get on the car). I said no for I would walk with them to the next town. We arrived to Alvarado in Veracruz by 6:00pm; I told the pilgrims we would have an hour to rest. I found one of the chaperones' cars, opened the door facing the sidewalk and fell asleep. At 7:00pm, they woke me up to tell me it was time for Mass. I felt my feet rested and saw some sort of threads on them; the nurses have already treated the blisters on my feet.

We celebrated Mass in Tzotzil (an indigenous dialect) and Spanish, and afterwards one of the

leaders requested to speak, reached the ambo and said: "Today, Carmelo walked with us. Today his feet hurt just like ours. Today Carmelo was one like us; today, Carmelo was Totic. Do you want Carmelo to be Totic?"

And the community responded: 'Jech' (Yes)."

From that day on, some women pilgrims started out to embroider and weave a stole which was given to me at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 14th, that day in which our pilgrimage concluded. Since then, I was Totic Carmelo; before, I was only Carmelo.



## Who are the Victorious Missionaries?

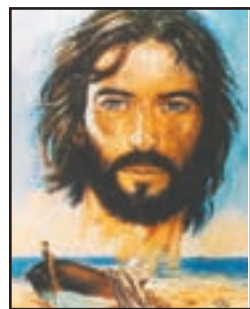
OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Victorious Missionaries is a spiritual support movement for persons with disabilities and chronic illness. The organization was started in 1964 by Fr. John Maronic, O.M.T., an Oblate priest at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in 13clleville, IL. There are eight active VM chapters, one of which is located in Owensboro, KY, called the Prayer of Hope Chapter. They meet at the Wendell Foster Center, 815 Triplett Street in Owensboro, KY.

Victorious Missionaries are ecumenical and welcome people from all faith traditions. They commit and dedicate themselves to God and each other their giftedness, visions, and dreams. They create and foster an atmosphere where ill members are encouraged and empowered to come a deeper understanding of the call to live out of our Gospel Values and bring God's message of love to all people. If you have an interest in being a part of our group, we welcome you.

For more information contact Melvin Fleischmann at 270 686-8472 or Keith Franey at 270 281-5935.

## St. Ambrose Trembling Timbers

It's time once again for the St. Ambrose haunted woods in Henshaw, KY. This is the sixth year that the parishioners of the Church have held this extremely popular fundraiser. The theme of the event this year is "Looking for Lydia." The woods will be open this year on October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, & 29, with an encore presentation on Halloween. The admission is \$10.00 per person and includes a wagon ride, a 1/2 mile walk through the haunted woods, and hot dog, drink, and popcorn once you return to the church. This is our main fundraiser to raise funds for our new Parish hall, please come join in the fun! St. Ambrose is located at 5194 Hwy 270 West, Morganfield, KY. For more information call the St. Ambrose Parish office at 270-333-1832.



# Vocation

## A Listening Heart, United in Christ, Open To The Mystery Of God

### Brother Austin Litke Makes Simple Profession as Dominican

By Larena Lawson

They processed in most reverently, robed in Dominican habit, on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to offer gratitude to Mary for her patronage, intercession, and protection over the Order of Friars Preachers, to which they would soon make profession. In front of Our Lady's Rosary Altar, at St. Gertrude Church in Madiera, Ohio,



**Brother Austin Litke kneels before the Provincial, the Very Rev. Dominic Izzo, O.P. making his Simple Profession as a Dominican, at St. Gertrude Church, Madiera, Ohio, on August 15, 2006. Larena Lawson Photo**

home parish of a priory of the Dominican Friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, the novices offered their praise and devotion to the Blessed Mother chanting, "To you do we come seeking mercy, O Mother of Christ our God. Do not turn away nor despise our prayer, but be pleased to hear this plea. Entreat your Son our God to save our souls."

Brother Austin Litke, native of Holy Name Parish, Henderson, was among the five men who made vows on that beautiful feast day, surrounded by family, friends, parishioners, and fellow brothers in Christ. "The Assumption of Mary is the final confirmation of Mary's fiat, "may it be done unto me according to your word," explains Brother Austin. "Mary is taken up to heaven, body and soul. Just as she gave herself, body and soul, to the will of the Father, we who make vows attempt to do the same and invoke the patronage of Our Lady in order to be able to do so."

A year of Novitiate preparation brought Brother Austin to this special day, a period of time in which he lived the Dominican way of life, a time taken to strip away other distractions and to see what God was calling him to. He participated in the specific prayer of the Order, the chanting of the Liturgy of the Hours together with the community. He integrated study into his life, which is the basis of their "learned preaching" which St. Dominic founded the Order to do. He lived in community and shared all of the aspects of their life together, including meals, recreation, and day-to-day interaction. He was involved in a limited apostolate, his being, working in an inner-city school one day a week all of last year. After the year as a novice was complete, he came to the conclusion that, "As you live a particular way of life for a period of time, it becomes clear whether you belong or you don't. This is by far the greatest vehicle of discernment, actually seeing and living the life to which you possibly feel called."

Brother Austin grew up as Jared Litke, before taking his religious name Austin. He went through all eight years of elementary school in Henderson, at Holy Name Parish, and then attended Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana. Jared felt the call to the priesthood, so after high school he entered college seminary for the Diocese of Owensboro. He was sent to St. John Vianney College Seminary on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he says he had "four outstand-



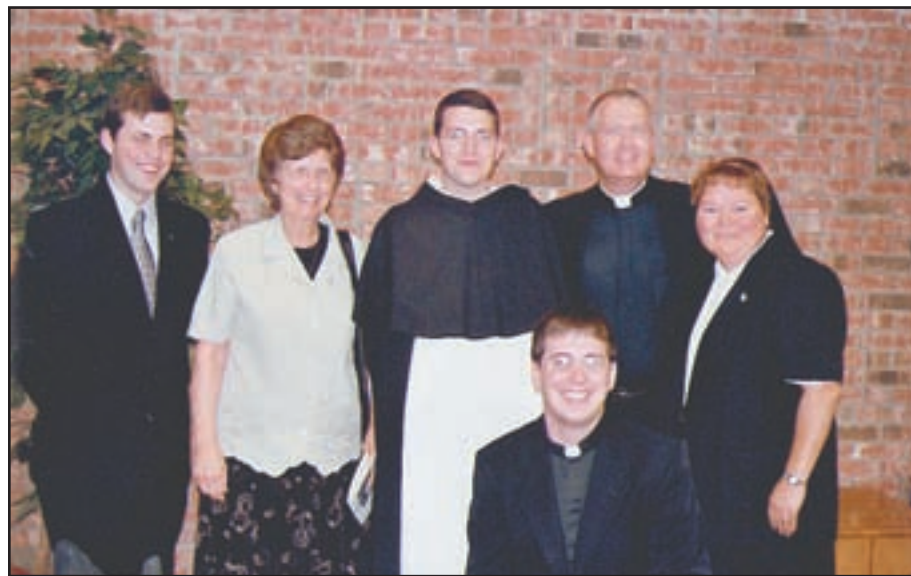
**From left, in front row, Bro. Austin Litke, O.P., and his grandfather Francis Roby; in back row, Bro. Austin's Grandmother Vivian Roby, his mother Nancy Litke, his brother Justin Litke, his father Fred Litke. Larena Lawson Photo**

ing years!" He then moved on to Saint Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana, for one year.

During those five years of study for the diocese he fell in love with community life, prayer, as well as study. Gradually he saw that the sort of life he felt he was called to was something other than diocesan priesthood, and he began to look at other options.

Jared visited several Dominican communities, including the House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He learned that the Dominicans were founded in 1216 by St. Dom-

**Continued on page 11**



**From left, seminarian Mitchell Brazell, Sr. Margaret Ann Aull, OSU, Bro. Austin Litke, O.P., seminarian Daniel Dillard, Father Andy Garner, and Sr. Alicia Coomes, OSU. Larena Lawson Photo**



**Brother Austin (Jared) Litke with Bishop John McRaith during a reception. Larena Lawson Photo**

inic, a Spanish priest. He and his bishop, while on a diplomatic journey encountered a group of heretics in the south of France called the Albigensians. They were both moved to found a group of preachers who could rout out the heresy of the area, which they did. The work of orthodox preaching was in such need throughout the Church, that St. Dominic envisioned an order of “learned preachers” who could move about and effectively preach the truth of Jesus Christ in the world. His followers moved all over Europe, preaching and teaching, and gained many members to the point that it was one of the great Orders of the Middle Ages and ever since.

“The Dominicans presented a unity of life of contemplation and activity, of study, prayer and community life, all guided toward the preaching of truth and the salvation of souls,” says Brother Austin, “and I was greatly attracted to this.” He discovered what he had desired being lived out in an exciting way. Thus he discerned he would become a Dominican and found his way to the foot of the altar and to the Mass of his Simple Profession.

After completing the Entrance Rite and the chanting of their song of praise to Our Lady, Brother Austin, with his fellow Brothers, continued in the celebration of the Holy Mass. The Rite of Profession, which included the Interrogation and Postulation and the Religious Profession, followed the Liturgy of the Word. At the end of the proclamation of the Gospel, the Master of Novices, Rev. Walter Wagner, OP, led the Novices to the center of the altar, before the Provincial, the Very Rev. Dominic Izzo, OP,

where they made a cruciform prostration. Laying prostrate down the center isle, the Brothers stretched their arms in the form of a cross, a total gift of self. “What do you seek?” the Provincial asked. They responded, in unison, “God’s mercy and yours.”

An inspirational homily was delivered by Father Dominic and upon finishing his message he faced those to be professed and asked them if they were resolved to be joined more closely to Christ and the Church by a new title of religious profession? Were they resolved to enter upon the path of perfect charity as gospel men who follow the footsteps of the Savior? And while following Christ, did they wish to live with a single mind and heart in Dominican common life: to faithfully profess the evangelical counsels, to be fervent in prayer, assiduous in study, constant in preaching and persevering in regular observance to the glory of God and the salvation of both themselves and others? To which they all responded, “I am, with God’s help and yours.”

One by one the Brothers then came forward, in front of the holy altar, the Provincial, and those who witnessed their desire to commit to Dominican religious life, and they made their professions, promising their obedience to God, to the Blessed Mother, to Blessed Dominic, to the Provincial and his successors, according to the rule of Blessed Augustine and the institutions of the Friars Preachers, for three years and six months. The Provincial then offered a kiss of peace which signified their reception into the Order and the bond of obedience and communion. Their habits were blessed with holy water and intercessions were offered on their behalf.

The Holy Mass continued, entering into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, to the music of Handel’s Messiah, “How Beautiful Are the Feet of Those Who Preach...,” most appropriate for sharing in the joy of the celebration!

For Brother Austin, “Making vows was a very clear and beautiful moment. Although too many people think making vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty might seem restricting, it is actually very liberating. I know that God will take care of me in a particular way since I have totally dedicated myself to Him and His work.”

Brother Austin’s temporary vows will last 3 years and 6 months and then he will be evaluated as to his readiness for solemn or perpetual vows, after which he could be ordained a deacon. He would stay a transitional deacon for 1 1/2 years and then would be ordained to the priesthood. As he continues striving to do God’s will in his life he moves on to the Priory of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., also called the House of Studies.

Let us keep this son of the Diocese in our prayers.



**Nancy Litke and her father, Francis Roby, during the Profession ceremony of Brother Austin. Larena Lawson Photo**

## O Happy Day!!!

By Larena Lawson

It came in the mail, a surprise invitation that I opened with excitement. “Brother Austin was inviting me to his Simple Profession as a Dominican.” “Wow! He has completed his Novitiate,” I thought. I felt privileged to be invited, and was so glad for him. I had been writing to him and offering prayers for him for some time.

I wondered what it must be like for his family and how they must be feeling. I contacted his mother, Nancy, and with great anticipation they were planning the trip to attend his special day.

Her aged father, Francis, was not in good health and it was not known whether he could go the long distance, but he was very anxious to be there for his grandson. It would not be known until the time came if he would be able to go or not. She was praying for a small miracle.

Over my shoulder I could see Nancy’s eyes glistening with tears as she tried to wipe them away during the ceremony. The joy in her mother’s heart could not be suppressed, as she proudly watched and listened as her oldest son made his profession. O Happy Day!!!

O Happy Day that the Lord had blessed with an answer to her prayers; for her son, and for her father. Francis sat beside her and as he witnessed his grandson give totally of himself as a religious brother, he too could not contain his overwhelming emotion.

When it was all over and they had arrived back home, Francis revealed to Nancy that he had promised the Lord that if he would allow him the strength to go to Brother Austin’s profession that he would never again ask Him for anything. It was that important to him for him and his wife to be there! “For that to be his last request still brings tears to my eyes.” Nancy admits.

As she reflects back on that day, Nancy is now even more aware of the obvious; “we serve an awesome God!” She concludes, “Nothing I have ever done made me deserving of the pride that made my heart feel like it would burst that day, and the joy and thanksgiving we felt to see our son so genuinely happy and content in his quest to answer the Lord’s call—it just doesn’t get any better than that on this earth!”

O Happy Day, when the joy of heaven is made visible on earth, when love manifests itself in a soul, consuming it to the peak of its capacity, enabling it to give totally of itself to the One who called it by name. O Happy Day, when a parent hears their child say “yes” to the Lord. O Happy Day, when a grandparent’s plea to the Lord is granted. O Happy Day, to be a witness to all His mighty handiwork. O Happy Day, when we realize we are abundantly blessed by our awesome God! O Happy Day!!!

## OCHS Football Alumni Honored at Dedication Game for Steele Stadium

The final dedication of Steele Stadium took place on Friday, September 8th at the OCHS football game vs Daviess County. The Football Aces beat Daviess County 35-19. The halftime ceremony, hosted by Jerry Birge, was a special time to honor those who contributed to the stadium and to the OCHS football alumni.

Mrs. Sarah Edge, representing the Steele family, spoke about the excitement of OCHS football and OCHS having its own home field. Wayne Foster, the chair of KWC Board of directors, presented Harold Staples with a plaque and another plaque, which will be posted in the field house. The alumni, ranging from those who played in the 1950s up to the current year, lined the field and were recognized by decade with Jerry summarizing the past successes.

The ceremony concluded players from each decade passing the football to Paul Millay, current senior on the football Aces, and the dropping of the banner, saying "Steele Stadium at Robert 'Bullet' Wilson Field Home of the Owensboro Catholic High School Aces." Thanks to everyone who made the evening so special.



The Owensboro Catholic High School lined up in Steele Stadium Sept. 8 as Bishop John McRaith dedicated the new stadium. Assisting the Bishop were OCHS principal Harold Staples and OCS priest-pastor Father John Vaughan. The Marching Aces placed 1st in Class A out of seven bands at the Heritage Hills Band Competition Sept 9. In addition, the Marching Aces earned: Best Percussion, Best Color Guard, Best Drum Majors, Best General Effect, and Best Visual Performance. Staff Photo



Stewart Ijames, an OCHS senior running back, went airborne over Daviess County tacklers here as the football Aces rolled to victory over Daviess County High School 35-19 Sept. 8 in the Dedication Game of Steele Stadium. Staff Photo



Aces Fans cheering as cheerleaders tossed shirts and footballs into the stands Sept. 8. Staff Photo

## Three National Merit Semi-Finalists Named from OCHS

Congratulations to Margaret Gray, Nicholas Searcy, and Kathleen Thompson for being named National Merit Semi-Finalists. To become a semi-finalist, each had to maintain a record of very high academic performance, be endorsed and recommended by OCHS principal Harold Staples, and earn SAT scores that confirm earlier qualifying test performance.

Margaret Gray is the daughter of Joe and Gabrielle Gray. Nicholas Searcy, the son of Chris and Kim Searcy, is a member of St. Stephen parish. Kathleen Thompson, the daughter of Al and Molly Thompson, is a member of Blessed Mother parish.



The Sept. 8 new stadium dedication ceremony concluded as Mrs. Sarah Edge assisted players from each decade to pass the football to ACES senior tackle Paul Millay. Staff Photo

The Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, Kentucky, are celebrating their 60th year in the Diocese of Owensboro on October 15 of this year. The Passionist Nuns are the contemplative branch of the Passionist Congregation founded by St. Paul of the Cross to remember the Passion and death of Jesus and to promote this memory in the hearts of others.

On May 1, 1946, Mother Mary Agnes Roche, superior of the Passionist community in Scranton (now Clarks Summit), Pennsylvania, had mailed letters to 21 American bishops, asking each if he would be interested in a foundation of contemplative nuns in his diocese. Mother Mary Agnes had told the sisters that the first positive response she received from these letters would be given special attention. When the response—a very positive one—from the bishop of Owensboro, Kentucky, Most Rev. Francis R. Cotton reached Scranton, Mother Mary Agnes was encouraged. She sensed that Owensboro was where God was calling them to make the new foundation, and she saw more than coincidence in the fact that the Bishop's letter was dated May 3. This was the date on which St. Paul of the Cross established the first monastery of Passionist Nuns in Corneto (now Tarquinia), Italy, in 1771.

Bishop Cotton expressed appreciation of Mother Mary Agnes's offer to visit him to discuss a foundation. In his response, he wrote, "We are a missionary diocese to a great extent, and I feel that a really devout contemplative community would bring many blessings on our work." At this time, the diocese was less than 10 years old. The Bishop also mentioned in his letter that he felt sure the community's customary work of the lay women's retreats would find a good response from the women of the Owensboro diocese.

On October 5, 1946, five Passionist Nuns arrived in Owensboro. On October 7, the first Mass was offered on the new site and St. Joseph's Monastery



**The Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery in September 2006. Sitting (left to right): Sr. John Mary Read, Sr. Mary Andrea Niehaus (Novice), Sr. Marie Michael Aull, Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann, Sr. Ann Miriam Mills, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Sauer, Sr. Mary Veronica McKimmy; Second Row Standing (left to right); Sr. Mary Therese Seitz, Sr. Jeanne Marie Petty, Sr. Mary Dolores Hornbeck, Sr. Mary Agnes Higgs, Sr. Mary Beauchemin, Sr. Mary Magdalen Wurth, Sr. Therese Marie Pritchard, Sr. Margaret Mary Mattingly; Not Pictured: Sr. Mary Bernadette Rohling, Sr. Rita Marie Boteler, Sr. Joseph Marie Snyder, Jill Rodts (Postulant). Photos courtesy of the Passionist Nuns.**

was officially established.

By March 1947, the nuns began their hospitality for the laywomen's retreats according to the provision of St. Paul of the Cross in the Rule. This ministry touched the lives of numerous women in the Owensboro diocese and also in Louisville, Evansville, Nashville, and beyond.

Of the five pioneer sisters, Sister Mary Bernadette Rohling is the only one still living. Now 93, and with her health continuing to decline, she entered Carmel Home in Owensboro this past April. There she receives the spiritual benefits of a Catholic environment as well as the medical help she needs.

The first candidate to make vows in the new monastery was Mary Dunnigan, a retired army sergeant from Hazelton, Pennsylvania. The next four candidates to make vows were all from a nearby parish, St. William's in Knottsville, Kentucky! Since then, new members have come from the diocese of Owensboro and other dioceses, including Louisville and Evansville. Currently, there are seventeen professed members, one novice and one postulant.

In 1989, in response to a Church document, the sisters planned to renovate their chapel in order to facilitate fuller participation of the laity in their liturgical celebrations. It became clear, however, that such renovation would be impossible in their existing structure in Owensboro. In addition, if they were to offer the lay retreat hospitality, there must be space

for a small but separate retreat house in a more appropriate environment. Furthermore, nearby industries, increasing traffic, and city noise were encroaching on the silent atmosphere of the Monastery. Thus, in 1991, the sisters found themselves making a decision they had never expected to make: to look for land suitable for a new monastery and retreat house.

After much searching, a site was found on Crisp Road near Whitesville, Kentucky. With four years of planning and building, the new monastery was finally completed. The sisters, with the help of numerous friends, moved into their new home on December 21, 1995.

Having settled into the new monastery, the sisters were able to open the retreat house to women and men seeking a brief oasis of silence and solitude to be alone with God. The nuns continue to fulfill their vocation to honor the Passion and death of Jesus and to help others remember this supreme act of God's eternal love for humanity. They seek to imitate Mary, who devoted herself totally to the Person and work of her Son. Through their hidden

**Continued on page 18**



**Our new monastery in Whitesville, Kentucky - a memorial to the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus!**

## Nazareth Picnic Refreshing For Body and Soul

By Diddy (Buckman) Hagman

NAZARETH, Ky. - Sister Mary Eula Johnson, SCN, a native of Saint Lawrence, Ky., invited me to reflect on a Nazareth picnic trip of August 26 for some Western Kentucky Catholics. Here is my good-faith effort. A friend prompted me to the annual picnic (of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth). Immediately I began to withdraw from my bank account of memories and said yes as the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth are of great significance in my life. Why?

Our mother graduated from junior college there in 1927, just two years before uniting in Holy Matrimony with our father. The oldest girl in our family entered the novitiate in 1951. The Sisters of Charity taught us from grades one through 12 at St. Agnes, Uniontown. They molded us in our Catholicity and their teaching skills were of excellence. In this small school we seemed to get individual attention. Being young.. we weren't thrilled about that. Discipline was of the essence at school as well as in our family of ten. We probably weren't thrilled about that either. In later years, and now, I realize lessons learned for a lifetime.

About the picnic: The day offered lightheartedness, delightful food, a variety of entertainment, and quality fellowship. The Sisters were everywhere with their smiles and organized to guide us and keep us on track, just as in school days. How great that there was an information booth to learn about the Sisters of Charity. I even located my first grade teacher. For years, I have the privilege to write to my eighth grade teacher who even now extends her SCN ministry to me with her holy wisdom.

Off I went to have my fortune told for 50 cents. My friends said that is a no-no. My response was "The fortune teller will probably quote scripture, after all, we are on sacred ground." As it ended, I don't know who told whose fortune, we only shared about our fives.

I recalled the marks of the Sisters of Chailty of Nazareth are simplicity, humility, and charity, and it was evident still on this special day. We were given some history of the SCN's who were first fruits of religious orders in Kentucky. Now there are thousands at rest in their cemetery. I reflected on essence of life on earth into

eternal life. Also I recalled the sisters instilled in us even in third grade to pray for religious vocations. That lives on.

I hope this August 26th picnic was beneficial for the Sisters of Charity in every way it could possibly be. It certainly was rewarding for many, refreshing our bodies and our souls. Thank you, God, for the heritages of faith, family, friends, and the SCNs.

I close with this: "A laugh filled with joy is a prayer, pleasing and praising God." WE LAUGHED.



Elsie O'Bryan, left, and Sister Margaret Spalding Wathen, SCN., renewing long-term friendship. Photo by Diddy Hagman



Members of the Meserve family of St. William Parish, Knottsville, Ky., enjoyed a picnic supper with Sister Margaret Roderiski, SCN, at center rear, who assisted in the adoption of



Sister Barbara Peterson, center, joins cloggers at the Nazareth Picnic. SCN Photo, www.scnfamily.org

Natasha, third from left, from Bombay, India. Frances and Bill Meserve are at left of their daughter Natasha. Gladys Nunes, Wanda Meserve Lanham, and Diddle joined the celebration during the SCN Picnic 2006. SCN Photo, www.scnfamily.org

## Prayers answered for YOUR SOURCE Bookstore



Marcy Allman and Ellen Aud

The Western Kentucky Catholic

OWENSBORO, Ky. - "You are an answer to prayer," exclaimed Marcy Allman when Ellen Aud came to see her about buying YOUR SOURCE Inspirational Book & Gift Shop in Owensboro. The opportunity seemed an answer to prayer for Ellen, too. Having been very involved in parish life in the past, she had spent the last four years caring for family. Ready again to serve the church outside her home, Ellen became the new proprietor of YOUR SOURCE at 1924 Triplett Street on September 8, 2006.

A story in the February issue of the WKC had announced that two stores serving the Catholic communities of Owensboro and Paducah were both for sale. After years of store closings, Owensboro has decided to follow the tradition set in Paducah of passing ownership to the next person who heard "that still small voice" calling to serve the church in this unique way.

"God has answered my prayers for you," responded one of the priests when Marcy shared her good news. Repeatedly, she has heard the same message from countless friends of the store. So, as Marcy prepares to follow where the Spirit will lead her next, she says, "I want to thank all of you who have supported YOUR SOURCE for the past five years and have prayed to help us find a buyer. Please help Ellen keep the vision going of "specializing in Catholic resources and serving many traditions."

## Kathy Kneer's Student: "I think she deserves the Teacher of the Year award."



**Kathy Kneer, 6th Grade Teacher at Saint Mary Middle School, Paducah, was selected as the 2006 Catholic Educator of the Year. Kathy has spent all of her 27 years of teaching in the McCracken County Catholic Schools. Staff Photo**

### Special To The Western Kentucky Catholic

PADUCAH, Ky. - The Catholic Diocese of Owensboro has named St. Mary Middle School teacher Kathy Kneer its "Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year" for 2005-06 school year. The award was presented to Mrs. Kneer by Mr. Jim Mattingly, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, at the dioceses' annual In-Service Day in Henderson on July 28.

Kneer was nominated by parents of her 6th-grade math and English students, based on her commitment as an educator, her Christian example, and her interpersonal relationships with students, parents and colleagues. Her nomination was supported with letters of recommendation from parents, students and former students, fellow teachers, principal Rosann Whiting and St. Mary School System Director Patrick Cairney. Endorsements included a letter from Kneer's son Joey, a former student of hers who is himself a first-year high school math teacher in St. Louis, Mo. Joey said that his decision to teach was "partially inspired" by his mother's dedication to the profession. He also stated that "the (classroom teaching) model I use the most is the one I witnessed first-hand."

Kneer was also lauded by her peers. Catharine Lutz, St. Mary 7th & 8th grade mathematics teacher, considers herself qualified to evaluate Mrs. Kneer, since Lutz "inherits Kneer's previous year's students each fall. Among

other accolades, Lutz observed, "Thanks to her dedication my job...is made much easier ... Mrs. Kneer is proud to be a part of St. Mary... (she is) a wonderful example of Christianity.... (she has) high expectations... (and the) ability to adapt to the changing needs of her students... every class is different... everything she does is new and exciting to her 6th-graders".]

Student Josh Meredith wrote, "I had Mrs. Kneer in sixth grade, and she is a great teacher... she helped me... it was hard, and a lot different than fifth grade. I think she deserves the Teacher of the Year award."

Parents Lucy and Tony Milliano said, "Mrs. Kneer has been a tremendous minister to (their daughter Nicole)... a constant means of support... instilled confidence... patient and encourages independence... popular among parents and a favorite of... students".

Superintendent Jim Mattingly praised her, saying, "Kathy Kneer's Dedication to teaching is exemplary. I am confident I speak for all diocesan school educators in saying that it's an honor to be called her colleague."

Kathy herself is pretty underwhelmed with Kathy. She stated, "I have been blessed to teach in Catholic schools for my entire 27-year career. I started at St. John's, and have now been at St. Mary for 15 years. Someone mentioned that I was being nominated (for the award) some time ago, and I was very flattered. Just that anyone thought enough of me to do that was, to me, something to be grateful for. I hadn't forgotten it completely, but I never really thought I'd win, so I kind of put it aside and didn't think or dream of it again until I was selected. It was, therefore, a complete surprise. I am thrilled and honored, and I just hope I can live up to the embarrassing things people said."

St. Mary Development Director Al McKeown pointed out that this marks the second consecutive year that St. Mary has produced the Owensboro Diocese's Educator of the Year. Additionally, Wal-Mart named St. Mary Elementary teacher Cecelia Farrell its area-wide Teacher-of-the-Year winner, and the Daughters of the American Revolution selected St. Mary High School teacher Laura Lambert as Outstanding History Teacher. "Coupled with the success of our schools' academic and athletic teams and the highest standardized test scores in Paducah and McCracken County, we had a pretty good year."



## Rosary Walk Dedication October 8

James Hagan with Circle C Contracting smoothes concrete on the new Rosary Walk which is currently under construction at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center in Maple Mount. Dedication of the Rosary Walk will take place on Sunday, October 8, at 2 p.m. Part of the rosary will be prayed at the dedication. The public is invited -- all are welcome.

Personalized bricks and other sponsorships are still being accepted. To make a donation, contact Sister Amelia Stenger at 229-0200, ext. 401, or [astenger@maplemount.org](mailto:astenger@maplemount.org). More information can be found online at [www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org).

## 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



Father John Vaughan, left, and OCHS Principal Harold Staples assisted Bishop John McRaith during the dedication of Steele Stadium, the ACES' new home football field in Owensboro on the campus of Kentucky Wesleyan College Sept. 8, 2006. Staff Photo

## 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 VIII.

By Rev. Benjamin F. Luther

There is an old Latin adage that tells us, "repetitio est mater studiorum," - "repetition is the mother of studies." We pause in our series on the life of the founding Bishop of our diocese and recap the assignments he received as divine providence prepared him for his ultimate vocation in our diocese; we will also add a bit of the history of what became our Cathedral St. Stephen's Church, and the rectory there that provided the first residence of Bishop Francis R. Cotton.

So, we now review the life of Bishop Cotton as we approach the beginning of the Owensboro Diocese. Please recall that he was born in Bardstown, Kentucky, on September 19, 1895, the son of Charles R. Cotton and Mary (nee Moore) Cotton. Charles Cotton was in business in Bardstown for many years, operating a funeral home, and later a dry goods and clothing business, Lewis & Cotton.

Francis Cotton's mother died in his early years. At the time of his appointment to be the first Bishop of Owensboro, his father was living in Seattle, Washington. At that time, his two sisters were living, too - Mrs. Harry Lobeley, resided in Seattle, and Mrs. Louise Jones, in San Francisco, California. All three attended his installation in the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Owensboro.

Francis Ridgely Cotton was baptized, and made his first Communion, offered his first Mass as a priest and first Solemn Pontifical Mass as Bishop, in the proto-cathedral of St. Joseph, the first cathedral west of the Alleghenies, built by Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget in 1819. He began his education at the Bethlehem Academy in Bardstown. His first priesthood studies were at Valley Field Seminary in the Province of Quebec, Canada, then at St. Meinrad's Preparatory Seminary in Indiana, and he completed studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and the Sulpician Seminary in Washington, D.C.. He graduated at the head of his class and received his M.A. degree Summa Cum Laude. He was ordained to the holy priesthood in the chapel of the Sulpician Seminary on June 17, 1920, by the Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Bishop of Duluth (later, Archbishop of Cincinnati).

His first parish assignment was at St. Joseph's proto-cathedral in Bardstown, for a brief time, followed by St. Cecilia's in Louisville, and then St. Francis de Sales in Paducah. From his Paducah assignment, he was called in 1926 by John A. Floresch, Bishop of Louisville, to be his Secretary and Assistant Chancellor of the diocese, and later as Chancellor. He was resident in a Louisville parish for a brief time, then took up residence in the household of Bishop Floresch in 1926, where he lived until March 7, 1938. In addition to chancery office duties, he also served as customary auxiliary help in Louisville parishes on weekends for Masses and hearing confessions.

The assignment in the Louisville Chancery was also interrupted for several years by studies in Rome, to earn a degree in Canon Law. This was near the time of his appointment as the first Bishop of Owensboro.

As our reflections on the life of Bishop Cotton brought us near to the time when the diocese was created, we need to pause again and mention a few facts about the parish church destined to be the Cathedral of the new diocese, St. Stephen, in Owensboro.

St. Stephen's Parish in Owensboro is the oldest church in the city. It is not the



oldest in Daviess County, however, for that honor goes to St. Lawrence Church near Knottsville. The history of St. Stephen's began with the evangelistic work of the "patriarch of western Kentucky," Father Elisha J. Durbin, who came to Owensboro in about 1824 and located a few Catholic families there, for whom he provided Mass and Sacraments, validated marriages, blessed graves, and gave children First Holy Communion. The first "church" was the home of William Coombs, who lived at what became Second and Cedar Streets, the location of the first St. Stephen's Church, where construction began in 1839. When completed, the new church was dedicated by Father McGill, the pastor, who was appointed to bless the church; the Bishop did not, as travel long distance was difficult.

The new parish grew rapidly. On October 9, 1848, Bishop Martin J. Spalding, on a pastoral visitation, observed that the church was too small to accommodate the number of parishioners, and he ordered that the pastor and people should begin planning to expand the structure. The sum of \$1,500 was raised to that end (a considerable amount in the dollars of the time); work on the extension of the church began immediately, but due to problems, the project was not completed until 1856. By that time, the parish was heavily in debt, but that was retired in just two years, and the completed church was blessed by Bishop Spalding on May 30, 1858. This church building served the parish well until the erection of the present St. Stephen's Church on Locust Street, blessed on September 6, 1926. The original St. Stephen's Church was an Owensboro landmark. It was razed in August, 1931. The Don Moore car dealership is located at the place today.

As mentioned in installment 7 of our series, a new rectory was needed for St. Stephen's, and the pastor (as of 1935), Father Albert J. Thompson, at the direction of Bishop Floresch, drew plans and presented them to the Louisville Bishop for approval a short time before the creation of the new diocese. The old rectory stood where the present parish offices are located, to the right of the Cathedral - the office building was originally built as the convent for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, who taught in the Cathedral Grade School. The new rectory, still extant, was built in a vacant lot to the left of St. Stephen's Cathedral. Where the present Pastoral Center stands, there was a handsome yellow brick two-story house; I lived there during the summer months as a seminarian while I worked at the Field Packing Company loading trucks. The house and lot there were purchased by Bishop Soenneker for the parish and the Cathedral Grade School was erected there. I had a summer job there during construction, working for Hartz and Kirkpatrick; I recall pouring concrete on the second floor!

After the Cathedral Grade School was closed for several years, in the tenure of the Most Rev. John J. McRaith, the Third Bishop of Owensboro, the diocese purchased the school building from the Cathedral in order to provide office spaces for the Bishop of Owensboro, the Diocesan Curia, and other offices for the service of the diocese, moving the administration of the Owensboro Diocese from 4003/5 Frederica Street, where it had been situated by Bishop Cotton a short time before his death, to 600 Locust Street, where it remains today.

Bishop Cotton first resided in the Cathedral rectory. After several years, he purchased a house at 1535 Frederica in Owensboro, his residence for the remainder of his days. He died there in 1960.



## An Invitation to Respect All Human Life



Most of us probably take for granted (at least some of the time) that we are created, loved and redeemed by God. Yet, distracted as we are by the noise and activities of daily life, we need to make time to reflect on this central truth of life – and the answer to the universal human question: Who am I, and what am I doing here?

When our ancestors in faith lost their moral and spiritual bearings, Jesus took on human flesh to show us the radical nature of God's love. His love is far from being passive, generic or abstract. It is not just a kindly feeling toward others. Jesus' love was personal, passionate and self-giving.

He showed us by example, as well as through parables, what God expects of us. At the Last Supper, he told the apostles: "This is my commandment: Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). Jesus was not speaking of affectionate feelings that we have for family and friends. The model of love by which we will be measured, according to the parable of the Last Judgment (cf. Mt 25: 31-46), is that of the righteous who visited prisoners, and fed, clothed, welcomed and cared for the needy and strangers. They were serving Christ in the needy and will "inherit the kingdom prepared for [them] from the foundation of the world" (Mt 25: 34).

As Christians, then, each one of us is called, to the best of his or her ability, to be involved in:

- personal, concrete and practical acts of kindness toward those whom God puts in our paths;
- organized charitable activities, through personal service and/or financial support;
- working toward a just ordering of society by taking part in public life to help ensure that laws and policies respect the lives and dignity of all, especially those who are most vulnerable (Pope Benedict XVI, *God Is Love*).

Most of us, even if we slip up more often than we care to admit, understand the importance of treating all with kindness. We understand the need to work with the Church's charities serving those in need, whether we do so by donating our time or our financial support.

But we are called to do more. As the U.S. Catholic bishops explained in *Living the Gospel of Life*: "The common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination" (no. 19, quoting *Christifideles Laici*, 38). In other words, talk about the value of human life and the sacredness of human dignity can become empty platitudes unless we act on our convictions.

Today the intentional destruction of human life at its beginning and at its end have become the preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself.

- well over a million children are aborted every year in the United States alone; some are killed by methods so brutal society would not tolerate their use against defenseless animals. The reasons given for undergoing abortion are overwhelmingly social reasons.
- Abortion harms women as well. Some die (not just the publicized deaths from RU-486), and others are scarred physically and emotionally. Increasing numbers of women are speaking out about the years of grief and depression that followed their abortions.
- Scientists destroy human embryos to harvest their stem cells – perhaps convincing themselves that the killing is outweighed by potential cures. Some are trying to clone

human embryos to use in research. These unethical efforts continue despite impressive medical successes in treating patients with adult stem cells, including those from umbilical cord blood, and despite the fact that potential cures from embryonic stem cells remain theoretical. Several states have even begun to fund unethical cloning and embryo research with taxpayer funds.

• Increasingly it is argued that assisted suicide and euthanasia are appropriate treatments for the very old and for those with mental or physical disabilities. In the U.S., Oregon is the only state to have legalized assisted suicide, but other states are being urged to follow suit. Legal euthanasia and assisted suicide are spreading across Europe.

No amount of good social policy, such as programs that feed the hungry and shelter the homeless – as vitally important as they are – can make up for bad policies concerning the protection of life itself. Without the fundamental right to live, the right to not be killed, no other rights are meaningful. In fact, without life no other rights can exist.

Pope Benedict reminds us in *God Is Love* that, as Catholics, we are called to make God's love present in the world. He noted that the bishops "help form consciences in political life and stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice" (no. 28). But, he emphasized, it is the responsibility of the laity to work for a "just ordering of society" and "to take part in public life in a personal capacity" (no. 29).

In other words, it is up to Catholic laypeople to participate directly in public life, helping to enact laws and policies that respect the lives of all, especially those who have no voice—unborn children, human embryos targeted for destructive research, and those who are cognitively impaired, disabled or dying.

Whether we are writing letters to elected representatives, voting, campaigning, or simply providing friends and colleagues with solid information about the grave moral issues of our day, our participation in American public life should at all times be guided by this fundamental truth: each one of us—including those with whom we strongly disagree—is created, loved and redeemed by God. We, and they, are priceless in his eyes.

By speaking the truth about human life in love, we can help build a society that protects and respects every human life, born and unborn, and better reflects our status as children of God.

## Coming To Our Diocese ... October 28, 2006 (Respect Life Month) Professor Janet Smith Theology Of The Body

Professor Janet Smith holds the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She is the author of *Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later*, editor of *Why Humanae Vitae Was Right: A Reader* and of many articles on ethical and bioethics issues. Prof. Smith taught for nine years at the University of Notre Dame and twelve years at the University of Dallas. She speaks nationally and internationally on the several issues, especially the Catholic Church's teaching on sexuality. Prof. Smith has received the Haggard Teaching Award from the University of Dallas, the Profile Person of the Year from the Diocese of Dallas, and the Cardinal Wright Award from the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars. Over 750,000 copies of her tape, *Contraception: Why Not*, have been distributed (available from One More Soul 800-307-7685). She is serving a second term as a consultant to the Pontifical Council on the Family.

Professor Smith will be at Brescia University on Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 10:00am-3:00pm (Science Lecture Hall). Her talk will be on the Theology of the Body.

This is sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro Family Life Office; Youth Ministry Office; Religious Education; Catholic Schools and Ongoing Formation of Priest. This will be free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided. Registration will begin at 9:00am in the Science Lecture Hall.

## Passionist Nuns Celebrate 60 Years In Diocese Of Owensboro

(Continued from page 13)



Open House Day, October 7, 1946

### Serra District Governor Toots Owensboro Serrans' Horns

By Larena Lawson

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Serran Ralph Williams, Serra International District Governor, from Louisville, felt it an "honor and privilege to speak to fellow Serrans." He was the guest program speaker for Owens-



Serra International District Governor Ralph Williams, from Louisville, addressed the Owensboro Serra Club to "toot their horn," keeping up their good work in prayer for vocations throughout the diocese. Lois Rutigliano photo

boro Serra Club's August 25th luncheon at Ryan's Family Steakhouse. He said that he has seen awesome things in their club, with their numerous programs. He thinks that all clubs need to work on them. He especially made a point to tell them that they were "smoking" Louisville, having 4 times as many seminarians in formation as they have, with the Owensboro Diocese having 14. He thinks it can be attributed to some of the programs that Serrans implement, such as Adopt a Priest, Scoop for Vocations, Corpus Christi Ice Cream Social, Vocation Essay Contest, Appreciation Luncheons, Holy Hours for Vocations, etc.

"These are things that make Serra great," Williams said. They are ways of "planting seeds in our youth and encouraging them to do good deeds and show courage." He believes that these virtues sown will come back tenfold, even if they don't become priests or religious. These seeds planted early may bear fruit later on in the lives of these young people.

"There has been a democratic study done for the Diocese of Louisville," Williams shared, "asking questions such as, how many priests are needed? How many parishes? Are churches shrinking? No one ever asked the question, where do we get the priests? Until now. Serra has always asked that question. Serra plants seeds early. Serra has been there, with conviction, saying, 'Here I am Lord, send me.' You've answered the call through Serra."

Williams closed in saying that "too many times, we don't toot our own horns." So he brought horns to toot, and toot them he did. He commended Ow-

lives of poverty, prayer, solitude, and penance, they place themselves at the service of the Church, so that all may share the fullness of Christ's redemption.

It is with joy and praise to God that the sisters of St. Joseph's Monastery announce the celebration of their 60th anniversary on Oct. 15, 2006. Mother Catherine Marie, superior, and all the sisters give thanks for being chosen to plant the Cross of Jesus more deeply in the soil of the Owensboro diocese. They thank God for the warm welcome and constant support of Bishop Cotton, which his two successors, Bishop Henry J. Soenneker and Bishop John J. McRaith, continued with ultimate generosity. The sisters appreciate that each bishop has expressed his faith in the spiritual fruitfulness of their contemplative vocation for the diocese and the entire Church. Finally, they are deeply grateful for the spiritual and temporal support of the clergy, religious and the many people who make their continuing presence possible. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered in the monastery chapel on Sunday, October 15.

On this special occasion, we make the words of our founder, St. Paul of the Cross, our own: "Let every spirit praise the Lord!"

And let all creatures magnify the infinite mercies of that great God who has deigned to bring to a conclusion this work which is entirely His, using the care, diligence, and charitable labors of yourself and others, for all of whom the Great Giver of every good gift has prepared riches of inestimable merit for time and eternity, because of the many souls who will be saved.



Foundresses with helpers: Students from St. Frances Academy help Sr. Jeanne Marie and Sr. Frances Marie sort the donated food.

We will pour forth our hearts as much as possible before the Most High at the holy altar and in all of our prayers, in order to keep in memory [our] benefactors who have brought about so much good for us."



Foundresses of the Passionist Nuns in the Owensboro diocese: I-r: Sr. Frances Marie Livoti, Sr. Mary Bernadette Rohling, Mother Mary Agnes Roche, Sr. Jeanne Marie Wehmhoefer and Sr. Mary Cecilia Taylor. Photos courtesy of the Passionist Nuns.

ensboro Serrans on the "tremendous job" they have done, on their double digit growth in members, and encouraged them to "keep their energy level up."

Look for Serrans to encourage all Catholics to keep up the good work of fostering, encouraging, and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Serrans ask all Western Ky. Catholics to pray for Father Andy Garner, Diocesan Vocations Director, and Bishop John McRaith who are faithfully dedicated to helping young men through their process of discernment, and are now seeing the fruit of their zealous efforts for all who are in formation for priesthood and religious life, who hear God's call and answer it, giving totally of themselves in response to His will for their lives.

## The Importance Of Pre-adoption Counseling

By Betty Medley

I have been working with adoption for almost five years now and during this time I have had the privilege of meeting some wonderful people. I have had the opportunity to help counsel young women who are dealing with a crisis pregnancy and sometime have contemplated an abortion.

Through working with these young women I help prepare them for their loss. Making a decision about their baby is difficult because this is an emotional decision with lifelong repercussions for them, their unborn child, and others. It helps to discuss their decision with a trained, unbiased counselor who can give them information on all the options and help weigh them. The most important part is that this be their decision without pressure from others, because it is they who will have to live with the decision, not those around them.

When unwanted pregnancy occurs, there are stages a person will go through:

Shock - the first stage, when you first realize that you are pregnant.

You wonder “why me?” Of course it, “couldn’t happen to me!” You are fooled with feelings of fear, panic, anger, sadness, guilt, despair or desperation. Emotions can be overwhelming. You should be aware that depression and thoughts of suicide can arise, so be sure to find someone to support you through this difficult time. If you have no one to turn to, call your local crisis line for help. You will need to grasp what is happening.

Denial- thinking and acting as if something does not exist-is a common experience and an important defense against emotional pain. You may try to put off the inevitable for as long as possible. Denial is useful only for a short while, however, to give you time to sort out your feelings and thoughts. Denial of the pregnancy prevents you from exploring the alternative. Prolonged denial can limit the options open to you. Denial of your pregnancy also interferes with getting adequate prenatal care, which may affect your unborn child, as well as leaving you with guilt feelings later in life.

Facing the facts is inevitable. Before you can accept your pregnancy you may do a great deal of crying. You may fear what is ahead, but once you accept your pregnancy then you can begin to plan for the future. Facing the facts means telling those around you. You can then allow people to reach out to you and help you through this difficult time.

Decision making occurs as you think through the various alternatives open to you. There is no easy answer; all the choices are difficult. You will need to find out as much as possible about all of them and examine both the immediate and long term consequences of each choice. Reaching a decision helps bring order out of the confusion that you have experienced until this point.

If you or someone you know is going through an untimely pregnancy and needs help please call Catholic Charities and we can discuss your options and walk with you on this journey. Contact 1-877-803-5064.

### 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, will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center on November 11, 2006. This program is designed to address the critical issues of a second marriage and to offer an opportunity to establish a solid foundation for a new relationship. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. and closes with liturgy at 5:00 p.m. If you would like more information, please contact Betty Medley or [betty.medley@pastoral.org](mailto:betty.medley@pastoral.org).

### WHOLE AGAIN

The Whole Again Support Group Of The Diocese Of Owensboro Is Sponsoring A Halloween Dance On Friday, October 27, 2006 From 7:30 P.m. – 12:30a.m. In The Basement Of The Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Ky

Costume Is Optional. \$3.00 Per Person Bring beverage of choice, and Snack Food For More Information Contact , Betty Medley 270-683-1545 Ext. 357, Or Charlotte Hedges 270-683-1545 Ext. 346



The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2006 19

## Body Language

*A commentary on the intersection of faith, sex and culture with Christopher West*

### An Open Letter to Sarah, the 29-year-old Virgin

The media has been hyping a story lately about a 29-year-old woman named Sarah who contacted JANE magazine to help her find the right guy with whom to lose her virginity before her 30th birthday on Nov. 7. My column this week is an open letter to her.

Dear Sarah,

I’ve been reading about you and your 30th birthday wish in the media. I’m sure JANE magazine is setting you up with many men who are ready and willing to help you. I have a man in mind as well, and I think he can fulfill your longing for love beyond what you’d ever think or imagine. Before I tell you who, though, I’d like to reflect a bit about what I’d guess your birthday wish is really all about.

You’re about to turn 30. My wife and I actually share your birthday. (Yes, I married someone with the same birthday as I — it must have been “written in the stars.”) Thirty is a big one. You can’t hide any longer from the fact that you’re an adult. And you’re an adult who has yet to experience what the whole world is talking about. You probably feel like you’re missing out.

But what is the whole world “talking about” anyway? Sex, of course — but only a certain kind of sex. The whole world is talking about sex of the pornographic variety. Is this really what you want? What is fast food compared with a glorious banquet? What is cheap wine compared with a vintage Bordeaux?

This may sound strange, but when I was a kid I thought Kraft Macaroni & Cheese — you know, the stuff in the box with the fluorescent orange powder — was the real deal. That, in my uninformed mind, was macaroni and cheese. It wasn’t until I was about 12 and my grandmother served a hot-baked casserole full of elbow macaroni smothered with a conglomeration of about 359 different melted cheeses that I realized Kraft was a cheap imitation. My world was turned upside down. I’d been deceived. Gyped. Cheated.

My point is that we don’t recognize the imitation until we’re presented with the real thing. Sex of the pornographic variety is not the real thing! But it’s the only thing on display in our culture, so most people don’t know of anything different.

I know you said in an interview that you’re not “all that religious.” I take that to mean you have at least some faith, but it doesn’t really guide you that much. Hey, I can relate. Most people’s religious upbringing does a great job teaching them that God is out to keep us from the real joys in life. As Billy Joel put it, “I’d rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints/the sinners are much more fun.” There are a lot of joyless religious people out there who give religion a bad name. I love St. Theresa of Avila’s prayer: “Lord, save us from sour-puss saints.” Amen to that!

I have no desire to shove religion down your throat or give you a “thou shalt not” lecture. But I do want to share with you what I have come to discover about God’s gloriously awesome, wondrously stellar plan for sex. When we reclaim the biblical story from the puritans, ya know what we discover? God made sex — that is, he created us male and female and calls us to this intimate union — as a foreshadowing of the eternal bliss that awaits us in heaven. Yes, it’s true. I’m not joking. This is what all the greatest Christian saints and mystics have always understood.

But here’s the deal: the union of man and woman will only point us to heaven if it really participates in God’s love, if it’s a real expression of God’s love. Beware, Sarah. There are a million and one imitation loves on the market. God’s love is the real “macaroni and cheese” so to speak. And God’s love is a committed love. It’s forever.

Don’t settle for the cheap stuff.

So the man I want to suggest for you, the only man who can fulfill your desire for love, if you haven’t already guessed, is Jesus. He is God’s love poured out in the flesh, and he longs to live in intimate union with you. As a bridegroom longs for his bride, he longs for you.

## 2006 Sophia Award-

By Ginny Knight-Simon

The 2006 Sophia Awards Mass celebration for outstanding seniors citizens from all over the Diocese was held on Sunday September 17, 2006 at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. In front of a full church, the Most Reverend Bishop, John J. McRaith, presented 47 Sophia Award trophies this year, either to the winner or family of the winning recipient.

The choir from Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, under the direction of Heather

Hayden lent their "heavenly" voices to fill the church with a joyful sound to complete the celebration.



**Sophia Award recipients present for the Sept. 17, 2006, ceremony in the Cathedral posed with Bishop John McRaith. Staff Photo**

"This is one of the most wonderful celebrations we have here as a Diocese." Bishop McRaith commented. "To have all these years of wisdom under one roof is quite extraordinary."

The Sophia Award Mass and reception is a very well attended annual event as it brings generations of family together to recognize the importance of age and faith.

## 2006 Sophia Award Winners

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Blessed Mother – Owensboro           | J. B. Cecil                   |
| 2. Blessed Sacrament Chapel – Owensboro | Bernice Williams              |
| 3. Christ the King – Madisonville -     | Larry & Rita McBride          |
| 4. Christ The King – Scottsville        | Jack & Diane Beeckler         |
| 5. Holy Name of Jesus – Henderson       | Jean Pagragan                 |
| 6. Holy Spirit – Bowling Green          | Tom & Mary Gaietto            |
| 7. Immaculate Parish – Owensboro        | Joe & Rita Wedding            |
| 8. Immaculate Conception – Hawesville   | Houston & Betty Brickey       |
| 9. Our Lady of Lourdes – Owensboro      | Joan Marie Collins            |
| 10. Sacred Heart – Hickman              | Peggy O'Connor                |
| 11. Sacred Heart – Waverly              | Eugene & Miladean Wolfe       |
| 12. St. Agnes – Uniontown               | Fred & Mary Eckmans           |
| 13. St. Alphonsus – St. Joseph          | Mary Louise Blandford         |
| 14. St. Ambrose – Henshaw               | Joker & Jo Sheffer            |
| 15. St. Ann – Morganfield               | TIE<br>Adrian & Mary F. Wolfe |
| 16. St. Anthony – Axtel                 | Frank Livers Posthumously     |
| 17. St. Anthony – Peonia                | William & Merline Long        |
| 18. St. Anthony – Utica                 | Lawrence & Ruth Powell        |
| 19. St. Augustine – Grayson Springs     | Simon & Rita Wink             |
| 20. St. Augustine – Reed                | Lillian & Charles H. White    |
| 21. St. Benedict – Wax                  | Betty Davis                   |
| 22. St. Elizabeth – Curdsville          | Carmel & Odaline Clemons      |
| 23. St. Francis Borgia – Sturgis        | Lockie Mattingly              |
| 24. St. John the Baptist- Fordsville    | Eula Drane                    |
| 25. St. Joseph – Mayfield               | Martha Payne                  |
| 26. St. Joseph – Bowling Green          | Charles & Aline Courtney      |
| 27. Sts. Joseph & Paul – Owensboro      | Russell Below                 |
| 28. St. Leo – Murray                    | Richard & Rita Stiff          |
| 29. St. Martin – Rome                   | Estelle Paulin                |
| 30. St. Mary Magdalene – Sorgho         | Mary Sublett                  |
| 31. St. Mary of the Fields – La Center  | Vincent & Mary Phoebe Ebelhar |
|   | Bill & Lena Quarles           |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 32. St. Mary of the Woods – Franklin    | Dean L. Henderson & Sharon A. Henderson |
| 33. St. Mary of the Woods – McQuady     | Robert Bland                            |
| 34. St. Mary of the Woods – Whitesville | Louis & Nora Edge                       |
| 35. St. Michael the Archangel-Oak Grove | Bernard & Mollie Canby                  |
| 36. St. Paul – Princeton                | Elizabeth Berton                        |
| 37. St. Peter Alcantara – Stanley       | Hugh & Betty Cecil                      |
| 38. St. Peter of Antioch – Waverly      | Dorothy Buckman                         |
| 39. Sts. Peter & Paul – Hopkinsville    | Anne Garnett                            |
| 40. St. Pius X – Calvert City           | Louis & Marilyn Stockbridge             |
| 41. St. Pius X – Owensboro              | Margaret Jones Mattingly                |
| 42. St. Romuald – Hardinsburg           | Mack & Delores Mattingly                |
| 43. St. Sebastian – Calhoun             | Elizabeth Durbin                        |
| 44. St. Stephen – Cadiz                 | Claude & Dennie Mergenthal              |
| 45. St Stephen Cathedral – Owensboro    | Joseph & Claudine Blandford             |
| 46. St. William of Vercelli – Marion    | James & Carolyn Mathieu                 |

## Fall Wisdom Day!

Make your reservations now to attend the 2nd annual Fall Day of Wisdom at St. Thomas More Parish Hall, 5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY

Monday, November 6, 2006

Sign in begins at 8:15 a.m.

Program starts 9:00 a.m.

Featured speaker: Roberta Davis, MA.

Information Coordinator University of Kentucky Alzheimer's Disease Center, Sander's-Brown Center on Aging in Lexington, KY Day ends with Mass at 1:15 pm.

To make reservation call:

Ginny Knight-Simon @ 270-683-1545 or email:  
Ginny.knight-simon@pastoral.org

# Sister Mary Luke Tobin dies; played role at Second Vatican Council

The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2006 21

By Catholic News Service

NERINCKX, Ky. (CNS) -- Loretto Sister Mary Luke Tobin, who played a leading role in the U.S. renewal of religious life and was one of a handful of female observers at the Second Vatican Council, died at the Loretto motherhouse in Nerinx Aug. 24. She was 98 years old.

Sister Tobin donated her body to science. A memorial service is to be held at the motherhouse Oct. 7.

An ardent ecumenist and advocate of church renewal, peace, social justice and women's rights in church and society, Sister Tobin was president of her order from 1958 to 1970 and was head of what is now the Leadership Conference of Women Religious during Vatican II.

She was one of only 15 women worldwide invited to attend the council's last two sessions as an auditor, and she was part of the commission that drafted "Gaudium et Spes," the council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. Only two other women were members of commissions that drafted council documents.

Born in Denver May 16, 1908, Ruth Marie Tobin joined the Loretto community and took the religious name Mary Luke when she professed her vows in 1927.

A ballet student and dance teacher before she entered the convent, she became a teacher and principal of elementary and high schools staffed by her order in Missouri, Colorado and Illinois.

Her leadership role in the Sisters of Loretto began in 1952, when she was elected to the community's general council. Six years later she was elected mother general of the order, a position she held for two six-year terms.

In 1964 she was elected chairwoman of the Conference of Major Superiors of Women -- a Vatican-established national organization of heads of women's religious orders -- which in 1971 was renamed the LCWR. Shortly after her election to the national post she was one of the few women, and the only American woman, invited to attend Vatican II as an auditor. Pope Paul VI appointed the female auditors after Belgian Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens complained that half of humanity, women, had no representation at the council.

She learned of the appointment while traveling by ship to Rome at the urging of fellow religious superiors, in order to be near the council proceedings and learn firsthand what was happening there.

Speaking to reporters after sitting in on her first council meeting Oct. 1, 1964, she expressed hopes that Vatican II would lead to far greater inclusion of women in church leadership. "I hope some real progress will be made in acknowledging the great potential that remains to be tapped," she said. "For instance, the diaconate, now to be reinstated as a sacramental order even for married men, might well be a calling for women, too."

At a reception during the council's 1964 session, she spoke of an expanding role for women religious in many fields, including racial justice, housing, health care, ecumenism, service to and advocacy for the poor, and campus and parish ministry. She said that in their leading role in Catholic education sisters "will prove powerful channels for promoting the message of the council fathers."

In the years that followed she was one of the pioneers in renewal of religious life, which she said was chiefly about renewal of the interior life rather than changes in nuns' habits or constitutions.

She was one of the original members of the International Union of Superiors General, formed after Vatican II to promote mutual exchange and collaboration among congregations of women religious.

She wrote and spoke widely on women's rights and peace and social justice issues in the years after the council, risking arrest at nuclear weapons sites, picketing with the United Farm Workers of America, protesting the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, advocating corporate justice measures at stockholders' meetings and leading numerous workshops on peace and justice.

From 1972 to 1978 she was director of citizen action on the national staff of Church



Loretto Sister Mary Luke Tobin (CNS photo/courtesy of Sisters of Loretto) (Aug. 28, 2006)

Women United, an ecumenical organization promoting the role of women in the churches.

A longtime friend of Thomas (Father Louis) Merton, the noted Trappist monk of Gethsemane Abbey, which is near the Loretto motherhouse, Sister Tobin founded the Thomas Merton Center for Creative Exchange in Denver in 1979 and headed it until her retirement in 1999.

She was a frequent lecturer on Merton and a charter member of the International Thomas Merton Society. She was also in demand as a retreat leader and speaker on spirituality and the integration of contemplation and action.

In her 1981 autobiography, "Hope Is an Open Door," she wrote that the admission of even a few women to the proceedings of Vatican II "lifted my heart."

"True, 15 women among 2,500 bishops was hardly a 'quota,' but it was a beginning," she wrote.

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## Comfort & Hope... a message about grief

By Jeannie Boone



.....  
: *Help us to be the always hopeful gardeners of the* :  
: *spirit, who know that without darkness nothing* :  
: *comes to birth, as without light, nothing flowers.* :  
.....

I clipped this brief prayer long ago from some now forgotten source; with the help of a magnet it resides on my frig. The paper is yellow and brittle, but still as I pack for yet another move in my life, it will go with me. I especially relate to it and it renews me on difficult days.

A young friend whose husband is in constant pain and facing dangerous surgery cried on my shoulder yesterday. She cares for him, three young children, and comes home from work to deal with meals, laundry, and bills that there is no money to pay. She cries because of exhaustion and wonders how much longer she can hold everything together. We prayed, though I felt her reluctance at the suggestion, as if she were resigned to a burden that she felt God had placed on her. How many times have I felt that way? And you, can we not all relate to that habit of turning away from our greatest hope and comfort when we need God the most?

Neighbors across the street have lived for several years with his debilitating illness. There is an endless array of daily medicines, he must be bathed and dressed and fed. They are on a first name basis with three hospitals in the region and while he hangs on to life, she clings to faith... but when we talk she wonders if he'll outlive her; her spirit is close to exhaustion and her health beginning to fail.

There's a couple nearby who fight constantly with the loud threats, accusations, and name calling spilling out their windows and through the walls to assail every ear. There was a time when neighbors would go over to check on them, ask them to not hurt each other. But they are aloof and I've noticed that as time goes on we who live close by are becoming indifferent.

My van gave up on me while out of town, of course, and while I was fortunate to get a ride home I will spend the next few days trying to figure out how to get the van home. It will be months before I can get it fixed so for the first time in 40 years I'm without a vehicle.

Recently I took a pair of shears and cut my petunias to the ground. They had grown to be "leggy" with very few blooms and looked scraggly. I continued to water and now, a few weeks later, I have an abundance of new growth and many beautiful blooms. We are like that; when the pain of our struggles wears us to the ground, there is hope and new growth when we weather the darkness and allow our spirit to be watered and fed with faith. We bloom more beautifully than before, inside and out.

I hope you'll clip the prayer above, and that it brings you comfort and hope. Email your thoughts: kyboones2@hotmail.com

## Pro-life Official Speaks On 'Deception In Stem Cell Research' At Rome Conference

WASHINGTON—Speaking at a conference in Rome co-sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life, an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said today that embryonic stem cell research continues to pose the ethical problem of destroying human embryos, but increasingly poses the ethical problem of deceiving the public as well.

Richard M. Doerflinger, Interim Executive Director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, delivered his brief talk as part of an international congress titled "Stem Cells: What Future for Therapy?" taking place September 14-16 at the Augustinianum Institute, adjacent to St. Peter's Square in Rome. The congress, featuring researchers from around the world who have published advances in the use of non-embryonic stem cells, is also co-sponsored by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations.

Mr. Doerflinger said the recent scandal involving Dr. Robert Lanza of Advanced Cell Technology, who claimed he had obtained stem cells from human embryos without harming them, is "the latest in a series of deceptions" by those promoting embryonic stem cells.

"Many speeches, news stories, and advertisements have declared that these cells offer a cure for Alzheimer's disease – despite the nearly universal scientific consensus that they do not," he said. "One expert at the National Institutes of Health explained this discrepancy between political message and scientific fact by commenting: 'To start with, people need a fairy tale'."

"In fact," said Mr. Doerflinger, "we do not need a fairy tale. We need the truth. But a fairy tale is what we are sometimes getting – not only from politicians and entrepreneurs but from respected scientific journals. This must change, or science itself will lose credibility."

The full text of Mr. Doerflinger's remarks is available at <http://www.usccb.org/pro-life/issues/bioethic/RDRome91506speech.pdf>

## October 25, 2006 Ship Date for Collection of Goods for Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica

The Diocese of Owensboro has set a date of 10-25-06 for shipment of the Collection of Goods for the Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica. Collected items can be brought to the former St. Vincent de Paul Store and warehouse on the corner of West 7th St. and Sycamore St. in Owensboro. Please call Richard Murphy at 270/ 683-1545 a day or two in advance to arrange the time of your delivery.

The scheduled last day to receive goods to be sent on the trailer to go to Jamaica is 10-9-06. The cut off date is necessary to insure enough time to prepare the items for shipment. If you or your Parish is involved with the collection, then please make every effort to have the collected items there by that date or earlier.

If you can assist with processing the items for shipment, your help would be appreciated. Here are some proposed dates and times that work is planned to be done to ready items for shipment: October 4 from 1:30 to 4:00, October 6 from 1:30 to 4:00, October 9 from 1:30 to 4:00, October 11 from 1:30 to 4:00, October 12 from 9:30 AM till 2:30 PM, October 14 from 9:00 till 3:30 PM, October 17 from 9:30 AM till 2:30, October 19 from 1:30 PM till 4:00, October 23 from 1:30 PM till 4:00 PM, October 24 from 9:30 AM till 2:30 PM, and on October 25 the truck is to be loaded, however the time is not yet known. These times and dates are subject to change depending upon the demands of the operation, but will serve as an initial planning schedule.

Boxed items are requested to have an inventory list attached to the length side of the box and the destination for which it is bound on the width side of the box. Please remember that there are some restrictions on what can be shipped. Here is the latest list on restrictions.

Clothing can be sent with no problems as long as it is all clothing and nothing else is put in the box. We do not need to know whether the items are men, women or children's clothes. Purses, hats, or belts are also considered clothing. If you put a flower vase in the



Bob Cinnamond

## Our Roots

### St. Mary of Franklin in Simpson County

By Bob Cinnamond

Simpson County! "Where is that?" someone asked.

To make a long story short it was somewhere along the wooded buffalo trail from Louisville KY. to Nashville TN. It seems that travelers from Louisville to Nashville needed a rest stop with a good water supply. William Hudgpith owned some land along the trail but without an adequate water supply so he had his slaves cart water from Drakes Creek, four miles away, to make it look like a good water source.

Soon people began to move into the area, which became an important stop along the old Louisville and Nashville Turnpike and the town of Franklin was born. The first Catholic presence in Franklin was composed of the families of John and Lawrence Finn from Cork Ireland, which arrived about 1830. R.D. Salmons and Beverly Clark soon followed them.

The families had mass in their homes with Rev. Durbin in the early years until the first permanent church was constructed in 1867 and Father DeVries became the pastor. The building of the Louisville – Nashville railroad soon brought many Irish Catholic immigrants to the area. Fr. John Ryan became the pastor in 1868 and St. Mary of Franklin continued to grow until the end of the century. A school was also opened in the fall of 1869 and taught by Mr. Breene.

The confirmation class of 1868 was composed of Robert D. Salmons, Joseph John Hatfield, Francis Michael Ryan, Michael Henley, William John McCarthy, William Patrick Brady, John Daly, Mary Anna Cunningham, Mary Johanna Daly, Catherine Mary Cain, and Mary Margaret Murphy. In 1871 Bishop McCloskey of Louisville confirmed members of the families: Burke, Hetherington, O'Connell, Duttlinger, Werner, Barrett, Aaron, Clarke, Burke, McDonnell, Clark, Murphy, Daily, and Salmons.

Rev. Mertins became pastor in 1873 followed by Rev. Bourke in 1874 and Rev. Tierney in 1876. Due to a priest shortage St. Mary became a mission parish of Bowling Green in 1881. Rev. Haeseley became the mission pastor in 1881 followed by Rev. Culleton in 1883. Rev. Walsh became the mission pastor in 1888, followed by Rev. Taylor in 1892, Rev. Pike in 1894, and Rev. Wight in 1897.

Rev. DeVery, a Paulist accepted the mission in 1915. Mass was said occasionally at St. Mary Church until it burned on 1/6/1938. Rev. Wolf, a Glenmary, served the six remaining families until 1947 when he was given an assistant, Rev. Healy, who took it upon himself to revive the Catholic families in the area. Under the direction of Bishop Cotton, Rev. O'Donnell took the parish and raised enough money to build a new church in 1952.

St. Mary of Franklin continued to grow and received a resident pastor in 1965. A new church and fellowship hall was dedicated in 1999 when Rev. Holly was pastor. In 2003 Bishop McRaith appointed Rev. Eric Riley as the first diocesan resident pastor of St. Mary. Rev. Robert Drury became pastor in 2004. St. Mary of Franklin is definitely a church on the move.

box also, then we need to know the vase is in there.

NO FOLDING CHAIRS! ABSOLUTELY NO OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS such as vitamins, Neosporin, Merthiolate etc. can be sent. ABSOLUTELY NO MEDICATIONS OR ANYTHING THAT HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE can be sent. No items with alcohol in them can be sent. FOOD: No meat, chicken, fish, no soup like chicken broth, no pork and beans, no oil, sugar, salt, milk based products can be sent. Canned mixed vegetables, dry pasta, canned juices, dry cereal, Crackers can be sent. NO SODA can be sent. SCHOOL SUPPLIES: No glue can be sent. Pens, pencils, paper, crayons are ok. We do need quantity sent. No cement, no soap or detergent, no oil for cooking or auto can be sent. TOYS - we need a list, like 20 metal trucks, 3 stuffed animals, 5 vinyl dolls etc. If you put stuffed animals together then you can tell me 20 boxes stuffed animals. If you put different things I need detailed list.

If you have any questions, let please call Richard Murphy at the number above or email him at [richard.murphy@pastoral.org](mailto:richard.murphy@pastoral.org).

# Women and Men, Holy Together

By Julie Onstott

## Career vs. Family

I just recently read an article entitled "Career vs Family: Is there A Choice?" in the New York Times, written by Judith Warner. Katie Couric, a CBS News anchorperson, was asked if she would travel to Iraq. She said she would not, because she felt that a single mother of two had no business taking such a risk in a chaotic war zone. This article was very interesting and touched on a subject that is very important to me. The decision Ms. Couric made to put her family first before her career was very impressive. I am sure in her lifetime she has had to make many sacrifices weighing, the pros and cons of such an important job, with major family decisions placed upon her. You don't become the first female anchor for CBS News without having made huge sacrifices that would involve your family. After reading her remarks about her responsibility as a single mother and putting their well-being first her decision was very appealing to me. I then started to think about the older generation whose sacrifices were much different from the world we live in today. How differently our children are being raised.

I would like to touch on some memories that were shared with me by my grandparents who passed down to their children how they managed to raise God-fearing families with a strong work ethic. These memories have been my parents' stepping stones to pass down to their children.

If I have heard it once, I have heard it a thousand times: "... back in our day this was the way things were done." I loved to hear how hot the summers were, and the only air stirring in the house was hot air blowing from one box fan blowing from inside a window. They washed their clothes on a board, and got their water from a well outside. Just typing that last sentence has made me exhausted. Let's not forget the outhouse! I will always remember the laughs we shared when my father-in-law talked about going to the outhouse in the dead of winter. Thank you, God, for indoor plumbing being common by the time I was conceived. I will say one thing about these stories they have shared; I will never tire of hearing them, and how hard my ancestors worked. They always had a smile on their face when reflecting back on those days.

Being a mother back in those days was extremely hard work, too. Hard work and God in the center of their lives is what they wanted to pass on to their children, not to mention the value of a dollar, how to make it stretch, and knowing the difference between needs and wants.

It is still necessary today more than ever to teach our children a strong work ethic. I believe society as a whole is telling the younger generation the value of a good education. Society is, however, leaving out the value of children needing both parents. It is evident in our television programs and newspapers that our children are craving for attention. What has changed is the emphasis on family being the first priority. What has changed is the success of career in a materialistic world that our children are left with. Society today buys into the impression that if a person doesn't have a big house, the nicest car, and the most expensive clothes, then she/he has failed in areas of supporting their family.

I have stressed to my children how important their education is. How I would like for all my kids to go to college and get a job that they love. My daughters also know that in the same breath I told them that whatever they choose, one day they will be mothers and will want a career that will complement family time. I tell them to make sure weekends are with their kids. They may want to take a break from work for a while and be a full time mother if they can financially afford to do so. It's their decision, but the emphasis I wanted to convey to my daughters first was their children, my future grandchildren.

The next time I get tired of the hustle and bustle of raising my family I think I will sit in my air conditioned living room with a tall glass of ice tea and my remote control in one hand, think of my grandparents, and thank the good Lord for all his blessings.

+JMJ+



## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER-FEBRUARY 2007

#### October 2006

- 3 RiverValley Behavioral Health Staff Day
- 6 St. Mary's Whitesville Environmental Day
- 6-8 Marian Retreat with Msgr. Bernard Powers
- 7 Alumnae Memorial Mass
- 8 Rosary Walk Dedication
- 9-13 Spiritual Direction Institute No. 2: Week 1
- 14-15 Alanon
- 17 Center Board Meeting
- 18 Kenergy
- 20-21 First Baptist Youth Choir
- 23-27 Priests Retreat
- 24-25 Southern Star Workshop
- 27-29 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 31 Southern Star

#### December 2007

- 12-13 Southern Star Workshop

#### January 2007

- 12-13 St. Joseph and Paul Women's Retreat
- 19-21 Retrouvaille
- 22-26 Spiritual Direction Institute No. 2: Week 2
- 26-27 First Church of God

#### February 2007

- 2-4 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 8-11 Men's Cursillo
- 9-11 Ministry Formation Program
- 15-18 Women's Cursillo
- 22-24 Basket Weavers



Mount Saint Joseph  
Conference and Retreat Center



#### November 2006

- 3-4 Ministry of Today's Catechist Workshop
- 4-5 Academy for Young Leaders
- 10-12 Mount Hope Weekend
- 13-15 St. Stephen's/Old Hickory, TN Staff Retreat
- 16 Watershed Workshop
- 17-18 Thomas Merton Retreat

Center-sponsored programs are in **bold letters**. To register or to schedule an event, contact Facilities Director Kathy McCarty: (270) 229-0200, ext. 413 or [kmccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kmccarty@maplemount.org)

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# Dedication of the new Church at St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

*"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

**By Sharrie Cinnamond**

FORDSVILLE, Ky. - Who knew what plans the Lord had for our community in 1893 when Fr. Lawrence Ford offered the first Mass in the newly completed mission Church in Ohio County. For the past 113 years the members of this small community have remained faithful and remembered God's promise. It remained a very small mission church until the 1940's when Fr. Henry O'Bryan began to offer regular Sunday Mass at St. John's. In 1965 the Bishop of Owensboro asked the Glenmary Home Missioners to accept St. John's as part of their mission territory, which would cover all of Ohio County. In October of that year Fr. Joe O'Donnell was appointed pastor and under his guidance the parish was relocated in Fordsville. A mission team of Glenmary and diocesan seminarians came to Fordsville to locate more Catholic families. The first Mass offered in Fordsville was in the lunchroom at the public school on the Feast of the Assumption in 1966.

A Protestant couple let the Catholics move a chapel trailer onto their property, which later became the present site of the present St. John's Church. Sunday Mass was offered weekly and soon the mobile chapel was filled to overflowing. The adjacent house and property were purchased by the Diocese of Owensboro. The first floor of the house was gutted out to become a temporary Church. The house was later converted into a social hall.

In 1976 the Glenmary Building Crew came to Fordsville and constructed the present church building. The church was dedicated by Bishop Soenneker on July 11, 1976. The parish remained at about 25-30 families until recent years. Recent years have seen a lot of new families moving into the area. By 2005 the parish had 46 families and we had outgrown the church building.

When a local businessman, Bob Dunaway, donated the land across the street for a new church, with the stipulation that it must be built by May 2007 or the property returned, plans began to be made for the construction of a new church. Fr. Eric



**St. John the Baptist parishioner Leo Kauffeld delivered the plans for the new St. John Church to Bishop McRaith at the new church door August 27 as pastor Father Eric Riley, left, looked on with other priests Father Darrell Venters and Father Bruce Fogle. Photo by Bob Cinnamond**



**Bishop John McRaith blessed with Holy Water the people and church building of St. John Parish in Fordsville, Ky August 27. Photo by Bob Cinnamond**

Riley, working with the Building Committee, Parish Council and parishioners and with the permission and encouragement of the Bishop and Chancellor of the Diocese, purchased another property, with a home and more area for parking, adjacent to the new church site. While this purchase used a substantial amount of the money saved for the building of the new church, it enabled the parish to have a realistic plan of turning the old church, living quarters and office space into a parish family life center, with classrooms, office, meeting hall and storage. The parish has received several grants; \$60,000 from Catholic Extension and \$20,000 from the Koch foundation. These grants will be a great help in paying off the debt for the new building.

On December 12, 2005, construction began on the new church, a structure 50' by 80', which seats 250 people. While this is still a small church, it is hoped that this structure will accommodate the needs of the parish for the next fifty years. The people of the parish were very involved in the construction of the church and spent many hours working on various projects. Whenever the call went out for helpers, it was always met by willing workers. Everyone, from the young who helped carry supplies and move into the new building, to those could only offer advice and moral support were there when needed. It was a community effort of love that saw the people of St. John's giving their time, talents and treasure.

The Dedication of our new church was a most memorable day which will go down in our annals as a great event for the people of Fordsville, especially for our Catholic community. It was attended by over 250 and included most of the pastors of the Churches of Fordsville. The people of St. John the Baptist parish are a humble people with a great love for God, His Church, and the community of Fordsville. The beauty of the new church will help the Catholic presence in Fordsville become better known. Having a parish family



**The community of St. John parish and friends enter the new church for the Mass of Blessing August 27. Staff Photo**



**Framing and pedestals for the Mary and Joseph statues were made by parishioner Frank Montgomery for the sanctuary at the new St. John Church in Fordsville. Bob Cinnamond photos**



Continued on page 25

## Bishop Blesses New Church at St. John the Baptist, Fordsville (Continued from page 24)

life center will also allow us to offer a meeting place for others in the community of Fordsville, which has very limited meeting halls for residents to use.

In addition to our new church St. John's is reaching out to the community by establishing a St. Vincent de Paul conference. An old building was purchased and has been renovated. The Thrift Store opened on August 31st and has already proven to be a much needed addition to the community. A Food Pantry is located in an adjacent building to provide food and personal grooming needs to the needy. Our future is filled with hope!



**Sister Marie Michael Hayden, OSU, the Director of Religious Education for St. John the Baptist parish, Fordsville, carried the relics for the altar to Bishop John McRaith during the Mass of Blessing August 27. Bob Cinnamon Photo**

## God Called.

By Father John Thomas

It was 1984 and I was 17 years old. God called. Although I had no idea what a priest did or how one became a priest there was deep inside a longing and INTEREST in the priesthood and service to the Church. God called.

Because the right people were around me at the time encouraging me to at least 'see', I had the courage to step forward and begin formal training and formation toward ordination to the priesthood. God called.

I have been a faithful and happy priest now for 13 years. Little did I know as I began listening to the Spirit what opportunities and encounters were before me. I have had the opportunity to stand with people at some of the most sacred and meaningful moments of their life and witness through the Sacraments how God can heal, give hope, comfort, and encourage people on their journey to Him. I have had the opportunity to participate in the education of people in the areas of faith and morals. Through the gift of my vocation, I have witnessed the promise of love between man and woman, parent and child. Through the grace of my vocation, I have had the courage to stand with the dying and see the beauty of hope even in the face of death. God called.

And now at this particular stage of my priestly ministry the bishop has asked that I oversee the establishment of the Permanent Diaconate Program for the Diocese. So today, I am speaking specifically to the men of our diocese and I am inviting you to look into your heart and listen. Is God calling you to serve in a specific way? Are you called to serve the poor? Do you have a desire to reach out to those in society that are on the fringe? Do you support the Church in the life of prayer? Maybe God is calling you.

In 1984 I was young, spiritually immature, and naive. God was calling. He still is.

Qualities Sought in Potential Deacon Candidates

- emotional maturity
- personal integrity/ appropriate self- knowledge
- demonstrate a personal commitment to growing in Christian holiness/ an active prayer life/ participation in the Eucharistic and Sacramental life of the Church
- generosity for service already being demonstrated
- good physical and psychological health (both candidate and wife, if married)
- ability to work in a team/ works well with people
- clearly demonstrates an ability and willingness to lead
- good communication skills (both as a speaker and as a listener)



**A front view of the new St. John the Baptist Church located just north of the US Post Office on Smith Street in Fordsville, Ky. on August 27, 2006, the date of the blessing of the new church building. Staff Photo**

- ability to speak publicly and proclaim the Gospel effectively
- ability to articulate and explain the moral and doctrinal teaching of the Church effectively
- need in the community for his service and leadership
- acceptance by the Christian community as evidenced by his ministry in the parish
- he must show an acceptance and personal commitment to the teaching of the Church

*Contact for the Diocese: Reverend Father John M. Thomas, Director of Permanent Diaconate, SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 902 East Ninth Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240 jmthomas@saintspeterandpaulchurch.org. Tel. 270-885-8522. Fax. 270-885-5296*

## October in Nashville, Brown County, Indiana!

Wisdom People, come join the fun as we load our bus for leaf peeping, sightseeing and shopping!

One day trip - Thursday, October 19th.

We will board the bus behind Grandy's at Towne Square Mall Departure at 7:15 a.m.

We will arrive in Nashville around 11:00 a.m. with time for lunch and shopping.

The cost is \$29 per person and includes transportation only.

Call Ginny Knight-Simon @ 270 683-1545 or

E-Mail [ginny.knight-simon@pastoral.org](mailto:ginny.knight-simon@pastoral.org)

Deadline for reservations October 16th.

## KY Bishops ask that immigrants, both legal and undocumented, be seen as the image God

*Report adapted from a Statement from the Catholic Conference of Kentucky*

The public debate about repairing The United States' broken immigration system has been a summer highlight for the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee which held hearings in various cities around the nation. Catholic leaders find it very important that our Catholic voice, informed by Scripture and our tradition of reaching out to migrants around the world, be heard by Kentucky's members of the House of Representatives.

The House has voted to adopt a border enforcement only approach. Not only has this approach been tried and has failed, it is not an approach to this problem that takes into account the human dignity of those who are entering our country. It also fails to address the economic conditions in the countries from which immigrants come to see why they are so desperate to find work here so they support their children. Rather, the House approach paints them as dangerous criminals that must be captured and expelled. This is simply not the case.

Our 4 Kentucky Bishops released a pastoral statement on immigration in August: "Every Man and Woman is the Image of God." They asked Catholics to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The entire statement is reprinted at right.

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 4437, the Border Security, Anti-Terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Prevention Act of 2005 in December. You voted for the legislation. Now that the U.S. Senate has passed a comprehensive immigration bill, the House and Senate will attempt to reconcile the two versions of immigration reform. The Kentucky Bishops ask that citizens support a comprehensive approach to immigration reform. Only a bill which addresses all aspects of our broken immigration system will solve the immigration crisis in our nation.

Any final bill must contain the following elements: 1). a viable path to citizenship for the 11-12 million undocumented in the country; 2). A temporary worker program which protects the rights of workers and includes a path to citizenship; 3). family-based immigration reform which reduces waiting times for family reunification; 4). restoration of due process protections; and 5). policies which address the root causes of migration, so that migrants and their families may remain at home and live in dignity.

The Kentucky Bishops support enforcement policies which enforce our immigration laws without harming the basic human rights and human life of migrants. Such enforcement policies should be targeted, proportional, and humane. Migrants should not be treated as criminals or detained longer than necessary. A border wall should not be constructed which will drive migrants into remote regions of the desert, possibly leading to the loss of life.

A comprehensive approach to the immigration issue is the most effective. Over the past fifteen years, our nation has spent more than \$25 billion on border enforcement and tripled the number of Border Patrol agents. At the same time, the number of undocumented has more than doubled and close to 3,000 migrants have perished in the desert. Clearly, another approach is necessary.

The Kentucky Bishops ask citizens to communicate with the House leadership and to House chairmen in support of a comprehensive approach to immigration reform, consistent with these principles. They ask that our country repair a broken immigration system so we can welcome the stranger as Christ has taught us. Only a comprehensive immigration bill will fix a flawed immigration system, the bishops say.

**Continued on page 30**

## Every Man and Woman is the Image of God

*A Pastoral Statement from the Catholic Conference of Kentucky on Comprehensive Immigration Reform*



Our country is a nation of immigrants. Our ancestors came from many lands. Over the decades, such a diversity of peoples has enriched our culture, economy, and religious experience. Widespread migration and controversies about it remain a part of our national experience. We as a church must speak to this sign of the times from the perspective of gospel values and Christian witness.

Our basic principles are clear: We respect the right of nations to enforce their borders and to enforce reasonable immigration laws. At the same time, we regard every person, illegal immigrant, legal immigrant, or citizen, with the mind of Christ: a human person worthy of dignity and respect. "For Christians, the migrant is not merely an individual to be respected in accordance with the norms established by law, but a person whose presence challenges them and whose needs become an obligation for their responsibility. 'What have you done to your brother?' (cf. Gn 4:9). The answer should not be limited to what is imposed by law, but should be made in the manner of solidarity." ("Undocumented Migrants," Message of Pope John Paul II for the World Migration Day, 1996) Nos. 3, 5.

Pope Benedict XVI asks the Church's faithful "to welcome the positive aspects that this sign of the times bears within it, overcoming every kind of discrimination, injustice and contempt of the human person, for every man and woman is the image of God." (Pope Benedict XVI, after the Angelus on January 15, 2006). We join Pope Benedict XVI and invite Catholics and all Kentuckians to welcome the beneficial aspects of migration, to overcome every form of discrimination, injustice and contempt of the persons coming to our land, for every immigrant is the image of God. We especially invite Catholics to work for the just treatment in our laws of the children of God who are immigrants.

### The teachings of our faith

Our faithful commitment to the human life and dignity of immigrants is rooted in Scripture and the social doctrine of the Church as explained in Papal teachings. "When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God." (Lev 19:33-34).

The Church's dedication to caring for migrants of every kind was set out by Pope Pius XII in *Exsul Familia*, "[T]here never has been a period during which the Church has not been active in behalf of migrants." In this apostolic constitution, Pope Pius XII identified "The émigré Holy Family of Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, [as] the archetype of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in exile in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved parents and relatives, his close friends, and to seek a foreign soil." (*Exsul Familia*, Apostolic Constitution of Pius XII, August 1, 1952).

In teaching that all peoples have the right to conditions worthy of human life and, if these conditions are not present, the right to migrate, Pope Pius XII recognized the right of the sovereign state to control its borders, but stated that such right is not absolute. "The natural law itself, no less than devotion to humanity, urges that ways of migration be opened to...those who have been forced by revolutions in their own countries, or by unemployment or hunger to leave their homes and live in foreign lands." (*Exsul Familia*). This teaching was continued in *Pacem in Terris* issued in 1963. Pope John XXIII taught: "Every human being has the right to freedom of movement and of

**Continued on page 27**

residence within the confines of his own country; and, when there are just reasons for it, the right to emigrate to other countries and take up residence there.” (Pacem in Terris, No. 25).

In Ecclesia in America, given in Mexico City on January 22, 1999, Pope John Paul II recognized immigration as “an almost constant feature of America’s history from the beginning of evangelization to our own day.” (No. 17). He instructed that migrants “should be met with a hospitable and welcoming attitude” and reiterated that “the Church in America must be a vigilant advocate, defending against any unjust restriction the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their human dignity, even in cases of non-legal immigration.” (Ecclesia in America, No. 65).

In union with the Bishops of Mexico, we have emphasized in Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope (2003) that “Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity that should be respected. Often they are subject to punitive laws and harsh treatment from enforcement officers from both receiving and transit countries. Government policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented are necessary.” (Strangers No Longer, No. 38). Our Church has complementary teachings: “the right of a sovereign state to control its borders in furtherance of the common good” and “the right of human persons to migrate so that they can realize their God-given rights.” Therefore, “the sovereign state may impose reasonable limits on immigration.” But the common good “is not served when the basic human rights of the individual are violated. In the current condition of the world, in which global poverty and persecution are rampant, the presumption is that persons must migrate in order to support and protect themselves and that nations who are able to receive them should do so whenever possible. It is through this lens that we assess the current migration reality between the United States and Mexico.” (Strangers No Longer, No. 39).

In a country that prides itself on following the rule of law, our way of thinking about illegal migrants is important. Our attitude cannot be limited to the rule of law. It must include our Christian solidarity with those in need. Pope John Paul II urged us to cast off the attitudes of “reticence or exclusivity,” to welcome the stranger, to accept illegal immigrants as sisters and brothers, and to insure that an illegal status did not undermine a migrant’s dignity since the illegal migrant “is endowed with inalienable rights, which can neither be violated nor ignored.” (“Undocumented Migrants,” Message of Pope John Paul II for the World Migration Day, 1996) Nos. 2, 5. The Church does not limit its view to the lens of the law or the interests of one country. “The Church considers the problem of illegal migrants from the standpoint of Christ, who died to gather together the dispersed children of God (cf. Jn 11:52), to rehabilitate the marginalized and to bring close those who are distant, in order to integrate all within a communion that is not based on ethnic, cultural or social membership, but on the common desire to accept God’s word and to seek justice. ‘God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him’ (Acts 10:34-35)” (“Undocumented Migrants,” Message of Pope John Paul II for the World Migration Day, 1996) No. 3.

The principles that come from these teachings and that guide our view on the search for solutions to migration issues are: I. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland; II. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families; III. Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders; IV. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection; V. The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. (Strangers No Longer, Nos. 33-38).

In the search for a solution to illegal migration it is significant that Pope John Paul II urged that those in the receiving country seek an authentic understanding of the plight of those in other lands. “In this perspective, it is very important that public opinion be properly informed about the true situation in the migrants’ country of origin, about the tragedies involving them and the possible risks of returning. The poverty and misfortune with which immigrants are stricken are yet another reason for coming generously to their aid. It is necessary to guard against the rise of new forms of racism or xenophobic behaviour, which attempt to make these brothers and sisters of ours scapegoats for what

may be difficult local situations.” (“Undocumented Migrants,” Message of Pope John Paul II for the World Migration Day, 1996) No. 4.

## **The response of Catholics in Kentucky**

“So you too must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.” (Dt. 10:19). Our Church “is committed to spare no effort in developing her own pastoral strategy among...immigrant people, in order to help them settle in their new land and to foster a welcoming attitude among the local population in the belief that a mutual openness will bring enrichment to all.” (Ecclesia in America, No. 65).

Many migrants who live in Kentucky are served by Catholic social service agencies and in parishes throughout our Commonwealth. Our state’s four Catholic Dioceses of Louisville, Covington, Owensboro, and Lexington, have helped immigrants and refugees for many years. Catholic Charities of Louisville has a lengthy history of welcoming refugees through its Migration and Refugee Services program. Volunteers help set up apartments for new families. Mentors help new arrivals learn English and familiarize them with community services such as libraries, parks, and bus services. Others introduce immigrants to local ways of shopping, cleaning, and preparing foods. Volunteers also help with day care while immigrant family members attend English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; they prepare “Welcome Baskets,” or help unload trucks that carry donations of furniture, household items, food and hygiene items. There are fourteen parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville presently serving the pastoral needs of immigrants. In the past, Catholic parishes served the needs of particular populations – Polish, Irish, German, and French.

Today, this practice continues in Louisville where Saint John Vianney parish offers pastoral care to the Vietnamese community and St. Rita parish and others are centers for those who speak Spanish. Louisville’s Multicultural Ministry Office provides resources for the diverse Archdiocesan Catholic communities including language/cultural consultants.

The Church of the Diocese of Covington responded to the plight of Vietnamese refugees in 1975 and had a Resettlement Program for nearly fifteen years. The diocese established the parish of Cristo Rey to coordinate efforts on behalf of Spanish speaking immigrants in Northern Kentucky. The parish established Centro de Amistad for social outreach programs. These programs include: an ESL component, Intensive English program, GED preparation, citizenship classes, a home buyers program, a low income tax clinic, a job clearing house, carpenter and electrician apprenticeship programs, referral services for family counseling and legal services, and a family computer training program. Health issues are a high priority and in response to these the parish has a full time health advocate. This is in addition to the “Promotores de Salud (Health promoters) program and an annual health fair. The parish is partnering with Gateway Community College, Northern Kentucky University, Kenton County Public Library, Area Health Education Council, Catholic Social Services, Northern Kentucky Home Builders Association, Children’s Hospital of Cincinnati, and others. Parishes in Carrollton and Maysville also offer pastoral services for Hispanic persons.

## **In the Diocese of Owensboro ...**

there are thirteen parishes that offer Mass in Spanish and provide varying levels of educational and outreach services. These include: catechesis in Spanish with trained Hispanic catechists, Bible study and Prayer groups, youth groups and young missionaries postConfirmation group, interpreting services, leadership formation through committees and councils, response to physical needs through St. Vincent de Paul groups and Hispanic ministers, advocacy in the larger community through ministerial associations, community organizations and agencies, and local government. In addition to the parishes, there are four immigrant centers. La Plaza Immigrant Community Center in Owensboro offers an ESL program, a women’s group, community organizing, leadership formation, computer skills, and health education and screenings. This Center is run by an ecumenical non-profit group and helps connect immigrants to the community.

The International Center in Bowling Green is a resource center for immigrants and

refugees that helps with immigration applications, interpretation, and community resources. La Casa de Migrante in Paducah offers ESL classes, interpretation services and general community awareness. HOLA in Todd County also offers ESL classes, advocacy in the community, and help with immediate needs and outreach to migrants in this rural area. La Casa de Migrante is the newest center.

In the Diocese of Lexington Jesús, el Buen Pastor Centro Católico provides a number of pastoral services for Hispanic persons in Lexington and provides a Catholic environment where people can feel comfortable with symbols of their faith. Among the activities hosted at the Center are youth group activities, Spanish classes, ESL classes, GED classes, classes to learn more about the Bible and the Catholic faith, and a women's group, "Damas." Damas has a renovated apartment where women learn sewing, crafts, and cake decorating. It is a place of shared interests and values. Eighteen Churches in the Diocese of Lexington offer Mass and some religious celebrations throughout the year in Spanish. The rural parishes provide a place where people involved in agriculture and factory work can turn for help to learn or understand English, to have someone interpret in medical or other emergencies, and to find fellowship with other immigrants scattered throughout the counties. In Montgomery County, there is a Migrant Coalition out of the Extension Office in which people of the parish join with health care workers, teachers, and local employers in order to seek ways to provide better services to individuals and families. Some of the larger parishes of the Lexington Diocese have full-time bi-lingual pastoral staff to provide leadership formation programs, prayer and Bible study groups, youth and young adult ministry, and retreats for couples. The Diocesan Hispanic Pastoral Plan outlines action steps that can be taken to strengthen the values and utilize the talents of the people.

Catholics provide much education across this Commonwealth. It is important that we offer Catholic education for immigrants. In "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium" (2005) we said, As we continue to address the many and varied needs of our nation's new immigrant population, the Church and its schools are often among the few institutions providing immigrants and newcomers with a sense of welcome, dignity, community, and connection with their spiritual roots.... Catholic parishes and schools face the challenge of addressing the spiritual, educational, social, and cultural needs of a new wave of immigrants. In responding to the needs of these individuals, we must continue our evangelizing efforts by maintaining our schools' Catholic identity and mission. It is critical that we work with our people to erase any lines of prejudice and bias that may exist and create welcoming communities for these immigrants.... We must also serve the increasing Hispanic/Latino population, which makes up 39 percent of our current Catholic community. Hispanics/Latinos make up 41 percent of Catholics under the age of thirty, and 44 percent of Catholics under the age of ten. It is currently estimated that by the second decade of this century, the Hispanic/Latino population will compose 50 percent of all Catholics in the United States. Catholic parishes and schools must reflect this reality and reach out and welcome Hispanics and Latinos into the Catholic faith communities in the United States.

Given these facts, it is imperative that we increase our efforts to attract Hispanic youth to give their lives as priests and religious. In the short term, we need to encourage Hispanic priests and religious to come to the United States to minister to the migrants from their respective countries. "Their native Churches will demonstrate their concern by sending pastoral agents of the same language and culture, in a dialogue of charity with the particular Churches that welcome them." (World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message of Pope Benedict XVI, October 18, 2006).

Unborn children are of special concern to us. We especially urge parishes to help immigrant women who are pregnant "without discrimination as to their status or nationality" (EF, Pius XII) by addressing the needs they have for themselves, their unborn children and their families. Our statewide Opportunities for Life (OFL) ministry is reaching out to the immigrant population, regardless of documentation or legal status, through its Spanish language hotline number. We ask Catholics to cooperate zealously with OFL's efforts to be present for the unborn child, without regard for the mother's immigration status. The unborn child has a right to life.

#### **Gratitude for those helping migrants**

We deeply appreciate the magnificent, selfless, prayerful work being done in our parishes and dioceses and by all others, paid and volunteer, in our Commonwealth who minister to our neighbors from other lands. It is the work of Jesus.

#### **Public policy in our world, the United States, Kentucky**

Pope Benedict XVI in *Deus Caritas Est* (2006) spoke to the necessity of achieving a just order that goes beyond Christian charitable activity. The "pursuit of justice must be a fundamental norm of the State and that the aim of a just social order is to guarantee to each person, according to the principle of subsidiarity, his share of the community's goods." (*Deus Caritas Est* No. 26). The Church is "duty-bound to offer, through the purification of reason and through ethical formation, [the Church's] own specific contribution towards understanding the requirements of justice and achieving them politically." (*Deus Caritas Est*, No. 28).

We have deep concern for those who will be affected by proposed changes in our immigration laws being debated in Congress. We have expressed concern, too, about legislation proposed in our Kentucky General Assembly. Immigrants have natural rights which are derived from their inherent dignity as persons. They have a right to migrate to seek conditions consistent with human dignity if these cannot be realized at home. Immigration is an issue of human life and dignity. Global economic deprivation propels many people to immigrate to the United States so they can provide for themselves and their families. We must address the root causes of migration and global poverty by diligently working to help each person obtain the necessities of life. Pope John Paul II in *Undocumented Migrants*, Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration Day 1996. July 25, 1995 said that the elimination of global underdevelopment is the solution to illegal immigration.(No. 2).

Our immigration system is in serious need of repair. There is an unwelcome response to immigrants. Responsible, comprehensive reform of the immigration system is possible. As a matter of justice, it should include the following elements:

- 1) a broad-based earned legalization of undocumented persons;
- 2) a temporary worker program with appropriate protections for both U.S. and foreign workers;
- 3) changes to the family-based immigration system to reduce waiting times for family reunification; and
- 4) restoration of due process for immigrants.

For those in this country without proper immigration documentation, opportunities should be provided for them to obtain legalization if they can demonstrate good moral character and have built up equities in this country. Such an "earned" legalization should be achievable and independently verifiable.

The U.S. economy depends upon the labor provided by migrants. Therefore, many migrants come to the United States to fill jobs. The U.S. experience with temporary workers programs has been fraught with abuses. There should be a more rational and humane system by which laborers from other countries can enter the country legally to fill positions in the labor force, including on a temporary basis. Currently, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents must endure many years of separation from close family members who they want to join them in the United States. The backlogs of available visas for family members results in five, ten, fifteen, and more years of waiting before a visa becomes available. There should be a reduction of the pending backlog and more visas available for family reunification purposes.

In recent years, immigrants have been subject to laws and policies that debase our country's fundamental commitment to individual liberties and due process. These laws and policies, - detention for months without charges, secret hearings, and ethnic profiling, - signal a major change in our government's policies and attitudes towards immigrants.

We are a nation with a long, rich tradition of welcoming newcomers. Government policies that unfairly and inappropriately confuse immigration with terrorism do not make us safer. They tarnish our heritage, and they damage our standing abroad. We urge government to revisit these laws and to make appropriate changes consistent with

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# Every Man and Woman is the Image of God

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due process right.

## Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly

We understand that many Catholics and people of good will are deeply troubled by the current state of immigration in our country. We call on Catholics and people of good will to a conversion of mind and heart and a hospitable and welcoming attitude toward migrants. If we are faithful to the Gospel call to help others in need, we “cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. [The Church] has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper.” (Deus Caritas Est, No.28).

In seeking just laws, we must act with a particular spirit. We are called “to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with [our] God.” (Micah 6:8). We call on all Catholics to lead the way in our Commonwealth in welcoming “strangers” as children of God by participation in our national Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope Campaign, <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>. It is designed to unite and mobilize a growing network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good will in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform. Its goal is to maximize the Church’s influence on this issue. The Campaign’s primary objectives are:

- To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, including Catholic public officials, about Church teaching on migration and immigrants;
- To create political will for positive immigration reform;
- To enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops; and
- To organize Catholic networks to assist qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms.

We especially call upon clergy, religious and lay leaders to ensure support for migrant and immigrant families.

We urge Catholic communities to offer migrant families hospitality, not hostility, along their journey as hospitality is a hallmark of all followers of Jesus.

We call on the local church to help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, that celebrate their cultures, and that are responsive to their social needs, leading to a mutual enrichment of the local church.

We commend church communities that have established migrant shelters that provide appropriate pastoral and social services to migrants, particularly affordable legal services and services to children and pregnant women.

We request special attention be given to migrant and immigrant children and youth and the unborn. Offer them opportunities for life, education, leadership and service in the community.

We ask Catholics to work with the broader community to address the causes of undocumented migration and to protect the human rights of all migrants.

We have a responsibility to seek enactment of just laws. “The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society... is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity.” (DCE, n.29).

We invite Catholics to become Faithful Citizen Advocates by joining our Catholic Conference of Kentucky’s legislative advocacy network, [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org), and working diligently to influence immigration public policy in Kentucky and nationally.

Because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, Christ is present to every human condition, every form of human suffering. We see Him in the face of migrants. As we work to secure a public policy that treats immigrants justly let our discourse be civil and our solutions reflect that each person is the image and likeness of God.

### Adopted: August 25, 2006

Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, OP, Archbishop of Louisville. Most Reverend Roger Foys, Bishop of Covington. Most Reverend John J. McRaith, Bishop of Owensboro. Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Lexington.

*The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) is an agency of the Catholic Bishops*

*of Kentucky, established in 1968. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the church and secular agencies. There are 406,000 Catholics in the Commonwealth. The Bishops of the four dioceses of KY constitute CCK’s Board of Directors.*

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection

- 1) From what country did your ancestors emigrate?
- 2) How were your ancestors treated when they arrived in our country?
- 3) Why did your ancestors emigrate to our country?
- 4) How have immigrants been treated in our history and how are they being treated today?
- 5) What natural rights derived from their inherent dignity as persons do immigrants have?
- 6) Why do people migrate to our country or to another country in the world?
- 7) Identify the structures, patterns, laws, customs that cause people to migrate.
- 8) What are the benefits of immigrants coming to our country?
- 9) Why has the Church been active on behalf of migrants throughout the years?
- 10) How can we welcome the positive aspects of immigration?
- 11) How can we overcome discrimination, injustice and contempt of the human person who migrates to our country?
- 12) What changes in the laws should we support to insure the laws are just for immigrants?
- 13) How can the community foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life from the Hispanic community and encourage priests and religious to follow their people to the United States as missionaries devoting their lives to the service of the Lord and Hispanic people?

**Resources:** Three websites are important for those wishing to study the Church’s teaching on migrants:

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope Campaign – <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>.
- Catholic Conference of KY (CCK): [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org)

The CCK site has a page dedicated to articles prepared by the CCK Hispanic Committee. It is at: [http://www.ccky.org/justice\\_for\\_immigrants.htm](http://www.ccky.org/justice_for_immigrants.htm)

Most of the Church teaching documents referred to in Every Man and Woman is the Image of God are available online for further study. Below are the links to those that are available.

After the Angelus, January 15, 2006 – Pope Benedict XVI  
[http://www.vatican.edu/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/angelus/2006/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_ang\\_20060115\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.edu/holy_father/benedict_xvi/angelus/2006/documents/hf_benxvi_ang_20060115_en.html)

[Undocumented Migrants, Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration Day 1996.](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/migration/documents/hf_jpii_mes_25071995_undocumented_migrants_en.html) [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/messages/migration/documents/hf\\_jpii\\_mes\\_25071995\\_undocumented\\_migrants\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/migration/documents/hf_jpii_mes_25071995_undocumented_migrants_en.html)

[World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message of Pope Benedict XVI, October 18, 2006](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_benxvi_mes_20051018_world-migrants-day_en.html) [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_mes\\_20051018\\_world-migrants-day\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_benxvi_mes_20051018_world-migrants-day_en.html)

[Exsul Familia](http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius12/p12exsul.htm) (1952) – Pope Pius XII - <http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius12/p12exsul.htm>

[Pacem in Terris](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jxxiii_enc_11041963_pacem_en.html) (1963) – Pope John XXIII [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jxxiii\\_enc\\_11041963\\_pacem\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jxxiii_enc_11041963_pacem_en.html)

[Ecclesia In America](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jpii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html) (1999) – Pope John Paul II [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jpii\\_exh\\_22011999\\_ecclesia-in-america\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jpii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html)

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## Every Man and Woman is the Image of God

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*Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope. A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States (2003)* <http://www.nccbuscc.org/mrs/stranger.shtml>

*Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium – U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (2005).* <http://www.nccbuscc.org/bishops/schools.pdf>

*Deus Caritas Est (2006)* [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_enc\\_20051225\\_deus-caritas-est\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_benxvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html)

## Preparation for Holy Communion

### - Saint Thomas Aquinas

I give Thee thanks, O holy Lord, Almighty Father, Eternal God, who has vouchsafed, not through any merits of mine, but out of the condescension of Thy great mercy, to nourish me a sinner, thine unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this Holy Communion be not to me a condemnation unto punishment, but a saving plea unto forgiveness.

May It be unto me the armor of faith and the shield of good purpose. May It cause the emptying out of my vices and the extinction of all concupiscence and lust; an increase of charity and patience, of humility and obedience, and of all virtues.

May It be unto me a strong defense against the snares of all my enemies, visible and invisible; the perfect quieting of all my evil impulses both fleshly and spiritual; may It cause me to firmly cleave unto Thee, the one true God; and may It make my death holy and happy.

And I pray Thee that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to bring me, a sinner, to that ineffable banquet, where Thou, with Thy Son and Thy Holy Spirit, art to Thy saints true light, fulness of content, eternal joy, gladness without alloy, and perfect happiness. I ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Source: [http://www.theworkofgod.org/Prayers/eucharist\\_prayers.asp?key=24](http://www.theworkofgod.org/Prayers/eucharist_prayers.asp?key=24)

## Carmel Home Adorers Needed

Weighed down with problems and challenges you're not sure how to tackle? Searching for some real peace? Try spending some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament each Week... I can guarantee you'll find all of this and more.

Permanent positions are open at the Carmel Home for adoration as follows:

Tues. Midnight - 1 a.m.

Wed. Midnight - 1 a.m.

Substitutes are also needed for Eucharistic Adoration hours: Midnight to 6 a.m.

If interested please call Marti Castlen @ 683-9627

## KY Bishops ask ... (Continued from page 26)

During an August 28 Prayer Service in St. Stephen Cathedral, Catholic Conference of Kentucky Executive Director Ed Monahan addressed the issue of a comprehensive immigration reform plan. Here is the text of his statement:

"This evening we storm Owensboro/Evansville, our nation and the heavens with our prayers and witness that every man and woman is the image of God.

"We do not pray in anger. We do not pray in despair. We pray in hope that all will be treated justly by our laws. We know that faith without action is dead. Our action this evening is significant – our presence and our prayer.

"Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life and human dignity . . . Only with prayer – prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and our souls – will we achieve the culture of human dignity.

Tonight, our faith is not dead, it is alive.

"Tomorrow those who make our laws will meet to further discuss the pending immigration policies. Many here this evening will provide further witness by attending the immigration hearing in Evansville, Indiana on Tuesday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Convention Center so those who make our laws know that every man and woman is the image of God.

"We must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. We have a responsibility to see, through the conversion of heart and mind enactment of just laws. Laws that recognize that every man and woman, documented or undocumented, is the image of God.

"In seeking just laws, we act with the spirit of Jesus. We do not act in a partisan way or out of anger or despair. We act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God and our public officials who face difficult decisions.

"As we work to secure a public policy that treats immigrants justly let our discourse be civil and our solutions reflect that each person is the image of God."

## 14 Families Say Thank You!

This is just a short note to say "Thank You!" The Retrouvaille weekend just completed Sunday night, August 20, 2006 was attended by 14 couples. That's 14 families who now have a fighting chance. By running the Retrouvaille announcement in your bulletin and with your prayers, you helped give them that chance!

Their journey has just begun. Retrouvaille is not just a weekend; it is a 3 month program. Please continue to keep these couples and their children in your prayers.

Thank you for supporting marriage!

Dan and Pam Lipp, Retrouvaille of Owensboro



## ONCE MORE WITH LOVE...

*ONCE MORE WITH LOVE* is a marriage preparation program for couples preparing for marriage after one or both persons have experienced a divorce or death of a former spouse. This program is designed to address the critical issues of a second marriage and to offer an opportunity to establish a solid foundation for a new intimate relationship.

The Once More With Love program will be held Saturday, November 11 at the Catholic Pastoral Center from 8:30 am - and conclude with liturgy at 5:00 pm and a romantic dinner around 6:00 pm. It is essential that a couple plan to attend the entire day. The cost for the day is \$100.00 and this includes lunch, materials and dinner.

To register or for more information contact Betty Medley at (270) 683-1545 ext 357.

# Brescia Senior Speech and Hearing Major Wants To Use Degrees To Help Others

By Tina Seibert

Owensboro native, Amanda Daugherty, knew she wanted to be a teacher when she grew up. But when her little brother needed speech therapy, everything changed. "It really made a difference in him, when he started going," Daugherty says. That's when she knew she wanted to help others the same way the speech therapists were helping her brother.

Daugherty is now a 21 year old senior at Brescia University, majoring in Speech Pathology/Audiology. She transferred to Brescia from Western Kentucky University, saying WKU "was so big compared to Brescia." She enjoyed the smaller class sizes and says "[Owensboro] is home."

Over the summer, Daugherty was able to do what only 12 speech pathology students in the nation get an opportunity to do: work with children with speech disabilities at a camp just for them, in the mountains of Oregon. It's called the Meadowood Springs Speech and Hearing Camp. So, in July, Daugherty curbed her fear of flying, having never flown before, and departed for 20 days in Pendleton, Oregon.

The camp had 43 children ranging from 8 to 16 years old. She says it was a "learning experience." All the hours she put in at the camp went toward her practicum hours, and she received a scholarship to boot. Her responsibilities included developing and following an effective therapy program, staying with the campers from breakfast until dinnertime daily, preparing lesson plans and clinical reports and conducting entrance and exit interviews with the camper's parents.

Daugherty's caseload was two little girls: an 8 and a 9 year old. She says she really enjoyed working with them, and watching them learn how to better articulate. She got to work with these girls on a one-on-one basis, developing a relationship with them during therapy. She says working with the girls and seeing their progress was an incredible feeling.

Daugherty also says the sites and sounds in the mountains of Oregon were amazing. She says she had never seen an elk before that trip. And the mountains, she said, were so huge and breathtaking. Daugherty says you could forget about trying to use a cell phone, as there was no service at the camp, making it "a little



**Brescia Senior Amanda Daugherty with a camper at Meadowood Springs Speech and Hearing Camp in Oregon. Submitted Photo**

scary" not having contact with the rest of the world.

Now, Daugherty is back in Owensboro, working hard to finish her senior year at Brescia. Once she receives her undergraduate degree at Brescia, she'll go on to earn her master's. Then she'll begin looking for a job. Daugherty says she is leaning towards working with adults with speech disabilities. She says she's very excited about what the future holds, knowing that it will keep her right here in Owensboro, "[her] home."

*Tina Seibert is Director of Public Relations at Brescia University. tina.seibert@brescia.edu*

**The picture below is Mrs. Farley standing beside the front entrance to the Holy Name School library.**



BRESCHIA UNIVERSITY'S  
*10th Annual "Night of the Round Tables"*  
TAKES PLACE ON  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006  
6:00 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

THE HINES CENTER  
ONE WELLNESS DRIVE  
PHILPOT, KENTUCKY

BRESCHIA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THEIR COMMITMENT  
TO A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION.

COCKTAILS  
EXCITING SILENT & SUPER SILENT AUCTION ITEMS  
DINNER IN THE BALLROOM  
DESSERT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ASHLEY BLOCK AT  
(270) 686-6417

## Holy Name Hosts Book Sale

HENDERSON, Ky. - Holy Name School's Library was turned into a rain forest for the annual Scholastic Book Sale which ran September 11-15. To kick off the book sale, story book character Geronimo Stilton came to greet the students. Pictured below at left, is kindergartens in Mrs. Beth's class greeting Geronimo. Also pictured at right is Jonas Durham paying for his purchases with his mom. Becky Phipps, Sed Sheffer, and Joan Gibson came and volunteered.



At right, Mrs. Farley poses with students in the 'Rain Forest' -- the Holy Name School students are Jonas Durham and Maria Gonzales.



## Centering Prayer –Cooperating With The Spirit's Gift



An eight-day Centering Prayer Retreat was held July 16-23 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Attending were, Row 1: Sister Marietta Wethington, Sister Rose Theresa Johnson, Mary Jo Kruer. Row 2: Gloria Adams, Sister Eileen Howard, Tom Kruer, Rev. Tom Ward. Row 3: Sister Jean Johnson, Pat Wozniak (back), Sister Rose Karen Johnson, Carnie Harmon (back), Ann Lang, Sister Suzanne Sims, Rev. Justin Langille, Row 4: Sister Emily Nabholz, Sister Catherine Barber, Rusty Weitzel, Sister Ann McGrew. MSJ Photo

### The Method of Centering Prayer by Thomas Keating

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to cooperate with this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier time (e.g. *The Cloud of Unknowing*) in an updated form and to put a certain order and regularity into it. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; it simply puts other kinds of prayer into a new and fuller perspective. During the time of prayer we consent to God's presence and action within. At other times our attention moves outward to discover God's presence everywhere.

The Guidelines: Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within. When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to the sacred word. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

Source: [http://www.thecentering.org/centering\\_method.html](http://www.thecentering.org/centering_method.html)



### Mount Hope Weekend

Dr. Oluwole "Wally" Olusola spoke to a group of cancer survivors during Mount Hope Weekend August 11-13 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The program was sponsored by the Kentucky Cancer Society with a grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. MSJ Photo

## You are invited to a special Alumnae Memorial Mass Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 a.m. Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel

This Mass will be offered for deceased alumnae of Mount Saint Joseph Academy and College in Maple Mount, as well as faculty, parents and loved ones.



You may send your prayer requests in care of the  
Mount Saint Joseph  
Alumnae Office,  
8001 Cummings Rd.,  
Maple Mount, KY 42356  
or e-mail to  
[alumnae@maplemount.org](mailto:alumnae@maplemount.org)

Mass will be followed  
by a luncheon with the  
Ursuline Sisters.  
Please RSVP by calling  
**270-229-2006**



**Directors of Religious Education** – Sue Grenough, left, of Louisville, led a group of Directors of Religious Education (DRE) and youth ministers in a prayer day August 28 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. MSJ Photo

## How The Catholics of Paducah Got Their Churches Or What Happened When Father Elisha Durbin Came to Town

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - About two years ago, Father Tony Shonis became interested in collecting stories on tape of older Catholics in Paducah before the stories were lost. He found a book from St. Francis de Sales church that was written in 1934 that had the history of all the Catholic parishes in McCracken County. He began putting together a mini-class to be taught to the middle school students at St. Mary School as an aid to passing on the faith to the children. That got no farther than the idea.

However, in the process, Father Tony heard about a book about Father Elisha Durbin. He also found out that Richard Coleman was doing some research at the Paducah library and that Richard was inspired to portray Father Durbin. Richard let his hair and beard grow, and when asked, dressed in a period cassock and even acquired on loan a biretta that Monsignor Anthony Higdon had worn. Even though the mini-class did not happen, Richard was asked to come to the parishes' Vacation Bible School at St. John's to talk to the children about how the Catholic churches came to Paducah.

Co-coordinator Cindy Butterbaugh explained, "It is important to tell the story of our heritage. How our churches were built and how the Catholics influenced the formation of our communities. We are working on a video to capture and preserve the stories of our faith to help the children to understand our Catholic heritage. Hopefully, the video will provide a way for children and adults to learn about and to treasure our history."

Father Shonis commented, "The theory behind all of this, however, is that if you want to pass on the faith to the next generation, the way you do it most effectively is through stories and Paducah has many stories of Catholics who kept the faith in difficult circumstances."

A bit of this history is taken from *The History of the Catholic Church in Paducah, Kentucky* written by John T. Donovan. "The first Catholics in McCracken County were German emigrants



**Richard Coleman in costume he wears when he portrays Father Elisha Durbin. Edie Keeney Photo**

who came in 1834 and settled in the neighborhood of the present Church of St. John's about nine miles south of Paducah in 1939. Since the establishment of Catholicity in Western Kentucky is intimately associated with the memory of Father Elisha J. Durbin, no history of the Church in Paducah can be complete without extended mention of that saintly missionary. Through scorching suns and chilly snows, over dusty or muddy roads, he rode with saddle bags across his horse over all that region in Kentucky west of Jefferson County, visiting the few scattered and isolated Catholic families and individuals, offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in farm houses, country stores and barns, gradually forming congregations, building schools and churches, securing priests to serve and act as assistants in his missionary work in widely separated

settlements."

Here is one story that is told about Father Durbin. Father rode on horse back up a road in what is now the St. John's community and came upon a group of men working in a field. After finding out that they were Catholic, he asked if they wanted him to offer Mass. The men didn't believe he was a priest until he showed them his Chalice and Mass book. Thus, the first Mass in the Paducah area was celebrated, and in 1869, St. John the Evangelist church was built in the community. The construction of the school soon followed.

Father Durbin founded St. Francis de Sales Church, in downtown Paducah. In 1848, Father Durbin purchased property in downtown Paducah for \$225.00 and there the parishioners built a brick structure, completing the church the following year. It was set back from the street and was surrounded by a high fence to keep in the livestock that were allowed to roam in the churchyard. As the congregation grew, the building became too small and a second larger church was built in 1870, and it too was enclosed in a fence. but built closer to the front of the lot to allow the original church to be used until all but the Sanctuary of the new church was constructed. People attending Mass had to pass through the new church to enter the old church. The third and present church was built between 1899 and 1900 at a cost of \$35,000, without a fence and livestock, and moved to the front of the lot. During its construction, services were held over a grocery. St. Francis de Sales is the only church occupying its original location in Paducah.

St. Thomas More Parish was established in 1943 due to the growing congregation that was becoming quite large and overcrowdig St. Francis de Sales. However, the shortage of building materials during World War II delayed completion of construction until 1948 when the Most Revered Francis R. Cotton, the first Bishop of Owensboro, blessed the temporary church structure, which was intended to be an auditorium/gymnasium for the school after the planned church was built at a later date.

The church property held the church,

the school and the convent where the Ursuline nuns who taught at the school lived. The "temporary" building served as St. Thomas More Parish until 1991 when the church at a different location was completed.

*History of Rosary Chapel* by Shirley Bunch: "Rosary Chapel Parish was established in 1947 by Reverend Albert Thompson, pastor of St. Francis de Sales, the only Catholic Church in Paducah at that time. Because the custom of segregation prevailed, Father Thompson felt that Black Catholics had no sense of identity at St. Francis and needed a parish of their own. The parishioners cooperated in building Rosary Chapel by contributing time and labor to help renovate the first buildings. The property consisted of three three-room houses, one of which was converted to a small chapel. The other two rooms were connected and used as classrooms for the Rosary Chapel School. The continued growth of the congregation led to the construction of a larger church. It was dedicated in 1958. In 1992, Rosary faced the decision from Bishop John J. McRaith to remain a Black parish or become multicultural and the latter was accepted, rendering service for and with Blacks, Whites, Spanish, and Bi-racial members."

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth established St. Mary's Academy in Paducah. At that time, there were no public schools and only a few private schools that were conducted by individuals in their homes. The school opened its doors to 60 students in October of 1858 and was active for 108 years in that facility. Throughout many years, St. Francis de Sales, Rosary Chapel, and St. Thomas More all had schools. In 1965, the new modern, air-conditioned St. Mary High School opened, drawing students from the Paducah area and all over the Purchase area. The present St. Mary School system provides quality comprehensive Catholic education to students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grades.

All this is just what happened in the Paducah area. Father Durbin traveled throughout Western Kentucky where his missionary work bore similar fruit.



These members from St. Sebastian in Calhoun (plus one from St. Charles in Livermore) "walked for life" on Saturday, September 9th, in Owensboro. Earlene Abney rallied the group, and they all collected pledges from their friends and family. Pictured from left to right are: Pat Payne, Earlene Abney, Laurie Scott, Laurine Scott and friend, Debra Hamilton, Greg Abney, and Linda Durbin. Photo by Cathy Burden

## St. Sebastian Parish Welcomes All Into Church Family

By Cathy Burden

CALHOUN, Ky. - September can be an awkward month in the lives of our church family: school is almost in full swing, summer continues to tease us with warm temperatures and sunny days, yet we know that fall is right around the corner. We cling to the not-so-distant memories of summer vacation as we mark one more date on our already busy calendars. Life at St. Sebastian in Calhoun continues to keep us all hopping from one activity to another, but the fun we have together as a family united with Jesus somehow seems to ease our every day cares.

Starting a new year in the religious education program is always exciting, but this year we decided to add some extra "flavor" to our opening night. A wienie roast was voted as the best way to "light our fire" and kick off another year in the lives of our children and their Catholic faith. Jerry and Earlene Abney, long-time members and former catechists themselves, spearheaded the bonfire efforts (cleaned up the St. Sebastian Park, provided the bonfire wood and roasting sticks, and ensured the fire was at just the right temperature for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows). Catechists, parents, children and other parish members relished time together on the church grounds as supper was heartily consumed. Over 70 hot dogs were roasted, so that gives you some idea of the people who were there to support our religious education program! Thanks also to Bernie Miller and Debra Hamilton for coordinating the registration process for all the classrooms.

St. Sebastian members don't just talk the talk, they walk the walk, too. Earlene Abney organized a team from St. Sebastian and St. Charles (in Livermore) to participate in the Owensboro Right to Life Walk on Saturday, September 9th. Walking with Earlene down Frederica Street and displaying their belief that all life is precious were: Greg Abney, Linda Durbin, Debra Hamilton, Laurie, Laurine and David Scott, Audrey Wright, and Pat Payne. While final totals weren't available at press time, this small but dedicated group was able to raise over \$400 for the pro-life efforts of our local chapter.

Continuing a tradition that spans approximately 25 years, St. Sebastian was proud to serve the good Ursuline Sisters at the Mount St. Joseph picnic on Sunday, September 10th. Betty Bickett has been in charge of recruiting workers for the picnic for all of those 25 years, and when Betty asks you to volunteer, it's difficult to say no! We were asked (a polite way of saying that's what the Sisters told us to do!) to man the ice cream booth this year, and what a workout we got! The warm weather and picnic atmosphere combined to make it an absolutely perfect day for ice cream, and almost every person



Sister Helen Leo counts back "ice cream" change for Sam Burden, the youngest volunteer from St. Sebastian at the Mount's picnic. Lynne Scott and Earlene Abney wait their turn for change in a booth that was "hopping" all day long. Photo by Cathy Burden

correct change! Our youngest volunteer worker was Sam Burden, 12 years of age, and our most experienced (a much better phrase than "oldest") worker was Betty Bickett; good sense and a desire to live a few years longer prevented me from listing Betty's age! In addition to Betty and Sam, the following St. Sebastian volunteers scooped, dipped, and/or served their neighbors: Jerry and Earlene Abney; Cathy Burden; Greg Abney; Lynne Scott; Hilary Young; Mike and Vickie Vollman; Jerry and Sherry Hayden; Lance and Stacy Green; Ralph and Judy Ward; Janet McMaster; and Linda Durbin. There was talk about asking for the drink stand back for next year? What do you say, Sisters?

Mass is at 8:30 on Sunday mornings, and we'd love to have you join us. Doughnuts and coffee are served almost every Sunday after Mass, and even if we forget refreshments, there are always opportunities for good conversation in our new church hall. We've so enjoyed having Fr. Titus with us during September (and singing with him during the homily), and we look forward to having our beloved pastor, Fr. Pete, back with us from his sunny sabbatical in the tropics of Pennsylvania.

Come and see us at St. Sebastian, close to the banks of the Green River in Calhoun!

at the picnic had a scoop or two (at least that's how it seemed to the poor souls who were hunched over the freezers scooping out dip after dip). Butter pecan prevailed as the crowd favorite, but when it ran out the people just moved on to the next flavor on the list. Sister Helen Leo, officially retired but still working as hard as ever, kept the change situation under control and only scoffed slightly when asked to make change for a \$20 bill when someone ordered a seventy-five dip of ice cream. Sister Helen Leo has worked the ice cream booth for many years, so she knows the value of having the

*Editor's Note: Western Kentucky Catholics, contact former St. Sebastian Pastor Fr. Frank Roof, (1493 Augusta Ln., Atwater, CA 95301) and ask him about the day he saved a Calhoun diner from the rising waters of the Green River in the 1997 flood.*



These religious education students at St. Sebastian in Calhoun had a blast at the wienie roast. They represent the following families: Schutte, Vaught, Ferguson, Anderson, Eaton and Miller. Photo by Cathy Burden



Kevin Vaught, a member of St. Sebastian in Calhoun, helps Matthew Miller across the monkey bars at the First Annual Religious Education Wienie Roast on the grounds of St. Sebastian. Thanks to Jerry and Earlene Abney for cleaning up the "St. Sebastian Park" and organizing the bonfire activities; we all look forward to utilizing the park more often since it has been restored. Photo by Cathy Burden

By Larena Lawson

Jessy Hagan is a very enthusiastic 19 year-old young lady from St. Mary's Parish in Whitesville. She has traveled the highways and byways of the eastern United States over the past year giving retreats for young people as a member of NET, National Evangelization Team. She has found it to be a rewarding ministry that beckoned her to commit to another year of service.

NET is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, MN, under the ecclesial direction of Archbishop Harry Flynn. It was started back in 1981 by Mark Berchem who put together a team to give retreats in the local area. They were so successful that requests were made for more retreats and the outreach began. More teams were formed, trained and sent out to surrounding states. Year-long commitments were made by team members, who range between the ages of 18 and 30. The ministry became so effective and powerful that it has since grown to be an international organization. The US now has 8 teams serving across the country. They recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

How did Jessy become interested in NET? As she shared her "story" with the Owensboro Serra Club August 18, 2006, one could see how God worked in calling her forth to serve Him.

It all began when she was a junior in high school. Her St. Mary's Youth Group made a visit to St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville. There she heard about NET from a former NET member, Sister John Mary Reid who had served two years on a team and was telling the young people about the impact it had had on her life. Jessy remembered what Sister John Mary said, and in the following spring, she participated as an aide in a Confirmation Retreat given by NET in her own parish. They prayed over each young person, and it was then that she felt it might be something God was calling her to do. Later in prayer, she asked for a sign from Him if He wanted her to serve on NET. As Jessy was crocheting a blanket, a NET member approached her and asked her if she was interested in learning more about NET. Jessy said, "A little too fast, God; thanks for the sign!" Jessy took this as God's way of leading her in the direction He wanted her to go.

In Jessy's senior year, she applied to NET and had an interview weekend in



**NET Team member Jessy Hagan from St. Mary of the Woods Church, Whitesville, Ky., spoke with the members of the Owensboro Serra Club during their weekly noon meeting. Lois Rutigliano Photo**

March. There they showed her what NET was all about, and she "fell in love." She was, "banking on God to get her in," and He did. In August of last year, she went to a five-week training camp in Wisconsin with, "85 other young adults on fire for God." The focus was on you and God, concentrating a great deal on prayer." They learned aspects of retreat, how to give talks, play games, and live in a van with 10 other people and "have fun."

Jessy was assigned to a team of 4 males and 7 females. They worked 6 days a week and were off, "every now and then." Every Monday was a "do nothing day" to just bond with your teammates. They stayed with host families and met the nicest, most amazing people along the way, which she thought was "cool." They had 2 weeks off for Christmas which was "a blessing to see family again." They traveled through 34 states, serving 9,000 youth from grades 6 through 12. They had 5 different retreats to choose from: "Who are you?," "Firm Foundation," "Clinging to Christ," "Why Faith?" and "Confirmation." They could be two-hour power retreats, two-day weekend retreats, or a typical 5- to 6-hour retreat.

Jessy's lively faith, delightful enthusiasm, and genuine desire to serve the Lord by sharing His Word can be an inspiration to all of us. God bless her second year of

service with NET.

If you'd like to catch a glimpse of Jessy and her new "family" for the next eight months, you may go to [www.netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org) click on teams and a dropdown menu will appear, click on "team 3" and, Viola!, there is her team. For those of you who know Daniel Whitehouse, he has been assigned to the hometeam. If you'd like to see his "family, you can choose "team 1".

For those of you who know Daniel Whitehouse, he has been assigned to the home team. If you'd like to see his "family, you can choose "team 1."

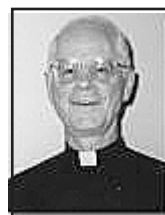
*"Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go..." Jeremiah 1:7*

*Reprinted from the weekly Minutes of The Serra Club of Owensboro, Aug 21, 2006.*



## 2006-2007 TIP Qualifiers from Holy Name

The following Holy Name School seventh graders have qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) by scoring at or above the 95th National Percentile on specific subtests of their CAT6 tests. Through the TIP program, these students have been offered the opportunity to take either the SAT or the ACT as seventh graders. In addition, they receive educational journals and academic camp guides, as well as recognition for their outstanding performance. Front row, left to right: Alex Yates, Tracy Cates, Madeline Liles, Megan Tigue, Jamie Gibson, Amanda Hobbs, Amanda Stone, Mareea Thomas, and Hannah Hodge; middle row, left to right: Bryan Massoth, Rachel Wheatley, Erica Day, Kristen O'Nan, Trent Staples, Alex Caudill, John Redding, and Ryan Nally; back row, left to right: Mark Carver, Marshall Howell, Heath Fritz, Helen Beckert, Caroline Williams, Kristin Young, Paige Chester, and Alisia Peralta. Connie McFarland Photo



## Mary: Model of Contemplation

**Saturday, October 7, 2006**

**Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM**

**Blessed Mother Parish Hall, Owensboro, Kentucky**

*Sponsored by the Marian Shrine Committee,  
[www.marianshrineky.org](http://www.marianshrineky.org)*

*For more information call Cathy Graham 270-683-4665*

Fr. Thomas Dubay is a well-known retreat master and expert in the spiritual life. A Marist Priest, Father holds a Ph.D. from Catholic University of America and has taught on both major seminary levels for about fifteen years. He spent the last twenty-seven years giving retreats and writing books (over twenty at last count) on various aspects of the spiritual life.

## Delegation From China Visits Lourdes Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus

By Lois Rutigliano

OWENSBORO.Ky. – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus was honored that they were chosen for a visit by a delegation of Chinese educators who were interested in private and Catholic education, which they do not have in China. None of the delegation spoke English so “Winnie” Lin, teacher at Tamarack School, served as their interpreter.

Jim Mattingly, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, gave a brief talk to explain the difference in the Catholic school system and the Public school system. “The fundamental difference between the two types of schools is that the mission of Public schools is to serve the students academic and social needs in a caring environment that prepares them for success at school and in later life. The mission of Catholic schools is to serve students spiritual needs in a Catholic environment that also fosters academic and social growth,” said Jim Mattingly.

Afterward, the delegation visited each classroom where they greeted the children in the Chinese language. Mrs. Lin taught the children how to respond in Chinese, which they seemed to enjoy. They were excited to learn a new word in a foreign language. The group also asked the children questions through their interpreter.

Before departing for their next destination the delegation was presented with a gift bag that contained information about the Catholic school system, a DVD, T-shirt, and other useful items.



At back, from left, Karen Gross, Marilyn Mills, Lessa Moman, Jim Mattingly; front row, Chinese educators Hua Ting Ting, Yuan Minxia, with Winnie Lin and Lori Whitehouse, principal at OCS K-3 Center. Lois Rutigliano photo

## Sister Mary Emily Whelan, OSU, 88, Died August 26, 2006

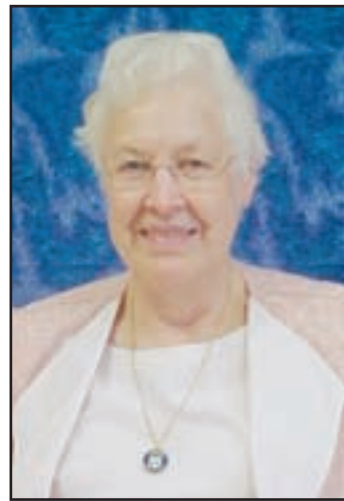
Maple Mount — Sister Mary Emily Whelan, 88, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died August 26, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 67th year of religious life. She was a native of Howardstown. Her sister, Sister Dorothy Ann Whelan, who died in February 2003, was also an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

An educator for 58 years, Sister Mary Emily taught at St. Charles School, Lebanon (1941-50), St. Columba School, Louisville (1950-56), and St. Bernard Academy, Nebraska City, Neb.

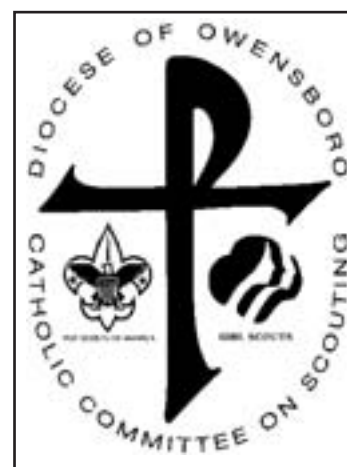
For 41 years, she ministered at Brescia College in Owensboro. From 1959-89, she served as a librarian in the college library. She was administrative assistant in the Counseling Center from 1989 until her retirement in 2000.

“Brescia University was blessed by the long and valuable ministry of Sister Mary Emily,” Brescia president Sister Vivian Bowles reflected. “I especially appreciated the six years that she served as our administrative assistant in the Counseling Center when I was director. Sister was always a lady, a professional, an inspiring religious, and a caring friend. All of us who knew her will miss the blessing she was to our lives.” Survivors include nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was celebrated August 30 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Mary Emily Whelan may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



Sister Mary Emily Whelan, OSU



## A Scout is Reverent

The Owensboro Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS) would like to announce their annual retreat for Catholic Boy Scouts. The retreat will be held at Camp Ondessonk in southern Illinois on the weekend of October 20th, 21st & 22nd and cost \$30. (<http://www.ondessonk.com>) The retreat will be open to any age Boy Scout and 2nd year Webelo if the Webelo is accompanied by a parent or Guardian. The retreat will provide an opportunity for Boy Scouts to hike, play and pray and earn the new CCOS Glorious Mysteries Rosary Patch. Also information will be available on the various religious medals that are available to Boy Scouts -

The Catholic Boy Scout Religious Emblems available are – **Life of Christ** – For Tiger and Bear Cub Scouts through the third grade; **Parvuli Dei** – For Scouts that have completed the 3rd Grade and 1st & 2nd Grade Webelos; **Ad Altare Dei** – For Scouts that have completed the 6th grade and are age 13 to 14; **Pope Pius XII** – For Scouts that have started the 9th Grade

The Catholic Girl Scout Religious Emblems available are – **Family of God** – For ages 7-9; **I Live My Faith** – For ages 9-11; **Marian Medal** – For ages 12-15; **Spirit Alive** – For those in High School at Senior level of Girl Scouts

The Religious Emblem Application Deadline is 12/31/06, and the annual awards mass and reception will be held at the cathedral on March 18th, 2007. Please contact Matthew Keyser, CCOS Committee Chairperson for more information at 270-842-1582 or [mkeyser@insightbb.com](mailto:mkeyser@insightbb.com). Please contact Fr. Ken Mikulcik at 270-247-2843 for Girl Scout Emblems booklets.

By Lois Rutigliano

OWENSBORO, Ky. – The scorching heat and high humidity did not seem to deter the large crowd of people, who gathered on the front lawn of the First Presbyterian Church located on Griffith Avenue, from enjoying the many festivities that were available to them.

The Color Guards from Apollo High School ROTC officially opened the eighth annual Multicultural Festival as they marched up the front steps of the church and stood at attention while Rick Huffman, trumpet soloist, played the National Anthem. Tera Barnard, a parishioner from St. Stephen Cathedral, sang “America the Beautiful.”

Prayers of the People followed with Rev. Wes Kendall, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church who offered a beautiful prayer from the heart. Rev. Jonathan Carroll, Pastor of the First Presbyterian, and Fr. John O’Koro, Associate pastor at St. Stephen Cathedral each read from the Scriptures. The worship service was held on the front steps of the church and closed with the Lord’s Prayer. The festival parade then began led by a big colorful dragon, followed by singers, dancers, and children in native costume following behind the dragon, as they weaved their way through the crowd.

Many cultures were represented and some wore the native dress of their country. There was something for everyone to enjoy. There were many booths represented by different cultures to visit and homemade articles to buy and the tempting aroma of food beckoned from the food court.

The festival is a wonderful place to meet and visit with old friends and a great opportunity to meet and cultivate some new ones. It was an interesting and a fun experience to meet a delegation of educators from China who were interested in learning about the Owensboro School System, especially the difference between the Public schools and the Catholic schools. Another group from China was here visiting Brescia University and the Community College.

One of the best things about the festival is the coming together as one for one day of different faiths and cultures.

## A Prayer of the People

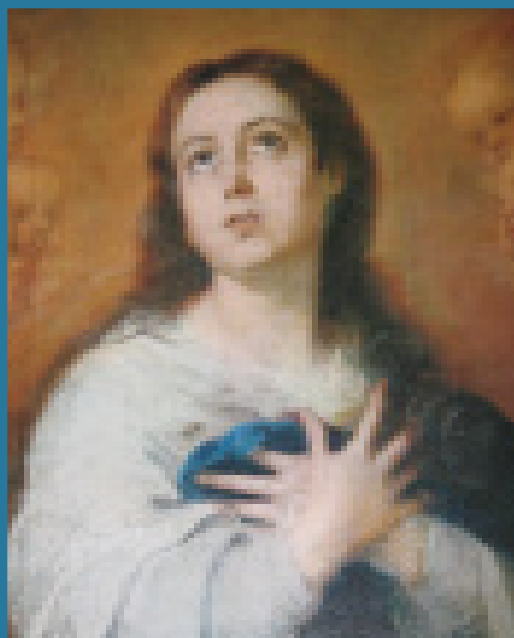
Almighty God,  
You have ordered us to live as loving neighbors  
Though we are scattered in different places,  
Speak different words,  
Or descend from different races.  
Give us a common concern  
So that we may be one people  
Who share the governing of the world  
Under Your guiding purpose.  
May greed, war, and lust for power be  
curbed,  
And all people enter into  
the Community of Love.  
We ask this of You, O God. Amen.

Rev. Wes Kendall, Associate Pastor at  
First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro,  
offered A Prayer of the People.

Lois Rutigliano photo



Pan Wangjie, a principal from China at left, Chinese educators Zhang Weina, and Hua Ting Ting, posed with Father John Okoro, Associate Pastor at St. Stephen Cathedral Parish. Lois Rutigliano photo



## Marian Retreat: Mary, Our Model

October 6-8, 2006

(Begins 6 p.m. Friday and ends 1 p.m. Sunday)

Msgr. Bernard Powers, Retreat Director

The Marian Retreat will include opportunities for solitude as well as for communal prayer: recitation of the Rosary, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Liturgy. Retreat fee is \$150. Commuters can attend for \$105. A \$50 deposit is required. To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413.



Mount Saint Joseph  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999  
270-229-0200  
www.msjcenter.org  
msjcenter@maplemount.org

## In Praise of Catholic Conference of Kentucky

By Rev. Frank Ruff

Hispanics in our community frequently run afoul of the courts. They are often picked up by police for not having a driver's license. They would very much like to have a license, but Kentucky does not issue a driver's license to someone who does not have a valid visa. They would like even more to have a valid work visa, but the United States Government issues only a small number of visas for unskilled workers while the jobs needing to be filled are great. Most of the Hispanics in our area would be classified as unskilled construction and farm workers.

About six months ago our local district judge seems to have decided to enforce the current immigration law and to rid our counties of undocumented Hispanics. She began to add on to the fine for not having a license an additional sentence to "leave the Commonwealth of Kentucky within 72 hours and not return, not even pass through the county again." The sentence was harsh because some of them had children in school here and some had doctors here. The sentence was threatening because they would be jailed for contempt of court if arrested.

Paul Witte, the Pastoral Associate of St. Susan Church in Elkton, who is bi-lingual and works with Hispanics, brought the situation to the Catholic Conference of Kentucky. The CCK took the matter to the Administrative Office of the Courts of the State of Kentucky and learned that indeed the judge was acting beyond her authority. The Administrative Office of the Courts told the judge to stop issuing these sentences.

On Tuesday, August 29, 2006, the judge announced publicly that the Administrative Office of the Courts had talked to her because "the Catholic Church complained about my practice." That day, instead of banishing them from Kentucky, she sent 11 of them to jail, on her own initiative, without the possibility of bond and without legal representation.

The men were confused; their families were distraught; and we did not know what

to do. She went on vacation and would not be back in court for several weeks.

Again, Paul Witte appealed to the Catholic Conference of Kentucky for help. They put him in contact with a lawyer who assured him the judge's actions were illegal and who encouraged him to get a local lawyer for them. However, immigration law is complicated and Paul was not able to find a local lawyer who would handle their cases, though he contacted more than a dozen. However, the lawyer contacted by the CCK stepped in and alerted the Public Defender's Office which spent two days working on writs of habeas corpus, with Paul assisting as interpreter.

On Friday, September 8, the men were brought into circuit court and, with the Assistant Attorney General of the State of Kentucky on the speaker phone, the Circuit Court Judge clearly articulated how the District Judge had violated both the Constitution of Kentucky and the Constitution of the United States by depriving these men of liberty without legal counsel and of violating the separation of powers by taking over the enforcement power from the executive branch of government. The men were released that day. This would not have happened without the Catholic Conference of Kentucky!

We do not imagine that this is the last time the Catholic Church will be called on to stand for justice. We are grateful the Catholic Conference is available to stand with us.

*(Rev. Frank Ruff is pastor of St. Susan Catholic Church in Elkton, KY and St. Mary & James Catholic Church in Guthrie, KY)*

### ROSARY MISSION: 2006

Saint Charles Parish: 6922 State Route 408 Bardwell, Kentucky 42023



THEME: Meditating for Change and Happiness!  
PREACHER: Rev. Kenneth A. France-Kelly,

Since the summer of 2005 Father France-Kelly has been stationed at Saint Louis Bertrand Priory in Louisville KY. During more than twenty-five years of priestly ministry he has preached numerous Novenas, Parish Missions, Workshops, Retreats and Days of Recollection in addition to his regular assigned duties.

HOMILY ONE: [Sunday (Mass), 01 October 2006, 9:30 a.m. "The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles!"

HOMILY TWO: [Sunday (Procession), 01 October 2006, 7:00pm "The Incarnation of the Lord:

Annunciation and Nativity!"

HOMILY THREE: [Monday (Mass), 02 October 2006, 7:00pm "The Proclamation of the Kingdom with its Call to Conversion!"

HOMILY FOUR: [Tuesday (Mass), 03 October 2006, 7:00pm "Jesus 'Reveals' His Baptism in the Jordan River!"

HOMILY FIVE: [Wednesday (Mass), 04 October 2006, 7:00pm "The Transfiguration of the Lord!"

HOMILY SIX: [Thursday (Mass), 05 October 2006, 7:00pm "Jesus 'Reveals' his Divinity at the Wedding Feast at Cana!"

HOMILY SEVEN: [Friday (Mass), 06 October 2006, 7:00pm "The Eucharist: The Memorial of the Paschal Mystery!"

For more information contact Parish office 270-642-2586

### Youth Ministry Overnight October 20-21, 2006

Gaspar River Retreat Center, Bowling Green, KY

Time: 6pm Friday – 3pm Saturday

Cost: \$30 per person

Deadline for registration: October 11, 2006

The purpose is to bring adults together that are interested in Youth Ministry to pray, play, and learn as we offer support to one another on our journeys of faith and in particular, as we attempt to "foster ministry to, with by and for youth" in our parishes and schools. For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry 270-683-1545 or email [donna.mills@pastoral.org](mailto:donna.mills@pastoral.org)

### Youth Ministry Convocation November 18, 2006

Christ the King Parish, Madisonville, KY

Time: 9am-8pm

Cost: \$20 per person

Facilitated by Tom East, Director for the Center for Ministry Development.

The purpose of the Convocation will be twofold:

- 1) Conduct a parish process that will help educate the entire parish about the goals and purposes/components of Youth Ministry as outlined in the U. S. Bishop's document, *Renewing the Vision, A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, written by the United States Catholic Bishops in 1996. Out of the parish process we ask that a pastoral leadership team discern and then invite youth and adults to represent your parish at the Convocation.
- 2) Convene the parish representatives at the Convocation to:
  - a) Identify the core values and core purpose of youth ministry in the diocese.
  - b) Evaluate current services and help identify what the priorities of the diocesan office need to be.

For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry 270-683-1545 or email [donna.mills@pastoral.org](mailto:donna.mills@pastoral.org)

## Miembros de la Parroquia San José se despiden de la Hermana Beatriz Taneco

MAYFIELD, Ky. - Damos gracias a Dios por haber puesto una persona tan maravillosa en nuestro camino. Esta persona es la Hermana Beatriz Taneco, le agradecemos muchísimo por todo lo que ella ha hecho por nosotros. La Hna. Beatriz es una persona humilde con la cual podemos contar y confiar. La Hermana hizo todo lo posible por ayudar a las personas, sin importar como o a quien.

Queremos mucho a la Hermana Beatriz y no tenemos palabras para decirle cuanto la queremos y para agradecerle todo lo que ella nos ha brindado.

La Hermana nos ha brindado a todos su apoyo incondicional, especialmente al grupo L.M.J. (Liga Misionera Juvenil) - sin su apoyo no hubiéramos logrado llegar hasta donde estamos. Gracias a Dios y a ella tuvimos la oportunidad de ser parte del grupo de la Red y estar presentes en el Primer Encuentro Regional y luego en el Nacional, sin ella no lo hubiéramos logrado.

Como dije anteriormente, no tenemos palabras suficientes, pero sí queremos que sepa que nunca la vamos a olvidar y aunque ella no esté con nosotros en persona, ella siempre estará en nuestros pensamientos.

**HERMANA BEATRIZ LA QUEREMOS MUCHO!!!!!!!**

El grupo de Oración, junto con los jóvenes de la Liga y Red. Y con todo el amor de la Hermana María Ofelia organizaron una despedida para la Hermana Beatriz. Este evento se llevo a cabo el 6 de Agosto en el salón parroquial de St. Joseph.

Toda la comunidad Hispana como Americana, fue cordialmente invitado a la celebración. Fue un momento de alegría como también de tristeza y muchas lágrimas. De alegría, porque todos tuvimos la oportunidad de convivir por última vez con la queridísima Hermana Beatriz. Pero también fue muy triste para todos, porque sabíamos que talvez para muchos de nosotros sería la última vez que íbamos a compartir y poder tenerla muy cerca de nosotros.

Todos nos sentíamos muy tristes a ver a todas las personas con lágrimas en



El Padre Carmelo les da una bendición a todas las madres hispanas de la parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo el día de las madres. Hopkinsville, Ky. Fr. Carmelo gives a blessing to all the Hispanic mothers of Sts. Peter and Paul parish on Mother's Day. Hopkinsville, Ky.



Foto de las Hermanas María Ofelia y Beatriz y el Obispo con parroquianos de San José, Mayfield. (de isq. a der.: Luis, Liliana, Gabriela, y Jacinto)  
*Photo of Sisters María Ofelia and Beatriz and the Bishop with parishioners from St. Joseph, Mayfield. Sr. Beatriz will be serving her community and the Archdiocese of Atlanta in Georgia. Sr. Imelda arrives the 19th from the same community to serve in Mayfield. Thanks to both for their generous service!*

los ojos cuando le daban el último adiós a la Hna. Beatriz.

Esta fiesterita que le hicimos fue también para agradecerle por todo su apoyo que nos ha brindado. Pero también sabemos que esta celebración que le hicimos, no fue suficiente para poder darle todo lo que ella se merece.

Le damos el mas cordial agradecimiento a la Madre Beatriz por todo el tiempo que nos compartió, el tiempo que estuvo con todos de nuestra parroquia San José en Mayfield. Que Dios la bendiga en su nuevo equipo de trabajo, compañeros y amigos.

Atentamente: Liliana Durán, Pablo y Alejandra Rosas.

*Nota editorial: La Hermana Beatriz estará sirviendo a su comunidad religiosa y la Diócesis de Atlanta en Georgia. Le agradecemos por su servicio generosa a la Diócesis de Owensboro y específicamente en Paducah y Mayfield. A la vez le damos la bienvenida a la Hermana Imelda Quechol quien llegó el 19 de agosto para servir. ¡Gracias hermanas!*

## Reforma migratoria: reconoce que cada hombre y cada mujer es la imagen de Dios

La reforma de las leyes de la nación sobre inmigración despierta el interés nacional y local. Mientras trabajamos en asegurar una política pública que trate con justicia a los inmigrantes, yo y los otros tres Obispos Católicos de Kentucky pedimos que nuestro discurso sea civil y nuestras soluciones reflejen que cada persona es la imagen y semejanza de Dios.

El presidente y el Congreso reconocen que nuestro sistema de inmigración es decrepito y quieren cambiar el estado de las cosas. Todas las partes del debate de la inmigración deben de poder ponerse de acuerdo en dos hechos básicos: 1) Nuestra nación y nuestra economía se benefician del trabajo de los inmigrantes, tanto indocumentados como legales y continuarán haciéndolo en el futuro previsible; y 2) Por el subdesarrollo económico en sus países de origen, los inmigrantes van a continuar migrando, incluso arriesgando sus vidas, para trabajar y sostener a sus familias.

Las actuales políticas ignoran estas realidades. Por ejemplo, después de gastar \$25 billones de dólares en la estrategia de reforzamiento de "bloque" de la frontera los últimos 10 años, el número neto de indocumentados que entran a Estados Unidos ha crecido de 300,000 a cerca de 500,000 por año. Más perturbador es el hecho



**El Monseñor Gettelfinger, Obispo de la Diócesis de Evansville, proclamando el Evangelio en la vigilia.**



**El Monseñor Juan McRaith, Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro, presidiendo la vigilia en la catedral de San Esteban el 28 de agosto para apoyar la reforma migratoria exhaustiva en anticipación de la audiencia del comité judicial de la Cámara de Diputados el siguiente día en Evansville**

de que más de 2700 inmigrantes murieron desde el principio de los bloqueos, pereciendo en regiones remotas del suroeste americano.

Casi el ochenta por ciento de aquellos que logran llegar a los Estados Unidos encuentran trabajo sin demora. Ellos contribuyen con billones a nuestros sistemas de impuestos y seguridad social. El departamento del trabajo estima que, para el año 2008, habrá seis millones más de trabajos de baja calificación disponibles de los que los americanos son capaces de cubrir ellos mismos.

Nuestro sistema actual, en lugar de desalentar la migración indocumentada, la hace inevitable. Las visas de trabajo para trabajadores no calificados son muy pocas en número comparadas con la demanda – 5,000 en el sistema permanente y hasta 66,000 en el temporal. Las visas de unidad familiar pueden ser incluso más escasas, con tiempos de espera tan largos como 10 años para que las familias Mexicanas puedan ser reunidas.

Para los inmigrantes desesperados por encontrar trabajo o para reunir a sus miembros familiares, hay pocas opciones, ninguna de las cuales es

deseable: cruzar un desierto mortal, pagar contrabandistas sin escrúpulos o ambas.

Responder a los hechos básicos requiere una amplia revisión de las políticas de inmigración de los Estados Unidos. Nosotros urgimos una reforma de inmigración amplia que incluya estos tres componentes mayores.

Primero, cualquier programa de legalización debe permitir a indocumentados con larga residencia el acceso a la residencia permanente. Esto estabiliza las familias de inmigrantes y la fuerza laboral.

Segundo, cualquier sistema de inmigración basado en el empleo debe incrementar las avenidas legales para trabajar mientras se protegen los derechos tanto de los trabajadores extranjeros como de los trabajadores de los Estados Unidos. Esto permite futuros flujos de trabajadores con completa seguridad y legalmente y reduce las muertes en la frontera.

Finalmente, el plan debe reducir los tiempos de espera bajo el sistema de reunificación familiar. Nuestro sistema actual con frecuencia separa maridos de sus mujeres y padres de sus hijos, un resultado inaceptable moralmente en una nación construida sobre la fortaleza de la familia.

En el largo plazo, los Estados Unidos deben hacer más para promover un desarrollo económico sostenido en los países emisores de tal manera que los trabajadores emigrantes puedan permanecer en casa y sostener a sus familias con dignidad. A pesar de la creencia popular, los inmigrantes prefieren permanecer en sus países de origen.

Como un proveedor de servicio social con alcance global, la Iglesia Católica está profundamente preocupada con las causas de la migración indocumentada y sus consecuencias, especialmente por el inmigrante que nosotros vemos como nuestro hermano o hermana.

Esas opuestas reformas amplias ignoran la tragedia humana y dislocación familiar del estado de las cosas. Ellos dan por descontado la invaluable contribución que los inmigrantes hacen a nuestra nación. Ellos cosechan los beneficios de los trabajadores indocumentados pero se rehúsan a darles la protección de la ley. Ellos no puedan tenerlo en ambas formas.

Nuestros líderes electos saben que el estado de las cosas es inaceptable. Ahora es el tiempo de promulgar una reforma amplia. La reforma amplia de nuestra política de inmigración no sólo protege los derechos humanos y prepara a nuestra nación para los retos del futuro, sino esto también reconoce la vida y la dignidad humanas de todos los inmigrantes, legales e ilegales. Nosotros invitamos a los Católicos y a toda la gente de buena voluntad a dar la bienvenida a los beneficios de la migración rechazando toda forma de discriminación, injusticia y desprecio de las personas que vienen a nuestra tierra, porque cada inmigrante es la imagen de Dios.

+ John J. McRaith

Obispo de Owensboro

## En Alabanza a la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky

Por el Padre Frank Ruff

Los hispanos en nuestra comunidad con frecuencia encuentran problemas en la corte. Suelen ser detenidos por la policía por no tener una licencia de conducir. A ellos les encantaría tener una licencia, pero Kentucky no expide licencias de conducir a alguien que no tiene una visa válida. Les encantaría aún más tener una visa válida de trabajo, pero el gobierno estadounidense expide una cantidad muy pequeña de visas para trabajadores sin un título o entrenamiento especial, mientras la canti-

dad de trabajos esperando trabajadores es grande. La mayoría de los hispanos en nuestra área serían clasificados como trabajadores sin título o entrenamiento especial de la construcción y del campo.

Hace más o menos seis meses la juez de nuestro distrito local parece haber decidido hacer cumplir la ley migratoria actual y deshacerse de los hispanos indocumentados en nuestros condados. Empezó con añadir a la multa por no tener licencia otra sentencia de "salir del Estado de Kentucky dentro de 72 horas y no regresar, ni siquiera atravesar otra vez

Sigue en la página 3

## Torneo de Basketbó Organizado por los

### Jóvenes de Santa Susana

Por Pablo Witte, Socio Pastoral de la Parroquia de Santa Susana

Cuando me dijeron que los jóvenes hispanos participarían con gusto en un torneo de basketbó, estuve escéptico, pero la verdad es que son unos locos para jugar el deporte. Eso fue comprobado el día del torneo. Llegamos bien temprano al parque de Elkton para alistarnos. Era el 5 de agosto, un día calientísimo, tan caliente que sentado en la sombra uno se sudaba.

El grupo de jóvenes de Santa Susana propuso el torneo como una manera para recaudar fondos para las misiones. Se les ocurrió esa idea cuando vino un representante de las misiones pasionistas de la India. Fue un día en junio cuando vino un Padre para informarnos acerca del trabajo que hacía los Padres de su congregación. Fueron tan animados los jóvenes por su plática que decidieron organizar el torneo.

Nadie sabía por seguro cuales equipos se iban a presentar ese día. Habían extendido la invitación para participar hasta Guthrie, Paducah, Mayfield, Hopkinsville, Springfield (Tennessee), hasta quien sabe donde llegaría la invitación. Con muchas dudas llegué bien temprano ese sábado, que habría sido mucho más agradable ir a alguna playa cerca de un lago grande. Pero, nó. Ahí llegué y también todo el grupo de jóvenes.

Alistamos todo – la cancha, tiendas para protejernos del sol, agua, mucha agua fría, comida para vender, sodas para vender. Después de alistar todo, llegó la hora (9:00 a.m.) que fue publicado para comenzar. Nadie. A las 10 de la mañana llegó un equipo. Poco a poco llegaron otros. Seis equipos en total llegaron, uno de ellos del estado de Missouri. Por fin, a las 12:30 de la tarde comenzó el torneo. Con el sol como una candela ardiente, esos equipos batallaron energéticamente. A las cinco de la tarde, premiaron un chivo grande a los de Hopkinsville, unos artículos de basketbó al equipo de Missouri y el tercer premio, un basketbó al equipo de

### En Alabanza a la CCK *(Sigue de la página 2)*

el condado”. Esta sentencia fue severa porque muchas personas tenían niños en la escuela aquí y algunos tenían sus médicos aquí. La sentencia fue amenaza porque serían encarcelados por desacato al tribunal si fueran arrestados.

Paul Witte, el Socio Pastoral de la Iglesia Santa Susana en Elkton, quien es bilingüe y trabajo con hispanos, reportó la situación a la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky (CCK). La CCK reportó el asunto a la Oficina Administrativa de los Tribunales del Estado de Kentucky y se dieron cuenta que la juez efectivamente actuó fuera de su autoridad. La Oficina Administrativa de los Tribunales le dijo a la juez que tenía que dejar de dictar estas sentencias.

El martes, 29 de agosto de 2006, la juez anunció públicamente que la Oficina Administrativa de los Tribunales había hablado con ella porque: “la Iglesia Católica se ha quejado de mis prácticas.” Ese día, en vez de expulsarlos de Kentucky, mandó a 11 de ellos a la cárcel, por su propia iniciativa, sin la posibilidad de salir bajo fianza y sin representación legal.

Los hombres estaban confundidos; sus familias estaban angustiadas; y nosotros no sabíamos qué hacer. La juez se fue de vacaciones y no regresaría al tribunal por varias semanas.

De nuevo, Paul Witte, solicitó ayuda de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky. Ellos lo pusieron en contacto con un abogado quien aseguró que las acciones de la juez fueron ilegales y lo animó a encontrar un abogado local para ellos. Sin embargo, la ley migratoria es muy

Santa Susana.

Fue un día lleno de energía, entusiasmo, sudor – y fe. Aprendimos una lección muy grande – por lo menos yo aprendí algo muy grande: ¡Sí, se puede!



**Los jóvenes de muchas áreas en Guthrie, Ky. para el torneo de basketbó. ¡Felicidades al equipo de Hopkinsville!**

### Youth from many areas in Guthrie, Ky. for the basketball tournament. Congratulations to the Hopkinsville team!

complicada y Paul no pudo encontrar un abogado local para manejar sus casos, aunque hizo contacto con más de una docena. Con todo, el abogado contactado por el CCK entró y alertó a la Oficina del Defensor Público que pasó dos días elaborando mandatos de habeas corpus, con Paul ayudando como interprete.

El viernes, 8 de septiembre, los hombres fueron traídos al Juzgado de Circuito y, con el Asistente del Fiscal General del Estado de Kentucky en el teléfono, el juez de la corte de Circuito declaró claramente como la juez del Juzgado de Distrito violó tanto la Constitución de Kentucky como la Constitución de los Estados Unidos con privar a estos hombres de su libertad sin el derecho de un abogado y con violar la separación de los poderes, adjudicándose con tomar el poder de hacer cumplir las leyes del brazo ejecutivo del gobierno. Los hombres fueron liberado el mismo día. ¡Eso no hubiera pasado sin la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky!

No creemos que será la última vez que la Iglesia Católica sea llamada a defender la justicia. Estamos agradecidos a la Conferencia Católica por estar siempre ahí con nosotros.

*(El Padre Frank Ruff es el párroco de la Iglesia Católica de Santa Susana en Elkton, KY y la Iglesia Católica Santa María y San Santiago en Guthrie, KY)*

**Isquierda: Jóvenes de Paducah, Mayfield y Nashville se reunieron el 13 de agosto en la Parroquia de Santo Tomas Moro en Paducah para un retiro. En la foto Alma Quintanilla está representando la Samitariana.**

**Left: Youth from Paducah, Mayfield and Nashville came together on August 13th in St. Thomas More parish in Paducah for a retreat. Pictured is Alma Quintanilla representing the Samaritan Woman.**



## Los Obispos de Kentucky piden que los inmigrantes, tanto legales como indocumentados, sean vistos como la imagen de Dios.

El Católico de Kentucky Occidental

El debate público acerca de la enmienda del fracturado sistema de inmigración de Los Estados Unidos ha sido una de las atracciones principales de este verano para el Comité Judicial de la Cámara de Representantes el cual sostiene audiencias en varias ciudades alrededor de la nación. Los líderes Católicos encuentran muy importante que nuestra voz Católica, informada por las Escrituras y nuestra tradición de dar la mano a los migrantes alrededor del mundo, sea escuchada por los miembros de la Cámara de Representantes de Kentucky.

La Cámara ha votado para adoptar sólo la propuesta de hacer valer la ley en la frontera. Esta propuesta no sólo se ha probado y ha fallado, no es una propuesta que tome en cuenta la dignidad humana de aquellos quienes están entrando a nuestro país. También falla al abordar las condiciones económicas en los países de donde vienen los inmigrantes para ver por qué están tan desesperados por encontrar aquí trabajo y que puedan sostener a sus hijos. Antes bien, la propuesta de la Cámara los pinta como criminales peligrosos que deben ser capturados y expulsados. Éste simplemente no es el caso.

Nuestros cuatro Obispos de Kentucky emitieron una declaración pastoral sobre inmigración en agosto: "Cada hombre y mujer es la imagen de Dios." Ellos pidieron a los católicos el apoyo a la reforma completa de inmigración. La declaración completa está reimpresa a la derecha.

La Cámara de Representantes pasó H.R. 4437, la Seguridad de la Frontera, Anti-Terrorismo y el Acta de Prevención de Inmigración Ilegal de 2005 en diciembre. Ustedes votaron por la legislación. Ahora que el Senado de los Estados Unidos ha pasado un proyecto de ley de inmigración completo, la Cámara y el Senado intentarán reconciliar las dos versiones de la reforma de inmigración. Los Obispos de Kentucky piden a los ciudadanos su apoyo a la propuesta completa de la reforma de inmigración. Sólo una propuesta de ley que tome en cuenta todos los aspectos de nuestro quebrantado sistema de inmigración resolverá la crisis de inmigración en nuestra nación.

Cualquier proyecto de ley final debe contener los siguientes elementos: 1) Un camino viable para obtener la ciudadanía para los 11 o 12 millones de indocumentados en el país; 2) Un programa para trabajadores temporales que proteja los derechos de los trabajadores e incluya un camino hacia la ciudadanía; 3) Una reforma de inmigración basada en la familia la cual reduzca los tiempos de espera para reunificación familiar; 4) Restauración del debido procedimiento de protecciones; 5) Políticas las cuales tomen en cuenta las causas de raíz de la migración, de tal forma que los migrantes y sus familias puedan permanecer en sus hogares y vivir con dignidad.

Los Obispos de Kentucky apoyan políticas de hacer valer la ley las cuales hagan valer nuestras leyes de inmigración sin lastimar los derechos humanos básicos y la vida humana de los migrantes. Tales políticas de hacer valer la ley deben ser objetivas, proporcionales y humanitarias. Los migrantes no deben ser tratados como criminales o detenidos más de lo necesario. No se debe construir una barrera fronteriza la cual hará que los inmigrantes se muevan hacia regiones remotas del desierto, con la posibilidad de dirigirlos hacia la muerte.

Una propuesta completa del asunto de la inmigración es lo más efectivo. Durante los pasados quince años, nuestra nación ha gastado más de \$25 billones en el refuerzo de la frontera y triplicado los agentes de la patrulla fronteriza. Al mismo tiempo, el número de indocumentados se ha duplicado y cerca de 3,000 migrantes han perecido en el desierto. Claramente, es necesario otro enfoque.

Los Obispos de Kentucky le piden a los ciudadanos comunicarse con el liderazgo de la Cámara y con el presidente de la Cámara para apoyar una propuesta completa de la reforma de inmigración, compatible con estos principios. Ellos piden que nuestro país repare un sistema de inmigración quebrantado de tal forma que podamos dar la bienvenida a los extranjeros como Cristo nos ha enseñado. Sólo una propuesta de ley

Sigue en la página 5

## Conferencia Católica de Kentucky: Cada hombre y mujer es la imagen de Dios

Declaración de los cuatro Obispos Católicos de Kentucky, agosto 2006

Nuestra nación es un país de migrantes. Nuestros ancestros provienen de diferentes lugares. A lo largo de las décadas, existe una gran diversidad de personas que han enriquecido nuestra cultura, economía y experiencias religiosas.

La migración esparcida y las controversias por ello son parte de nuestra experiencia como nación. Nosotros como una Iglesia de estos tiempos debemos hablar de la perspectiva de valores del evangelio cristiano.

Nuestros principios básicos son claros. Respetamos el derecho de cada nación de reforzar las fronteras y reforzar las políticas de migración. Para los cristianos, los migrantes, la especie migratoria no es simplemente un individuo para ser respetado de acuerdo con las normas establecidas según la ley, sino una persona cuya presencia los desafía y cuyas necesidades se hacen una obligación para su responsabilidad. ¿'Qué ha hecho Usted a su hermano?' (cf. Gn 4:9). La respuesta no debe estar limitada por las imposiciones de la ley, pero se debe hacer pensando en la solidaridad. ("Migrantes indocumentados" Mensaje del Papa Juan Pablo II para el Día Mundial de migración, 1996) Nos 3, 5.

El Papa Benedicto XVI pide a la Iglesia fiel "dar la bienvenida a los aspectos positivos que este signo de los tiempos conlleva, venciendo cada clase de discriminación, injusticia y desprecio de personas humanas, porque cada hombre y la mujer es la imagen de Dios." (Papa Benedicto XVI, después del Angelus el 15 de enero de 2006).

Apoyamos al Papa Benedicto XVI e invitamos a católicos y a todo los Kentuckianos a dar la bienvenida a los aspectos benéficos de la migración, vencer cada forma de discriminación, injusticia y desprecio de las personas que vienen a nuestra tierra, ya que cada inmigrante es la imagen de Dios. Sobre todo invitamos a católicos a trabajar para el justo tratamiento en nuestras leyes de los niños de Dios que son inmigrantes

### Las Enseñanzas de la fe

Nuestro compromiso fiel de la vida humana y de la dignidad de inmigrantes esta arraigado en la Escritura y la doctrina social de la Iglesia como se explica en las enseñanzas Papales. "Cuando un extranjero reside con Usted en su tierra, no lo moléste. Usted tratará al extranjero que reside con Usted no diferentemente que los naturales nacidos entre Usted; tienen el mismo amor por él en cuanto a

Usted; ya que Usted también fue una vez extranjero en la tierra de Egipto. El SEÑOR, es su Dios." (Lev 19:33-34).

En la enseñanza que todos los pueblos tienen el derecho a condiciones dignas de la vida humana y, si estas condiciones no están presentes, el derecho de emigrar, el Papa Pio XII reconoció el derecho del estado soberano de controlar sus fronteras, pero declaró que tal derecho no es el absoluto. "La ley natural por sí misma, no menos que la devoción humana, impulsa que se abran los caminos de migración a quienes han sido forzados por revoluciones en sus propios países, por desempleo, o por hambre de dejar sus casas y vivir en tierras extranjeras." (Exsul Familia).

Esta enseñanza fue seguida en Pacem en 1963 publicado en Terris. El Papa Juan XXIII predicó: "Cada ser humano tiene el derecho a la libertad del movimiento y de la residencia dentro de los límites de su propio país; y, tienen el derecho de emigrar a otros países y tomar la residencia ahí." (Pacem in Terris, el No 25).

En el documento Ecclesia en América, dada en Ciudad de México el 22 de enero de 1999, el Papa Juan Pablo II reconoció la inmigración como "un rasgo casi constante de la historia de América a partir del principio de evangelización hasta nuestros días." (El no 17). Él instruyó que las especies migratorias "deberían ser encontradas con una actitud hospitalaria y que de la bienvenida" y reiteraron que "la Iglesia en América debe ser un abogado vigilante, que defiende cualquier restricción injusta el derecho natural de personas individuales de moverse libremente dentro de su propia nación y de una nación a la otra. La atención debe ser llamada a los derechos de espe-

Sigue en la página 5



# Los Obispos piden que los inmigrantes

(Sigue de la página 4)

de inmigración completa reparará un sistema de inmigración defectuoso, dicen los obispos.

Durante un servicio de oración el 28 de agosto en la Catedral de San Esteban, el director ejecutivo de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky Ed Monahan abordó el asunto de un plan de reforma de inmigración completo. Aquí está el texto de su declaración:

“Esta noche nosotros tomamos por asalto Owsboro/Evansville, nuestra nación y los cielos con nuestras oraciones y el testimonio de que cada hombre y mujer son la imagen de Dios.

“Nosotros no rezamos enfurecidos, nosotros no rezamos en desesperación. Nosotros rezamos con la esperanza de que todos serán tratados justamente por nuestras leyes. Nosotros sabemos que la fe sin acción está muerta. Nuestra acción esta noche tiene significado – nuestra presencia y nuestra oración.

“La oración es la base de todo lo que nosotros hacemos en defensa de la vida humana y la dignidad humana... Sólo con oración la cual tome por asalto los cielos pidiendo justicia y misericordia, oración que limpie nuestros corazones y nuestras almas y así nosotros lograremos la cultura de la dignidad humana. ¡Esta noche, nuestra fe no está muerta, está viva!

“Mañana quienes hacen nuestras leyes se reunirán para discutir más ampliamente las políticas de inmigración. Muchos aquí esta noche darán testimonio más amplio asistiendo a la audiencia de inmigración en Evansville, Indiana el martes, 29 de agosto a las 10:00 a.m. en el centro de convenciones, de tal forma que quienes hacen nuestras leyes sepan que cada hombre y cada mujer, documentado o indocumentado, son la imagen de Dios.

“Al buscar leyes justas, nosotros actuamos con el Espíritu de Jesús. Nosotros no actuamos de una forma partidaria o con enojo o sin esperanza. Nosotros actuamos con justicia, amamos tiernamente, y caminamos con humildad con nuestro Dios y con nuestros oficiales públicos quienes enfrentan decisiones difíciles.

“Mientras que trabajamos para asegurar una política pública que trate a los inmigrantes con justicia dejemos que nuestro discurso sea civil y nuestras soluciones reflejen que cada persona es la imagen de Dios.”

Reporte adaptado de una declaración de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky.



De izquierda a derecha: la Hermana Isabel y una familia de Paducah, y Freddy Peralta de la Coalición de Kentucky para una Reforma Integral de Inmigración en la vigilia el 28 de agosto en la Catedral de San Esteban.

## CCK: Cada hombre y mujer son la imagen de Dios

(Sigue de la página 4)

cualquier restricción injusta el derecho natural de personas individuales de moverse libremente dentro de su propia nación y de una nación a la otra. La atención debe ser llamada a los derechos de especies migratorias y sus familias y respetar por dignidad humana, hasta en casos de la inmigración no legal.” (Ecclesia en América, el No 65).

En la unión con los Obispos de México, hemos enfatizado en *Juntos en el Camino de la Esperanza: Ya No Somos Extranjeros* (2003) que “Independientemente de su situación legal, los migrantes, como toda persona, poseen una dignidad humana intrínseca que debe ser respetada. Es común que sean sujetos a leyes punitivas y al maltrato por parte de las autoridades, tanto en países de origen como de tránsito y destino. Es necesaria la adopción de políticas gubernamentales que respeten los derechos humanos básicos de los migrantes indocumentados.” (Ya No Somos Extranjeros, el No 38).

Nuestra Iglesia ha complementado sus enseñanzas “derecho que posee todo Estado soberano de controlar sus fronteras para promover el bien común” y “el derecho humano de migrar y poder ejercer sus derechos divinos”. Por tanto “el derecho que tienen las personas de migrar para gozar los derechos que poseen como hijos de Dios”. Pero el bien común “no se sirve cuando se va contra los derechos humanos básicos del individuo. En la situación actual caracterizada por una pobreza global desenfadada, se parte de la presunción de que la persona debe emigrar para mantenerse; y de ser posible, las naciones con capacidad de recibirla, deben hacerlo. Este es el criterio por medio del cual valoramos la realidad de la migración que viven en la actualidad los Estados Unidos y México.” (Ya No Somos Extranjeros, No 39)

En un país que se enorgullece de seguir las reglas de la ley, nuestra forma de pensar de los inmigrantes ilegales es importante. Nuestra postura no puede estar limitada por la ley. Debe incluir nuestra solidaridad cristiana para aquellos que lo necesitan. El Papa Juan Pablo II nos invitó a terminar con esa postura de “reticencia exclusiva” y darle la bienvenida a los extranjeros, y aceptar a los inmigrantes como hermanos y hermanas, y asegurar que un estado ilegal no subestime la dignidad desde los inmigrantes ilegales” esto esta provisto con los derechos inalienables, que no pueden ser violados o ignorados” (Inmigrantes indocumentados, “Mensaje del Papa Juan Pablo II PARA EL Día mundial del Emigrante, 1996) Nos 2, 5

La Iglesia no limita este punto de vista de la ley o los intereses de un país. “La iglesia considera el problema de los inmigrantes ilegales desde el punto de vista de Cristo, quien murió para unificar a los hijos dispersos de Dios (cf Jn 11:52), para rehabilitar a los marginados y acercar a aquellos que están distantes, en orden de integrar a todos en una misma comunión que no se basa en el estatus étnico, cultural o social, todo en el afán de aceptar la palabra de Dios y buscar la justicia. Dios nos enseña a no ser parciales, pero en cada nación cualquiera que le teme y actúa de una forma aceptable (Acto 10:34-35)” (Inmigrantes indocumentados” Mensaje del Papa Juan Pablo II para el Día Mundial del Migrante, 1996) No 3

Los principios que vienen de esas enseñanzas y que guía nuestra visión en la búsqueda de soluciones a la situación migratoria son:

- I. Las personas tienen el derecho de encontrar oportunidades en su propio país
- II. Las personas tienen derecho a migrar para apoyar a sus familias.
- III. Las naciones soberanas deben tener control sobre sus fronteras
- IV. Las instituciones y asilos deben ser protegidos y apoyados.
- V. La dignidad humana y los derechos humanos de los inmigrantes indocumentados debe ser respetada. (No más extraños, Nos. 33-38).

En la búsqueda de una solución a la migración ilegal es significativo para el Papa Juan Pablo II invita a aquellos habitantes en los países receptores a buscar un auténtico entendimiento en el nombre de aquellos que vienen de otras tierras. “En esta perspectiva es muy importante que la opinión pública sea propiamente informada acerca de la situación real de los inmigrantes de su país de origen, acerca de las tragedias que los envuelven y las posibilidades de regresar. La pobreza y el infortunio en las cuales los inmigrantes se ven inmersos es otra razón para darles una bienvenida generosa. Es necesario luchar contra las nue-

Sigue en la página 6

## CCK: Cada hombre y mujer son la imagen

### de Dios *(Sigue de la página 5)*

ayudarlos a instalarse en sus nuevas tierras y adoptar una actitud de bienvenida entre la población local con la creencia de que una mutua franqueza enriquecerá a todos.” (Ecclesia in America, No. 65).

Muchos inmigrantes que viven en Kentucky son atendidos por Agencias Católicas de servicio social y en parroquias a través de nuestra comunidad municipal. Nuestras cuatro Diócesis del estado Louisville, Covington, Owensboro y Lexington han ayudado a inmigrantes y refugiados por muchos años.

Las Instituciones de Caridad Católicas de Louisville tienen un extenso historial de bienvenida a refugiados a través de sus Servicios de Programas de Refugiados. Los voluntarios ayudan a colocarlos en apartamentos para nuevas familias. Mentores/Tutores ayudan a los nuevos visitantes a aprender inglés y a familiarizarlos con los servicios de la comunidad tales como librerías, parques y servicios de transporte. Otros los llevan a locales a donde pueden ir a hacer sus compras de limpieza y comida. Los voluntarios también les ayudan con guarderías mientras que los miembros de la familia asisten a clases de inglés como su segundo idioma (ESL); ellos les preparan “Canastas de Bienvenida” o con camiones que descargan muebles de donaciones, artículos del hogar, comida y artículos de higiene personal. Existen catorce parroquias en la Arquidiócesis de Louisville que presentan servicios pastorales para las necesidades de los inmigrantes. Anteriormente las parroquias católicas daban servicio a las necesidades de ciertas poblaciones – Polacos – Irlandeses, Alemanes y Franceses. Hoy, esta práctica continua en Louisville donde la parroquia de San Juan Vianney ofrece atención pastoral a la comunidad vietnamita y St. Rita y otras son centros para los que hablan español. El Ministerio de Oficina Multicultural de Louisville proporciona recursos para las diversas comunidades arquidiócesis incluyendo asesores de lenguaje/cultural.

La Iglesia de la Diócesis de Covington respondió a los compromisos de los refugiados vietnamitas en 1975 y tuvo un Programa de Colonización por casi 15 años. La diócesis estableció la parroquia de Cristo Rey para coordinar esfuerzos a favor de los inmigrantes de habla hispana en el Norte de Kentucky. La parroquia estableció el Centro de Amistad para programas de recursos de alcance social. Estos programas incluyen: un componente de ESL, programa intensivo de inglés, pre-

paración para diploma de educación general GED, clases de ciudadanía, programa de compradores de casa, clínica de impuestos de ingresos bajos, a casa de despeje de trabajo, programas de aprendizaje de carpintería y electricidad, servicios de consejería familiar y servicios legales, y programa de capacitación de cómputo para familia. Asuntos de salud son la máxima prioridad y en respuesta a estos la parroquia tiene un abogado de salud de tiempo completo. Este es una adicional al programa de “Promotores de Salud (Health Promoters) y una feria anual de salud. La parroquia está asociada con el Colegio Gateway de la Comunidad, Universidad del Norte de Kentucky, Librería Pública del Condado de Kenton, Consejo del Área de Educación de Salud, Servicios Católicos Sociales, Asociación de Constructores de Casas del Norte de Kentucky, Hospital Infantil de Cincinnati, y otros. Las parroquias en Carrollton y Maysville también ofrecen servicios pastorales para personas hispanas.

En la Diócesis de Owensboro existen trece parroquias que ofrecen Misa en Español y proporcionan variedad de niveles de educación y servicios de alcance. Esto incluyen: catecismo en español con catequistas hispanos preparados, estudio de la Biblia y grupos de oradores, grupos juveniles y misioneros jóvenes de grupos de posconfirmación, servicios de interpretación, formación de liderazgo a través de

comités y consejeros, responden a necesidades físicas por medio de los grupos de San Vicente de Paul y ministros hispanos, abogan para la comunidad hispana por medio de asociaciones ministeriales, agencias y organizaciones de la comunidad y gobierno local.

Adicionalmente a las parroquias existen cuatro centros de inmigrantes. El Centro de la Comunidad La Plaza de Inmigrantes (La Plaza Immigrant Community Center) en Owensboro que ofrece un programa en ESL, grupo de mujeres, organización comunitaria, formación de liderazgo, destreza de cómputo y educación de salud y exámenes.

Este centro es llevado a cabo por el grupo ecuménico y ayuda a conectar inmigrantes a la comunidad. El Centro Internacional es un centro de recurso para inmigrantes y refugiados, que ayuda con los formularios de inmigración interpretación y recursos comunitarios. La Casa del Migrante en Paducah ofrece clases de ESL, servicios de interpretación y preocupaciones generales de la comunidad. Para ayudar con las necesidades inmediatas y alcanzar a los inmigrantes en esta área rural. La Casa de Migrante es el centro más reciente.

En la Diócesis de Jesús de Lexington, el buen Pastor Centro Católico ofrece un número de servicios pastorales para personas hispanas en Lexington y ofrece desarrollo católico donde las personas pueden sentirse cómodas con los símbolos de su fe. Entre otras actividades se ajustan al Centro son actividades de grupos juveniles, clases de español, clases de ESL, clases de GED (Diploma de Educación General), clases para aprender más acerca de la Biblia y la fe católica, y el grupo de mujeres, “Damas.” Damas tiene un apartamento renovado donde las mujeres aprenden a coser, manualidades y decoración de pasteles. Es un lugar donde se comparten intereses y valores.

Dieciocho Iglesias en la Diócesis de Lexington ofrecen misa y algunas celebraciones religiosas durante todo el año en español. Las parroquias rurales ofrecen un lugar donde la gente involucrada en agricultura y trabajo de fábrica pueden intercambiar ayudar para aprender o entender inglés, permitir que alguien les traduzca en cuestiones médicas y otras emergencias y así poder encontrar compañerismo con otros inmigrantes reunidos por todos los condados. En Montgomery hay una Coalición Inmigrante fuera de la oficina de extensión en donde la gente de la parroquia se reúne con trabajadores de atención médica, maestros y empresarios locales de manera que puedan encontrar la forma de encontrar mejores servicios para los individuos y familias.

Algunas de las más grandes parroquias de la Diócesis de Lexington tienen personal pastoral bilingüe de tiempo completo para ofrecer programas de formación de liderazgo, oración y grupos de estudio de la Biblia, ministros adolescentes y jóvenes adultos más retiros de parejas. El Plan Diocesano Pastoral Hispano remarca medidas de acción que pueden ser tomados para fortalecer los valores y utilizar los talentos de la gente.

Los católicos ofrecen mucha educación por todo este municipio. Es importante que nosotros ofrecamos educación católica para los inmigrantes. En “La Renovación de Nuestros Compromisos para la Escuelas Primarias y Secundarias Católicas del Tercer Milenio” (2005) comentamos: Mientras continuemos encausando las muchas y diversas necesidades de nuestra población nuevos inmigrantes nacionales, la Iglesia y sus escuelas ofrecen entre otras cuantas instituciones recursos para los inmigrantes y nuevos visitantes con un sentido de bienvenida digna, amistosa y con conectándonos con sus raíces... las parroquias católicas y escuelas enfrentan retos de encauce espiritual, educacional, social y de necesidades culturales de una nueva ola de inmigrantes. En respuesta a las necesidades de estos individuos debemos de continuar con nuestros esfuerzos de evangelización manteniendo la identidad y misión de nuestras escuelas católicas. Es crítico que trabajemos con nuestra gente para eliminar cualquier línea de prejuicio y vías que puedan existir y crear comunidades de bienvenida para estos inmigrantes. Debemos también servir a esta creciente población Hispana/Latina la cual está hecha por más del 39 por ciento de nuestra comunidad actual de católicos. Los Hispanos/Latinos son más del 41 por ciento de católicos entre las edades de 30 y el 44 por ciento de católicos menores de diez años de edad. Este es un estimado actual que viene de la segunda década de este siglo, la población Hispana/Latina conformará el 50 por ciento de todos los católicos en los Estados Unidos. Las iglesias y escuelas católicas deben reflejar esta realidad y alcanzar y dar la bienvenida a la fe católica a las comunidades Latinas en los Estados Unidos.

De acuerdo a estos factores, es imperativo que incrementemos nuestros

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esfuerzos y atraer a la juventud hispana para darles a sus vidas como sacerdotes y religiosos. En corto tiempo, necesitamos animar a los sacerdotes y religiosos hispanos para venir a los Estados Unidos para ministrar a los inmigrantes de sus respectivos países. "Sus Iglesias nativas demostrarán su interés enviando personal pastoral del mismo idioma y cultura, en un diálogo de caridad con las Iglesias particulares que les dan la bienvenida". (Día Mundial de los Emigrantes y Refugiados, Mensaje del Papa Benedicto XVI, Octubre 18, 2006).

Las criaturas que aun no nacen son el interés primordial para nosotros. Nosotros especialmente apuramos a las Iglesias para ayudar a las mujeres inmigrantes que están embarazadas "sin discriminación de su estatus o nacionalidad". (EF, Pio XII) dirigiendo sus encausando sus necesidades que tiene por ellas mismas, para sus hijos aún no nacidos y sus familias. Nuestro ministerio de Oportunidades para la Vida (OFL) está alcanzando a la población inmigrante, independientemente de su documentación o estatus legal, a través de su número de emergencia en español. Les solicitamos a las iglesias cooperar sigilosamente con los esfuerzos del OFL para estar presentes con las criaturas aún sin nacer, sin importar el estatus migratorio de la madre. La criatura aún sin nacer tiene su derecho de vida.

### **Agradecimiento para aquellos que ayudan a los inmigrantes**

Apreciamos profundamente el magnifico y desinteresado trabajo que han hecho nuestras Iglesias y diócesis y a todos los demás, personal privado y voluntarios, en nuestra comunidad quienes ministran a nuestros vecinos de otras tierras. Es el trabajo de Jesús.

### **Política Pública de nuestro mundo, los Estados Unidos, Kentucky.**

El Papa Benedicto XVI en Deus Caritas (2006) habló de la importancia de cumplir en justo orden lo que va más allá de la actividad cristiana piadosa. El "seguimiento de justicia debe ser una norma fundamental del Estado y la mira justa de orden social es garantizar a cada persona de acuerdo al principio de subsidiaridad compartirlo con los bienes de la comunidad" (Deus Caritas Est No.26). La Iglesia tiene "el deber implicado para ofrecer a través de la purificación de razón y de formación ética, [de las iglesias] su propia contribución específica para entender los requerimientos y cumplimientos políticos de ellos." (Deus Caritas Est. No. 28).

Tenemos una profunda preocupación para aquellos quienes se verán afectados con los cambios propuestos en nuestras leyes migratorias que están en debate dentro del Congreso. Hemos externado nuestra consternación también acerca de la legislación propuesta en nuestra Asamblea General de Kentucky. Los inmigrantes tiene sus derechos naturales de los cuales se derivan de su propia inherente dignidad, como personas. Ellos tienen el derecho de emigrar y buscar condiciones consistentes con dignidad humana si estos no pueden realizarse en casa. Inmigración es un asunto de vida y dignidad humana.

La falta de economía empuja a mucha gente a emigrar a los Estados Unidos para así poder ofrecerles un mejor sustento tanto a sus familias como a ellos mismos. Debemos de encausar la raíz de las causas de dicha emigración y la pobreza global por medio de trabajo diligente para ayudar a cada persona a obtener las necesidades de vida. (Inmigrantes Indocumentados, mensaje del Papa Juan Pablo II en el Día Mundial de Migración 1996). Julio 25, 1995 dijo que la eliminación subdesarrollada global es la solución para la inmigración ilegal. (No.2).

Nuestro sistema inmigratorio es una necesidad imperiosa que debe ser reparada. Existe una respuesta de falta de bienvenida para los inmigrantes. Un sistema responsable de inmigración responsable y comprensiva es la posible reforma. Como un asunto de justicia se deberían incluir los siguientes elementos:

1) Una obtención ampliamente basada en la legalización de personas indocumenta-

das

2) Un programa temporal de trabajo con protecciones apropiadas para ambos trabajadores tanto extranjeros como Americanos.

3) Cambios en el sistema de inmigración basado en familias para reducir las veces de espera para reunificar a la familia; y

4) Restauración del debido proceso de inmigrantes.

Para aquellos que en este país están sin documentación migratoria apropiada, las oportunidades deberían para proporcionárselas a obtener la legalización demostrando que un comportamiento moral bueno y que han construido capitales en este país. Tales como una legalización "ganada" debería ser cumplida e independientemente comprobable.

La economía de los Estados Unidos depende de la mano de obra que el inmigrante ofrece. Por lo tanto, muchos inmigrantes vienen a los Estados Unidos para cubrir trabajos. La experiencia de Estados Unidos con los programas temporales de trabajo se han cargado con abusos. Debería de existir un sistema más razonable y humano para aquellos trabajadores de otros países que pueden entrar al país legalmente para cubrir posiciones dentro de la fuerza laboral, incluyendo aquellos con bases temporales.

Actualmente los ciudadanos estadounidenses y residentes permanentes legales deben sobreponerse a muchos de años de separación de sus parientes y familiares cercanos quienes quieren reunirse con ellos en los Estados Unidos. La acumulación de visas disponibles para miembros de la familia derivan de 5, 10, 15 y más años de espera antes de poder obtener una visa disponible. Debería de existir una reducción de

acumulo pendiente y tener más visas disponibles para propósitos de reunificación familiar.

Durante los últimos años los inmigrantes han sido objeto de leyes y políticas que devastan los compromisos fundamentales del individuo en sus libertades y debidos procesos. Estas leyes y políticas, - detenciones por meses sin cargos, audiencias secretas, y profanación étnica, - señal de un cambio mayor en nuestras políticas gubernamentales y actitudes hacia los inmigrantes. Somos una nación con una larga y basta tradición de bienvenidas a los nuevos visitantes. Políticas de Gobierno de confunden a la inmigración de una manera inapropiada e injusta con terrorismo que no nos hace estar más seguros. Estas empañan nuestra herencia, y dañan nuestra presencia en el exterior. Demandamos al gobierno que se apresure la revisión de estas leyes y hacer los cambios apropiados consistentes con el debido y correcto proceso.

**Actúa justamente, ama tiernamente y camina con humildad.**

Sabemos que muchos católicos y personas de buena fe estarán en complicaciones profundas debido al estado de inmigración actual en nuestro país. Hacemos un llamado a los católicos y personas de buena fe para que una transformación de mentes y corazón demos con una actitud de hospitalidad demos la bienvenida a los inmigrantes.

Si somos fieles al evangelio que convoca a ayudar a otros, nosotros "no podemos ni debemos permanecer aislados en la lucha por la justicia. [La iglesia] tiene que jugar su parte a través de un argumento racional y ella tiene que despertar la energía espiritual sin la susodicha justicia la cual siempre demanda sacrificio, y que no puede prevalecer y prosperar." (Deus Caritas Est. No.28).

En la búsqueda única de leyes debemos actuar con un espíritu muy particular. Estamos llamados para "actuar justamente, amar tiernamente y caminar con humildad con [nuestro] Dios." (Micah 6:8).

Hacemos un llamado a todos los católicos para que dirijan el camino en nuestra comunidad para dar la bienvenida a "extranjeros" como hijos de Dios con la participación en nuestra Campaña Nacional de Justicia para los Inmigrantes: Una Jornada de Esper-

**Sigue en la página 8**



**Samantha Martínez, Alejandro Colohua y Juan José Gomez (atrás) acompañan sus familias en abogar para una reforma migratoria exhaustiva antes de la audiencia con la Cámara de Diputados.**

## CCK: Cada hombre y mujer son la imagen de Dios

(Sigue de la página 7)

anza, <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>. Está diseñada para unir y movilizar a una red creciente de instituciones católicas, individuales y otras personas de buena fe que apoyarán al amplio programa de legislación y reforma de inmigración global. Su objetivo es maximizar la influencia de la iglesia en este asunto. Los objetivos primarios de la iglesia son:

- Educar al público, especialmente a la comunidad católica, incluyendo oficiales públicos católicos relacionado con la Iglesia instruyendo sobre migración e inmigrantes;
- Formar una voluntad política para formas positivas de inmigración;
- Poner en marcha las reformas legislativas y administrativas en base a los principios articulados por los arzobispos;
- Organizar Redes Católicas para asistir a inmigrantes calificados para obtener los beneficios de las reformas.

Hacemos un llamado especialmente al clérigo, religiosas y jefes legos para asegurar el apoyo para emigrantes y familias emigrantes.

Apresuramos a las comunidades católicas para ofrecer hospitalidad a las familias emigrantes, sin hostilidad, para que celebren sus culturas, y exista una respuesta a sus necesidades sociales, encausando un mutuo enriquecimiento de la Iglesia local.

Solicitamos se de adecuada atención a los emigrantes, niños, jóvenes y bebés inmigrantes por nacer.

Tenemos la obligación de buscar la pronunciación de leyes justas. "El deber directo para trabajar justo de acuerdo con la sociedad... es propio de la ley de fidelidad. Como ciudadanos del Estado, ellos fueron llamados para formar parte en una vida pública en una capacidad personal." (DCE, n.29).

Invitamos a los católicos para convertirse en Defensores Ciudadanos de Fe a través de la unión de nuestra Conferencia Católica de Kentucky de la red de la defensa legislativa, [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org), y trabajar diligentemente para influenciar la política privada de inmigración en Kentucky y a nivel nacional.

Porque el mundo se convirtió en carne y morada entre nosotros, Cristo está presente en cada condición y forma de sufrimiento humano. Vamos a su encuentro en la cara de los inmigrantes. Mientras trabajamos por una política segura que trate a los inmigrantes justamente y permitamos que nuestro discurso ser civil y nuestras soluciones reflejen que cada persona es la imagen y semejanza de Dios.

Adoptada: Agosto 25, 2006.

La Conferencia Católica de Kentucky (CCK) es una agencia de Obispos Católicos de Kentucky fundada en 1968. Habla por la Iglesia en asuntos de política pública, sirve a asociaciones gubernamentales y de la legislatura, y coordina comunicaciones y actividades entre la Iglesia y las agencias seculares. Existen 406,000 Iglesias en la comunidad municipal. Los Obispos de cuatro diócesis de KY conforman el Comité de Directores del CCK.

### Preguntas para Discusión y Reflexión

- 1) ¿De qué país tus antecesores emigraron?
- 2) ¿Cómo fueron tratados tus antecesores cuando llegaron a nuestro país?
- 3) ¿Por qué tus antecesoras emigraron a nuestro país?
- 4) Cómo fueron tratados los inmigrantes en nuestra histo-

ria y cómo están siendo tratados hoy?

5) ¿Qué derechos naturales se derivaron de su dignidad inherente como personas que los inmigrantes tienen?

6) ¿Por qué la gente emigra a nuestro país u algún otro país en el mundo?

7) Identifica las estructuras, patrones, leyes, costumbres que provocan que la gente emigre

8) ¿Cuáles son los beneficios de los inmigrantes al llegar a nuestro país?

9) ¿Por qué la Iglesia ha estado activa a favor de los inmigrantes durante los años?

10) ¿Cómo podemos dar la bienvenida positiva a los aspectos positivos de inmigración?

11) ¿Cómo podemos vencer la discriminación, injusticia, y apatía a la persona que emigra a nuestro país?

12) ¿Qué cambios en las leyes deberíamos de apoyar para asegurar que la leyes están siendo justas para los inmigrantes?..

13) ¿Cómo puede la comunidad albergar vocaciones para una vida de sacerdocio y religioso en la comunidad Hispana y alentar a sacerdotes y religiosos para que su gente de los Estados Unidos continúen como devotos misioneros en sus vidas para servicio del Señor y la gente Hispana?

### Recursos

Los sitios de internet son importantes para que aquellos que quieran estudiar la enseñanza de la Iglesia en Inmigrantes:

- Conferencia del Episcopado Católico de los EEUU (USCCB) : [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- USCCB: La Campaña de Justicia para los Inmigrantes: Una Jornada de Esperanza – <http://www.justiciaparalosinmigrantes.org/>.

• Conferencia Católica de Kentucky (CCK): [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org)

La página web del CCK tiene una página dedicada a los artículos preparados por el Comité Hispano del CCK : [http://www.ccky.org/justice\\_for\\_immigrants.htm](http://www.ccky.org/justice_for_immigrants.htm)

La mayoría de los documentos referidos a "Cada Hombre y Mujer es la imagen de Dios" Iglesias está disponibles en línea para estudio mas avanzado. A continuación estan los sitios de enlace para aquellos que están disponibles.

*After the Angelus, January 15, 2006*  
– Pope Benedict XVI [http://www.vatican.edu/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/angelus/2006/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_ang\\_20060115\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.edu/holy_father/benedict_xvi/angelus/2006/documents/hf_benxvi_ang_20060115_en.html)

*Undocumented Migrants, Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration*

Sigue en la página 9



## Creados, amados y redimidos por Dios.

### Invitación a respetar toda vida humana

Probablemente la mayoría de nosotros damos por descontado (al menos con cierta frecuencia) que somos *creados, amados y redimidos por Dios*. Pese a vivir distraídos por el ruido y las actividades de la vida diaria, necesitamos dedicar tiempo para reflexionar sobre esta verdad central de la vida y sobre la universal pregunta humana: ¿Quién soy? y ¿qué estoy haciendo aquí?

Cuando nuestros antepasados en la fe perdieron su norte en la fe y la moral, Jesús tomó carne humana para mostrarnos la radical naturaleza del amor de Dios. Su amor dista de ser pasivo, genérico o abstracto. No es un sentimiento de bondad hacia otros. El amor de Jesús fue personal, apasionado y de entrega.

Nos mostró con su ejemplo y también con parábolas lo que Dios espera de nosotros. En la Última Cena dijo a los apóstoles: "Mi mandamiento es éste: Ámense unos a otros, como yo los he amado" (Juan 15:12). Jesús no hablaba de los sentimientos de afecto que tenemos hacia familiares y amistades. El modelo de amor por el cual seremos medidos, según la parábola del Juicio Final (vea Mt 25: 31-46), es el de los justos que visitaron a los encarcelados, que alimentaron, vistieron, acogieron y cuidaron de los necesitados y desconocidos. Ellos *servieron a Cristo* en los necesitados y tomarán "posesión del reino que [les] ha sido preparado desde el principio del mundo" Mt 25:34).

Por eso, los cristianos, en cuanto nos sea posible, estamos llamados a realizar:

- actos de bondad personales, concretos y prácticos hacia aquellos a quienes Dios coloca en nuestro camino
- actividades organizadas de beneficencia, mediante servicio personal o apoyo financiero
- el trabajo para lograr una sociedad justa con nuestra participación en la vida pública para asegurar que las leyes y la política respetan la vida y la dignidad de todos, especialmente los más vulnerables (Papa Benedicto XVI, *Dios es amor*).

Sigue en la página 9

## Creados, amados y redimidos por Dios.

(*Sigue de la página 8*)  
*es amor*).

La mayoría, aun cuando tropezamos más seguido de lo que queramos admitir, entendemos la importancia de tratar a todos con bondad. Entendemos la necesidad de colaborar con las instituciones de caridad de la Iglesia que sirven a los necesitados, sea que donemos nuestro tiempo o nuestro apoyo financiero.

Y somos llamados a hacer aún más. Como los obispos católicos de EE.UU. explicaron en *Vivir el Evangelio de la Vida*: “Se ha hecho habitual hablar, y con razón, sobre los derechos humanos; como por ejemplo sobre el derecho a la salud, a la casa, al trabajo, a la familia y a la cultura. Esa preocupación resulta falsa e ilusoria si no se defiende con máxima determinación *el derecho a la vida* como el derecho primero y fontal” (19, que cita a *Christifideles Laici*, 38). En otras palabras, *hablar* sobre el valor de la vida humana y la santidad de la dignidad humana pueden ser palabras huecas a menos que actuemos según nuestras convicciones.

Hoy la intencional destrucción de la vida humana en su inicio y en su final se han vuelto amenazas preeminentes contra la dignidad humana porque atacan directamente a la vida misma.

- Más de un millón de niños son abortados cada año sólo en Estados Unidos; algunos son víctimas de métodos tan brutales que la sociedad no permitiría su uso contra animales indefensos. Las razones para buscar abortos son mayormente de tipo social.
- Los abortos también lastiman a las mujeres. Algunas mueren (no sólo las publicitadas muertes por RU-486), y otras quedan marcadas física y emocionalmente. Crece el número de mujeres que hablan claro sobre los años de pesar y depresión luego de sus abortos.
- Científicos destruyen embriones humanos para cosechar células troncales —quizás convenciéndose a sí mismos de que la matanza se minimiza con las potenciales curas. Algunos tratan de clonar embriones humanos para usarlos en investigación. Estos esfuerzos no éticos continúan a pesar de impresionantes logros médicos en el tratamiento de pacientes usando células troncales de adultos, incluyendo la de la sangre de cordones umbilicales, y a pesar de que las potenciales curas a partir de células troncales embrionarias siguen siendo teóricas. Muchos estados han comenzado a asignar fondos de los impuestos de los contribuyentes para la investigación embrionaria y de clonación.
- Con mayor frecuencia se argumenta que el suicidio asistido y la eutanasia son tratamientos apropiados para los muy ancianos y para los discapacitados mentales o físicos. En EE.UU., Oregon es el único estado que tiene suicidio asistido legalizado, pero se urge a otros estados que hagan lo mismo. La eutanasia y el suicidio asistido legal se propagan por Europa.

Por buenas que sean muchas políticas sociales, tales como programas que alimentan a los hambrientos y albergan a los desamparados —pese a la vital importancia que tienen— no pueden compensar las malas políticas concernientes a la protección de la vida misma. Sin el fundamental derecho a la vida, el derecho a no ser exterminado, ningún otro derecho tiene sentido. De hecho, sin no hay vida ningún otro derecho puede existir.

El Papa Benedicto nos recuerda en *Dios es amor* que, como católicos, somos llamados a hacer el amor de Dios presente en el mundo. Observó que los obispos desean “servir a la formación de las conciencias en la política y contribuir a que crezca la percepción de las verdaderas exigencias de la justicia” (no. 28). Pero, enfatizó que es el deber del laico trabajar por “un orden justo en la sociedad” y “participar en primera persona en la vida pública” (no. 29).

En otras palabras, les cabe a los laicos católicos participar directamente en la vida pública, ayudando a promulgar leyes y políticas que respeten la vida de todos, especialmente la de los que no tienen voz —los niños no nacidos, los embriones humanos objetivos de investigación destructiva, y aquellos con deficiencias cognitivas, los discapacitados o los agonizantes.

Ya sea que escribamos cartas a los representantes electos, votemos,



**El Padre John Thomas, párroco de la Iglesia San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, guiando a un grupo de parroquianos conociendo el Monasterio de San Meinrad en mayo, 2006.**

Father John Thomas, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, guiding a tour for the Hopkinsville parishioners at Saint Meinrad Monastery in May, 2006.

**CCK: Cada hombre y mujer son la imagen de Dios** (*Sigue de la página 8*)

- 3) ¿Por qué tus antecesoras emigraron a nuestro país?
- 4) Cómo fueron tratados los inmigrantes en nuestra historia y cómo están siendo tratados hoy?
- 5) ¿Qué derechos naturales se derivaron de su dignidad inherente como personas que los inmigrantes tienen?
- 6) ¿Por qué la gente emigra a nuestro país u algún otro país en el mundo?
- 7) Identifica las estructuras, patrones, leyes, costumbres que provocan que la gente emigre
- 8) ¿Cuáles son los beneficios de los inmigrantes al llegar a nuestro país?
- 9) ¿Por qué la Iglesia ha estado activa a favor de los inmigrantes durante los años?
- 10) ¿Cómo podemos dar la bienvenida positiva a los aspectos positivos de inmigración?
- 11) ¿Cómo podemos vencer la discriminación, injusticia, y apatía a la persona que emigra a nuestro país?
- 12) ¿Qué cambios en las leyes deberíamos de apoyar para asegurar que las leyes están siendo justas para los inmigrantes?..
- 13) ¿Cómo puede la comunidad albergar vocaciones para una vida de sacerdocio y religioso en la comunidad Hispana y alentar a sacerdotes y religiosos para que su gente de los Estados Unidos continúen como devotos misioneros en sus vidas para servicio del Señor y la gente Hispana?

### Recursos

Los sitios de internet son importantes para que aquellos que quieran estudiar la enseñanza de la Iglesia en Inmigrantes:

- Conferencia del Episcopado Católico de los EEUU (USCCB) : [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
**Sigue en la página 10**

hagamos campaña o simplemente demos información sólida a amistades y colegas sobre los graves asuntos morales de nuestro tiempo, nuestra participación en la vida pública estadounidense deberá, en todo momento, ser guiada por esta verdad fundamental: cada uno de nosotros —incluyendo aquellos con los que discrepamos fuertemente— es *creado, amado y redimido por Dios*. Nosotros, y ellos, somos de incalculable valor a los ojos de Dios.

Al decir la verdad con amor sobre la vida humana, podemos ayudar a edificar una sociedad que protege y respeta toda vida humana, nacida o no nacida, y que refleja mejor nuestra condición de hijos de Dios.

## CCK: Cada hombre y mujer son la imagen de Dios

(Sigue de la página 9)

org

• USCCB: La Campaña de Justicia para los Inmigrantes: Una Jornada de Esperanza – <http://www.justiciaparalosinmigrantes.org/>.

• Conferencia Católica de Kentucky (CCK): [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org)

La página web del CCK tiene una página dedicada a los artículos preparados por el Comité Hispano del CCK : [http://www.ccky.org/justice\\_for\\_immigrants.htm](http://www.ccky.org/justice_for_immigrants.htm)

La mayoría de los documentos referidos a “Cada Hombre y Mujer es la imagen de Dios” Iglesias está disponibles en línea para estudio mas avan-



Patti Murphy, Directora de la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano, leyó la oración inicial mientras el Monseñor Juan McRaith la ofreció en inglés en la Oración para la Reforma Migratoria Exhaustiva, 28 agosto 2006 en la Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro. La vigilia fue antes de la Audiencia sobre la Inmigración del Comité Judicial de la Cámara de Diputados el siguiente día...

Patti Murphy, Director of Hispanic Ministry Office, read the opening prayer in Spanish as Bishop John McRaith offered the prayer in English at the Prayer vigil for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, August 28, 2006, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro. The vigil preceded the Immigration Hearing of the House Judicial Committee the following day...

## La “Serra Club” de Owensboro Te Invita a Adoptar a un Sacerdote



La “Serra Club” de Owensboro tiene un programa para proveer apoyo en oración a los sacerdotes de nuestra Diócesis que se llama ADOPTA A UN SACERDOTE. Un prendedor ha diseñado como el mostrado a la izquierda. Las iniciales del sacerdote y su fecha de ordenación ha sido grabado atrás de cada

prendedor. Junto con cada prendedor, una carta y un sobre serán incluidos, diseñados especialmente para ser enviado al sacerdote adoptado por su madrina/padrino. Se pide que rece cada día por su sacerdote adoptado. Para pedir un prendedor envía un cheque o *money order* de \$15.00 a: Serra Club of Owensboro, 4213 Spring Bank Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303 y su dirección de correo.

zado. A continuación están los sitios de enlace para aquellos que están disponibles.

*After the Angelus, January 15, 2006* – Pope Benedict XVI [http://www.vatican.edu/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/angelus/2006/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_ang\\_20060115\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.edu/holy_father/benedict_xvi/angelus/2006/documents/hf_benxvi_ang_20060115_en.html)

*Undocumented Migrants, Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration Day 1996.* [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/messages/migration/documents/hf\\_jpii\\_mes\\_25071995\\_undocumented\\_migrants\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/migration/documents/hf_jpii_mes_25071995_undocumented_migrants_en.html)

*World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message of Pope Benedict XVI, October 18, 2006* [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_mes\\_20051018\\_world-migrants-day\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_benxvi_mes_20051018_world-migrants-day_en.html)

*Exsul Familia(1952) – Pope Pius XII* - <http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius12/p12exsul.htm>

*Pacem in Terris (1963) – Pope John XXIII* [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jxxiii\\_enc\\_11041963\\_pacem\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jxxiii_enc_11041963_pacem_en.html)

*Ecclesia In America(1999) – Pope John Paul II* [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jpii\\_exh\\_22011999\\_ecclesia-in-america\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jpii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html)

*Juntos en el Camino de la Esperanza Ya No Somos Extranjeros. Carta pastoral de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos y México sobre la migración (2003)* <http://www.nccbuscc.org/mrs/strangersp.shtml>

*Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium – U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (2005).* <http://www.nccbuscc.org/bishops/schools.pdf>

*Deus Caritas Est (2006)* [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_benxvi\\_enc\\_20051225\\_deus-caritas-est\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_benxvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html)



...Ed Monahan, Director Ejecutivo de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky, Patti Murphy, de la Diócesis de Owensboro y Kevin Appleby, Director de la Oficina de Póliza de Migrantes y Refugiados del USCCB se juntaron con casi 100 personas en apoyar a la Reforma Migratoria Exhaustiva en la Audiencia el 29 de agosto en Evansville, In.

...Ed Monahan, Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, Patti Murphy, of the Diocese of Owensboro and Kevin Appleby, Director of USCCB Migration and Refugee Policy Office, joined approximately 100 supporters of Comprehensive Immigration Reform at the August 29th Hearing in Evansville, In.