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November, 2006

Religious, environmental groups seek common ground on climate change

By Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Religious voices have been speaking on environmental issues for quite some time, although it seems as if the volume has been turned up more in recent years. Environmental groups speak on those issues too. It's what they do best, but what they haven't done is seek closer ties with others.

A Sept. 21 meeting in Washington brought together close to 50 people from the religious, environmental and academic fields as part of "a more conscious effort at rallying ourselves together," according to Walt Grazer, director of the environmental justice program for the U.S. bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace.

Grazer and the Rev. Sally Bingham, an Episcopal priest at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, jointly moderated the session. The religion-environmental link is "relatively new," Grazer said. "This discussion is propitious."

He added, "This resurgence of religion and the environment is a good thing. ... The potential is enormous, and that's a good thing."

Several people at the forum pointed to the Catholic Church in the United States as leading the way in the effort. Many said they took inspiration from the U.S. bishops' 2001 statement on climate change, "Global Climate Change:



Students from St. Mary of the Woods grade school in Whitesville, Kentucky visited Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount for an environmental learning day October 6. MSJ Photo

A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good."

In it, the bishops asked, "How are we to fulfill God's call to be stewards of creation in an age when we may have the capacity to alter that creation significantly, and perhaps irrevocably?" and "How can we as a 'family of nations' exercise stewardship in a way that respects and protects the integrity of God's creation and provides for the common good, as well as for economic and social progress based on justice?"

"Language or liturgy can resonate in a way that politics or policy discussions cannot," Grazer said.

The U.S. bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace also distrib-

uted six "environmental justice grants" this year in California, Connecticut, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon and the Appalachian region. Projects funded by the grant range from efforts to cut power-plant emissions to neutralizing the effect of strip mining.

Getting the same conversation started at the grass-roots level is the challenge, Grazer said. "Religious communities are deeply rooted in local communities. But I think it will take time.

"The good news is that we're very vast," Grazer continued. "The bad news is that we're very vast."

Rev. Bingham illustrated the dilemma: "Am I the only ordained person in this room? Am I?" she asked. Not seeing any reaction indicating

Continued on page 6



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. Bishops' 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

It All Comes Together In Jesus

My Dear Friends,

When we think of November, we think of a number of significant events that take place in this month. First of all, we celebrate the feast of All Saints, which is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States this year since it falls on a Wednesday.

A Holy Day of Obligation is when the Church calls us all to celebrate the Eucharist as a matter of obligation. I know that many do not take this call seriously, but we should.

On All Saints, we give special honor to the Communion of Saints, which includes not only those who have been declared saints by special decree of the Church but also the vast majority of those who now enjoy eternal life with God, through the mercy of God, if they lived as true disciples of Jesus Christ. This is such a special day for us to remember those who have gone before us, those who have helped to pass the faith on to us because of the lives they lived. We all have had many people in our lives that were close to us here on earth who now are close to us in the Communion of Saints. All Saints is a day to give thanks for their lives, for their sharing God's gifts with us, and for their continued concern for us. This is a day when we celebrate the Eucharist (a thanksgiving) for them, and we ask the Communion of Saints to help us each to lead a life that will end with us joining them in the happiness of all eternity. This day honors the Saints, while giving us a chance to look at our own lives to be sure that we are following them as true Disciples of Christ.

All Saints is also a day when we pray in a special way to those whose lives were taken before they had a chance to be born and to share their gifts of grace with us. On this day, we pray in a special way to find a way to end to abortion NOW and forever.

We follow this day of celebrating with the Feast of the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, All Souls. On this day, the Church prays for all who, in the purifying suffering in Purgatory, await the day when they will join in the company of all the Saints. We offer our prayers, sacrifices, and sufferings for them on this day and every day.

These are two days then that we look back at those who have touched our lives because of their faith and we pray to them and we pray for them. We also pray for all of us living now that we might join them one day in eternal happiness in the presence of our Almighty and Ever-loving God.

Now let us fast-forward to Thanksgiving Day, when our Church calls us to be thankful for all that God has given us — which is everything that we are and everything that we have. On this day, we first give thanks for our faith, then we pray to live that faith full of joy, not just on Thanksgiving but all year long. We give thanks for all the blessings that God has given to us: life, family, friends, as well as our many material things that are meant to be shared and enjoyed by all our brothers and sisters.

The roots of Thanksgiving Day trace back to when the pilgrims and the natives gathered to celebrate a bountiful harvest. What better way to express their thanks to God than by



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

sharing their food and other necessities of life? I call attention to the roots because we are now in the midst of seeking just ways for new people to come into this great nation. They come for many reasons — many of the same reasons that brought the first immigrants to this part of the world. Let us all remember our own roots, remember how the first Thanksgiving took place and do all we can to match the goodwill of this early nation. Perhaps a new kind of welcome is in order, but we must recognize the rights of those who now come to our shores and borders to be treated as we would want to be treated, if we were forced for whatever reason to seek a new country. Remember, this country prides itself on being a nation that offers liberty and justice for all. I ask that you keep the struggle of immigration reform in your prayers, and also that you keep faith to the fact that God has given us all that we have. If we have more than we need, He expects us to share that with others.

I end by reminding you that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection is to be taken up in every parish on the weekend of Nov. 19th. The money raised in this collection is used to reach out to the poor. This is an opportunity for all of us to look at our call to be good stewards of all that God has given us — everything we have — and see how well we are doing in sharing with those who have not. We start by sharing the greatest gift: our faith. Our faith then leads us to work toward sharing our time, talents, and material resources with those who live without the necessities of life. As an aside,

the monies donated to the CCHD collection are divided between the diocese (25 percent) and the rest of the United States (75 percent).

This all may seem a long way from where I started this letter to you, but it really is not. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 25, we read the great story of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He lists a number of things that we should be doing. As one example, He says "I was hungry and you fed me." People said, "When did we see you hungry, and feed you or did not feed you?" Jesus was quick to answer, "When you do it for the least among you, you do it for me." Well, my friends, that scripture is really what All Saints and All Souls days are about. We become saints by seeing and treating our sister, and brothers as we would treat Jesus Christ Himself.

We walk together as pilgrims on our way home to be with God for all eternity. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ John J. McRaith

+Most Reverend John J. McRaith, Bishop of Owensboro

Bishop McRaith's November 2006 Schedule

- 1 Feast of All Saints, Holy Day of Obligation — CPC Closed
- 2 Mass, Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 6 Mass, Paducah Wisdom Day, St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, Noon
- 6 Lake Barkley Conference for Educators
- 7 Lake Barkley Conference for Educators
- 8 Administration Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 8:30am
- 10 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Mtg., Baltimore
- 11 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore
- 12 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore
- 13 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore
- 14 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore
- 15 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore
- 16 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore, ends at Noon
- 18 Diocesan Hispanic Mass & Celebration, Hopkinsville, 11am
- 18 Mass, Youth Ministry Convocation, CTK, Madisonville, 5:30pm
- 19 Confirmation, Rosary Chapel, Paducah, 10am
- 20 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 20 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 20 DPC Mtg., Madisonville, 6:00pm
- 21 Presbyteral Day, CPC, 10:30am - 4:30pm
- 23 Mass of Thanksgiving, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 8am
- 27 Provincial Bishops' Mtg., Knoxville, Noon
- 28 Provincial Bishops' Mtg., Knoxville
- 29 Provincial Bishops' Mtg., Knoxville





The Missy Johnston Music Scholarship is named in honor of the late Missy Johnston, shown here playing her violin. Submitted photo

Submitted by James & Shelia Clemons

GRAYSON SPRINGS, Ky. - The 2006 Missy Johnston Music Scholarship was awarded on September 9, 2006 at the Saint Augustine Catholic Church here. This scholarship is given annually in memory of a young woman who loved music and loved to share her talent with her church family, as well as others in the community. For the past 11 years, Missy's family has given children who show a true interest in music and a desire to share their talent with others a scholarship. This scholarship is to be used to further their musical education. This year's recipients of the award were Ryan and Tony Clemons.

Both Ryan and Tony play in the St. Anthony, St. Augustine, and St. Benedict youth orchestra NU-HOPE and their musical interests stem from many sources. From Gospel, Contemporary Gospel, Country, Bluegrass and Rock-and-Roll these boys love their music. Hopefully their love for music will flourish.

Thanks to Spike and Faye Johnston, the memory of their daughter Missy will live on through the lives of the young in our community. What a beautiful memory!



Faye Johnston, mother of Missy Johnston, posed with Scholarship winners Tony Clemons, left, and Ryan Clemons. Submitted photo

Youth Ministry Position

St. Stephen Cathedral and Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, Kentucky have an immediate opening for a Coordinator of Youth Ministry for students in grades 7-12 (approximately 300 in public and Catholic schools). This is a new position combining the youth ministry programs of both parishes. The primary, though not exclusive, duties of the Coordinator are catechesis, specifically Confirmation preparation and High School Faith Formation, including service projects and social activities. The Coordinator will have direct ministry with the youth, train parish volunteers to work with youth and also function as an advocate for this age population

One seeking this position must be an active Catholic in good standing with the Church and possess a degree in Ministry Formation or a Certificate of Youth Ministry. At least three years in Church ministry is a requisite. Salary and benefits in accord with diocesan scale for lay ministers.

To apply or for more information, contact Fr. Tony Jones, 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301 (Tel: 683-0689) or Fr. John Vaughan, 610 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301. (Tel: 270-683-6525).

Natural Family Planning A Beautiful Way of Life

My name is Roni Mudd, and I am a member of St. Joseph Church in Leitchfield, KY. My husband, Kevin, and I have three children, Megan, Gabriel, and Lydia. When Kevin and I met in 1998, I was a practicing Baptist, but soon after marrying Kevin and being exposed to the Catholic Faith, I fell absolutely head over heels in love with Catholicism. On Easter Vigil 2003, I became Catholic.

I loved all of it—the Consecration of the Eucharist, the devotions to our Blessed Mother, the Communion of Saints, etc, but one of the ideas that intrigued me most was the sacredness of the marital institution including the ideology of resisting artificial contraception. Soon after converting to Catholicism, Kevin and I took a Natural Family Planning class from Michelle Roberts. The method was so easy to learn, and it has done nothing but strengthen our marriage.

I finished the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning in November, and I am ready to teach other married couples this beautiful way



The Mudd Family: Kevin, Roni, Megan, Gabriel, and Lydia. Submitted photo

of life. Please feel free to contact me at home, (270) 259-0511, or my cell, (270) 868-6219.

The Western Kentucky Catholic



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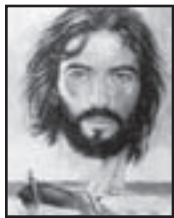
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-Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971

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

Vocation



A Listening Heart, United in Christ, Open To The Mystery Of God Eligibility Requirements And Application For The Permanent Diaconate

By Father John Thomas

In accordance with the Church's norms outlined in Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons, (Congregation for Catholic Education & Congregation for the Clergy, Vatican City, 1998), and the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States, (Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000), the Diaconate Formation Program of the Diocese of Owensboro is designed around the Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral development of each candidate.

A man who feels called to the Order of deacon should discuss this matter with his pastor and over a period of time they should discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in the candidate's life. The candidate must be well known to the pastor and the members of the parish community. He must already be involved in the life of the parish in its ministries, outreach programs, or education programs. His commitment to the parish and the Church should be evident in his constant participation and support of the parish. He should be recognized by the community as a witness to pastoral charity, a life of prayer, a man faithful to the Church's teachings, and should live a life consistent with the values and commandments of the Gospel. The pastor should meet with a candidate's wife in order to discern the level of her support for her husband's intention to pursue ordination to the diaconate.

In order to be accepted into the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program a candidate is expected to have successfully completed courses and seminars on pastoral ministry and human development (provided by the diocese beginning in January '07). Each candidate, as part of the application process, goes through a screening process, undergoes a rigorous interview process, psychological evaluations, and is required to provide over seven independent references from a wide variety of sources. The application process for the Diocese is coordinated and implemented by the Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

As many candidates for the permanent diaconate are married and have families, efforts are made to include spouses and children in the formation program at all levels. The involvement, commitment, and approval of a spouse is essential for a candidate's acceptance into the program and in the success of living out the diaconal vocation.

Qualities Sought In Potential Deacon Candidates

- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- A regular life of personal and communal prayer
- A personal devotion to the Blessed Sacrament through regular attendance at and participation in the Eucharist
- An open and flexible attitude
- Being well-rounded and having achieved a level of adult maturation
- The ability to relate to a wide variety of people, e.g. adult women and men, the elderly, youth and children
- Having developed healthy relationships with family and friends; not a 'loner'
- A sense of humor and ability to be self-critical and self-reflective in an honest manner
- Leadership ability through personal initiative and achievement
- Ability to work cooperatively with others (i.e. ability to collaborate)
- Ability to be compassionate and empathize
- Willingness and ability to take care of one's own physical, mental and emotional health
- Non-involvement in substance abuse, sexual obsession, or psychological problems within three years prior to application
- If married, a solid, stable marital relationship

Prerequisites For Admission To The Program

- A man must be a Catholic in good standing in the Church and fully initiated in the faith
- He must be at least 32 years of age
- If married, there must be evidence of a stable and growing marriage relationship. His wife must be willing to support her husband actively through formation and in his ministry.
- He will have demonstrated his ability to respond to needs for service himself and lead others to do so.
- He is endorsed by his present pastor, parish staff, and parish council.
- Safe Environment workshop and background check are prerequisite.

Upcoming Schedule For Those Interested:

2007: Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Hopkinsville
Jan. 27 Introduction and Orientation; Feb 24 Spirituality; Mar 24 Prayer; Apr 28 Vocation; May 26 Ministry; Jun 23 Am I Called? ; July 28 Formal Application

If you are interested in applying for the Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program, please contact Reverend Father John M. Thomas, Director of Permanent Diaconate, 902 East Ninth Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240 jnthomas@saintspeterandpaulchurch.org Tel. 270-885-8522 Fax. 270-885-5296



The Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Corbinian is pictured during a meeting of priests and permanent deacons with Pope Benedict XVI in Freising, Germany, Sept. 14. The meeting was held the final day of the Sept. 9-14 visit to the German-born pontiff's homeland. (CNS photo/Alexandra Beier, Reuters) (Sept. 14, 2006)

Pope: Vocations must come from God

By Michael Lawton, Catholic News Service

MUNICH, Germany (CNS) An estimated 50,000 people watched the pope as he traveled in the popemobile through the streets of Freising Sept. 14 to the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Corbinian for a service with priests, deacons, and congregants of the diocese.

The Freising stop was a revisit of a station in his life, something he had been doing throughout the trip. Pope Benedict was ordained a priest in the Freising cathedral with his brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, 55 years ago. After his ordination he taught theology in the city, then returned as archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977. He spoke of the problems priests face. Currently, there are fewer priests, he said, and the demands on them are higher. He said he had no patent prescription to prevent burnout, but he suggested that priests should show zeal in service for Christ and humility in accepting their limitations.

"This applies to the pope, too," he said. "I have to say, 'I will do what I can,' but there comes a point when I have

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Pope: Vocations must come from God

(continued from page 4)

to leave it to God and my colleagues and say, 'In the end, you have to do it.'"

He warned against "management concepts" for the priesthood. "Vocations must come from God," he said. "We can't just recruit people." Referring to the motto of his visit, "He Who Believes Is Never Alone," Pope Benedict said, "Those who are priests are never alone because Christ is with them."

He said priests also were not alone because they were part of the community of priests. The pope said he hoped that community would be a real support for priests, colleagues the priests could call upon "if they felt alone, if they had questions or problems."

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The Saint Pius Tenth Pack 120 attended Scout weekend at Barren River on August 11 - 13. They received a silver medal in the scout Olympics. Pictured are: Cub Jim Wedding, front left, Webelo leader Bill Wedding, at back right, and Bear leader Pat Lewis at front right along with Pack 120 scouts Josh Hazel and his brother, Isaac O'Flynn, Trae O'Flynn, Lee Gainor, Wade Hall, Bobby Phillips, Michael Lewis, John Michael Brown, Sean Brandle, Blake Weding, and Jacob Wedding. Also shown are 2 scouts from Pack 36 in Lewisport, Frankie Hamilton and Will Hall. Submitted by Jeanie Lewis.

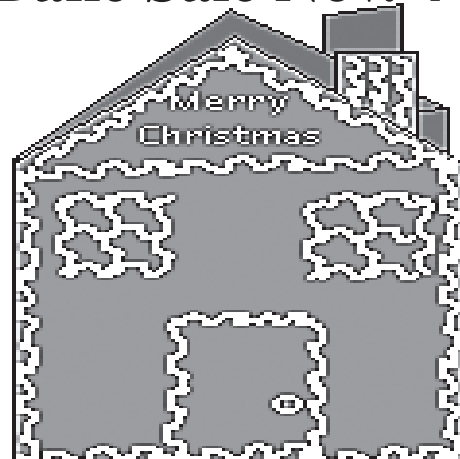
Health Panel To Discuss Eldercare

The Social Concerns Committee of The Immaculate Parish, Owensboro, Ky., will host a health panel on Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate in the Parish Hall to discuss how to take care of our older people. The talk lasts about an hour. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are invited.

For information, Call Sister Debra Bailey at 926-8656, or e-mail yellow23baileyda@aol.com

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale Nov. 4

All are invited to the Ursuline Sisters Christmas Craft and Bake Sale Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., at Precious Blood Parish Hall in Owensboro. Items include homemade UK and UL aprons, small Christmas quilts, pillowcases, table runners, "tag-alongs," and many other home and gift items. There will also be homemade breads and chili to take home and enjoy later. Proceeds go to the sisters' retirement fund. For information, call Sister Rosanne Spalding, 270-684-6888 or 686-7098.



Tribunal Staff Development Day

A staff development day was held for the Tribunal members of the Diocese of Owensboro on August 10, 2006. The presenter was Father Augustine (Gus) Mendonca from St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. The topic for the day was the necessity for the use of a peritus (court appointed expert) in cases where the following grounds are used: c. 1095.2 – Grave Lack of Discretion of Judgment Concerning Essential Marital Rights and Duties and c. 1095.3 – Psychic-Natured Incapacity to Assume Marital Obligations.

Attending: Rev. J. Michael Clark, J.C.L., Rev. J. Patrick Reynolds, J.C.L., Rev. John R. Vaughan, J.C.D., Rev. Titus Alabyona, J.C.L., Rev. Leonard Alvey, MA, Ed.S., Rev. Brian Roby, Sr. Margaret Alokian, J. C.L., Sr. Vivian Bowles, Ed.D, MFT, William Bach, M.D., Patricia Blair, Mary Ann Kurz. Absent: Louanne Gelarden, Sandy Morris

Diocesan Tribunal Hosts Provincial Meeting

The Tribunal staff of the Diocese of Owensboro hosted the annual Provincial Meeting of Judicial Personnel on August 8-9, 2006 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Participants attended from St. Meinard Archabbey and the dioceses of Owensboro, Covington, Lexington, Louisville, Memphis, and Nashville. The guest speaker was Fr. Augustine Mendonca, a professor of Canon Law at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Fr. Mendonca is also the author of numerous church articles.

Fr. Mendonca had presentations on various topics of Canon Law with a question and answer session. A business meeting was also held.

DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2006

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Roby, Rev. Brian: Parochial Vicar to St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, effective September 25, 2006.

Happy Anniversary

Marriage Celebrations for November 2006

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Harry & Charlene Baumgarten, 50
Eldridge & Lois Owens, 50
James & Nancy Byrum, 52
Thomas & Louise Thompson, 59

Christ the King, Madisonville

Richard & Paula Ruby, 25
Eddie & Rachel Ballard, 53
Emilio & Virginia Suarez, 52

Christ the King, Scottsville

Patrick & Jeanette Burke, 50

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Louis & Anne Vogt, 55
Alvin & Loretta Heck, 55
Joseph & Catherine Crews, 56
Jeff & Ginny Dowell, 25

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

John & Karen Dodson, 25
Richard & Linda Glick, 25
Philip & Rhonda Hancock, 25
Steve & Pam Austin, 40
William & Pam Crawford, 40
Arthur & Marilyn Harshbarger, 40
Billy & Betty Gatten, 57
Boynton & Marian Merrill, 54
Andre' & Louise Trawick, 51

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Jon & Stephanie Lewis, 25
Richard & Doris Pierce, 25
Paul & Barbara Schnoes, 50
Bill & Alberta Metzger 60
Howard & Dorothy Naberhaus, 56

Immaculate, Owensboro

John & Patricia Mountain, 50
William J. & Carolyn Mulligan, 60
Joseph J. & Rosita S. Blandford, 59
Stewart & Barbara Coomes, 52
Thomas & Mary Louise Cecil, 56
Joseph & Mary Ruth Cilia, 63
Tom & Rosella C. Whitsett, 56
Paul J. & Sarah Hayden, 40
Mark & Jean Howard, 58
Donald & Mary Blanford, 53
William E. & Wanda Libs, 60
Charles R. & Mary Jane Bowlds, 54

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Cleo & Myrl Bickett, 65

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ralph & Martha Ashworth, 59
Percy & Anna Custer, 52
William & Lora McCarty, 25
Odie & Martine Warren, 60
George and Irene Beierline, 69

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Louis & Liz Cecil, 52
Bob & Patricia Fogle, 40
Charles & Shirley Merimee, 50
James & Doris Schrecker, 51

Sacred Heart, Russellville

William E. & Jean Danhauer, 56

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Maurice & Margaret Drury, 59
William & Daisy Gibson, 50
William A. & Elizabeth Mattingly, 60
Joe Paul & Joyce Warren, 58

St. Ann, Morganfield

Thomas & Patty Lewis, 25
Danny & Danielle Greenwell, 25
Michael & Johnna Obert, 25
Larry & Sharon Cissell, 51
Gordon & Marietta Clements, 59
James & Betty Hancock, 62
J. R. & Geraldine Sheffer, 58

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Simon & Rita Wink, 50

St. Anthony, Peonia

Lawrence & Ruth Powell, 59

St. Anthony Padua, Grand Rivers

Donald & Eleanor Crayne, 53

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Robert & Patty Young, 56

St. Charles, Bardwell

Dan & Jane Tomas, 40
Joe & Rosie Hayden, 60
Maurice & Josetta Cain, 57

St. Edward, Fulton

Steve & Ann Lindsey, 52
Bill & Jean Fenwick, 54

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Richard & Elaine Hayden, 40
Bill & Patricia Ellegood, 53
Charles & Betty Cash, 56
Bernard & Wilma Hobbs, 57
Jim & Barbara O'Guinn, 57
Joe & Magy Wilson, 58
Leon & Mae Carter, 71

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

William C. & Barbara Hayden, 50
Louis & Emma Bourgois, 52
Bennie & Doris Durbin, 56
Johnny & Louise Kaufman, 53
Leroy & June Kaufman, 54
Francis & Dorothy Schoor, 52
Ambrose & Mary Denise Willett, 60

St. Joseph, Mayfield

John & Helen Riley, 50
Douglas & Hilda Webb, 58
Sanuel & Ann Cash, 60
Randal & Louise Carrico, 61

St. Leo, Murray

Kenneth & Carolyn Ramsey, 50
Donald & Rene Brittain, 25

St. Martin, Rome

Paul & Mary Schrecker, 60

St. Mary & St. James, Guthrie

Donald & Cathy Hall, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

James & Martine Boarman, 58
William & Mary Brey, 60
James & Rose Ann Cecil, 63

William & Lillie Mae Hagan, 65
Gordon & Evelyn Millay, 52
J. W. & Mary Morris, 54

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Mark & Barbara Milliner, 40
Patrick J. & Anna Johnson, 58

St. Peter, Waverly

George & Regina Vogel, 58

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Jerry & Gayloe Seay, 53
James & Shirley Poat, 40

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Jerry & Judy Stinnett, 25
Thomas & Dianna Howard, 25
Jeff & Charlotte Hedges, 25
Marvin & Millie Morris, 65
Joseph & Dorothy Raley, 52

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Jeff & Jill Rhodes, 25
Harold & Dorothy Burnette, 54
Paul & Pauline Henning, 59

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Royce & Dorothy Vinson, 55
John & Marybelle Darnell, 60
Jim & Jolene Hudson, 50

Henry E. & Mary O'Bryan, 58
William R. & Kathy West, 25
Charles A. & Mary Ruth Danhauer, 57
Patrick E. & Ruth Helen Wright, 51

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Mike & Yvonne Bosch, 40
Louis & Emma Bourgois, 52
George & Joanna McMinn, 52
John & Helen Farrell, 51
Donald & Eleanor Crayne, 53

St. William, Philpot

Frank & Elsie Lindsey, 50
John W. & Edna Lanham, 60
Joseph & Catherine Mills, 60

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Joseph Ray & Mary Thompson, 25
Vince & Flo Mattingly, 65
Marvin & Emma Blincoe, 60
Gordon & Mary Rose Whitehouse, 57
Charles & Florence Howard, 51
Richard & Rita Stiff, 51

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Arnold & Julia Borders, 51

Religious, environmental groups seek common ground on climate change *(continued from page 1)*

otherwise, she said, "That should give you a clue that we're still standing on the outside. Clergy talk to clergy. ... The message is received far more greatly when my bishop receives information from me."

Still, Rev. Bingham wanted to make sure that lines between faith groups and environmentalists don't blur: "We are not the Sierra Club at prayer." As people of faith, she added, "we can work on both sides of the aisle. There are lots of people of faith who are Republican who can be moved by a pronouncement on faith but not if they think we're a front for the environmental movement."

Pam McVetty, who retired after working for 30 years in the Florida state government because she found it "very disillusioning" and now works for the Presbyterian Church in Florida, said: "My faith guides my actions. I like to think my knowledge also guides my actions." A number of speakers, each limited to 10 minutes or less in their presentations, hurtled through descriptions of projects that cut greenhouse-gas emissions, use less energy or in other ways reduce the "carbon footprint." To bring about change, "students may be the multiplier effect we're looking for here," suggested Dan Worth, executive director of the National Association of Environmental Law Students. Students at the University of California-Santa Barbara, Worth said, developed a model showing that if \$5 million were spent in one year on climate-mitigating technologies on campus, that investment would be recouped in three-and-a-half years. The model would cut 11 percent of all energy used -- a big achievement for a campus that alone accounts for 133,000 vehicle miles traveled daily.

Worth also talked about three major national events that were, in his words, "climate neutral": the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston and Super Bowl XL, held last February in Detroit. The mere act of planting trees can help compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions generated by such large events, Worth said.

Of all the projects detailed, perhaps the most practical application for halting climate change came in the form of the ubiquitous school fundraiser. Instead of selling wrapping paper or candy or magazine subscriptions, it was suggested that students could sell compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use less energy. The students would get a decent profit to fund their activities, and buyers would be able to help the environment without a whole lot of effort on their part.

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Diocese Celebrates Commitment of Couples To Marriage

Special To The Western Kentucky Catholic
OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Sunday, October 1, 2006 approximately 300 individuals attended the Diocesan Marriage Celebration at St. Stephen Cathedral. Couples celebrating 1 year of marriage to 66 years of marriage came from all across the diocese to celebrate their marriage.

Bishop McRaith told the couples that, "This gives me the opportunity to congratulate you and also thank you for committing yourselves to one another." Couples were reminded by Bishop McRaith that, "Anniversaries are a great time to look back and thank God for what you have been given, to look at the present and ask God for the grace to continue to be committed to God and to each other, and to look to the future with a renewal of that commitment."

The readings for the day clearly gave the message that God must be in charge of our lives. When we have the Lord Jesus as the mainstay of our lives, we can find happiness even amidst sorrow and disappointment.

Bishop McRaith ended his homily by saying, "It is my prayer that the Lord would send His Spirit upon all married people so that they could be witnesses--yes, prophets for all to follow." Married couples are called to do two things, Bishop McRaith said, "Be God centered



David and Barbara Koonce receiving their certificate from Bishop John McRaith. Lois Rutigliano photo

and maintain their commitment to one another while doing God's work."

After Mass those couples who were celebrating anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage were recognized. This year the Family Life Office of the Diocese decided to honor a couple from each anniversary group with a donation in their name to Heifer International, a non-profit organization working to end world hunger by giving cows, goats, pigs and other livestock to impoverished families around the world. Their mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth.



Jenny and Drury Howard receiving a certificate from Bishop John McRaith. Lois Rutigliano photo



Jeff Hedges and Charlotte Hedges singing at the Mass with Betty Medley and her father Marion Cecil. Lois Rutigliano photo



These are couples standing to be recognized as they celebrate wedding anniversaries of 50 or more years. Lois Rutigliano photo

Couples honored with a donation in their names to Heifer International were:

- A flock of chicks to Mike & Terry Lewis, Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro – 25 years of marriage
- A flock of ducks to David & Barbara Koonce, St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield – 40 years of marriage
- A flock of geese to Tony & Virginia Glahn, Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro – 50 years of marriage
- A flock of chicks and a trio of rabbits to Drury & Jennie Howard, Immaculate Parish, Owensboro – 60 years of marriage

All couples celebrating the designated anniversaries received a signed Certificate of Recognition by Bishop McRaith following the mass. It was a wonderful day and we look forward to celebrating again next year.

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 IX.

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 Most 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,



Most Rev. Francis R. Cotton

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 have 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 1938. 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 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.

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

Below is the cover letter our four Kentucky Bishops wrote for the publication of a the special booklet of prayers for life: Pro-Life Prayer Services for Times of Transition. We deeply appreciate the work of members of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky Pro-Life Committee and others in the Catholic community who helped to develop the prayers, provided editorial content and created the beautiful artwork. We hope all who use these prayers at important stages in life’s moments are brought closer to our Creator, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit that moves us to pray.

The collection is available in both PDF and Word Document versions. In PDF users may download the entire booklet or each individual prayer services. Those wishing to adapt these services for particular occasions should download the text booklet and modify them with word processing software.

To the Catholic People of Kentucky:

Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice, www.ccky.org/PDF%20Files/Reverence-PDF, our 1999 pastoral letter on abortion and the consistent ethic of life, highlighted the essential place for prayer and worship in living the Gospel of life. In the Catholic tradition, participation in the Eucharist is the privileged sacramental celebration that empowers and supports us in our attempts to answer the call to service and the pursuit of justice on behalf of human life from conception to natural death.

The spirituality, however, that enlivens our participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church must be rooted in the spirit of prayer and contemplation which should mark our personal practice of the faith.

Living the Gospel of life, in particular, must be sustained by prayer, reflection, and solitude, for these are the indispensable spiritual means by which we as a people of and for life singly and together commune with God and in Christ become ministers of God’s grace --- ministers of the Gospel of life.

As our pastoral letter challenges, “How can we expect to have a heart for the long struggle for life unless new hearts are created within us?” In a pre-eminent way, prayer sustains us with the assurance that “God is always ready to answer our prayers for help with the virtues we need to do his will.” (USCCB. Living the Gospel of Life, 1998: n. 27)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the prayer of petition centers “on the desire and search for the Kingdom to come, in keeping with the teaching of Christ.” In effect, through prayer all the baptized work towards the coming of the kingdom. (CCC n. 2632) Sacred scripture exhorts the followers of Jesus to pray constantly and with perseverance.

In the Gospel of Life Pope John Paul II declared: “A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.... Let us therefore discover anew the humility and courage to pray and fast so that power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many ... the evil practices and laws which are hostile to life.” [EV. n. 100]

In accord with the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities we continue to recommend that our dioceses, parishes, apostolic groups, and formation programs take initiatives “to sponsor programs of prayer and fasting as well as paraliturgical programs” to promote the Gospel of life. In addition to renewed participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, we encourage Catholics to adopt programs of private prayer.

To that end, we are publishing “Pro-Life Prayer Services for Times of Transitions,” a collection of prayer services adaptable to a variety of settings. As a response to important pastoral concerns and needs, it is our hope that these prayer services will truly enhance and enrich the practice of intercessory prayer among our people, an indispensable component for building a new culture of life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

By Joseph Duerr, Catholic News Service

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) -- Your family has adopted a child, and you want to celebrate the occasion with a special prayer service.

Or perhaps prayers are needed for a family member who is ill and nearing death or to mark the anniversary of the death of a loved one.

These are among 10 “Pro-Life Prayer Services for Times of Transition” developed by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, the policy arm of the state’s Catholic bishops, and made available for use in parishes, schools, homes and other gatherings.

The services, designed for a variety of settings, are “meant to be prayers for real situations to celebrate life” across the spectrum, said Ed Monahan, executive director of the state Catholic conference.

The services emphasize the “essential place for prayer and worship in living the Gospel of life,” the state’s four bishops said in a letter to Catholics. “It is our hope that these prayer services will truly enhance and enrich the practice of intercessory prayer among our people, an indispensable component for building a new culture of life.”

The 10 services contained in the pro-life prayer book are: “Celebrating the Sanctity of Life.”; “Uniting Our Suffering With the Cross of Christ.”; “Prayer With One Who Is Dying.”; “Entrustment Ceremony for an Adopted Child.”; “Memorial for the Loss of a Child.”; “Healing and Reconciliation after Abortion.”; “Blessing of Pilgrims on the March for Life.”; “Memorial for Deceased Homeless Persons.”; “On the Anniversary of a Death.”; “Vigil at the Time of an Execution.”

The prayer services are available on the Catholic Conference of Kentucky Web site (www.ccky.org) by clicking on “pro-life prayers” on the home page. (<http://www.ccky.org/Prayers.htm>) They can be downloaded on a computer in either a PDF or Word document format. They are not available in a published book.

The services consist of Scripture readings, prayers and hymns, and can be adapted to one’s particular needs. For example, the service for an “Entrustment Ceremony for an Adopted Child” includes blessings for the adoptive parents as well as the birth mother and birth father. A prayer for the adoptive parents says: “O God, bless these parents as you blessed Mary and Joseph in the Temple. Help them nurture this life which has been entrusted to their care.”

The service for the “Celebration of the Sanctity of Life” contains “The Life Promise,” which participants can recite. It says in part: “I accept God’s gift of life to me. ... I accept God’s gift of life around me, whether brother or sister, friend or stranger, however whole or broken, great or small, whether saint or sinner, rich or poor, both well and ill, ally, enemy or indifferent.”

The service for “Healing and Reconciliation After Abortion” has this prayer: “Help us to forgive each other as you forgive us. We acknowledge our sins and we rejoice in the power of repentance.” The service for “Uniting Our Suffering With the Cross of Christ” has this opening prayer: “Almighty God, your ways are not our ways; nor are your thoughts our thoughts. ... Open our eyes to your eternal plan. Humble and trusting, may we surrender to your merciful love.”

The prayer services can be adapted for use in parishes, schools and homes, Monahan told The Record, Louisville’s archdiocesan newspaper. He noted that a modified version of one of the services was used at a Lexington diocesan service for the 49 people who died in the Aug. 27 commuter jet crash in Lexington.

Kentucky’s bishops, in their letter to Catholics, said the pro-life prayer services were being provided in accord with the U.S. bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities. “We continue to recommend that our dioceses, parishes, apostolic groups and formation programs take initiatives ‘to sponsor programs of prayer and fasting as well as paraliturgical programs’ to promote the Gospel of life,” they said. And “we encourage Catholics to adopt programs of private prayer.”

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Signed: Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville and Bishops Roger J. Foys of Covington, Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington, and John J. McRaith of Owensboro.

This is the house that love built

A Note From Pat Mattingly: "This poem was written by Mary Angela Hayden, a resident in 1979, about our Home. We wanted to share it with you. It has hung on our wall for 27 years. We hope you enjoy!"

Bishop Soenneker Home

This is the house that love built
in the hills of old Kentucky.
A place for the old and lonely.
We are all so very lucky

One day Bishop Soenneker had a dream
to build a home like ours -
Wheret ender,c aringone sw ouldw ait-
A shelter in sunshine and showers.

Life can seem to pass us by
when there are none to care.
Days and nights are empty
with no one waiting there.

Old friends are gone and family, too,

someone must take their places -
A need to fill the hours
and bring joy to sad old faces.

A home to find old friends and new.
Where God is always near.
In His Tabernacle Home and
in the people He sent here.

The Staff who serve us day and night
and always have a smile -
Forgetting self to care for us,
and they make our hours worthwhile.

Our great Pastor and friend,
Our thanks for all you do.
Daily Mass, Communion, prayers and
love. We have all because of you.

Let us kneel at the manger,
Pray to Mary's new-born Son.
Place our lives in His loving care
Till heaven's crown we've won.



Bishop Soenneker Home is located in Knottsville, Ky. 42366 next to St. Williams Catholic Church on Hwy. 144, 10 miles from Owensboro. (Owned by the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro). Directors of operations: Bishop John McRaith, Sr. Joseph Angela Boone; Patricia J. Mattingly, Adm. These services are held at Bishop Soenneker Home Chapel: * Mass: 4 days a week; * Rosary : 8:30am - 5:15pm; * Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: 1st. Friday of each month; * Communion Services: 8:15am each Sunday; *

Weekend Mass Services at St. Williams Catholic Church, Next door to the Home. Saturday: 4 pm Sunday: 6:30am - 10am. If you need more information, Contact us at: 270-281-4881 or: 270-281-5804



Practice Makes Perfect

Clint Campbell, right, and Andrew Payne were waiting for rides home October 5 at Owensboro Catholic High School. Clint is a parish musician at St. Pius Tenth Church, Owensboro, and plays for school masses, too. Here Clint was playing "Free Bird," by Lynyrd Skynrd on an Epiphone electric guitar. Andrew is learning to play a bass guitar, but knew the riffs Clint was doing. Staff Photo

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. 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.

St. Charles' Parish Prays the Living Rosary for the Unborn

The Western Kentucky Catholic, November, 2006 11

Submitted by William L. Humm

BARDWELL, Ky. - Under a clear blue and sunny sky on Sunday morning, October 1, the youth of the St. Charles, Bardwell parish formed a Living Rosary on a grassy hillside near the church, just a short distance from an old tobacco barn. It is an annual tradition in this parish to start October by offering this Rosary for the Unborn.

After the 9:30 Sunday morning Mass, celebrated by Fr. Kenneth France-Kelly, O.P., the Knights of Columbus, Council 1418, and the youth of the parish led a procession from the church to the hillside. The pastor, Fr. Richard L. Cash, after completing his morning services at nearby St. Denis parish, joined the procession from the church and led opening prayers for the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. A large number of the parish and visitors followed the procession from the church and joined in praying the Rosary under God's cathedral sky. Music ministers, Tracy Hobbs and Duane Rodgers, led the gathering in song.

Standing in front of small wooden white crosses, outlining the shape of an open Rosary, the "Hail Mary" beads were formed by the youth of the parish (wearing blue



Knights of Columbus, Council I 1418, Fancy Farm, KY, and parish youth, stand by a statue of Our Lady. Submitted photos this page.



Fr. Richard L. Cash begins the Sorrowful Mysteries

Parish Rosary Mission at St. Charles' Parish, Bardwell

Submitted by William L. Humm

BARDWELL, Ky. - On Respect for Life Sunday, October 1, Fr. Kenneth A. France-Kelly, O.P., opened the Month of the Rosary with a Rosary Centered Mission at St. Charles Parish. Fr. France-Kelly's theme was Meditating for Change and Happiness through the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Mission began with Sunday's Mass, was followed by a teaching Sunday evening, and included Mass each evening, Monday through Friday.

Father's homily topics were: The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles! (third Glorious Mystery); The Incarnation of the Lord: Annunciation and Nativity! (first and third Joyful Mysteries); The Proclamation of the Kingdom with Its Call to Conversion! (third Luminous Mystery); Jesus "Reveals" His Baptism in the Jordan River! (first Luminous Mystery); The Transfiguration of the Lord! (fourth Luminous Mystery); Jesus "Reveals" His Divinity at the Wedding Feast at Cana! (second Luminous Mystery); The Eucharist, the Memorial of the Paschal Mystery!" (fifth Luminous Mystery).

Fr. France-Kelly offered new insights into how to pray the Holy Rosary in a deeper and more personal way. He explained how the new Luminous Mysteries help to bring the light of Christ into our lives. He emphasized the importance of conversion in praying the Rosary and seeking to "imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise" as one of three levels of prayer - further noting that all three levels of prayer - mystical contemplation, private reflection and personal intention - can be used simultaneously.

The Blessed Sacrament was exposed for one hour of Adoration before each Mass and confessions were heard both before and after each Mission session. The Mission was well

t-shirts) who led the praying of the decades. Older students (wearing white t-shirts) represented each of the "Our Father" beads and announced each mystery with a brief reflection. The crosses commemorated babies killed by abortion.

Around the perimeter of the Rosary, balloon "beads" were attached in a continuous chain. Attached to each balloon was a message prepared by the students asking for prayers for the unborn. At the completion of the Rosary, the balloons were separated from the chain and set adrift - launched into the clear blue sky to carry their Messages of Life aloft and ultimately to a number of surprised people who find them. It seemed a most fitting way to end a truly uplifting life-giving event by a community with a caring heart.

To conclude the morning, all assembled in the parish hall for a most enjoyable pot-luck dinner. Fr. Cash commented that he is so grateful to the faithful people who work hard to make these events so beautiful and educational for the youth of the parish. Additional pictures can be seen on the parish website www.stcharles-bardwell.org.



Fr. France-Kelly celebrates Mass.

attended and many commented how much their spiritual life had been enriched. Attendees also had the opportunity to purchase books and religious items graciously brought to the Mission by St. Maximillian Kolbe Catholic Bookstore, Owensboro.

Fr. Kenneth A. France-Kelly, O.P., is a Dominican Friar of the St. Louis Bertrand Priory, Louisville, Kentucky

Diocese Celebrates Beatification of Carmelite Foundress Blessed Mother Maria Teresa

Bishop John J. McRaith's HOMILY – September 14, 2006, Celebrating Mother Maria Teresa of St. Joseph

We gather today to celebrate the foundress of the Carmelite Sisters. Blessed Mother Maria Teresa lived from 1855 – 1938 and founded the Carmel DCJ order. On May 13th of this year at St. Christopher's Cathedral in Roermond, Netherlands, Mother Maria Teresa of St. Joseph was beatified, receiving the title of Blessed, which is a step toward her ultimately being declared a Saint. A number of our Carmelite sisters were able to be present; what a great gift.

To be sure, this is a great day for all the Sisters who have given their lives to the Lord in a special way as Carmelites living out the Charism of the Carmelite Religious Community. This is also a great time for the universal Church as we see one of God's children raised by the Church to being called Blessed.

Certainly, these past months have been a special time for our dear Carmelites of this diocese, and because of them, it is a special time for all the Catholic Community of the Church of Western Kentucky – the Diocese of Owensboro. In the name of the Diocese, I congratulate you on this happy occasion. We all join you in your joy of having your foundress named Blessed Mother Maria Teresa of St. Joseph. As Carmelites, you bring with you the many virtues of your foundress, and you share these gifts so generously with the Catholic faith community in this Diocese.

You have so appropriately chosen this very special feast day of the Church – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The veneration of the Holy Cross dates back to the 4th Century.

The reality of the truth of Jesus' death on the Cross calls each of us to the fact that there is no better way to show our love of God and our love for one another than by our willingness to suffer and to join our suffering with the suffering of Jesus.

Jesus came that we all might know how much God loves us. Our Lord illustrated how much He loves us by His obedience to the Father from the day He became one of us to the day He suffered and died upon the Cross. Everything Jesus did — from His first moments of human life in the womb of our most Blessed Mother to the moment He died for us on the Cross — everything is summed up in the one act of giving His life for our salvation.

Two things stand out during Jesus' life:

- One – His obedience to the Father and
- Two – His willingness to suffer for us so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.

John tells us this and goes on to say "For God did not send this son into the world to condemn the world but that the world might



Carmelite Sisters entered Blessed Mother under the watch of a Knights Honor Guard Sept. 14, 2006, as the diocese celebrated with them the beatification of the Carmelite foundress Blessed Mother Maria Teresa. Staff Photo

be saved through him.

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians speaks in those same terms. Jesus willingly empties himself – and becomes one of us. His being obedient unto Death shows the humility of Jesus.

We speak of the Eucharist as the source and summit of all Christian life. Pope John Paul II, of happy memory, reminded us of that throughout the Year of the Eucharist so recently celebrated. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we do so as Jesus commanded us – we do this in memory of Him and how He died out of love for us.

As we celebrate Mother Maria Teresa being called Blessed, we recognize these two things in her life that gave rise to this:

- Her obedience to God's will, and
- Her willingness to accept suffering so that others might know that it is the suffering of Jesus that saves us all.

His sacrifice gives meaning to our suffering even in this day and age – suffering is the price Jesus paid for our salvation, and joining our suffering with that of Jesus Christ is the price that we pay for our own salvations.

There is no doubt that suffering is a mystery – as the Eucharist is a mystery. But it is in that mystery that our salvation rests.

Suffering and the call from God to do His will must be a part of our lives. As believers-disciples of Christ, there is no way we can miss the centrality of the Cross in our lives. Think of the numbers of times that we Catholics make the sign of the Cross. The Church uses the sign of the Cross endlessly in the Sacraments. The Cross is ever-present in our churches and all other Catholic gathering places. Yes, the Cross symbolizes the Eucharist, the source and summit of all Christian life.

Perhaps just as real are the crosses that each of us carries daily. Some are seen while others are hidden in our hearts for only us and God to know about. Whether public or private, our salvation hinges on how we deal with the suffering, the cross, given to us. Not one of us likes it. Jesus Himself, the night before He died, asked the Father to let this cup pass – but remember, He quickly added, "Not my will but yours be done."

So we don't worry about not being happy about the crosses that the Lord asks us to carry – but it is of eternal importance that we do as did Jesus – obediently accept the cross and carry it even to our death.



An image of Carmelite foundress Blessed Mother Maria Teresa was unveiled during the Sept. 14 ceremony. Staff Photo

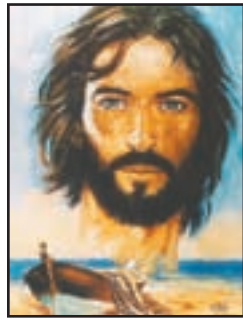
The first reading is tied to the Gospel. Just as the chosen people were spared death when they would look on the serpent that Moses (on God's orders) put up before them, we are promised eternal life as we look upon the cross and live our lives imitating Jesus who died on the cross.

We end this celebration of the Eu-
Continued on page 14

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



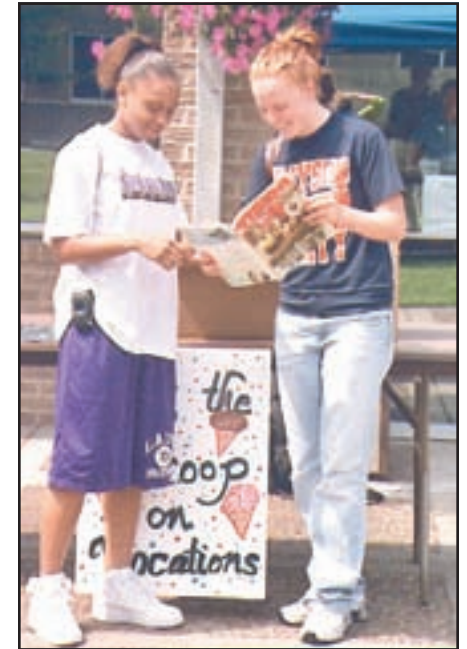
Marjorie Hayden and Martha Kauffeld are the heads of the Hospitality Committee for the Owensboro Serra Club and are in charge of getting together all of the supplies needed for Serra Club's get-togethers with the Brescia students, the seminarians, the sisters, and the priests. They really put all they've got into their work. Lois Rutigliano photo



SERRANS SCOOP FOR VOCATIONS ON BRESCIA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Brescia University students, faculty, and friends gathered in the chapel to attend their opening Mass with Bishop John McRaith on the morning of August 31. It was a perfect way for them to start off the new fall semester, asking for the Lord's blessings upon their academic and spiritual growth this school year. As they left the chapel at the end of Mass, they were greeted by Owensboro's enthusiastic Serra Club with their annual Scoop for Vocations ice cream social.

Serrans take this annual opportunity to meet with the Brescia students, to offer them their support and encouragement, and a dip or two of their favorite ice cream flavor. They also provide information on vocations for them to use in the discernment of their own vocation in life. The Serra Club is devoted to promoting and encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pope John Paul II has called Serra the vocation arm of the Church. On that bright morning they had their arms reached out to the young people attending Brescia University, seeking to plant vocational seeds that might germinate into an abundant harvest for the future of our Catholic Church.



Freshman students at Brescia University, left, Tychena Sanders and Tasha Farris looked through a copy of Vision, a magazine about life's calling, at the Owensboro Serra Club booth on campus after the Opening School Mass August 31, 2006. Lois Rutigliano photo

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

JESUS, GOOD SHEPHERD,
YOU SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE THE CHURCH
AND LEAD HER FAITHFUL TO YOU
THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF YOUR PRIESTS

THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, GRANT YOUR PRIESTS
YOUR WISDOM IN LEADING,
FAITHFULNESS IN TEACHING
AND HOLINESS IN GUARDING YOUR SACRED MYSTERIES.
GRACE THEM WITH AN EVER DEEPENING FAITH AND TRUST IN YOU.
MAY THE GIFT OF MOTHER MARY TO JOHN,
BE YOUR GIFT TO ALL PRIESTS

MAKE THEM HELPFUL BROTHERS OF ONE ANOTHER
AND UNDERSTANDING FATHERS OF ALL YOUR PEOPLE.

HOLY MARY, INTERCEDE FOR OUR PRIESTS
ST. JOSEPH, PROTECT THEM
ST. MICHAEL, DEFEND THEM
ST. JOHN VIANNEY, PRAY FOR THEM
MAY WE THE FAITHFUL, BLESS AND SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS

Bishop John McRaith, Fathers Titus Ahabyona, Leonard Alvey, Andy Aussenbaugh, Gerald Baker, Anthony Bickett, Patrick Bittel, Denis Blais, CPM, Edward Bradley, Al Bremer, Thomas Buckman, Mark Buchner, Freddie Byrd, Gerald Calhoun, Ben Cameron, CPM, Louis Caporiccio, CPM, William Casey, CPM, Richard Cash, Mike Clark, Ray Clark, Christopher Crotty, CPM, Michael Corriveau, CPM, James Costigan, CPM, Richard Danhauer, Charles

DeNardi, Terry Devine, Robert Drury, Bruce Fogle, Frank Fusare, CPM, Andy Garner, Alejandro Godinez Alcantar. Carl Glahn, David Glockner, GHM, Raymond Goetz, Louis Guardiola, CPM, George Hancock, Martin Hayes, Dennis Holly, GHM, Larry Hostetter, Randy Howard, Peter Hughes, Julian Ibemere, Carmelo Jimenez Salinas, Brian Johnson, Dave Johnson, Anthony Jones, David Kennedy, Tom Kirkendoll,

GHM, Sean Kopczynski, CPM, Dan Kreutzer, Babu Kulathumkal Jos, HGN, Fidelis Levri, GHM, Ben Luther, Larry McBride, Carl McCarthy, Bruce McCarty, Jason McClure, Wade Menezes, CPM, John Meredith, Richard Meredith, Ken Mikulcik, Joseph Miller, Joseph Mills, John Molloy, CPM, Joseph Ohnemus, John Okoro, Crispin Oneko, OB, Gary Payne, Paul Pike Powell, Aloysius Powers, Bernard Powers, Richard Powers,

Stan Puryear, Leonard Reisz, Patrick Reynolds, Joseph Rhodes, Eric Riley, Jerry Riney, Maury Riney, Phil Riney, Brian Roby, Francis Roof, Frank Ruff, GHM, Daniel Sheehan, CPM, Anthony Shonis, Anthony Stephens, CPM, Anthony Stevenson, Peter Stryker, CPM, Thomas Sullivan, CPM, Masilamani Surakkin, John Thomas, Shaiju Thomas, Maurice Tiell, Gregory Trawick, Steve Ulrich, John Vaughn, Darrell Venters, James Walling, CPM, Carroll Wheatley, Brad Whistle, David Willett, Mike Williams, David Wilton, CPM

DIOCESE OF
WESTERN KENTUCKY
SERRA CLUB
FOR VOCATIONS



A Blessing Of Animals, Or The Saga of Sox The Cat, That Sulking Feline

BROWNS Valley, Ky. - On Sunday, Oct. 1, at St. Anthony Church here, Father Mike Clark blessed animals in honor of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Several church members brought dog and cat pets to receive the blessing. Most pets by their reserved manners seemed to have caught the spirit of the occasion. "Sox," the church cat, was the only protestor, as his caretaker Father Mike had caged him during the sprinkling of Holy Water.

After song, readings, and prayer, pets and owners visited while "Sox" went off sulking: "Everyone knows cats don't take to water, even if it is holy."



Blessing of Animals Oct. 1 at St. Anthony with Fr. Mike Clark, and above, Sox in a cage. Submitted photos



Fr. Mike with Dillon Wooldridge, Kathi and Will Latta. at Pets Blessing Oct. 1, Submitted Photo

Diocese Celebrates With Carmelites

(Continued from page 12)

charist with thanks to the Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph, for reminding us of the importance of joining our own crosses with Jesus' suffering. Jesus giving His life for us all on that Cross is the source and summit of all of Christian life, as the life of this Carmelite Sister clearly illustrates. Thank you, God, for Mother Maria Teresa and thank you for the Carmelite sisters who bring His message to us all by the great witness of their lives and how they reach out to the suffering, to help others carry their crosses.

Yes, we live in a world where some might look on that Cross and call it failure, but today, with joy, we Catholics look on the Cross and celebrate THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS. This comes through in the novena prayer of Mother Maria Teresa: O, God, Our Father, You purified Your Servant Mary Teresa of St. Joseph through suffering and afflictions. Her great faith, her firm trust and unselfish love made her, through Your grace, a pure instrument in Your hand with which You could do great things.

Encouraged by her example and her trust in Your help we ask, through her intercession _____ . May Your holy Will be done Lord. Make our hearts ready to accept what You send. Then we know that we pray in the spirit of Mother Mary Teresa. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sister Bertha Marie Nally, OSU, 85, Died October 6, 2006

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Sister Bertha Marie Nally, 85, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Friday, October 6, 2006, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 64th year of religious life. She was a native of Springfield, Ky.

An educator for 35 years, she taught at St. Benedict, Wax (1944-45), St. Anthony, Browns Valley (1946-47), St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly (1948-49), St. Martin, Rome (1953-54), St. Elizabeth, Curdsville (1954), St. Raphael, Daviess County (1954-55), and St. Paul, Leitchfield (1967-69, 1977-79). She also taught in the Archdiocese of Louisville and ministered in health care at Mount Saint Joseph, 1979-90. She retired in 1990.

Survivors include nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was on October 9 at Mount Saint Joseph, with visitation in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Bertha Marie Nally may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



Fall Open House



**Saturday, November 11, 2006
9:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. (CST)**

The Faculty and Staff of Brescia University invite you to visit our campus during Fall Open House.

You will have the chance to learn more about both the admissions and financial aid processes, and take a tour of our campus that will immerse you in academic and student life.

Registration begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and you can join us for a complimentary lunch buffet.

Please R.S.V.P. by calling our Office of Admissions at (270) 686-4241 or 1-877-BRESCIA or online at www.brescia.edu/admissions.

717 Fredenra Street, Owensboro, KY



Student Attends Brescia While Father Is Dean At IUSE

Special to the Western Kentucky Catholic
OWENSBORO, Ky. - It's no small wonder Adria Nassim is even on Brescia University's campus. Her father is a Dean in the School of Natural Science at Indiana University Southeast. It was always expected that Adria would attend IUSE so that her father could keep an eye on her.

You see, Adria was born with a neurological syndrome called nonverbal learning disorder. This means her social skills aren't the same as others her age, but her verbal skills are way above college level. Just spend 2 minutes talking with Adria and you'll see what I mean!

Adria is a happy-go-lucky 20 year old sophomore from Georgetown, Indiana. She's majoring in English with an emphasis on professional writing. As mentioned, her father Ben is a dean at IUS while her mother, Cynthia, is a pediatrician in New Albany, Indiana. Cynthia specializes on children with developmental delays. Adria has one sister, who is a senior in high school.

Adria says it was sheer luck that she made it Brescia University, but she "loves it here." She says she was afraid college

life would be too much, especially away from home, but she knew she "wouldn't be happy without a college education."

It was a trip to Cancun last year that landed Adria at Brescia. Her mother took her entire medical office staff to Cancun. While there, Cynthia met Dr. Dolores Kiesler, Director of Student Support Services (SSS) at Brescia, who was traveling with the sister, Dr. Nassim's office manager. Cynthia heard how SSS was helping students who needed tutoring, individual attention, career assistance, or had a disability, and she was immediately sold. Convincing Adria, though, was a whole other matter. Adria did not want to move away from her family, but a campus tour was scheduled anyway. One year later, Adria says it was the best choice of her life. She says the staff



Adria Nassim

at SSS helped her so much and was an integral part in making her "freshman year a blast!" Adria also said if it wasn't for the smaller class sizes at Brescia that helped her meet so many people, she doesn't think she could have made it that first year. She says everywhere she goes she sees someone she knows.

Since Adria is majoring in English, with an emphasis on professional writing, she joined the staff of Brescia University's student-run newspaper The Broadcast. Last year she was also heavily involved with the SGA and the Spanish Club. This year she cut back her extracurricular activities and now works only with the newspaper.

Adria says she loves to read, write papers and short stories, and in the summertime, volunteer at Camp Barnabas. Adria has been either been a camper or a volunteer with the Christian camp for the past 10 years. The camp works with children who have special needs or terminal illnesses. Adria says she receives a lot of enjoyment taking books to the hospital and reading to sick patients. Harry Potter is her favorite book to take, and she reads it out loud in a fake British accent.

Adria says "from 7 years old, [she] knew she wanted to be a writer." She told me her dream is to one day help children with special needs by writing a book that "portrays the children as special, not as freaks." She says a 13 year old could open a medical journal to read about disabilities, but wouldn't understand what it says. She says children "don't need to be afraid of special needs," but to remember "it's the special needs that make you so special."



A Celebration of Sixty Years Of Passionist Presence in Our Diocese

In 1946, five Pssionist Nuns moved to Owensboro from Scranton, Pa. On Oct.15, 2006, Bishop John McRaith led a diocesan celebration of the presence of the Passionist Nuns in the Diocese of Owensboro. In next month's issue, we will feature Father Joe Mill's homily delivered at St. Joseph Monastery Oct. 15, with pictures of the celebration. In this photo, Father Joe was delivering his homily. Staff Photo

Help for those among us who have to keep count

Editor's Note: This is from Msgr. Bernard Powers, given to the Passionist Oblates at Saint Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, Ky.

Sacrificial Offerings for Jamaica

Choose one, or more if you wish, for one month, and bring your offering to church in an envelope marked for the missionary work in Mandeville, Jamaica.

1. If someone takes you out for a meal, (any kind, even coffee; ten percent of the cost goes in your bucket for Jamaica (even if it is your husband or wife) You tip Jamaica this way, thus helping someone to eat.
2. Ten percent of your grocery bill (the grocery ticket)
3. Five cents for each coke your drink...
4. Ten cents for each beer you drink.
5. Five cents for each E-Mail letter you send.
6. Fifteen cents for each bulk E-mail you send
7. Five cents each time you turn on the radio
8. Ten cents each time you turn on the T V
9. The price of a gallon of gas each time you put gas in your car or truck
10. Fifteen cents for each time you eat dessert
11. Five cents plus if you read any of the daily paper
12. Ten cents each time someone compliments you... Twenty five cents when you thought you deserved a compliment.
13. Five cents for each phone call you make ...
14. If a phone call is over fifteen minutes ten cents...
15. When you pay the water bill ... Five cents on the dollar...
16. When you pay the light bill... Five cents on the dollar...
17. Daily practice: First time you use a curse word, one cent; second time one penny, third time two cents.... fourth time four cents.... fifth time eight cents.... each time after that on that day, twenty cents.
18. For the deliberate choice you made to omit your scripture reading (for no good reason) or those times that you had made a commitment to read ... Fifty cents...
20. For your failure to go to confession within a reasonable time. If you do not know the resolution you made (purpose of amendment) at your last confession, I think you are beyond a reasonable time ... Twenty dollars...
21. I chose to do this: and here is the sacrificial offering
22. Twenty five cents for a cup of coffee..... Fifty cents per the third cup. The second one is free.
23. Twenty five cents each time you go within three blocks of a church and do not stop to make a visit.
24. Five dollars to watch a IJK Basketball game...
25. One dollar to watch any basketball game other than UK
27. The change you have in your pocket or purse when you come from shopping or from your daily job). (This makes your purse lighter and prevents holes in your pockets.
26. If none of the above, would you give \$1.00 per week for one year ?



Body Language

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

Amish Shooting: Wages of the Culture of Death

School shootings seem to follow me around the country. I lived just a few miles from Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Four teenagers from my parish were senselessly murdered there. Three years ago I moved back to my home state of Pennsylvania and I now live amidst the Amish farms of rural Lancaster County. The one-room school house where the recent atrocities took place is not far from my home.

I shop at the Amish hardware store where the shooter purchased the wire, bolts and other “supplies” he brought with him to the scene. My boys are in the same soccer league as the shooter’s children. For all I know I may have seen the would-be murderer among the other dads at recent soccer games. Suffice it to say that it’s not merely a figure of speech when I say this hits close to home.

Why? Why? Everyone is asking what would lead a human being to do such a horrid thing. It’s a good question, but I don’t think our country is ready for the real answer. Of course, I don’t claim to know the precise reason behind Charles Carl Roberts’ heinous crime. But this I do know: acts like this are a logical part of the fallout of a culture of death. And our culture of death is the logical fall out of a deep-seated distortion of human sexuality.

I won’t list the sordid details of what it seems Roberts intended to do with those young Amish girls before he killed them. But, as the world now knows, Roberts was plagued by memories of molesting two young female relatives when he himself was just a boy, and he was tormented by dreams of doing it again. That’s what it seems he was prepared to do – violently molest several innocent Amish girls and end it all in a blood bath.

As the late Father Paul Quay observed in his book “The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality:” “[T]here is a relation between sexual sin and death that human beings have known for long generations. As we can see as far back as the epic poetry of Ugarit 4,000 years ago, in the plays of Euripides 2,400 years ago, in the gladiator shows of ancient Rome 1,800 years ago, and in countless other cases, deviated sexual lust becomes blood lust; frustration of the life-instincts begets the death instinct.”

Take a look at the video covers displayed at your local Blockbuster. In aisle after aisle you will find scantily clad men and women wielding guns, knives and chainsaws as if they were “sex toys.” But if human beings have known of the connection between sexual sin and death for “long generations,” it seems the modern world has a very convenient case of amnesia. Is anyone in the media even willing to admit the connection between sexual lust and blood lust? Is anyone even talking about this as the root of the problem? All I’ve heard from the likes of Dr. Phil and countless school officials is that we need to beef up security at our schools, as if lack of security were the problem! We are fast becoming a police-state for refusal to examine our consciences!

Sure, go ahead, beef up security. It may help to prevent crime in some cases, but it will never solve the problem within us. We are desperately in need of sexual salvation. As John Paul II wrote in The Gospel of Life: “It is an illusion to think we can build a true culture of human life if we do not ...accept and experience sexuality and love and the whole of life according to their true meaning and their close inter-connection.”

We don’t want the death, but we do want the lust. We can’t have it both ways. It’s not possible. The so-called sexual revolution promised us happiness. Have we had enough yet? Are we ready and willing to wake up to what this revolution has wrought? Until we are, expect more heinous crimes like the one near my home coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

Catholics Returning Home

Blessed Mother Catholic Church, 601 East 23 St., Owensboro, Ky., will offer a six-week series, “Catholics Returning Home,” beginning Nov. 2 at the Blessed Mother Parish Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The sessions are for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. If you know someone who has left the Church, please invite them to join us. For more information, call Josie Hagan after 5 p.m. at 926-1483.

*There is a need for sacrifice in the Christian life.
Large giving is great. Small and frequent giving
Keeps the soul aware of the act of giving. This nourishes the spirit.
This sacrificial action keeps the soul attentive.*

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

Sister Martha Keller Appointed as Ursuline Vocation Team Coordinator

Sister Martha Keller has been appointed coordinator of the Vocation Team for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Sister Martha's responsibilities will include communication with women who express interest in the Ursuline Community and "walking with" those who wish to explore membership in the community. She will continue in her position of pastoral associate and director of faith formation for St. Stephen Cathedral Parish in Owensboro. She has served previously in vocation ministry at Mount Saint Joseph, and in pastoral ministry at St. Sebastian Parish, Calhoun, St. Charles, Livermore, and St. Anthony, Browns Valley; and at St. Romuald, Hardinsburg. She has been a teacher at Owensboro Catholic High School, St. Pius Tenth School, Owensboro, and Immaculate Conception School, Hawesville, where she also was principal. Sister Martha is a native of Whitesville.

Anyone seeking information about Ursuline vocations may contact Sister Martha at 270-689-0165 or mkk@mindspring.com.



Faces In Service: Fall Festival at Holy Name



Holy Name School held their annual Fall Festival September 22-23. The festival included rides, games, food booths, dinners, and a raffle.

Pictured is Trey Book singing at the Karaoke Booth with his sister, Hannah helping in the background.

The Filipino booth at the Holy Name Fall Festival is always a hit with the people. Pictured is Mrs. Eve Tiu with her daughter Annie. Photos submitted by Daryl Hagan



WHERE DO VOCATIONS COME FROM?

-Vocation Committee of the Council of Religious

In this issue of the Western Kentucky Catholic we feature the parishes of southern Breckinridge County: St. Anthony, Axtel and St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady in asking the question, "Where do Vocations come from?"

St. Anthony traces its history to 1791 and three Catholic families: Leonard Wheatley, Richard Mattingly, and Viticel Hinton. Services were held in the home of Richard Mattingly until Fr. Charles Nerinckx built the first log church in 1812.

The home of James and Priscilla Mattingly is listed in 1840 as a station where a Catholic priest held services once a month, weather permitting. In 1870 a simple frame church, St. Mary (later appropriately St. Mary of the Woods) was built. James Mattingly died in December 1870 soon after the completion of the church.

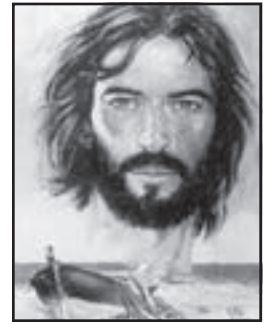
These parishes have fostered vocations in families and through the faith life of the parish communities and have offered their gift to the Church of priestly and religious vocations. The following men and women from these two parishes of have served, and many continue to serve, the church of Western Kentucky as priests and religious. *

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady : Rev. James William Hinton, Anna Laura

Weise (Sister Fidelis OSU), Mary Hinton (Sister Rosina OSU), Irene Hinton (Sister Mariam OSU), Mary Frances Weise (Sister Mary Frances OSU), Lester Hinton (Sister Mary Beaven) O.P.), Susie Mattingly (Sister Rosella O.P.), Mary Helen Sheeran (Sister Helen Frances) S.C.N.), Katherine Sherron (Sister Mary Gesine O.S.U.), Mabel Beavin (Sister Mary Concepta O.S.U.) Lula Beavin (Sister Mary Anselm O.S.U.), Catherine Kennedy (Sister Louis Catherine S.C.N.), Kathleen Mattingly (Sister Kathleen O.P.), Lucille Sheeran (Sister Vallina O.P.), Lucille Payne (Sister Freida O.P.), Rose Marie Mattingly (Sister Rosa Maria O.P.), Ruth Sherron (Sister Mary Carl O.S.U.), Ora Blanche Mattingly (Sister James Vincent O.P.), Katie Whitfill (Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)

St. Anthony, Axtel: Alice Bennett (Sister Genevieve OSU), Elizabeth Rhodes (Sister Madeleva OSU), Laura Frances Henning (Sister Mary Laura OSU), Mary Rita Matthews (Sister Mary Angela OSU), Mary Agnes Henning (Sister Mary OSU), Monsignor Oscar Lee Poole, Reverend Walter S. Coomes

* Thanks to all who have responded from these parishes with information. If



St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

there are any errors or additions, please report them to the Vocation Committee in care of Sr. Pat Froning pat.froning@pastoral.org.

Who will take their places in the future?

God continues to call. Who is being called today?

Pray for the courage and generosity to respond faithfully to God's call in your life.

Appologies: Missing from Grayson County in the September WKC.: Fr. Tom Clark, Fr. Tony Stevenson

Catholics Returning Home

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Our Grandparents Teach Us How To Live Life Fully And Hit A

Lot of Our Home Runs

By Megan Aull

Editor's Note: Meagan Aull gave this speech to the Grandparents' Luncheon at Owensboro Catholic High School in September, 2006.

Grandparents are special people that we hold close to our hearts. That is why we are here today: to celebrate the significance of our loving Grandparents. What would we do without them? I know that I would not be the same person as I am today if it wasn't for my grandparents teaching me how to live life to its fullest, to get back up when things knock me down. Most importantly they taught me how to love.

Like everyone in this room I have been blessed with wonderful grandparents.

My grandparents have been there for me my whole life, from setting out eggs for the annual Easter egg hunts to watching my softball games 'til two in the morning because of a rain delay. They won't miss a beat.

When I go over to my papaw's I always know that there is going to be candy in the bottom left drawer of the refrigerator waiting on me to be eaten, because God knows that he shouldn't be eating it! After I hit a home run, I go running to my papaw with my hand open waiting for the ten dollars he promised me.

When we go to mamaw's for Sunday and holiday dinners she knows to leave the yolk out of her deviled eggs for me.

As a child I realize how much joy grandparents can bring. You all are always there to tell us funny stories about how you had to walk five miles barefoot to get to school. My favorite is when you tell us about the pranks you played on your teachers when you were in school.

On a serious note, they have all been by my side through a major surgery. My papaw has taken on the

role of being both grandparents. He has been a great papaw and has carried on Nana's loving traditions, and has shared great times spent at Rough River.

What we the children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly * cookies.

Grandparents RULE! Think I am kidding?

Well, who buys more Christmas and birthday presents than grandmas or grandpas? Nobody. Who burns more gas and wears out more cars driving to recitals or ball games? Nobody. Our economies would crash if the cash flow from grandparents ever dried up.

Who votes more often? Nobody. Who has organized a more powerful lobbying group than the AARP? No one. Governments shake in their boots at the prospect of angering nannas and poppis.

Who shares more wisdom, more history and more love with young children? Who provides more free daycare, more free meals or more free hugs? Who has seen more or overcome more in their lifetime? Nobody. The cultural and social fabric of every nation is held together by grandparents.

We at OCHS love our grandparents.

Go, Aces!



Meagan Aull talking about grandparents on Grandparents Day at OCHS. Go Aces! MacPhoto

Catholic Schools Enrollments Increase in 2006-2007

By Mel Howard

There is good news and reason for optimism in this 2006-2007 school year for the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Owensboro. We've raised our enrollment in the Catholic schools of western Kentucky. According to Jim Mattingly, Superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools, those enrollment figures show an increase of two students over last year.

That small fact is good news because for the past several years, enrollment has decreased. And now, says Mr. Mattingly, because of the steady work of Catholic school pastors, administrators, boards, faculties, and parents to encourage families and students to consider the choices available to them in Catholic schools where available to them, we are now truly in a position to end the enrollment decline and begin a new and sustained upward trend. Doing what it takes to inform families and students about how Catholic schools benefit whole communities in which they're located, and particularly the ministries of the Catholic communities which support the schools, calls for a diligence, and going the distance every time to support a Catholic school project, a class assignment, and help to bring a friend or family member into the fellowship of a Catholic school community where a Catholic school is available to the community.

For those Catholics who have been and are being educated in the faith of the church in Catholic schools where available to them, there is no substitute for the understandings about Catholic culture one learns in a Catholic school environment.

(Ed. Note: See Meagan Aull story above)

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER 2006-APRIL 2007

November 2006

- 4 Zion Baptist Adult Retreat
- 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

December 2007

- 12-13 Southern Star Workshop

January 2007

- 12-13 Saint Joseph and Paul Women's Retreat
- 12-14 Saint Joseph Church High School Retreat - Mayfield
- 19-21 Retrouvaille
- 20 Immaculate Confirmation
- 22-26 **Spiritual Direction Institute: Week 2**
- 26-27 First Christian Church Retreat

February 2007

- 2-4 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 9-11 Ministry Formation Program
- 22-24 Basket Weavers

March 2007

- 2-4 Charismatic Conference
- 4 Precious Blood/RCIA
- 9-11 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 12-15 MSJ Quilter Friends
- 16-18 Women's Retreat Weekend
- 23-30 Saint Meinrad Retreat Week
- 24 Ministry Formation Program
- 24 Lourdes Confirmation
- 25 Lourdes RCIA
- 30-1 Immaculate Confirmation - LaGrange
- 31 St. Mary Magdalene RCIA

April 2007

- 9-13 **Spiritual Direction Institute: Week 3**
- 14 Annual Fundraising Dinner
- 20-22 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 21 Rockin' the Mount Concert
- 27-29 Christian Women's Retreat



Center-sponsored programs are in **bold letters**. To register or to schedule an event, contact Facilities Director Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org

LOOKING FOR A GOOD LOCATION for your business or social gathering? We can accommodate large groups in our conference room or gymnasium. We also have comfortable settings for small groups or for private retreats. Call us or look us up online at www.msjcenter.org.

Vocation

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



You beckoned to me, and I explored
Your invitation,
Frightened by the unknown, at first I
would not come,
But You are infinitely patient, and
waited,
And I could no longer resist Love's
call.

I asked myself,
"Can I go from everyone and everything
I have ever known, go so far away to 'be with Him,'"
and my heart answered, "I Love Him,
and I cannot live without Him."

My heart knew before my head understood
My heart is His secret garden enclosed,
Where He dwells and speaks in Love's silent whisper.
He was speaking all the while gently, lovingly,
And wooing Me away from the ways of the world,
Those passing fancies,
To the joy that lasts forever,
To the fountain overflowing with my will
To His love for me.

He so gently calls, pleading for my love,
Never insisting, but always asking
for me to freely return His gift of my will to Him.

And now, I give myself to Him,
To His Cross and Passion,
To His infinite Love,
To be a Mother of souls
To all whom he brings into my heart.

I sit in the school of His dear Mother,
And ask her to show me
how to love Him
As He so desires me to do.

I give of myself in chastity,
for my heart is His alone;
in poverty, for in Him are all my riches,
besides which I need no earthly wealth;
in obedience, to listen for His will
and to give Him delight in answering;
in enclosure, silence and solitude,
to seek and respond to His voice;
in devotion to His Passion,
pondering and sharing its meaning,
love beyond all telling.

O my Jesus,
I love you.
you have stolen my heart,
and I willingly give it to You alone.
Make me Your bride.
Make my heart your garden enclosed,
Your beloved dwelling place.
(Poem by Sr. Jeanne Marie, C.P.)



Joan A'51 and Mary Lou A'66

Mary Lou, who lives in Knottsville, has been a member of the Owensboro Right to Life since it was organized in 1973. She has served as recording and corresponding secretary, was editor of the Right to Life newsletter for 20 years, and has traveled extensively in support of Right to Life endeavors. Mary Lou also has "adopted" an elderly lady at Carmel Home and has taken care of many of her needs for more than seven years. Mary Lou and her husband, Darrell, have four children and seven grandchildren.

More than 75 graduates of Mount Saint Joseph Academy and College gathered at the Mount for the 2006 Alumnae Weekend reunion, which included prayer, socializing, presentations, planning, and the gala banquet and awards presentation. MSJ Photo

Alumnae Receive Awards at Mount Saint Joseph

Joan Sherron Hofman A'51 and Mary Lou Byrne Payne A'66 are the 2006 recipients of the Maple Leaf Award, recognizing alumnae of Mount Saint Joseph Academy for outstanding contributions to their local faith communities, civic communities, and/or Mount Saint Joseph.

Joan, a native of McQuady, was recognized for her volunteer work for the elderly, for needy children, and in her neighborhood. A nurse and the wife of a now retired Notre Dame professor, Joan served as president of the Faculty Wives' Club. She also organized an Investment Club for women wishing to learn how to manage their money wisely, and she has been involved in several reading clubs. Joan and her husband, Emil, have three sons. They live in South Bend, Indiana.

Ursuline Sisters hire new staff administrator

Christine Clayton has been hired as the new staff administrator for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. A native of Florida, Christine spent part of her childhood in Colorado and Arizona before moving to California. She lived in Los Angeles for 22 years before moving east in 2005. She says she has fallen in love with this part of the country.



Christine has spent most of her professional life in the field of human resources.

She has worked in recruitment and workers' compensation insurance and has managed human resources for a company with more than 1,000 employees. She has earned a bachelor of science degree in business management from the University of Phoenix and has done consulting in the areas of recruitment and organizational development.

"I feel very lucky to have been welcomed with such open arms into the family at Mount Saint Joseph," Christine said. "I hope I can successfully continue the good work of my predecessor and help make this a great place to work and live."



Immaculate Catechists:

Catechists from Immaculate Church in Owensboro met at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on August 14 for a day of education and renewal. From left here are Shirley Taliaferro, Lillian Chapman, John Mountain and Peggy Robinson. MSJ Photo

Comfort & Hope... a message



about grief

By Jeannie Boone

My mind always turns to memorials as November nears and I wonder why we do so few special services in our communities--- not necessarily to commemorate our deceased loved ones but to facilitate healing and forgiveness in those left behind. As a means of providing comfort and hope community memorial services can be planned to embrace every member. And we are a country that seems to be perpetually in grief... in need of support.

The Nickel Mines, Pa. school shooting is a recent horror that leaves us reeling with questions that have no answers. After so many of these tragedies this one seems worse, if possible, because it took place in a one room Amish school where prayer is literally the foundation. These people cling to a simpler life where being in the world, but not of it, is keenly defined. Into their rural and idyllic community a man entered clothed in evil; he murdered and assaulted innocent little girls before killing himself.

In horror we grasp for reasons and someone to blame, trying to find a cause to address to stop it from happening again. We propose and pass laws, enclose our school offices in bullet proof glass, put cameras and intercoms at the door, hire security personnel to patrol the halls, and scratch our heads to find others areas we can "fix". We scour Internet web sites, as we should, and initiate programs to identify and prevent bullying, and we try to teach tolerance. In a society that prides itself on being able to find solutions to every problem the sad truth is that sometimes there just is none!

But the gentle Amish of Nickel Mines showed the world what it truly means to be disciples of Christ: immersed as they were in the first hours of shock and horror, they hitched up their buggies and went to visit the killer's family... carrying a message of forgiveness. Amid a media assault that infringed on their way of life they carried on in prayer, with quiet dignity and profound faith, burying their dead and caring for the survivors.

Some things just can't be predicted, or warded off, by any means. But as people who recoil in the face of such violence, and especially as people of faith, can we spend more time being disciples of the Teacher? Can we teach ourselves new ways to be fully present to those around us and to hear the pleas of the frightened, the lost, the disenfranchised, and the neighbor next door? Can we not spend more time caring and sharing and less time judging? Can we spend more time offering and less time taking... more time listening and less talking?

Perhaps if we could truly see each other as Christ every moment of everyday we could eliminate much of the unspeakable evil in our world... so much suffering... so many of our tragedies.

Three simple and profound lines I'd like to leave you. 'Gentle goes through wood and stone' is a Japanese proverb. Something else I read long ago and have never forgotten, 'if you think you can't love your neighbor, behave as if you do, and you will.' And from Christ, our Savior and Teacher, "I am the Way."

email your thoughts: kyboones2@hotmail.com

In Remembrance Of September 11

By Norma Folz

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - In remembrance of Sept. 11, the third, fourth and fifth grade classes of St. Peter and Paul School here hosted a reception for local firefighters.

Hopkinsville firemen John Burke and Matt Bryant, came to speak to the three classes about fire safety and their experiences helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

On behalf of all the students, Brooklyn Gardner, a fifth grade student, thanked the firemen for all their sacrifices and for all they do to protect everyone. Mary Kranz and Klara Eickhoff presented prayer cards to them which they will take back to their station to share with their co-workers. The reception concluded with punch and cookies.

Hopkinsville firemen John Burke and Matt Bryant, spoke on Sept. 11, 2006, to Sts. Peter and Paul School students about fire safety and their experiences helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Students in the picture are Allison Watson and Paul Rush Submitted photo



Sister Mary Beatrice Donahue, 96, Died October 15, 2006

Maple Mount — Sister Mary Beatrice Donahue, 96, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Sunday, October 15, 2006, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 75th year of religious life.

A native of Holy Cross, she was an educator for 51 years, including more than 20 years of service in the Diocese of Owensboro. She was teacher at Immaculate Conception School, Earlington, (1933-34, 1935-36), St. Denis School, Fancy Farm (1937-39), St. Anthony School, Axtel (1939-45), and St. Anthony School, Peonia (1960-72). She also taught in the Archdiocese of Louisville and in southern Indiana.

Survivors include nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was October 18 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 Beatrice Donahue may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



Carmel Home Annual Christmas Bazaar

Nov. 4, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Carmel Home, 2501 Old Hartford Road,
Owensboro, KY 42303

Drawing at 3:00 p.m. for \$1,000, \$500, \$500, Set of 2
Daytona NASCAR tickets, Set of 2 Talladega NAS-
CAR tickets, DVD Player.

(Need \$1.00 ticket stub to claim prize.)

BBQ chicken available, take out or eat in. Christ-
mas Wreaths. Bake Sale. Religious Articles. Silent
Auction. Christmas Cards. Unique Tree Ornaments.
Handmade Crafts.

Phone 270-683-0227 for information.

St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter An INVITATION

We invite you to join parishioners from other Catholic parishes and Christian churches in the Owensboro area in an outreach to our local poor this winter. We will re-open a homeless shelter this winter from Dec. 1, 2006, through March 17, 2007. YOUR help is needed!!

Please check the areas you are willing to consider volunteering, even if you can commit to only one or two times over the winter. Please mark the area or areas in which you could provide help and return this form to the collection basket or to the parish office. St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter is located in the former St. Vincent de Paul store at 7th and Sycamore Streets. Volunteers who work during one of the two nightly shifts will be required to attend a formation meeting at the shelter on one of these two dates: Sat., Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. or Mon., Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. (attend only one session, not both). You must also complete Safe Environment Certification, required by our diocese, if you have not already done so. Safe Environment training will be held at the St. Pius Daycare on Nov. 7th and 9th at 6 p.m. (again, you need attend only one session). God truly blesses those who "shelter the homeless;" come, and be blessed.

- Prayer Ministry (promise to pray daily for the homeless, and the volunteers)
- Companion (stay awake, pray, and watch on one of the two nightly shifts: either from 8 p.m.- 1 a.m. or from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.)
- Cooking (bring hot soup, sandwiches, donuts, snacks, coffee, etc. to the shelter)
- Housekeeping (prepare laundry for washing and clean- hours TBA)
- Laundry Service (wash and dry, fold and arrange return linens to shelter)
- Transportation (provide rides, take laundry to homes of volunteers, etc.)
- Maintenance (helping in emergency with plumbing, lighting, etc.)
- Donate time, talent or treasure to build one or two showers
- Volunteer Coordination (make calls to schedule others, find subs, serve as Captain for a week)
- Other _____

YOUR NAME _____

Ph.# _____

Email _____

As you see, this project entails many tasks in order to succeed. Can we count on you to volunteer a night or help in some other way? Please call e-mail Suzanne Rose at sdrose@bellsouth.net or call April at the Saints Joseph and Paul Parish Office, 683-5641.

“Tell All Souls About My Mercy”

The Mother of Mercy Messengers brings the message of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy to Earlington, KY with a program called “Tell All Souls About My Mercy” Monday, November 13, 2006, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presented with a compelling mix of music, lights, and sound to convey the message of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, and the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, using the images of the Divine Mercy, the Holy Shroud, and the Immaculate Conception.

For more information about the “Tell All Souls...” program at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (270)-383-4743. More information about The Divine Mercy and the Mother of Mercy Messengers may be found at www.thedivinemercy.org.

A free-will offering will be taken and a religious article table will be available too.

Sister Martha Ann Cargile, OSU, 91, Died Oct. 17, 2006

Sister Martha Ann Cargile, 91, of Maple Mount died Tuesday, October 17, in her 74th year as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

A native of Morganfield, she was born Martha Harris Cargile, the daughter of Harris Stites Cargile and Mary Martha Higginson Cargile. An educator for over 40 years, she taught at Mount Saint Joseph Academy (1934-35, 1948-51), St. Mary Magdalene School, Sorgho (1935-36), and in schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

From 1952-75, she was a member of the chemistry faculty at Brescia College, Owensboro, where she also served on the Alumni Office staff (1986-88). From 1977-85, she was a medical technologist at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. She also worked with the Kentucky Council on Aging (1985-86) and in ministry to the sick of St. Stephen Cathedral Parish (1986-91). She retired in 1990.

Survivors include one nephew, Bennett Stroud Ligon of Morganfield, and his wife Mary Sue; a great-niece, Mindy Collins of La Crosse, Wis.; and Mindy's daughters Becky Renteria and Kelly Serafin, both of Greensboro, N.C. She is also survived by the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was Saturday, October 21, at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, is in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Martha Ann Cargile may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



OCMS Students Qualify for Duke Talent Search

Fifty-one seventh grade students from OCMS have qualified for the Duke Talent Search. These students have scored in the 95th percentile or high on either of the two most recent grade level achievement, aptitude, mental ability or approved state criterion referenced test in one or more of the areas of Math, Verbal or the Composite.

Congratulations to Megan Alvey, Alec Bahnick, Rae Bennett, William Bickett, Hunter Boling, Hannah Booth, Peyton Booth, Samantha Brett, Katherine Brown, Joshua Buckman, Kaleb Caceres, Logan Cecil, Cassidy Clark, Mary Kate Clemens, Michael Crowe, Stephanie Dooper, Tyler Farmer, Matthew Franey, Hunter Gough, Christopher Hayden, Michelle Honadle, Matthew Jacobs, Jonathon Kamuf, Nicholas Krampe, Nathan Lasley, Justin Mahoney, Kelsey McCarthy, Erica McFarland, Elizabeth McNulty, Madison Mischel, Fitzhugh Mullins, Katelyn Orth, Allison Payne, Michael Polio, Blake Powers, Allen Rakotoniaina, Alex Riccio, Amanda Richards, Laura Riney, Mary Sanders, Stacey Schepers, Lauren Settles, Amanda Storm, Emily Taul, Ryan Thompson, Jordan White, Sarah Wilhite, Ryne Wilson, Ryan Wimsatt.

Thank You

to the many
volunteers who helped in any way
to make our 36th
annual picnic a
great success!

We appreciate all who attended.

All proceeds go to the Ursuline Sisters' retirement fund.

May God bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.




Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org

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Vocation

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



Special to the Western Kentucky Catholic

ROME, Ky. - The Serra Clubs of the Diocese of Owensboro hosted an evening for Sisters and Brothers at Saint Martin Parish Hall which they call "Religious Sisters and Brothers Gathering" on Sept. 16, 2006. Cash door prizes were given out after a potluck meal of BBQ chicken, hot-dogs, hamburgers, salads, and vegetables. The door prizes are often a time for having fun among the Sisters and Brothers who have long memories about who won last time, and whose name is called this time. When names are announced, they cheer and chide the winners, and everyone gets a chance to practice a Beatitude, "Blessed Are The Poor in Spirit."

Participants enjoy getting together with one another to share stories, to be together without having to do administrative chores, plan or put on programs, or be responsible for daily work matters. One of a Serra Club's purposes is to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life by encouraging the men and women in these vocations with signs of support such as gatherings like this annual event. Hosted dinners, social gatherings, and expressions of support such as this Sept. 16 event tell Sisters, Brothers, and priests how much the Catholic faithful prays for them and supports them by going along on parts of their journey in many different ways. The hope is that God's Spirit is at work among all those in attendance to encourage them in their ministry and plant a seed in them to share this spirit with young people they know who may be hearing God's Call to priesthood or life as a Sister or Brother.

We hope that many such times of encouragement will help a priest, Brother, or Sister who encounters a younger person who is thinking about a Vocation to Religious Life, and guide them to answer "YES" to the young person's nagging question: "If I answer God's Call to be a Sister or Brother, would I like to be like these people who answered the Call to Vocation?"



The 24 winners of door prizes at the Sept. 16, 2006 Religious Sisters and Brothers Gathering gathered for this group photo. Altogether about 85 Serrans and members of Religious Congregations shared the afternoon of fun at St. Martin Parish Hall. Front row, from left, Sr. Dorothy McDonagh, Sr. Fran Wilhelm, Sr. Clarita Browning, Sr. Marian Powers, postulant Marissa Wink, Sr. Jean Gertrude Mudd, Sr. Audrey M. Gold, Sr. Debra Ann Bailey, Sr. Jean Madeline Peake, Sr. Marie Joseph Coomes, Sr. Mary Gerald Payne, Sr. Margaret Ann Aull, Sr. Naomi Aull; back row, Sr. Marie Goretti Browning, Bro. Craig Digmann, Fr. Tom Kirkendol, Sr. Lou Johnson, Bro. Aaron Wessman, Sr. Mary Timothy Bland, Beverly Ebelhar, Sr. Pat Froniong, Sr. Ruth Gehres, Sr. Rose Jean Powers. Lois Rutigliano photo.



Glenmary Sisters, Fathers, and Brothers were well represented for the Serran Gathering for Religious. With Bishop John McRaith from left are Bro. Craig Digmann, Sr. Pat Leighton, Father Tom Kirkendoll, Fr. David Glockner, Bro., Aaron Wessman, Bishop John, Chrispin Adongo, Sr. Catherine Shoeborn, Sr. Kathy Burke, and Sr. Ellen Francis Lenihan. Lois Rutigliano photo



Bishop John McRaith visited with parishioners of Holy Name Parish and the Henderson Serra Club group, Sister Margaret Ann Aull, OSU, Jane Denton, and Mary Ann Williams Lois Rutigliano Photo



Sr. Dorothy McDonagh, OSU, was all smiles with her door prize. Lois Rutigliano photo

USCCB leaders meet privately with pope at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops met privately Oct. 16 with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. The conference president, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., and vice president, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, were joined at the meeting by Msgr. David J. Malloy, general secretary of the conference. The officers usually visit the Vatican twice each year for meetings with the heads of Vatican congregations and councils to discuss issues of common concern. Bishop Skylstad told Catholic News Service the 25-minute meeting with the pope was "very pleasant," but that it would not be appropriate to discuss the specific topics mentioned during the audience. "It is a courtesy visit," he said. "We chat about the church in general and are open to hearing what he has to say to us."

To Be Pro-Life Is To Be Hospitable

Fr. Ken Mikulcik, Pastor - St. Joseph, Mayfield, Ky.



As the decades have gone by without protection given to human life before birth, we have probably all reflected upon the meaning of being both anti-abortion and being pro-life. Being anti-abortion certainly implies a political and legal goal of providing protection for the unborn. But we have all recognized that being pro-life is a richer concept than simply being anti-abortion. We have realized that being pro-life means embracing the difficulties of life, making sacrifices, and recognizing the dignity of each person in whatever stage of life he or she is in. One of my favorite ways of framing the pro-life perspective is in terms of hospitality, which is a virtue. Hospitality is the habit of being a welcoming person, looking out for the other, and making room for that one. Is that not what

so many pregnancy care centers aim to accomplish? How often have we desired that all human life not only be recognized as having a right to live, but even more to be welcomed! We have recognized that hearts need to change, and that a change in law, although necessary, is not enough. We desire that hearts and homes be open to welcoming these little ones.

But as it stands, we know that we have much work to do in that area, evangelizing our culture so that mothers and fathers will both welcome the new life in the womb as a gift and offer the "hospitality" that is responsible and generous parenthood. Many values that we see around us do not correspond with this. We are not accustomed to welcoming, but on the contrary, to protecting and defending what is ours, and eliminating the risk of the disturbance that an outsider might cause. People who are not familiar to us or similar to us in speech or custom we keep at arm's length. There would be exceptions, but can you remember the last time a stranger was brought into your home to have a meal

There is such a story in the book of Genesis. By the terebinth of Mamre, in the heat of the day, Abraham saw three men who were apparently not from the local area. "When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: 'Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way... Very well,' they replied, 'do as you have said'" [Gen 18:2-5]. Abraham offers exceptional hospitality to these three strangers who are in some way a manifestation of the LORD. Receiving his hospitality, they ask about Sarah, Abraham's wife, and then one of them promises that he will return in a year and she will have a son. So Abraham's hospitality or reception of the lives of these three who have come from another place is echoed in the reception of life in the womb of Sarah who with her husband were advanced in age. The strangers' life is welcomed and new life in the womb is welcomed.

Today in the U.S. our culture welcomes neither the stranger nor the one in the womb. We are more consistent than we realize.

So we find ourselves today asking ourselves how life in the womb is not welcomed. And we ask even further how that human being in the womb has no legal status. We desire for it to be legally recognized, but because of our unjust laws, that life is in essence illegal. So the border of the womb becomes a wall or dividing line between recognized human dignity and no legal status. How is it that the set of values that makes up our culture accepts such double-mindedness? How can the side of a border that one falls upon determine one's dignity? Partial-birth abortion seems to be the ultimate example of the double-mindedness we exercise regarding the border of the womb, as the child on the fence is destroyed so close to the legal status of having been born fully.

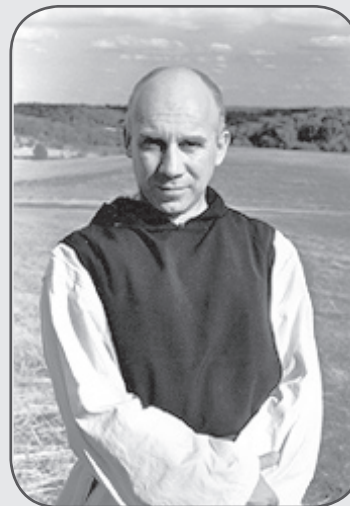
Returning to the story from Genesis we can take note that both the strangers and the one in the womb, Isaac, are welcomed... The unborn have no legal status to claim a right to cross the border of the womb if the mother chooses [at the prompting of our culture and often directly from family] against this life. The dignity of the child is not a factor. So also with the stranger who is an immigrant: he or she has no legal claim based upon his or her dignity to cross the border to support life. Both the womb as a border and the political border between nations determine our sense of the value of human life and the need to defend it.

Should we be surprised that the stranger is not welcomed if our very own offspring (25%) are rejected? Should we be surprised that our own offspring are not welcomed when the stranger is rejected?

Is not the present presumption that natural conception of new life be obstructed through contraception of some sort as the "responsible" action? So, also, is not the present presumption that the immigrant has no claim whatsoever upon us to come and be with us unless our civil law grants it? Our "choice" seems to trump their dignity. Our culture is quite consistent in making us the arbiters of life.

From the Book of Revelation we receive an invitation to take on the virtue of hospitality. The message to the angel of the church in Laodicea, a lukewarm place that considers itself rich and affluent, is first a chastisement but then also includes an invitation to open the heart: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne" [Rev 3:20-21].

Living in the Desert: Moments of Solitude and Silence with Thomas Merton



Friday-Sunday
November 17-19

Retreat directed by
Rev. Dan Kenneth Phillips



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Using the books and journals of Trappist Monk Thomas Merton, we will study solitude and silence and discover God's ability to touch our lives in unique ways. The cost of this retreat is \$150 (includes a room for two nights and meals) or \$105 for commuters. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200, ext. 413/kmccarty@maplemount.org A brochure can be found online at www.ms-jcenter.org

Pope canonizes four, says being a saint is not for the weak, fearful

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Presiding over the second canonization ceremony of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI honored two women and two men who demonstrated that becoming a saint is not for the weak and fearful. "The saint is that man, that woman who, responding with joy and generosity to the call of Christ, leaves everything to follow him," the pope said at the Oct. 15 canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square. Political persecution, poverty, suspicion and even opposition from church leaders were not uncommon in the lives of the four new saints: Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia of Vera Cruz; Italian Father Filippo Smaldone; Italian Sister Rosa Venerini; and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Even in the midst of "trials and persecutions," the pope said, the new saints knew that following Jesus "truly guaranteed a happy existence and eternal life."

Vocation

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

Serving The Lord At A Seminarian Brotherhood Retreat

By Josh McCarty

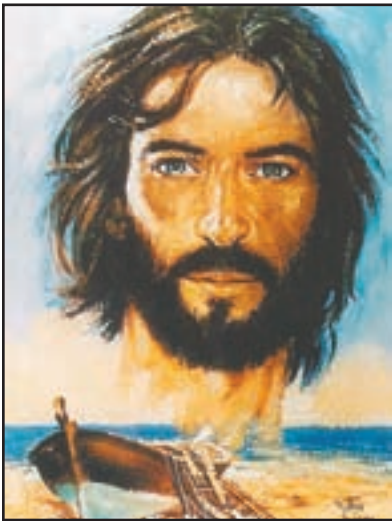
What comes to your mind when you think of eleven seminarians, two priests, helmets, and paddles? Fraternal initiation? Not out of the question, but rather the seminarians, their vocation director, and another of the priests of the diocese recently returned from a brotherhood retreat in Ocoee, TN (okay Cincinnati, TN if you want to get technical). On this trip all the seminarians, minus a couple who could not make it, had a rare opportunity to pray together, eat together, and brave raging rapids.

The time was a joy for all. On the first morning after arriving, we collected our gear and hopped into the bus to travel to the top of the river. We put into the water and soon

discovered that we were NOT going over the 30-foot spill way (as some had feared) but were merely going to portage around it. The rafting itself was a thrill. Only two people fell out. The rest of us were flipped out or jumped out. We surfed, stroked, backstroked, sidestroked, splashed, and shouted, all of which drenched us with freezing cold water (right...right...shouting doesn't get you drenched, that is, unless you are shouting at someone with a paddle.) We had a blast and safely returned ready to attack (on another trip) the upper, more challenging, part of the Ocoee river.

The second day we spent playing on ropes and boards, building up the fraternity of the seminarians. We climbed a wall as a group, too high for one person to climb alone. We braved a course on cables which all of us had to cross together. We also did some other activities too difficult to describe involving spider webs, tires, strings, platforms, and numbers. Working together, our team rapidly finished all the challenges we were given. (What did you expect? We are competitive men.)

The trip was a great success. We were able to pray much together. We had daily Mass together and prayed morning and evening prayer together every day. Each of us were able to get to know one another more and to get to know Fr. Andy (did I mention him yet? He is our Vocations Director.) and Fr. Randy (he was the other priest and a great advocate for seminarians). We grew closer to the Lord and one another.



Seminarians, clockwise from left front, Matt Monsour, Ryan Harpole, Byron Macias, a guide, Josh Clary, and Mitch Brazell headed for safe water. Submitted photo

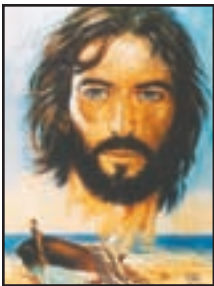
Just remember, if you are praying and thinking about the priesthood or religious life, serving the Lord is anything but boring. Just do what He wants and you will discover places you never imagined, even like Cincinnati, TN and the Ocoee River.



From left, a guide, Josh McCarty, Uwem Enoh, Fr. Andy Garner, Jim Johnson, and Father Randy Howard. Submitted photo



From left, Daniel Dillard, Steve Hohman, Will Thompson, Trevor Johnson, and a guide. Submitted photo

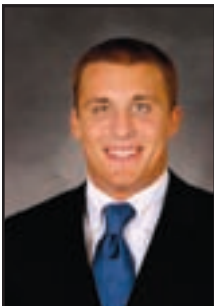


Vocation

The Western Kentucky Catholic, November, 2006 **25**

A Listening Heart, United in Christ, Open To The Mystery Of God
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
Seminarian Contact Information, Academic Year 2006-2007

Pray For Our Seminarians



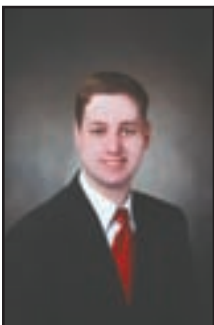
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Pray For Our Seminarians

Diocesan Pastoral Council Minutes

Christ the King Parish Hall, Madisonville, September 18, 2006

Present: Paul Bachi, Janet Thomason, Jeff Lamb, Homer Barton, Mary Prante, Valerie McCoy, P.J. O'Donoghue, Fr. Jerry Calhoun, Marilyn Chandler, Perry & Betty Elder, Delphine Operle, Charles Rucks, Barb Carper, Sr. Pam Mueller (substituting for Sr. Pat Leighton), SuzAnne Wilson, Linda Frakes, Fr. Al Bremer, Bishop John McRaith, Cathy Hagan, executive secretary. Absent With Notice: Denny Mann, Sr. Patricia Leighton. Diocesan Staff: Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, Tom & Kathy Buehrle, Mike Bogdan, Kevin Kauffeld, Ben Warrell.

Bill Rodgers, from the Lakes Deanery, has completed his first term on the DPC and will not be returning. A replacement is being sought. Mary Prante, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Marilyn Chandler led the opening prayer.

The Minutes from May 15, 2006 were approved as mailed. Bishop McRaith said that he would make his remarks during the course of the meeting.

Disciples Response Fund Update – Kevin Kauffeld: Campaign Year 2005-2006 (which ends September 30, 2006) has generated \$355,000 in pledges and an actual \$351,000 has been collected. The number of people who responded with either a prayer pledge or a financial contribution is 4,400.

The new campaign year beginning October 1, 2006 has already generated \$102,000 in pledges and collected \$87,000.

Since the beginning of the Disciples Response Fund Annual Appeal (1993-1994) \$4.9 million has been raised. Fifteen percent of each year's revenue goes into the granting pool. Parishes, schools and other institutions can then apply for a grant from these funds – the top amount that can be requested for a grant is \$5,000. Grant applications are available through the Office of Stewardship (683-1545 or e-mail cathy.hagan@pastoral.org).

Kevin said that his goal is to get more people involved in the Disciples Response Fund. His hope is everyone responds with a gift of prayer or a financial gift. For the campaign ending Sept. 30th there were approximately 20,000 letters mailed to households and only 4,400 responses.

Bishop McRaith remarked that his dream is for this diocese to be a sacrificial giving/stewardship diocese. Bishop McRaith said that he is aware of one diocese where there is no tuition or special collections needed. He urged the DPC to not give up. That we as a diocese have to own the fact that stewardship is NOT about money but rather about spirituality. It is how we share back what God has given to us – time, talent and treasure – all gifts from God.

Update on Camp Project – Ben Warrell

Ben reported that a fifteen person Camp Project Committee has been established. In order to get feedback from people throughout the diocese on their feelings about a Catholic camp for youth, a survey was developed. This summer the Camp Project Committee visited 11 parish picnics and polled 493 people using the survey. The results show that the vast majority feel that establishing this camp should be a priority, 87% indicated that they would use the facility, 92% responded that they would make a financial gift and 90% said they would offer their time, talent and prayers for the project.

Two pieces of property are being looked at for the camp location. The first is a piece of property in Nortonville. The second is a current retreat center located near the Gasper River (between Morgantown and Bowling Green). The second location is the one the committee is seriously looking at. It is 165 acres and has about one mile of river frontage. It is more centrally located and has established roads and sewers (the property in Nortonville does not). The buildings are in great shape. Some remodeling would need to be done. The price is still being negotiated.

Even though no organized fund-raising has begun, \$15,000 is already pledged. The committee is also looking into grants from several organizations.

Ben said that he was at the DPC meeting to ask them for their continued prayers and to get their permission to move forward. The Camp Project Committee would like to begin contacting donors, purchasing property and developing the summer camp. The Diocesan Pastoral Council gave their unanimous support for this project and gave their recommendation that they move forward.

Appropriate Music for Weddings – Mike Bogdan reported that the Wedding Liturgy Guidelines have recently been updated. Mike has developed a list of appropriate hymns and songs to be used for wedding liturgies. He took this list to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and they made three recommendations:

1. Include a letter to explain how these hymns are to be used.
2. Put some simpler pieces in the list.
3. Ask that couples receive the Wedding Liturgy Guidelines as soon as possible after meeting with the priest.

Mike has done all three of these items. The list of music will be inserted in the Wedding Liturgy Guidelines. Members of the DPC commented that the Wedding Liturgy Guidelines are a wonderful resource for couples being married. The guidelines are very well done and very useful.

Bishop McRaith asked that Mike take this to the Priests' Council to inform them of this new resource of appropriate hymns and songs for wedding liturgies.

Approval of Art and Architecture Guidelines – Mike Bogdan: A draft of the guidelines had been mailed to DPC members. Mike remarked that this draft is a revision of an earlier document. The DPC felt that it is a very good document not only for renovations and new buildings but for an explanation of why things are placed in church where they are. The DPC was in consensus that this document be approved.

Deanery Structure – Cathy Hagan: A list of the revised deanery structure had been included with the DPC packet. The Owensboro deanery has divided into two deaneries: Owensboro East and Owensboro West. The two members currently serving on the DPC represent the Owensboro East Deanery. The DPC now has the option of adding two additional representatives from Owensboro West Deanery. Tom Buehrle will address this at the next Owensboro deanery meeting.

Priesthood Sunday – Cathy Hagan: Informational material on Priesthood Sunday had been mailed in the DPC packets. Priesthood Sunday is October 29, 2006. Deanery Council representatives were asked to take this information and share it with their parish councils. Priesthood Sunday celebrations will only happen if the laity plan them. Bishop McRaith urged that parishes do something to honor their priests.

Diocesan Goals and Objectives – Cathy Hagan: Revised proposed diocesan goals and objectives will be sent to deanery councils requesting that they take them to their parish councils for comments and input. They are asked to submit their suggestions by December 4, 2006. The goals and objectives will then be given to diocesan staff with the suggested revisions. The goals will then come back to the DPC for final approval.

From the goals and objectives, the question surfaced: Who are Lay Ecclesial Ministers? Taken from the book: "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord" the definition of a Lay Ecclesial Minister is: "Those men and women whose ecclesial service is characterized by 1) Authorization of the hierarchy to serve publicly in the local church; 2) Leadership in a particular area of ministry; 3) Close mutual collaboration with the pastoral ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons; 4) Preparation and formation appropriate to the level of responsibilities that are assigned to them."

"The term lay ecclesial minister is generic. It is meant to encompass and describe several possible roles. In parish life – to cite only one sphere of involvement – the pastoral associate, parish catechetical leader, youth ministry leader, school principal, and director of liturgy or pastoral music are examples of such roles. Participation in the exercise of the pastoral care of a parish, as described in the Code of Canon Law, canon 517 §2, is another example of lay ecclesial ministry, although it differs in kind from the other roles because it exist simply because of the shortage of priests. It is the responsibility of the bishop, or his delegate, in accord with norms of canon law, to identify the roles that most clearly exemplify lay ecclesial ministry. Application of the term may vary from diocese to diocese."

"While lay ecclesial ministers carry out responsibilities rooted in their baptismal call and gifts, serving publicly in the local church requires authorization by competent authority. Lay collaboration with ordained ministers cannot mean substitution for ordained ministry."

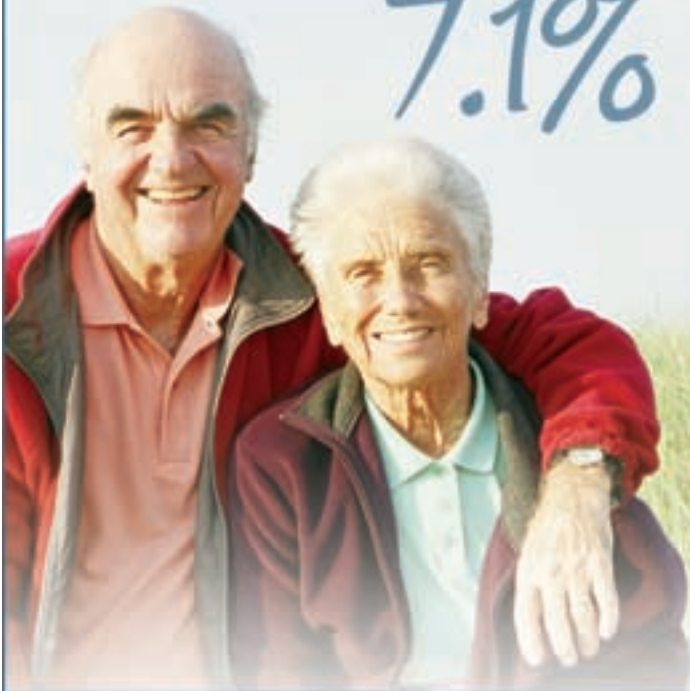
Joint Retreat Day for all Councils and Committees – Cathy Hagan: At the May DPC meeting, an interest was shown in holding a joint retreat day/informational day for all councils and committees. A target date for this was set for August, 2007. At tonight's meeting it was decided to take this to deanery councils and diocesan committees for their input, asking the questions – Is this something you would be interested in attending? Do you feel a need for this kind of day? What ideas/suggestions do you have for the day itself? This also will be put on a staff agenda for diocesan staff to discuss. The DPC noted that the timing of this event may need to wait until 2008 so that it can be well planned. The DPC will address this again at their November meeting.

Mandeville Report: A written report was distributed to the DPC. A collection of items will be sent to Mandeville on October 25, 2006 via a truck supplied by Food for the Poor. The site for this collection is the old Saint Vincent de Paul store located on

Continued on page 28

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For more information, please call:
270-683-1545

Please contact Sr. Joseph Angela Boone or Kevin Kauffeld



Bernice Williams, 82, Sophia Award Winner and a third generation member of Blessed Sacrament Church, Owensboro, Ky., Her parents were James and Julia (Rowan) Hayden, one of the first families in Blessed Sacrament CHapel's congregation. Five generations of her family have or are attending Blessed Sacrament Church. Lois Rutigliano photo.

The readings are perfect for this celebration in honor of our Wisdom people. St. James touches on the heart of our faith life when he deals with the question of faith and good works. Because of your faith, you have seen others as your neighbors. You have responded to your gift of faith by loving God in return and loving your neighbor as Jesus loves us.

This gives us all the opportunity to do a reality check on our faith. He will know we love Him by looking to see what our faith has produced, how faith has made our lives better, and how our faith has made the lives of many others better.

We may still wonder: "Do I believe as strongly and deeply as I should?" To answer this, we must ask ourselves, "Has my life produced good works?" St. James hits us pretty hard when he says that we need more than to just say we have faith – even if we have practiced that faith in some ways. St. James is asking, "How do you treat your neighbor – your sisters and brothers? How do you share what you have with those who are in need?" He gives us a wonderful example of what he is trying to teach us: He asks what do you do about someone who has no clothes to wear or has nothing to eat? The answer to that question is a real test of how much faith we have, because faith manifests itself in our love for one another. Do we offer them words only: 'Go in peace, keep warm and be well fed,' and then go about taking care of our selves and our own needs only?

James says, "INDEED, SOMEONE MIGHT SAY 'YOU HAVE FAITH AND I HAVE WORKS.' Demonstrate your faith to me without works and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works." So, faith itself without good works is dead; that's what James tells us so plainly today.

The Gospel from Mark gives us another way to test our faith. When Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Peter answers, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST." Though he gives the right answer, he didn't fully understand what it means to be the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior. So, Peter is taken by surprise when Jesus then tells the Disciples that He must suffer, be rejected by His own people and be killed, to rise on the third day.

Thank you for being good witnesses to the faith — people who have and continue to live by the kind of faith that produces good works. Such a life understands that suffering and death are only steps to the resurrection and to eternal happiness.

We give thanks for the joy of the gift of life and together look forward to eternal life.

Bishop John McRaith Thanks Sophia Award Winners for Witness To Faith

September 17, 2006 - A warm welcome to all of you as we gather to give thanks to our loving God for your lives. We thank God, and we thank you for the many years that you have shared your lives with so many people.

As Wisdom people, you are a constant witness to all of the community of the faithful, because you have remained faithful to our Lord and have struggled these many years in carrying out God's will in your lives. We often talk these days that there is such a need for good role models – people we can truly look up to and receive inspiration from. Well, YOU are the models that your families, your faith communities, and all the young ones can look up to. In your lives, they will find examples of how important it is to live life with Jesus as the center and the Holy Spirit as the helper and guide.



Dorothy Buckman, Sophia Award winner from St. Peter of Anioch, Waverly, with her family in front pews at left. Staff Photo

Wisdom *by Ginny Knight-Simon*



Lockie Mattingly, at left, a current resident of Carmel home, receives her Sophia Award as a member of St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville, from Fr. Al Powers at Mass on October 8, 2006. Locke was not able to attend the Sophia Awards Mass in the Cathedral. G. K-S Photo



Lockie's family joined her and friends at a reception held at the Carmel Home after Mass on October 8, 2006. Left: Lacy and Lisa Bittel, Jim and Evelyn Mattingly; Locke Mattingly center with Sophia award; Paul Payne, Gayle Jackson, Carroll Ann Payne, Rhonda Clark, Melissa Clark. G. K-S Photo

Diocesan Pastoral Council Minutes

(Continued from page 26)

the corner of West 7th and Sycamore Streets in Owensboro. Items have to be at the above location by October 10th. It will take a multitude of workers to get the items boxed and ready to go.

Diaconate Update – Fr. Jerry Calhoun: Fr. John Thomas is the director of the Diaconate Program. There are four phases of formation involved in this program.

1. Discernment Program – From January to August there will be one meeting a month from 10-2 for those interested in the diaconate program.
2. Aspiring Program – This will be a one year-long program directed by Fr. John Thomas.
3. Four Year Program – directed by Saint Meinrad to educate and inform prospective deacons.
4. Acceptance and Ordination of deacons. (The first ordinations will take place in 2012.) The program can have up to 25 participants at a time.

Committee and Council Items: There was one question regarding the holding of hands during the Our Father at Mass. Is there anything in Church law that says if this is to happen or not? The reply was that there is nothing stated in Church law about the holding of hands at the Our Father. It does not say that you can or that you cannot. It is up to the pastor/parish to make this decision.

Future agenda items: Joint Retreat, Diaconate Update, Mandeville Update.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, 2006. Delphine Operle will prepare the opening prayer.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 with a prayer. Bishop McRaith thanked everyone for taking the time to come to the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for all that they do.

Submitted by Cathy Hagan



Saint Mary School System
Paducah, Kentucky

St. Mary (Paducah) School News BASEBALL

The Viking baseball team enjoyed an immensely successful season, capped by winning the 1st Region championship in a thrilling, rain-delayed 1-0 pitching masterpiece by Jerrod Moore over Graves County. The St. Mary boys were taken out at the semi-state level by powerful Christian County, who finished as state runner-up in 2005 after winning the championship in 2004. The Vikings had previously advanced to the "Elite Eight" in Class A play, losing to a strong Danville team. St. Mary coach Billy Hodge described the Vikes' season as a major success, while acknowledging they were "over-matched" against Christian County.

In other baseball news, former Viking Eric Roof (class of '05) accepted a scholarship offer from Michigan State. Roof hit .338 as a freshman for St. Catharine College, but couldn't resist the opportunity to go to the Big Ten. Eric's brother Shawn is the starting shortstop for Illinois, another Big Ten program, and the Spartans' offer came as a result of a conversation between Shawn and Mike Steele, Michigan State's pitching coach. Steele remembered the Roof boys as kids hanging around the Detroit Tigers' ballpark when their dad Gene, a former major league outfielder, was the Tigers' first-base coach. Gene also managed in the Tigers' farm system, and is now a roving hitting instructor. He was also St. Mary's all-time basketball scoring leader until his record was broken in 2002.

GOLF

St. Mary's defending State Champion golf team is off to a good start. The Vikings finished third out of 17 teams in the prestigious McDonald's Tournament of Champions held in Kingsport, TN on September 10th and 11th, with a team score of 596. The field included eight state champions from around the U. S. Chattanooga Baylor won the tourney, followed by Edmond North, OK, and St. Mary. Kentucky individual state champion Case Cochran led the Vikings with a 6th-place overall finish at one under par (143) for the two-day event. Vikings coach Kurt Averill noted that the 3rd-place finish gave the team confidence that they "can play with anybody in the country." Also in the field were two of St. Mary's top competitors for this year's Kentucky title, St. Xavier and Bowling Green, who shot 613 and 612 respectively.

The St. Mary team also won the Paducah Tilghman Invitational tournament at Silos Golf Club on August 12th. Case Cochran eagled the final hole to shoot 69 for a one-shot victory in the individual competition. As a team the Vikings shot 293 for an 8-shot win over 2nd-place finisher Heath. Altogether, St. Mary placed four golfers in the top 15.

Submitted by Wayne Hagan

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, KY recently held a Stewardship Fair to provide parishioners with information about the many ministries and services available at St. Thomas More. Parishioners were invited to view the information about the ministries and talk to ministry representatives. Coordinators of more than 50 liturgical and non-liturgical ministries provided colorful and interesting displays as well as handouts describing the purpose, function, and other important information about their respective ministries. Coordinators and ministry representatives were on hand to answer questions from visitors. Lori Meredith, coordinator of the Friends in Christ children's ministry, provided games, activities, and handouts to entertain the children and encourage participation in the ministry. A number of ministries offered visitors treats such as candies, homemade cookies, and various other items. Ellen Walsh, who is 'retiring' from the Coffee & Doughnuts Ministry Coordinator role after six years of service, provided an array of breakfast snacks after Sunday morning Masses on the weekend of the fair.

Ministry sign-ups were not requested at the fair; parishioners were asked to prayerfully consider the information presented before completing and returning Ministry sign-up forms that had been sent home in the mail.

The Ministry phase is the third of a three-phase stewardship program which St. Thomas More has recently implemented. The program begins during Advent with Stewardship of Prayer and continues with Stewardship of Giving during Lent; the Ministry phase takes place during late summer. This approach spreads stewardship throughout the liturgical year and



Mikel Fields, parish volunteer for Paducah Cooperative Ministries, stands in front of the PCM display.

Bob and Kelley Lang and sons Joshua, Jacob, and Justin help promote the Coffee & Doughnuts ministry.

reminds parishioners that stewardship is a continuous duty and opportunity.

The Stewardship Fair was a success, evidenced by the number of ministry displays featured, the coordinators and members in attendance, the many fair visitors, and by the numerous ministry sign up forms being returned to the Parish Office.

The St. Thomas More stewardship effort focuses on the words of Bishop McRaith, who summarized stewardship at the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship in 1992, stating "Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, Stewardship is not an option."



Chain of Life Links All So That Every Baby Is Safe

On October 1, Life Chain took place in Owensboro all along Frederics Street and other streets. This group from St. Martin and St. Sebastian parishes stood up for life along South Frederica St. Photo by Lisa Bartlett.

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 Tony Stevenson participating in the Saint Lawrence Music Festival October 1. Staff Photo

Women and Men, Holy Together

By Julie Onstott

Ok, God, Enough Already!

On September 22nd, I was up with my kids, as they were getting ready for school. It was a typical morning with the same hectic pace of getting my son Ben out the door in time to catch the bus. Ben is just like any other teenager who takes his sweet time getting out of bed in the mornings to catch a bus that arrives at 6:35am. It is the same routine everyday, with me constantly shouting to Ben what the time is and urging him to hurry up and eat his breakfast. The cereal of choice that morning was Honey Nut Cheerios. Not to mention there was only enough cereal left for one bowl. Before Ben headed towards the door I give him his medicine every morning because Ben suffers from asthma and allergies. When my son walked out that door, I never anticipated what would transpire in the next hour. My faith was to be tested again and shaken.

Ben calls me from school, he tells me he isn't feeling well and that his asthma is bothering him. Being a little suspicious, I asked Ben to let me talk to an adult in the office so I can get more facts. The lady on the phone tells me Ben's face is very red and splotchy and he is having difficulty breathing. As soon as she told his appearance I felt something inside of me that told me this was serious. Little did I know the seriousness of what was about to happen to my son. I rushed in the school and saw the nurse tech and asked her anxiously how was Ben. She didn't verbally answer me and just nodded her head no. I felt a pain in my stomach and felt like Ben was very far from me but in reality he was only steps away in a room struggling to breathe. When I finally got to see Ben I knew I had to get Ben to the hospital right away or he could die.

As I was driving frantically to the hospital, I was talking to Ben telling him that God loves him and He will take care of us. God won't let anything happen to him. He just wouldn't do that to us; we had been through so much with the death of my husband and the loss of his father. I kept praying loudly the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary while I was rubbing his chest with one arm and driving with the other. I still managed to make a couple of phone calls to family. I was driving on Highway 54 about 7:30am and the traffic is horrible in the mornings. I was so scared I wouldn't make it in time to save my son. Well, let me tell you one thing, Jesus did take the wheel that morning because I never had to stop for one traffic light and I could have killed us both the speed I was driving. The only words that Ben did manage to say to me was, slow down. I told Ben that our guardian angel was with us and to trust me.

I finally arrived at the hospital emergency room, yelling to the man to please help me my son has had an allergic reaction and he has asthma, he can't breathe, please help me! He took us to a room immediately. By this time I was pretty emotional and the adrenaline was up and I was throwing orders around like I owned the joint. One minute I was calm for the sake of Ben, then the next I was telling the nurses and doctors how to take care of my son.

After they administered the proper medication to Ben and got him in stable condition, they told me that Ben had an anaphylactic reaction that was potentially life threatening. The nurse then proceeded to tell me that the Allegra I gave Ben is probably what saved his life. Then they revealed to me that it was most likely the peanuts in his cereal that he is allergic to. I was totally shocked because he has had peanuts and has had Honey Nut Cheerios for breakfast maybe three times during the week.

As I had time to calm down and spend some time with Ben alone in his room, I began to ask Ben some questions. I asked him if he was scared or did he feel calm? Ben told me he was praying the same prayers I was saying over and over again. He was afraid he was going to die. To hear my son tell me he thought he was dying was very difficult for me to hear. How could God allowed this to happen? We've been through so much, and then I felt a tinge of anger settle in and wondered what was I



doing in my life that was displeasing to God. All sorts of questions were racing through my mind. Is this a test of my faith or a punishment? What I did know is that Ben was alive and I needed to praise God and thank him for saving his life. I was having mixed emotions. I was having gratitude and at the same time I was still feeling let down and wondering why God was doing this to us.

Ben stayed two nights at the hospital then he was released Sunday morning. During that evening Ben told me that he was being punished. I immediately told Ben that God doesn't do that. Ben was trying to tell me that he is a sinner and God has given him a cross. I got defensive again and told Ben that he wasn't being punished. I couldn't believe my son, only fourteen years old, was having these profound thoughts. I then asked Ben if he offered up his sufferings, and he told me that he had and that was the extent of our conversation. He wanted to keep it private and I didn't push to find out what it was. Ben now has to accept this cross God has given him and I believe my son understood it right away. Ben has been surprising me lately with his wisdom and I will try more to listen to this young man and learn from him. What I do recognize now is that Ben has learned a lot about his Catholic faith and that he actually was listening to me when I have tried to talk to him about the



Ben and Julie Onstott shared an experience of prayer en route to the emergency room one afternoon. "Ben told me he was praying the same prayers I was saying over and over again. Submitted photo

struggles we will have to face in this life.

I have learned a great deal from my son this past week. I believe he has a lot to offer and can see that God is going to use him for a very special purpose. It is just a gut feeling that I have. Gotta trust in those gut feelings. +JMJ+

Bishop Soenneker Home



The Bishop Soenneker Home is selling chances on the quilt donated by resident Gracie Renfrow, and on the Afghan donated by resident Anna Payne, both in the photo above. The drawing will be at the Home's annual Family Thanksgiving Lunch in November. Chances are \$1.00 each. For a chance or information, contact The Bishop Soenneker Home, 9545 KY 144, Philpot, KY 42366. All proceeds go for dining room furniture in the Home. Donations are tax deductible. Submitted Photo

Completed U.S. saints' causes now include St. Mother Theodore Guerin

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- With the Oct. 15 canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., seven sainthood causes from the United States have been successfully completed. Of these U.S. saints, only two, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Katharine Drexel, are native-born; the others were born in Europe and came to North America as missionaries. The saints are: the Jesuit North American martyrs: St. Rene Goupil (1607-1642), St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646), St. Jean Lalande (died 1646), St. Antoine Daniel (1601-1648), St. Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649), St. Gabriel Lalemant (1610-1649), St. Charles Garnier (circa 1606-1649) and St. Noel Chabanel (1613-1649); St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917); St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821); St. John Nepomucene Neumann (1811-1860); St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852); St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955); and St. Mother Theodore Guerin (1798-1856).

Music Festival At St. Lawrence An Afternoon for Hospitality

By Mel Howard

SAINT LAWRENCE, Ky. - As the crow flies, the Saint Lawrence Church picnic grounds with its open air shelter, and located only a few miles out Highway 144 east of Knottsville, Ky., is only about 40 miles from Jerusalem Ridge in Ohio County, the site of the historic Bill Monroe homeplace and family farm, the birthplace of genuine Kentucky Bluegrass Music. (<http://www.jerusalemridge-festival.org/>).

The Saint Lawrence Parish community is the birthplace of Catholicism in Daviess County, Ky. On a bright October 1 Sunday afternoon, a ten-year-old girl sang for the Saint Lawrence Music Festival crowd of over 100 people what many consider an anthem for Bluegrass Music, Bill Monroe's "Blue



The J. W. Morris Family from Whitesville, Ky. is shown here on stage at the Music Festival hosted at the Saint Lawrence Parish picnic grounds October 1. Charlotte Morris is singing at the microphone. Staff Photo

Moon Of Kentucky." Charlotte Morris of Whitesville, Ky. sang "Blue Moon" toward the end of her family's hour of music for the festival as her father, David Morris, played guitar, her Aunts Christie, Connie, Jill, Dana, and Marilyn sang, her Aunt Jeanetta and her Grandmother Pauline "Hootie" Howard Morris played guitar; her uncle Freddy Morris played banjo, and the family sang backup vocals. Starting out slowly with many held notes and pauses, Charlotte expertly addressed the crowd and by the time many were singing the first verse with her, the musicians picked up the beat and Charlotte made Earl Monroe proud, hitting each high note with a slight tremelo in her voice, and that characteristic bluegrass accent; she just about didn't need a microphone. Even the guys who rode up on horses dismounted and tied them up to a tree at the back of the crowd, could hear Charlotte's "Blue Moon."

The Saint Lawrence Music Festival is free to everyone with no admission charge. Pastor Father Tony Stevenson helped organize the first Music Festival a few years back, and plays guitar and sings with a group of friends for the festival which began at noon and ended at 5:00 p.m.. The Saint Lawrence parishoners bring lawn chairs or pull up one of the picnic tables to the shelter. Dozens of people from other towns and counties, many of whom play bluegrass music instruments and can perform many of the songs themselves, and knowing when they're hearing good bluegrass music, kept toes tapping and clap and cheered for the musicians at the Music Festival.

It is an afternoon for hospitality, and while listening to the music, telling stories and jokes, catching up on the family and community news, and hearing about what's going on. In fact, if a person comes to the Saint Lawrence Music Festival and sits alone, it will not be long until their chair has company, and the good times roll.

Visiting with people on a Sunday afternoon is a Kentucky country folk tradition. Front porch sitting has long been a way to be hospitable among country people, and those town folks who have porchs on their houses and use them for sitting and visitng. Lacking a porch, a gazebo will do, or even a swing under a tree. The idea which this music festival promotes is simply to visit with people. Share time and space together, and the music.

Several other music groups performed at the festival, including one in which pastor Father Tony Stevenson played guitar and sang.

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Mission Trip To Africa A Life Altering Experience

By Eddie & Greta Shelton, Owensboro, Ky.

Our mission trip was June 18-29 2006. We became involved in this trip through Judy Miller, a Southern Baptist Missionary from our church, Panther Creek Baptist Church. There was a group of people from east Tennessee making this trip and they needed a pharmacist to go also. They contacted Judy and she put them in contact with me (Eddie). There were seven people going, including a doctor, nurse practitioner, and her 16 year-old son, 2 nurses, a church Secretary and her husband, and a first grade school teacher. Our flight was delayed a day due to bad weather and flight connections. We went to Paris, Casablanca, Monoco, Togo, Africa and then to Contonou, Benin West Africa.

We had 6 clinics planned for 6 different locations starting on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday with a day of rest on Saturday. Because of the delays, we all decided to skip the day of rest and hold clinics 6 days in a row. Our days began with breakfast at 6:15 AM, a devotional from a different person each day, and then leaving for the clinics. We had with us Judy, 2 other missionaries from Tennessee, Bob & Becky Coutts who have been there for 30 years, and several African workers to assist us. We stayed in a rented house in a small town called Adjouhon, about 40 miles west of Coutonou. All roads there were only dirt roads



Eddie and Greta Shelton en route to a clinic from Contonou, Benin West Africa. The little girl in the picture with Eddie & Greta is Rebecca, 4 year old. She was the child of an African couple who helped them every day. Submitted photo

as seen in our pictures. Clinics were about 20 miles from our base and it took about hour to get to each one. One was in a grade school and others were in very small churches. All churches were mud huts with palm leaves for roofs. About 100 Africans would be waiting when we arrived at each clinic. Weather was about 95 degrees each day with 90-95% humidity. These people would sit on wooden benches with no backs on them for hours to see our doctor. A lot of women with sick babies, people with high blood pressure, skin diseases, malaria, worms, mal-

nutrition, stroke, cancer, burns, all kind of infections, and others. A lot of small children and babies had pneumonia, very high temperature, nausea, etc

Some babies were malnourished because their mothers had no milk for breast feeding. We left money for Becky Coutts to go to Contonou to buy formula for these babies. One baby was so sick that the doctor said if he did not get to a hospital for IV antibiotics, he would die by nightfall. Becky & Bob took him to Porto Novo to the hospital (very poor one) for treatment. When she came back to the clinic, she said there were 4 babies to a bed and 10 beds in a room. About a week after we got home, she e-mailed us that the baby was fine and his father had become a Christian a week later. One lady had 2 large knots - one behind an ear, and one on her right cheek. These were of the size of lemons and the doctor said it was cancer, and her only hope would be to get to a large hospital or one of the medical ships that travel third world countries. We had a voodoo priestess and a voodoo priest visit our clinics. While the priestess was being seen by the doctor, the



Greta Shelton holding child at a clinic outside of Contonou, Benin. The little boy, about 2 years old, was a patient at one clinic Greta held him to get him to stop crying while he was being examined Submitted photo

Christian Africans began singing and chanting religious songs, dancing, clapping, and playing drums & bells to let her know that they were not afraid of her voodoo power. She had no power over them.

Our housing was sufficient but lacked hot water and air-conditioning. Our food was good, cooked by Phillipe and Benjamin, Judy's cook & helper. When we had our last clinic we were all so exhausted none of us could have gone another day. These clinics were from 8:30 AM to 7-8 PM. We saw from 140 people a day, up to 184 one day, about 1,000 in all, filling about 2,500 to 3,000 Rx's for them. We took lots of drugs with us, and left all that was not used for the next mission trip in Sept., 2006. They plan 3 trips per year.

There is a tremendous need there for others to go whether it be medical help or serving the Africans through teaching them about Christ or teaching them ways to plant crops to help feed themselves. There are missionaries there from other denominations Church of Christ, Assemblies of God, Methodist, Catholic, and others. While there, we saw several Catholic churches as well as Baptist churches.

This was a life altering experience for all of our team, each planning to go back in the future. We cannot relay all our experiences in a short time, but hope this gives you a glimpse of our mission trip.



People in picture left to right are Barbara Fouts, nurse from Indianapolis and mother of Dr. David McNabney; Marie Lataillade, nurse originally from Haiti, now lives in Indianapolis; Greta Shelton was a nurse practitioner assistant while in Africa; Eddie Shelton, Pharmacist; Vicki Carter, nurse practitioner from Morristown, TN; Dr. David McNabney from Talbott, TN.; Ryan Carter (Vicki's son) was a nurse's assistant; Jason Vance and Kristi Vance, pharmacist assistants. Submitted photo

By Pat S. Smith

Mrs. Hannah Dieball Saysanavong, at right, new first grade teacher, a position left open by Mrs. Kaunisto's move to second grade. Mrs. Saysanavong is a graduate of St. Joseph School and Warren East High School. She just completed her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. While at WKU, she received the ETS Recognition of Excellence for outstanding scores on the Praxis Series Test. She also worked in St. Joseph's SACC program for the three and one half years before beginning her student teaching Spring 2006. She is pictured here with four of her students Grace Regnier, Kate Mason, Madeline Wilson and Isabelle Castillo.



Mrs. Martha Simpson, at right, is the Development/Marketing Director of St. Joseph's School, a position she has held for over six years. She is married to Doug Simpson and they have two children, Laura, 23, and Bryan, 28, both alumni of the school. Mrs. Simpson explained, "I really enjoy my position, especially since my children attended school here. I marvel at how the school has grown and will continue to grow!" She works on many different projects throughout the school year and has just begun work on the poinsettia sale, an annual fund raising project in November and December.



Mrs. Karen Stringer is pictured at lower right at the blackboard in her fourth class with two of her students, Amy Cherry and A.J. Smith. Mrs. Stringer was hired St. Joseph's this year to teach fourth grade class left open by Mrs. O'Keefe's retirement. Mrs. Stringer has three sons that attend St. Joseph School and has been a substitute teacher at St. Joseph Mercy School, Dayton, Ohio. She also substitute taught in two other Catholic Schools in Dayton, including two long term substitute assignments for teachers taking a leave of absence. Mrs. Stringer received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Wright State University in Dayton. She completed the necessary course work at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, to obtain a Kentucky teaching certificate and will complete her Masters Degree in Education at WKU by next summer. All photos this page by Pat Smith

St. Joseph School Holds Mass for Grandparents

by Pat S. Smith

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - On Friday September 15, a special Mass was held at St. Joseph Church, Bowling Green, to honor Grandparents Day. The sanctuary was packed with students and their parents and grandparents and was to be held at 1:45 p.m.

Noticing that it was several minutes past the time for the Mass to begin, Fr. Jerry Riney, Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish finally arrived, after having been involved in a small car accident. As Fr. Jerry approached the altar he explained, "I'm here and I'm fine, just a fender bender," he explained.nothing broken, only my pride bruised a little," he laughed.

As the Mass proceeded, Fr. Jerry explained that today was also special in that it was the Feast Day of Our Mother of Sorrows. After the reading of the Gospel of Luke, Fr. Jerry began his homily.

"A child is destined for many and great things and a source of great joy to their parents and grandparents alike," he stated. He said that every time a child is born, happiness is born in the grandparent, too. Fr. Jerry explained that grandparents have tremendous love for their grandchildren, as for them it is a process of starting parenting all over again with plenty of laughter, hugs, kisses, watching them grow, and, he laughed, "... you can send them home when you need to." As our grandchildren grow



Pat Shanahan and grandson Luke. The Shanahans are parishioners at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.

we see characteristics in our own children. Grandparents are learning new tricks and also see their children grow up when they have children of their own!

Pertaining to the Feast Day, Our Mother of Sorrows, through the Blessed Mother we DO experience lots of joy, but some sorrows also... the sorrow of seeing them sick, not being able to watch them grow up if they live far away and also being a grandparent makes us realize that we are growing older ourselves.

Fr. Jerry's message conveyed that Mary has set a wonderful example for us. Whereas she was able to appreciate the joy of her own son, she had to experience the sorrow of the cross, too. "What a model of faith!" he exclaimed.

Continued on page 40



Saint Joseph School Principal Jan Lange looks up for a photo while helping the students at lunch just before the Grandparents Day Mass.



Mrs. Sandy Osboe is the secretary of St. Joseph's School and has held this position since 1994. She is married to Mike Osboe and is the mother of Christian, Jason and Chele Osboe Gillon a former student teacher in the kindergarten class at St. Joseph's. Here she is working at the computer on Grandparents Day.

Bishop McRaith Attends Special Hispanic Mass to Speak Out Against Violence



By Pat S. Smith

B O W L I N G GREEN, Ky. - On Sunday, October 8, Bishop John J. McRaith attended a special Hispanic Mass at 12.30 at St. Joseph Parish here.

Bishop McRaith came to St. Joseph to speak out about the violence that had occurred against a family who are members of the Parish.

In early September, in Rockfield, KY, just outside of Bowling Green, a cross was burned on the lawn of Nelson and Morena Espinoza. Although it is hard to believe that bigotry of this kind still exists in 2006, the incident did occur. The first week of September was not a good week for the Espinozas. Earlier, they had come home to find their home burglarized; some \$2000, change, and cell phones were missing. Later in the week, they came home in the early evening to find a cross burning on their lawn with the words, "In my country, maybe... in my neighborhood, never!" Although his wife wants to sell their home of just 2 months, Nelson, 28, is adamant about not letting bigotry ruin their new life in America. The Espinozas moved here from El Salvador with their six year old daughter. Nelson says he is keeping the charred cross to show his daughter when she has children so she will know what bigotry and violence is about. The sad thing for Rockfield and Bowling Green, however, is that hate crimes and violence do not just scare the intended victim, but can terrorize whole communities.

After the special Mass ended, Bishop McRaith, who speaks no Spanish, offered these words through an interpreter.

"I understand that a good number of you speak English and Spanish," he smiled. "I am grateful to be here and very touched to be here during the renovation of St. Joseph Church for the first time in many years." He went on to say that the parishioners had made great sacrifices and will continue to make many more sacrifices in order to have a beautiful place to celebrate the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and to share in the Eucharist. Bishop McRaith explained that he was very proud today to be part of the celebration of this special Mass, although he didn't understand a word of it.

He said this celebration, in honor of the Espinozas showed him how we can all come together in the Eucharist. He said that this act of violence has affected all of our lives, but has also brought us all together through the omnipotent power of Jesus Christ. And, Bishop McRaith stated, "As a result of your warm welcome, I felt very much at home."

The Bishop said that this incident should be taken seriously, simply for the fact that we are all equal. The world has to be right {with God}. There can be no division of language or tradition, and we have to find a way to get around these problems. He continued, "You and I have been able to do that just in the last hour!"

Bishop McRaith spoke about how exciting it is to live in a nation that prides itself in liberty and justice FOR ALL. ... ALL PEOPLE! He said that this is the goal of the United States of America, and to pray that this goal will include the entire world. "We are not yet successful," he said, "but we must pray that it is possible for the United States. We all know that and agree that Jesus is Christ and that is what Jesus is calling us to do." The Bishop stated that we must treat one another with liberty, freedom, justice for all, and these are gifts that we receive. He also said that anything that stands in the way of THAT, stands in the way of what Jesus wanted. ... LIBERTY for ALL.



The Bishop gives his message on bigotry and violence with St. Joseph Church secretary as interpreter. Photo by Pat Smith

Bishop McRaith apologized to the Hispanic community, "I'm very sorry about the vandalism, the cross being burned on your yard. What we must do, however, is pray for those who did this crime and pray that God grant them pardon and peace." He also stated that he was deeply grateful for all the gifts that the Hispanic community has brought to our Church... and to our society. He

said, "I am saying this on behalf of the Diocese of Owensboro... thank you!"

Bishop McRaith encouraged the community to stand tall in liberty, Jesus' name, love God with your all being, and love one another, too. He also added, "...and pray the Rosary together. Pray to the Blessed Mother for justice for all."

He thanked Fr. Stan Puryear, pastor, for the wonderful job he is doing at St. Joseph Parish, and said that he hoped that all the people who are part of the parish of St. Joseph in Bowling Green will show this as a sign that Jesus loves us all, died for us all, and was raised from the dead for us all. Jesus brought salvation to all. "We are all Pilgrims," he stated, "on our way from this life to eternal life... we go NOT as individuals, but as God's family."

There will always be bigotry and hate crimes in the World, but Jesus has told us "I have overcome the world." It is with deep prayer that we bless the family who suffered this violence and hope that one day the United States will stand together, as Bishop McRaith said, Liberty for ALL.

Pat S. Smith, a parishioner at Holy Spirit, speaks no Spanish either, but was able to fully participate in the Mass and honored to be there with the Hispanics of the community.



Bishop McRaith wearing Genaro Carillo's cowboy hat. Carillo moved here from Mexico. Photo by Pat Smith



Fr. Stan Puryear, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, administers the Eucharist. Fr. Stan is very fluent in Spanish. Photo by Pat Smith

Trinity High School Students Serving School and Community

The Western Kentucky Catholic, November, 2006 35

Submitted by Lisa Armes

Trinity High School's Y Club helped out with the Rummage Sale Sept. 23, 2006, to benefit the Catholic Schools, St. Mary Elementary and Trinity High School, in Whitesville, Ky. Y Club members also helped with the work of staffing stands for the St. Mary Parish Barbecue Picnic Sept. 24, 2006 at the church grounds.

Despite rainy weather on September 30th, several of Trinity's Y Club members showed up to help the Dream Riders of Kentucky with their festival. The Dream Riders are an organization that strives to provide extra opportunities to those with disabilities. THS students that volunteered their time included: Megan Elliott, Suzanne Coomes, Chelsea Bland, Katie Boarman, Elizabeth Payne, Katie Higdon, Matt Simmons, Susan Clark, Haley Ling, Sammy Jo Roby, Erica Morris, and Brett Onstott. The students helped with the inflatable slides that had been set up for the children.

This is the second time the Y Club has helped the Dream Riders and each time the students think it is a worthwhile experience. They enjoy the atmosphere at the event and the feeling they get when they help those in need.



Chelsea Bland and Hannah Armes smiling inspite of the rain at Dream Riders Sept. 30. Submitted by Lisa Armes



Allie Morris with Ashley Aud helped hang clothes for the Sept. 23 Rummage Sale. Submitted by Lisa Armes



Kaley Ling, Sammy Jo Roby, Erica Morris, Susan Clark, Suzanne Coomes, Megan Elliott, Katie Boarman, and Elizabeth Payne posed with Caleb Isbill in the Dream Riders barn area during a break from the rain. Submitted by Lisa Armes



Joey Higdon and Curtis Merritt helped straighten books and toys Sept. 23, Submitted by Lisa Armes



Kelly Medcalf and Katie Brown paused from work at the Rummage Sale for a photo. Submitted by Lisa Armes



At left, Tara Conner and Ashley Lanham worked the St. Mary Picnic Cake Stand Sept. 24. Submitted by Lisa Armes

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Monica Roby and Bridget Gray weed the flower beds.



Megan Elliott and Katie Higdon clean the front doors of the school.



Trinity High School's Y Club participated in their annual beautification project on September 13, 2006, at the school campus in Whitesville, Ky. Fifty of its sixty members planted flowers, did landscaping, cleaned the inside and the outside of the school, and planned upcoming project. Some of the members are pictured here. All photos on this page were submitted by Emily Carmon.

Y Club Spends Day Making Trinity Blue Sparkle and Shine

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - The Trinity High School Y Club takes a lot of pride in their school campus. Every year just after school starts, the Y Club, whose members make up about one-third of the student body of 141 students, do landscaping, plant flowers, clean the entire school inside and out, and then get together for a planning session to work out a division of labor for who will take care of what chores around school for the coming months. The Trinity Y Club invites anyone to come to Trinity to check out their handiwork.



The 06-07 Y Club Officers at Trinity High School are Co-Presidents Elizabeth Payne and Katie Boarman, Secretary Susan Clark, Treasurer Karissa Edge, Publicity Committee Ashley Aud, Michelle Rhodes, and Marissa Boone. THS Photos



Senior Class Officers at Trinity High School for the 06-07 school year are President Kenya Fulkerson, Vice President Emily Howard, Secretary Susan Clark, and Treasurer Karissa Edge



Erica Morris, Haley Ling, Sammy Jo Roby, and Megan Morris wipe down lockers.

Glenmary Sisters' PumpkinFest Growing Bigger Every Year

The Western Kentucky Catholic, November, 2006 37

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Glenmary Sisters sponsored The Fourth Annual PumpkinFest here Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 at Moreland Park and the Sportscenter parking lot. The festival began in 2000 when the Glenmary Guild started selling pumpkins as a fund-raiser for the Sisters' missions. In 2004, that grew into the PumpkinFest which this year, despite the rain on Saturday, drew hundreds of area residents to the booths and the midway rides.

The festival featured pumpkin relay races, pumpkin seed spitting, a pumpkin smash, a pumpkin bake-off, the fifth annual Scrapheap Challenge, carnival rides, and a motorcycle show.

A local newspaper report Oct. 2 quoted a Glenmary official: "This is awesome," said Richard Remp-Morris, who helped organize the fall festival. "We've had great community support." Along with the beautiful afternoon, the festival had a lot more to offer this year, Remp-Morris said, including more than 30 additional vendors, and the "Old Market" inside the Sportscenter and a wide variety of foods and sweets. Remp-Morris said a goal of the festival is to raise money and awareness for the Glenmary Home Mission Sisters of America, a non-profit organization that serves rural areas in the South and Appalachian Mountains.

One new feature that seemed to be popular this year was the chance to smash a car with a hammer. The Scrapheap Challenge was once again a favorite at PumpkinFest. The PumpkinFest is a community awareness raising effort by the Glenmary Sisters to help people know who they are, and what ministries they offer to people mainly in mission dioceses of the South. The Owensboro Diocese is considered a mission diocese.



Sister Sharon Miller, GHMS, filling up balloons at the PumpkinFest. Lois Rutigliano photo

At right, Dylan Wilson, an OCHS junior National Honor Society member, and other NHS members worked all day Saturday, Sept. 30, and Sunday, Oct. 1, in the Glenmary Guild's pumpkin booth. SCRUBS members from OCHS also worked throughout the entire Fest in various booths or wherever they were needed. Staff Photo



Glenmary Sisters Congregational Leader Sister Pat Leighton, GHMS, is shown here at a booth in the Sportscenter. Lois Rutigliano photo



Since 2004, The PumpkinFest is a popular family activity every fall in Owensboro. Here the pastor and a family from St. Stephen Cathedral parish enjoy the nice fall weather Oct. 1. At left are Susan Gesser, Jacquelyn Gesser, Father John Vaughan, Chad Gesser holding Josephine. Lois Rutigliano Photo



Mount Saint Joseph's First Ever Alumnae Memorial Mass Gathers Sisters and Graduates

Alumnae of Mount Saint Joseph College and Academy gathered with their former teachers and friends to remember deceased classmates, teachers, and loved ones at the first Alumnae Memorial Mass on October 7. After the Mass in the motherhouse chapel, graduates and sisters enjoyed some time together at lunch in the dining room.



Glenmary Father David Glockner, celebrant, accepts the gifts from Betty Reardon Greaves A'66, alumnae association president, and Susan Thomas Allgeier A'66. MSJ Photo



Ruth Bittel A'69 brought her mom, Mildred Bittel, for the Memorial Mass. MSJ Photo



Incoming and outgoing officers posed following elections at the 2006 Mount Saint Joseph Academy and College Alumnae Weekend at Maple Mount. Pictured are, left to right, incoming president Betty Reardon Greaves A'66, outgoing president Betty Cecil Medley A'81 (back), outgoing secretary-treasurer Phyllis Thomas Troutman A'63 (front), incoming president-elect Nancy Mills Jones A'72, and incoming secretary-treasurer Mary Ford Vuncannon A'55. MSJ Photo

The Grief That Comes With Alzheimer's Disease

By Betty Medley

No one likes to think about illness and death; when we are well, we feel invincible and there is nothing that can prepare us for the shock and devastation of a terminal diagnosis. The knowledge that we can no longer take our lives or the lives we share with our loved ones for granted takes away our ability to plan for the future and removes hope from our lives. When a loved one becomes terminally ill, we grieve in anticipation of their death, we grieve for the loss of them in our lives, and we grieve for our own mortality.

No one is immune to grief. There are those among us today, who have grieved deeply in the past, there are those who are grieving deeply now, and sadly, all of us will grieve at some time in the future. It is inevitable that if we love deeply, we will also grieve deeply, but few of us would deny ourselves the gift of love to our lives. So, grief becomes a part of our lives that we must learn to deal with. There are well documented stages to the grieving process, yet no two people's journey will be the same.

My journey began in June 2000, when my mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. This was delivered in a somewhat brutal manner by a doctor who told my dad and me, "Yes, your mother is in the early stages of Alzheimer's, here are the names of some medicines we can begin her on." I remember having this tightness in my throat and wanting to cry but kept my composure for my mom and dad. I had already anticipated this diagnosis, but was in shock.

Being in shock over her diagnosis was followed by anger and denial. I refused to believe that there was nothing I could do to keep my mom from getting worse and I began surfing the internet for any information I could find regarding her disease, hoping to find someone, somewhere who had found a cure. I was looking for a miracle and found none; however

the knowledge I acquired helped me to accept that my mom was not going to get any better and that she could get worse very quickly or it could be over a long period of time. This did not make it easier to bear. Living in expectation of a loved one getting worse and knowing the outcome, is like sitting on a time bomb, knowing that it is going to go off, but being powerless to stop it.

This long, drawn-out process is sometimes called anticipatory grief—a catch 22 situation where the caregiver knows the losses that will occur in the future but is powerless to change our forestall them.

Often, the long process of Alzheimer's is misinterpreted by others as a process that is accepted and hardened to, therefore it should not hurt so much! This grief is then disenfranchised or ignored, causing the caregiver to feel even more isolated in the grieving process.

I remember many people saying to me and my family that they didn't think my mom had Alzheimer's because she didn't seem so bad to them. However, they were not exposed to her on an everyday bases like some of us were. This statement would sometimes make me angry because I wanted to have her the way they had seen her all the time. This could sometimes be confusing because we knew what was wrong; yet at times she seemed to be herself.

For the person that is diagnosed, there is also grief over loss of self, loss of skills and competencies, loss of independence, and loss of dreams.

As the years went on, the disease got worse. Not only was my mom getting worse but it was taking a huge toll on my dad. For the first time in their 63 years of marriage, he could not turn to her (his wife) for strength. He recognized and supported her needs. I witnessed my dad taking care of my mom in a way that I had never seen. The love that was given to her on a daily basis. Getting her up, preparing her

meals, taking her to church and being with her all day long and then putting her to bed. Doing it all over again day after day. The emotional turmoil was affecting his health. He ached with tension, was not sleeping well and I can remember hearing him sometimes groaning involuntarily as if he were dying. I know now this was the anticipatory grief he was experiencing.

My mom was placed in a rest home seven months ago. She is being well taken care of, but it's not like it would be if she were at home. We all know she has to be there but it is terribly hard. The grief that is experienced with letting go and allowing others to take care of her was terribly hard and continues to be a struggle.

I try and visit my mom everyday if I can because I never know when the time will come I can't. She is not herself and I can't have real conversations with her but I know she is aware that I am with her and I feel that "my real mom" is there at times and that always makes me happy. She might not say anything at all that makes sense until I get ready to leave and then she will say, "Be careful, and I love you." This was always my mom's last words before I would walk out the door at home.

If you are a caregiver, you can expect to have feelings of loss and grief as your life and the person you love are changed by Alzheimer's disease. These feelings are difficult, but they are normal. Everyone grieves differently and at their own pace. If your grief is so intense that your well-being is at risk, don't be afraid to ask for help from your doctor or a professional counselor.

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. 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 at 683-1545 or betty.medley@pastoral.org.

The Adventures of a Young and Inexperienced Priest: “Don’t say you are a Priest”

Written by Fr. Carmelo Jimenez (Translated into English by Byron Macias)

When I arrived to the Diocese of San Cristóbal de las Casas, a priest approached me and said: “Carmelo, I will give you two pieces of advice, first, whenever you can leave the parish, leave; second, never say you are a priest (especially at military control booths).

I want to clarify that after the armed revolt in the State of Chiapas in 1994, the army set control booths in the high zone of the state. Chenalho, being a small territory in the state had 16 control booths and 13 booths with state soldiers besides the municipal police. There were, in addition, area policemen with provisional booths and constant patrolling.

The church started to be persecuted because it was believed that she the cause of the 1994 upheaval –or at least, it was thought she was behind all this issue. The leader of this armed movement became very famous under the name of “Sub-commandant Marcos;” a lot of people thought Marcos was the Bishop of the Diocese. In each village where there was a parish, mission or was simply ministered by a priest, they (the clergy) started to be harassed because of being of Don Samuel (that was how the Bishop of San Cristóbal was called). Lots of catechists were persecuted for they were considered dangerous for the security of the state. All this happened because of the Diocese’s strong commitment to serve the poor and exploited. The Church taught people the law, how to defend their rights, and how to ask for explanations. Yet, the government did not like this, because now the ignorant, the people whom they could manipulate as they pleased, were thinking and defending themselves. The ignorant demanded explanations and reasons why things happened.

The day I was going to be given the parish of San Pedro in Chenalho, we had to drive through at least three control posts at which I had to open my three suitcases so that they could check what I was carrying. At the first one, I remember, the Bishop told them I was the new priest who was going to stay in Chenalho, asking them to let us go so we could save time. The military there said that now they have even more reasons to search my baggage so that they could make sure I did not camouflage any arms. They searched through all my clothing going piece by piece. We were able to continue our drive after 30 or 40 minutes; all my stuff was a mess. When we finally arrived to Chenalho, there were about 30 people waiting for me to celebrate together my installation Mass. They received me by the city limits and we all entered the city in procession. When were about to get to our destination, the town president met us not to welcome us, though, but to insult us, telling us that we could not enter the temple for if we did so, we were going to be arrested. Thus, I was given the parish symbolically with a celebration in the street. Eventually, the Bishop left and so did everyone. I was there alone, afterwards.

One day I had a meeting in San Cristóbal de las Casas and I was going to be away for three days. That day, I just had returned from my pastoral visits to the far villages, so I forgot to take my suitcase. I left and I remembered about my suitcase as I was waiting for my 10-minute revision at the military post. I returned to the parish for my suitcase – after my second revision on the way back through the very booth, which I just passed a few minutes ago- and hit the road again. By the same booth, they made me get out of my car (for the third time) because they had to search through all my stuff again. All that was so despairing yet at the same time it helped to remain with the poor, remembering Christ’s words: “Blessed are they that suffer persecution for my name, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” That motivated me to continue walking with the indigenous. One day a priest, tired and frustrated because of his parish’ issues, went to see the Bishop. The priest fell down crying before Don Samuel and the Bishop told him: “Thank God you have problems because that is a sign that you are doing things the right way; if you had no problems, we would have to worry about you because you either cannot take it anymore or you are on the exploiter’s side.”

When looking at all the problems I had to face, I used to say: “Thank you, Lord, for taking me as an instrument to make known your love to the poor and defenseless.” All those problems made me seek God more and more; it made me feel more in need of Him. Now I understand the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is

the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land. Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven; for in the same manner they persecuted the prophets before you.” (Mt 5: 4-12).

The indigenous taught me to trust deeply in God who never abandons his children and who always walks with the. I learned to say that I was not a priest, while inside I recognized myself as loved by God though persecuted by men. The priest who gave me those two pieces of advice was right.

Undocumented Men Jailed Unjustly by one Judge, Released by Another Judge’s Decision

By Paul Witte

Aldo Flores, a 20 year old youth of St. Susan’s parish, told me one day around 9 months ago that Sue Carol Browning, the judge in the court where Hispanics with traffic infractions or other minor offenses have to go, had started expelling undocumented people from Kentucky. He asked me if she had the authority to do that. I said probably not but that I didn’t know what I could do to get her to stop it.

Sometimes I accompany those who are ticketed by police to the court. I saw that what Aldo said was indeed true. Every time that an undocumented person went before her, she asked him if he had documents and a Social Security number. Almost always the undocumented person admitted his illegal status and then she told them they had to leave the state of Kentucky within 72 hours and not ever return under pain of being jailed.

Finally I decided to look for help because what the judge did seemed to me unjust and also cruel. I called Father Stan Puryear and he recommended that I call the Kentucky Bishops’ Conference to talk to Father Patrick Delahanty. This was in June 2006.

Father Delahanty spoke with someone at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the agency charged with the supervision of all the courts of justice of the State of Kentucky. They said that they would speak to the judge about stopping the expelling of Hispanics, that they would tell her it wasn’t her responsibility. A month went by without her changing her action. Father Delahanty called the AOC back. This was in August 2006. The 29 of August I accompanied a church member who had received a ticket for not having a license. In the courtroom there were a number of other Hispanics, some I knew and others I didn’t know. As I always do, I spoke with several of them to try to get a feel for their situation. Then the court session started and we waited our turn. Finally the judge called on those who needed an interpreter, that is, the Hispanics. She directed those who were undocumented to gather together on one side of the courtroom and she asked the interpreter to translate her words. The judge addressed the eleven undocumented Hispanics. She said that the Catholic Church had complained about her expelling undocumented persons. She told them that instead of expelling them from the State of Kentucky she was going to hold them so the immigration authorities could deport them.

She had them held without bond and without legal counsel, that is, without a lawyer to defend them. Right there in the courtroom the judge called the federal agency charged with immigration matter and deportation to ask them to take the detained people, but they refused her request. Despite that, she ordered them held until immigration came to get them.

I immediately called Father Delahanty and he contacted some lawyers who contacted the public defenders for our part of Kentucky. Attorney Leilani Krashin was named as the person to defend the men without any charge for her services. She asked

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Unsure of Mission, Lourdes Youth Group Gear Up, Go To Serve Anyway

By Danny May

When eleven youth from Our Lady of Lourdes in Owensboro departed for Gulfport, Mississippi, on June 4th, we knew that the purpose of our trip was to accomplish a mission. Until we arrived, however, we were completely unaware of what that mission would be.

Even though Katrina had ravaged the Gulf Coast nearly ten months before our mission started, the category 5 hurricane left an infinite number of challenges for us to meet. Homes that had not been completely swept away by terrifying ocean swells – which often penetrated five or six blocks into the coastline – sustained sufficient water and structural damage. Torrents of rain fell upon the area, flooding and contaminating homes and businesses. Winds that reached 175 miles per hour also contributed to the current ghost-like feeling of Gulfport, a once lively tourist hub.

As a result, there were countless ways for us to make a difference. Project Hope and Compassion, a hurricane relief organization based at St. Ann's Church in Lizana, Mississippi, helped channel our abilities – which included roofing, siding, framing, putting up drywall, and other construction procedures (the Lourdes Youth Group had built a house the previous summer to benefit the homeless in our sister diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica) – into two major projects to help victims of the disaster get their lives back to normalcy.

In five days' time, we had significantly improved two homes. The first home, which was uninhabitable because of molded walls and ceilings in two bedrooms, belonged to an elderly woman who was temporarily living in a FEMA-provided mobile home in her front yard. In addition to needing new walls and ceilings, Ms. Evelina also needed two of her doorways widened so that she could maneuver her scooter through her house. After some thinking – and several buckets of sweat – her needs were met by the end of the fourth day. She had fresh drywall, a new ceiling, and two widened doors. Perhaps the most remarkable change, however, was the hope that was now evident on Ms. Evelina's face. When we first arrived, Kristin Tichenor asked Ms. Evelina, "How are you doing today?"

"No so good. Today is a bad day," she responded, a note of disparity in her voice.

After a couple days of hard work, however, Ms. Evelina had a different response to Krisin's question.

"I'm doing good. Today is a much better day..."

St. Joseph, Bowling Green, Grandparents Day Mass

(Continued from page 33)

Fr. Jerry also asked what we can do, as their grandparents, to influence their lives and faith? Like Mary, we can be a model for them. And it is important that each grandchild feels important and special, one at a time. "...And," he added, "ask them to pray FOR YOU and WITH YOU!"

In closing, Fr. Jerry asked that we pray and give thanks to God for our grandchildren.

The special Mass for Grandparents Day at St. Joseph Church in Bowling Green was a wonderful experience for the grandparents of the children who attend St. Joseph School and an excellent way to show appreciation that yes, grandparents play a very big role in the lives of their grandchildren.

Pat S. Smith, a parishioner at Holy Spirit, is a grandmother of four, Luke 9, Dylan 7, Caroline Grace, 4 and Miriam, 2.



Seen here from left to right with Fr. Jerry Riney are John and Sue Mudd of Grayson County, parents of Danissa Lewis and Rick and Barb Lewis, of Hardin County, parents of Scott Lewis... Grandchildren of the Mudds and Lewises in front are Jude, Nina and Hope, and also Kelly Wells, a friend of the Lewis children. Pat S. Smith Photo



Lyndsey Bernard uses a bar to remove molded drywall from Ms. Evelina's house.

it's because you all are here."

While a team of five finished the drywall job, the rest of our crew began a different project just a few houses down the street. From the outside, this house looked abandoned and beaten. It was obvious that little work had been done since the storm. Blue tarp served as the roof, and the house was bending in the middle (it was elevated by cinder blocks). To our surprise, however, the house belonged to a large family with several small children. As we soon learned, they had been unable to do any repair work on their house because they had no roof to keep the rain from damaging their repairs. For months and months they had waited for someone to fix their roof. Most mission groups, however, either did not have enough time or enough experience to complete such a feat. Our group put a tin roof over their heads in one day.

Though we did not have enough time – or enough materials – to repair the rest of their house, we gave them a beginning. And to this family, a beginning was the beacon of hope that they needed.

Having completed our assigned projects in four days, we began Friday with Mass at the parish whose parishioners we had helped. And by the looks on the faces of the small congregation, one could see that we did indeed bring hope to their community. Later that day, we had lunch at God's Katrina Kitchen, a place on the beachfront for volunteers and victims to grab a free meal and relate their stories. During the week that we were there, the operation was feeding over 2,000 mouths a day, proving that volunteers were still needed ten months after Katrina hit.

Katrina is the worst natural disaster recorded in the history of the United States. In fact, the damage it inflicted has caused it to be referred to as a "once in one thousand years" storm. It took away family members, friends, neighbors, homes, pets, businesses, and a way of living. In short, Katrina forever altered the lives of the people she affected. The Lourdes Youth Group may have just

replaced drywall in two rooms and put a roof over one family's head, but though these feats were small in the grand scheme of things, they were two huge steps – two beacons of hope – for victims of the storm who were trying to live again.



Daniel Whitehouse, Danny May, and Ryan Howard move a stranded boat from Ms. Evelina's yard.



National Adoption Month

Celebrating a beautiful way to build families

November is Adoption Awareness Month. It's an opportunity to celebrate the lives of people touched by the beauty of adoption — the birthparents, the adoptive parents, and the children. It's also an opportunity for us here at Catholic Charities to try to educate, to eliminate some of the myths surrounding adoption, and to encourage people who may have never before considered adoption to take the time to consider it as a viable option for building their family. If you'd like more information about adoption (either domestic or international), please contact: **Catholic Charities, Diocese of Owensboro; Phone: 1-270-852-8328 toll free: 1-877-803-5064**

Positive Adoption Language

The way we talk — and the words we choose — say a lot about what we think and value. When we use positive adoption language, we say that adoption is a way to build a family, just as birth is. Both are important; one is not more important than the other.

Choose the following positive adoption language instead of the negative talk that helps perpetuate the myth that adoption is second-best. By using positive adoption language, you'll reflect the true nature of adoption, free of innuendo.

- Birthparent** . . . instead of "real parent"
- Biological parent** . . . instead of "natural parent"
- Birth child** . . . instead of "own child"
- Born to unmarried parents** . . . instead of "illegitimate"
- Make an adoption plan** . . . instead of "give away"
- To Parent** . . . instead of "to keep"
- Child placed for adoption** . . . instead of "unwanted child"

FACTS:

- As of the 2000 Census, there were 1.5 million children under age 18 in America who joined their family through adoption, 2% of all children in the U.S.
- In the U.S., there are 5 million people today who were adopted. More than 100,000 children are adopted each year.
- 65% of all Americans have a personal connection to adoption and view it favorably.

6 Myths & Realities About Adoption

MYTH: There are very few babies being placed for adoption.
REALITY: 20,000 or more U.S.-born infants are placed for adoption each year — as many or more than the number of international adoptions yearly.

MYTH: Adoption is outrageously expensive.
REALITY: Adoption is often no more expensive than giving birth. There are sometimes employer adoption benefits as well as a \$10,000 Adoption Tax Credit to help defray the expenses.

MYTH: It takes years to complete an adoption.
REALITY: The average time span of adoption is one to two years. The majority of domestic and international adopters who responded to a recent poll by *Adoptive Families* Magazine completed their adoptions in less than a year.

MYTH: Birthparents can show up at any time to reclaim their child.
REALITY: Once an adoption is finalized, the adoptive family is recognized as the child's family by law. Despite the publicity surrounding a few high-profile cases, post-adoption revocations are extremely rare.

MYTH: Adopted children are more likely to be troubled than birth children.
REALITY: Research shows that adoptees are as well-adjusted as their non-adopted peers. There is virtually no difference in psychological functioning between them.

MYTH: Parents can't love an adopted child as much as they would a biological child.
REALITY: Love and attachment are not the result of nor guaranteed by biology. The intensity of bonding and depth of emotion are the same, regardless of how the child joined the family.



For more information about domestic or international adoptions, contact Catholic Charities Adoptions, Diocese of Owensboro at 270-852-8328; toll free 1-877-803-5064; adoptions@pastoral.org

Why Marriage Matters to Children and to the Common Good**By Maggie Gallagher**

For Catholics marriage is a sacrament, revealing Christ's indestructible love. The Catholic tradition has always recognized that marriage is also a natural relationship. People of any faith or none can marry, and their marriages matter to God, to each other, to their children, and to the community.

A group of respected marriage and family scholars recently met to document the social science evidence that marriage matters. While there are, of course, single parents who do a splendid job of child-rearing under very difficult circumstances, the scholars reached these conclusions among others:

Marriage reduces the risk of poverty for children and communities. The majority of children whose parents don't marry or don't stay married experience at least a year of poverty.

Fatherless households increase crime. Boys whose parents divorced or never married are two to three times more likely to end up in jail as adults.

Marriage protects children's physical and mental health. Children whose parents marry and stay married are healthier and much less likely to suffer mental illness, including depression and teen suicide. Both men and women who marry live longer, healthier, and happier lives. On virtually every measure of health and well-being, married people are better off.

Cohabiting is not the same as marriage. Couples who just live together without the commitment of marriage do not get the same boost to health, welfare, and happiness, on average, as spouses. Children whose parents cohabit are at increased risk for domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect.

Parents who don't marry or stay married put children's education at risk. Children whose parents divorced or never married have lower grade-point averages, and are more likely to be held back a grade, and to drop out of school.

When marriages fail, ties between parents and children typically weaken, too. In one large national survey, 65 percent of adult children of divorce reported they were not close to their fathers (compared to 29 percent of adults from intact marriages).

Any development that weakens the norms of the married family will increase all these risks to children and to the communities in which these children live. An

impressive number of studies confirm that individual children are more likely to engage in criminal conduct when raised in fatherless households.

Relatively little is known from a scientific standpoint about how children fare when raised by same-sex couples. After reviewing several hundred studies, University of Virginia sociologist Steven Nock concluded: "[N]ot a single one of those studies was conducted according to generally accepted standards of scientific research."

Children raised by same-gender couples remain a social experiment, about which we can say little with scientific certainty.

Marriage Matters for the Good of Society

Reconnecting marriage with its great historic cross-cultural task of encouraging men and women to beget and raise the next generation has never been a more urgent priority. On the one hand, a large majority of modern democracies are now experiencing very low birthrates, amid increasingly urgent concern about the social, economic, and political consequences.

As the eminent legal scholar and religious historian John Witte notes: Procreation ... means more than just conceiving children. It also means rearing and educating them for spiritual and temporal living. ... The good of procreation cannot be achieved in this fuller sense simply through the licit union of husband and wife in sexual intercourse. It also requires maintenance of a faithful, stable, and permanent union of husband and wife for the sake of their children.

Marriage is also important for the intergenerational transmission of faith. Getting married, staying married, building loving marriages, and having children are the principle means through which a community propels itself into the future. When a nation or faith community succeeds in transmitting a powerful vision of marriage to the next generation, the result is not only good for children, it is vital to the future of the whole community.

Is it possible to do a better job building a stronger marriage culture among Catholics? Yes. We can take inspiration from other religious groups who are fighting the same de-constructing forces in the public culture.

The family is the prime evangelizer, one of the most powerful incubators of religious faith and identity. Christianity grew from a tiny group in Jerusalem to

the faith of the Roman Empire in just 300 years. Playing no small part in this rise was Christian sexual ethics which, unlike secular Roman ethics, forbade infanticide, contraception, and non-marital sexuality, and discouraged family disruption and desertion.

If the Church community succeeded in finding the energy and means to transmit a Catholic vision of marriage and family only to churchgoing Catholics and their children, so that they became ten percent more likely to marry, stay married, and have children who grow up with a similar commitment to building families, both the Church and the public square would be transformed within thirty years. We can and must inspire, re-educate, serve, and protect those Catholics who want to recommit to a Catholic vision of marriage and family. The next generation is watching. They need to see us confidently defend marriage in the pews and in the public square.

In this context, the three most urgent tasks for the Church are to: a. affirm the value of children in the mind of the Catholic community; b. develop ministries and programs to help distressed couples avoid divorce and rebuild loving marriages; c. help, support, and teach Catholic parents seeking to transmit their marriage vision to their own children, in the face of an increasingly confused and hostile public square.

The task in renewing marriage is no less than to renew, for this generation and the next, faith in love. Human beings desperately want to believe that our deepest drives and longings have a purpose, that they are directing us toward love, goodness, renewal. In marriage, men and women come together in faith to make the future happen. These are not private and personal matters, but the shared urgent business of the entire community.

Maggie Gallagher is President of the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy and a coauthor of The Case for Marriage.

Undocumented Men Jailed Unjustly*(continued from page 39)*

that another judge with more authority hear her petition to get the men out of jail. Beside the eleven who were jailed in Todd County, another four were jailed in Logan County (Russellville) under the same judicial order.

After ten days of incarceration the men were freed. The judge who released them, Tyler Gill, said that Judge Browning had abused the rights of the Hispanics who were jailed. Furthermore, he declared that she had denied rights that are guaranteed by the Kentucky Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

On September 11 I sent an official complaint regarding the judge's illegal action to the Commission of Judicial Behavior that exists to watch the actions of judges of the entire State of Kentucky. I have yet to receive a response from the Commission (October 11) but I know that the judge has been contacted by them. Some others men were arrested and detained between August 29 and September 8 when the majority of the men were released from jail. They too were detained on the same judicial order. One of them was a legal resident of the United States, and lost his job because he was in jail so long.

Many say that Judge Browning is a racist, but I do not believe so. She is a person dedicated to the law. She wants to treat everyone justly, but in this case she made a big mistake. The nation's law exists to serve all residents, not to take away their rights. Furthermore, there is a more important law than human law, the natural law that indicates that all human beings have dignity and deserve to be treated justly despite their civil status. The majority of undocumented Hispanics who are in this country are here to work because in their homes in Mexico, Guatemala or elsewhere, there is no adequate work. The natural law and the lay of God oblige us Americans to open our borders and our hearts. I believe that some day soon the government of our county will develop a new and just law, but meanwhile we have to depend on the current law, a law that doesn't work because it does not reflect the reality in our world today. We have to depend, instead, on the natural law and God's law that commands us to treat the foreigner in a just manner.

Gran Kermés Guadalupana en Hopkinsville

Por Byron Macías

El fin de semana del 16 y 17 de septiembre fue muy intenso para el Comité Guadalupano de la Parroquia San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville.

El Comité y voluntarios, coordinados por Lupita Rosas, Juanita Montejos y Ana Ethridge nos brindaron un gran festival familiar para recaudar fondos para la celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre del 2006. El festival inició el sábado 16 de septiembre a las 10am con un torneo de voleibol con equipos de Elkton, Guthrie, Hopkinsville, Springfield y Nashville. El equipo ganador fue el de Hopkinsville. Luego del torneo inició la Kermés con deliciosa comida Mexicana, Italiana y Americana, mucha música, la siempre popular lotería y la gran celebración del Grito de Independencia para recordar la Independencia de México. El festival cerró con el Baile de Independencia gracias al DJ "El Primo", hasta la medianoche. Al siguiente día, la Kermés prosiguió desde las 8am hasta las 5pm con más rica comida, lotería, futbolito, inflables para los niños y mucha diversión y compañerismo.

Esta kermés fue una gran oportunidad para que todos los parroquianos interactúen unos con otros y celebren juntos. Este año tuvimos una concurrencia record y los fondos recaudados casi doblaron la meta propuesta. Lo más importante de esto fue que este gran evento fue planeado y hecho por las representantes del Comité Guadalupano, quienes han comprobado ser excelentes líderes parroquiales. El Comité Guadalupano también agradece a todos los benefactores, voluntarios y a toda la gente que asistió al evento por todo su apoyo.

Der: Jóvenes de la parroquia de San José en Mayfield durante la celebración de Independencia. **Abajo:** El Baile de los Viejitos

Right: Youth of the parish of St. Joseph in Mayfield during the Independence Celebration. **Below:** The Dance of the Viejitos (Little Old Men)



Isq: Lupita, Juanita, Leticia y Yolanda sirviendo la comida durante el Gran Kermés en Hopkinsville. **Abajo:** Eduardo Contreras, miembro de San Pedro y San Pablo, cantando la lotería.

Left: Lupita, Juanita Leticias y Yolanda serving food during the Grand Kermés in Hopkinsville. **Below:** Eduardo Contreras, member of Sts. Peter and Paul calling Lotería.



Los Hispanos en Mayfield Celebran la Independencia

Por Liliana Duran

El día 16 de Septiembre del 2006 se llevó acabo el evento tradicional del grito de la Independencia de México, Guatemala, El Salvador, y Honduras. Este evento se llevó acabo en el salón el Bingo en Mayfield, KY. Este evento se comenzó con una

kermés y termino con un baile.

Durante la kermés hubo muchos platillos mexicanos y muchas diversiones para los niños y adultos. Por ejemplo: pozole, taquitos, agua de horchata....hubo futbolito, un pony para los niños, tiro a los globos, tiros con aros, y mucho más.

En la kermés también se llevo acabo el juramento a la bandera organizado por los jóvenes de la Liga Juvenil Misionera (escolta). Y así todos juntos pudimos dar el grito de la independencia (¡¡VIVA MEXICO!!). También hubo un joven acompañado por un niño que hicieron el tradicional Baile de los Viejitos de Michoacán. Después dos compañeros de la Liga Juvenil Misionera (Arabel y Reginaldo) compusieron una canción dedicada para toda la comunidad que asistió a este evento.

Después de la kermés comenzó el famoso baile, en cual asistió casi todo Mayfield. En cual también se llevó a cabo el famoso juego de los matrimonios, y dos jóvenes (de la Liga y Red) estuvieron escogiendo parejas para casarlos. Durante el baile estuvieron disponibles todos los antojitos.

En conclusión este evento se llevó acabo para ayudar en la reparación del piso del gimnasio de la parroquia de San José en Mayfield. Gracias a toda las personas que asistieron a este evento, pudimos lograr juntar la cantidad de \$4,000 que se le fueron entregados al padre Ken durante la misa el día 17 de Septiembre por el joven Homero Arellano.

Con Jesús todo viene junto

Mis queridos amigos:

Cuando pensamos en noviembre, pensamos en un número de eventos significantes que tienen lugar en este mes. Primero que nada, celebramos la fiesta de Todos los Santos, la cual es un día santo de obligación en los Estados Unidos este año, ya que cae en un miércoles.

Un día santo de obligación es cuando la Iglesia nos llama a todos a celebrar la Eucaristía como una obligación. Yo sé que muchos no toman esta llamada con seriedad pero deberíamos.

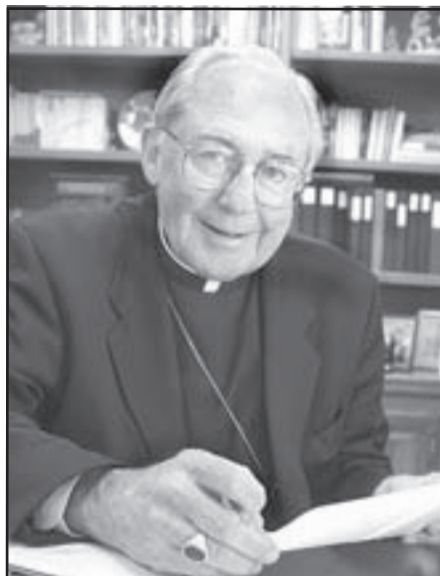
En Todos Santos, nosotros honramos especialmente a la Comunión de los Santos, los cuales incluyen no sólo aquellos que han sido declarados santos por decreto especial de la Iglesia sino también a la vasta mayoría de aquellos que ahora disfrutan de la vida eterna con Dios. Por la misericordia de Dios, si ellos vivieron como verdaderos discípulos de Cristo Jesús. Éste es un día tan especial para nosotros porque recordamos a aquellos que se han ido antes que nosotros, aquellos que ayudaron a pasarnos la fe, dándonos la muestra con la vida que ellos vivieron. Todos nosotros hemos tenido mucha gente en nuestras vidas que estuvieron cercanos a nosotros aquí en la tierra, quienes ahora están cerca de nosotros en la Comunión de los Santos. Todos Santos es un día para dar gracias por sus vidas, por haber compartido los dones de Dios con nosotros y por su continua preocupación por nosotros. Éste es un día en que celebramos la Eucaristía (dar gracias) por ellos y le pedimos a la Comunión de los Santos nos ayude a cada uno de nosotros a llevar una vida que termine con nosotros uniéndonos a ellos en la felicidad de toda la eternidad. Este día honra a los Santos, mientras que a nosotros nos da una oportunidad de observar nuestras propias vidas para estar seguros de que estamos siguiéndolos como verdaderos Discípulos de Cristo.

Todos Santos es también un día en el que rezamos de una forma especial por aquellos cuyas vidas fueron tomadas antes de que tuvieran la oportunidad de nacer y compartir sus dones de gracia con nosotros. En este día, rezamos de forma especial para terminar el aborto AHORA y para siempre.

Seguimos la celebración de este día con la Fiesta de Conmemoración de todos los Fieles Difuntos, Todas las Almas. En este día, la Iglesia reza por todos los que, en el sufrimiento purificador del Purgatorio, esperan el día en que se han de unir en compañía de todos los Santos. Nosotros ofrecemos nuestras plegarias, sacrificios y sufrimientos por ellos en este día y cada día.

Entonces éstos son dos días en los que recordamos a aquellos que tocaron nuestras vidas por su fe y les rezamos y rezamos por ellos. También rezamos por todos nosotros los que vivimos ahora para que podamos unirnos un día en la felicidad eterna en la presencia de nuestro Dios Todopoderoso y Siempre amoroso.

Ahora, adelantémonos con toda prisa al Día de dar Gracias, cuando nuestra Iglesia nos llama a ser agradecidos por todo lo que Dios nos ha dado – lo cual es todo lo que somos y todo lo que tenemos. En este día, primero damos gracias por nuestra fe, en seguida rezamos para vivir esa fe llenos de alegría, no sólo en el día de gracias sino a lo largo de todo el año. Damos gracias por todas las bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado: la vida, la familia,



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

los amigos, así como nuestras muchas cosas materiales que deben ser compartidas y disfrutadas por todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

Las raíces del Día de dar Gracias se remontan a cuando los peregrinos y los nativos se reunieron para celebrar una cosecha abundante. ¿Qué mejor forma de expresar sus gracias a Dios que compartiendo su comida y otras necesidades de la vida? Pongo atención en las raíces porque estamos ahora en el centro de la búsqueda de formas justas para que gente nueva venga a esta gran nación. Ellos vienen por muchas razones – muchas de las mismas razones que trajeron a los primeros inmigrantes de esta parte del mundo. Todos recordemos nuestras propias raíces, recordemos cómo el primer día de dar Gracias tuvo lugar y hagamos todo lo que podamos para igualar la buena voluntad de esta nación temprana. Quizás una nueva forma de bienvenida está a la orden, pero debemos reconocer los derechos de aquellos quienes ahora vienen a nuestras costas y fronteras a ser tratados como nosotros quisiéramos ser tratados, si fuéramos forzados por cualquier razón a buscar un nuevo país. Recordemos que, este país se enorgullece a si mismo por ser una nación que ofrece libertad y justicia para todos. Les pido que mantengan la lucha por la reforma de inmigración en sus oraciones y también que mantengan la fe en el hecho de que Dios nos ha dado a todos nosotros lo que tenemos. Si tenemos más de lo necesitamos, Él espera que nosotros lo compartamos con otros.

Termino recordándoles que la col-

ecta de la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano tendrá lugar en cada parroquia el fin de semana del 19 de noviembre. El dinero recaudado en esta colecta se usa para ayudar a los pobres. Ésta es una oportunidad para todos nosotros para atender a nuestro llamado a ser buenos administradores de todo lo que Dios nos ha dado – todo lo que tenemos – y ver que tan bien lo estamos haciendo al compartir con aquellos que no tienen. Comenzamos por compartir el regalo más grande: nuestra fe. Nuestra fe entonces nos guía para trabajar hacia compartir nuestro tiempo, talentos y recursos materiales con aquellos que viven sin lo necesario para la vida. Por un lado, el dinero donado en la colecta de CCHD (por sus siglas en inglés) se divide entre la diócesis (25 por ciento) y el resto de los Estados Unidos (75 por ciento).

Todo esto parece estar muy lejos de donde empecé esta carta para ustedes, pero en realidad no lo está. En el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25, leemos la gran historia de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Él hace una lista de cosas que deberíamos hacer. Como un ejemplo, Él dice Yo estaba hambriento y me diste de comer. La gente dice, “¿Cuándo te vimos hambriento y te dimos de comer o no te dimos de comer?” Jesús fue rápido al contestar, “Cuando lo hicisteis por el que tiene menos de todos ustedes, lo hacéis por mí.” Bien, mis amigos, esa escritura es en verdad lo que significa los días de Todos los Santos y Todas las Almas. Nos convertimos en santos mediante ver y tratar a nuestra hermana y hermano como trataríamos al mismo Jesucristo.

Nosotros caminamos juntos como peregrinos en nuestro camino a casa para estar con Dios para toda la eternidad. Que tengan un feliz Día de Gracias.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ John J. McRaith

Reverendísimo John J. McRaith
Obispo de Owensboro

Misa y Celebración Diocesana del Ministerio Hispano

Sábado, 18 de noviembre; 11am - 2pm

**Parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo en
Hopkinsville (902 East 9th Street)**

Todos están invitados a una Misa especial para entregar el Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano al Monseñor McRaith. Después de la Misa habrá una Celebración para agradecer a todos los que trabajaron en el Plan en las parroquias.

Plan Pastoral Diocesano

Por favor manden sugerencias para cambios al Plan antes del 8 de noviembre a Patti Murphy. (Patricia.Murphy@pastoral.org) Si quieren ver el borrador del Plan, pida una copia de su párroco o visite: www.owensborodio.org/hispanic

Historias De La Vida Que Hay Que Contar

Pbro. Alejandro Godínez Alcántar

Hola, mi nombre es Alejandro Godínez Alcántar, nací un 24 de Abril de 1970, en Torreón, Coahuila, México. Provengo de una familia integrada por 3 mujeres y 6 hombres, en total somos 9, de los cuales yo soy el número 7, y mis papás que ya murieron.

Mi infancia transcurrió normal, como todos los niños, lleno de cariño de mis papás, desde muy pequeño (5 años) mis papás me enviaron al catecismo a prepararme para hacer mi primera comunión, hecho que realicé a los 6 años, en ese tiempo yo era el más pequeño del grupo ya que mis compañeros tenían entre 8 y 9 años.

Cursé mis primeros años de jardín de niños, primaria, secundaria y preparatoria en un pueblo llamado Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila, distante a 20 minutos de la ciudad de Torreón, Coahuila. A la edad de 16 años, una prima me invitó a formar parte de un grupo de jóvenes que iba a iniciar en la capilla cercana a mi casa, yo acepté con gusto, pues ahí iban a estar mis amigos, en ese grupo duré cerca de 4 años, en una ocasión nos invitaron a asistir a las pláticas cuaresmales que se iban a impartir en mi parroquia, con gusto aceptamos todos los muchachos del grupo juvenil, y cuál va siendo mi sorpresa que al llegar a la parroquia, me encuentro que esas pláticas las iban a impartir los seminaristas, pero mas grande fue mi sorpresa cuando descubro que en el grupo del seminario a un compañero de secundaria llamado César, él había decidido ser sacerdote, estuvimos toda la semana en las pláticas, pero el martes César me dijo “oye, ¿no te gustaría entrar al seminario y ser sacerdote?” a lo que mi respuesta primero fue un rotundo NO, le dije, “a mí no me gustaría andar en sotana.” Pero esa pregunta me estuvo dando vueltas toda la semana, y por fin llegamos al final de la semana recuerdo muy bien era viernes como a las 7 de la tarde, cuando César me dijo, “¿entonces qué, te animaste?” yo no supe qué contestar, (sin duda Dios ya estaba haciendo su trabajo), me dejó una información con las fechas de los retiros, a los cuales asistí.

Al siguiente año del encuentro con César, decidí entrar al seminario. Cursé 4 años de filosofía en el seminario de Torreón y casi a punto de terminar mi cuarto año, el Obispo de la diócesis de Parral, Chihuahua, México, nos invitó a varios seminaristas a pertenecer a su diócesis, pues estaba recién creada y necesitaba sacerdotes y seminaristas, a lo que solo tres respondimos a su llamado. Estando en Parral, Chihuahua, estudié un año de teología en el seminario de Ciudad Juárez y 3 años en la Universidad Pontificia de la Ciudad de México.

Al terminar mis 8 años de estudio, vino la fecha de ordenación diaconal que fue el 16 de Julio del 2000, por manos de mi Obispo, en Catedral de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Parral, Chihuahua

En agosto de ese mismo año mi Obispo Don José Andrés Corral Arredondo, me manda a la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, esta es una parroquia que esta en la sierra Tarahumara, ahí estuve por un año y medio desempeñando mi trabajo primero como diácono por 7 meses, y después me ordenó sacerdote el 16 de Febrero del año 2001, en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, en Torreón, Coahuila. Continué en la sierra por 10 meses más.

Después el Obispo me cambió a la Parroquia de San José, en la ciudad de Parral, chihuahua, ahí estuve trabajando un año en la catequesis infantil, comenzamos la misa de niños, formamos el coro, los lectores y colectores, todos ellos eran niños.

Después de ese año, me piden que me haga cargo de la Pastoral Juvenil, del periódico parroquial, y de un programa de radio que tenía los viernes, en esos apostolados estuve 3 años y medio, en la pastoral juvenil, realizamos 3 pascuas juveniles, dos congresos, todos ellos en el gimnasio de la ciudad. Cabe hacer mención que la parroquia contaba con 8 grupos juveniles, y por lo tanto era darle un aire fresco a esos grupos y sobre todo darles creatividad. En el periódico llamado “Enlace Juvenil” lo hacíamos todas las semanas, tocábamos temas relacionados con la homilía, lecturas de la semana, el santoral, reportajes, avisos y actividades de la parroquia.

El programa de radio, era todos los viernes de 8 a 10 de la noche, en esas dos horas las dividimos en 4 secciones, una sección era “Barco de Papel” ahí hablábamos de valores, derechos y obligaciones de los niños, la siguiente sección era “Círculo Diocesano” en dicha sección siempre teníamos invitados, la otra sección era “Encuentro Mariano”, resaltábamos la figura de María, y por último “Familia Cristiana” tocábamos temas concernientes a toda la familia.

A finales del mes de febrero de este año, el Obispo me manda llamar y me dice que en una de sus visitas a Estados Unidos conoció al Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro, y que le había pedido un sacerdote, a lo cual me dice que me ponga en contacto con él, eso lo hago en el mes de marzo, comienzo a realizar todos los procedimientos para la visa de trabajo, y desde el mes de junio estoy en la Diócesis de Owensboro, en la parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, de la ciudad de Paducah, trabajando con la comunidad

hispana.

Católico de Kentucky Occidental, Noviembre, 2006 **3**

Desde mi llegada a la diócesis, he recibido una gran acogida por parte de los sacerdotes, y de la comunidad, espero responderles con amor y dedicación, los hispanos son personas trabajadoras y nobles, que buscan a Dios y yo espero dárselos a conocer, mostrarles a un Jesús que los acompaña y los bendice.

Antes de despedirme, quisiera darle un agradecimiento al P. Ken Mikulckik, pastor de la Iglesia de San José en Mayfield por todos estos meses de acompañamiento, que el Señor lo llene de bendiciones junto a su comunidad y María nuestra Madre interceda por el en su ministerio.

Pues esta es parte de mi vida, ya en otra ocasión les hablaré un poco más de mi ministerio, de estos 5 años y medio de vida sacerdotal, no me quiero despedir de ustedes sin antes decirles que Dios los bendiga en sus familias y en sus trabajos.

Y ahora si me despido con la frase que siempre me ha acompañado en mi vida sacerdotal “me arrodillé consciente de mi nada, y me levanté siendo sacerdote”, estoy para servirles, sinceramente y con amor de hermano.

“Dar lo mejor que tengo en servicio de los demás”

Por Cristóbal Gutiérrez

Entre las muchas cosas que nos han bendecido como diócesis en los últimos años, sin duda está el contar con algunas hermanas religiosas hispanas, que con su esfuerzo y dedicación han contribuido y apoyado bastante a la maduración y crecimiento de nuestros hispanos en la región.

En esta ocasión quisiera destacar y hablarles sobre la Hermana Imelda Quechol Varela. Mexicana, oriunda de Santa María Tonanzintla Cholula estado de Puebla. Para empezar. Fíjense que incluso parte de su nombre refleja solo parte de las muchas cualidades que la distinguen. “Quechol” que significa Amistad en un dialecto mexicano. Sus padres son Rosendo Quechol y Doña Félix Varela, y es la mayor de entre ocho hermanas y cuatro hermanos.

A su temprana edad de los 18 años comenzó su formación religiosa. Empezando por el postulante en Puebla siguiendo con su noviciado en Huamantla, Tlaxcala. Consagró temporalmente su vida a Dios en 1998 y su profesión perpetua la realizó el 14 de agosto de 1994. El anillo que lleva siempre sobre su dedo, con la fecha grabada, es signo de su entrega, consagración y amor por Dios.

Como toda una buena misionera partió hacia una de sus experiencias misioneras el 8 de octubre de 1991, viajando y tratando de adaptarse a la nueva cultura arribó a Atlanta, Georgia el 3 de Enero de 1992. En la ciudad de Rome comenzaron su ministerio con una comunidad de 100 familias que no contaban con líderes. Trabajaron arduamente ella, y las demás hermanas hasta el 14 de agosto, fecha en que fue destinada a la misión en Chatanooga, Tennessee. En esta región solo ella y otras tres hermanas atendían hasta ocho parroquias en el área. En febrero del año 2000 la hermana Imelda regresó a Rome como superiora local. Coordinando el ministerio hispano en la parroquia de San Clemente en este momento que ya cuenta con cuatrocientas familias, tres misas dominicales en español, tres coros, un grupo de jóvenes, y un consejo que apoyaba a la pastoral hispana. Pero toda esta carga de trabajo nunca la hicieron desanimarse a la hermana Imelda gracias a su tan fuerte amor por Dios reflejado en la misión y en la donación de si misma. Como diría ella: “Siempre ha sido mi meta dar lo mejor que tengo para servir a los demás.”

La meta de su comunidad religiosa siempre ha sido formar y preparar a los fieles de las parroquias para que ellas puedan seguir su misión de formación en otros lugares. Ahora la Hermana Imelda tiene poco más de dos meses en Mayfield Kentucky, sirviendo en la parroquia de San José. Está contenta y feliz por la nueva experiencia que vive de compartir de sus talentos y amor con la gente. Siempre trata de dar lo mejor de Sí a su gente, su meta siempre ha sido servir a los demás...



La Hermana Imelda Quechol y el Padre Alejandro Godínez

Ser Pro-Vida es Ser Hospitalario



Padre Ken Mikulcik, Párroco de la Parroquia de San José en Mayfield, KY.

Mientras las décadas se han ido sin dar protección a la vida humana antes del nacimiento, todos nosotros probablemente hemos reflexionado sobre el sentido de ser antiaborto así como ser pro-vida. Ser antiaborto ciertamente implica un objetivo político y legal de dar protección al no nacido. Pero todos reconocemos que ser pro-vida es un concepto más rico que simplemente ser antiaborto. Nos hemos dado cuenta que ser pro-vida significa abrazar las dificultades de la vida, hacer sacrificios y reconocer la dignidad de cada persona en cualquier etapa de la vida en que el o ella esté. Una de mis formas favoritas de enmarcar

la perspectiva de pro-vida es en los términos de la hospitalidad, la cual es una virtud. La hospitalidad es el hábito de ser una persona que da la bienvenida, cuidando de los demás y hacer un lugar para ellos. ¿No es eso lo que muchos centros de cuidado durante el embarazo aspiran a conseguir? ¿Con qué frecuencia hemos deseado que toda vida humana no solo se le reconozca el derecho a la vida sino incluso además sea bienvenida? Hemos reconocido que los corazones necesitan cambiar y que un cambio en la ley, si bien necesario, no es suficiente. Nosotros deseamos que los corazones y los hogares se abran para dar la bienvenida a estos pequeñitos.

Pero como se halla, sabemos que tenemos mucho trabajo por hacer en esa área, evangelizando nuestra cultura de tal forma que madres y padres ambos den la bienvenida a la nueva vida en el vientre como un regalo y ofrecer la "hospitalidad" que es una responsable y generosa paternidad. Muchos valores que vemos alrededor de nosotros no corresponden con esto. No estamos acostumbrados a dar la bienvenida, sino por el contrario, a proteger y defender lo que es nuestro y eliminar el riesgo de disturbios que un extraño pueda causar. Mantenemos a distancia a la gente que no nos es familiar o no es similar a nosotros en discurso o costumbres. Podrá haber excepciones, pero ¿pueden recordar la última vez que un extraño fue traído a su hogar para ofrecerle una comida?

Hay una historia en el libro del Génesis. Por el valle de Mamre, en el calor del día, Abraham vio tres hombres quienes no eran aparentemente de la región. "Cuando él los vio, corrió a su encuentro desde la puerta del pabellón y les hizo reverencia inclinándose hasta el suelo, él dijo: "Señor, si yo, siervo tuyo, he hallado gracia en tu presencia, no pases de largo. Deja traer un poco de agua y lavaréis vuestros pies y descansaréis a la sombra de este árbol. Ahora que vos os acercasteis a este vuestro siervo, dejadme traer un poco de comida, que pueda refrescarlos: para que después puedan seguir su camino... Muy bien, ellos respondieron haz como has dicho." [Gen 18:25-5]. Abraham ofrece una hospitalidad excepcional a estos tres extranjeros quienes son de alguna manera una manifestación del SEÑOR. Recibiendo su hospitalidad, ellos preguntan por Sara, la esposa de Abraham y entonces uno de ellos promete que volverá en un año y ella tendrá un hijo. Entonces la hospitalidad o recepción de Abraham a las vidas de estos tres que han venido de otro lugar hace eco en la recepción de la vida en el vientre de Sara quien junto con su esposo eran de edad avanzada. La vida de estos extranjeros es bienvenida y la nueva vida en el vientre es bienvenida.

El día de hoy en los Estados Unidos nuestra cultura no da la bienvenida ni al extranjero ni a aquel en el vientre. Somos más consistentes de lo que nos damos cuenta.

De tal forma nos encontramos a nosotros mismos preguntándonos cómo la vida en el vientre no es bienvenida. Y preguntamos incluso más allá cómo ese ser humano en la vientre no tiene estatus legal. Deseamos para él que sea reconocido, pero debido a nuestra ley injusta, esa vida es en esencia ilegal. Entonces la frontera del vientre se vuelve una pared o una línea divisoria entre la dignidad humana reconocida y un estatus no legal. ¿Cómo es que el conjunto de valores que crean nuestra cultura acepta tal doble intención? ¿Cómo

puede el lado de una frontera en la que uno cae sobre determinar la dignidad de alguien? Nacimiento parcial aborto parece ser el último ejemplo de la doble intención que ejercitamos con respecto a la frontera del vientre, como el niño en la cerca es destruido tan cerca del estatus legal de haber nacido completamente.

Regresando a la historia del Génesis podemos tomar nota de que tanto los extranjeros como el que está en el vientre, Isaac, son bienvenidos... El no nacido no tiene estatus legal para reclamar un derecho de cruzar la frontera del vientre si la madre escoge (al apremio de nuestra cultura y con frecuencia directamente de la familia) en contra de esta vida. La dignidad del niño no es un factor. Lo mismo sucede con el extranjero que es un inmigrante: el o ella no tienen reclamo legal basado en su dignidad de cruzar la frontera para sostener la vida. Ambos el vientre como una frontera y la frontera política entre las naciones determinan nuestro sentido del valor de la vida humana y la necesidad de defenderla.

¿Deberíamos sorprendernos de que el extranjero no sea bienvenido si nuestro propio retoño (25%) es rechazado?

¿No es la presente conjetura que la concepción natural de la nueva vida sea obstruida por medio de anticoncepción de algún tipo como la acción "responsable"? ¿Así también no es la presente conjetura de que el inmigrante no puede reclamarnos para nada por venir y estar con nosotros a menos que nuestras leyes civiles lo garanticen?. Nuestra "elección" parece aplastar su dignidad. Nuestra cultura es bastante consistente en hacer de nosotros los árbitros de la vida.

Del libro de las revelaciones (comúnmente llamado en español Apocalipsis de San Juan) recibimos una invitación a adoptar la virtud de la hospitalidad. El mensaje al ángel de la iglesia en Laodicea, un lugar tibio que se considera a si mismo rico y abundante, es primero un castigo pero entonces también incluye una invitación a abrir el corazón: "He aquí que estoy a la puerta de tu corazón y llamo; si alguno escuchare mi voz y me abriere la puerta, entraré a él y con él cenaré y él conmigo. Al que venciere, lo haré sentar conmigo en mi trono; así como yo fui vencedor y me senté con mi Padre en su trono" (Rev (Apoc) 3:20-21)

No digas que eres Padre

Por el Padre Carmelo Jiménez

Cuando llegué a la diócesis de San Cristóbal de las Casas, un padre se acercó a mi me dijo: "Carmelo, te doy dos recomendaciones, la primera es que cuando tu puedas salir de tu parroquia salte, y la segunda es que nunca digas que eres sacerdote (sobre todo en los puestos de control militar).

Quiero aclarar que después del levantamiento armado en el Estado de Chiapas en el año 1994, el ejército puso retenes en la zona altos del Estado. Chenalho, siendo un territorio muy pequeño tenía 16 puestos militares, 13 puestos con soldados de seguridad del estado, además de la policía municipal y la policía sectorial que tenía puestos provisionales y patrullajes constantes.

A la Iglesia se le empezó a perseguir porque se creyó que era la causa del levantamiento o que estaba detrás de todo este asunto. El líder de este movimiento armado se hizo tan famoso con el nombre del "sub.-comandante Marcos"; muchos creyeron que el comandante era el obispo de la Diócesis. En cada pueblo donde estaba una cabecera parroquial o donde visitaban sacerdotes se les empezó un hostigamiento silencioso sólo por ser de la gente de Don Samuel (así le llamaban al obispo de San Cristóbal). A muchos catequistas se les perseguía por considerarlos peligrosos para la seguridad del Estado. Todo eso debido al fuerte compromiso social que la Diócesis de San Cristóbal tenía para con el pobre y explotado. En muchos cursos se les enseñó a la gente a defender sus derechos, a que ellos conocieran la ley y a saber pedir explicaciones. Por eso al gobierno no le gustó, porque los ignorantes, la gente que ellos podían manejar a su antojo, ahora pensaban y se defendían; ahora pedían aclaraciones o razones de los que sucedía.

El día que me iban a entregar la parroquia de San Pedro en Chenalho, tuvimos que pasar por lo menos tres retenes, donde me hicieron abrir mis tres maletas que llevaba para que ellos lo revisaran. En el primer retén recuerdo, que el Obispo les dijo que era el nuevo padre que iba quedarse en Chenalho, que si podíamos continuar para no perder el tiempo. Los militares respondieron que con mucho más razón iban a revisar mis cosas para que yo no metiera mas armas de las que ya los seguidores de Don Samuel habían metido. Revolvieron todas mis cosas, las tiraron en la batea de la troca que llevaba para sacar todas las cosas y revisar una por una mis prendas de vestir, Y después de 30 o 40 minutos pudimos continuar, dejando mis cosas todas desordenadas. Cuando por fin llegamos a Chenalho me

Sigue en la página 5

Hombres No Documentados Encarcelados Injustamente por un Juez, Liberados por Decisión de Otro Juez

– Paul Witte –

Aldo Flores, un joven de 20 años de la parroquia nuestra de Santa Susana, me dijo un día hace talvez 9 meses que Sue Carol Browning, la juez de la corte donde siempre se tenían que presentar los hispanos por infracciones viales y otros delitos menores, había comenzado a expulsar a los no documentados de Kentucky. Me preguntó si ella tenía la autoridad para hacer eso. Le dije que probablemente no pero no sabía yo qué hacer para que dejara de actuar así.

A veces yo acompaño a los que son tiqueados por la policía a la corte y veía que era cierto lo que dijo Aldo. Cada vez que se presentaba un indocumentado ante ella, ella le preguntaba si tenía documentos y el número de Seguro Social. Casi siempre el indocumentado admitía su estatus ilegal y entonces ella le decía que tenía que salir del estado de Kentucky dentro de 72 horas y no regresar nunca bajo pena de encarcelamiento.

Por fin decidí buscar ayuda porque lo que hacía la juez me parecía injusto y además cruel. Eché una llamada telefónica al Padre Stan Puryear y me recomendó que le llamara a la Conferencia Episcopal de Kentucky al Padre Patrick Delahanty. Eso fue en junio de 2006.

El Padre Delahanty habló con alguno de la Oficina Administrativa de las Cortes (AOC), la agencia encargada de la supervisión de todas las cortes de justicia del estado de Kentucky. Dijo que le iba a hablar a la juez para decirle que dejara de tomar la medida de expulsar a los hispanos, que esa acción no le tocaba a ella. Pasó un mes sin que ella cambia de acción y el Padre Delahanty volvió a hablarle a la AOC. Eso fue en agosto 2006.

El 29 de agosto, acompañé a un miembro de la Iglesia que recibió un tique por no tener licencia. En el salón de la corte habían varios hispanos, algunos que yo conocía y otros que no conocía. Como siempre hago, platiqué con varios de ellos para tratar de entender su situación. Al llegar la hora de la corte, esperamos nuestro turno. Por fin llegó el turno de las personas que necesitaban un intérprete, es decir, los hispanos. La juez mandó a todos los hispanos no documentados a reunirse a un lado de la corte y llamó al intérprete para traducir sus palabras. Se dirigió la juez a los hispanos no documentados y dijo que la Iglesia Católica la reclamó por su acción de expulsar a los no documentados. Dijo que en vez de expulsarlos del estado de Kentucky los iba a detener para que los deportara la agencia de inmigración.

Los detuvo sin fianza (bond) y sin consejo legal, es decir, sin un licenciado para defenderlos. Ahí mismo en la sala de la corte la juez le llamó a la agencia federal que se encarga de asuntos de inmigración y deportación para pedirle que viniera a llevar a los detenidos, pero negó su petición. A pesar de eso, ella mandó que los detuvieran hasta que la inmigración viniera a llevarlos.

Inmediatamente llamé al Padre Delahanty y él se puso en contacto con unos abogados que contactaron a los defensores públicos de nuestra zona de Kentucky. La Licenciada Leilani Krashin fue nombrado como la persona para defenderlos a los hombres sin necesidad de pagar algo por sus servicios. Ella pidió que otro juez, con más autoridad, escuchara su petición para sacar a los hombres de la cárcel. Además de los once que estaban encarcelados en el condado de Todd, otros cuatro en el condado de Logan (Russellville) fueron encarcelados bajo la misma orden de la juez.

Después de diez días de encarcelamiento, entonces, los hombres fueron liberados. El juez que les dio la libertad, Tyler Gill, dijo que la Juez Browning había abusado los derechos de los hispanos que encarceló. Además declaró que les negó los derechos que la Constitución de Kentucky y también la Constitución de los Estados Unidos garantizan.

El 11 de septiembre 2006 le envié una queja oficial acerca de la acción ilegal de la juez a la Comisión de Comportamiento(not sure on this word – comportamiento?) Judicial que existe para vigilar las acciones de los jueces de todo el estado de Kentucky. Todavía (hoy es el 11 de octubre) no he recibido una respuesta de la Comisión pero sé que la juez ha sido contactado por ellos. Otros hombres fueron arrestados y detenidos entre el 29 de agosto y el 8 de septiembre cuando fueron liberados la mayoría de los hombres de la cárcel. Ellos también fueron detenidos bajo el mismo orden de la juez. Uno de ellos era

un residente legal de los Estados Unidos y, por estar tanto tiempo en la cárcel, perdió su trabajo.

Muchos dicen que la Juez Browning es una racista, pero no lo creo. Ella es una persona dedicada a la ley. Quiere tratar a todo el mundo justamente, pero en este caso hizo un gran error. La ley de la nación existe para servir a todos sus residentes no para quitarles sus derechos. Además existe una ley más importante que la ley humana, es la ley natural que indica que todos seres humanos tienen dignidad y merecen un trato justo a pesar de su estatus civil. La mayoría de los hispanos indocumentados que están en este país están aquí para trabajar porque en sus pueblos en México, Guatemala o donde sea, no hay trabajo adecuado. La ley natural y la ley de Dios nos obligan a los americanos abrir sus fronteras y sus corazones. Creo que algún día pronto el gobierno de nuestro país va a elaborar una ley nueva y justa, pero mientras tanto tenemos que depender no de la ley corriente, una ley que no sirve porque no refleja la realidad del mundo hoy día, sino de la ley natural y la ley divina que nos manda tratar a los forasteros de una manera justa.

No digas que eres Padre *(Sigue de la página 4)*

esperaban unas 30 personas de algunas comunidades que habían venido para participar en Misa de toma de posesión, ellos me recibieron en las orillas del pueblo y entramos en peregrinación, cuando casi llegamos al templo vino a nuestro encuentro el presidente municipal pero no para darnos la bienvenida sino para vociferar cosas e insultarnos, aclarándonos que no podíamos entrar al templo y que si lo hacíamos tendríamos que ir a la cárcel. La celebración de entrega de la parroquia (simbólica) se hizo en la calle y posteriormente se marchó el Obispo y la gente quedando completamente solo.

Un día tenía reunión en san Cristóbal de las casa y tardaría tres días por lo que tenía que llevar una maleta de ropa. Venía de la comunidad, llegué a la parroquia y salí, al llegar al puesto de control me revisaron tardando como 10 minutos la revisión y ahí me di cuenta que no llevaba la maleta de ropa, por lo que un poco adelante del puesto de control había un espacio donde pude volver para ir por mi ropa. Yo con la desesperación que era tardísimo. Vuelvo a pasar el puesto de control que tenía no más de unos 2 minutos de haber pasado por ahí y me hicieron bajar de nuevo y una nueva revisión. Entre al pueblo, fui a la parroquia, únicamente tomé la maleta de ropa y volví a salir y una tercera revisión de otros 10 minutos por los militares. Todo aquello era desesperante, pero a la vez fortalecía para decir y estar al lado del pobre, del necesitado y recordar las palabras de Jesucristo: “Bendito los perseguidos por causa de mi nombre porque de ellos es el reino de Dios”. Eso me motivaba para continuar caminando al lado los indígenas. Un día un padre llegó cansado y agobiado por las situaciones de su parroquia, cayó llorando a platicar con Don Samuel Ruiz, y él le respondió: “Gracias a Dios que tienes problemas por es señal que estas haciendo las cosas bien; si no tuvieras problemas tendríamos que preocuparnos por tí, porque ya no avanzas o porque estas al lado del explotador”.

Ante tantos problemas que me tocó vivir, yo decía: “Gracias Señor por tomarme como un instrumento para dar a conocer tu amor al pobre y al desvalido”. Todos estos problemas me hacían buscar más a Dios y sentirme tan necesitado de El. Ahora entiendo las bienaventuranzas: “«Bienaventurados los pobres de espíritu, porque de ellos es el Reino de los Cielos. Bienaventurados los mansos, porque ellos poseerán en herencia la tierra. Bienaventurados los que lloran, porque ellos serán consolados. Bienaventurados los que tienen hambre y sed de la justicia, porque ellos serán saciados. Bienaventurados los misericordiosos, porque ellos alcanzarán misericordia. Bienaventurados los limpios de corazón, porque ellos verán a Dios. Bienaventurados los que trabajan por la paz, porque ellos serán llamados hijos de Dios. Bienaventurados los perseguidos por causa de la justicia, porque de ellos es el Reino de los Cielos. Bienaventurados seréis cuando os injurien, y os persigan y digan con mentira toda clase de mal contra vosotros por mi causa. Alegraos y regocijaos, porque vuestra recompensa será grande en los cielos; pues de la misma manera persiguieron a los profetas anteriores a vosotros.” (Mateo 5, 4 – 12)

Los indígenas me enseñaron a confiar profundamente en Dios que nunca abandona a sus hijos y siempre camina con ellos. Aprendí a no decir que era Padre, pero por dentro reconocirme amado por Dios, aunque perseguido por los hombres. Le di la razón a aquel padre que me dio tal recomendación.

Respetemos La Vida: Creados, amados y redimidos por Dios.

Porqué el Matrimonio es importante para los hijos y para el bienestar común

por Maggie Gallagher

Para los católicos el Matrimonio es un sacramento que revela el amor indestructible de Cristo. La tradición católica siempre ha reconocido que el matrimonio es también una relación natural. Personas de cualquier fe, o de ninguna, pueden casarse, y su matrimonio es de importancia para Dios, para cada uno de ellos, para sus hijos y para la comunidad.

Un grupo de respetados expertos en el matrimonio y la familia se reunió recientemente para documentar la evidencia que proviene de las ciencias sociales de que el matrimonio tiene importancia. Aunque, por supuesto, hay muchos padres o madres sin pareja que realizan una espléndida labor en la crianza de sus hijos bajo circunstancias muy difíciles, los eruditos llegaron, entre otras, a estas conclusiones:

El matrimonio reduce el riesgo de la pobreza para niños y comunidades. La mayoría de los niños cuyos padres no se casan o no permanecen casados experimentan por lo menos un año de pobreza. Hogares sin padres aumentan el crimen. Los niños varones cuyos padres se han divorciado o nunca se han casado, son dos o tres veces más propensos a terminar en la cárcel cuando llegan a ser adultos.

El matrimonio protege la salud física y mental de los niños. Los niños cuyos padres se casan o permanecen casados son más saludables y están menos propensos a sufrir enfermedades mentales que incluyen la depresión y el suicidio de adolescentes. Los hombres y las mujeres que se casan viven más tiempo y son más saludables y felices. En casi todos los grados de salud y bienestar, la gente casada está mejor.

Vivir juntos no es lo mismo que estar casados. Parejas casadas que viven juntas antes del matrimonio son de 30 a 50 por ciento más propensas a divorciarse. Las parejas que sola-mente viven juntas sin el compromiso del matrimonio, en promedio, no reciben los mismos beneficios a la salud, bienestar y felicidad que los esposos. Los niños cuyos padres viven juntos tienen más riesgo de sufrir violencia doméstica, abuso infantil y abandono.

Los padres que no se casan o no permanecen casados ponen en riesgo la educación de sus hijos. Los niños cuyos padres se han divorciado o que nunca se han casado tienen un promedio de calificaciones escolares más bajo y tienen más probabilidad de ser retenidos en el grado y de dejar la escuela.

Cuando un matrimonio falla, la relación entre padres e hijos típicamente se debilita también. En una amplia encuesta nacional, el 65 por ciento de hijos adultos de padres divorciados reportó que no tenían buenas relaciones con sus padres (comparado con el 29 por ciento de los adultos provenientes de matrimonios intactos). Cualquier circunstancia que debilite las normas de la familia casada aumentará todos estos riesgos a los niños y a las comunidades en que estos niños viven.

Considere, por ejemplo, solo uno de los riesgos que se incrementa: el comportamiento criminal y delincuente. Un número impresionante de estudios confirma que ciertos niños en particular tienen más probabilidad de exhibir conducta criminal cuando son criados en hogares sin la presencia del padre.

Desde un punto de vista científico se conoce relativamente poco de la suerte que corren los niños que crecen con dos padres del mismo sexo. Después de revisar varios cientos de estudios, el sociólogo de la Universidad de Virginia, Steven Nock concluyó: “Ninguno de esos estudios fue efectuado de acuerdo con las normas de investigación científica general-mente aceptadas”. Los niños criados por parejas del mismo sexo son todavía un experimento social, acerca del cual podemos decir poco con certeza científica.

El Matrimonio es importante para el bienestar de la sociedad

La tarea de volver a relacionar el matrimonio con su gran e histórica labor intercultural de animar a hombres y mujeres a procrear y criar la siguiente generación no ha sido nunca más urgente que ahora. Por un lado, una gran mayoría de democracias modernas está pasando ahora por un bajo índice de natalidad en medio de una preocupación urgentemente creciente por las consecuencias sociales, económicas y políticas.

Como nota el eminente erudito legal e historiador religioso John Witte: “Procreación... significa más que simplemente concebir hijos. También significa criarlos, y educarlos para la vida espiritual y temporal. ... Lo bueno de la procreación no puede ser alcanzado en este sentido más amplio simplemente mediante la unión lícita del

esposo y la esposa en la relación sexual. También requiere el mantener una unión fiel, estable y permanente del esposo y la esposa para beneficio de los hijos”.

El matrimonio es también importante para la transmisión intergeneracional de la fe. Los hijos de católicos que se divorcian particular-mente tienen más posibilidad de separarse de la Iglesia como adultos. Casarse, mantenerse casados, construir un matrimonio amoroso y tener hijos son los principales instrumentos con que una comunidad se impulsa hacia el futuro. Cuando una nación o comunidad de fe logra transmitir una eficaz visión del matrimonio a la siguiente generación, el resultado es bueno no solamente para los hijos, sino que es vital para el futuro de toda la comunidad.

¿Será posible que los católicos puedan hacer una mejor labor de construir una cultura favorable al matrimonio? Sí. Podemos inspirarnos en otros grupos religiosos que están luchando con las mismas fuerzas destructivas en la cultura popular.

La familia es la primordial evangelizadora, una de las incubadoras más poderosas de la fe y la identidad religiosa. La fe cristiana creció de un pequeño grupo en Jerusalén a ser la fe del Imperio Romano en sólo unos 300 años. En este crecimiento la ética sexual cristiana tuvo una gran influencia, la cual, en contraste con la ética secular romana, prohibía el infanticidio, la contracepción y la sexualidad fuera del matrimonio, y desanimaba la disolución y el abandono de la familia.

Si la comunidad eclesial logra encontrar la energía y los medios para transmitir una visión católica del matrimonio y la familia sólo a los católicos que van a la iglesia y a sus hijos, de manera que ellos formaran un diez por ciento de los que posiblemente se casen, permanezcan casados y tengan hijos que crezcan con el compromiso similar de construir familias, la Iglesia y la sociedad serían transformados en treinta años.

Podemos y debemos inspirar, reeducar, servir y proteger a aquellos católicos que quieren volver a comprometerse con la visión católica del matrimonio y la familia. La próxima generación está observando. Ellos necesitan vernos defender el matrimonio con confianza en los bancos de la iglesia y en la plaza pública.

En este contexto, las tres más urgentes tareas para la Iglesia son: a. afirmar el valor de los niños en la mente de la comunidad católica. b. desarrollar ministerios y programas para ayudar a parejas con problemas a evitar el divorcio y a reconstruir matrimonios amorosos. c. ayudar, apoyar y enseñar a los padres católicos que desean transmitir su visión del matrimonio a sus hijos, en vista de la creciente corriente de confusión y hostilidad de la plaza pública.

La tarea de renovar el matrimonio es nada menos que renovar la fe y el amor para esta generación y la siguiente. La visión contemporánea del matrimonio aboga por unas relaciones humanas desechables, desconectadas de cualquier propósito más grande. Pero los seres humanos quieren desesperadamente creer que nuestros impulsos y deseos más profundos tienen un propósito, que nos están dirigiendo hacia el amor, la bondad, la renovación. En el matrimonio, hombres y mujeres se unen en fe para construir el futuro. Estos no son asuntos privados y personales, sino de incumbencia compartida y urgente de toda la comunidad.

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Seminarios (izq a der) Matthew Lawry, Daniel Dillard, Alma Valdez y Josh MacCarthy visitando Hopkinsville y cenando en casa de Alma Valdez.

