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December, 2006

New Diocesan Youth Camp Update

By Ben Warrell

The project for the Kentucky Catholic Camp is moving forward. In September and October, the Camp received permission to officially move forward from the Administration Committee, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Priest's Council. An official board of directors has been named and the organization is in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) entity.

A lead piece of property has been identified and a property appraisal is in the works. Support from all over the diocese has been overwhelming. People have offered all kinds of gifts from prayers, to labor, to bulldozer work, to anything we need! Thank you all so much for your prayers and support. Thanks also to those who filled out questionnaires and have shared this vision with others throughout the diocese. Please keep the prayers coming and continue to share this idea with those you encounter. This facility will be such a blessing to so many in our diocese and can help foster Catholic Identity and education throughout Western Kentucky and the state. If you would like more information, please check out our website at www.owensborodio.org/camp.

If you would like to be involved in any way with this project, please contact Ben Warrell at the Catholic Pastoral Center by e-mail at ben.warrell@pastoral.org or by phone (270) 683-1545. Please, as always, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this process.

Brescia Student Program Receives Grant

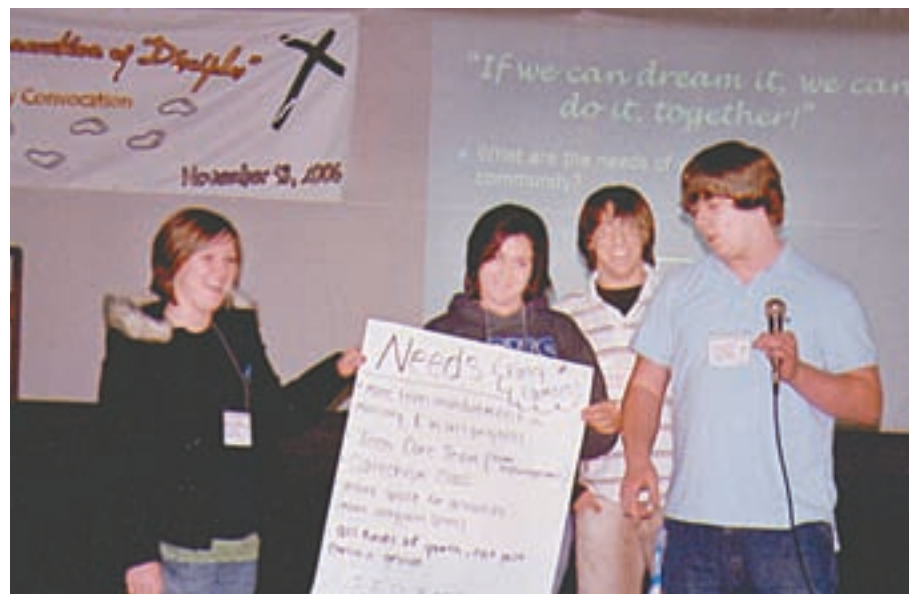
OWENSBORO, Ky. - Great news for Brescia University's education program! Brescia's Kentucky Education Association Student Program (KEA-SP) received a grant from the National Education Association's Student Program. The \$836.20 grant will be used to develop an outdoor classroom area at Foust Elementary School, which will be used to provide a natural means for experiential approaches to science.

The CLASS grant, Community Learning through America's Schools, will be used for a project involving community improvements. This gives students a chance to gain practical experience and grow as professionals.

Foust Elementary's Family Resource Center director, Beth Murphy, says "the outdoor classroom idea was first conceived last year, when [the school] received funding through Lowe's Toolbox for Education to landscape and create an outdoor classroom setting." The school did not have the time or materials to complete the project, so that's when Brescia's KEA-SP decided to help make the idea a reality. Brescia students and faculty spent Saturday, October 21, landscaping, while making plans for a return to complete the project. The project includes painting concrete areas to further enhance the atmosphere and adding wooden benches to help keep students focused on the teachers.

Brescia University also chose to help Foust Elementary, because the education department works closely with Foust when it comes to student teaching and internships. The outdoor classroom area will help education majors receive valuable experience through mini teachings using the various curriculum opportunities the outdoor area will provide. KEA-SP member at Brescia, Brett Booker, says "this was our first major project of the year. I would like to thank Foust for the opportunity to reach out to the places where we will soon be teaching." Work on the outdoor classroom area began in September with plans to make it completely functional by February.

Brescia students involved in the project are Brett Booker, program coordinator, Tara Nance, volunteer coordinator, Margaret Johnson, fiscal manager, Kendal Wethington, public relations coordinator and campus contact is instructor in education, Tina Wolken.



Empowering a New Generation of Young People
The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office hosted a convocation in Madisonville Nov. 18 to call together young and old for "Sharing The Piece of the Puzzle That We Are." Specifically, the Convocation sought to discuss "What does our faith tell us Youth Ministry is all about and what do we need to do in our diocese to support and develop vibrant, lively, faith-filled Youth Ministry? What are some goals that we can set in the next 5 years?" Participants said that Catholics need to view young people as a treasure and not a problem to be solved. "If we can dream it, we can do it together." Above, Fancy Farm youth group members shared the needs of youth in St. Jerome Parish. Photo by Larena Lawson.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY



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My Wish To You This Christmas Is Peace – The Peace Of The Newborn Baby Jesus

My Dear Friends,

December is here, which means that our attention turns to our preparations for Christmas and to the celebration of the birthday of Jesus.

First of all, there is the matter of preparing for this great feast and celebration. The only way to have a happy and joyful Christmas is if we properly prepare for the coming of Jesus. Jesus came as one of us, to save us from our sins, put an end to death, and open the gates of heaven where we will experience Christmas for all eternity.

Advent is of special importance in the life of the Church and in our lives as individuals. We all know what it means to prepare for a great event in the lives of our loved ones or our own lives. It is hard work. As an example, I often marvel when I see the preparations that go into Confirmations. You know when you drive into the parish that a lot of work has been done to prepare for this special day. First of all, those being confirmed have been preparing for this day for years, to learn more and more about their faith and their relationship with the Holy Spirit. They learn that they are now more closely united to Christ and His Church. The confirmands also know that this not the end of their life with Christ — it is the beginning. They are fully initiated into the Church and into their relationship with an all-loving God. So, they are often a little nervous but always excited. The parish is excited.

The same sense of excitement and need for preparation goes into marriages, and the examples go on and on. These are one-time celebrations, but the celebration of the birthday of Jesus is one that we celebrate every year. The Church never tires of preparing to make this a special day. We, the faithful, have a real challenge in the worldly culture in which we live to keep our attention on what Christmas is all about: the birth of the Savior.

It all started so long ago when God decided to send His only Son that our sins may be forgiven and to put an end to death. We read much of the coming of a Savior in the Old Testament, and we see it more clearly in the writings in the New Testament. The Christmas story gets its start when our Blessed Virgin says “Yes” when God asks her to become the mother of Jesus the Messiah. Her “Yes” gives us an idea of how we are to prepare for Christmas—preparations that have little to do with the sales or the decorations.

A well-spent Advent has to do with us and what goes on in our individual lives. It is up to each of us to prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our lives and to decide how to show gratitude for His coming when that day arrives.

Yes, we do fix up our surroundings — our homes and our Churches — but the real preparations happen in our lives. We can and will have a happy Christmas if we remain open to His coming and if we have prepared a special place for Him in our lives. Advent is a time to put the finishing touches on the preparations that go on all year long. We prepare by our prayers, by paying special attention to the Church calendar, by receiving the sacraments, and especially by the sacrament of reconciliation. This sacrament brings us face to face with Jesus, who shows us the mercy and love that He came to give to us in the first place.

We pray for those things that Jesus came to bring to us. There are so many things, but one is the gift of peace. This gift is easily forgotten in this world that has so little respect for life — before birth and after birth. When we are in the midst of a war and the world is in the midst of so much violence, it is so easy to forget the Angel’s words to the shepherds: “Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Even in the home and family, many are suffering from violence in the very place where we would expect to find peace.

Jesus came to show us how to have peace, but we are so slow to work toward that peace — the peace of the Prince of Peace.

We are reminded at Christmas that even the absence of war is not necessarily a world of peace. Peace must start in our own lives. We get that peace only when we live by the values the Lord Jesus taught us and do His will each day of our lives. Yes, peace must start in our own hearts. In the peaceful heart, Jesus comes to rest for all

eternity. So, our Advent preparations are not just for this Christmas but ultimately a step toward eternal peace with Him.

There are many things that I could wish for you this Christmas, but my wish to you this Christmas is peace — the peace of the Newborn Baby Jesus. His peace then will go out from us to the world, a world where His faithful will not tolerate violence. As we prepare for peace, we prepare for the coming of Jesus and for the celebration of His birth.

Let us use Advent as a time to find those violent pieces in our lives and work to take them out...then work to share that peace with our sister and brother — then from our families to the world. We all wish for peace and pray for peace. We must work for peace.

We learn from the *Pastoral Constitution on Church in the Modern World* of the Second Vatican Council about peace and the importance of working for peace as a work of justice. The Council tells us that the common good of the human race is subject to the eternal law as its primary principle, but peace is never established finally and forever. The building up of peace has to go on all the time. We are “weak and wounded by sin”; we must control our passions.

The Council goes on to say, and I quote, “Even this is not enough. Peace here on earth cannot be maintained unless the good of the human is safe guarded and men

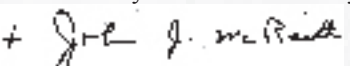
are willing to trust each other and share their riches of spirit and talent. If peace is to be established, it is absolutely necessary to have a firm determination to respect other persons and peoples and their dignity and be zealous in the practice of brotherhood. Peace is therefore the fruit also of love; love goes beyond what justice can achieve.”

These are words that we can reflect on as we prepare for the coming of Jesus who came to bring peace to the world.

As we prepare for Christmas and as we celebrate Christmas for the gift of peace, let us pray in a special way this Christmas. As we exchange gifts at this time of year, we can all exchange the gift of peace, if we really decide that this is as important as the Church teaches.

I take this opportunity to wish each of you a joyful Christmas and many blessings in the New Year. May the peace of Christ reign in our lives, in our families, communities, parishes, the nation, and in the world. As Jesus came to forgive us and demands that we forgive one another, we have the basis upon which to build a life of peace and a culture of life to replace the culture of violence and death that has so taken over the world.

God bless all of you on Christmas Day.

Peace, + 
Bishop John McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro

Bishop McRaith’s December 2006 Schedule

- 5 CCK Mtg., Louisville, 10am-2pm
- 7 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 8 Holy Day of Obligation, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of the United States
- 9 Day of Reflection – African-American Catholics, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro, 10am-2pm
- 12 Mass/Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, 7pm
- 13 Glenmary House, Hartford, Mass - Noon
- 13 Confirmation, St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho, 6pm
- 14 Paducah Office Day (located at Lourdes Hospital, across from Chapel)
- 14 Luncheon with Employees, Lourdes Hospital, 12:30pm
- 14 Christmas Celebration, Bishop Soenneker Home, Knottsville, 5:30pm
- 18 Priests’ Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 18 Priests’ Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 19 Mtg. with Passionist Nuns, Passionist Monastery, Whitesville, 5pm
- 21 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 24 Children’s Christmas Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 4pm
- 25 Midnight Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 12am
- 27 Parish Hall Blessing, St. Pius Tenth Parish, Owensboro, 6pm
- 29 Serra Christmas Luncheon for Seminarians, CPC, Noon
- 29 Vespers/Christmas Celebration for Seminarians, Passionist Monastery, Whitesville, 5:30pm

Hispanic Community Charts Course for Integration into the Local Church

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Bishop McRaith addresses the Hispanic community gathered in Hopkinsville November 18th to present the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry for the next five years

Hispanic leaders from around the Diocese have been working in teams over the past several months to study Church documents, analyze the current reality and create goals for Hispanic Ministry for the next 5 years. These goals are divided into 4 dimensions: Formation, Missionary Option, *Pastoral de Conjunto* (Communion in Mission), and Liturgy and Prayer.

These goals form the basis of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry which will guide efforts at the parish and diocesan levels to welcome and integrate Hispanics into the local Church. It was presented to Bishop McRaith at a Diocesan Mass and Celebration in Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, on November 18th. The Plan and more information regarding its creation can be found at www.owensborodio.org/hispanic.



Our Lady of Lourdes Quilters, Owensboro, Ky., held a quilt show Friday Oct. 20, 2006 in the parish hall. They displayed 139 quilts. A quilt was raffled to benefit the Help Office and raised \$1,054. OLL Photo

Brescia University Holiday Ham Sale!

Help a deserving student with your purchase of a savory, boneless, barbecue ham. Proceeds benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund. \$30 will reserve your delicious ham today! Call (270) 686-4265 to place your order. Hams available for pick up Saturday, December 16 from 11 - 1 p.m. at the Brescia University Campus Center.

The Western Kentucky Catholic



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

Kentucky Catholic Charities
Pregnancy & Adoption Network

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www.kycatholiccharitiesadoption.org

Medicare D means three C's for 2007



By Sister Jacinta Powers, OSU

"Thank the good Lord I made my decision last year to take care of that Medicare stuff in regards to my medicines and will not have to bother with anything this year! That's true, right?" asks one Medicare beneficiary. In a way that may be correct, but it is certainly not the best decision for any one who is enrolled or thinking about enrolling in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

In January, 2006, Medicare began providing assistance with purchasing prescriptions through plans that include a premium, often a deductible and co-payments on medications for many disease processes. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid recently stated that more than 33 million Americans on Medicare are receiving help through these plans in paying for their medications.

What are the questions to be pondered surrounding Medicare D as 2007 approaches? Kentucky increased from more than 40 plans in 2006 to more than 50 plans for 2007. Economists would say that is a sign of a strong market. For a Medicare beneficiary such numbers often mean more confusion. In an attempt to simplify the information consider the three C's: Cost, Coverage, and Convenience.

Cost

1. What will my cost be for 2007 under my current plan or another plan?

It is very likely that the cost of the current plan has changed in regards to premium, deductible, and co-payments for this coming year. Some have increased in these areas, while some plans have actually reduced. By October 31 each Medicare Prescription Drug Plan was required to send the Annual Notice of Change to each beneficiary in their plan with the changes

in regard to cost and drugs covered for 2007.

2. How will I know if my current plan is the best buy for my prescriptions?

Like last year, the most effective way an individual can compare the multiple plans available is through the Drug Plan Finder tool on the official Medicare website at www.medicare.gov (Click "Compare Medicare Prescription Drug Plans" on the website's home page and follow the directions) This is an interactive tool that allows one to narrow the search for a Medicare prescription drug plan based on personal preferences such as cost, coverage and convenience. After entering the medications and drug store of choice, the plans are sorted according to annual costs for 2007, starting with the least expensive plan. Or an individual can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for assistance with this evaluation.

3. If I get coverage through a former or current employer do I have to sign up for a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan?

Under the new law, the provider of the drug coverage is to supply information to the beneficiary as to whether the coverage is "creditable"—that is, at least as good as the standard Medicare drug benefit. If a person does not receive this information, call the customer representative of the firm and request it in writing. If the coverage is creditable, one can stay with that plan if satisfied. However, if the coverage is not creditable, and one decides to stay with the plan, one will pay a late penalty if the decision is made to join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan in the future.

4. Will I have to pay a late penalty if I did not have creditable coverage and did not sign up for Medicare D last year?

A penalty will be added to the monthly premium if a Medicare beneficiary did not have creditable prescription coverage and chose not to enroll in a Medicare D plan for 2006 and now wishes to enroll for 2007. An estimated \$1.92 a month will be added to the cost of the regular premium. (Now is a great time to contact your congress persons and request this late fee be waived!)

5. Is assistance still available in paying for the Medicare Prescription Drug plan for individuals who cannot afford to join?

An individual on Medicaid, SSI, or if the state pays the Medicare B premium, will pay no monthly premium, no deductible, and low co-payments on medications. Individuals who have monthly income of no more than \$1,225 with assets under \$11,500 (Couples with a monthly income of \$1,650 with assets of \$23,000) are eligible to receive assistance from Social Security to pay for the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. Assets do not include the home or land if the beneficiary lives in the house and on the land. If a person believes he/she qualifies for the extra assistance, apply at the local Social Security office or call 1-800-772-1213, or online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Coverage

6. Will my plan carry the same medications that I took last year?

Every year the plans have the opportunity to change their formulary or list of drugs covered. Just because the plan covered your prescription medication last year does not mean that it will for 2007. Since most Medicare Prescription Drug Plans have changed the co-pay on medications for 2007, the current plan may not provide the lowest cost for an individual for the coming year. Once again, the best way to evaluate this is by accessing the Drug Plan Finder or the toll-free number through Medicare.

7. Will the coverage in the "doughnut hole" or gap in the plans be the same as 2006?

Some of the plans that provided coverage for both brand and generic medications in the "doughnut hole" or gap area have eliminated the coverage for brand name medications. That change in the drug plan makes the entire year's cost escalate by hundreds of dollars if the individual continues on brand name medications. The gap coverage for 2006 has changed significantly as one evaluates the plans for 2007. In order to assess this situation, access the Drug Plan Finder or the toll-free number through Medicare.

Convenience

8. Will I be able to use the pharmacy of my choice or mail order drug plans?

Medicare Prescription Drug Plans must contract with pharmacies in your area. It is important to check with the plan to make sure your pharmacy or a pharmacy in the plan is convenient to you. Also, some plans may offer a mail-order program that will allow you to have drugs sent directly to your home. You should consider all of your options in determining what is the most cost-effective and convenient way to have your prescriptions filled.

Other Thoughts

9. If after evaluating the options available for 2007 and deciding to change plans, how can I switch plans?

Open enrollment is from November 15 through December 31, 2006 at which time a person may change plans. This is done by calling the desired plan you wish to join, or calling Medicare or enrolling through the Medicare website. Enrolling in a new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan automatically removes an individual from a current plan starting January 1, 2007. To ensure the smoothest transition, it is preferable to enroll in a new plan by December 8, 2006.

The new law has assisted many people during 2006 to cover the cost of medications. Hopefully it will continue to provide individuals the means by which we can become a healthier nation. For further questions or assistance concerning the changes in 2007 for Medicare Prescription Drug Plans contact Sister Jacinta Powers at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 270-683-1545 extension 323 or jacinta.powers@pastoral.org.



Toy Shop

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Brescia Student Social Work Association hosted a Soup Day Fundraiser Oct. 19, 2006 at Brescia's Ramold Center. About 40 students prepared homemade soups, desserts, an assortment of breads, and soft drinks. The club accepted donations for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Sisters at Saint Paul's Mission in Crownpoint, NM, near Albuquerque. The Sisters then buy toys with this money to set up a Christmas Toy Shop for the Crownpoint community.

Brooke Daffron, BSSWA president, said, "The Brescia students' fundraiser not only helps provide Christmas gifts in Crownpoint, but also gives students here a way to give back to the Sisters and the Crownpoint community something of what they graciously give the Brescia Social Work community."

Ms. Daffron explained further, "Sister Joann Mark, a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ congregation and once Academic Dean of Brescia University, set up the opportunity for us to be able to carry out our field practicum in Crownpoint, New Mexico. This field placement is a great opportunity for Brescia social work students and faculty to share an experience they might otherwise not have. St. Paul's Mission provides Brescia Social Work students and faculty a wonderful place to reside at no cost."

Last year was the first Soup Day Fundraiser the BSSWA hosted for the Navajo children in Crownpoint; they made \$1,041.54 in the effort, Ms. Daffron said. Sister Barb and Sister Maureen from Saint Paul's Mission wrote in a letter thanking the BSSWA, "...the people (in the Crownpoint community) thought this was Santa's storehouse of 'Goodies' and we owe a BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to make this event (Toy Shop) possible. If you think the Friday after Thanksgiving is big, you need to be at St. Paul's when the Toy Shop Opens!" As of press time, the amount collected for the Oct. 19, 2006 fundraiser was \$1,515.



A pencil drawing of a Navajo girl by DeGrazia is a part of the William and Lois Nelson Collection in Brescia's Ramold Center. Staff Photo



Susan Cecil, Melanie Hays, and Terri Stone with about 40 other Brescia Social Work students, served a variety of soups, desserts, and breads October 19 on Soup Day for the Brescia community and friends of the Social Work Department. Staff Photo

A new special feature in the Ramold Center was unveiled in advance of this year's Soup Day Fundraiser. In March, 2006, the Ramold Center received the gift of a collection of artwork featuring Native American themes and faces. The collection, valued at about \$5,000, is the gift of the children of William and Lois Nelson, Bill Nelson and Margaret Robinson. William Nelson managed a facility for MacDonald Douglas on a New

Mexico Indian Reservation. He and his wife collected many Native American art pieces, and their children shared some of their estate with the Brescia community. The Nelson's friendship with the Brescia community came through Brescia Social Work Director of Field Instruction Marilyn Younger. Giving more of a face to Native American Indian culture for the Ramold Center, the collection graces one wall of a classroom in the Center.

Remember To Pray For Our Priests During This Busy & Holy Season

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 Ausenbaugh, 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, Gary Hayes, 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, John Okoro, Chrispin Onoko, 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 Suvakkin, 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

Owensboro & Henderson Serra Clubs, Diocese Of Owensboro

Happy Anniversary

Marriage Celebrations for December, 2006

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Michael & Terry Lewis, 25
Greta & Ron Beals, 51

Christ the King, Madisonville

Robert & Floy Daugherty, 53

Christ the King, Scottsville

John & Dell Hall, 51

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Darrell & Susan Cummings, 25
Mike & Susie Thurman, 25
Spencer & Ruby Chappell, 50
Myrt & Betty Pritchett, 51
Sam & Julia Speaks, 52

Immaculate, Owensboro

Patrick & Margie Doyle, 55
Mark & Doris Wright, 25

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Ellis & Sharon Russelburg, 40
Jerry & Linda Atwood, 40
David & Elizabeth Sterett, 65

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ralph & Martha Ashworth, 59
Percy & Anna Custer, 52
William & Lora McCarty, 25
Odie & Martine Warren, 60

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Kenneth & Mary Ann Postlewaite, 53
Mannie & Dorothy Wathen, 51

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 54

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Richard & Donna Bryan, 25

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

F. G. & Winnie Riney, 67

Frank & Bernice Thomas, 56

St. Ann, Morganfield

Joe & Jane Bell, 25

St. Anthony, Peonia

Paul & Peggy Schlesinger, 25

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Keith & Dorothy Dunker, 54

John & Anne Bradshaw, 55

St. Benedict, Wax

Woodrow & Myrtle Thompson, 65

St. Charles, Bardwell

Jim & Sue McIntyre, 40

St. Columba, Lewisport

Wayne & Donna Bland, 25

Dennis & Denise Long, 25

Robert & Patty Durbin, 40

George & Betty Allard, 57

Roy & Mable Hodges, 64

St. Edward, Fulton

Don & Rachel Cox, 52

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Sid & Martha Smallwood, 50

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

John & Patricia English, 54

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Larry & Delores Wilson, 40

Will Ed & Rose Carrico, 50

Wayne & Ruth Ann Higdon, 51

Same & Ella Dean Hayden, 52

James & Agnes Robb, 52

Bill & Linda Kilcoyne, 57

Willis & Treva Bartski, 66

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Don & Imogene Poston, 56

St. Joseph, Central City

Don & Marlene Monaghan, 50

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Danny Joe & Barbara Allen, 25

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Leroy & Betty Dowdy, 51

Robert & Pat Elliott, 51

Ben & Betty Wilford, 52

Joe & Wanda Mike, 58

Sanford & Ernestine Sumner, 60

Clarence & Jeanette Elliott, 64

St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter

Floyd & Fran Roderfeld, 55

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Vincent & Mary Pheobe Ebelhar, 66

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Patrick & Mary Ann Wright, 40

Richard & Clara McDaniel, 50

Emmett & Ella Mae Barnett, 57

John & Mildred Boarman, 62

Raymond & Emma Whistle, 54

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Lionel & Sue McElroy, 54

Bernard & Amalie Canby, 60

St. Paul, Leitchfield

William L. & Edna Drake, 60

St. Peter, Waverly

George & Catherine Westerman, 59

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Dennis & Gilda Boehmann, 25

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg, KY

Brian & Marilyn Henning, 25

Paul & Anne O'Reilly, 40

Harold & Betty Payne, 55

St. Rose, Cloverport

David & Elizabeth Sterett, 65

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Edward & Grace Pickett, 62

Herman & Mary Taylor, 62

St. Susan, Elkton

Ginny & Paul Witte, 40

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Mitch & Kathy Barkett, 25

Russ & Jackie Cochran, 25

J. W. & Marcella Romaneck, 56

Robert & Carol Crane, 53

Cliff & Ann Thomasson, 65

Floyd & Bernadine Watkins, 52

St. William, Philpot

William E. & Sharon Montgomery, 25

Paul & Mary Lanham, 50

Joseph & Effie Edge, 52

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

George & Jane Mouilleseaux, 64

Edwin & Kathleen Roeder, 54

Mount Saint Joseph Official Raffle Winners

After thorough review, the 10 winners in the 2006 Mount Saint Joseph Picnic raffle have been declared official.

Rita Freiemuth of Erlanger won the raffle's top prize, \$2,500 in cash. The second-place prize, an oak bookcase trio valued at just under \$2,000, was won by Don Speaks of Henderson.

The complete list of winners:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. \$2,500 Cash | Rita Freiemuth | Erlanger, Kentucky |
| 2. Oak Bookcase Trio | Don Speaks | Henderson, Kentucky |
| 3. \$1,000 Cash | Eugene Hinton | Hardinsburg, Kentucky |
| 4. "Rose Haven" Quilt | Michelle Heisler | Henderson, Kentucky |
| 5. \$500 Cash | Vickie French | Uniontown, Kentucky |
| 6. Pottery Barn Chair | Todd Raley | Lebanon, Kentucky |
| 7. Entertainment Center | Bob Wimsatt | Owensboro, Kentucky |
| 8. Wall Mirror | Eddy Tigie | Henderson, Kentucky |
| 9. \$100 Cash | Jo Ann Miller | Louisville, Kentucky |
| 10. Barbecued Ham | Cecilia McCarty | Owensboro, Kentucky |

Marriage Help

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For information or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 19-21, call 270-683-1545 ext 357, or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.com



At the All Saints Day Mass at Holy Name School, the fourth grade did a great job teaching us about the lives of the saints. Pictured is Mrs. King helping St. Stephen (Sammy Herdegen) to know when to start walking and the other picture is St. Clare (Addy Floyd) processing in to the Mass.



From left are Lori Whitehouse, Elementary K-3 Campus principal, Bishop John McRaith, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Jones, Donors; Fr. John Vaughan, OCS Priest Pastor; and Mr. Ken Rasp, OCS Director. Lois Rutigliano Photo



Owensboro Catholic School students counted down from 13 to 0, signifying each grade level and the release of 13 balloons to celebrate the groundbreaking to benefit all our students. Lois Rutigliano Photo



Mr. Ken Rasp, OCS Director, thanks those who have helped this become a reality for the benefit of OCS. Lois Rutigliano Photo

nunciation Center here.

The Elementary K-3 Student body and students from each school site in the Owensboro Catholic Schools system will benefit from the Annunciation Center. The new building will feature 6 classrooms, a gathering place for school wide events, meeting rooms, and a physical recreation area. In addition, this multipurpose building will provide opportunities for an even greater number of students throughout the Owensboro Catholic Schools because it is a KHSAA regulation size gymnasium with six basketball goals, two volleyball courts, locker rooms, and a concessions area.

The OCS School Board and the Building and Grounds Committee have analyzed the future needs of the school system and determined this type of building is needed. Construction will start soon in hopes of its being ready for the fall of 2007.

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Mr. Jim Mattingly explained the reasons for the new Annunciation Center: "The overriding reason for the new building is enrollment growth in the lower grades. In 2004-05, the first year of the reconfiguration, enrollment in K-3 was 326. 2005-06 enrollment was 339, and 2006-07 enrollment is 346. OCS is anticipating even more enrollment growth in future years at the OCES K-3 Campus.

"Another compelling reason is a gathering place. Currently the K-3 campus has no common area large enough to accommodate the entire student body, much less the parents, grandparents,



Mrs. Lori Whitehouse holds the microphone as Bishop John McRaith and Fr. John Vaughan participate in the blessing of this endeavor. Lois Rutigliano Photo

and friends when special events are scheduled. (Last year the Christmas music program for the K-3 and 4-6 campuses was held at Catholic High.)

"A third compelling reason is systems needs. Adding two more volleyball courts and a basketball court will be a significant addition of facilities and that addition will enhance OCS' basketball and volleyball leagues, both interscholastic and intramural."

OCS Director Ken Rasp said that Annunciation Center came about because "We've grown and we need additional classroom space as well as a gathering place, meeting rooms, and a PE area for our teams to practice."

"We're partnering," Mr. Rasp said, "with Our Lady of Lourdes to have opportunities to use the building. But during the daytime Annunciation Center will be in use for classroom space, the gym for physical education classes, and during inclement weather recess will be held in the gym. The gym area will seat about 500 people, Mr. Rasp said.

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On October 17, 2006, Bishop John McRaith, Fr. John Vaughan, OCS Priest-Pastor, and Ken Rasp, OCS Director, joined Mr. and Mrs. Leland Jones in a groundbreaking ceremony at the OCS K-3 Center, 4017 Frederica St., to announce the good news of a new multi-purpose building for the school and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, the new An-

THE LAND OF COTTON

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

By Rev. Benjamin F. Luther

The long rumored creation of the Owensboro Diocese became true when Pope Pius XI detached the 32 counties of western Kentucky from the Diocese of Louisville and created our diocese. He “created” the Owensboro Diocese in 1937, and it was formally “erected” according to canon law by the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Archbishop Amleto Cicognani in early 1938. The first Bishop of Owensboro was Father Francis F. Cotton, Chancellor of the Diocese of Louisville, appointed in late 1937 and “consecrated” (today, “ordained”) Bishop of Owensboro on the 24th of February, 1938.

The episcopal ordination of Francis R. Cotton was celebrated in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville by the Most Reverend John A. Floresch, assisted by two Bishops as “co-consecrators.” Bishop Floresch had been elevated to the rank of “Metropolitan Archbishop” by Pope Pius XI in 1937, with the creation of a new “Province” of Louisville with the suffragan Sees of the dioceses of Kentucky and Tennessee - Covington, Nashville, and Owensboro - all formerly part of the “Cincinnati Province” under the Metropolitan Archbishop of Cincinnati which up to 1937 embraced the dioceses of Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Pope Pius XI created the Diocese of Owensboro out of the then Diocese of Louisville by the decree with the opening Latin words, *Universi Catholici Orbis* (“The whole Catholic world,”) thanking God for the growth of the Church in Kentucky as part of the universal flock of Jesus Christ under the care of the Vicar of Christ, Successor of St. Peter, the Bishop of Rome, the Sovereign Pontiff, led by Kentucky’s bishops.

We should pause here and interject some information about two other Bishops who were from the Louisville Diocese and received episcopal ordination from Bishop Floresch.

The first was Bishop Theodore H. Reverman, ordained Bishop of Superior, Wisconsin, in 1926; he died in 1941. The third was Bishop Charles G. Maloney, ordained a Bishop of Louisville in 1954; he died in 2006. Bishop Cotton was the second.

As stated, the new Diocese of Owensboro consisted of the 32 counties of western Kentucky, created out of the Louisville Archdiocese. The roots of the Owensboro Diocese are ultimately in the historic Diocese of Bardstown, the first diocese west of the Allegheny mountains, created by Pope Pius VII in 1808 out of the Diocese of Baltimore (Baltimore was then elevated to the rank of the first Metropolitan Archdiocese in the United States of America); the See of the Diocese of Bardstown was moved from that small frontier town to the more prosperous and growing Louisville in 1841 by Pope Gregory XVI. The Covington Diocese in eastern Kentucky was created out of the Louisville Diocese by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1853.

The structure of the Catholic Church in the Commonwealth of Kentucky was again changed when Pope John Paul II created the Lexington Diocese out of the Diocese of Covington, and several counties of the Louisville Archdiocese, in 1988.

With the creation of the Diocese of Memphis out of the Diocese of Nashville in 1970 by Pope Paul VI, and also the Diocese of Knoxville in 1988 out of Nashville by Pope John Paul II, these were added to the dioceses comprising of “Metropolitan Province” of Louisville, the seven ecclesial jurisdictions that exist today in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville was packed for the Mass of the episcopal ordination of Francis R. Cotton. Most of the priests of the diocese were present, plus a number of bishops, and his relatives. A special choir sang the Latin chants specified in the “ordinal,” the liturgical book used for the ordination of a bishop (after the reform of the liturgy following Vatican II, the term “consecration”



St. Stephen Cathedral 1938 at Ordination Mass of Bishop Francis R. Cotton. CPC Archives Photo

of a bishop was returned to the more ancient, “episcopal ordination”).

The episcopal ordination of Bishop Cotton was conferred according to the teaching of the Catholic Faith by the twofold element of the “laying on of hands” by Archbishop Floresch and two other co-ordaining bishops of the choice of Bishop Cotton, the “matter” of the Sacrament of Holy Orders (that Sacrament is three-tiered as Diaconate, Presbyterate (priesthood), and Episcopate (bishop)), followed by a special prayer of consecration to the Order of bishop, specifying the matter of the Sacrament, the “form” of episcopal ordination.

Bishops are ordained to their Order in direct succession to the Apostles, who received their ordination from Christ Himself when the priesthood was established at the Last Supper by the Lord’s words, “Do this in memory of Me,” according to the Church’s official teaching based on her Apostolic Tradition, and witnessed in Scripture.

In the rite of the ordination of a bishop, the apostolic letter of the pope, indicating the appointment of the priest to the order of Bishop, is read at the appointed time.

Without the “apostolic mandate,” or papal letter of appointment, episcopal ordination cannot be conferred; the new bishop is joined by episcopal ordination to the “College of Bishops” whose head is the Bishop of Rome, and so there is one communion that joins all together in the apostolic succession.

In the rite of episcopal ordination, the new Bishop again professes the Catholic Faith. Christ’s Church was, is, and ever shall be, one and undivided in the profession of one faith based on Christ’s revelation from the Father, to be handed on to the Apostles and their successors until the end of time, and expressed as well in one worship, centered in the word of the Lord in the Tradition of the Church, witnessed in the Holy Scriptures, and celebrated in the Eucharistic Sacrifice and all the Sacraments. It is the prime responsibility of the Bishop to be the custodian of the “deposit of faith” and the primary teacher of the faith in his diocese.

In the rite of episcopal ordination, the episcopal ring is placed on the finger of the new bishop, a sign of his spiritual “marriage” to his diocese, whose servant he is to be. After the ceremonies in the Louisville Cathedral and the banquet following, there was a brief time before Bishop Cotton would arrive in Owensboro for his “installation” in the new Cathedral of St. Stephen, a truly joyous occasion!



“Disce E Jesu,” (Learn From Jesus.) Motto in Bishop Francis R. Cotton’s Coat of Arms. CPC Archives Photo

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Father Alejandro Godinez Alcantar from Mexico has recently come to the area to minister to the Catholic Hispanic people in Paducah.

As a Deacon, he spent 1½ years ministering in a small rural Indian village. The people lived as much as 5 miles apart on small farms and were very poor.

After ordination in February 2001, his assignment was in a city where he spent 4½ years teaching the children in the Catholic school and celebrating Mass for them. He taught the children how to participate in the Mass as altar boys, lectors, etc. He was the editor and reporter for the church paper. Father also had a 2-hour radio program every Friday evening about Catholic subjects and Christian family life. He would invite different guests to join him.

Father Alejandro is now affiliated with the Diocese of Owensboro as a Missionary. He is busy improving his English, learning North American routines, and celebrating Mass in Spanish every Sunday at 3PM at St. Thomas More in Paducah. There are two special feast days in December that Father is preparing for: December 12, the feast of the Blessed Mother of Guadalupe, and from December 16 - 24, Hispanic people celebrate the Posada. In the Mexican culture it is a time when families go from house to house asking for a room as they remember when Mary and Joseph were searching for shelter in Bethlehem. The Posada ends with the Masses on Dec. 24 and 25. Then the Mass celebrated on Dec. 31 is a time for thanking God for the blessings of the past year, and for those that will be received in the coming year. Father wants to bring the Hispanic people together for these special celebrations.

“My Hispanic community needs love and care. I have to be patient in order for the people to grow and reach their potential. They are hungry for God and I believe that God brought me here to help these people who are so hungry. My aspirations are to show the people that God is here, He is still alive, loving, and caring for them. I want to show them that although they left their land, their parents and friends, God cares and loves them and that they are not alone in this country, they are always with God,” Father Alejandro explained. He went on to say, “I am planning educational opportunities for the people. I’m going to have liturgical classes starting October 20th and I will encourage the community to come and then participate in the different ministries. The classes will last 1½ months. When they are finished the people will have to decide what ministries they want to participate in. I am aware that people come here for short periods of time. It will be difficult, but I will have to adapt myself to their life styles and find solutions for this problem. We are making an effort to let the Hispanic community know I am here and how I will minister to them. Announcements after church, personal invitations from me, talking to people in public places, information in church bulletins, visiting families in their homes, and visiting when they are in the hospital are some of the ways I plan to reach the people. I also want to start a newspaper or bulletin for the Paducah community that people can receive and hopefully share with other Hispanic families.

After Mass on Sunday the people were selling cakes and fruit cocktail to raise money to pay for a statue of Our Lady Of Guadalupe that will be part of their celebration on her feast day. Several individuals spoke of how happy they are to have a Hispanic priest to celebrate Mass for them. “It is wonderful, it feels so good to come to confession with him, it is so comfortable. He is like a friend,” Elana Carey commented. Marie Charlot said, “I have been in the United States many years but I feel very happy for the people who do not speak the English language. It makes them feel



Father Alejandro Godinez Alcantar



Father Alejandro Godinez Alcantar, at back center, gathered with many of the people who continued the celebration after a Sunday afternoon Mass at St. Thomas More Church in Paducah in October, 2006. Edie Keeney Photo

more at home to hear their own language from a Hispanic priest. I think he will bring all of the Hispanic community together.” Christina Machaen added, “I am very pleased that Father speaks our Spanish, but I appreciated all of the other priests who learned Spanish and who celebrated Mass for us.”



Catholic School Educators Meet To Train for On-Site Evaluation Using Non-Public Schools Criteria - Left to right: Ken Rasp - Owensboro Catholic Schools; Jim Duffy - Owensboro Catholic Middle School; Mike Clark - Mary Carrico Memorial School; Sister Susan Mary Mudd - Owensboro Catholic Middle School; Kay Howard - St. Mary of the Woods Grade School; Judy Patton - Owensboro Catholic Middle School; Allison Brant - St. Mary of the Woods Grade School; Tracy Conkright - Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus; Bill Hagan - Trinity High School; Charley Wittenberg - Executive Director, Kentucky Non-Public School Commission; Bonnie Marks - Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus; Larry Bishop - Christ the King School; Lori Whitehouse; Kathy Gray; Sherry Durham; Kim Riney; Vanessa Calvin. Lori, Kathy, Sherry, Kim, and Vanessa are all from Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus. Staff Photo

A Unique And Special Ministry

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Good friends, Eleanor Langston and Ann Wortham share a special ministry. They both live with dogs that not only share their lives but also are the vital members of the special ministry that these two women strongly believe in. Eleanor and Ann, with the dogs, are members of Therapy Dogs teams. Ann has had 2 greyhounds that she has participated with in the program. The first one was retired from a racetrack and Joker, her present dog, she found abandoned, lying horribly abused, and almost dead by a roadside. Eleanor found out from Ann about the program and how to adopt a dog from an Arkansas racetrack and has had her dog, Tessa for 4 years.



Ann Wortham with Joker, and Eleanor Langston, with Tessa, bring their Dog Therapy team to visit schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. Edie Keeney photo

Therapy dogs and their owners have to go through 8 weeks of training, which includes obedience training, therapy dog training and canine good citizen training. Ann and her first dog completed the training and several years later Ann and Joker went through the training with Eleanor and her dog, Tessa. The dogs became so bonded during the training that they will not work unless they are together.

The dogs have been taken to several places in Paducah including Lourdes Hospital, nursing homes, Clark Elementary school, the Board of Education, and the Easter Seal center and the Veterans Hospital in Marion, Illinois. The women let the dogs and the people interact with each other. "The children at Clark read to the dogs and, to see how the dogs never took their eyes off of the child reading, you could almost believe the dogs understood every word," Ann commented. She told about a man at the VA hospital who had been there for 3 months and had not spoken a word. When the dogs went up to him, he reached out his hand and stroked the dogs and he had a big smile on his face. They were told that that was the first response to anything that anyone had seen. Eleanor recalled, "Another time at the VA, we took the dogs into a room where this man was lying in bed with his feet uncovered. Joker went up to the bed and licked the man's feet. The man was a quadriplegic but he felt the dog licking his feet and he really laughed. It is so very rewarding to feel that you have made a difference in someone's life. I know that we have done something for God's people. They are alone and miss their animals. The dogs seem to sense that and respond so well." She continued, "After my husband, Curtis, passed away, I was so lonely. Someone mentioned rescuing gray hounds and I investigated the program and that is how I got Tessa and I haven't regretted it one single day. I only had her for 2 weeks when I told her that I worked for God and she would too. I volunteer at Lourdes and that was the first place that Ann and I took the dogs. We go there once a month. The patients love the dogs, especially the children but also the staff. The women in the gift shop are always giving little gifts to the dogs. They know when we are coming and wait to see us."

Ann mentioned that several times the dogs have been on TV and have had newspaper stories written about them. "They seem to take it all in stride. Give Joker food and he will do anything. We always have treats with us when we take them. When we are in a patient's room he will shake hands and then look sad and pitiful and the patients always insist that he has to have a treat. He works for food." Every 3rd Saturday individuals who have adopted the dogs take them to the Pet Smart store at the Mall in Paducah. As many as 18 and as few as 3 dogs show up to promote the greyhound adoption program.



Parents and Teachers Share Together!

The week of October 16-20, Holy Name School Henderson, held the annual parent-teacher conferences. This is a great time for parents to hear the great things their child has accomplished in the first nine weeks of school. Pictured is Mrs. Jean Carver (left) talking with her daughter's teacher, Mrs. Hatfield. HNE Photo



Teamwork at Holy Name School

Recently the teachers at Holy Name School participated in a team building activity. The team pictured consist of our 7th and 8th grade teachers (l to r: Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Tweddell, Mrs. Farina, Mrs. McArdle, and Mrs. Brown.) Each team of teachers and two staff teams at Holy Name School participated in the event. The school had a great pumpkin patch when the activity was completed! HNE Photo



OC Class of 2011

The Owensboro Catholic Middle School eighth graders visited the campus of their future high school Nov. 10, 2006. From left, Rachel Porter, Caylene Newton, and Jessica Bullington at OCHS Eighth Grade Visitation Day November 10, 2006 modelling their OC Class of 2011 shirts. Here they were waiting in line for lunch. Staff Photo

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 19-21 call (270)683-1545 ext. 357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

come let us adore Him

December 8, 2006

Dear Friend of the Shrine, Mary, Mother of the Church/Model of All Christians,

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ the Lord we at the Diocesan Marian Shrine: Mary, Mother of the Church/Model of All Christians at the historic church of St. Joseph in Bowling Green, Ky., wish to extend to you and your family all the blessings of Christmas and the New Year. You have been a part of the prayers and work of the Shrine this past year. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

This year from December 24, 2006 to January 1, 2007, we invite you to send to us your prayer intentions and names of loved ones that you would like for us to remember in a Novena of Masses that will be offered during this time. The names of loved ones and petitions will be placed before the beautiful statue of our Blessed Mother in the shrine during this time of the Novena of Masses. This would be a wonderful spiritual bouquet that you could give to someone this Christmas.

___ Increased Devotion to Mary, ___ A Happy Death, ___ World Peace, ___ Souls in Purgatory, ___ Holy Father, ___ Employment, ___ Priests and Religious, ___ Motherhood, ___ Increase in Religious Vocations, ___ The Aged, ___ Negligent Catholics, ___ Conversions, ___ Overcoming Drug Problems, ___ Reconciliation, ___ Family Happiness, ___ A Safe Trip, ___ A Happy Marriage, ___ Success in Studies, ___ Better Health, ___ Thanksgiving, ___ Sick and Dying, ___ Special Intentions.



OCHS Lady Aces Softball Rank #12 in Academics in USA

The 2006 Lady Aces Softball team ranked #12 in the country by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association in GPA. On a non-weighted scale, the Lady Aces Softball team has a 3.458 GPA. It is an excellent example of the high academic achievements by our student athletes. Way to go Lady Aces! The 2006 team Roster is as follows: Back Row, L to R: Katelyn Taliaferro, Jessica Fogle, Elizabeth Fenwick, Tiffany Mattingly, Margaret Tichenor, Alexis Fogle, Amanda Clark, Olivia Randolph, Megan Aull, Haley Clark; Middle Row, L to R: Coach Melissa Goetz, Emily Jolly, Meghan Dickinson, Holly Jones, Amy McManaway, Emily McCarty, Amanda Woodward, Kaley Wethington, Coach George Randolph; Front Row, L to R: Brianna James, Susan Babb, Morgan Rudy, Sarah Babb, Martina Riney. OCHS Photo

Stress in Your Marriage?

There is less than a week remaining to sign up for Retrouvaille. Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 19-21 call (270)683-1545 ext. 357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

Director Of Stewardship And Mission Services

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, Kentucky seeks to identify qualified candidates for this vital position within the central diocesan Curia, that will open due to retirement effective July 1, 2007. This office serves as stewardship and mission counsel to the Bishop, parishes, schools, and other diocesan entities. The Director is primarily responsible for assisting, broadening, and strengthening the commitment, understanding, and practice of stewardship as a complete lifestyle and a life of total accountability. The successful candidate must be a practicing Roman Catholic with significant experience in comprehensive fundraising at a senior level, including experience with planned giving, major gifts, and annual giving programs. We will gladly consider nominations for this position. We invite interested applicants to mail, email, or fax a curriculum vita that must include a cover letter, salary history, and list of references to: Stephen Kopylay, SPHR, P.O. Box 15550, Covington, KY 41015-0550, skopylay@covingtondiocese.org, fax 859/392-1537. BOE

The Call Of Jesus As Whispered To Me

By Mary Danhauer

MAGGOTTY St. ELIZABETH, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES- When I came to Jamaica, 15 months ago, I found a land of beauty and a people desperate for any and all help. I found people who were willing to give from the little that they had to show appreciation for the help that I could provide. They were quick to open their hearts and their homes to my visits. And the same continues today.

I started working with Dr. Carol Narkevic in the clinics that the Diocese of Mandeville provides for the people in various areas of the diocese. Currently there are clinics in 2 of the 3 parishes (like counties) of the diocese. I worked at St. Paul's Clinic at Mandeville, Manchester Parish; Holy Spirit Clinic at Maggoty, St. Croix Clinic at Santa Cruz and St. Vincent Strambi Clinic at Bull Savannah, all in St. Elizabeth Parish. In February, 2006 I started working full time at the Holy Spirit Clinic and St. Croix clinics. In June, 2006 I moved to Maggoty, and currently live with the Servant Sisters of the Sacred Heart in their convent on the grounds of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where the clinic is located. In the near future I will be moving to the volunteer center that is currently under construction.

My work consists of seeing patients at Holy Spirit Clinic on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday, I travel about 15 km to Santa Cruz and see patients at the St. Croix Clinic. On Thursday, I do home visits. I currently have about 60 patients that I travel to on the various Thursdays of the month.

In my travels around the mountains of Maggoty, I have found much poverty and much beauty, both in the land and in the hearts of the people living there. I keep thinking that this case might be the worst case of dire living, and then I go to the next yard, and there is more poverty and lack of basic living needs. People ask for food, clothing for themselves and their children, for zinc for roof tops, for plywood for walls, for a 2-burner stove to cook on... and the list goes on. I try to give what I have, the medical supplies that I can, and direct them to other places for the other needs.

Over time, the numbers of patients coming to both clinics that I serve have increased. The word is out that there is



Mary Danhauer, left, talking with a woman at her home.

steady medical care, and one patient tells her friends that "the medicine is good that they have there." The sisters managing both clinics try to see all those who come for medical care, but the supplies of medications are hard to come by. We ask a donation of 200 J\$ (about 3.08 US\$) for the visit, but some are not able to pay but half or none of that. The home patients I see generally do not have the money even to eat, much less medications. In looking at numbers and costs of medications that we can buy here, the figure for a general medical patient (one with Diabetes, Hypertension, Cholesterol, Stomach problems and Insomnia) runs to about 581.60 J\$ (8.90 US\$). So you can see that we quickly run out of money to purchase medications from suppliers in Kingston.



On the way to Ipswich, a church atop a hill, and the surrounding area in the town of Merriwood. All photos this page submitted by Mary Danhauer



Sr. Emila checking blood sugars at Holy Spirit Clinic.



Mary Danhauer working in the 20 ft. container building that houses Holy Spirit Clinic.

We have received donations of certain medications from Food for the Poor, and those have helped cut the costs per patient tremendously.

The 20 ft. container that houses the clinic at Holy Spirit is much too small for the numbers of patients that we now see. There is no privacy for the patient and exams are hard to obtain without compro-

Continued on page 13



Sr. Emila, doing a dressing change on a leg ulcer, one of the many that we do at the clinic, due to poor circulation and usually Diabetes.



A patient sitting in a doorway of his room in Norway, Jamaica. Mary Danhauer wrote, "This is a home patient that I recently saw. You drive this terrible road in the bush to the town of Ipswich, and then get out and walk a mile down the abandoned railroad to the town of Norway."



Sr. Emila, left, and Sr. Rita as they travel uphill to visit a patient in their home.

The following Parishes were among those contributing to the collection of goods : St. Stephen Cathedral Parish, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, St. Romuald Parish, Precious Blood Parish, St. Thomas More Parish and St. Henry Parish. Others that contributed were a number of people who went to Jamaica on previous Mandeville Mission Immersion trips, Lourdes Hospital, and Century Alumnum of Kentucky. Owensboro Catholic High School donated 100 school desks for this shipment. The following people (to the best of my memory-some may have been inadvertently left off the list) assisted in sorting and packing the two containers that went out 10-24-06 and 10-25-06.

Those who were involved in sorting and preparing for loading were from various groups. Brescia Soccer team members-Esaie Nazaire, Armstrong Johnson, Rodrigo Villalba, Fritz Seilbea, Daniel Janiak, John Benson, Shaban Abdulkarim, Graeme Jaap, David Shaw, Robert Correll, Joel Mattingly, Angel Abundez, Elias Meles, Stefan Ruddell, Brian Eidson, Paul O'Toole, Andy Varns, Julio Gonzales, Mindes Dorlean and Coach Jean Senat assisted in the process. Also among those assisting were: , Martha House, Sr. Jacinta Powers, Sr. Pat Froning, Sr. Barbara Jean Head, Richard Murphy, Patty Brown, Bill Brown, Pat Osborne and several folks that work with him, Rafael Perez, Rita Hayden, Tom and Suzanne Rose, Jessica, Tim and Janee Bradshaw, Carroll Ward, Bill Hayden, Courtney Kirby, Donald Donahue, William Wathen, Dr. Drew and Jeanette Ward.

Loading the containers were: Five volunteers from the Lighthouse Recovery Men's Program, Danny May, Tommy Kurz, Rita Hayden, Kathy McCarty, Tom and Suzanne Rose, Sr. Suzann Sims, Alan Sims, Gary and Karen Jarboe, Martha Hagan, Cathy Hagan,



Volunteers gathered Oct. 25 at the former SVDP store at 7th and Sycamore Sts, Owensboro to load a truck with donated materials bound for the Mandeville, Jamaica Diocese. Staff Photo

Dan Halbig, Barbara Galloway, Joe Ballard, and Aaron Payne.

Future planned Mission Immersion Trips in 2007 are: June 4-10, 2007, and October 3-9, 2007. If anyone is interested in participating in one of these trips, then please call Richard Murphy at 270/ 683-1545, or email him at richard.murphy@pastoral.org to obtain a application form.

Richard Murphy, Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro , richard.murphy@pastoral.org

The Call Of Jesus As Whispered To Me

(continued from page 12)

missing the personal pride of the patient. So, we are looking into developing the plans for another building for the clinic. There is ground available for the clinic and we will soon be looking for sources of funding for the building and staffing of the clinic.

I have certainly felt the power of prayer and the support of family and friends and the Diocese of Owensboro in my time in Jamaica. I have enjoyed visits from the various Mission trips as they have experienced their week in Jamaica working among the poor. Being in touch with family and friends by email and by the postal service has helped ease the time away from home and family. Know that I pray for all those who have and will continue to support my service here in Jamaica. In advance, I want to thank all those who have and will spend time collecting, sorting and packing the container that will come to us. It is important to continue the work here, a work that only touches the surface of the great need that is found in a short walk from the Church compound.

I continue to walk this new path on my journey of faith, and ask the Lord to guide me daily. I am only beginning to understand the meaning of the call of Jesus to serve the poor. The days are somewhat long, but I go to bed tired and wake up refreshed to begin again the walk with those who are poor in Jamaica. I only pray that each day I may serve more and listen better to the call of Jesus as whispered to me in the hearts of those I touch and meet daily.



In the picture at left, Sr. Pat Froning, OSF, center, lent a hand with carrying a desk to the truck. Staff Photo

Carol Schlachter, Donna Ferguson, Danny Slack, Sr. Marietta Wethington, Sr. Rose Jean Powers, Sr. Pam Muller, Conrad Toefler, Eddie and Maryann O'Bryan, Mike Snyder, Sr. Pat Lieghton, Nancy Velotta, Patty Murphy, Richard Murphy, Richard Morris, John Calhoun II, Martha House, Tom Payne, Mel Howard, Sr. Pat Froning, Doug Howard, Paul Bachi, Sr. Barbara Jean Head, Sr. Marie Joseph Coomes, John & Patsy Clayton, Nancy Hendricks, Reid Haire, Wendy Schienbein, Dr. David and Karen Danhauer, Sr. Jacinta Powers,

Sacred Drama, Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz, Inspires Hundreds in Owensboro

Kelly and Bryan Hedges, owners of St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore, pose with actor/director Leonardo Defilippis on Oct. 28 at the Riverpark Center, immediately following his inspirational one man performance of the play, Maximilian... Defilippis works to share God's message, through his acting and directing, to people all over the country. Other works include his direction of the recent movie production, Therese. A crowd of around 350 came out to enjoy his performance in Owensboro. Larena Lawson Photo



The Story

Born in Poland in 1894, the son of poor devout Catholics, Maximilian Kolbe experienced many interior trials as a seminarian, but he was sustained by a vision of the Blessed Mother who offered him a crown of purity or a crown of martyrdom. He asked for both. Plagued by chronic physical weakness, the young priest went on to form a group of friars called the "Knights of Immaculata," dedicated to restoring the world to Christ through Mary. Its magazine reached a circulation of one million by 1939 and played a role in preparing the people of Europe spiritually for the coming holocaust. Maximilian saw the Holy Mother as God's agent in confounding the darkness which was gathering in opposition to the Church and indeed, covering the whole world. In 1941, he was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to the infamous Auschwitz death camp. There the saint offered to take the place of a married man condemned to death by starvation, fulfilling the words of Christ: Greater love than this has no man, that he give up his life for his friend." He was executed on August 14, the eve of the Feast of the Assumption. Forty-one years after that heroic act, he was canonized by Pope John Paul II.



Saint Maximilian Kolbe

St. Mary Pair Sign Baseball Grants with Louisville, Michigan State

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary senior baseball stars Gabriel Shaw and Jonathan Roof, after leading their team to the 2006 Kentucky Class A state tournament and the sub-state round in open, (un-classed) competition, held a joint signing ceremony in the St. Mary High School commons on Thursday afternoon, November 9. In the presence of their families, their coach (St. Mary AD Billy Hodge), school officials and well-wishers, the teammates received congratulations from each other as they committed to play for the University of Louisville (Shaw), and Michigan State (Roof), respectively. Both Roof and Shaw indicated a sense of relief that they can now focus during their senior year on helping St. Mary achieve its team goals, rather than agonizing over scholarship offers and decisions that are unlikely to become clearer than they are now. Both emphasized that their college selection was based in large part on the enthusiasm and operating style of the coaching staffs, as well as their obvious desire to welcome them to their teams. With over 25 schools expressing interest, Shaw and his family thought that U of L was the most decisive about their commitment to Gabriel, and the "team fit" that they perceived. It is expected that Shaw, one of the state's premiere high school pitchers, will be used exclusively on the mound, or as a designated hitter.



Gabriel Shaw and Jonathan Roof

Roof's view of the Michigan State opportunity was similar, and he selected them, "not just because" his brother Eric is a left fielder/catcher/third baseman for them. "Sure, it would be nice to play in the same infield as my brother," said Roof, "but the rest of the situation seemed right, too. His other brother, Shawn, is a senior and shortstop for Illinois, and hoped Jonathan might consider playing for the Illini, as well. "Of course, he and I would never have played together, anyway, since he'll graduate from college in May, just when I'm graduating from St. Mary." Roof will probably be tried at both second base and shortstop for MSU. Gene Roof, Jonathan's father and a former major-leaguer, is a hitting coach with the Detroit Tiger organization, and is presently working with their winter-league players in the Dominican Republic.

Before worrying about baseball, Roof and Shaw have another whole athletic season to play, as starters and stalwarts on St. Mary's basketball team.

St. Mary AP Scholar Mika Thomasson

2006 St. Mary High School graduate Mika Thomasson received the AP Scholar designation as a result of achieving a qualifying score in three (3) different subject areas on the College Board



Jonathan's mother, Mary Ann, left, and Gabriel's parents Laura and Steve behind Gabriel watch as their sons sign letters of intent.

St. Mary Cheerleader to appear in Macy's Parade

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary senior and cheerleading captain Leah Bohle will participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Bohle will be performing as a member of the UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) delegation. The group will perform in front of the Macy's store at 34th and Broadway during the parade coverage between 9AM and 12PM (Eastern). Denise Bohle, St. Mary cheerleaders' sponsor, will accompany her daughter on the trip. All participants and chaperones will attend an orientation on Saturday, November 18, and a rehearsal on Monday, November 20. The group will attend a performance of the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, and have an opportunity to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral or ice-skate at Rockefeller Center. Another highlight will be a trip to the top of the national landmark Empire State Building.

Advanced Placement exams earlier this year. Mika was awarded a full academic scholarship from the University of Louisville, where she is currently enrolled as a pre-med student, and is entered in courses leading to a double major in biology and Spanish. Mika is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Thomasson of Ledbetter.

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

Father Darrell's Garden

By Miriam R. Craft

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - "Think about the ordinary things that you do exceedingly well," Father Darrell Venters said during Mass Sunday morning.

Nurturing a garden and mowing the lawn may be ordinary tasks, but Father Darrell does these exceedingly well.

And when his hands are not raised in exhortation, they are tending to the brilliant flowers outside his home at the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.

As he moves through the beds, the priest points out the fall-flowering shasta daisies, black-eyed Susans and pink chrysanthemums along the paths by the chapel. He stops at his favorite plant, the red dragon wing begonia, a vivid globe in the wide terracotta pot.

"They're easily grown," he says of the waist-high plant, "and I love the shape of the petals and leaves."

Father Darrell has been expanding his garden at St. Thomas for eight years, as long as he has been the chaplain here. He says there was nothing when he came, only some shrubs. That's when he dug in.

"A couple from the church I served before gave me six rose bushes every year for three years," he says, turning to the sumptuous bed.

Now the chapel is surrounded by the work he has done, and he still has plans to do more.

St. Thomas Aquinas Campus Minister Debby Cherwak says Father Darrell takes pride in everything he does, and the chapel and grounds have never been so meticulously kept until he came.

"It's not a necessity," she said. "To him it's a labor of love."

The priest sits sideways in his office chair. His black slacks are neatly pressed, his black shoes, shined, his white clerical collar stiff above his shirt.

"Sometimes when I'm working in the garden people don't recognize me," he chuckles. "I'm out there sweating in my Levis and a t-shirt and they think I'm the janitor."

Alice Kummer, a regular attendant at the chapel, is also a member of the Bowling Green Garden Club, and says she appreciates Father Darrell's garden for its beauty and serenity.

"I think he is a serene man and a very spiritual person," Alice said. "You can tell that he is patient and tends his roses with loving care."

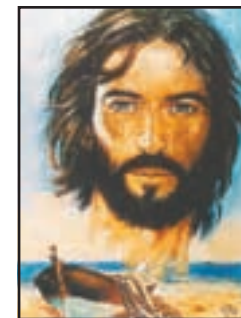
With a background in farming, and an agribusiness and horticulture degree, Father Darrell is no stranger to helping things grow. He says his mother, Lucille, taught him about flowers when he was growing up in Fairfield, Ill.

"My mother had a huge garden," he says, spreading his hands to show the expanse, "probably close to three-quarters of an acre, with all kinds of flowers.

"What I've learned how to do now is low maintenance." Father Darrell only spends around four hours a



Father Darrell tending his garden. Below, a detail of a Father Darrell Rose. Photos by Miriam Craft



week working outside, with about one hour of that time pruning his roses. He knows the names of each: Tiffany, Barbara Bush, Mister Lincoln, Princess Diana, Peace and Dolly Parton, to name a few. There are 46 altogether. He says the hybrid tea is his favorite, and apparently, it's a favorite among the neighbors, as well.

He shrugs and smiles.

"I can tell that people are stealing the roses by the way the bush is cut," he says. "I just hope that the boyfriend or girlfriend receiving the rose feels loved."

A Seminary Visit Full of Blessings

By Larena Lawson

Have you ever wondered what life is like on a college seminary campus and how the young men studying for the Diocese of Owensboro are doing? Have you ever had the opportunity to meet them or visit them there? You just might be surprised at what you'll see.

You might see a seminarian playing on the football team with his own personal fan club cheering him on; fellow seminarians decked out in purple and white, some with painted faces, cheering louder and with more spirit than the cheerleaders, "First down! First down! Go Tommies! Go Jarboe!!!"

That's right, our own Owensboro Diocesan Seminarian David Jarboe, former Owensboro Catholic High Aces football star, now playing college football for St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a freshman at St. John Vianney College Seminary (SJV) which is located on the campus of the University of St. Thomas.

Or you might be invited to attend a daily "Holy Hour" of Morning Prayer, meditation, and silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in the SJV Seminary Chapel with the seminarians, including our own Will Thompson, Mitch Brazell, and Jim Johnson and the priests on staff. They come together regularly as a community to pray the prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours. You may witness their melodious singing of hymns, observe the beauty of praying the psalms, hear heartfelt prayers of petitions given on behalf of others, and have tears fill your eyes when you can't contain the joy you feel in knowing that someday these reverent



St. John Vianney seminarians Will Thompson, James Johnson and Mitch Brazell in second row were at a St. Thomas University Tommies game cheering on their fellow seminarian David Jarboe who helped the Tommies defeat the Carlton Knights 10-4 on October 7. . Larena Lawson Photo

young men of prayer might become your very own parish priest.

You may join them for Mass afterwards and celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. You might discover how devoted and trusting they are in our Blessed Mother's protection. They may sing ancient hymns in Latin honoring

Continued on page 16

Our Lady. And you may feel a tinge of pride when you hear Mitch serving as cantor and leading the congregation beautifully in the singing of the responsorial psalm, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord...”

You might find out that it is Family Weekend and have no idea that you are visiting with other families there to see their own seminarian, which makes you feel like family yourself. You may be greeted with a most sincere welcome from the rector, Father Bill Baer, who immediately sets your mind at ease with his warm, friendly personality as you realize that these young men are in the best of hands under his guidance. You might get to meet some of the other seminarians, see their smiles, feel the warmth of their handshakes and hear where they are all from and note how happy they seem to be as students at SJV.

You might discover that the seminarians make a special pledge each day to be “Men in Christ, Men of the Church, and Men for Others.” You could be impressed with the genuine desire that they seem to have to grow in holiness, not only if they follow God’s call to become priests, but in their own spirituality as men.

They might take you to their favorite store to shop, a place where they could spend hours, like kids in a candy store, but this is Leaflet Missal Company, a Catholic bookstore and gift shop. Watching them browse around looking at holy cards, statues, and books and observing how much they enjoy the treasure that each item holds, could make you want to buy it all for them. It all proves to exhibit their yearning for all that the gift of our faith holds true and dear. God has planted a seed in them that they desire to nurture so that it can grow and bear fruit for Him whom they love.

You might get the opportunity to attend Mass at the massive Cathedral of St. Paul. At the beginning of the academic year the seminarians make a four mile Rosary Pilgrimage to the Cathedral starting at the seminary and ending with a prayer of consecration in the Cathedral’s Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Cathedral is located on the highest point in the city of St. Paul, overlooking the capitol building.

While you’re there you may also drive along the Mississippi River and see the warm colors of autumn coating the trees that line its banks. Or you may be shown the most picturesque of all sights around, as Will suggests, and see and hear the glory of God’s creation in the magnificent rushing of the waters down Minihaha Falls. You might feel like you taste a piece of paradise as you listen to the flowing waters cascading downstream. One thing’s for sure, you have experienced God’s presence everywhere you went. I know I did.

So the next time you wonder what might be found on the college seminary campus, or in the



Mitch Brazell, David Jarboe, and Will Thompson posed after a University of St. Thomas football game in October, 2006. Lar-ena Lawson Photo

surrounding area, know that you will be blessed if you go there to see for yourself. You’ll meet our seminarians who will treat you like family, show you the campus with pride, and tell you that they are blessed to be there.

St. John Vianney College Seminary is growing. Its high enrollment makes it the largest college seminary in the country. It offers “academic rigor, sound formation, and faithfulness to the teachings of the Church.” With a national reputation for excellence and fidelity, what more could we ask for our seminarians? Let us pray for them and ask God to continue to bless and guide them as they strive to do His will in their lives.

If you would like to write to our college seminarians, David Jarboe, Jim Johnson, Mitch Brazell, and Will Thompson, to offer your support for them in their studies, you may write to them at this address: St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2115 Summit Avenue, Mail# 5024, St. Paul, MN 55105-1095

Students Learn Latin America tradition, “Altar de Muertos” at Saints Peter and Paul

By Byron Macias

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - This year’s Altar of the Dead, was made by our school’s seventh and eighth graders from the Spanish class and their teacher, Mrs. Hilda Macario. Mrs. Macario thanked the school Principal and Father John Thomas for providing the students with opportunities to learn about Latin American traditions such as “Altar de Muertos.” Mrs. Macario also feels very proud of her students’ disposition and also their impressions from this experience:

“Now I now it’s not just about getting candy and going to parties. It’s all about our loves ones that have gone before us.” –**Brittany Kinnard**

“I learned that the Mexican people have rich traditions.” –**Mary Martin**

“I enjoyed putting up the altar and researching about it. My experience of bringing in the picture of my grandpa brought back good memories.” –**Amy Shleton**

“This was also a great learning experience for me. I learned traditions from the Spanish culture and we all had to work together, with our different ideas, to make the altar.” –**Jerome Soldo**

“I liked because it had my grandfather on it who just recently died. Finding out information about him helped me to grow closer to him.” –**Jessica Hanks**

Mrs. Macario also says it was very important for her students to become familiar with this tradition. Macario also thanks the people who helped to gather the respective stuff (Students, Byron Macias, Guadalupana Mexican Store, Duran Family, Alma Valdez, the Art Teacher and everyone else for their support.



Spanish Students along with Fr. Carmelo, Mrs. Rochelle Dickerson, and Mrs. Hilda Macario, by the Altar de Muertos. Submitted by Byron Macias



Connect “Go Cold Turkey,” and the Public Health. What Have You Got? Students Working To Help Stop Smoking.

A coalition of high school students from Apollo High School, Daviess County High School, and Owensboro Catholic High School met at Owensboro radio station WBKR-FM Nov, 16, 2006, to draw out the names of 25 lucky people who had pledged to help stop smoking, either their own or a friend's, and not to smoke this day for the Great American Smoke Out. In pledging to help the Owensboro Catholic High School SCRUBS group convince people to quit smoking with their second annual “Go Cold Turkey” initiative, citizens also signed up for a chance to get a free turkey donated by the Owensboro Mercy Health System if their name was drawn while the students were on the air at WBKR. The WBKR radio DJs here are from left, Cathy Carter, Chad Benefield, and Moon Mullins. The school folks are from left Chris Hunt, Career Planner for Daviess County HS and Apollo HS; Lexi Payne, DCHS senior; Nate Burden, Apollo sophomore; Emily McCarty, OCHS junior; Elizabeth Fenwick, OCHS junior; and Kathryn Crowe, R.N., BSN., OCS School Health Coordinator and co-sponsor of the OCHS SCRUBS group with OC counselor Bev Howard. Five more frozen turkeys were given away Nov. 17. Staff Photo

Angela’s Ark Scene of Lewis & Clark Re-enactment



In the picture at right, Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, and Sister Pam Mueller, OSU, garbed in

1874 habits of the Ursuline Sisters, fit in well with the re-enactors of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Clarksville, Indiana. The sisters displayed the Angela’s Ark flatboat during the Clarksville festival that honored the completion of the three-year re-enactment of the Lewis and Clark journey. Pictured with the sisters are Jim Wallace portraying the pioneer John Collins, left, and Bryant Boswell portraying Meriwether Lewis, right. Captain John Cooper stands in the back and Tsumani, a Newfoundland dog, sits in front.

In the picture at left, Clarksville flatboat visitors: Over 400 students from the Clarksville, Indiana and Louisville areas visited the Ursuline Sisters’ flatboat November 3. Shown here with some students is Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU. MSJ Photos



Looking For Your Final Resting Place?

An end-to-end mausoleum crypt space for two people located in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah is for sale. The name of the mausoleum is “The Last Supper.” If you are interested in purchasing this crypt space, please contact Fr. Mark Buckner at St. Pius Tenth Church in Calvert City. The phone number is (270) 395-4727.

Marriage Saving – the Weekend Phase – During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) a series of presentations are given by a team of three couples and a priest. The team presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation you have time to discuss the presentation in the privacy of your room. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 19-21 call (270) 683-1545 ext.357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org



New Coalition Urges Passage Of State Minimum Wage Bill In 2007

FRANKFORT, Ky. – On NOV. 16, 2006, a partnership of faith-based organizations, grassroots organizing groups, labor unions, low-income advocates, and professional associations announced their formation of a coalition to urge passage of a state minimum wage.

With the passage of ballot initiatives in six states on November 7, 29 states and Washington DC have laws setting the minimum wage above the federal level of \$5.15 per hour. It has been a decade since Congress last raised the minimum wage. The actual purchasing power of the federal minimum wage is at its lowest level since World War II.

Representative J.R. Gray announced the details of the bill that he would seek to pass in the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly. The bill contains three key provisions:

- raise the minimum wage to \$7.00 per hour as of June 2007 or to the federal minimum wage if it is greater;
- add an annual cost of living increase; and
- abolish the current tip credit of \$2.13 per hour taken by employers and provide that tipped employees be paid the state minimum hourly wage.

Representative Gray stated, "It is time for the Kentucky legislature to stand up for low-wage workers and require that they are decently compensated for their work. We must no longer allow a minimum wage that pays a single mother with one child working full-time year-round nearly \$3,000 less than the federal poverty line."

In the 2006 session of the General Assembly, Representative Gray and 22 co-sponsors introduced House Bill 378 that would have established a state minimum wage. The bill passed out of the House Labor and Industry Committee but failed to move forward on the House floor. Representative Joni Jenkins and Senator Ernesto Scorsone have also prefiled companion bills this fall that also would establish a state minimum wage.

At today's announcement Crystal Blackburn, a Louisville mother of a five-year old said she has seen what low wages have done to the people in her community. "It shouldn't matter if you're flipping burgers; if you're working hard, you should be treated fairly. we're not. need to realize that this is someone's wife or someone's mother. need a raise, and we need respect. the minimum wage is part of this. It's a step in the right direction, and it would give people hope."

Father Patrick Delahanty, associate director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, said "We have a moral responsibility and opportunity to increase the minimum wage to insure that working families, especially single mothers, have enough money to meet the basic human needs for themselves and their families."

The minimum wage increase proposed by Gray would provide a raise to 275,000 Kentuckians according to statistics provided by Debra Miller, Director of Public Policy for Kentucky Youth Advocates. "Today we want to dispel the myth that only teenagers work at minimum wage. In fact, 83% percent of the affected workers in Kentucky are twenty or older. And 102,000 are married and 60,000 are parents. Clearly, raising the minimum wage is one way to address Kentucky's high child poverty rate," she said.

"We care about our students whose parents make minimum wage," said Frances Steenbergen, President, Kentucky Education Association. "We see firsthand the effects of poverty in their lives, even while their parents work hard to provide for them. Everyone will benefit from an increased minimum wage, especially our children."

The website for the Kentucky Raise the Wage Coalition will be updated regularly to provide data about the impact of raising the minimum wage, workers who would be affected, and how interested persons can take action to support a state minimum wage. The domain name is www.raisethe wageky.org.

Comfort & Hope... a message about grief



By Jeannie Boone

For days now I have felt estranged from reality, from the daily happenings around me, even though I work from early morning till bedtime with little rest... I am somehow here but not here. I function, but not at full speed, and this bothers me; the Martha in me is so concerned about getting things done. Somewhere in my heart I am missing something and if I could just name it then perhaps I could restore it to its place, and like

Martha's sister, lay the work down and rest with my Lord.

I blame this state on various things: moving, and to a smaller house no less; a series of unfortunate events that some say come in threes but I have them in larger numbers; physical pain that never goes away; fatigue that borders on exhaustion. The truth is revealing itself like the rain that just won't go away; it's seeping in and leaving no room for excuses.

Almost 26 years have passed since that night I was told my child was dead. As the weather turns cold it is a reminder of that time. Some years are harder than others. I know that is a direct result of my physical state and life circumstances, but that doesn't stop the onslaught of memories and they can be overwhelming.

I remember the sky that morning, the sun giving way so suddenly to black clouds that came up from the horizon like a blanket. I remember the snow that set in the next day and I couldn't bear the thought of putting my little girl in the frozen ground. The first birthday without her and then all the days and holidays to come, when a vital and precious piece of my heart was not here. Oh, not lost... not misplaced... as if you could search for a while and put everything right again. Gone. Dead.

I associate myself with Humpty Dumpty. It's true. I learned how to cope while broken, how to go on, how to be productive and how to laugh again. I have gusto in my life because I search for that... and most days I can see her face and smile. But her birthday is approaching, as is Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I know why I feel so displaced.

I know why I find it so hard to function. And, just as I did 26 years ago, I try to handle it myself while my soul suffers and pleads, 'give it up'. And so I will. I know I must, I know I can. I will lay myself, and my grief, at the feet of my Lord and I will rest there.

Others may find it hard to understand that after so many years a heart can still hurt so deeply. I tell you that your grief is a personal and unique process. It will surface now and again, even after years, to be recognized and answered. How you respond is up to you, a lot depends on the circumstances surrounding the death, but it should not be debilitating and it should not isolate you from others. If it does you need to seek help from a professional counselor. And pray, because Christ is there for you... when all others have fallen asleep He keeps watch over you and your loved ones.

I will find volunteer activities during the holidays; this gives me comfort and hope. I will devote more time to meditation and prayer. I will pray for all of you who mourn and I'll remember all the stories you've shared with me. And I'll be grateful that God has allowed me this experience.

May Christmas bring you peace, comfort and hope in your heart.



Saint Mary School System
Paris, Kentucky

St. Mary Produces Award-Winning Yearbook

The 2006 edition of the "Viking Voyage", St. Mary High School's yearbook, received honors in 8 out of 9 categories in the annual competition sponsored by Western Ky. University. St. Mary journalism teacher Dean Cossiboom said the contest is open to all Kentucky high schools, and the criteria for excellence include writing, photography, layout, and advertising. Exact placement by category of award will be announced at an awards ceremony on Western's campus the week of November 20.

A Reminder Of Why We Are Called "Catholic"

The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2006 19

By Andrew Salsman

Three years ago when I arrived at Western Kentucky University I was a boy on the edge of adolescence and those first few steps into adulthood. When I came to WKU I decided to re-evaluate everything I had been taught, to sift through what I had learned through the years, and find out what it was that I truly believed, not what I had been told to believe. For years I had questioned what it meant to be a Christian. So many times I would listen to people argue over denomination or practice and completely forget the basic concepts of love for your fellow man.

When I came to Western Kentucky University many people would ask me to go to different churches and learn about their beliefs. The one thing I always noticed was that many so-called Christians are a lot of talk and show and not a lot of action. This was frustrating to me, to see people claim to be followers of Christ and then completely forget the central core of his message. After a year at WKU I began going to the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel for Mass. Considering I hadn't been to mass in a year I was a little scared. Other churches had made me feel as if I had sinned beyond repair because I took time to decide if this is what I really wanted, but not this place. I never felt like an outcast. I never felt like I had to know every answer to scripture questions or every verse line for line. After a while I felt that passion for the faith that I had not felt since my childhood.

I began to remember what I had lost sight of in my faith community. As Catholics we are a universal church, open to all of God's people. We are called to help the poor and afflicted, be they Christian or not, of the same nation or alien. I think sometimes we spend so much time defending our faith that we sometimes forget the key concepts of what it is we believe. Really being a Christian is easy, I think we just complicate it sometimes. If you learn nothing else about what it means to be a Christian remember this:

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets



WKU students Rachel Thomason and Jacob Vervynckt sharing a dessert at the meal served after they celebrated Mass on Wednesday night!

depend on these two commandments." -Matthew 22:37-40

Now, I just try to remember one thing every day. Being a good Christian is a lot like a job. You can talk about doing good work, but unless you actually do the work you're really not working. Eventually you have to account to the boss, and if all you have done is talk about how great your job is, you'll find your work really isn't up to par.

Note: Andrew Salsman is a senior at Western Kentucky University. He is from Bardstown, Kentucky and majoring in Religious Studies and Broadcasting. Story and photos submitted by Debby Cherwak [debby.cherwak@wku.edu]



The 3rd Place winners of the "Big Red 500 Trike Race" at the Western Kentucky University intramural event - representing our "Catholic" team!

CURSILLO

By Norma Folz

How do you explain a life-changing experience? How do you begin to share with others the effects of a Cursillo weekend? For those of you who have made this special weekend, you have some idea of what I am talking about.

I made my Cursillo week-end in December, 1997 after my daughter, Jennifer, and my husband, Bill, had attended a Cursillo in the spring. I know God is always patient with me, and He must have been very happy when I finally took this big step. My daughter, Kim, also made a Cursillo later. Just as in the poem, "Footprints," He was definitely there with me the whole weekend. He was present through the laity who were the team and our spiritual directors. He was there with me through the other candidates who shared their faith with me. We were all strangers when we arrived, but by Sunday we truly loved one another with Christ's love,

Since 1997, I have been fortunate to serve Him by working on many teams and meeting many wonderful Catholic people throughout the diocese. I know they are always praying for each other...what a powerful prayer support!! These people are from all walks of life but have one thing in common, their commitment to their faith. What an example they have been to me!



Brescia Men's Basketball Games To Air on WIMM-LP FM Catholic Radio

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Beginning November 21, 2006 Radio station 107.7 FM (WIMM) began broadcasting all Brescia University Men's basketball home games.

Three home games in November were broadcast.

Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm Brescia U vs. Shawness State Univ.

Dec. 7 at 7:00 p.m. Brescia U vs IU Southeast

Jan 9 at 7:00 pm Brescia U vs. Spalding University

Jan 11 at 7:00 Brescia U vs Campbellsville U

Jan 13 at 2:00 p.m. Brescia U vs Park U

Jan 27 at 4:00 p.m Brescia U vs. Alice Lloyd College

Feb. 6 at 7:00 pm Brescia U vs. Pikeville College

Stay tuned. Brescia University is working on getting the away games on the air in December, 2006 and Winter, 2007.

Women of Grace

Women – Find your purpose...Feed your soul!

You may have heard some of your female friends who are participating in a Catholic women's study series and wondered what it was all about. The Women of Grace Study Series has been held at Immaculate, St Pius X, Whitesville and at Blessed Mother Parish. Women from all parishes are invited to participate in any of the groups or form a group in your own parish.

Well, just what is this all about – give us some details...Living His Life Abundantly International, Inc. is a non-profit Catholic media ministry whose television and radio programming is seen and heard throughout the world. Its mission is to inform, instruct, and inspire all people with the truths of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Johnnette Benkovic is the founder and director of Women of Grace which is an apostolate of Living His Life Abundantly. The purpose and mission of this apostolate is to affirm the dignity and vocation of women presented by Pope John Paul II and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. The Women of Grace apostolate uses regional conferences, study groups, curriculum, daily radio programming, Canticle magazine, and a newsletter to catechize and evangelize women to the truths of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Vatican II asked women to accept God's urgent call to "aid humanity in not falling." Based on Johnnette's book, Full Of Grace, this study will teach you how by revealing God's purpose and mission for you. The series lasts nine weeks. You'll be nurtured and fed spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. You'll learn to embrace your gift of authentic femininity and your dignity as a daughter of God. You'll be equipped to fulfill your call and mission as a woman of grace in the world today.

Classes will resume at Blessed Mother, Wednesday, January 24th at 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Evening classes will be offered, but times and location are yet to be determined. Watch your church bulletin for more information. Pre-registration is required since study materials need to be ordered. If you are interested in facilitating this study at your Parish, want more information, or would like to participate please phone, Cathy Graham 270-683-4665 or Rachel Evans 270-683-2592.

St. Pius Tenth Church, Owensboro Paving The Way for the Future

OWENSBORO, Ky. - To tie the rich Parish history to the promise of a bright future, St. Pius Tenth Parish (established 1957) invites all parishioners and especially former parishioners an opportunity to help Pave The Way "to purchase a brick for the walkway that connects the old building to the new, and our history to the future. The St. Pius X parish offers a special invitation to the founding families or their children and former students, teachers, and staff of St. Pius X Catholic School and Bishop Cotton Elementary to purchase a brick.

Bricks are \$100 and a Mini-brick is \$15.00. Bricks can be in memory of someone, in recognition of something/someone, in celebration of Baptism, Wedding, special teacher, etc. a 4" x 8" brick can have up to three lines of wording and 20 characters. Mini-bricks can be used as a paperweight, and are 1 1/2" x 3 5/8."

This would make a unique Christmas Gift. The "Paving The Way" campaign will present an ongoing opportunity for purchase as life events happen. St. Parish X Parish will be able to install bricks anytime in the future. Orders can be placed by contacting the parish office at 684-4745.



Bricks with no engraving presently cover the walkway to attach the two buildings at St. Pius X Church. They will be removed to place engraved bricks. SPX Photo

Women of Grace brings you...

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION & PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Given by Fr. Wade Menezes, CPM, Fathers of Mercy

Saturday, January 20, 2007, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Immaculate Catholic Church, 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer / Introductions / Coffee & Donuts
- 9:00-10:00 Conference #1: The Sacraments in General
 - Marriage in God's Plan (CCC 1601-1605) Marriage in the Lord (CCC 1612-1617)
- 10:00-10:30 Break for Quiet Time and Prayer; 10:30-11:30 - Holy Mass
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30-1:45 Conference #2: The Effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony (CCC 1638-1642)
 - The Marriage Bond: Proper Headship & Proper Heartship
 - The Grace of the Sacrament of Marriage
- 1:45-2:00 Break for Quiet Time and Prayer
- 2:00-3:00 Conference #3: The Good and Requirement of Conjugal Love (CCC 1643-1654)
 - The Unity and Indissolubility of Marriage The Fidelity of Conjugal Love
 - Openness to Fertility The Domestic Church (CCC 1655-1658)
- 3:00-3:30 Time for Questions / Closing Prayer / Adjournment

Cost of the Retreat: \$25.00 per couple, if mailed by Jan. 13. \$30.00 per couple after Jan. 13 (Lunch Included). Checks Payable to: Immaculate Catholic Church. Please Mail Your Check to: Women of Grace, 707 Hill Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301. Contact Couples: Keith and Rachel Evans (270)683-2592; Robert and Katie Edge (270)684-4275. All Participants Must Bring A Copy of The Catechism of The Catholic Church. *Copies will be available for purchase.

"The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1603)

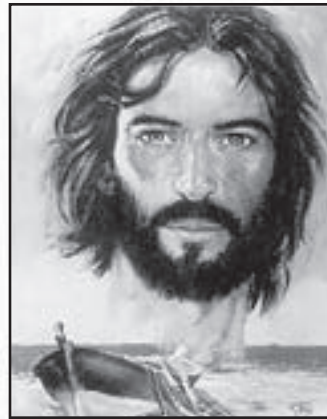


Ryan Harpole

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

A Spiritually Enriching Experience

By Seminarians Ryan Harpole and Steve Hohman



Steve Hohman

As part of our formation with the Diocese of Owensboro, we spent the summer at the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. IPF is a program that assists in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Catholic Church. It complements existing programs of seminary formation and responds to the needs for a more concentrated and integrated spiritual formation. This past summer, over 120 seminarians representing numerous dioceses, ethnic groups, backgrounds and nationalities participated in IPF. One thing that most amazed us was the level and variety of talents that this group had. Their talents lie in nearly every area, including music, art, sports, cooking, drama and others as well. It is encouraging to know, for those who become priests, that these talents will benefit their ministry some day. Creighton University is situated in the heart of Omaha, a rather large city with a population of around 400,000. There were many different opportunities and activities to experience. For example, the College Baseball World Series is held and played in Omaha during the summer. Since tickets for seminarians are free, it was easy to get into the games. Another benefit to living in Omaha this summer was opportunity to develop skills in the game of golf. With 92 golf courses available within a 25 mile radius of the city, finding a golf course was easy. We also discovered that Nebraska football is just as important to people from Nebraska as Kentucky basketball is to us here in Kentucky. Every day the sports section of the newspaper had something about Nebraska football. After a while we started to realize how crazy we are in Kentucky when it comes to basketball. All this sport activity can develop a mighty appetite in a fellow. And Omaha has the answer for that. The city boasts of numerous restaurants featuring a variety of ethnic foods. So, if you like to watch baseball, play golf, talk about football and eat, Omaha may be a unique place to visit.

One of the really great and encouraging things this summer was to hear reports of what is going on at other seminaries. Seminarians represented approximately 25 different seminaries from across the country. Nearly every seminarian had a similar story to share about his respective seminary. They told of how, in the past 10 or 15 years, attendance had gone up in their seminaries. This is certainly true at Saint Meinrad, where we have our highest enrollment since 1993. In addition, there seems to be a new passion for Jesus Christ and the Catholic Faith among seminarians, and they want to share that passion with the world. In these times of a "clergy crunch" it is good to know some of the positive signs on the horizon.

Among the many things offered by IPF, the most important was the development of a life of personal daily prayer. We were taught that a holy hour of prayer each day is the foundation in which the rest of the day is lived. By and through that one hour you are better able to relate to the responsibilities and relationships of the day. We were strongly encouraged to incorporate an hour of prayer each day into our lives. After a while it became a habit and was the highlight of the day, and it continues to be today. We all lead busy lives. It is hard to find that time to pray and for one solid hour makes it even harder. It took us a while to find out that we should be planning our day around an hour of prayer rather than planning our day and trying to find a way to squeeze in an hour of prayer. Our prayer life and relationship with God is stronger than it has ever been and we attribute that to a summer at IPF.

One highlight was the 8-day silent retreat, right at the beginning of the summer. For many people, the thought of being silent for eight days would bring on sheer horror.

But even though you pretty much did not talk to anyone during this time, you were nonetheless never alone. You always felt the presence of Jesus with you, and when you are with Jesus, you can never be lonely. We generally spent about 6 to 7 hours a day in prayer. While this may not be appealing to many, it was the most blessed time in our lives. When you stop filling your ears and your mind with the noise of others, television, internet, MP3 players, newspapers, etc., eventually, in the quiet of your mind and heart, you have to listen to what the Lord is telling you. And the Lord told both of us many things during this time, things that we would never have heard had we been bogged down in the normal business of our lives. If anyone reading this gets a chance to make a silent retreat, even just for a weekend, we highly recommend it.

The staff of IPF taught us how to better understand our role as a Christian and especially how it relates to sexuality and celibacy. Before attending the IPF program, sexuality and celibacy were two words that we had really never thought about. Those two words were always thought of as being par for the course when it comes to being a seminarian and then a priest. Instead of these words meaning you were celibate and sexuality was not a part of your life anymore, we learned that through living a chaste, celibate life we were becoming an icon for all, an icon that points to the future and life with Christ in heaven. Celibate sexuality is a counter-cultural gift from God, not a burden as some may think it to be.

One of the best parts of the celibacy class was the guest speakers. Christopher West brought out the beauty of John Paul II's "Theology of the Body". Several couples presented a seminar on Natural Family Planning and shared from their own experience how the practice of this Church teaching had deepened their love and strengthened their marriage. They also addressed the dangers of artificial contraception that has unfortunately become common practice in our society today. In addition, we had the chance to visit the Pope Paul VI Institute which is doing medical research into the physical benefits of Natural Family Planning over drugs that are used for artificial birth control these days.

Finally, an interesting part of the summer was visiting many different parishes. The seminarians had Mass together every day, except for Sundays. On Sundays, we were encouraged to visit one of the many Catholic parishes around town. We were amazed at the diversity of these parishes as well as the welcome we received from the parishioners at each place. The parishes ranged from St. Mary Magdalene, a no-frills sort of liturgy, to Sacred Heart, a high-energy Mass with clapping, drums, guitars, and spirited liturgy. There were St. Benedict the More, an African-American parish with a very celebratory Mass, and St. Peter, a traditional Latin Tridentine Mass. There was Holy Name, the Ukrainian Catholic Church with a social-justice-oriented Mass, and the high church Mass of St. Cecilia Cathedral. There were Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Hispanic parish, and a Sudanese community. The interesting thing about this is that they are all Catholic. It made us appreciate the Catholic Church all the more, to see first hand the practice of "unity in diversity" that these different parishes showed.

It is hard to share all of the graces we received this summer during the Institute for Priestly Formation, but we hope the few we have shared shed some light on a summer spent as a Diocese of Owensboro seminarian. There are other steps in our formation between the time we enter the seminary and ordination, including hospital ministry, parish ministry, prison ministry and Spanish immersion in Guatemala. We also look forward to these. Each step will provide something new for us to learn. We are thankful for what we learned in our summer spent in Omaha, and we look forward to the other programs as well.

Soul Food: W. Ky. University Students enjoy heartwarming meals at St. Thomas Aquinas

By Alexandra L Booze

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Every Sunday and Wednesday WKU students have even more to look forward to after their evening masses at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center. If showing ones love for the Lord isn't enough cause for celebration, then the free dinner afterwards will certainly put the icing on an already delicious cake.

This free dinner, which is provided by Fr. Darrell Venters, Ms. Debby Cherwak, and a handful of other volunteers, isn't just a time to sit and enjoy delicious food, it is a time for students to interact with fellow students while reflecting and remembering the word of the Lord. For many college students that are away from home and their mother's cooking, this dinner is greatly appreciated and savored as well.

Even those enjoying the meal must pay their dues. Every Sunday and Wednesday a different table of students is chosen to help wash dishes and wipe down tables.



WKU Students gathered in after evening Mass for a free dinner. Two Photos submitted by Debby Cherwak, Campus Minister, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center

Of course, after all the hard work the volunteers put into making the food no one seems to mind getting their hands a little dirty.

After leaving dinner with a full stomach and a heart full of Gods love, the students can't help but to feel happiness, "For it is in giving that we receive the most." -St. Francis of Assisi

(Alexandra L Booze is junior student at Western Kentucky University. She is from Henderson, Kentucky majoring in journalism and broadcasting and a minor in writing).

Murray Catholics Celebrate Church's Saints With 'Alter Christus'-Bearer



In picture at right, St. Leo, Murray, parishioners celebrated All Saints Day. Some of the children took a break from the All Saints Day festivities to pose with Father Mike Williams and a few of the Newman House students from Murray State University.



Outdoor Mass at St. Leo Parish Picnic: Father Mike Williams holds Andrew Orr during his homily on September 24th at the Knights of Columbus in Murray. Photos submitted by The Lyons Family [rlyons@murray-ky.net]

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone?

Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 19 – 21, 2007 call 270- 683-1545 ext 357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

Mass celebrating sixty years of the Passionist Nuns in the diocese - October 15, 2006

Homily by Father Joe Mills

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - In 1946, a loaf of bread cost ten cents. In 1946, five Passionist Nuns moved to Owensboro from Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1996, the Passionists in Owensboro moved from Benita Avenue to the outskirts of Whitesville. There was no time in 1996 to celebrate the fifty years of this community's presence in our diocese. Today we gather to celebrate sixty years in the life of this community. Needless to say, this is an important milestone in the life of this Passionist Community, and indeed, of the Diocese of Owensboro.

My own connection with the nuns starts with a lawnmower, or rather, with Bishop Cotton, our founding bishop, who told us seminarians to contact the Nuns and ask which night would be best for the seminarians to come and take care of their lawn at Benita Avenue. We would borrow a couple of pick-up trucks, load them with lawnmowers, brooms, and such, and gather there on Thursday evenings during the summer months. We kept the grounds manicured, and it helped to build community among us seminarians. Afterwards, we loaded up our truck, stopped by to pick up a watermelon, and perhaps go to some pond or lake where we could enjoy a swim.

We never saw the nuns. Well, one night Father Calhoun recalls working with a mower that had broken down. As if by magic, the gate opened and one of the Sisters pushed a mower out to him. She immediately retreated behind the walls. Another time, one of the seminarians announced that he had spotted one of the nuns peeping out from behind one of the curtains, just for a second. It could have been Sister Mary Bernadette, the only member



Father Joe Mills delivering the homily at St. Joseph Monastery 60th Anniversary Mass. Larena Lawson Photo

of the five surviving to this day. We began cutting the grass, probably the year after their arrival in 1946. In 1953, God called my own sister, Ann, to join this community, another reason for my being here this afternoon in this spot. I thank God every day for her many years of dedication to this Passionist vocation. Her fidelity, prayers, and love have inspired and supported me and many others over the years. Thank you, Sister Ann Miriam!

The Passionist Nuns were founded by St Paul of the Cross in 1771 in Italy. The nuns first came to this country in 1910. In the forties, the Passionist community at Scranton, PA had grown rather large and they felt called to help found another convent. Seeking some direction and guidance, Mother Agnes Roche wrote to twenty-one dioceses across the country. Bishop Cotton quickly responded to her letter and invited them to come to Owensboro. In the letter he wrote back to Sister Mary Agnes, he asked "How did you know there even was a place like Owensboro?" I'd say that in these past years, you Sisters have helped put us on the map.

As background, Mother Mary Agnes Roche, the superior of the Scranton Convent, tells how she had pondered over and prayed about a future location, about a diocese that would invite them to come. The archives preserves the prayer she wrote to St Joseph. She records "I spoke to him 'What am I to do? They want me to make a new foundation, and I don't know where to go or what to do. But, dear St Joseph, if you take over, I'll follow the counsel of those who have right to advise me.'" We here today thank God for the faith that Mother Mary Agnes had in St Joseph. St Joseph continues to provide for



Bishop John McRaith with Passionist and Diocesan priests concelebrating Mass Oct. 15, 2006 at St. Joseph Monastery 60th Anniversary Mass. Larena Lawson Photo

and protect this local Whitesville community.

In the late 1980's, the Benita Avenue home was becoming more and more crowded, and ever more surrounded by the noise and busyness of the city, making peace and quiet almost impossible. It was also part of the dream the Sisters had to begin having retreats for women, but they had no more room. The Sisters met in council as a community and after much prayer and deliberation, put to the vote the question of whether they should consider moving to a new location. When the final tally came in, all eighteen of them voted to support a move. Many on the outside would say "It's got to be the work of the Holy Spirit (and St Joseph) - that eighteen women could agree on it." When the word began to leak out that the Sisters were going to move the monastery, people then began to say, "What on earth do these cloistered nuns know about property, new construction, and especially finances?"

Well, the Holy Spirit and St Joseph were also committed to the move. Divine Providence would also touch many other hearts. Lots of them, Catholics and people from other Christian communities, came forward with their time, their talents, and their financial commitments. Notice the many plaques, and the thick book of donors out in the lobby. These and many others besides pitched in and supported their move to this beautiful place in the country. The Sisters here speak of these "St Joseph's Helpers." They call this an on-going miracle of Divine Providence as well as the faithful care of good St Joseph for whom this monastery is named. The deep faith of these Sisters and the support of many friends along the way continues to sustain them.

Mother Catherine Marie says that this celebration is to thank "the countless people, our bishops, priests, families, relatives, Oblates, benefactors, and friends, who have made these 60 years possible for us and who continue to do so through their prayers, spiritual assistance, and encouragement, as well as financial help and volunteer service. Gratitude to benefactors was always an important part of the life and mission of St Paul of the Cross, our founder, and we have inherited this commitment to love and pray for those who express their faith in the value of Passionist contemplative life by helping us to continue it."

Sisters, all of us, on this side of the water channel, want to thank YOU for your life of dedication, love, and yes, your commitment to the Passion of Jesus Christ. We are so grateful that you have reached out to all of us. We feel privileged to be among your friends and supporters. We all need one another, don't we? This water channel represents the sacrament of Baptism which does not separate us, but unites us.

As Passionists, you Sisters have vowed to God to make the Passion of Jesus Christ the center of your lives. You commit yourselves to celebrating the Passion and Death of Jesus, not just as an historical event, something that happened in the past, but as a reality that is being lived out in the lives of all of us day after day, and yes, in the lives

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(Editor's Note: We at The Western Kentucky Catholic feel that how the original source expresses ideas in a talk or homily is a good way to report about the event for which the talk was given. And so, we frequently reprint with permission the full texts of talks and homilies when we can get them. Like Father Joe Mills' homily reprinted here, they frequently share a part of our story as Church in Western Kentucky.)

Celebrating of Sixty Years Of Passionist Presence



Sr. Mary greeting Fr. Bernard Weber, C.P. at the monastery front door; Sr. Mary Agnes carrying flowers. Staff Photo

of men and women around the world who are today being “crucified” by the many injustices, abuses of all kinds, by the warring factions between nations, by hunger and starvation, by the exploitation of poor nations by the rich, by their deep-seated hunger for life, for hope, and truth and love.

Being cloistered means that you choose to live a life apart from the outside world, cut off from the hurly-burly of the secular, allowing yourself quality time to be alone with your God, with the Suffering Jesus and the Sorrowful Mother Mary. This is critical to the living of this particular vocation. However, by your Baptismal commitment, you are members of the whole



Bishop John McRaith visiting with Father Dan Sheehan, a Father of Mercy. Larena Lawson Photo



Visitors beside the holy water channel in the St. Joseph Monastery Chapel. Staff Photo

Church, the Body of Christ. Whatever concerns the body of Christ concerns you.

One of my favorite quotations from the Second Vatican Council comes from the document, *“The Church in the World Today.”* It begins: “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, those too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ.”

Years ago I would have hesitated to utter these words in a cloistered community, but I’m convinced that they fit in perfectly with this community and this occasion. The Holy Father Pope John Paul II in his *Letter on the Eucharist* says that every Mass is offered on the altar of the world. When you Sisters gather at this altar, it is in the confines of this beautiful chapel, but the influence and the grace radiates out to all the world. Father Barnabas Ahern, the Passionist Scripture scholar once said that “the Cross of Christ looms large on every page of Christian history. It bathes the whole world with life, and light, and warmth. Every believer in the Crucified Son of God is aglow with the radiance of His glory on Calvary, and so St Paul gives us the assurances that “we all, with faces unveiled, are reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord.” (2Cor 3:18)

Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta prayed ‘Lord, crack open my heart and let the whole world fall in.’”

From the office of Readings, on the feast of St Paul of the Cross, we hear him saying “Conceal yourselves in Jesus crucified, and hope for nothing except that all men be thoroughly converted to his will.” You have been lured into these holy grounds. You have a mission to peer ever more deeply into heart of Jesus, yes, and of our Sorrowful Mother, Mary. You have a cloister to enclose you. But in some way, in the mind of Christ and the Church, your cloister is as wide as the world itself, the world that God’s Son came to redeem



Bishop John McRaith thanking the Passionist Nuns for their 60 years of presence in the Diocese of Owensboro. Staff Photo

and return to the Father. You are playing a vital role in God’s plan.

The Passion of Jesus is something that is ongoing. The Gospel writers help us draw closer to the sufferings of our Blessed Lord in Jerusalem and on Calvary. The Gospels are theological reflections on what happened in the life and ministry of Jesus, what is continuing to happen in the life of the Church, from way back in the first century, and even today in our twenty-first century. The Passion of Jesus is a NOW event, as well as a THEN account. You Passionist Nuns keep us mindful of this fact in our faith lives. You help us to see a deeper meaning to our own lives, and in the lives of all neighbors in all the world, in the lives of all God’s people, all 6.5 billion of them.

Sisters, you’ve come to this place apart, “to conceal yourselves in Jesus crucified.” You’ve entered ever so deeply into the heart of our Suffering Jesus. He suffers for all the human family. Fr Don Senior reminds us that through a study of the Passion of Jesus we have the opportunity to probe the heart of his entire Gospel message. The first things the evangelists wrote were the account of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The gospels do not so much explain the death and resurrection as do the death and resurrection explain the gospels. The accounts of the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus are a kind of window into all the scriptures, and yes, into the whole of our lives too.

The death and resurrection of Jesus explain the Gospels, why they were written, why they have been preserved and made available to us who live two thousand years after Jesus’ time on earth. You

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Sr Ann Miriam, left, and Sr Mary Magdalen shared a happy moment with Fr. Blaise Czaja, C.P. Staff Photo

Diocese Celebrates Sixty Years Of Passionist Presence

Continued from page 24

Sisters keep before yourselves and all of us the profound meaning of suffering we all experience from time to time and you say to us 'Nothing of our own sufferings need ever be wasted, ever be lost.'

We here in Whitesville, KY today need this message. The entire world needs to know and be taught the deepest meaning of suffering as it is experienced anywhere in the world. No one wants to actively pursue suffering. Even Jesus asked the Father if this cup could be taken away from him. Sisters, part of your vocation is to continue to probe this mystery of human suffering, to share with all of us some of the lessons you've learned from your time at the foot of the Cross. St Paul of the Cross was very familiar with the words of Hosea in our First Reading: "I will lure her into the desert and speak to her heart."

In our Gospel today, Jesus says "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies it produces much fruit..." In giving this teaching about the grain of wheat, Jesus was really talking about Himself. One spiritual writer says that in "God's mighty agriculture," the death of Jesus will feed whole nations with the bread of life." Like a single grain of wheat that dies, and then brings forth new life, Jesus will burst forth from the ground with enough power to feed all the hungry souls on earth. But before that grain of wheat can become fruitful, it must first die. It must, as it were, deny itself

But who wants to die? There's something deep inside each of us which says "I don't want to die; I don't want to be buried in a dark earth, all alone, so cut off from the world. Is there any way I can get out of dying like this? In the vocation of all of us there are periods when we find ourselves buried, as it were, in the dark earth,, alone and isolated. Jesus says "If you want to be my disciple, you must follow me. If I am that grain of wheat buried in the

dark earth, so must you be prepared to be buried, to die, and then you will produce much fruit. You and I are in this together, Jesus says. In fact, my dying, your dying are intermingled. We die together, in order to produce much fruit."

These words of Jesus to us from this Gospel are not just for Passionists. These words are spoken for all of us, each one in our particular vocation: vowed religious, married, single, ordained, young and older, all of us.

When Pope John Paul II helped celebrate the 44th General Chapter of the Congregation of the Passion, in August, 2000, he wrote the following: "Considering the good that you (Passionists) have done, how can I not ask you to continue being teachers of prayer and special witnesses to Christ crucified, drawing from the mystery of the Cross the strength to cultivate a passion for life, especially through dialogue and sharing in your communities? How can I not remind you that such a mission demands courage and joy facing the problems of religious life in every particular historical moment?"

Ten days ago, Mother Catherine Marie received an email from retired Passionist Bishop Paul M. Boyle, who is participating in the General Chapter of the Passionists around the world going on right now in Rome in these October days. He notes that Pope Benedict XVI is encouraging the Passionist Nuns to take a realistic look at present-day needs and to make necessary modifications in their lifestyle and structures. Bishop Boyle concluded "Since your community has done this so well, I thought these words would be a comfort to all of you."

I can imagine St Paul of the Cross, in the communion of Saints, is standing nearby and winking at you Sisters "I'm proud of you, Sisters."

Again, back in 2000, Pope John Paul spoke in an affirmative way about the efforts of the Passionists to share their charism with the laity. He notes that this "represents a sign



Sr. Mary Andrea Niehaus sits close to the cloister divider visiting with young guests Oct. 15 during the reception of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of St. Joseph Passionists Monastery. Wearing the white veil of a novice, Sister is preparing to become the Bride of Christ by religious profession. Her entire life will be devoted to a "spiritual motherhood" of bringing souls to Christ. Larena Lawson Photo.



With the greatest crowd in the history of the monastery, permission was given for some guests to sit in the back of the cloistered area of chapel. Staff Photo

of growing ecclesial vitality which should be welcomed and developed." A year before this, much to your credit, you Sisters initiated the Passionist Oblate program, which Tom and Debbie Carter had proposed to the then superior, Mother Mary Agnes. Today the Oblates number 40 members. Thank you, Sisters, for sharing your charism with us in this way, for helping us also to keep the Passion of Jesus always in our hearts.

On Tuesday of this week, we will be celebrating the feast of St Ignatius of Antioch. Recall that St Ignatius, in the year 107 was being transported to Rome where he was facing execution in the teeth of the lions. He wrote to his people: Please, don't try to interfere. "I am God's wheat and shall be ground by their teeth so that I may become Christ's pure bread."

In whatever way the Lord Jesus might touch us individually and as a community, we are now celebrating this incredible mystery of faith, the dying and the rising of Jesus Christ. We compress all the years that have gone before and all the years that lie ahead as we utter these words of Jesus "This is my body which is broken for you. This is the cup of my blood which is poured out for you."

I told you that a loaf of bread cost ten cents in 1946. What I meant to say: "Becoming God's bread costs us lots more than ten cents."

Diocese Celebrates Mary Mother of Faith in 16th Marian Congress

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - The sixteenth Diocesan Marian Congress celebrating "Mary, Mother of Faith" took place Oct. 22, 2006 at the Diocesan Marian Shrine here. Our Shrine, Dedicated to Mary under her Vatican II titles of MOTHER OF THE CHURCH and MODEL OF ALL CHRISTIANS, is located at St. Joseph's Church, 434 Church St., Bowling Green, Kentucky. There is a sign, symbol, and center dedicated to the veneration of the Mother of God, erected in accordance with the public law of the church to promote authentic Marian devotion. This work is supported by the DIOCESAN MARIAN SHRINE COMMITTEE.

The Shrine, blessed on May 7, 1989 by the most Rev. John J. McRaith, Bishop of Owensboro, has nine stained glass windows commemorating Cana, Guadalupe, La Salette, Miraculous Medal, Tri-Millennium 2000, Legion of Mary, Lourdes, Fatima, and Tre Fontane, a large window recalling the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima and the visionaries, - Blessed Francesco, Jacinta, and Sister Lucy, and three life-size windows of Sts. Peter and Paul and the Jesus of Mercy.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the Shrine and weekday masses are offered there, a public Rosary, and periodic Novenas. Your intentions are always welcome.

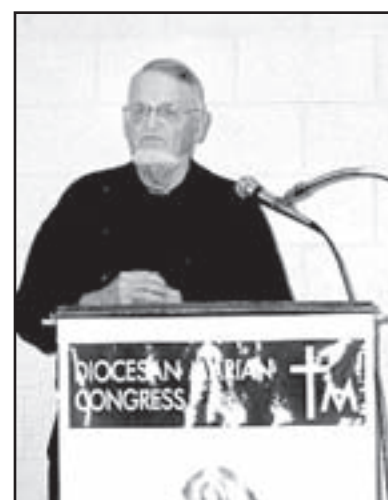
Our Shrine is open to everyone, including those not of the Catholic faith. Both group and individual pilgrimages to the Shrine are always welcome.

At the St. Joseph Parish Center, the Congress opened with a welcoming address by Father Ben Luther, a welcome by Bishop John McRaith, and his address, then a Crowning of a Statue of Mary. The speaker was Fr. Denis Blaise, Fathers of Mercy, explicating the Congress theme, "Mary, Mother of Faith." The Congress prayed the Rosary during a procession of Mary's Statue to Saint Joseph Church; porters were Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

In the church, the presentation of a passion play by members of St. Mary Parish, Franklin, Ky. was presented under the direction of Mrs. Teresa Garrett. Confessions were heard during exposition of the



Some of the people who attended this year's Marian Congress. Photo by Sr. Emma Cecelia Busam, OSU



Father Ben Luther welcoming participants to the Marian Congress. Photo by Sr. Emma Cecelia Busam, OSU



Fatherger Dennie Blaise, Fathers of Mercy, speaking at the Marian Congress. Photo by Sr. Emma Cecelia Busam, OSU

Blessed Sacrament. Also during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the congregation sang sacred music, heard Scripture and a homily, followed by a Blessing of the Sick and all others up and down the center aisle with the sacramental Jesus. The Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament closed the Congress.

The theme for next year's Marian Congress will be "Mary, Mother of Divine Hope," and the speaker will be Mother Catherine Marie of the Passionists' St. Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, Ky.

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 19-21, call 270-683-1545 ext 357, or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.com



Marian Congress participants walk during the Rosary Procession. Bishop John McRaith is at right rear. Photo by Sr. Emma Cecelia Busam, OSU

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing After Abortion

If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat on January 26-28, 2007 at the Passionist Retreat Center in Whitesville, KY sponsored by Rachel's Vineyard of Bowling Green. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of Entrustment of our Children to Jesus. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information or registration contact: Debbie Ward by phone (270-683-6933) or email (rv.bgky@yahoo.com). The cost is \$150 for meals, private room, and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available!!

For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Marriage Help

The Brothers Holy...New Men's Choir at Holy Spirit Performs Concert for Celebration of Liturgical Ministers



By Pat S. Smith

B O W L I N G GREEN, Ky. - There are some "new kids" at Holy Spirit! Well, a men's choir, to be exact. They have been playing at special Masses and presenting

concerts for over a year and a half now. These eight "guys" are from diverse occupations and backgrounds. Some of the group has played professionally in the past and a couple do so even now. The group started as a spin off from a small ensemble at Holy Spirit known as "The Promise Group" which grew out of pianist Don Dobernic's "Life Teen" ensemble several years ago. Some of the choir members are "cradle" Catholics, but most are converts! The mixture includes Steve Wilson, a Circuit Judge, Robert Pfingston, a Graphics Arts Director, attorney Alan Simpson, newspaper publisher Bob Pitchford, technology salesperson Matthew Keyser, a retiree from General Motors, Don Dobernic, contractor Randy Thomas and David Finney, Project Manager for restoration and repair.

At the November 12th concert, Keyser introduced the choir and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Brothers Holy. He thanked everyone for coming out to the first EVER celebration for liturgical ministers... a celebration of the church, the Body of Christ, as it appears during the liturgy.

Their renditions of popular Catholic hymns are upbeat and lively and cause you to "tap your toe" while listening to them sing and play. The first time this writer heard them sing was on Holy Thursday as they did their version of "He Washed My Feet." As the community went forward to wash other feet and have their feet washed, the music continued sometimes softly, sometimes a little more loudly.

The Brothers Holy presented a concert last spring and also a fall concert on November 12 in honor of all liturgical ministers at Holy Spirit. Although they sing at some of the Masses, the Brothers usually draw in upwards 200 plus in attendance. The concerts are free and open to the public. At the November 12 concert, they were recording live for an upcoming CD to be

released in the not-too-distant future. As of yet, according to Keyser, the CD has no name, but will feature songs like the band's rendition of "Amazing Grace," "Soon and Very Soon," and "Precious Lord Take My Hand."

Steva Wilson is the lead singer and the front man of the group with wise-cracking jokes about the other members and how they came to be members of the Brothers Holy. Robert Pfingston, who some call the quiet one is often the brunt of Wilson's fun-only in wise-cracking. But when it comes time to sing, there are only smiles of joy and the great love these men have for Christ and the Church. According to Pfingston, vocalist, "The choir just sort of fell into place as a natural outgrowth and the formation of the Sisters choir. Alan Simpson (also a vocalist) asked me to join the group, but I didn't realize we would become a choir. I thought it was just for a couple of Masses," he explained. Pfingston has been a parishioner at Holy Spirit Parish for over eight years and his wife Leslie is also active in the music ministry. They have two children, Joel and Emma. When approached by a parishioner who asked, "So you guys think you are 'holy'?" Pfingston replied, "NO! Not at all. We have a lo-o-o-o-o-n-g way to, but it is in the STRIVING for that holiness, that wholes; that is what we have been called to do.

Don Dobernic is the choir's pianist and once when asked if he could teach me to play like he does, he laughed "No one else plays like I do. It's a style I developed all my own." And style he has - very moving, and very intense! And he added, "I really have several different styles. And I also ad lib a lot." He has been involved in the music ministry at Holy Spirit with his wife Judy since 1982. It is the ministry that he has most participated in and he says, "I just like to see the community open up and participate. That's the key to liturgy... getting the people to participate!" Don and Judy are the parents of Debbie and Don.

Lead guitarist and vocalist, Keyser is married to Chris and they have 3 children, Rachel, Adam and Aaron. Matthew, Chris and children have all been active in the music ministry at Holy Spirit for over 20 years.

Steve Wilson is married to Jane, and



The Brothers Holy in Concert at Holy Spirit Church Nov. 12, are Steve Wilson, Rob Pfingston, Alan Simpson, Bob Pritchford, Randy Thomas, Matthew Keyser, David Finney, and Don Dobernic. Photo by Judy Dobernic.

they have 4 daughters, Ashley, Ann-Taylor, Madeline and Grace. He is also a member of the band "Skip Bond and the Fugitives," a local band made up of some local businessmen and they perform at local functions, including Bowling Green's yearly summer "Concerts in the Park" and high school proms.

Alan Simpson, back up pianist and vocalist, is married to Micki and they have two children, Caroline and Madeleine. A convert, Simpson has been attending Holy Spirit since 1986. Simpson said that when the group was in its early days they mulled over the name several times. "One of our ideas was 'Skip Church and the Deacons'," he laughed. "We didn't think The Holy Brothers sounded right either, so we turned that around and came up with 'The Brothers Holy'."

Simpson said that a lot of men hesitate to get involved with something in church, but says he would never discourage anyone. "In rehearsals and in actual concerts, we have a blast!" he added.

Bob Pitchford said he was recruited for "comic relief." He is the newest member of the group and also the newest Catholic, having celebrated his one year conversion this past Easter. He and wife Carolyn have five children, Robert, Eric, Katie, Laura and Scottie. "For me, this has been an incredible spiritual gift, not only in the singing but the participatory style. Before my conversion I was very impressed by the ritual use of music and long tradition of the Church." Although he had sung in other choirs before, he said it all started for him when Keyser emailed him and simply said, "We are getting some guys together (for a choir) and are looking for a good voice." He said okay and later he learned Keyser had just heard him sing when he was standing very close to him one Sunday at Mass. "When I found out who all was participating, I couldn't wait for the first meeting!" he exclaimed.

Keyser explained that he and Wilson brought in David Finney on bass drums. Dave Finney is married to Mary and they have two sons, Ryan and Shawn. Finney was also called by Keyser and said that Matt told him that this would help bring people to the Lord. "When he told me that," says Finney, "I said O-KAY!"

Wilson laughs about the day of the last concert when he was approached by an elderly lady from Holy Spirit, probably one of the charter members. "Boy, I thought

Continued on page 29



All Soul's Day; Remembering Lindsay Nicole

By Pat S. Smith

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - It is All Soul's Day and I am at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery here. I have come to take a photo or two, and to be there for my deceased relatives. I attend this Mass every year, but this is the first time I have actually come to the cemetery for it.

It is cold and blustery. Halloween has just passed as well as All Saints' Day. The gathering is before an altar that Fr. Jerry Riney, Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and his staff have set up. The crowd numbers around 50, many elderly in the crowd, covered in shawls and blankets, here to honor their deceased loved ones in this wonderful way. I saw Holy Spirit Parish Director of Music and Liturgy, Dana Gensler, and she asked if I would lector. I said okay, and passed my camera to a gentleman, and asked him to take a few shots.

After Mass, I asked Dana if we can visit the grave of her baby, Lindsay Nicole. Lindsay was born in 1989 with a congenital heart defect and only lived for two days. Dana and daddy Phil were with little Lindsay Nicole all during her struggle and knew that they did not have long to love and cherish her.

Dana and I walked to the other side of the cemetery where little Lindsay Nicole had been laid to rest in 1989. Her photo is still attached to her monument.... and it is so beautiful. We talked for a minute or two. I have never lost a child, but have friends who have, and they tell me it is so heart wrenching that it is unbelievable. It is a pain that they will bear forever. But we know that Lindsay Nicole is not here, however. She is resting in the arms of Jesus. She is not in pain anymore, and her heart is miraculously healthy.

I notice the writing and kneel down to look at the words. "Do you mind if I take your photo with Lindsay?" I ask. Dana nods and explains, "I've seen so many children's graves, and often wondered what happened, how they died. That is why I had this imprinted." The inscription reads "Died of a congenital heart defect," and underneath, a poem that Dana wrote and had inscribed a year later.

"Always"

How brightly your tender flame lit our lives.
For I will always know your light in my hands,
And in a blink, I will see it... ALWAYS!

The power of your leaving exquisite,
A kind of profound silence;

And I will be able to hear it...ALWAYS!

This bond of love that spins from your heart to ours
That conquers, even, the hold of death.

I am so glad you came,

So incredibly honored to have known you at all.

How enchanting this slender golden thread,

Woven deep into the fabric of our lives To gleam within us.... ALWAYS!

Until we hold you again, Hush-a-by, hush-a-by.... Bye.

We were by then a bit tearful, walking back to our cars silently, and we really didn't speak a lot about our experience together. I just feel so much love for Dana, my fellow Catholic, and I feel her pain, though years old, still there and fresh. I am, too, honored to have shared a bit of Lindsay Nicole's life and I can feel the mother's love radiating between us as only two mothers who have experienced this moment can.

We hug goodbye and get into our cars. We are satisfied, having shared this moment, and we are at peace knowing that Dana's baby Lindsay Nicole is resting in Heaven and waiting for the day Dana comes to hold her again. Another All Souls' Day is drawing to a close, and our hearts are full of the love of God and knowing that all who sleep in Christ are happy, and that we have honored them once again on this very special day. Hush-a-by, hush-a-by.

Pat S. Smith is a parishioner at Holy Spirit, a freelance writer, and good friend to Director of Music and Liturgy at Holy Spirit, Dana Gensler, mother of departed Lindsey Nicole.



The picture at left was taken during the last hour and 40 minutes of Lindsay Gensler's life; her hand is holding onto mother Dana's finger. In the picture at right, Dana knelt at Lindsay's grave in prayer on All Souls' Day. Photo at left from <http://www.erichad.com/lindsay/>; Pat Smith photo at right.



Youth Ministry Annual Bonfire and Hayride held at the home of Charlies and Tanya Gries, November 4, 2006; Front Row: Malcolm Turley, Nic O'Keefe, Missy Pitcock, and Alex O'Keefe.; Middle Row: Emily blankenship, Jack French, Ginny French, Janet Turley, Megan French, Christopher French and Dave Nelson; Back Row: Ethan Turley, Joh-Taylor Turley, Brandon Trahan, Ben Loiacono, and Matt Martin. Photo courtesy of Carol Kunkel.



In picture at right, Emma Pfings-ton, daughter of Rob and Leslie, appears here at the All Saints' Day workshop as "Mother Mary." Pat Smith Photo

All Souls' Day At St. Joseph Cemetery... A New Experience

The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2006 29

By Pat S. Smith

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - "All Souls' Day is the solemn commemoration of the deceased who have not yet entered into the fullness of the Kingdom: traditionally this condition is called purgatory. The living unite themselves with the deceased through intercessory prayers on their behalf"... *The New American Bible, 1984-85 edition.*

Ever since my conversion to Catholicism in 1983, I have attended the Mass of All Souls' Day. I have many family members and friends who have gone before, and it is always an uplifting experience to know that we can join together with Christ and our Catholic community to remember the deceased in this way.

This year, a Mass for All Souls' was held at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. It was a cold November day, windy but sunny, and many had turned out for this Mass at Noon, although there would be another held at Holy Spirit (my parish) later in the evening.

All around me, I see women and men, many of whom have a loved one buried here, covered in shawls and blankets. Pastor Fr. Jerry Riney has set up a special altar in a beautiful part of the cemetery very close to the newly constructed mausoleum which he will bless after the service. The wind is blowing fairly hard, and many of us are shivering as the Mass begins. The homily is short today, and as I sit and gaze around me I think of all my loved ones, now departed, and pray for the repose of their souls. Dad, who left me when I was a mere 29, and then Mom, just 10 years later. My wonderful sister, Eva, who died at Easter 2003 is in my heart, and my young 44-year-old nephew, Mike, who died only last November 13 after a very short bout with colon cancer.

We are all here as community with love of each other and our departed. We are not particularly sad today, but most of us are just here to remember and rejoice that they are at peace and that WE WILL see them again... in a beautiful place called Heaven. There are no tears in this place of the departed, no, not today.... just lots of memories. I think of Dad and the "work-hard" work ethic he taught me as a very young child, helping at his gas station by the age of 9 or 10; and Mom, hard working housewife with seven children who always took us to church and taught us about Jesus at her knee. Eva

was really more like my Mom than a sister, and Mike was my very first nephew, born when I was in sixth grade. I have fond memories of baby-sitting him and carrying him on my shoulders. Such a short life, but not lived in vain, a wonderful Dad with a beautiful Catholic wife and two teenagers.

The homily is finished and Fr. Jerry begins communion. He calls to mind all our de-

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, parishioner at St. Joseph Parish turns to give the author a warm smile. Her husband, Willard, has departed and she is here to honor his passing. In the background, is a distant view of the new mausoleum which was blessed on this All Souls' Day. Pat Smith Photo



Dana Gensler, Holy Spirit Parish Coordinator of Music and Liturgy led participants in "Amazing Grace." In the back is the newly constructed mausoleum which Fr. Jerry Riney blessed after the All Souls' Day Mass at Noon. Pat Smith Photo

parted and prays for them. It is a strange and new experience, taking the Eucharist in a cemetery, a place, we think, for the dead, but really today for the LIVING, too. It is my first time to receive communion in a cemetery, I think, but it doesn't feel as odd as I might have expected. As Mass is coming to a close, Dana Gensler leads the community in "Amazing Grace" and our voices lilt through the cold air and we are comforted by the words of this old hymn.

After Mass, Fr. Jerry turns our attention to the newly built mausoleum and we extend our hands and our hearts, too, as he sprinkles holy water onto the new construction, so beautiful, and a wonderful way to honor our dead, as we do every year in a very special way... and this year in a very special place.

The Brothers Holy *(Continued from page 27)*

she was really getting ready to jump on me when she started out by saying, 'I have never heard any such thing like this in Church... and you know what? I loved it.' Needless to say Wilson was relieved.

Last but not least, is bass guitarist Randy Thomas. Randy is married to Jennifer and they have three children, Rebecca, Mary Catherine, Seth and Andrew. "I used to play a lot, but stopped back when our first baby, Rebecca, now eight, came along. I really missed it." Thomas was previously in The Promise group at Holy Spirit and music was his love, his ministry. When he got a call to come to see if he wanted to be a member of the new choir, he said his mouth just watered. He was so eager to get back to his music. "I have been spiritually 100% and enjoy what I am doing. I am at peace with the world!"

As the Brothers Holy continue with their mission of spiritually feeding the parishioners at Holy Spirit and the community of Bowling Green as well, they are one Western Kentucky Catholic choir who are ministering with their music, too. "The 'Brothers' cut up a lot during practice and have way too much fun. But underneath it all," says Keyser, "is a strong devotion to Christ and the Church that will just not quit. We hope that other men will step forward now and share their gifts."

Note: The Brothers Holy choir is also taking part in the National St. Cecilia Sing. The St. Cecilia Sing is a part of a national festival of sacred song in association with National Pastoral Musicians' organization and parishes all over the United States participate to honor St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of music, musicians and singers. St. Cecilia lived in the early 3rd century and gave her whole self to God, traditionally celebrating much through singing and music.



30 The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2006
**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. Carroll Howard, and Fr. Pat Reynolds. 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.



Spiritual Direction Training At Mount St. Joseph

The second class of Spiritual Direction Training Program participants met for their first full week of training October 9-13 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The class will meet for eight weekly sessions over a two-year period. Pictured, left to right: Randall G. Shelby of Paducah; Sister Julia Head, OSU, of Owensboro; Sister Linda Jackson, OP, of Dayton, Ohio; Mary Kay Sanders of Paducah; Father Tom Kirkendoll, a Glenmary priest who resides at Maple Mount; Rev. Melanie Odom-Groh of Louisville; Patricia Wozniak of Smyrna, Tennessee; Pat Perry of Memphis; Mary Frances Smolen of Bowling Green; and Rusty Weitzel of Danville. Not pictured are Diana Matthews of Knoxville and Angel Payne of Owensboro.



RiverValley Regional Prevention Center hosted a workshop on drug prevention for high school students on October 3 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The speakers were Derek Peterson from Alaska and Terry Stinson with RVBH. The workshop focuses on healthy attitudes and education about drug addiction. The students will pass along what they have learned to others in their schools.



The priests of the Diocese of Owensboro gathered for a liturgy during a retreat at the Mount October 23-27. Father Leonard Alvey presided, and all of the other priests concelibrated.



At right, Msgr. Bernard Powers led the October 6-8 Marian Retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The theme of the retreat was "Mary, Our Model."



God is like...

Mrs. Stumph's 5th grade religion class at Holy Name Elementary, Henderson, was asked to create a poster using the words, "God is like..." and use a recent commercial to finish the statement. Taylor Warren created God is like Ohio Valley National Bank, God is Committed to You! When the bank heard about the assignment, Vice President Phyllis Crafton and Chairman of Board Scott Davis came to meet Taylor and presented her with a small gift in appreciation of her work! HNE Photo

"If my gift

is not to prove a source of humiliation, I must give to others not only something that is my own, but my very self; I must be personally present in my gift."

--Benedict XVI. *God is Love.*

Office of Music Fall Events 2006

Michael Bogdan, Director, Office of Music

The Office of Music of the Diocese of Owensboro sponsored educational, cultural, and spiritual renewal events this fall.

In an effort to connect with our musical traditions, the office sponsored a concert with the medieval music group, Asteria, in conjunction with the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. On September 27th, the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel brimmed with the beautiful sounds of sacred and secular love songs of the late Middle Ages, performed by Sylvia Rhone (soprano) and Eric Redlinger (tenor and lute), Especially striking was the anonymous processional hymn accompanied on small percussion instruments in the style of the period, as well as the beautiful anthems in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue" and "Of a Rose Sing We." People from the area as well as from Louisville, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Alabama, Tennessee, and Minnesota attended the concert.

Almost three hundred musicians attended the three educational events sponsored by the office in September and October.

Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney conducted workshops, co-sponsored by Holy Name of Jesus Parish, in Henderson on September 29th and 30th. Elaine is an internationally recognized musician, teacher, author, composer, pastoral liturgist and speaker. She eloquently conveyed the importance of hospitality on every level in liturgical music ministry. Besides offering a workshop for cantors, choir members, and instrumentalists on the morning of the 30th, she worked with music directors, coordinators and planners in the afternoon.

On October 7th, internationally recognized chant expert Fr. Columba Kelly, a Benedictine monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey, presented a workshop on chanting the psalms at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield. This event, co-sponsored with St. Joseph's, focused on singing the liturgy—the given texts—rather than singing at liturgy.

Memorials are available for the new Rosary Walk



The Rosary Walk at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center was blessed and dedicated October 8. We invite each of you to visit and to pray as you take this special walk with God.

It's not too late to become a part of this mission. You can help us complete the walk by donating a personalized brick for \$125.00 or by sponsoring a bead, mystery, bench, or the shrine. Please consider contributing to this unique place of prayer.



Yes, I/We want to support the mission of the Center and the effect the retreat ministry has on the lives of those who attend by contributing to the Memorial Rosary Walk. I/We want to support this ministry by contributing:

- \$10,000 to sponsor the Shrine
- \$ 5,000 to sponsor Stone Bench
- \$ 2,500 to sponsor Wooden Bench
- \$ 1,000 to sponsor a Mystery
- \$ 500 to sponsor a Bead
- \$ 125 to sponsor a Brick
- \$ _____ Other

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to: Mount Saint Joseph Center
c/o Rosary Walk, 8001 Cummings Rd., Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999

If donating \$125 or more, please fill in the blocks with the name of the person or persons to be inscribed on the brick, stone or bench. One letter, comma, period or space must go in each box (15 maximum per line up to 3 lines):

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard
Card # _____
Expiration Date _____

Please mail this ad with your contribution to help complete the Memorial Rosary Walk. For further information about the Rosary Walk or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, at (270) 229-0200 or e-mail astenger@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

Sr. Mary Henning, OSU, Sharon Hudson, and Brett Ballard presented a workshop on basic skills on October 14. Sharon and Brett offered sessions on basic piano and basic percussion skills respectively, while Sr. Mary offered basic vocal skills for cantors and choir members. This workshop was unique in that printed resources were provided in both English and Spanish, the handouts were translated from English into Spanish by a capable translator, and a proficient interpreter was on hand to translate the workshop for Spanish-speaking participants. We hope this offers a new model for other offices and parishes presenting educational opportunities which bridge language barriers.

Finally, the office gave music directors and coordinators an opportunity for spiritual refreshment at a retreat at Lake Barkley State Resort Park. On November 3rd and 4th, musicians came together for an overnight retreat with Sr. Carole Riley, an expert musician, educator, and spiritual director from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. A sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence, Sr. Carole deftly crafted the two days in helping all who attended to reflect on our ministry of music. She emphasized praying for the people of our parishes, collaborating with pastors and staffs, discerning the will of the people of the parish, attending to the life-cycle needs of loving, forgiving, imitating Jesus, suffering, dying, and rising, being in touch with the whole

saintly communion, and learning to care for ourselves.

The two days provided for a great deal of interaction between music ministers, many of whom had never met before.

Thanks to all who attended our fall events!

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sorgho on KY 56, will be having a Christmas Concert on December 3, 2006 (Sunday) at 6:00 PM at the Church. The Concert entitled "O Come Let Us Adore Him" will feature the Children's Choir, Youth Band, Adult Choir, and the Hayden Youth Singers. Selections include traditional Christmas Carols, sacred and secular hymns for the Season, as well as selections from a Cantata "Gloria Deo" by Benjamin Harlan. Directed by Ray Caluag. Admission is free, and a reception at the social hall follows the evening performance

Why Not Become Pure Flame?

Catholic Charismatic Conference and Retreat

March 2-4, 2007



Retreat Directors David Thorp and Father John Gordon

The retreat fee is \$160 or \$115 for commuters. To register or for more information, contact Kathy McCarty: 229-0200, ext. 413 kmccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

Please join us for Prayers and Lunch

"Honoring Mary: Praying the Gospel Rosary"

Friday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Sister Ann McGrew, OSU, will lead us in praying the Rosary and other devotions. We will pray near the Rosary Walk at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. In case of rain, prayers will take place in the Center Chapel. The \$20 fee includes lunch, materials and a rosary. To register, call Kathy McCarty at (270)

229-0200 ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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msjecenter@maplemount.org

PRIESTHOOD

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

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



Father Richard Cash kissed a brown scapular of Carmel after blessing it to give to a participant of a Sept. 30, 2006 Youth rally at St. Ann, Morganfield, Ky. Larena Lawson Photo



Counterfeit or Genuine?

Third graders at Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville, enjoyed a lesson on currency by Fernando Villafranca. Mr. Villafranca, of the Secret Service, showed students various features of our new currency. He also discussed the difference between genuine and counterfeit currency and related it to genuine and "counterfeit" friendship. Submitted by Mary Lee, St. Peter and Paul 3rd Grade Teacher.

Whitesville's Young At Heart Club

On Saturday night, November 14th, St. Mary of the Woods parish hall in Whitesville, could have been the Ed Sullivan Show! Talent! Talent! Talent?! The Young at Heart Club, Senior Citizens Club, held its second annual talent show.

Brenda Clemons, President of the club, said, "We have about 45 acts this year. Everything from the 'Beach Balls' to Johnny and June. A lot of hard work went into the show. Making props, getting costumes together, and acts lined up took a lot of time, but it's worth it. We don't charge an admission, but we do pass a 'good will' basket around with the money going to our club to help with other projects we do throughout the year."



Calendar girls Sue Mayfield, Darlene Dickens, Brenda Hagan and Carlene smile for the camera.



Jack Aud, a.k.a, Guitarzan



In picture at left, Donnie Smith, Butch Edge, & Ellis Edge are doin' the Jailhouse Rock! All pictures this page by Ginny Knight-Simon



Whoopie Goldberg, oops, Ita Belle Howard, leads the singing nuns choir.



Deanie Midkiff sings "Hey, Good Lookin' to Donnie Durham.



Is that Brenda and Paul Clemons or June and Johnny Cash?



Married Singles Lifestyle Getting To You?

The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are now living more like roommates.

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing any level of difficulty in their marriage from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the January program beginning on January 19-21 call 270-683-1545 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

Christmas is just around the corner...



Christmas cards featuring the paintings from the Madonna Room at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center: \$9.95 for a package of 20 cards and envelopes

Large selection of angels handmade by women at Casa Ursulina in Chile \$5.99



Quilts - Willow Tree - Ornaments - Much more!

Mount Saint Joseph Gift Shop

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY
 Open Tuesday-Saturday 8:30-4:30
 270-229-0200, ext. 410
 E-mail giftshop@maplemount.org

Cathedral Parishioners Share Jamaican Experience, Come Home 100 Lbs. Lighter

Story and photos submitted by Sue Gough

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On November 1st, ten St. Stephen's parishioners: Fr. John Vaughan, Sr. Suzanne Sims, Mark & Martha Sims, Pat & Tish Osborne, Allison Nall, Sheila Howard, Laurie Hicks, and Sue Gough each carrying two bags filled with 100 pounds lbs of gifts left for an unforgettable missionary experience in Mandeville, Jamaica.

We traveled in a van around the Diocese of Mandeville. Everywhere we went, whether building a house, visiting people in their homes, touring the St. John Bosco Boys' Home, the orphanage Our Lady of Hope Home, and Mary Help of Christians Home for the elderly, we were welcomed with warmth and humbled by the people always giving thanks to God for the little they had.

Each night when we returned to the Gallitzen House, the volunteer residence, we celebrated Mass and shared the experiences we had that day. The common Jamaican song, "I Feel Good, Good, Good," that some of the sisters taught us, best describes how the gift of meeting so many wonderful people made us feel.



Helping Hands

Sister Suzanne Sims, O.S.U. held Mert McDonald's hands as they visited; ... and Mert held hers.

Children, hugs, and happy

Martha Sims and three children share happy human touches which come from The Holy inside each of them.



Seeing God's Light in a Child

Pat Osborne, right, Martha Sims, at back, and Sheila Howard foreground, watched as Laurie Hicks shared a sweetie (candy) with another beautiful child.



To celebrate All Saint's Day students at Mary Carrico dressed as their favorite saint. Pictured are some of the kindergarten and first graders. The students in the picture are Hayley Payne dressed as St. Helen, Brianna Turner dressed as St. Clara, Ruth Anne Rhodes dressed as St. Kateri, Olivia Payne dressed as St. Kateri, and Devin Rhinerson dressed as St. Joseph. The students were very excited to dress as their favorite saint as a part of All Saints Day. Submitted by Erin Kamuf

A Love Story: Charlie and Helen Nalley Steitler

By Anna Marie Oberst Davis

ROME, Ky. - On October 3, 2006 at approximately 3:30 p.m., one heart stopped and another was broken.

Charlie and Helen, together as usual, were coming to town (Owensboro) to run errands. These two wonderful people were inseparable. Their love was real and 52 years ago, they exchanged their wedding vows, including "until death do us part." But it did not happen that way. Death did not part them.

At the intersection of Ky. Highway 81 and Keller Road, they were involved in a horrendous truck-car crash. Helen died instantly and Charlie was rushed to the hospital. All Charlie kept saying was "my baby is gone."

Helen was buried from her second home, Saint Martin's Church, Rome Ky.. Whenever the church doors opened, Charlie and Helen were always there. On the morning of Helen's death, she was helping to prepare for the parish rummage sale.

Each day we watched Charlie grow weaker. On October 10, 2006, that broken heart stopped

At Charlie's funeral, Father Pete Hughes said it so beautifully, "Although his family was with him when he died, two other people were there also; one was Jesus, the other his beloved Helen."

As I think of Father Pete's words, I can hear Jesus say very softly, "Come home with me Charlie." Then I can hear another voice say not so very softly, "Charlie, what took you so long, I have been waiting for you."

The beginning of a beautiful eternity began for two souls that not even death could part.

Charlie and Helen, for those of us left behind to mourn you, please know we await the day when we meet again. God bless you, Charlie and Helen; you certainly fulfilled your mission here on earth.

Ursuline Craft Fair And Bake Sale



Eight-year-old Lexie Boling of Utica, shown with her mother, Dawn Boling, was attracted to the colorful Christmas trees on display at the Christmas Craft Fair and Bake Sale November 4 at Precious Blood Church. The annual event, sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, featured numerous items hand-made by the sisters. Photo by Jerry Birge



Charlie and Helen Nalley Steitler

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2006-MAY 2007

December 2006

- 8 Rosary Prayers/Luncheon
- 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 - Owensboro
- 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

May 2007

- 4-6 Retrouvaille
- 11-12 Church of God in Christ
- 16-17 St. Gabriel Environmental Retreat
- 18-20 MSJ Alumnae Weekend
- 31-6 Centering Prayer Retreat

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

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 check out our website at www.msjcenter.org

URSULINES HOST VOCATION FAIR

- Sisters Mary Matthias Ward, Sara Marie Gomez, Mary Evelyn Duvall and Marie Montgomery, all Ursuline Sisters from Mount Saint Joseph, were among members of the Gallup Diocese Sisters Council that hosted a vocation fair October 21 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Gallup, New Mexico. Just under 100 youths attended the fair, which featured talks, music and vocation booths. Sister Mary Matthias (left photo) is shown addressing the group. Sister Mary Evelyn (left in right photo) meets with Sister Maureen Houihan, DC, during a break during the fair.

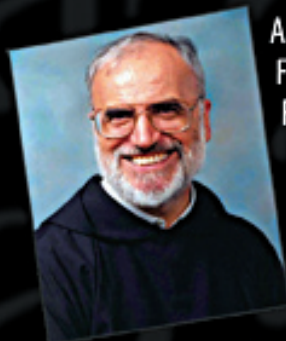


40 years of Amazing Grace

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Preacher to the Papal Household



A noted theologian, speaker and author, Fr. Cantalamessa was asked by the late Pope John Paul II to serve as the preacher to the papal household, a position he still holds. His duties include preaching a weekly sermon in Advent and Lent in the presence of the Pope, the cardinals, bishops and prelates of the Roman Curia and the general superiors of religious orders.

Father also speaks internationally on a variety of topics, and has been deeply connected to the Charismatic Renewal for years.

“Catch the Flame” and get more information at:
www.amazinggraceconference.com

Detroit Charismatic Renewal Center 1390 Quarton Road Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-3554



Order Your Diocesan Marian Shrine Note Cards

The Diocesan Marian Shrine Committee has designed and printed sets of notecards representing the windows of our Diocesan Marian Shrine in Bowling Green. These would be great for Christmas gifts for someone hard to buy for. A set includes 13 blank note cards with envelopes - each with an image of a window at the Marian Shrine in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Return form to: Cathy Graham, 2638 Wood Haven, Owensboro, KY 42303

Order By: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Send to (if different): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

No. of sets _____ @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____
 Shipping \$1.00 per set \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Makes Checks Payable to: The Marian Shrine Committee



“Mrs. Spark’s 3rd grade class at St. Mary Elementary School in Paducah, Kentucky dressed up for All Saints Day. They were each given an assignment to write a report about a Saint of their choice and develop a costume based on the information they researched. On All Saints Day they presented themselves as their Saint and read their reports in front of a parent-filled audience.” Submitted by Terri Schilberg



During September and October 2006, Wayne Wethington, Old World Painting, Owensboro, Ky., sanded and varnished all the woodwork in St. Agnes Church, Uniontown, Ky. He also restored all of the statues throughout the church, including the Calvary group statues atop the main altar. All money for this project was donated by generous parishioners. Submitted by Mike Guillerman



OCHS Boys Cross Country Claim State Title

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Congratulations to the Boys Cross Country team on their second straight State Championship. In addition, Willie Polio finished 2nd place in the state and Ben Thompson finished 14th in the state.

Members of the Boys Cross Country team are Willie Polio, Ben Thompson, Blake Searcy, Matt Wills, Nick Searcy, Stuart Castlen, Chris Pope, Adam Goedde, Wes Taul, Paul Brown, John Lanham, Jared Kaelin, Corey O’Nan, Kyle Mattingly, David Dooper, Andrew McCarthy, and Chris Terry. Scott Lowe is the head coach. *Source: 11/13/06 Owensboro Catholic [publications@owensborocatholic.org]*

OCS Students Named to All-District Band

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The following students made All-District last Saturday. These students will participate in the All-District Weekend in January: Talisa Leming, Flute; Nathan Lasley, Clarinet; Sabrina Storm, Clarinet; Krystina Harrington, Clarinet; Kennethia Farris, Bass Clarinet (1st Chair); Lee Ann Wells, Bass Clarinet; Melinda Thompson, Tenor Saxophone (1st Chair); Wren Osborne, Trumpet; Alex Riccio, Trumpet; Molly Tichenor, Trumpet; Serena Osborne, French Horn (also recommended to try-out for All-State); Cameron Hayes, Baritone (1st Chair); Kent McCarthy, Percussion; Alex Coomes, Percussion. *Source: 11/13/06 Owensboro Catholic [publications@owensborocatholic.org]*

Bill Moore, Knight of the Year for the State

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - To those who know and have worked with Bill Moore, his selection as the 2006 Knight of the Year came as no surprise. But to Bill it was a total surprise. He and his wife, Sandy, attended the state convention because he had been told that the delegates that were chosen were unable to attend and he was asked to fill in. Bill saw this as an opportunity for him and Sandy to get away to relax and enjoy themselves. Even though he saw those delegates at the convention, Bill thought that things had worked out so that they could attend. When the moment arrived for the announcement of the Knight chosen and the presenter started giving a description of the honoree, Bill did not realize that he was the one until his birthday was added to the description. Bill commented, "I had no idea what to say when I got up there, all I could say was "Thank you." Sandy laughed, "Bill was totally clueless until they gave his birth date. I didn't know myself until 2 weeks before and I had to work to keep it a secret."

Bill became a Knight in the Holy Rosary Council 1055 in 1969, became inactive for awhile until the 1980s and has been a very active member ever since. He has held every office except treasurer, is a 4th degree Knight and a Papal Navigator. Bill and Sandy have been married for 37 years, they have 4 children and 8 grandchildren, five who, along with their mother, are living with him and Sandy. Bill has retired from USEC after 34½ years and along with another USEC retiree has a business doing remodeling and small repair jobs.

Bill talked about his experiences in the Council and explained, "One person gets



Bill Moore

the award but the whole Council works with you; we have a strong Council. The Knights are like an extended family. It's a diverse group, younger, older, and some quite a bit older but we all seem to be the same age when we are working together. The Knights do a lot of good things for our members, individuals, and the community. Our dues and the fund raisers we have enable us to do what we do."

Rob Ford is a fellow Knight and had this to say about Bill, "He is probably the purest definition of a volunteer that I have met in my life. Whatever there is to do, he gives it his absolute best. Everyone in the Council respects him. He gives far more than he ever gets in return." Carl McConnell commented, "There are so many things that Bill wouldn't have to do but he does them anyway. He would bend over backwards to help someone. At our annual Christmas tree sale, he always goes above and beyond to help; he is there most of his free time helping. Bill is like that."



Holy Name School 3rd Graders Receive Dictionaries

Henderson County Rotary Club presented each third grader at Holy Name School their very own dictionary. Pictured is Holy Name parishioner and Co-President of the Rotary Club, Ron Faupel handing a dictionary to Brandon Alexander. HNE Photo

St. Mary Students Give "Til It Feels Good"



Saint Mary HS Students, left to right kneeling, Michael Langsto, Kristen Banco, standing, Allie Sills, Erica Riel, kneeling Alex Cork, Taylor Kuehn

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary Middle and High School are once again engaged in their annual food drive to benefit needy families. The drive runs from November 1 through November 20. Canned goods and other non-perishables are collected at the school, then delivered to the Paducah Cooperative Ministry for distribution in time for Thanksgiving. According to faculty sponsor and religion teacher Mark Hewitt, "Our kids give 'til it hurts, then they keep on giving 'til it feels good. It's not just this one local effort, even though it's important and meaningful. We did it for the tsunami victims, and those affected by Katrina and the other hurricanes. We are a generous community, and we're proud that it is reflected in what our young people, particularly our St. Mary students, do for others". Hewitt states that St. Mary's effort "normally fills a pick-up truck and several vans. We have a regular caravan to the PCA headquarters."

St. Mary Wins "People's Choice" Award

PADUCAH, Ky. - On October 27, in a steady rainfall which made a quagmire of the venue, the St. Mary Art Department, directed by art teacher Sue Hein, won the "People's Choice" award in the sand sculpture contest dubbed "Sand in the City."

All McCracken County high schools participated in the event, proceeds from which were donated to the city's River Heritage Museum. "Our winning sculpture was a bear, a big, wet, sand bear," said Hein. "In fact, the competition might as easily have been titled 'Survival in the Sand and Rain.' Our kids did a yeoman's job, with very little complaining about the elements. Of course, everyone had the



same conditions to work with. We're proud of our effort, and proud of the St. Mary supporters who came out in the rain to cheer us on."

Sts. Joseph and Paul 'Trunk or Treat' Day Has Fun and Fellowship For All

Submitted by April Dickens, pictures by Carol Alvey

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish (Owensboro) held its 2nd Annual Chili Supper and Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29th. Parishioners carved pumpkins, decorated their vehicles, ate chili & cupcakes & the children had a blast "trunk or treating."

Congratulations to the contest winners: **Car Decorating:** Scariest— Gary & Ellen Aud; Funniest—Braun & Kathy Mischel; Best Decorated—CHRISTeens who decorated Youth Minister Ken Caselden's Car. **Pumpkin Decorating:** Scariest— Maranda Ward; Funniest—Allison Wright; Best Design—Lane Dickens. **Costumes:** Funniest—Tony Kraus & Christy Nall; Cutest—Hailey



Tony Kraus & Christy Nall winners of the funniest costume trophy.

At right, Gabriel Davis waiting anxiously for a cupcake

Below, Saints Joseph and Paul parishioners carving pumpkins.

Poole; Coolest—Peyton Rhodes; Craziest—Charlie Johnson; Scariest—Bobby Lomax

April Dickens is the Secretary/Bookkeeper for Sts. Joseph & Paul Catholic Church in Owensboro.




At right, Warren Brooks stirring chili. At far right corner of this page, Laura & Zeb Wells as Indians.



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The Deacon Serves as the 'Voice of the Needy'

St. Isidore the Farmer is the Patron of the Holy Name Class of 2007!

By Phyllis Brown

HENDERSON, Ky. - The Holy Name Class of 2007 recently completed the 9th annual Patron Saint Contest. The saints competing this year were: St. Mary Magdalene, St. Leo the Great, St. Andrew, St. John Chrysostom, St. Isidore, St. Lucy, Blessed Damien of Molokai, St. Anthony the Abbot and St. John Newmann. The competition consisted of a bulletin board and a skit. St. Isidore won both the bulletin board portion and the skit. Thanks to our judges: Fr. Bradley, Fr. Shonis, Sr. Margaret Ann, Mrs. Rose Wheeler, Mr. Charlie Hardesty, Mr. Daryl Hagan, Mrs. Mary Caton and Mrs. Connie McFarland. Students in grades 5-7 also influenced the outcome by voting for their favorite saint with a canned good. This activity, yearly celebrated on All Saints Day, kicks off the Co-Ed Y Club Thanksgiving Food Drive. Canned good votes resulted in St. John Chrysostom and St. Leo the Great receiving bonus points. St. Isidore, the patron of farmers and of Madrid, Spain, lived during the 11th century. He worked as a



Members of the "St. Isidore Team" are: Chase Kauffeld, Simon Chevalier, Kyle Davis, Meredith Stumph and Leslee Poole. HNE Photo



farm hand all of his life. Although a simple man, he was good to the poor and attended daily Mass. It was said that angels helped him catch up with his plowing while he was at Mass. We celebrate his feast day on May 15th.

Left, Catholic News Service graphic of Saint Isidore the Farmer.

By Father John Thomas

The liturgy, by its very nature, is the work of the people. It is through the expression of the liturgy that voice is given to the hopes and joys, fears and needs of God's people.

One of the main roles envisioned by the Roman Missal is the Deacon as the Voice of the Needy.

From the earliest days of the Church, the intention of the Apostles in establishing the diaconate as first expressed in Acts is made clear saying the deacon is to be the one who shows love for orphans, for the devout and for the widowed, one who is fervent in spirit, one who shows love for what is good.

This is why the deacon is the ordinary minister of the Kyrie, all litanies and even the general intercessions. He articulates the 'cry of the poor' because he is the minister most intimately acquainted with the pains, sorrows, and struggles of those most in need of our prayers. He is, in a very real sense, their voice, both in the liturgy and in the world. For, in a sense, the general intercessions are the prototype of diaconal prayer. It is proper to the deacon at Mass to call upon God to answer the prayers of his people.

In order that the formal prayer of the deacon have meaning, the service of the deacon at Mass is supported by his interaction and ministry to the members of society that are weak, abused, suffering, alone, addicted, or imprisoned. The deacon assists the priest in reaching out to those needing spiritual nourishment and support.

Beginning Saturday, January 27, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, men are invited to SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville to begin formally the discernment process to discover the call to diaconal ministry. We will continue to gather every 4th Saturday in Hopkinsville for prayer and discernment from January to June at which time formal application may be made.

Qualities Sought in Potential Deacon Candidates

- emotional maturity
- personal integrity/ appropriate self-knowledge
- demonstrate a personal commitment to growing in Christian holiness/ an active prayer life/ participation in the Eucharistic and Sacramental life of the Church
- generosity for service already being demonstrated
- good physical and psychological health (both candidate and wife, if married)
- ability to work in a team/ works well with people
- clearly demonstrates an ability and willingness to lead
- good communication skills (both as a speaker and as a listener)
- ability to speak publicly and proclaim the Gospel effectively
- ability to articulate and explain the moral and doctrinal teaching of the Church effectively
- need in the community for his service and leadership
- acceptance by the Christian community as evidenced by his ministry in the parish



Father John Thomas spoke to the Owensboro Serra Club on Oct. 27 about the Diocesan Permanent Deacon Program. He said that our diocese is one of the last in the country to institute a Permanent Deacon Program. Lois Rutigliano photo

- he must show an acceptance and personal commitment to the teaching of the Church

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
- 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 jmthomas@saintspeterandpaulchurch.org; Tel. 270-885-8522; Fax. 270-885-5296

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage- POLAND

By Father Paul Pike Powell

On October 3, 14 excited pilgrims from the diocese and beyond departed from Chicago's O'Hare airport for a ten-day pilgrimage to Poland. Our travels were to take us to shrines, churches, and historical places of interest. The main focus of the trip would center on the lives of Pope John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and a little Polish nun by the name of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska - all from Poland since each had his/her own reason for going there in the first place.

With that, let it be said, we were not left disappointed! We saw the home and birthplace of Pope John Paul II, who is already being called "Pope John Paul the Great" by scores. No doubt he will be canonized a saint before very many years! Some of us even got our picture taken at the font where he was baptized; and saw the room in which he was born.

The visit to Auschwitz was such a traumatic experience ... this is where so many Jews, Catholics, other Christians and many, many mentally, emotionally, and physically handicapped were gassed to death and cremated. It's hard to believe such inhumanity to man could have happened! There, we saw the cell where St. Maximilian Kolbe was starved to death, and the wall before which so many stood and were shot. No one could ever feel the same after seeing the railroad tracks that transported so many from the station to the gas chambers. And these poor souls were led to believe they were headed for a better life!

At Jasna Gora, we visited the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochova, better known as the Black Madonna. This is where St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Faustina, and Pope John Paul II once prayed. Legend has it that St. Luke is believed to have painted it.

Very relevant to our day was the home where St. Faustina was born, the church she attended, and the baptismal font where she was baptized. From there, we went to Warsaw where the four of us priests offered our Mass for the day at the Convent she entered in 1925. Oh her feast day, we also visited her tomb and viewed the window where she died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three. She became a Saint in a short time!

St. Faustina is of most importance to us, since it was to her that Christ appeared and told her to spread devotion to His Divine Mercy. She kept a diary of the appearances of Christ and the Blessed Virgin to her in a book of 600 hand-written pages.

The Lord Jesus told St. Faustina: *Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to my Merciful Heart. I am Thrice Holy.* And, said the Lord Jesus to Sr. Faustina - *and I detest the smallest sin. I cannot love a soul which is stained with sin; but when it repents,*

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there is no limit to My generosity toward it, My mercy embraces and justifies it. With My mercy, I pursue sinners along all their paths, and My Heart rejoices when they return to me. I forget the bitterness with which they fed My Heart and rejoice at their return. Tell sinners that no one shall escape My Hand. If they run away from My Merciful Heart, they will fall into My Just Hands. Tell sinners that I am always waiting for them that I listen intently to the beating of their heart ... when will it beat for Me? Write that I am speaking to them through their remorse of conscience, through their failures and sufferings, through thunderstorms, through the voice of the Church. And if they bring all My graces to naught, I begin to be angry with them, leaving them alone and giving them what they want (1728).

These words of the Lord Jesus seem to be a re-run of the Fatima message. The Blessed Mother told the three children of Fatima, Portugal in 1917 ... souls are falling into hell like snowflakes because they have no one to pray for them. St. Faustina had similar visions; and she was driven to exhort us all to do these two things: a) Repent of our own sins and change our ways before it is too late, b) Pray and make reparations for those who have no one to pray for them.

In the writing of St. Faustina, the message of God's mercy is best summarized with the ... ABC'S: **A. Ask for His Mercy.** *Ask and it will be given to you ... for everyone who asks, receives (Mt 7:7,8);* **B. Be Merciful.** *I give you anew commandment.. As I have loved you, so you must love one another (Jn 13:34) ... Be merciful even as your Father is merciful;* **C. Completely Trust!** *I have opened My Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it Let them approach this sea of mercy with trust (1520) ... I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature - "Jesus, I Trust in You." (327) ... The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is -- TRUST! The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive (1578).*

Saint Faustina was constantly aware that this life is short, and we cannot afford to wait to repent or waste time and, thus endanger the loss of our souls. Eternity means forever, thus we need to listen and take heed to her words so to avoid hell at all costs! By throwing ourselves on the Mercy of God, we can avoid hell, attain heaven and take people with us. It seems obvious that these exhortations of St. Faustina are to be taken seriously, thus believing that these warnings come from the Lord Jesus and the Blessed Mother.



Those on the Pilgrimage were, L to R, Sister Mary Lois Speaks, Fr. Pike Powell, a Mercy Sister residing in St. Faustina's home parish, Martha Kauffeld, Fr. Bruce Fogle, (kneeling) Beth Berry, Fr. David Kennedy, Wilma Baird, Kelly Hedges, Patricia Eatman, Jane Hayden, Fr. Alan McIntosh, (kneeling) Judith McGuinn, Patty Osborne and Mary Adams. Submitted Photo

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage- POLAND

Continued from page 41)

In the Year 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina on the Sunday after Easter. I had the good fortune to go to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA with people from this area to join with Rome for the celebration. That day, Pope John Paul II declared "Mercy Sunday," which is the Sunday after Easter a Universal Feast Day!

We have everything to gain by reading and heeding the message of Saint Faustina. Obviously what was most touching in our pilgrimage was visiting St. Faustina's home, the Convent where she lived and experienced receiving messages from the Lord Jesus and the Blessed Mother.

Now, much more could be said about the Pilgrimage, but this gives a little insight into how valuable to us were the days we spent in the land of St. Maximilian, St Faustina, and Pope John Paul II. God has truly blessed us!

The Adventures of a Young and Inexperienced Priest Part V: How to go down hills

By Father Carmelo Jimenez

The previous stories I have written have been about suffering for the cause of Christ. Today I want to share another story about suffering, but with good cheer. Please note that some words may be lost in translation but the essential message will be conveyed.

When I was about 6 years old, in Chiapas, Mexico, one day my father took me to the field to work with him. They were preparing the area by the fences so that when they burned the field the fire would not burn the fence or the neighboring fields. Little by little we started going up the hill. On the way back, there was a very sharp, ugly slope that I was not going to be able to get down. The adults took a few leaps and were already down but I could not do it. I tried to figure out how to go around it but with no success. Thus, I had no choice but to sit and slide down the hill on my backside.

After that experience, which was not really nice for me, anytime I'd see a child who would not want to go school or did not want to study, I used to encourage them, saying: "if you don't want to go down the hills on your backside, you'd better study."

Time flies. I entered the seminary and studied for 8 years plus a year of diaconal service; all this after graduating from High School. In other words, in order to be a priest, I had to study more years than what it usually takes for a professional career (actually, almost double the time).

I was ordained a priest and Chenalho, Mexico was one of the parishes I had to

serve in. Once there, I had to visit the small rural communities (in the three parishes where I was the pastor, I had to take care of about 281 communities), including the community of Jilikalum, for the very first time. In order to arrive there, I had to drive for 4 hours, and then walk up the hill for another 4 hours. I spent the night in another parish prior to arriving at my destination. On October 4th, the day of Saint Francis of Assisi, I had to start walking early in the morning to get to that community early. We arrived at 8am. I say "we arrived" because 3 nuns and three catechists came along with me to show me how to get there. We arrived hungry so we ate some breakfast. Then, we had confessions (about 400 people – it had been 3 years since the last time a priest visited them); then we had baptisms (75 children) and then the Eucharist. We were finishing up at around 4pm. By that time, it had been raining for 4 hours. We ate and then set off down the hill in order to go back.

We walked under the rain and the cold weather. Even though it was the afternoon, it all looked dark. Now we had 4 different catechists taking us to the place where we had left the pickup truck; then, they would have to go back up the hill. As soon as we started going literally down the hill, one of the nuns slipped down in the mud. Then, a catechist did the same and eventually so did everyone else but me. We were about 100 feet from the place where the pick up truck was. I felt happy that were about to make it and I had not slipped down through the mud. Nonetheless, so that I would stop making fun of my "muddy" companions, because of my unfortunate luck and since I could not see well in the dark, I stepped on a loose stone, fell down, and started sliding off down the hill. I fell on my back and my whole body was covered with mud, even my head. I had more mud than everyone else. At first, my companions looked at me surprised and then they started to laugh just as I did before.

Once in the truck, the nuns asked me to drop them off at the parish we had spent the night at before. After-



The four Priests at the altar, from L to R, Fr. David Kennedy, Fr. Bruce Fogle, Fr. Pike Powell, and Fr. Alan McIntosh. They offered Mass at the Convent in Warsaw where St. Faustina entered in 1925. Photo by Martha Kauffeld



Father Carmelo Jimenez in Chicago. Submitted photo

wards, I had to continue my way back home alone. It was then when I realized that I was running out of gas and I had no money. I could not make it to the parish because I was still very far from it. So I decided to go down to the capital, where my sister lives, so I could borrow some money from her. As soon as she looked at me, covered with mud, she walked around me and while shaking her head said: "My goodness, Carmelo, out of all of my siblings you are the silliest." I asked her why. She responded: "Because out of all the siblings, you are the one who has studied the most and you are the one still going down hills on your backside." We both started laughing.

All these adventures have let me down many paths; they have also given me the opportunity to appreciate the views, rivers and many foggy afternoons. Yet, thank God, I was able to experience what St. Paul said: "I am used to poverty and prosperity, to abundance and lack." Yes, I feel like an apostle of God, walking roads and sidewalks where God himself has taken me.

By Kim Brunfield

HARDINSBURG, Ky. - The yearly Pet Blessings for St. Romuald Church were held on Sunday October 15 for the K-6th Religious Education program and on Friday October 20 for the School children. There were many pets brought to each Blessing ranging from fish and guinea pigs, to many cats and dogs. Everyone had a great time and we appreciate the parents helping their children have a great morning with their pets!

Kim Brunfield is Director of Religious Education, grades K-6, for Saint Romuald Parish.



Holding on tight to their pets are 4th graders Erin O'Reilly with "Cream" and Emma Payne with "Hudson."



Looking up for his Holy Water is "Buddy" while his owner Jeff Rhodes and daughter Katie look on.



Luke Pate watches his cat "Tiger" get blessed by Fr. Tony Bickett while his mother Angie (right) and sister Angel wait for her cat to get blessed.



Excited about the Pet Blessing are 5th graders Devin Townsend, Brian David Brumfield, and Luke Priest! Brian David is having his cat, "Oreo," blessed.

In the picture at right, the 3rd Grade Religious Education class at St. Romuald Church made stained glass windows from plexi-glass and tissue paper. They were discussing the Holy Trinity. Students are as follows: 1st Row, L to R: Mikah Masterson, Liana Roberts, Whitney Simpson, Reba Coker, and Demetrius Mucker. 2nd Row, L to R: Catechist Jill Rhodes, Jeannie Vansickle, Taylor Flood, and Veronica Hess.



In the picture at left, giving a quick pose for the camera are Tim and Dana Flood with their children Andie and Alex along with their cat and dog.

Catholic School Position Available

SS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is currently seeking applications for the position of Elementary School Principal Beginning with the 2007 - 2008 school year.

Description: Grades PreK-8; 200 students. located in Hopkinsville, KY

Requirements: Practicing Catholic; Four years teaching experience; -Master's Degree; Kentucky administration certificate or working toward certification; Excellent administration/ communication skills

Send resume to the following address before May 1, 2007: Reverend Father John M. Thomas, SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 902 East Ninth Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
jmthomas@saintspeterandpaulchurch.org

“Altar de Muertos” en la Iglesia Católica San Pedro y San Pablo de Hopkinsville, KY.

Por Byron Macías

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - El Altar de Muertos este año fue hecho por los alumnos de la clase de español del séptimo y octavo grados de nuestra escuela parroquial, junto a su maestra la Sra. Hilda Macario.

La Sra. Macario agradece a la Directora de la escuela y al padre John Thomas por proveer a los estudiantes oportunidades de aprender sobre las tradiciones Latinoamericanas tal y como el “Altar de Muertos.” La Sra. Macario también se siente muy orgullosa de la disposición e impresiones adquiridas por sus estudiantes:

“Ahora sé que no solo se trata de caramelos o fiestas. Se trata de nuestros queridos fallecidos” –Brittany Kinnard

“Aprendí que los Mexicanos tienen tradiciones ricas” –Mary Martin

“Disfruté mucho Armando el altar e investigando sobre el mismo. Mi experiencia de traer la foto de mi abuelito me trajo muchos buenos recuerdos.” –Amy Shleton

“También fue una gran experiencia de aprendizaje para mí. Aprendí tradiciones de la cultura Hispana y tuvimos todos que trabajar juntos, con nuestras ideas diferentes, para hacer el altar.” –Jerome Soldo

“Me gustó porque tenía presente a mi abuelito quien recientemente falleció. El investigar sobre él me acercó mucho a él” –Jessica Hanks

La Sra. Macario también dice que fue muy importante para sus estudiantes el familiarizarse con esta tradición. Macario también agradece a las personas que ayudaron a juntar los respectivos materiales: los estudiantes, Byron Macías –Paco-, La Tienda Mexicana La Guadalupana, familia Durán, Sra. Alma Valdez, la Maestra de Arte y todos los demás por su gran apoyo.



Hilda Macario, maestra de español de la Escuela Católica San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, junto a sus estudiantes de séptimo y octavo grados y el Altar de Muertos que ellos hicieron como proyecto de clase.

Mrs. Hilda Macario, along with her seventh and eighth graders from the Spanish class at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville. The Altar de Muertos was their class project.

La Comunidad Hispana: Juntos Caminamos

Por Patti Murphy, directora
de la Oficina Diocesana de
Ministerio Hispano

Líderes hispanos a través de la Diócesis han estado trabajando en equipos durante los últimos meses para estudiar documentos eclesiales, analizar la realidad actual y crear metas para el ministerio hispano en los próximos 5 años. Las metas están divididas en cuatro dimensiones: Formación, Opción Misionera, Pastoral de Conjunto y Liturgia y Oración.

Este Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano que fue entregado el Obispo el 18 de noviembre. Se encuentra en línea a:

www.owensborodio.org/hispanic



Representantes de Paducah, Owensboro y Hopkinsville entregan el Plan Pastoral Diocesano de Ministerio Hispano al Monseñor McRaith en una Misa el sábado, 18 de noviembre



El Monseñor John McRaith se dirige a la comunidad hispana congregada en la Parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo para una Misa y Celebración del trabajo de muchos líderes hispanos en crear un Plan Pastoral Diocesano que guiará al ministerio hispano en los próximos 5 años

Mi deseo para ustedes esta Navidad es Paz – La paz del niño Jesús recién nacido.

Mis queridos amigos:

Diciembre está aquí, lo que significa que nuestra atención se vuelve hacia nuestra preparación para Navidad y hacia la celebración del nacimiento de Jesús.

Antes que todo, está el asunto de prepararse para esta gran fiesta y su celebración. La única forma de tener una Navidad feliz y llena de gozo es si nos preparamos adecuadamente para la venida de Jesús. Jesús vino como uno de nosotros, para salvarnos de nuestros pecados, le puso fin a la muerte y abrió las puertas del cielo donde experimentaremos la Navidad para toda la eternidad.

El adviento es de especial importancia en la vida de la Iglesia y en nuestras vidas como individuos. Todos sabemos qué significa prepararse para un gran evento en las vidas de nuestros seres amados o en nuestras propias vidas. Es un trabajo difícil. Por ejemplo, con frecuencia me maravillo cuando veo los preparativos para las Confirmaciones. Ustedes saben cuando llegan a la parroquia que se ha trabajado mucho para preparar este día especial. Primero que nada, aquellos que se van a confirmar se han estado preparando para este día por años, aprendiendo más y más acerca de su fe y de su relación con el Espíritu Santo. Ellos aprenden que ahora están más unidos a Cristo y a su Iglesia. Los Confirmados saben también que éste no es el fin de su vida con Cristo – es el principio. Ellos son iniciados por completo en la Iglesia y en su relación con un Dios todo amoroso. Por lo tanto, ellos están un poquito nerviosos pero siempre emocionados. La parroquia está emocionada.

El mismo sentido de excitación y la necesidad de preparación se da en los matrimonios y los ejemplos siguen y siguen. Éstas son celebraciones únicas pero la celebración del nacimiento de Jesús es una que celebramos cada año. La Iglesia nunca se cansa de prepararse para hacer éste un día especial. Nosotros, los fieles, tenemos un verdadero reto en la cultura mundial en la que vivimos para mantener nuestra atención en lo que significa la Navidad: el nacimiento del Salvador.

Todo empezó hace mucho tiempo cuando Dios decidió enviar a su único Hijo para que nuestros pecados pudieran ser perdonados y poner fin a la muerte. Leemos mucho acerca de la venida de un Salvador en el Viejo Testamento y lo vemos con más claridad en las escrituras del Nuevo Testamento. La historia de la Navidad comienza cuando nuestra Santísima Virgen dice “Sí” cuando Dios le pide ser la madre de Jesús el Mesías. Su “Sí” nos da una idea de cómo debemos estar preparados para la Navidad – preparativos que tienen muy poco que ver con las ventas y las decoraciones.

Un adviento bien empleado tiene que ver con nosotros y lo que conlleva en nuestras vidas particulares. Depende de cada uno prepararnos a nosotros mismos para celebrar la llegada de Jesús a nuestras vidas y decidir como mostrar gratitud por su venida cuando ese día llegue.

Sí, nosotros arreglamos nuestros alrededores – nuestros hogares y nuestras Iglesias – pero la verdadera preparación sucede en nuestras vidas. Podemos tener y tendremos una feliz Navidad si permanecemos abiertos a su venida y si hemos preparado un lugar especial para Él en nuestras vidas. El adviento es un tiempo para poner los toques finales en los preparativos que van a lo largo de todo el año. Nos preparamos por medio de nuestras oraciones, poniendo especial atención al calendario de la Iglesia, recibiendo los sacramentos y especialmente el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Este Sacramento nos lleva cara a cara con Jesús, quien nos muestra la misericordia y el amor que Él vino a darnos en primer lugar.

Rezamos por esas cosas que Jesús vino a traernos. Hay muchas cosas pero una es el regalo de la paz. Este regalo se olvida con facilidad en este mundo que tiene tan poco respeto por la vida – antes y después del nacimiento. Cuando estamos en medio de una guerra y el mundo está en medio de tanta violencia, es muy fácil olvidar las palabras del Ángel al pastor: “Gloria a Dios en las Alturas y en la tierra paz a los hombres de buena voluntad”. Incluso en la casa y en la familia, muchos están sufriendo la violencia en el mismo lugar donde esperamos encontrar paz.

Jesús vino a mostrarnos como tener paz, pero somos muy lentos en trabajar hacia esa paz – la paz del Príncipe de la Paz.

La Navidad nos recuerda que incluso la ausencia de guerra no es necesari-

amente un mundo de paz. La paz debe empezar en nuestras propias vidas. Obtenemos esa paz sólo cuando vivimos por medio de los valores que nos enseñó el Señor Jesús y haciendo su voluntad cada día de nuestras vidas. Sí, la paz debe empezar en nuestros propios corazones. En el corazón sereno, Jesús viene a descansar por toda la eternidad. Es por eso, que nuestra preparación de Adviento no es sólo para esta Navidad sino finalmente un paso hacia la paz eterna con Él.

Hay muchas cosas que podría desearles esta Navidad, pero mi deseo para ustedes en esta Navidad es paz – la paz del Niño Jesús recién nacido. Su paz entonces irá desde nosotros hacia el mundo, un mundo donde sus fieles no tolerarán la violencia. Mientras nos preparamos para la paz, nos preparamos para la venida de Jesús y para la celebración de su nacimiento.

Usemos el Adviento como un tiempo para encontrar esos pedazos de violencia en nuestras vidas y trabajemos para sacarlos... entonces trabajemos para compartir esa paz con nuestras hermanas y hermanos – entonces desde nuestras familias al mundo. Todos deseamos la paz y rezamos por la paz. Debemos trabajar por la paz.

Nosotros aprendemos de la Constitución Pastoral en la Iglesia en el Mundo Moderno y del Concilio Vaticano Segundo acerca de la paz y la importancia de trabajar por la paz como un trabajo de justicia. El Concilio nos dice que el bien común de la raza humana está sujeto a la ley eterna como su principal principio, pero la paz nunca se establece finalmente para siempre. La construcción de la paz tiene que seguir todo el tiempo. Nosotros somos “débiles” y estamos “heridos por el pecado”; nosotros debemos controlar nuestras pasiones.

El Concilio sigue diciendo y yo lo cito, “Incluso esto no es suficiente. La paz aquí en la tierra no se puede mantener a menos que el bien del humano se guarde con seguridad y los hombres tengan la voluntad de confiar unos en los otros y compartir sus riquezas de espíritu y talento. Si la paz está por establecerse, es absolutamente necesario tener una firme determinación de respetar a otras personas y gentes y su dignidad y ser celosos en la práctica de la hermandad. La paz es por lo tanto el fruto del amor; el amor va más allá de lo que la justicia puede alcanzar”.

Éstas son palabras que nosotros podemos reflejar mientras nos preparamos para la venida de Jesús quien vino a traer la paz al mundo.

Mientras nos preparamos para la Navidad y mientras celebramos la Navidad por el regalo de la paz, oremos en una forma especial esta Navidad. Mientras intercambiamos regalos en esta época del año, todos nosotros podemos intercambiar el regalo de la paz, si nosotros decidimos realmente que ésta es tan importante como lo enseña la Iglesia.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para desearle a cada uno de ustedes una Navidad llena de alegría y muchas bendiciones en el Año Nuevo. Que la paz de Cristo reine en nuestras vidas, en nuestras familias, comunidades, parroquias, la nación y en el mundo. Como Jesús vino a perdonarnos y exigirnos que nos perdonemos unos a otros, nosotros tenemos las bases sobre las cuales construir una vida de paz y una cultura de vida que reemplace la cultura de violencia y muerte que se ha apoderado del mundo.

Dios los bendiga a todos en el Día de Navidad.

Paz,

+ *John J. McRaith*

Monseñor John McRaith
Obispo de Owensboro



Monseñor John McRaith
Obispo de Owensboro

Muéstrale a la gente que Dios está aquí, Él está vivo todavía.

Por Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. – El padre Alejandro Godínez Alcanzar de México llegó recientemente al área para servir como ministro a la gente católica de origen hispano en Paducah. Como diácono, él pasó año y medio ayudando en una pequeña villa rural indígena. La gente vivía hasta 5 millas aparte en pequeñas granjas y eran muy pobres. Después de su ordenación en febrero del 2001 su asignación fue en una ciudad donde el pasó cuatro años y medio enseñando a los niños en la escuela católica y celebrando misa para ellos. Él le enseñó a los niños cómo participar en la misa como monaguillos, lectores, etc. Él fue el editor y reportero para el periódico de la iglesia. El padre también tenía un programa de radio de dos horas cada viernes por la noche referente a asuntos católicos y vida familiar cristiana. Él invitaba a diferentes personas a unírsele.

El padre Alejandro está ahora afiliado a la diócesis de Owensboro como misionario. Está ocupado mejorando su inglés, aprendiendo rutinas de Norte América y celebrando la misa en español cada domingo a las 3pm en San Tomas More en Paducah. Hay dos días de fiesta especiales en diciembre que el padre está preparando: el 12 de diciembre es la fiesta de la Santísima Madre de Guadalupe y del 16 al 24 la gente hispana celebra la posada. En la cultura mexicana es cuando las familias van de casa en casa pidiendo posada mientras recuerdan cuando María y José estaban buscando un techo en Belen. La posada termina con las misas de 24 y 25. Entonces la misa celebrada el 31 es el momento para dar gracias a Dios por las bendiciones del año que pasó y por las que se recibirán en el año por venir. El padre quiere unir a la gente hispana para estas celebraciones especiales.

“Mi comunidad hispana necesita amor y cuidado. Tengo que ser paciente para que la gente crezca y alcance su potencial. Ellos están hambrientos de Dios y yo creo que Dios me trajo aquí para ayudar a esta gente que está tan hambrienta. Mis aspiraciones son mostrarle a la gente que Dios está aquí, Él está vivo todavía, amoroso y cariñoso para ellos. Yo les quiero mostrar que aunque ellos dejaron su tierra, sus padres y amigos, Dios los cuida y los ama y que ellos no están sólo en este país, ellos

Sigue en la pagina 4



Carnaval de Halloween en la Escuela Católica San Pedro y San Pablo el mes pasado
Halloween Carnival at Saints Peter and Paul School early last month



El padre Alejandro Godínez Alcanzar

Las aventuras de un Joven e inexperto cura

Parte V: Como bajar los cerros

Por el Padre Carmelo Jiménez

En las historias anteriores que he escrito han sido del sufrimiento pasado por el seguimiento de Jesucristo. Hoy quiero contar una historia de sufrimiento también pero con buen humor. En la traducción puede que se pierdan algunas palabras pero se dirá lo esencial.

Cuando era pequeño, tendría 6 años de edad más o menos. Un día mi padre me llevó al campo a trabajar con ellos. Estaban limpiando junto a la cerca para que cuando le prendieran fuego a todo



El Padre Carmelo Jiménez

el campo no se cruzara a otros campos y tampoco se quemara la cerca. Poco a poco fuimos subiendo el cerro. Ya de regreso había una parte fea y muy pendiente que yo no podía bajar. Los adultos dieron algunos brincos y ya estaban abajo, pero yo no pude hacer eso. Busqué la manera de bajar en otros lados y no encontré, así que no me quedó más que sentarme y bajar de nalgas el cerro.

Después de esa experiencia, no muy agradable para mi, cuando yo veía que algún niño (a) no quería estudiar o no querían ir a la escuela yo los motivaba a continuar estudiando diciéndoles: “Si no quieres bajar de nalgas los cerros es mejor que estudies”.

El tiempo pasa, yo entré al seminario y tuve que estudiar 8 años y 1 año de servicio diaconal después de la preparatoria, es decir que para llegar a ser sacerdote tuve que estudiar más que cualquier carrera profesional (casi el doble o casi dos carreras profesionales).

Sigue en la pagina 4

Me ordenaron sacerdote y, una de las parroquia en las que me tocó estar



Participantes del Retiro de Formación del Comité Hispano de la Parroquia San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville: (de iz a der) arriba: Ana, Lily, Yolanda, María, Juanita, Hilda, Raúl; abajo: José Joaquín, Carl, José Leonardo, Paco, Josh, Eduardo. Nov 12, 06.

Formation Retreat for Hispanic Committee at Saints Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville: (left to right) up row: Ana, Lily, Yolanda, María, Juanita, Hilda, Raul; low: José Joaquín, Carl, José Leonardo, Paco, Josh, Eduardo. Nov 12, 06.

Muéstrale a la gente que Dios está aquí, Él está vivo todavía. *(Sigue de la pagina 3)*

están siempre con Dios,” explicó el padre Alejandro. Él continuó diciendo, “Yo estoy planeando oportunidades educacionales para la gente. Voy a tener clases litúrgicas comenzando el 20 de octubre y exhortaré a la comunidad a venir y participar en los diferentes ministerios. Las clases durarán mes y medio. Cuando terminen la gente tendrá que decidir en que ministerio quieren participar. Estoy conciente de que la gente viene aquí por periodos cortos de tiempo. Será difícil, pero yo mismo tendré que adaptarme a sus estilos de vida y encontrar soluciones para este problema. Nosotros estamos haciendo un esfuerzo para dejarle saber a la comunidad hispana que estoy aquí y cómo les voy a servir a ellos. Anuncios después de la iglesia, invitaciones personales de mi parte, hablando con la gente en lugares públicos, información en los boletines de la iglesia, visitando familias en sus hogares y visitándolos cuando están en el hospital, son algunas de las formas que tengo planeadas para llegar a la gente. También quiero iniciar un periódico o boletín para la comunidad de Paducah que la gente pueda recibir y con esperanza compartir con otras familias hispanas.

Después de misa los domingos la gente estaba vendiendo pasteles y cócteles de fruta para reunir dinero para pagar una estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe que será parte de su celebración en el día de su fiesta. Muchos individuos comentaron qué tan felices estaban de tener un sacerdote hispano para celebrar misa para ellos. “Es maravilloso, se siente bien venir a confesión con él, es tan reconfortante. Él es como un amigo,” comentó Elana Carey. Marie Charlot dijo, “He estado en los Estados Unidos muchos años pero me siento muy feliz por la gente que no habla el idioma inglés. Esto los hace sentir más en casa al oír su propio idioma viniendo de un sacerdote hispano. Y creo que él unirá a la comunidad hispana.” Cristina Machain agregó, “Estoy muy complacida de que el padre hable nuestro español pero aprecio a todos los otros sacerdotes que aprendieron español y que celebraron la misa para nosotros.”

- Este artículo fue traducido por Guadalupe Ortiz Shemansky.

Celebraciones del Diciembre

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Todd Co: Santa Susana, Elkton, 12:30 p.m., domingo, 10 de diciembre (con Mariachis) Sts. Mary and James, Guthrie. 6:00 p.m., sábado 9 de diciembre.

Hopkinsville: San Pedro y San Pablo, Diciembre 2-11: Novena Guadalupana en las casas a las 6pm, Martes 12 de diciembre: Mañanitas a la Virgen a las 5:30am en la iglesia, Misa bilingüe con el Obispo McRaith a las 7pm, seguida de una celebración

Russellville: Sagrado Corazón, diciembre 12, 5pm Misa en español

Sebree: San Miguel, Novena 3 de diciembre, 6:30pm, 12 de diciembre Mañanitas a las 12am; Misa y Procesión a las 6pm

Madisonville: Cristo Rey, Misa a las 10pm, 12 de diciembre

Owensboro: San José y San Pablo, Misa a las 12pm, 10 de diciembre seguida de una celebración en el Centro Pastoral Católico.

Henderson: Santo Nombre de Jesús, Misa a las 6:30pm, 11 de diciembre seguida de una celebración

Paducah: Santo Tomas Moro, Novena diciembre 3-11 en casas, Misa a las 4pm el 10 de diciembre seguida de una celebración, 11 de diciembre: 9:30pm representación, Rosario, 11pm Misa, 12am Mañanitas y recepción, 12 de diciembre: Misa a las 6pm.

Hopkinsville: Jueves 21 de diciembre: Posada Parroquial a las 6:00pm (nos

Las aventuras de un Joven e inexperto cura

(Sigue de la pagina 3)

era Chenalho. Estando ahí tuve que salir a las comunidades (quiero aclarar que entre las tres parroquia de las que fui párroco al mismo tiempo tenia 281 comunidades), y me tocó visitar por vez primera la comunidad de Jolikalum, para llegar allá tuve que manejar 4 horas y caminar hacia arriba del cerro, otras 4 horas. En la tarde del día anterior al que tenía que estar en la comunidad me fui a dormir a otra parroquia donde queda más cercano y así avanzar. El 4 octubre, día de san Francisco de Asís, inicié a caminar muy de mañana para estar temprano en la comunidad, logramos llegar a las 8.00 a.m. Y digo logramos llegar, porque me acompañaron 3 religiosas y tres catequistas que habían venido hasta donde íbamos a dejar la camioneta y enseñarnos el camino. Llegamos con hambre de tal manera que nos sentamos para desayunar, después las confesiones (tenía 3 años que ningún padre los había visitado) que iba a ser toda la comunidad (más o menos 400 personas), luego los bautizos (75 niños) y al final la Eucaristía. Estábamos terminando como a las 4.00 p.m. Para esa hora ya tenía 4 horas que estaba lloviendo y continuaría lloviendo. Comimos muy rápido para no tardar y volver a caminar, ahora de regreso y de bajada.

Caminamos bajo el agua y con un gran frío. Y aún cuando todavía no era muy tarde se veía todo oscuro. Nos acompañaban 4 catequistas distintos a los de la mañana. Ellos tendrían que regresar en cuanto nos dejaran en la camioneta. Al iniciar la bajada una hermana se resbaló con el lodo que había y se cayó, llenándose de lodo. Después cayó un catequista y así sucesivamente fueron cayendo. Solo yo no me había caído. Tan solo faltando como 100 metros para llegar a la camioneta, yo feliz porque no me había llenado de lodo y habíamos llegado prácticamente a donde terminaba la caminata. Pero para que no me riera de los demás y para mi desgracia, al no poder ver bien por la oscuridad de la noche, pisé una piedra muy resbalosa y que también me caí, de espaldas, llegando mi cabeza al lodo, terminando así más lleno de lodo que los demás. Primero me vieron con sorpresa y luego todos se empezaron a reír de mí, como yo había hecho con los demás.

Ya en la camioneta, las hermanas me pidieron que las dejara en la parroquia que nos habíamos quedado la noche anterior. Así que tenía que continuar solo. Es ahí donde me fijé que tenía poca gasolina, y dinero no llevaba. No podía llegar hasta mi parroquia por la distancia. Así que decidí bajar a la capital del estado, en donde vivía mi hermana y pedirle dinero prestado para la gasolina. Cuando ella me vio todo lleno de lodo, caminó alrededor de mí y moviendo la cabeza me dijo: “hay Carmelo, de todos mis hermanos tu eres el mas tonto”. Yo le pregunté: “porque?” Ella me respondió: “Porque tú eres, de los hermanos, él que más ha estudiado, y eres tú quien sigue bajando los cerros de nalgas”. Y empezamos a reírnos los dos.

Esas aventuras me llevaron a recorrer muchos caminos, admirando así los paisajes, los ríos y muchas veces disfrutar de las tardes llenas de niebla. Pero gracias a Dios pude conocer lo que san Pablo decía: “Estoy acostumbrado a la pobreza y a la riqueza, a la abundancia y a la escasez”. Así, sintiéndome un apóstol de Dios recorrer los caminos y veredas por donde Dios mismo me llevó.

Navidad

reunimos en la Tienda “Mi Pueblito”) Lunes 25 de diciembre: Misa de Navidad en español a las 11:00am; Misa de Año Viejo: domingo 31 de diciembre a la 1:30pm

Russellville: Misa en español a las 4pm.

Henderson: 13 de diciembre un servicio de adviento con Las Posadas, 6pm

Paducah: 16 al 24 de diciembre Novena de Navidad en diferentes lugares, Misa

1:00 Pm Español; 7:00 Pm español

Podemos ser una bella sinfonía Dejemos que toque el Artista

José Martínez Colín

1) Para pensar: Un organista de la Iglesia estaba practicando una pieza de Felix Mendelssohn y no estaba tocando muy bien. Frustrado, recogió su música y se dispuso a irse. No había notado a un extraño que se había sentado en un banco de atrás.

Cuando el organista se dio la vuelta para irse, el extraño se le acercó y le preguntó si él podía tocar la pieza. El organista respondió bruscamente: «Nunca dejo que nadie toque este órgano.» Finalmente, después de dos peticiones amables más, el músico gruñón le dio permiso con renuencia. El extraño se sentó y llenó el santuario de una hermosa e impecable música.

Cuando terminó, el organista preguntó: «¿Quién es usted?» El hombre contestó: «Yo soy Félix Mendelssohn.» El organista sorprendido le pidió disculpas llenó de vergüenza al gran artista. Por poco el organista impide al creador tocar su propia música.

Hemos de dejar que el verdadero artista haga una hermosa melodía con nuestras vidas. Y para ello hemos de dejar que entre el Señor en nuestras vidas. El encuentro con Cristo cambia la vida, también hoy, aseguró el Papa Benedicto XVI en su reciente audiencia general del 8 de noviembre ante más de 15,000 asistentes, en que recordó la figura del apóstol Pablo.

2) Para pensar: Somos «creados en Cristo Jesús para buenas obras, las cuales Dios preparó de antemano» (Efesios 2:10). Pero nuestras vidas no producirán una música hermosa a menos que le dejemos obrar en nosotros. Dios tiene una sinfonía escrita para nuestras vidas. Dejémosle que haga su voluntad en nosotros.

El Papa ha señalado «la centralidad de Jesucristo» como el aspecto más destacado de la vida cristiana del «decimotercer apóstol», Saulo de Tarso. Recordando el encuentro de Pablo con Cristo, constató cómo aquel momento «revolucionó literalmente su vida». «Cristo se convirtió en su razón de ser y en el motivo profundo de todo su trabajo apostólico». Fue ese encuentro con Jesús que decidió el apóstol a partir de entonces ser un buen instrumento en las manos de Dios.

En la medida en que dejemos obrar al Señor en nosotros, seremos mejores personas. Pensemos qué tan buenos instrumentos hemos sido hasta ahora y si nuestras obras son según el querer de Jesús.

3) Para vivir: El Papa señaló que la historia de San Pablo, nacido en la actual Turquía permite comprender «cómo Jesucristo puede influir en la vida de una persona y, por tanto, también en nuestra misma vida». «En realidad -recalcó-, Jesucristo es el ápice de la historia de la salvación y por tanto el verdadero punto discriminante en el diálogo con las demás religiones». «¿Cómo tiene lugar el encuentro de un ser humano con Cristo? La «identidad cristiana», dijo el Papa, se compone de dos elementos: no buscarse a sí mismo, sino revestirse de Cristo y entregarse con Cristo.

«Por otra parte -añadió-, nuestra radical pertenencia a Cristo y el hecho de que “estamos en Él” tiene que infundirnos una actitud de total confianza y de inmensa alegría». En definitiva, propuso, «tenemos que exclamar con san Pablo: “Si Dios está por nosotros ¿quién contra nosotros?”».

José Martínez Colín es sacerdote, Ingeniero en Computación por la UNAM y Doctor en Filosofía por la Universidad de Navarra (Cualquier comentario o sugerencia: e-mail padrejosearticulos@gmail.com)



El aparente éxito de las sectas protestantes

Por Christopher Gutiérrez

Una de las cosas que últimamente me ha estado llamando más la atención, es el aumento del número de adeptos o seguidores de un sin número de sectas. Tal parece que está de moda pertenecer, o bien formar una pequeña “iglesia” aquí y otra allá. Basta con que uno en muchos lugares, camine tan solo una cuadra y en ese limitado trayecto se puede uno encontrar hasta tres o cuatro denominaciones distintas, cuando no más. Hablando de hispanos, dato curioso es que la gran mayoría de ellos ahora No católicos, en un principio Sí que lo eran.

Y uno se pregunta: ¿Sería quizás que de repente se dieron cuenta (como dicen algunos) de que pertenecían a la Iglesia equivocada? ¿O es que ahora sí encontraron a Jesucristo detalle que la Iglesia Católica olvidó facilitarles? ¿O qué pasó entonces? Hace un par de meses platicaba con un señor que alguna vez había sido católico y se expresaba así: “Cuando era católico fuí un borracho e inservible.” Y yo me hacía esta reflexión. ¿Acaso existe algún apartado o número del catecismo, algún versículo de la Sagrada Escritura que sugiera el alcoholismo como deporte o la holgazanería como pasatiempo? Es cierto que la Iglesia Católica, esta Iglesia Unica, fundada por Jesucristo hace ya algunos años, ha estado llena de derramamientos de sangre, de legalismos, de intolerancias, de ministros vendidos y mediocres, sí. ¡Pero también esta llena de SANTOS! Y solo por mencionar uno les acabo de citar a su fundador.

¡No señoras y señores! Hay que ponernos las pilas, como vulgarmente se dice. Aunque existen otras razones que han provocado un masivo éxodo de hispanos a las distintas sectas, yo solo quisiera fijarme en dos. 1) ignorancia, 2) mediocridad. Muchas veces se nos pregunta nuestra religion, y si decimos católico (a) no basta con decir que lo somos sólo porque nos fue heredado por nuestros padres o abuelos. Creo yo que por respeto a nosotros mismos y al que nos interroga deberíamos tener una respuesta mejor fundamentada, consolidada y convencida. ¿Y cómo se logra esto? Leyendo, preguntando, estudiando, informándonos, formándonos y sobre todo irradiando una Fe fruto de un encuentro vivo con Dios.

Tampoco podemos seguir por el mundo con un conocimiento de nuestra fe a medias. No basta simplemente con ir sólo a la misa del domingo, o con irnos a confesar sólo porque la hija esta a punto de cumplir sus quince y a fuerza tengo que asistir. En el título de este escrito incluí la palabra “aparente” por esta razón. El día en que de verdad conozcamos nuestra fe a fondo de ninguna manera podríamos conformarnos con una fe o concepción religiosa muchas veces distorsionada, exclusivista o simplemente a medias. Una fe a medias es como comernos un plato de frijoles sin tortillas o un pedazo de pastel sin azúcar.

La invitación de parte de Dios es que le sigamos y amemos con una fe inquebrantable y no a medias o parcial.

Por el momento yo quisiera seguir adentrándome y conociendo más a fondo esta hermosa Iglesia Católica que un día me vio nacer. Quiero aprender a amar esta Iglesia que me ha presentado y enseñado a querer a Jesucristo. No tengas miedo ni pereza, yo te invito a lo mismo, pero sobre todo, El te hace la invitación.

Jóvenes de Hopkinsville y Elkton que trabajaron en el libro de la Pascua Juvenil. Entregaron su capítulo en el segundo taller el 18 de noviembre en Birmingham, Alabama.

Young people from Hopkinsville and Elkton who worked on the Pascua Juvenil book. They turned in their chapter at the second workshop in Birmingham, Alabama on November 18th.