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Volume 33, Number 7

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky

September, 2006

Making A Sacrificial Gift To The Disciples Response Fund Acknowledges Your Call From God

My friends in Christ,

"Plant Seeds of Faith" is our theme for this year's Disciples' Response Fund Annual Appeal. As our hardworking farmers of this diocese know, planting seeds — any type of seeds — is an act of faith. The seeds of faith are just like any other seeds. They require careful and deliberate planting in good ground. They must be cared for — nourished and refreshed and protected — if they are to grow.

As we heard in today's Gospel from Mark, it was through great faith that the people of Decapolis brought Jesus the deaf man to be healed. We also hear from the Letter of St. James that God chose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith. Faith in Christ, and in each other, is such an integral part of our Christian heritage.

As we cultivate and nourish our seeds of faith, we continue to grow closer to God. We become even more aware that everything we are is a gift from God. How awe-inspiring is it that God has given us everything simply because He loves us — nothing more and nothing less? Our gift of faith is given to each of us as individuals, but then we must share that gift with others. The Disciples' Response Fund is a good tool for making that possible.

We show our gratitude and love for our God by living life as Christian stewards. We express our gratitude in ways both great and small. For the Christian steward, we show our gratitude and deep faith by serving others, by sharing our time, talents, and treasure with those who need it. Through your gift to this year's Disciples' Response Fund Annual Appeal, you help those in the diocese whose needs are the greatest: the poor and those on the margins of society.

We also need to devote additional resources to vocations. The need could not be any greater than it is now for young men and women to be aware of God's call to serve as priests and religious. And we must ensure that those responding to His call receive the best tools and training so that they are properly prepared to serve once they are ordained or make final professions. Reaching out to the poor and marginalized and fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life are only two examples of how generous giving to the Disciples' Response Fund makes it possible for the Church of Western Kentucky - Diocese of Owensboro to carry out the mission of the Church to announce the Good News of the love of God, the Good News of salvation.

My brothers and sisters of western Kentucky, your faith shines through in all of the good works that you do. It is with great faith that I invite you to join me and other Christian stewards in participating in the Disciples' Response Fund Annual Appeal. In making a sacrificial gift to the DRF, you acknowledge your call from God:

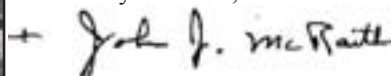
• To discipleship to serve others, • To increase your own faith, and • To help others to grow seeds of faith in their lives.

There are so many needs, and we — together as Church — can only respond to those needs when we all give generously of our time, talents, and financial resources.

I am forever grateful to you and every member of our diocesan family who have continually supported the work of the Church through participation in the DRF annual appeal, by your prayers and financial support.

If you have not given to the DRF in the past, I invite you to do so beginning this year. Your participation will have a profound effect not only on those who count on it, but on you and your family as well. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro in Western Kentucky



Weekend College Celebrates 25 Years at Brescia

by Tina Seibert

It's never too late to go back to school and you can always enroll, at least if you attend Brescia University's Weekend College.

Working adults have been able to turn to the Weekend College to fulfill career goals and offer new opportunities for the past 25 years. Brescia was the first university in the area to offer an associate, bachelor, or master's degree from weekend classes only.

Weekend College Director Greg Alvey says 25 years of flexible class schedules is a milestone for the University. He says that "more adult learners are going back to school than ever before." In order to effectively reach these adults, the college conveniently offers Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon classes. Plus, students meet only every other Friday or weekend so they still have time to live their lives while continuing their education. Alvey says, "the pace is up to the students." He says that if a student takes two courses per five week session, they can earn 24 credit hours an academic year, be considered a full-time student, and be eligible for financial aid.

Bachelor degrees are offered in Business, Accounting, and Integrated Studies. Associate degrees are offered in Business, Human Services, Liberal Arts, Catechetical Leadership Ministry, and Banking. You can also receive your Master of Science in Management.

Alvey says Weekend College benefits the adults that enroll, the community and workforce, while students enrich their lives academically.

If you're interested in becoming a Weekend College student, it's never too late to enroll, even if you missed the traditional August deadline. Just visit the Weekend College online: <http://www.brescia.edu/wec>, email Admissions at admissions@brescia.edu or call toll free at 1-877-273-7242.



9/11 Peace Service

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish will hold a Peace Service on Sept. 11 at 12:00 noon to pray and offer healing for the violence in our world and in ourselves. We invite you to join us as we unite our voices for a peaceful world.



Catholic Conference of Kentucky Issues Statement About Policies on Political Activity

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Director,

Catholics are called by faithful citizenship "to become an informed, active, and responsible participant in the political process." (Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility (2003)). Pope John Paul II has emphasized this responsibility. "Democracy needs wisdom, democracy needs virtue. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, and when it makes the common good the end criterion regulating all public social life." (Pope John Paul II, October 8, 1995). Civic involvement in our democracy on the part of Catholics is integral to our responsible presence in the public square. It is not limited to just elections.

With our encouragement of faithful citizenship, prudence demands that we review the guidelines involving political activity which apply to Catholic organizations. Individuals acting in their individual capacity and not in any Church capacity are free to engage in partisan political activity. However, Churches and individuals representing churches in their official capacities are prohibited from partisan political activity. The Church cannot endorse or oppose candidates for election to public office, including nonpartisan candidates, such as judicial candidates. These guidelines are rooted in theological as well as legal reasons.

The Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World clarified the relationship between the Church and the political order. "The Church, by reason of her role and competence, is not identified in any way with the political community nor bound to any political system. She is at once a sign and safeguard of the transcendent character of the human person." (The Church in the Modern World (1965), No. 76). Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical spelled out important distinctions concerning the role of the Church and politics. The Church is "duty-bound to offer, through the purification of reason and through ethical formation, her own specific contribution towards understanding the requirements of justice and achieving them politically.... The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society, on the other hand, is proper to the

lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity." (Deus Caritas Est (2005) Nos. 28, 29). It is the responsibility of the Church to "stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice," and it is the responsibility of the laity to work for a just society.

In addition to these theological reasons, there are appropriate legal limitations on the Church's political activity. In order for Catholic organizations to maintain their tax exemption, they must comply with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) which contains an absolute prohibition "against participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate...."

We restate our long-standing Catholic Conference of Kentucky policy that only voting guide materials published directly by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (e.g., Faithful Citizenship) or by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky may be distributed in parishes. Other materials, even if they are published by a Catholic organization and seem non-partisan, shall not be distributed.

As Bishops of the Commonwealth, we established this current policy in 1995 because of concerns expressed to us. Among other concerns, the issues covered in outside voter education materials typically do not illustrate the wide range of issues of importance to the Church, but rather reflect the issue advocacy of the preparing organization, often clearly partisan. In addition, their preparation, content, format and presentation may not satisfy the requirements of section 501(c)(3) applicable to Catholic organizations. Often, the organizations preparing these voter education materials are not section 501(c)(3) organizations, and thus are not subject to the political campaign activity prohibition. The fact that it may be permissible for the preparing organization to distribute a voter guide does not make it appropriate for Catholic organizations to do so.

The dissemination of any campaign materials, including, but not limited to, campaign signs, candidate, or party literature, is not permitted. Nothing prevents a candidate from attending a church picnic that is open to the public. However, the distribution of campaign material by that

candidate is not permitted under Internal Revenue Code regulations that apply to political activity by tax exempt organizations.

The distribution of voters' guides, unless published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops or the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, is prohibited.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of General Counsel has produced Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations (March 2004). This document sets out practical explanations and illustrations for various situations encountered. Please read it in its entirety. It is found at: <http://www.usccb.org/ogc/guidelines.shtml>.

Our manner of conduct in the public square is of critical importance. The Church's role in the public order entails being principled but not ideological and clear but also civil. The Church must never be co-opted by partisan agendas.

Faithful Citizenship reminds us that

one of our "greatest blessings in the United States is our right and responsibility to participate in civic life." We appreciate your encouraging Catholics to bring our faith's moral convictions to public life. At the same time, we are grateful for your scrupulously adhering to our CCK policies and USCCB's Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 502-875-4345.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., Archbishop of Louisville; Most Reverend John J. McRaith, Bishop of Owensboro; Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, Bishop of Covington; Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Lexington; and Edward C. Monahan, Executive Director

Bishop McRaith's September 2006 Schedule

- 7 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 10 Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines Annual Picnic
- 12 Presbyteral Day, San Damiano Retreat Center, Illinois
- 13 Presbyteral Day, San Damiano Retreat Center, Illinois
- 14 Mass in Celebration of Carmelite Foundress' Beatification, Blessed Mother Maria Teresa, at Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro, 4pm
- 16 Serra Picnic for Religious, St. Martin Parish, Rome, 12noon
- 17 Installation of Pastor Rev. Tony Jones, Immaculate Parish, 10am
- 17 Sophia Awards Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 1:30pm
- 18 Priests' Personnel Cmte., CPC, 9:30am
- 18 Priests' Council, CPC, 1:30pm
- 18 DPC Mtg., CTK, Madisonville, 6pm
- 20 Paducah Office Day (Office at Lourdes Hospital, across from Chapel)
- 20 Lourdes Foundation Mtg., Lourdes Hospital, 11 am
- 21 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 23 Adult Faith Formation Conference, Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, 9am- 3pm
- 24 Mass/Family Life Picnic, St. Raphael, Kentucky, 1pm
- 26 Priests' Age Group Two Gathering, Hopkinsville, 12noon
- 30 St. Raphael Former Parishioners' Picnic, St. Raphael, Kentucky



Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest

The Serra Club of Owensboro has launched a program to provide prayerful support for the priests of our Diocese called ADOPT A PRIEST. A lapel pin has been designed as shown. The initials of the priest and his date of ordination have been engraved on the back of each pin. Along with each pin, a card and envelope will be included, designed especially to be sent by the wearer to the adopted priest. The Serra Club is asking that you pray daily for your adopted priest. To order a pin, send a check or money order for \$15.00 to: Serra Club of Owensboro, 4213 Spring Bank Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303

What a Summer!

By Ben Warrell

It was an incredible summer for many of the youth of our diocese. Over 90 junior high aged youth traveled to Brandon Springs Group Camp at Land Between the Lakes for Powerweek, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. It was so powerful and exciting watching these kids from all over the diocese coming together, getting to know each other, working together and most importantly growing in their faith.

Also, fifty-four high school aged youth attended Camp L.I.F.E. (Living It For Eternity) this summer. It was so thrilling to see the community these young adults formed in the week they had together. The unconditional love and acceptance these kids showed each other was like catching a glimpse of Heaven. They had a deep desire to learn more about their faith and make a difference for God with their lives.

But don't just take my word for it; listen to what the youth had to say in their evaluations of their camp experience. "I want to come back and I haven't even left yet." "Camp needs to be longer." "I had an amazing time and learned so much about my faith." "I have wonderful memories, I met new people and strengthened my faith." "It's a great experience and everyone should have to go." "It's a great way to get closer to God!" "It is so much fun and you become a more holy, graceful person who is closer to God." "The experience is something that you will carry with you for the rest of your life." "It is a life changing event."

It truly is amazing to see how God works on these kids in a camp setting. Right now we can only offer two weeks of camp and we have limited spaces for kids wanting to come. Having our own camp will allow for so many more youth to have this wonderful experience that combines having fun and growing in your faith. The youth are such a vital and vibrant part of our parishes and they are the future leaders of our church. Being able to give them another tool to put in their "Catholic toolbox" to take with them in life is something we certainly should be doing. How incredible will it be when ten times as many youth can come and have this same type of life changing experience?

If you have any questions about the camp project please feel free to contact me at ben.warrell@pastoral.org or by phone at (270) 683-1545 ext. 330. If you would like to be involved with this wonderful opportunity to help others and yourself experience Christ in this type of unique setting please let me know. Please don't hesitate to be involved; the adults who worked these camps seemed to get as much if not more out of their experiences than the kids. It is pretty simple; God changes lives, all lives and all ages, at camp!



ASTERIA

"unusually beautiful"
—*The New York Times*
"captivating and inspiring"
—*Gotham Magazine*

Come experience the beauty of medieval music.

Asteria (Sylvia Rhyne, soprano, and Eric Redlinger, tenor and lute) seeks to bring a narrative quality and emotional immediacy to their late-medieval vocal and instrumental music. Their historically informed settings are based on extensive archival research into original sources in Paris, The Hague, and Basel, Switzerland.

www.asteriamusica.com



Asteria, Eric Redlinger and Sylvia Rhyne

Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel

Maple Mount, KY

Wednesday, September 27, 2006 7:00 p.m.

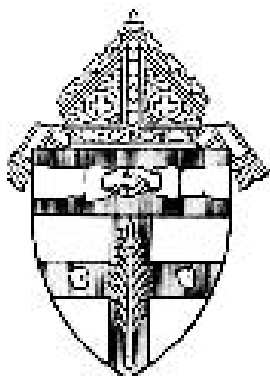
Regular Admission \$20.00
Senior Citizens: \$10.00
Students: \$2.00

Tickets available from:
Your Source Bookstore: 270-689-9665
& Mount St. Joseph Bookstore: 270-229-0200

Sponsored by Mount St. Joseph Conference & Retreat Center and the Music Office for the Diocese of Owensboro, KY

ARTS AT THE MOUNT

Diocese Of Owensboro Priest Assignments For 2006



Parochial Vicars

Jimenez Salinas, Rev. Carmelo: Parochial Vicar of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, and Sts. Mary and James Parish, Guthrie, effective July 26, 2006.

Suvakkin, Rev. Masilamani (Masi): Parochial Vicar of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah, and Rosary Chapel, Paducah, effective August 7, 2006.

Thomas, Rev. Shaiju: Parochial Vicar of St. Paul Parish, Princeton, and St. Mark Parish, Eddyville, effective August 3, 2006.

Other

Godínez Alcantar, Rev. Alejandro: Hispanic Ministry in the Paducah area, effective July 24, 2006.

Professor Janet Smith Coming To Our Diocese.....October 28, 2006 (Respect Life Month)

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

Professor Smith will be at Brescia College on Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 10:00am-3:00pm (Science Lecture Hall). Her talk will be on the Theology of the Body. This is sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro Family Life Office; Youth Ministry Office; Religious Education; Catholic Schools and Ongoing Formation of Priest. This will be free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided. Registration will begin at 9:00am in the Science Lecture Hall. For information, call the Family Life Office at 270-683-1545.

THE LAND OF COTTON

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

By Rev. Benjamin F. Luther

In 1926, Bishop John A. Floresch of Louisville transferred Father Francis R. Cotton from his assignment as Assistant to Father Connolly, Pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Paducah, to be his Secretary and Vice-Chancellor of the diocese. This was the fourth assignment for Fr. Cotton. His fifth appointment would be as Chancellor of the Louisville Diocese. The sixth would come from the pope, and last for the rest of his life.

In a relatively short time, Father Cotton was promoted from Vice-Chancellor to Chancellor. He lived in several different rectories in Louisville while working fulltime at the Chancery Office in service to Bishop Floresch. Toward the end of his tenure there, he was asked to move in to live with Bishop Floresch, and at that time, he was no longer resident in a parish, though he continued to have weekend parish assignments for Masses and confessions.

Several sources told me that the clergy of the Louisville Diocese held Fr. Cotton in respect, and commented on his notable spirit of absolute service to his Bishop. As Chancellor, he was in the #3 position - first the Bishop, then his Vicar General, and then the Chancellor. The Chancellor was more like what one styled as a "glorified secretary."

The life of service in an office is demanding and calls for self-sacrifice for the common good. One story passed on to me came from my dear friend, Father Edmund Halsley, O.S.B., of the former St. Maur's Priory at South Union, near Bowling Green (now, the headquarters of the Fathers of Mercy). Father Halsley lived in Louisville.

He was a convert to the Catholic Faith from the Episcopal Church, and a devoted teacher of Latin in public schools. It was my sad privilege to preach at his funeral Mass.

The future Benedictine priest met Fr. Cotton and another priest out for a summer evening stroll in Louisville. Edmund Halsley had met Fr. Cotton before. He enjoyed lively conversations with him about the plight of Louisville public schools.

At a particular meeting on the occasion of a summer evening stroll, Edmund Halsley asked Fr. Cotton point blank if he "enjoyed working in the chancery." He told me that Fr. Cotton shot back with the response - "not really, because I had rather do parish work and be in touch with people in ministry. But, the will of the Bishop is my life, so I do what I can, when I can, and as I can. The Lord takes care of the rest."

Now, obviously, this "quotation" cannot be taken verbatim, but it does summarize the "essence" of Fr. Cotton's response to Edmund Halsley's question, and was to the point, as quick as it was honest. Administrative work is not glamorous, but the Church cannot function fairly without it.

In previous installments, mention was made of the rumors floating among the clergy about the creation of a new diocese. The Covington Diocese was in the eastern part of Kentucky. The Louisville Diocese was in the central and western portions of the Commonwealth. As mentioned, the logical place for a See would be Owensboro, for that city and Daviess County had a substantial Catholic population. The only other possibilities were Paducah and Bowling Green, and realistically, they could not have a Cathedral, a Bishop, and a Chancery. Both cities had beautiful large churches - St. Francis de Sales in Paducah, St. Joseph in Bowling Green - but not really large enough. Both had significant Catholic populations, but comparatively speaking, nothing like Daviess County, or even Union and Grayson Counties, if one is just considering numbers of Catholic people. Owensboro was "it," and everyone "knew" this to be true. So, as time wore on, the question was not "if" there would be a diocese in western Kentucky, but "when" and "where" would be the Cathedral - and who would be the founding Bishop?



Bishop Francis R. Cotton

Well, not exactly. At a grand dinner, in a local hotel after the installation of Bishop Cotton in St. Stephen's Cathedral, Bishop Floresch gave a talk to the assembled priests. He praised the work of Fr. Cotton as his Chancellor, and spoke of how totally devoted he was and how much he appreciated his self-sacrificing service.

He then revealed a "secret" to his audience. He told the priests that, considering the size of the Louisville Diocese, and the distance between parishes, and his advancing age, he had broached the subject with the Apostolic Delegate in Washington of the appointment of Fr. Cotton as a Coadjutor Bishop of Louisville "cum jure successionis, i.e., "with the right of succession."

That would make him an assistant to Bishop Floresch in the visitation of parishes and the conferral of Confirmation, and the toilsome work of administration in the Chancery would continue, and should Bishop Floresch resign or die, the Coadjutor Bishop would automatically succeed to the office of Bishop of Louisville. That was the recommendation, but the proposal set in motion something different - the creation of the new diocese.

Together with my classmate, Bob Garlich, I spent my retreat time living for a week in the old chaplain's house at Mount St.

Joseph with the chaplain Msgr. Albert Thompson in preparation for priestly ordination (May 10, 1964) It was early May, and we would sit out on the lawn in the cool of the evening for conversation. Msgr. Thompson told the story of the building of the present Cathedral rectory at 614 Locust Street in Owensboro.

The old St. Stephen's rectory was situated where the present parish office building is today. When I was a student at Brescia College after discharge from the Navy (in 1955), there was still a row of privet hedge across the property, the sole remaining relic of the old rectory. A new rectory was seriously considered. Plans were drawn up. Father Thompson was asked to bring the blueprint to the Louisville Chancery for review by Bishop Floresch. The plan was studied for a long time. Bishop Floresch was notorious for taking "forever" to make decisions, but not this time. He told Fr. Thompson, "this is a good plan and it has my approval. The only change I require is this, make the hallway in the new rectory quite wide." Fr. Thompson caught the train back to Owensboro. The next morning, after Mass, the cook, his sister Mary, asked him "how was your meeting with the Bishop?" He replied, "Mary, I tell you, something is up. Not only did the Bishop suddenly approve the plan, but he ordered the hallway to be made quite wide, even specifying the actual width."

"Something is up..." The "something" was the fact that the new rectory would be a Cathedral rectory, and a wider hallway would be needed for Bishops and priests assembling for Masses in the Cathedral. The dating of the Cathedral rectory tells us that the Diocese of Owensboro was even then being planned.



ORESTES BROWNSON

Orestes Brownson was a 19th-century Unitarian minister whose spiritual search led him to the Catholic Church and a long career as one of the most prominent and influential Catholic laymen in the United States. Brownson is among many individuals briefly profiled in the new U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults for their contributions to American Catholic history. (CNS) (Aug. 16, 2006)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Marriage Celebrations for September 2006

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Ben & Thelma Crump, 57

Vincent & Jeanette Dick, 52

Christ The King, Madisonville

Joe & Daisy Rocha, 40 years

Holy Cross, Providence

Wanda & Goodloe Cecil, 57

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

William & Annmarie Devine, 25

Dodson & Mary Campbell, 40

Donald & Rita McLean, 40

Robert & Mary Bolds, 68

Mel & Dot Floyd, 64

B. R. & Sarah Payne, 57

Carl & Dorothy Snider, 59

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Jesse & Edna Berkley, 66

Herbert & Gerri Jessup, 57

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Mike & Nan O'Leary, 25

Kenneth & Barbara Burch, 50

Walter & Sara Pudlo, 65

Immaculate, Owensboro

J. D. & Hallie Clark, 50

Bill & Bettye Mullican, 56

Joe & Mollie Bissmeyer, 50

Alfred & Genevieve Galloway, 51

Joseph & Dorothy Bowlds, 51

Paul & Marnette Clark, 58

Joe Bill & Sherma Clark, 51

Joseph C. & Sue Riney, 62

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

J. Huston & Betty Brickey, 59

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Lawrence & Mary Murphy, 52

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Carl & Rosa Lee Coffey, 50

Sacred Heart, Hickman

John B. & Mary Jo Lattus, 54

Sacred Heart, Waverly

John & Ruby Hancock, 55

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Denny & Sheree Hardesty, 25

St. Ann, Morganfield

Francis & Carol Hosman, 40

Leon & Nellie Sue Nally, 50

Leon & Eva Clara Hendrickson, 50

Earl & Emma Duncan, 50

Paul & Bernice Chandler, 54

Ray & Peggy French, 51

J. D. & Camilla Ruark, 65

Charles & Catherine Dyer, 65

St. Anthony, Utica

Albert & Blanche Werne, 55

St. Anthony, Peonia

Bob & Lynn Gambrell, 53

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Charles H. & Lillian White, 53

St. Augustine, Reed

Robert & Vicki Lacer, 40

St. Columba, Lewisport

Bernard & Lula Fleck, 56

James & Pattie Toler, 57

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

T. L. & Yvonne Maddux, 25

William & Filomenia Childers, 56

Thomas & Rose Marie Weitlauf, 58

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Timothy & Tammy Carrico, 25

Michael & Gayla Elliott, 25

Glenn & Barbara Sue Wilson 40

Randal & Valeda Goatley, 63

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Paul & Jerri Durbin, 54

Edward & Jean Englert, 56

Vernon & Dot Neihoff, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

George & Judith Martin, 40

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Jimmy & Sue Kipper, 40

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Tom & Cathy Mobley, 40

Ed & Hilda Bazzell, 54

W. B. & Juanita Hutchins, 60

St. Leo, Murray

John & Claire Resig, 58

Elwyn & Ellen Frazier, 57

Byron & Mary Cates, 55

Richard & Carol Westkamp, 54

Charles & Ruth Thill, 54

Tom & Sara Jo Royal

St. Martin, Rome

Jack & Dolores Beyke, 40

John & Josie Hayden, 50

Louis & Alice Weise, 50

Bill & Betty Bumm, 58

William & Cecilia Lambert, 55

St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter

Bernard & Helen Anselm, 61

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Jerry & Vickie Morris, 25

Kenneth & Martha Westerfield, 50

Hubert & Margaret Beyke, 55

Charles & Teresa Wedding, 56

St. Michael, Oak Grove

James & Joan Oldham, 51

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Chuck & Diane Fischer, 51

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Norman & Doris Johnson, 40

James & Betty Alvey, 55

L. K. & Gloria Burcham, 56

James E. & Barbara Coomes, 52

Clarence & Helen Merritt, 55

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Bobby Joe & Donna Hinton, 40

Pat & Ruby Wheatley, 55

Hubert & Catherine Greenwood, 51

St. Rose, Cloverport

Thomas & Leigh Ora Flood, 59

St. Stephen, Cadiz

James & Betty McVey, 50

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Russell & Elizabeth Ebelhar, 60

Joe & Vicky Connor, 25

Norman & Joyce Reisz, 54

John & Patsy Berry, 57

Charles B. & Margaret Payne, 63

St. Thomas More, Paducah

J. Robert & Judy Milford, 40

Leo & Marilyn Wurth, 52

St. William, Philpot

Stanley & Doris Fulkerson, 56

Lawrence & Dortha Johnson, 55

St. William, Marion

Kenneth & Doris Rushing, 50

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Ralph & Emilee Ward, 40

Jack & Rose King, 53

James & Imogene Loyd, 53

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Robert & Barbara Anderson, 57

Andrew & Annette Mongeon, 54

Diocesan Review Board Members Ready To Respond To Calls

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

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

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

“Introduction To The Liturgy Of Hours

September 15-17, 2006 Passionist Nuns Retreat House, Whitesville

A retreat on entering more deeply into the prayer of Jesus.

Learn all about the Liturgy of Hours (also called the Divine Office), how to follow through the various sections, and then actually pray with the Nuns.

If you happen to have the Volume IV (Green Book) of the Liturgy of Hours, bring it along.

Retreat Presenter: Mother Catherine Marie, Passionist Nuns Superior at Whitesville.

Retreat open to Men and Women.

Call (270) 233-4571 or email retreats@passionistnuns.org
website: www.passionistnuns.org



BODY LANGUAGE

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West
God, Sex, & Bono

As demonstrated in his encyclical "God Is Love," and more recently at the Fifth World Meeting of Families in Valencia, Spain, Pope Benedict XVI, like John Paul II before him, is intent on helping the world see the connection between divine love (agape) and sexual love (eros). To help us reflect on these themes, I'd like to turn to what may seem an unlikely source: Bono, lead singer of U2, hailed as the biggest rock band in the world.

You've probably heard Bono singing about that "fever" he gets when he's "beside her... desi-i-i-re, desi-i-i-re" (drums in the background: boom-badood-badood, badood-badood). But this is no normal rock-n-roller glorifying lust. Bono may still not have found what he's looking for, but this is a man on a sincere quest to integrate eros with agape.

In a book-long interview with Michka Assayas, Bono reflects at length on his unconventional Christian convictions. And Assayas simply cannot understand how the world's biggest rock star could believe Jesus is the Son of God. Nor can he understand how Bono has remained faithful to his wife of 25 years.

In the portions of their dialogue that follow, Bono responds to his incredulous interviewer's suggestion of "incarnating" lustful temptations by turning it on its head. Bono meets Assayas right where he is and, with a stroke of genius, directs the conversation towards a reflection on the relationship between eros, agape, and the Incarnation of God's Son.

Assayas: "But you're the singer and frontman in a band, and it's not just any band. I'm sure you've been tempted. Don't you ever feel that no matter what you have decided [about fidelity to your wife], love needs to be incarnated? ... Think of groupies."

Bono: "We never fostered that environment. If you mean groupie in the sense that I know it, which is sexual favor traded for proximity with the band.... Taking advantage of a fan, sexual bullying is to be avoided, but the music is sexual.... Sometimes... the erotic love [we sing about] can turn into something much higher, and bigger notions of love, and God, and family. It seems to segue very easily from me between those."

Assayas: "I'm surprised at how easily religion comes up in your answers, whatever the question is. How come you're always quoting from the Bible? Was it because it was taught at school? Or because your father or mother wanted you to read it?"

Bono: "Let me try to explain something to you, which I hope will make sense of the whole conversation.... I remember coming back from a very long tour.... On Christmas Eve I went to St. Patrick's Cathedral.... It had dawned on me before, but it really sank in: the Christmas story. The idea that God, if there is a force of Love and Logic in the universe, that it would seek to explain itself is amazing enough. That it would seek to explain itself and describe itself by becoming a child born in straw poverty... a child, I just thought: "Wow!" Just the poetry. Unknowable love, unknowable power, describes itself as the most vulnerable. There it was. I was sitting there, and... tears came down my face, and I saw the genius of this, utter genius of picking a particular point in time and deciding to turn on this. Because that's exactly what we were talking about earlier: love needs to find form, intimacy needs to be whispered. To me, it makes sense. It's actually logical. It's pure logic. Essence has to manifest itself. It's inevitable. Love has to become an action or something concrete. It would have to happen. There must be an incarnation. Love must be made flesh. Wasn't that your point earlier?" (Bono: In Conversation with Michka Assayas, Riverhead, 2005, pp. 119-120, 124-125).

Here Bono echoes St. Paul in helping us to see that the union of man and woman is meant to point us to the incarnation. It's all about Christ's love for the church (see Eph 5:31-32). Go Bono!



New Dress Code for Teachers?

Holy Name Teachers Malissa Crafton, Brigette Mallory, Denise Nash, Vickie Stumph, and Francine Hatfield all came to school on the first day wearing black and white! The teachers promise no one called or sent out an email. What makes it really neat is that the teachers all teach on the same team (5th and 6th grade team). I guess great minds do think alike!
HNE Photo

A Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor, How Much Success Can the World Afford?

The headlines are full of it, e.g. "Shutdown Illustrates US Oil Dependence," "Price Jumps to All Time High."

One can't dispute the success of our western world. Other nations are striving to emulate it. The west promotes its model through trade agreements, business exchanges, scholarships, loans, investment and development assistance. Can the world's resources support wider application of our model?

Suppose I am a builder, all my houses having to come from one woodlot. The faster I build the more money I make. But, the faster I build, the sooner the woodlot is depleted. "A greedy man brings trouble to his family." Proverbs.

Some 12 % of the world's people are responsible for 60% of all annual consumption. Household consumption in the US has increased fourfold since the 50's. The rest of the world is following. I've lived where the polluted jam of vehicles in narrow streets is unbelievable. Remembering my woodlot, consider China. A car in every garage, American style, would mean consumption of 80 million barrels of oil a day in China alone. World capacity is 67 million. India and Southeast Asia are following quickly.

Considering our interdependent world, it won't just be other nations that come up short. As always though, middle and poor classes will be distressed most quickly. As I've witnessed in Africa and Asia, when supply is tightened through western guzzling, prices go up everywhere. If you are one of the 2.8 billion, two dollar a day people, you choose between continuing rides on a cattlecar like bus and walking to work. "The rich and the poor have a common bond." Proverbs.

Oil is on our mind. In some places it is also happening with water. In countries where I've lived, I've seen the rich give up and just build walls to keep the poor out. Seems like the insecurity that gives way to this mentality, is spreading.

Previous civilizations that did not understand enlightened self interest (judicious consumption and sharing) wound up in the dust bin. It is said that maturity finally takes us to an embrace of all, as family. Apparently those who feel, "I'll get mine, regardless of what happens to you," are not there yet.

- Donovan Russell, Moravia, New York 13118, donovan111939@yahoo.com

Bishops extend collection for retired religious

By Jerry Filteau, Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) -- The U.S. Catholic bishops overwhelmingly agreed June 15 to extend the yearly national collection for retired religious until 2017.

By a vote of 143-10 on the first day of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Los Angeles, the bishops approved a 10-year extension of the collection, which otherwise would have expired in 2007. By USCCB rule, only bishops who head dioceses can vote on matters dealing with collections or other decisions involving financial commitments by dioceses.

The Religious Retirement Fund collection, first taken up in 1988, "is the most successful national collection in the history of the church," said Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque, Iowa, who introduced the extension proposal as chairman of the USCCB Committee on Consecrated Life.

He said that collection has consistently received the best response of all the U.S. church's national collections -- taking in a total of just under \$500 million in 18 years, for an average of nearly \$27.8 million a year. He said the most recent collection was just a few thousand dollars short of \$30 million -- in a year when American Catholics were also called on to provide massive relief to tsunami victims in Asia and hurricane victims in the U.S. South.

In the brief debate preceding the vote, no bishop opposed extending the collection, although a few raised informational questions about some of the statistics they were given or about how the collection would relate to other efforts to meet future needs expected to far exceed the amount the collection will provide.

The bishops were given a detailed analysis of the growing costs of retirement care for men and women religious and the struggle hundreds of orders face to meet their unfunded retirement liability.

At the end of 2003 religious orders reporting to the National Religious Retirement Office had \$9.1 billion in investments dedicated to funding their retirement costs, but their total present retirement liability was nearly \$17.8 billion, leaving them with \$8.7 billion of that liability unfunded.

The office, located at the USCCB headquarters in Washington, is overseen by a joint board of representatives of the USCCB's Committee on Consecrated Life, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. It uses funds from the annual collection to assist communities in greatest need and to help religious communities establish retirement funds or bring them closer to the level of estimated need.

In a separate voice vote after a written ballot on extending the collection, the bishops overwhelmingly agreed, with no audible dissent, to give the joint board more authority to adjust fund distribution criteria on a limited basis from year to year and have more decision-making authority on which services the National Religious Retirement Office will provide.

Archbishop Hanus explained that the decision would leave the board, called the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry, with more flexibility to adapt their strategies to year-to-year changes in Medicare or Medicaid rules, other shifting economic factors, or complex differences in the needs and resources of different religious institutes.

A Mercer Human Resources Consulting report commissioned by the retirement office and given to the bishops analyzed the retirement resources and costs and the age demographics and actuarial projections of men and women in religious orders.

Based on data at the end of 2003, it projected that without any new infusions into their retirement funds in the coming years religious orders by 2023 will have all their current retirement funds wiped out and will be facing more than \$20 billion in unfunded liabilities.

The 19-page Mercer report, summarizing the current situation and 20-year projections, was presented to bishops as part of the background for their vote on extending the collection.

According to one chart presented to the bishops, while the Consumer Price Index rose 50 percent between 1985 and 2001, the cost of nursing home care more than doubled. Another chart recently compiled by the National Religious Retirement Of-



"I'm work oriented," says Sister Mary Ann Jenkins, who spent many years helping to establish a monastery in Connecticut before returning to the Monastery of St. Clare in Greenville, South Carolina. "Even here you can get busy; but you see others be themselves with the Lord and they're a model for you." Sister Mary Ann felt a call to contemplative life when she was a teenager. "I've been told that contemplative religious are more aware of the world than most people," she says. "Perhaps it's because through prayer you can develop a compassionate heart."

fice showed that the average annual cost of care for a retired woman religious rose from \$8,282 in 1985 to \$29,922 in 2004; for a male religious in the same period it rose from \$8,556 to \$31,491.

Because of their vow of poverty, until 1972 religious were excluded from Social Security because their earnings belonged to their respective orders, not to them individually. Congress passed a law in 1972 that allowed orders to enroll their members, and in the years that followed most did so.

But since the income basis for their enrollment was low and the formula for calculating benefits is based on dollar amounts contributed and the number of years of contribution to Social Security, the benefits religious receive when they become eligible for Social Security are far below the national average.

The bishops were told that the average annual Social Security benefit for women religious is \$4,033; for men

it is \$3,240. Archbishop Hanus said the average Social Security income for Americans today is \$11,000.

Assuming that Social Security benefits continue to increase an average of 3 percent a year and living costs for retirees rise only 6 percent a year -- a conservative figure in light of the rapid inflation of medical and skilled nursing care costs for the elderly -- the Mercer analysis projected that by 2023 the combined Social Security benefits of all retired religious will be \$184 million a year, but their combined annual cost of care will total more than \$1.6 billion.

At a press conference later, Archbishop Hanus said the funding of religious orders' retirement programs is better overall now than it was 20 years ago, when less than half their then-current retirement liability was unfunded. Now, though the dollar amounts are much larger, slightly more than half the current liability is funded, he said.

"The major difficulty is the tremendous inflation in health care" for the elderly, he said. He said in 1985 the average total annual life care cost for a retired religious was about \$8,000 but it has now grown to \$30,000, well above the general rate of inflation over that period.

He said many religious orders are using a variety of strategies to deal with their changing retirement funding needs, and with the yearly collection and other efforts "I'm optimistic ... we can meet the challenge."

Editor's Note: the Owensboro Diocesan Retired Religious Collection date will be December 10, 2006 in the Catholic parishes of Western Kentucky.

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The adventures of a young and inexperienced Priest

By Father Carmelo Jimenez

Arriving in San Juan Chamula, Chiapas (Mexico)

I would like to share today some of the much that I have had experienced throughout my short and long life. More than once I have heard about the town of Chamula, yet I had never worried about learning its history and the values (and anti values) it represented. When I was ordained as a priest, my Bishop at that time (along with the pastor of Nuestra Señora del Sagrado Corazón in Tuxtla) assigned me to serve urgently in the town of Chamula.

Chamula was widely know was a “traditionalist Catholic” town. These two words described the strongest characteristic of this town, for although they had statues and asked for services from the Church, they did not respect the norms of the Church; they only followed their own traditions. Violating one of their traditions was a grave mistake that could cost you your life. Between 1970 and 1998 there were several people who had to abandon the town because in order to live out their faith they had to go live in other towns. They were expelled in a violent manner: some had their houses burned; some were beaten, their women raped or were almost killed. Expulsion from town was applied to both Catholics and believers of other faiths.

Entering the temple of that town meant encountering such syncretism between the Catholic Faith and the Mayan tradition: a mixture of rituals of sacrificing animals, magic, superstition and a little bit of the Catholic faith. Therefore, when I arrived there –even though I was from the very state: Chiapas – I was so impressed that I did not know what I was going to do as pastor of that town.

The first thing I had to learn was that there were 9 sacristans who altogether represented the authority of the temple. The major sacristan was the one who would instruct me so I could get to know the tradition and not make mistakes. The first thing he did was introduce me to the college of elders who represented the authority of the town. They indicated what my functions were to be. Afterwards, they took me to a balcony at the municipal palace which opened into the main square, used as a market during the weekends, and as the meeting place for the town gatherings. From that balcony they pointed out a cross, which is located south of the plaza on a hill, where a priest was martyred (February 1973), telling me that if I violated any of their traditions, that would be the place of my own martyrdom.

My functions were reduced to: baptizing the children (during the town’s Holy days, about 250 children each of the three days), bless the water, incense the images and celebrate Mass (they did not distinguish between Mass and Liturgy of the Word) only when they sent for me. There were not baptismal classes. For the Liturgy of the Word they did not even know how to respond.

I have to clarify that I had to attend Mass in a nearby town because during the first few Sundays I could not celebrate it there. The sacristans would only serve during the celebrations, so during the first celebration I presided, one of these sacristans took out a cigarette and lit it from the turifer, smoking right in front of me.

I wanted to celebrate Mass every Sunday, yet I didn’t know how to persuade them to let me do so. One Sunday I went out to the square and saw that all the authorities were sitting there, and in front of everyone were solving townspeople’s problems. I went to the major sacristan to ask him why they were doing that; he answered: “Because today God rests and it’s up to the men to solve problems in public.” I meditated about that for some time. The next Sunday I went back to the square, almost demanding that we go have the celebration (Mass according to them) because since God rests on that day we ought praise and worship Him. They did not object, prepared the things and called me to begin. The problem came one Sunday, though, when I was not going to be able to be there, because God had to have His Celebration (Mass), otherwise, I should pack my stuff and leave for ever. That town, little by little, started to value the Eucharist in such a way that, in less numbers, even today the continue to love the Eucharist.

There is always a way to start things, as long as we trust in God, remembering always that Evangelization is His business. He will show us how to make it happen, no matter if it disagrees with what we had planned or causes us fear.

That was how I arrived to the town of San Juan Chamula in Chiapas. I will tell you many other experiences I lived through, among fear and uncertainty; dangers and obstacles. Yet I am able to share them with you, thank God.

needed to complete that portion of the rosary walk. If you would like to sponsor a mystery, please contact Sister Amelia or the Center staff.

Other sponsorship opportunities still available include bricks (\$125 each), beads (\$500 each), a wooden bench (\$2,500), and a stone bench (\$5,000). Sponsor(s) for the renovation of an existing shrine that will become a part of the new rosary walk are also being sought. A donation in any amount to help build the rosary walk is sincerely appreciated. The Center hopes to dedicate a portion of the new walk in October, the month of the rosary.

For more information, call 270-229-0200, e-mail astenger@maplemount.org, or visit www.ms-jcenter.org.

PASSIONIST NUNS RETREAT HOUSE

8564 Crisp Road
Whitesville, KY 42378

Introduction to the Liturgy of Hours September 15-17, 2006

A retreat on entering more deeply into the prayer of Jesus. Learn all about the Liturgy of Hours (also called the Divine Office), how to follow through the various sections, and then actually pray with the Nuns.

If you happen to have the Volume IV (Green Book) of the Liturgy of Hours, bring it along.



Retreat Presenter:
Mother Catherine Marie CP
Passionist Nuns Superior
Whitesville, KY

The Holy Spirit and The Seven Gifts September 22-24, 2006

Who is the Holy Spirit? What are the Gifts?
Do I Have Any?

Reflect on the Holy Spirit in Your Life,
and participate in Faith Sharing
Learn what Paul of the Cross teaches about
the Holy Spirit



Retreat Master:
Fr. Ray Clark
Passionist Nuns
Chaplain

Homespun Contemplation "Contemplation for Everyone" November 3-5, 2006

Contemplation is not just for a privileged few!
You have had contemplative moments already.
Come, let us show you.

Do you find St. John of the Cross or
St. Teresa of Avila a little hard to understand?
Learn about Contemplative Prayer for Everyone
using examples of St. Paul of the Cross & Others.



Retreat Master:
Fr. Arthur Carrillo, CP
Passionist Priest
Houston, TX

Call (270) 233-4571

Email: retreats@passionistnuns.org

Website: www.passionistnuns.org

Retreats Open to Men and Women



Would you like to sponsor a Mystery?

Four sets of mysteries are used for reflection when praying the rosary: joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious. Each mystery represents five significant events in the life of Jesus Christ, beginning with the Annunciation to Mary. These sacraments, miracles, and other events leading to our redemption are an important part of praying the rosary.

As Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center continues its efforts to build a rosary walk, it has indicated a particular need to complete its list of sponsors for mystery beads.

Four rows of stones leading toward the centerpiece of the monument will represent the 20 mystery beads. “These will complete our cross,” says Center director Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU. Each mystery can be engraved with three lines with a maximum of 15 letters and spaces per line. Twelve more mystery bead sponsors donating \$1,000 each are

OCS Fifth Grader Wins Poetry Award

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Nicholas Gray, son of Matt and Nicole Gray, has been awarded the prestigious Editor's Choice Award from The International Library of Poetry and Poetry.com for his poem titled "SLAVE." The poem displayed a unique perspective and original creativity—judged to be the qualities most found in exceptional poetry. Nicholas' poem and personal profile will be featured in a hardbound edition of "Immortal Verses," a highly regarded collection of poetry from across the country. Immortal Verses will be available to the public in the Fall of 2006 at www.poetry.com. He is also nominated as a semi-finalist for a chance to win \$10,000.00 grand prize! Nicholas, age 10, is a student at Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus and is in the 5th grade. He wrote the poem "SLAVE" last school year while learning about Slavery in Mrs. Gail Thompson's 4th grade class. He was intrigued with the subject and wrote the poem one night before going to bed.



Nicholas Gray

<p>SLAVE ©Nicholas Gray</p> <p>When I work I sweat to the bone, It is the only world I had ever known When the sun shines bright, Everything is out of sight. I worked seventeen hours of the day, Only getting zero dollars of pay. But one night half asleep, I saw a big herd of sheep. Going this way and that, They looked like a crazy bobcat.</p>	<p>Then I saw someone coming... When he opened the door, Everybody was on the floor. When I got outside there was nobody there, Where had they gone where, where, where? still being led.</p>	<p>I followed a dirt path. Then I saw a torch glow red, And I knew the group was still being led.</p>
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IMMACULATE OVER 50 GROUP

will take a winter trip to Florida, Amelia Island, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, on February 11-17, 2007 for 7 days and 6 nights for \$510 per person, double occupancy. \$75 due upon signing, balance due 12/8/2006.

- 6 nights lodging including 4 consecutive night in Florida
- 10 meals: 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Guided tours of Amelia Island, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Fl.
- A visit to the Fountain of Youth
- Dinner Show at the Alhanbra Dinner Theatre
- A narrated cruise on the St. John's River
- A visit to Historic Kingsley Plantation, and much more
- Call Gloria Zinobile 685-5268 for reservations

Best ACT Composite Score Ever

OWENSBORO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - August 16, 2006 - We are pleased to announce the best ACT composite score ever for Owensboro Catholic High School!

The Owensboro Catholic High School class of 2006 has scored above the national and state averages in all areas for the ACT.

Composite: OCHS 22.4; State 20.6; National 21.1

English: OCHS 23.2; State 20.2; National 20.6

Math: OCHS 21.1; State 19.9; National 20.8

Reading: OCHS 23.1; State 21.1; National 21.4

Science: OCHS 21.9; State 20.5; National 20.9

In addition, 96% of the class of 2006 took the ACT test. This is wonderful news for the Owensboro Catholic Schools and all those involved in the education of our students. We thank the teachers, K-12, for all their work with the students. We thank the parents and parishes for their support to provide education to prepare students for the future. Great Job Students!

Source: August 16, 2006 e-mail from Owensboro Catholic [publications@owensborocatholic.org]

Common Ground's anniversary revives call to listen within the church

CHICAGO (CNS) -- Listening has to be an essential ingredient in relationships within the church, just as it must be in all healthy relationships, said the keynote speaker at an Aug. 11 event at Loyola University in Chicago marking the 10th anniversary of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative. Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., said that 10 years of seeking common ground within the church has only reinforced the idea of the initiative's founders, that seeking communion in Christ requires seeking communion with one another. "The past 10 years have given me a privileged place where I have met people, some with very critical views of the church, who yet possess a passionate regard and deep love for the church," he said. "I have come to respect them and have concluded that they are critical precisely because they love that church family to which they belong."

Saint Meinrad to present free September events

Two free musical events will be presented at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, during September. Both are open to the public.

A concert titled "Monastic Musicians" will be presented on Sunday, September 10, at 3 p.m. CDT in the Archabbey Church. A variety of musical selections by Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad will be presented, including Latin and English chant and other musical styles that have been used in Christian worship through the centuries.

On Saturday, September 23, a Celtic quartet from Louisville, KY, Guilderey Byrne, will perform in St. Bede Theater at 7 p.m. CDT. These musicians perform traditional and contemporary songs, tunes and stories. Music includes Celtic and international selections, sung and played on a variety of acoustic folk instruments, including guitar, mandolin, fiddle, string bass, whistle, flute and percussion. The one-hour program is free and open to the public.

Anyone wishing to enjoy a traditional Celtic meal before the show can call or e-mail for reservations. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Guest House dining room. The cost is \$7 and reservations need to be made by September 18 by calling Director of Food Service Deborah Major at (812) 357-6403 or e-mailing dmajor@saintmeinrad.edu.

Parking is available in the Guest House lot and the student parking area on the south side of campus. For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher during business hours at (812) 357-6501.

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Visit us on the web at
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GLENMARY SISTERS
P.O. Box 22264
Owensboro, KY 42304
1-800-301-2689

Precious Blood Parish has opened a Day Care Center

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Precious Blood Parish has opened a Day Care Center in the former Bishop Soenneker School on Fenmore Street here. The school has been closed since 2001, and the building has since been used for Religious Ed., RCIA, and meetings. The Parish decided to open a Day Care to not only utilize the building more, but to provide a service to the community. The Center is licensed by the state to care for 88 children, ranging in age from six weeks through 6 years. Precious Blood Day Care is opened Monday through Friday, from 6:30 to 5:30. The rates are as follows:

One child - \$90.00; Two children - \$170.00; Three children - \$215.00

This rate also included a Preschool Program for the 3, 4, and 5 year olds.

On the weekend of July 15, Precious Blood Parish had a "Blessing of the Day Care" after Mass. The Parish was invited to see what a transformation the school building had made. We also took this opportunity to thank everyone for all their donations of time, talent, and items donated to our Day Care. All of these donations lowered our start-up expense tremendously.

If you are in need of good quality Day Care, or just want to stop by and look around, come and see us. We love showing it off. - We are located at 3400 Fenmore Street in Owensboro, or call Monti Millay at 683-3012.

Top photo: the first family to enroll in the new Precious Blood Parish Day Care Center was Michael and Amanda Murphy with their sons Ben and Nolan. At near right, Father Brad Whistle blessing the Day Care rooms. In far right photo, from left, Abbie, Emma, Aubrey, Max, and Kayla. Submitted photos



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

Marriage Saving

The Post Session Phase –The post-weekend phase of Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is as crucial to the healing of a troubled marriage as the initial weekend experience. During the post-weekend sessions, the weekend technique is further developed and combined with additional tools to explore other areas of the marriage relationship. For confidential information about, or to register for the August program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 19-21, 2007, call (270) 683-1545 ext. 357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

A Letter Came from the Bishop

May 2, 2006

Dear Glenmary Sisters,

Congratulations on the 15th anniversary of your Motherhouse residing in the Diocese of Owensboro. The presence of the Glenmary Sisters here is a real gift to the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky.

This gives me the opportunity to thank all the Glenmary Sisters who have served in this diocese and those of you serving here at the present time. Your presence is a great help in ministering to the people of western Kentucky. It is also a great reminder and witness for us all of the importance of ministering to the areas in the diocese where there is such a need for evangelization.

It is with great gratitude that I write this letter. I offer the Glenmary Sisters my promise of prayers for the continued success of your ministry in our diocese, as well as in the other dioceses in which you so generously serve the Church. Your work with the poor is especially important, since much of evangelization has to do with reaching out to those who are in need of the necessities of life.

Again, congratulations on the past 15 years of your special presence in our midst. May the Lord continue to bless the Glenmary Sisters for all that you do for so many of God's people. Wishing you God's blessing, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John J. McRaith

Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

National Catholic Prison Ministry Brings Its Services To The Diocese

Dismas Ministry, a national Catholic prison outreach founded in 2000 and named after the repentant criminal crucified with Jesus, began working with local prison chaplains and Catholic prison ministries, providing free Catholic bibles, Catholic Bible correspondence course for inmates, and its unique book of Catholic prayers for inmates entitled Pray in the Spirit. This is part of its collaborative effort in the 25 states it currently serves. Director of this rapidly expanding outreach, Ron Zeilinger, commented, "As our U.S. prison population reaches an all time high, the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:36 are more challenging than ever: "I was in prison and you visited me." Our ministry believes that Jesus is present among those who are behind bars, even though they are often forgotten and regarded by society as outcasts. No matter what convicts have done - and they are responsible for their crimes - they still are members of Christ's Body. They need the pastoral care of their own faith community. This is our response to the plea of Dismas: ³Remember me² (Luke 23:42).

In its initial phase, a survey conducted by Dismas Ministry revealed what Catholic prison chaplains urgently needed: free Catholic bibles, as well as Catholic bible and faith enrichment materials - "like the other denominations have," the chaplains responded. The survey revealed that a ready supply of free Catholic resources were not available. It still remains too often the case in many areas of the country that Catholic prison chaplains and ministries simply do not have the resources to meet the needs of the inmates in their care. The findings of this survey formed the basis for Dismas Ministry's outreach to Catholic inmates.

"Providing spiritual and financial support to an outreach like Dismas Ministry is a very practical way for Catholics to visit the imprisoned, even if they are not called to minister directly within the prisons themselves. Supporting faith-based rehabilitation benefits all of us in the community, since it helps reduce the number of repeat offenders² stated Mr. Zeilinger. "The bottom line is: what kind of people do you want inmates to be when they are released? It makes sense to offer them as much support as possible, especially spiritual support," he said.

Dismas Ministry began in Wisconsin in 2000, and soon received requests to branch out to serve Catholic inmates in surrounding states of the midwest and west. By July 2006 the ministry expanded its free services to Catholic inmates in a total 25 statesan area that also includes 62 dioceses.

"The Bible in the hands of inmates brings the presence of God into their lives like nothing else, especially in prisons where no Catholic prison minister is serving," said Mr. Zeilinger. "Our pocket-sized prayer book includes common Catholic prayers as well as prayers and art contributed by inmates. It is very popular among inmates who want to rediscover their Catholic roots." He added, "We are delighted to collaborate with the good work already going on, and to support local efforts with our free resources wherever they are needed."

Although Dismas Ministry has been endorsed as a Catholic ministry, and Bishop Richard J. Sklba serves as its board president, it is financially independent and raises the funds it needs for its work. Further information may be obtained by visiting the ministry's website at www.dismasministry.org, or write to Dismas Ministry, PO Box 070363, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

Pope says working too hard is never good

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) -- In the middle of his summer break, Pope Benedict XVI said working too hard was never a good thing -- not even for a pope. Speaking at a noon blessing at his summer residence outside Rome Aug. 20, the pope reflected on the 12th-century writings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who warned against "the dangers of excessive activity, whatever the condition or office held, because many occupations **lead to a 'hardening of the heart' and suffering of the spirit.**" The pope said, "This warning is valid for every kind of occupation, even those involving the governance of the church." He recalled that St. Bernard had criticized the reigning pontiff of his time, Pope Eugenius III, for "losing himself" in his many activities and forgetting the primacy of prayer and contemplation. The saint's provocative comments are well worth remembering today, the pope said.

An Editorial

Spirited Messages Make Us Glad We Listened

Come! Let us climb this twofold mountain of the Transfiguration of Jesus and the Religious Profession of Sister Jeanne Marie and say: "It is good for us to be here."

With these words, priest/poet Msgr. Bernard Powers began his homily on August 6 in the Chapel of Saint Joseph Monastery in Whitesville.

In this issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic* are the texts of five messages delivered by our Bishop and three priests of the diocese, a priest-monk from Indiana, as well as a story about a Catholic meddler.

I know what you're thinking: editor showing favoritism. My favorite part is that the original texts of these messages are the stories.

Knowing that most of you could not make it in person to these events, I decided to report to you about the Silver Jubilees of Fathers Pete Hughes and Ray Goetz, the Religious Profession of Sister Jeanne Marie, the Catholic Educators' In-Service Day, the First Profession of Sister Debra Ann Bailey, A.D., and the Farmers Day Celebration. For the one article about a spirited Catholic Schools meddler, Mike Patin, this Catholic newspaper man wrote what I observed.

It happens that four of these messages were homilies. All priests prepare their homilies as speech/prayer, but our Faith prompts us to understand that the Holy Spirit takes the podium in a homily, and so delivering and printing this type of message is a special way to report to the people.

Recalling the Judgment of Paris in Roman mythology who was forced to choose the most beautiful goddess among three and then punished for the judgment, we know the risks of choosing among moments of spiritual light and beauty. We rely on the providence of our gracious God to sort out what His Church thinks about our choices.

Find the special Vocations messages and the story on pages 12 to 21. - MDH



Catholic Heart Work in Princeton

St. Paul Catholic Church in Princeton, Kentucky, hosted a youth group called Catholic Heart Work Camp on July 8 & 9 in our Parish Center. This group is from St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, and they were making their way to Louisville to work for the needy of eastern Kentucky.

St. Paul parishioners Charlie Pratt & Joe Kramer cooked and served them a delicious breakfast and the women of the parish kept them supplied with lots of goodies to eat to make it through until their next stop!

In the picture above, St. Paul parishioner Charlie Pratt, second from left in back row, posed with the Louisville group. Charlie and Joe Kramer, also of St. Paul parish cooked and served breakfast for the camp. Submitted by Pat Solomon.

St. Sebastian Parish Celebrates Father Peter Hughes' 25th Anniversary on June 4th, 2006

St. Sebastian Parish celebrated the 25th anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood of pastor Father Pete Hughes, son of the late Margaret Michinock Hughes and James Hughes of Brook Park, Ohio, with a Mass and reception in the new church and parish hall on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2006. (See story of the new church on pages 24-25.) The day was a celebration of all the ordained priests in service to our church worldwide, and especially those priests serving in the Owensboro Diocese in Western Kentucky. A line from the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass for Pentecost Sunday proclaimed, "Today, we celebrate the great beginning of your church."

Fr. Pete was ordained at St. Stephen Cathedral June 6, 1981 by Bishop Henry J. Soenneker. Father Paul Powell delivered a humorous and inspiring homily for the Mass which we present here:

Homily delivered by Father Paul Powell

St. SEBASTIAN CHURCH, CALHOUN, Ky. - You might wonder how I have the privilege of addressing you on the occasion of Father Pete's 25th anniversary of ordination.

This is a pretty big day for him and the Church. We are a generation apart in age and ordination, I think the reason is that he couldn't get a religious man to do it!

Really, it came about like this: in the summer of 1978 Bishop Soenneker sent this young man in his late 20's to spend the summer with me at the rectory of St. Francis de Sales in Paducah. He was still a student for the priesthood at the time. He was rather husky and had hair but didn't have a mustache at the time.

He was a good cook even then and, since I didn't have a cook, he was most welcome. We got along well from the beginning and, after I got a few good meals under my belt, I discovered he had a lot of other good qualities, talents, and virtues. When he wasn't cooking, he was visiting parishioners, taking up census and finding problem families that needed attention, giving me more work to do.

I didn't know then, and still don't know, how he came to study for the Diocese of



Linda Durbin and daughters brought up the Offertory gifts for the June 4 Mass at St. Sebastian celebrating the Catholic priesthood and Fr. Pete Hughes' 25th anniversary of ordination. Present were over a hundred parishioners and guests, including several Sisters: Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU, Sr. Martha Keller, OSU, Sr. Paulette McCarty, Sr. Frances Miriam Spalding, OSU, Sr. Eileen Howard, Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, Sr. Michele Morek, OSU, Sr. Suzanne Sims, Sr. Cabrini Foushee, OSU, Sr. Catherine Barber, OSU, Sr. Joseph Adrian Russell, OSU. Staff Photo



Concelebrating Mass with Father Pete Hughes June 4, 2006 were from left, Fathers Ray Goetz, Joe Mills, Brad Whistle, Paul Powell, John Vaughan, and Al Powers. Staff Photos

Owensboro, but we are glad that he did. But that doesn't matter; he was doing the work of the Lord...and that is what did matter.

Those were three good months together. Over 20 years went by. I had moved to Stanley. Father Pete got a parish, and he is my pastor!

Father Pete is a good storyteller. Sometime we miss the punch line, but his stories are interesting. One I liked very much was the story of the 90-year-old lady who was celebrating her birthday. The pastor told her she could pick out 4 hymns for the occasion. She looked around and pointed her finger in four directions and said: "I'll take him and him and him and him!"

One day, about 7 years ago, Bishop McRaith called me and asked me to take charge of the 2 parishes in Webster County. Two religious brothers were living in the rectory at Sebree and there was no rectory at Providence. The Bishop said I could rent a house over there somewhere, but not knowing the territory, I didn't know the best place to live. I remembered that Fr. Pete was now at Sts. Joseph & Paul parish in Owensboro ... and that he was living in that big house by himself. I suggested to the Bishop that I live at Sts. Joseph & Paul until I got the lay of the land in Webster County. The Bishop agreed; it was all right with Fr. Pete ... and four years later I was still there! After 2 years at Curdsville, I decided it was time to retire. Father Pete called me and invited me to live at Rome ...and Friday the 9th of June marks my first full year there.

I don't want to brag on Father too much. It might make him proud and that would diminish his priestly efficiency. But he is a good and faithful priest; he is a good man to be with in the same rectory ... and he doesn't pull his rank on me and I don't flaunt my age seniority over him.

He loves the Church and the people love him. The people of the communities are also very friendly and thoughtful. It bears out the obvious truth that, if you are good to people, they will be good to you. And, I might add, Fr. Pete is still a good cook! But this celebration is not primarily about Father Pete, or human relationships or pleasant living conditions, even though they go a long way in making one feel like doing the work he is called to do.

This celebration is about the priesthood. In the book of Hebrews the author, speak-

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St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley, Celebrated Silver Jubilee of Fr. Ray Goetz June 10, 2006

Editor's Note: When Catholic communities celebrate the anniversary of a priest's ordination, frequently the jubilarian asks a brother priest to deliver the homily for the Jubilee Mass. The homilist will often share some of the jubilarian's journey with listeners, and deliver a heart-felt message about the Catholic Priesthood. These messages are inspiring glimpses into the life of a Catholic priest. This is why The Western Kentucky Catholic is presenting the homilies by Fr. Pike Powell and Fr. Jerry Calhoun in this edition. Readers may be interested in another homily printed in this September edition on page 15 - Msgr. Bernard Power's August 6 homily for the Mass for the Passionist Profession of Sr. Jeanne Marie of the Precious Blood of the Lamb at St. Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, Ky.

On Trinity Sunday, June 10, 2006, St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley, invited priests of the diocese and Bishop John McRaith to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of pastor Fr. Ray Goetz at an outdoor Mass and a barbecue dinner hosted by the parish. We present here the homily for the Mass delivered by Father Jerry Calhoun:

Homily for Father Ray Goetz's Silver Jubilee

It is an honor to be with you as we honor Fr. Ray Goetz for his twenty-five years of faithful service in the ordained ministry of the priesthood. Several months ago Fr. Ray asked me to give the homily at his anniversary mass. He went on to say "I just want you to speak on the readings for the day. Now, Fr. Ray, you know we cannot come here to celebrate your silver anniversary and completely ignore the greatness of this occasion. Although we give praise to the Trinity today, we also come to give honor to the priesthood, and to you, Fr. Ray, who has been so faithful in the fulfillment of the call to the priesthood.

I am sure God spoke to you in many ways in preparing you to accept his call. That formation began many years ago as your parents lived out their call to marriage and the responsibility of raising a family to have a deep love for God and each other. Today I am sure you extend your gratitude to them as your mother (and your father) are rejoicing with you.

Although there were many people who touched your life and influenced your decision to be a priest, I would like to think that I also had a small part in your response to God's call. Fr. Ray was one of my students when I was doing my student teaching at



Father Ray Goetz offers family members and guests a Sign of Peace at the June 6, 2006 Silver Jubilee Mass celebrated on Trinity Sunday on the grounds of St. Peter of Alcantara Church in Stanley, Ky. Staff Photo



On Trinity Sunday, June 10, 2006, St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley, invited priests of the diocese and Bishop John McRaith to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of pastor Fr. Ray Goetz at an outdoor Mass and a barbecue dinner hosted by the parish. Here Bishop John addressed Fr. Ray and attending priests: Fathers Jerry Calhoun, Phil Riney, Paul Powell, Richard Powers, Al Powers, Pat Reynolds, Jerry Riney, Bob Drury, Richard Meredith, Joe Merkt, Joe Mills, and Tom Kirkendoll. Staff Photo

Catholic High. I am not sure that he or anyone learned much in my class, but it did give me an opportunity to know Ray Goetz. Even in those days of the mid-sixties there were certain qualities that Ray must have had that were possible signs of a vocation to the priesthood. I recall asking him one day if he had ever considered being a priest? He seemed to be a bit surprised at my question and I do not recall his answer. However, after high school he did enter into the formation program of the Franciscans. I think Fr. John Bartolomucci had a positive influence in Ray's decision to be a Franciscan.

This did not surprise me since Ray has always expressed a love for the poor and has been an outspoken person regarding social justice and the outcast.

But it must have been his love for Western Kentucky that brought him back to the Owensboro Diocese where he was ordained in 1981. From that time on Ray has touched many lives in his ministry in Western Kentucky. In fact, and very few priests can say this, when he was ordained 15 years he had been assigned to 15 different parishes. Now this does not mean that he was moved 15 different times. Sometimes he was assigned to minister to more than one parish. I was involved with him when we were the priests, along with Fr. Tony Stevenson, who were assigned to care for eight parishes in Grayson and Edmonson counties. So the number adds up fast with that method of counting.

In today's Gospel Jesus commissioned his disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." It has been with conviction that Fr. Ray has gone forth, baptizing and administering in many different way to the people of God. Some of these would be families in various parishes to which he was assigned, some would be students in Newman Centers in Universities, and others would be children in religious education classes. I know from working with him and hearing comments from parishioners that he is highly regarded as an outstanding priest.

The greatest honor for Fr. Ray is to have received the order of priesthood. As I reflect upon the priesthood and the power given by the imposition of the hands of the bishop, I can only stand in awe. To realize that in fulfilling the command of Jesus, after he had taken ordinary bread and wine and after giving it to the apostles said, "take and eat for this is my body," and also with the cup of wine he said, "take and drink, this is my blood." Then he said, "Do this in memory of me". At his ordination Fr. Ray was

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Fr. Peter Hughes' Silver Jubilee on June 4th, 2006 *(Continued from page 12)*

ing of the priesthood, say: "Every (high) priest is taken from men, and ordained for men in the things that appertain to God." (It's not about keeping books or mowing grass, but we do some of that, too.)

With ordination, priesthood was indelibly stamped on your soul, Father Pete. That mark can never be erased, for Psalm 110:4 predicted this when the writer of the psalm wrote, "The Lord has sworn: 'you are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisadek.'" Forever! Forever!

Who is this Melchisadek the psalmist speaks of? How does he fit into the picture? From time immemorial the leaders of the people of God had offered bloody sacrifices to God on a regular basis. But in the 1800s before Christ, Abraham, after one of the many battles he engaged in overcoming the pagan kings, ran into Melchisadek.

In Genesis Melchisadek was described as the king of Salem (the same city as Jerusalem) and a priest of the Most High God. Melchisadek received tithes from Abraham, making him greater than Abraham himself.

Then Melchisadek brought out bread and wine for a sacrifice. Thus Melchisadek anticipated the elements Christ would use some 1800 years later. He became the most perfect type, in Old Testament times, of Christ. Like Christ, his origins were mysterious; he is described as a priest and a king; and he offered bread and wine.

The bloody sacrifices continued 'til the time of Christ they were pleasing to God because that was all they had.' Then Christ, once and for all, offered himself in a bloody manner on the cross.

The book of Hebrews tells us that, if the blood of goats and bulls and sheep ... can sanctify those who are defiled, so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ... cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship a living God.

Christ saw fit to perpetuate his sacrifice in the manner in which Melchisadek offered his sacrifice ... with bread and wine. And you, Father Pete, have the power to change bread and wine, as you stand regularly at the altar, into the Body and Blood of Christ. Every priest has that power by reason of ordination. To use a \$10.00 word



Father Paul Powell listens as Father Pate Hughes thanked St. Sebastian parishioners and friends for celebrating with him his Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood. Staff Photo

used by the theologians, you were ontologically changed 25 years ago. It wasn't just a change of title; you were changed from the inside out.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, says: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now all things are new." (2 Cor 5:12) If Paul could say this about every-day Christians, how much more about the priest! But to keep us humble, Scripture says:

"One does not take this honor on himself, but only when called by God." (Heb 5:3) Father Pete, the sacrifice you made to become a priest was a simple "yes" to Christ. Then Christ has taken over and accomplished the rest. You have been given assignments, not just by your Bishop, but Christ... assignments that, if you don't fulfill, will never be filled on this earth or in eternity.

Your joys are many, but so are your obligations. You have been triply blessed, not only by baptism and confirmation, but also by ordination. We are so aware of this during this Pentecost season. You were called to dedicate your whole self to the service of others... the vow of celibacy makes this dedication more complete. You are "in the world," but not "of it," and this

Silver Jubilee of Fr. Ray Goetz June 10, 2006

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empowered to carry out this commission. Each time he celebrates the mass, and he has done so several thousand times in his twenty-five years of ministry), he brings Christ to us in this awesome mystery. This is what priesthood is all about. Bringing Christ to others.

We are all aware that there is a shortage of priests to effectively minister in all the parishes throughout the United States and in our own diocese. Today as we honor the priesthood, I ask that you not only pray for many more men to respond to the call of God to minister in the priesthood but also for many more women to respond to the call of God to enter into the consecrated life. We need strong men and women to be involved in the ministry of the Church. Because of the widely



On June 10, 2006, St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley honored pastor Father Ray Goetz on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. Father Jerry Calhoun delivered the homily; shown here with Fr. Jerry are, from left, Fathers John Vaughan, Joe Merkt, and Richard Meredith. Staff Photo

published sex scandal in the Church it has been difficult for all of us. It may have made it more difficult for men and women to respond to the call of God to enter into Church ministry. However, it is a special gift of God to be called and very special joys are given in being of a service in ministry to others.

Today, Fr. Ray, we honor you and the priesthood which you have embraced. We thank you for your joy in exercising your ministry and pray that the same joy will be yours in many years to come. May God's blessing be always upon you.

is not always easy.

It's a joy to comfort the afflicted, even though it is sometimes hard. And, at times, we must "afflict the comfortable" if they become too complacent. This certainly is not easy, but part of our role as priests. But the grace of God is always there to help us.

We priests, by the graciousness of God, become spiritual "healers" of the multitude. (Heb 5:1) in the confessional, at the bedside of the sick, and as counselors in the office of the rectory.

But we ourselves are "wounded" healers and need your prayers. All of this in spite of our power over the Body and Blood of Christ. And we need more "wounded healers" to work for the harvest of souls... not brilliant saints, but willing workers! We know the vocations are out there, because Christ established a church that requires ordained men to share his graces through the Sacraments. And it takes an ordained priest to administer five of the seven Sacraments. Baptism and matrimony are the only exceptions. It is hard to believe that Christ established such a Church without calling the personnel to distribute his graces throughout the world. So...some must not be answering the call. Countless millions have never heard of Christ or Christianity.

While we are grateful for the priests we have, we need more...and remember: priests can come only from people like you who sit in the pews. Thus we join with Christ in the prayer he prayed: "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the harvest-master to send workers to the vineyard." (Matt 9:7 & Luke 10:2)

Thank you, Father Pete, for your service in the vineyard of the Lord. We pray that much more is yet to come...that you have just begun to serve. And thank you, Father Pete, for who you are as a person and who you are as a priest of the Most High God.



Religious Profession of Sr. Jeanne Marie of the Precious Blood of the Lamb August 6, 2006

**Homily
for Sister Jeanne
Marie's Profession
By Monsignor
Bernard Pow-
ers**

Come! Let us climb this twofold mountain of the Transfiguration of Jesus and the Religious Profession of Sister Jeanne Marie and say: "It is good for us to be here."

The Proclamation of the Gospel on this feast of the Transfiguration startles the mind.... and thrills the heart. It opens Christ's profound teaching and reveals Christ's amazing love. So does this Religious Profession. It shocks the world. It excites the heart. It reveals Christ's amazing love.

In the Gospel, Christ speaks to us about his Passion and he is transfigured before us. He reveals his Sufferings.... the Cross. He shows his glory.... the Transfiguration.

The life style that Sister Jeanne Marie is accepting in this Monastery through her profession also reveals Christ's suffering and shows His glory.

In the gospel, we find Jesus at one of his greatest moments: "Jesus is thinking of the Cross, *and in this cross* his virginal love for the Father and for all mankind will attain its highest expression. In the Cross His poverty will reach complete self-emptying. In the Cross His obedience will be the self-giving of his life." *The Consecrated Life p.37*

This gospel of the Transfiguration is a proper setting for this religious profession. Both are a revelation of the Passion and a manifestation of the glory of Jesus. In the Transfiguration, all is mystery. All demands faith. All is a call to love Jesus, in his Passion and in his glory. So in this Religious Profession: all is mystery. All is faith. All is a call to love Jesus in the Passion and in his glory.

Oh yes, how good for us to be here present in this two-fold mystery: The Transfiguration of Jesus and the Religious Profession of Sister Jeanne Marie. We are on the mountain of mystery, led here by Jesus.

If you asked Sister Jeanne Marie what she is doing today in this Profession, she



Sr. Jeanne Marie of the Precious Blood smiled just after her Profession of Vows. Larena Lawson Photo

would have to say: Mystery covers me like the cloud and I am making an act of faith. Personal graces have been abundantly given and I am accepting them. My heart has been touched with love and my response to love is to love.

All is mystery, and no mystery can be explained. It can only be believed and lived. All is a call; a call of the heart, and the call of the heart is the call of love. And who can explain love? Love can not be explained. Love can only be written about in poetry. Love can only be expressed in total gift. Love can only be accepted and lived. Love takes lovers into commitment for all time and beyond ... into a silence that is contemplative ... into a gift that is total.

Love takes one beyond question to admiration ... beyond giving to complete union. It is a grace, and grace is an action of God. No one can explain a grace of God. It can only be accepted and lived. The person who lets her soul be seized by love must abandon everything to follow ... to seek ... to embrace.. to be with the Lover... (*Mk 1: 16-20*) and the Lover for Sister Jeanne Marie is the Divine Lover, Jesus.

How fitting a feast for this Religious



Sr. Jeanne Marie stood at the altar steps beneath the Cross of Jesus for several minutes after her profession as Bishop John McRaith and Msgr. Bernard Powers paused in prayer. Staff Photo

Profession. The Jesus who led Peter, James, and John up the mountain is the same Jesus who leads Sister Jeanne Marie to this Monastery ... to this sacred moment of mystery ... to this Religious Profession. Jesus will speak to her about his Passion and His death and reveal to her His glory.. She will know the goodness as well as the suffering of being "here." For her to be "here" is to be caught up in the Passion, is to be with the Crucified Christ. Such is the call to the Mountain.

By the grace of God, by the choice of love, by the consent of this Community, today Sister Jeanne Marie makes her vows.

Hers is the sincere promise to live the Paschal Mystery, to embrace the Crucified Christ, to stand at the foot of the Cross in loving attentiveness, to proclaim the Passion of Jesus to the world; all this by her life style as a Passionist Nun.

Today Sister chooses to live, detached from all things, and in a spirit of amazing trust hoping for eternal life. She will live in radical poverty. She will reveal a Christ in complete self-emptying, giving us infinite fullness. She chooses to live unselfishly and in complete generosity to each and to all. She will live in consecrated

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Bishop, Speaker Urges Educators To Pass On To Students A Loving Heart Like Jesus

By Mel Howard

HENDERSON, Ky. - Catholic Educators from across the diocese traveled to Holy Name School Friday, July 28, to attend the annual in-service day for Catholic School teachers and principals. The day is like a tune-up for the school year when Western Kentucky Catholic educators get together to greet and support one another, find out the latest news about schools, and gain some momentum for starting a new school year. People new to the system are welcomed, and people with long-standing service records are recognized. Some have to get started at 4:30 a.m. to attend the day-long in-service; it can be a tough work day. What's their motivation?

Mike Patin from LaFayette, La, answered that question in a style Western Kentucky Catholic educators will not soon forget. Combining anecdotes from his own life as an athlete, parent, husband, teacher, youth minister, and a young person growing up in Cajun country USA, Mike Patin gave out advice to the teachers. No, actually, he meddled! "I am here not to entertain you or to cheer you on," he said, "I'm here to meddle, to get up in your face, to talk with you about why you do what you



As a teacher is always preparing for classes, Francesca Land, St. John Elementary 4th/5th Grades teacher, caught up on some reading during a break July 28. Staff Photo



Diocesan Schools Superintendent Jim Mattingly welcomed Catholic Educators to Henderson Holy Name School July 28 for the 2006 In-Service Day. Staff Photo

do as teachers." Patin did a right good meddling job; he had the room rocking in laughter one minute, and then nodding their heads in agreement the next, up, down, slow-going, then pulling hard on the audience's attention spans, Mike Patin got the Catholic educators of Western Kentucky to take a second look at what they do, and why they do it.

For example, he asked, "If I gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?" After a brief moment of quiet, he called on a volunteer, Jamie Clark of St. Mary Elementary in Whitesville, who said he'd likely give most of it away. Then Mr. Patin hopped off the speaker's stand and ambled back to Mr. Clark, got right up in his face, and said, "Now, chief, how many children will be in your class in a few days?" Mr. Clark said, "About 27, I think." Patin said, "Imagine that each one of those children is worth a million dollars, and they have been given to you to teach. What will you do with your \$27 million?" Mr. Clark was ready: "I'd love them," he said. Patin fairly yelled, "Bingo! We have a winner! I don't need to meddle with you any more!"

At another point, he asked the educators, "How many of you got into this thing (teaching) because you felt it is what you were called to do?" Sixteen rows of about 20 people in each raised their hands indicating they felt called to teach. "Then

you're not all in it for the money, are you?" Patin said. He pointed to a crucifix on the back wall. "The man on the plus sign (the Cross) back there, Jesus Christ, is the one who is calling you."

He spoke about salary and fringe benefit packages and perks that people sometimes get in other professions, and how high-paid folks who make expensive stuff can sometimes lord it over teachers, bragging about what they make that people crave. "If people ask you what you make as a teacher," Patin said, "tell them that you make a difference in kids' lives. God can use anyone for His work. You teach because there's something inside of you that you want to give away to make people better." Getting about as deep as he dared that day, Patin said, "You stand as countercultural icons; God trusts you, and lets you play in His playground with young people." Then speaking as the father of a 13-year-old Catholic student, he said, "I want you to be good in your subject. We're gonna give them a solid education. I need you to be looking through the surface clues (of each student) and seeing who is really inside the student, and then love her, him."

Mike Patin used several visual perception games with audience volunteers to illustrate the point that educators must look for what is really there in a person, in students who come to class: "Look on the inside, and see there's something hidden there."

"I have called you by name, our God says to us," Patin said, "and now you have to go and do it. She needs you; he needs you. As a parent I can tell my daughter that she has a gift, and right now, she thinks I'm the dumbest man on earth. But if a teacher says to a child that they have a gift, the child can believe it, act on it, even if a parent has been trying to tell that child the same thing for years!"

After listening to Bishop John McRaith's homily earlier in the day with nearly 320 Catholic educators, Mr. Patin, turned to Bishop John McRaith saying that he had said well a message of his own presentation. Bishop John had keyed in on the day's reading from the prophet Jeremiah who was talking against hard-hearted wickedness, saying, "There are many loving hearts among our youth whose hearts are still being developed with your help. (You are called) to bring the Good News to a heart-hardened world. This is a tremendous call God has given you, to pass on to young ones with hearts beginning to be formed, not into hardened hearts, but into a loving heart like Jesus." Patin remarked, "Bishop, you said that right; we're thinking alike."

Proving that he had been to graduate school, Mike Patin broke out a research finding from the Research Institute of Minnesota. "You're dealing with human people in a classroom," he said. "People have five spiritual hungers. #1: People hunger for mean-

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Mike Patin, left, called on a volunteer, Jamie Clark of St. Mary Elementary, Whitesville, to respond to a question during the July 28 In-service for Catholic Educators. Staff Photo

A Loving Heart Like Jesus *(Continued from page 16)*

ingful relationships and structure. #2: People hunger for a life that has a purpose. #3: Young people hunger for someone to listen to them. #4: People hunger for the sacred, something that doesn't change. God's making a comeback! People want to know what the power above us all is. #5: People hunger for justice, fairness and a chance to serve."

"As a parent, I want for my daughter teachers who are doing the God thing," Patin said, "who are into her, my child. Some parent needs you to dig in and love their child." In his talks with the Catholic educators, Patin used comedy mixed with solid spiritual values, many times role-playing scripts from his Louisiana life. He told Boudreaux and Tibideaux jokes. To make it more real, he gave the teachers a homework assignment at the end of the day.

"I want you to do one of these three things at some time during the first week you're back in school:

- #1 **Read**, not just a book, but the young people who come into your classroom. Find one of the five hungers there needing to be filled.

- #2 **Remember**. Your salvation doesn't depend on how well they turn out. They



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



Members of the Holy Name Men's Clum cooked chicken breasts for the In-Service Day dinner July 28. Cooks were Ray Thompson, Robert Vowels, Wayne Mitchell, Sonny Burton, Billy Ray Thomas, and Ron Hockey. At right, speaker Mike Patin shared a funny farm horse story with Bishop John McRaith. Staff Photos



are Someone Else's. It ain't your kingdom. Your job is to be faithful.

- #3 **Request**. Ask for help. Cover each other's back. It's not just those 27 in your classroom; they're all your kids. Take care of everybody in the faculty, too. I want to make sure we make it. You need to ask God. Just because you work for God all day doesn't mean that you got it all. You got to talk with Him. Be a person who prays."

"Thank you for what you do. At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, if you feel a little gnat-like thing whisking past your head, somebody's praying for you. I call it my hole-in-the-roof prayer, like the Bible parable of the folks who cut a hole in the roof to lower down their friend to Jesus to be healed. I'll be praying for you all."

The self-described "skinny little man," Mike Patin, got a standing O from the Catholic Educators of Western Kentucky. Now that's doing something!



Two Holy Name School students sang solo music for the July 28 Mass, 6th Grader Anna Dewey sang "The Sower" above, 4th Grader Jessica Bailey sang "Our God Reigns." Staff Photo



Holy Name teachers Phyllis Brown and Tracey McGowan (cross bearer) were altar servers for the July 28 Mass for In-Service Day in Henderson. Staff Photo

Music Ministry Position Opening

Director of Music Ministries. Precious Blood Parish, 3306 Fenmore Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, 42301. Part-time position (average of 24 hours per week) in parish of 400 families. Three weekend Masses, weddings, funerals, special liturgies. Direct and oversee cantors, choir, develop childrens choir.

Requires good keyboard skills and strong pastoral skills.

Knowledge of Catholic liturgy an advantage, but not required.

For more information, contact Fr. Brad Whistle, Pastor, at 270/684-6888 or Mike Bogdan in the diocesan Office of Music at 270/852-8347.

Bishop John McRaith Addresses Diocesan Farmers Day Celebration

OWENSBORO, Ky. - August 6, 2006 -

Dear Lord, we gather this day to give thanks for your abundant love for us. You show us that love in so many ways. One of the great ways that you show us is by year after year giving us the food that we eat to sustain our lives, so that we might spend our lives in your service by serving one another.

You have given us everything that we have – and we gather as a community to show our gratitude to you, Dear God, by acknowledging our total dependence upon you. We gather to thank you for the land and the animals that we share with one another in order that we might have life. We gather to ask your blessings on us that we might use and appreciate all our gifts from you — especially the natural resources that you have given us to serve everyone in the country and around the world.

Help us, God, that we might pause from time to time to say thanks for the abundant gifts of air, water, land, coal, oil, and all those things that we call natural resources. We call them natural because we realize that they are not ours — they are gifts given to us from you out of love for all people. We know you expect us to find ways to share your natural resources with all the people of our country and the world.

We can never thank you for one of your gifts without attention being called to all your gifts, and tonight we thank you especially for our farmers, farm workers, and all those who assist them in producing the food and fiber we need to sustain our lives and the lives of many people around the world.

We thank the farmers — both those who own the land and all who work on the land and on farms. We thank them for being willing to give their lives to steward your gifts of the soil. Farmers work in your name to sustain our lives as we all work to make this a better world to live in peace and love for one another.

We thank the farmers tonight for the witness they are to all of us in daily experiencing our dependence on you for all your gifts. Farmers experience that dependence in a unique way as they faithfully plant the little seeds in the soil or raise the animals from little ones – all the while knowing that without your generous gifts, they could not exist nor could any of us exist.

Each day farmers work so hand in hand with you, our God, that they can't miss your generosity to them and to all of us. Tonight, we thank them for this faith in you. And we come to know that we all must have that faith and trust in you as we all walk hand in hand with you, our Loving, Ever-Giving God.

We pray tonight for all those who have a hand in farming and producing the food we eat. We thank you, God, for them, and we thank them for answering your call to do their part in feeding a hungry world.

We pray today and every day for a good crop and for healthy animals and for a just price for the harvest of both crops and animals. Tonight is a time to let farmers and farm workers know that they are appreciated and that we are all dependent upon them. We are here to thank you, God, and to thank them.

We make this prayer in your name.



Mother Catherine Schumann, C.P., at right, welcomed with great joy Sr. Jeanne Marie of the Precious Blood of the Lamb, along with her friends and visitors to St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville after the Mass of Religious Profession of Sr. Jeanne Marie. August 6, 2006. Lois Rutigliano photo

Mass of Religious Profession of Sr. Jeanne

Marie (Continued from page 15)

chastity. She will reveal a Christ in virginal love for the Father, giving us Divine Presence. She chooses to live in total surrender to God's will, an unconditional yes to the Cross. She will live in sacrificial obedience. She will reveal a Christ in obedience that is the giving of his love, giving us eternal love. Her actions are acts of love, and thus beyond comprehension. Her actions are acts of faith and thus beyond explanation.

Faith can not be explained, and love needs no explanation. Both are God's gift. Both are acts of the heart. Both flow from grace. Yet one stills calls for the meaning and the purpose of religious life... the life here at this Monastery. The Church says: the religious life offers to a person the exciting opportunity to follow Christ through sufferings and joys, through darkness and light, through dryness and refreshing waters ... to follow Christ into the fullness of life in the Triune God.

If Sister Jeanne Marie's desire is to follow Christ alone and in such a radical way, who can question her choice? Who would dare? The Religious Life here in this monastery offers a person a way of life to be with Christ, to devote oneself completely to Him to live with Him ... to die with Him and to rise with him. One comes to religious life to live intimately with Jesus, to open one's heart and one's conscience to Him ..., to live a sacrificial life as holocaust ... an immolated victim of love. *Consecrated Life pp. 283 ff*

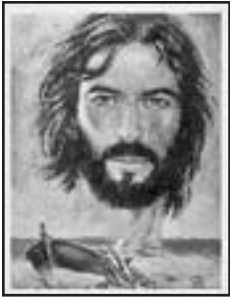
One comes into Religious Life to live a life style that is an expressive and emphatic way of saying to the world that Jesus Christ is the whole meaning of life ... that Jesus is worth it all. *Consecrated Life p. 38* Sister Jeanne Marie comes to this Monastery "to stand at the foot of the Cross of Christ and there more immediately and more profoundly experience the truth of God who is love. And her standing is not in vain for "to the one standing beneath the Cross, the beauty and the power of God's love is revealed. *Consecrated Life p. 38*

Just as the Apostles could not stay on the Mountain, caught up in the glory of the Transfiguration, but had to come down the Mountain and enter into the Passion of Jesus, neither we nor can Sister Jeanne Marie.

Let us come down the Mountain and join Sister Jeanne Marie as she commits herself to the Passion of Jesus.



Sister Jeanne Marie at prayer in her chapel pew. Staff Photo



From Electrical Engineer To Father of Mercy

By Larena Lawson

OWENSBORO, Ky. - How does a math and science wiz, an electrical engineer, end up becoming a priest and studying Canon Law?

"Vocation is a mystery," says Father Chuck Zudzminksi, CPM, "we can't explain why, it is a mystery of God."

How? Speaking at the Owensboro Serra Club August 4 noon luncheon here, he did go on to explain that.

Engineering is a science. Growing up, Father Chuck liked math and science a lot, and was a good student. He liked it because he could prove he was right in any math or science problem or equation. He came to have the same thought about faith.

In the mid 80's, Father Chuck was attending graduate school and he had a conversion experience, which meant for him, going back to daily Mass. He always went to Mass on Sundays, but he felt a deeper calling to follow Christ.

He first thought of becoming a priest in 1986. In 1985, there was an extraordinary synod held to give an update on Vatican II. He became very interested in knowing things. He had grown up after the great change brought about by Vatican II which created turmoil in the Church, he said, most notably, the changing from Latin to English and the turning around of the altar. *Humane Vitae*, in 1968, also brought about upheaval in the Church.

In reading the Vatican II documents, Father Chuck read about vocations, celibacy and virginity. He learned more about the universal call to holiness and of the great dignity of marriage. He discovered that Vatican II, just as what was taught in the olden days, also taught about the superiority of the priestly and religious vocation, but with the implementation of the teachings of Vatican II, a break came in the Catholic Church and a decline in vocations was blamed on that break.

In 1993, Father Chuck attended World Youth Day in Denver. He became interested in the writings of Pope John Paul II, especially the encyclical, "The Splendor of Truth," which focused on the moral teachings of the Church. He came to learn that the same certainty he felt in working with math and science, is the same in faith. Some things are mysterious, but sometimes there is a certainty, by faith. In the letter to the Hebrews 11:1, Saint Paul wrote, "Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for, and conviction about things we do not see." This surety in the matters of faith became for Father Chuck even greater than that of math and science. He was wowed by the things he learned!

All of this insight led him to the Fathers of Mercy, and being ordained in 2002. Father Chuck said that the Fathers really see Vatican II as not being a break from before, but as a call to go out and evangelize the world. "Their main apostolate," Father Chuck said, "is to preach parish missions, to bring prodigal children back to the faith, and to spend a lot of time in the confessionals."

"My brethren, if any one of you strays from the truth and someone brings him back, he ought to know that he who causes a sinner to be brought back from his misguided way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20



Father Chuck Zudzminksi spoke at the Owensboro Serra Club August 4 noon luncheon. Lois Rutigliano Photo

WHERE DO VOCATIONS COME FROM?

-Vocation Committee of the Council of Religious

In this issue of the Western Kentucky Catholic we feature the parishes of Grayson County in asking the question, "Where do Vocations come from?"

The second oldest parish (and possibly the smallest) in the Diocese of Owensboro is in Grayson County. St. Augustine traces its history to 1810 when Fr. Charles Nerinckx visited the Catholic communities of Grayson County. The first documented Catholic family in the area was that of James Higdon as reported on the tax record of 1808.

The history of St. Anthony of Padua in Peonia has early beginnings in 1818. The first church was erected under the direction of Rev. Robert A. Abell in 1822. An outside altar now marks the spot.

The first church for St. Benedict in Wax was a log structure built sometime prior to 1835. The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of Benedict T. Carrico who died on August 15, 1835. The parish of St. Benedict has never had a resident pastor.

The three parishes of Grayson County, Saints Anthony, Augustine, and Benedict, have fostered vocations in families and through the faith life of the parish communities and have offered their gift to the Church of priestly and religious vocations. The following men and women from the parishes of Grayson County have served, and many continue to serve, the church of Western Kentucky as priests and religious. *

Sr. Cheryl Clemons (St Benedict)

Sr. Ann Michelle Mudd (St Anthony/St Augustine)

Fr. Carrol Lewis White (killed in auto accident 1969)

Fr. Charles DeNardi

Sr. Walter Louise Lush (St Anthony)

Fr. Edward Bradley (St Benedict)

Fr. Delma Clemons (St Benedict)

Fr. Jason McClure (St Anthony/St Joseph, Leitchfield)

WHO WILL TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE FUTURE?

GOD CONTINUES TO CALL. WHO IS BEING CALLED TODAY?

PRAY FOR THE COURAGE AND GENEROSITY TO RESPOND FAITHFULLY TO GOD'S CALL IN YOUR LIFE.

* Thanks to all who have responded from these parishes with information. If there are any errors or additions, please report them to the Vocation Committee % Sr. Pat Froning pat.froning@pastoral.org.

OUR APOLOGIES - Missing, in the August issue of WKC, from the list of vocations from St. Lawrence/St. William parish are

the following Passionist Nuns:

Sr. Rose Mary Boteler, CP

Sr. Margaret Mary Mattingly, CP

Sr. Rita Marie Boteler, CP

Sr. Michael Marie Aull, CP

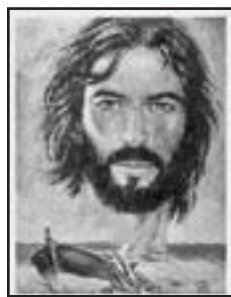
St. Joseph/St. Frances Academy Reunion

Saturday September 16, 2006

Attention: Graduates and those that attended either of the two high schools.

Place: Home of Martha and Bill Froehlich, 6215 Highway 142, Owensboro, KY

Time: 4:00 p.m. Mass time - Social Hour following mass. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. to be catered by Moonlite. Cost: \$20.00 per person. Remit to Donald E. Hayden, 3441 Ashlawn Dr., Owensboro, KY 42301. For food count purposes - payment should be made no later than September 6, 2006, indicating class year. Directions: Bill Froehlich's House - Go 60 East to 144 Reid's Orchard - Four miles on 144 and turn right on 142 - two city blocks. Entertainment: If interested in golf scramble on Saturday morning contact Gene Higdon - (270) 683-1677 or Gene Clark - (270) 281-0678. For other information: Bill Froehlich - (270) 281-0719, or Charlene Pruden - (270) 686-3733.



Sister Debra Bailey Makes First Profession of Vows

Witness of Sister Debra Bailey, A.D., August 14, 2006, Before the Mass of Her First Profession into the Congregation of the Servants of the Lamb of God.

I want to thank all of you for being here to celebrate my first vows. When I first thought about being a sister I was 17 or 18. I had read several books on being a nun, but I knew I first had to be a Catholic and I wasn't. However that didn't stop me. I started going to a Catholic church in my area but I didn't tell my parents who weren't Catholic and were against Catholics. I decided to become a Catholic. I was 21. I became a Catholic in April of 1979 at Easter. On my way home from being confirmed I was stopped by the police. My joy made me hit the pedal and I didn't realize it until I was stopped by the police for weaving all over the road. He let me go when I explained to him I was just confirmed, however, he told me to be more careful.

After I went to my first retreat I thought I could then become a nun. However I had been a Catholic all of 3 months. The people I talked to said I should wait until I had been a Catholic for awhile. It was hard for me to accept this but I did. Over the next few years I worked at several jobs and kept going to retreats. I was on my way home from a retreat in Colorado in 2000 when all of a sudden I "felt" a voice tell me that it was time. I didn't need to figure what time it was for. I knew. I started looking for an order that would accept me. By this time I had my own house, had a pet, and had a good job. I was doing very well for myself.

In 2002 I came to Kentucky to visit the Sisters of the Lamb of God for 2 weeks. Before I left I knew I had found the order that God wanted me to join. I have learned how to be more in touch with God. He has brought me many graces in my life here. The sisters have taught me that religious life isn't stuffy. It is full of life.

The sacrament of baptism was my call towards God. As a vowed religious it is a deeper commitment towards God. It is a complete yes to God. The Eucharist IS God. The Holy Spirit lives inside of me. My commitment is a marriage between me and Jesus Christ. I have deepened my love for God and his people. I have learned to let God be in control and not me. I am not perfect at it yet but I continue to learn. It is a great consolation to know that God is in control.

My prayer life has changed from just a certain time of day to all day long. I have learned the joy in the Bible. Jesus is telling me how to live my life in joy and abandonment.

The vow of poverty meant to me, at first, that I had to give up things I wanted to do and not have everything I wanted. That has changed over the past 4 years. I see poverty in my life as a giving up of myself so Jesus can fill me with his riches for service to others. Poverty focuses my attention on God above all else.

The vow of chastity at first meant to me the giving up a family and a husband, someone to be with for the rest of my life. That is only the physical part. Chastity goes much deeper; it goes to the core of my being. It is a giving of myself to Christ and to ALL of humanity. I try to love all people just as Christ loved all people unconditionally.

The vow of obedience actually means listening. It is a listening to the will of God through my superiors, the Bible, spiritual books, and many other things. It isn't always easy because I want to do MY will. However that is changing into doing and listening to what GOD wants me to do.

My vows are changing me in the way I live and love. Following God is what I want to do. I will do whatever I need to do to accomplish what He wants me to do in love.

Continued on page 21



Father Tim Sweeney's Homily for Sister Debra Ann's Profession: Immaculate, August 14, 2006 - Song of Songs 2, 8-14; Rom 12,1-13; Mt 25, 1-13

Of course we've just heard a parable, a story with a point to it. But in some ways this parable is really just a bit confusing. The foolish have no oil and ask to borrow some. Then the wise refuse to give them any of their oil for what seems to me to be a rather foolish reason. Nonsense, certainly there was enough to share for the greeting ceremony! The wise tell the foolish to "go ... and buy" your own. But the groom is already here! He's arrived with his bride. Timewise it's too late. Somehow the wise are saying to the foolish you have to have your own oil. It has to be yours; you can't borrow it from someone else.

To "go ... and buy" says that the foolish person is one who's always looking outside themselves for what they need. Jesus is telling us to enter into our own inner resources, and not from outside ourselves. When Jesus was talking in John's gospel with the Samaritan woman at the well, we're told that the disciples had gone to the city to buy food. Basically the foolish person doesn't have his or her own resources and is sort of addicted to going elsewhere rather than within to find sustenance.

And right to the end the foolish persons think that by imploring the Lord the door will be opened. The foolish person just doesn't get it that the kingdom of heaven has been passed on to them, and the door only opens when they have the ability to open it for themselves. What was it that Jesus said earlier in Matthew's gospel: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." We have to personally appropriate the teachings of Christ. Others can't do this for us. We, as individuals, have to produce within ourselves the oil.

Worshiping Jesus from afar with extravagant praise and petition is good, but we can't ride inside on his coattails. We have to receive Christ into ourselves as a person would receive bread, put it into the mouth, chew, and swallow it. Then Christ will be within us, building us up from the inside. It's a question of integrating Christ into our lives, and that demands a transformation. When this transformation of our lives is occurring, we will then be wise persons and understand St. Paul's cry: "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" [Gal.]

But this evening is different. The homily is really not found in human words, but rather embodied in a human person. The reflection on the sacred readings we have heard is enfolded in a human life that has walked among us and, God willing, will continue to walk among us. The sacred readings we have heard are really embedded in the flesh and blood of a woman, Debra Ann. She has heard the Lord say to her: "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come." She also has decided, like Mary, to whisper her fiat and to enter upon a journey, not knowing when she'll be changing planes, nor what exactly is the final destination. And she has decided to do this in com-

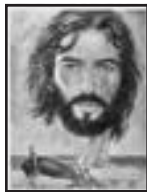
Continued on page 21



Sister Audrey Mary, A.D, at right, Congregational Leader for the Lamb of God Sisters, and Father Tim Sweeney welcomed Sister Debra Ann, A.D., as she made her first Profession. In an e-mail to The Western Kentucky Catholic, Sister Audrey wrote of Sister Debra, "She is the chairperson of the social concerns committee at Immaculate and also helps in religious education for those with special needs. She is such an upbeat person. So grateful for opportunities to grow in faith to share it with others." Staff Photo

No, what clangs like an off-key bell is the clear fact that these human persons, these men and women, have taken vows of celibate chastity, poverty, and obedience.

Sister Debra Bailey ... (Continued from page 20)



There is a saying from our founder Fr. Rene de la Chevasnerie that says it all: "The being who is conscious of his freedom, gives himself, offers himself, abandons himself completely to the other, and it is wonderful when the other is God." That is what I am living for the glory of God.



Sister Andrea Niehaus, D.C.J. gave Sister Debra Ann a hug of welcoming at a reception for her August 14 in Immaculate Parish Hall. Staff Photo

At the end of the Mass of Profession August 14, a setting sun cast a ray of light through a window onto Sister Debra Ann's face as she was already glowing in a spiritual light. Staff Photo

Comfort & Hope... a message about grief

By Jeannie Boone

When the initial shock and denial of profound loss has released you to reality there is a time when utter despair and loneliness sets in. It's as if an invisible curtain of doom has descended and no one can comprehend the depth of isolation, unless they've lived it. I remember sensing that the atmosphere itself had taken on a surreal quality; it had a vague hue of pale amber, was charged with current. I was surrounded by people at home, at work and church, but I wasn't really there. The essence of me was brutally wounded and trying to find a way to follow my Katy, to find her and bring her home. After all, she was just a child and she belonged with her mom.

Katy died, but debilitating grief can result from other events as well. Forced retirement, divorce, estrangement from family, feeling powerless over any life event are just a few that come to mind. Nursing homes are full of grief and foster children often suffer acute grief. Most of us develop coping techniques that allow us to function and with support from those around us we eventually come to a place where the loss can be acknowledged, if not accepted... there is a difference.

There may also come a time when you realize that professional counseling is needed. It's a move we resist but when the decision is made the search begins for a counselor and it's not an easy task.

Some insurance companies will cover this expense though carriers will vary in regard to requirements and limitations. They may have preferred providers and in this instance it's not uncommon for there to be one, or none, in close proximity, especially in a rural setting. There may be a limit on how many sessions will be paid or a process that has to be completed first, as in the case of many employee assistance plans. Without insurance coverage the expense may be prohibitive, buy even a few sessions, strategically timed, can dramatically change the course of your grief journey.

These tips are strictly from me, from experience.

- The referral of your family doctor will be the first and most helpful step to take.
- Ask friends and co-workers for their input and recommendations.



Father Tim Sweeney's Homily (Continued from page 20)

munity, not as a hermitess, not as single or solitary, but as part of a community. This way she knows God asks of her "...heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience..."

Consecrated religious life in the Church is diverse and varied. Orders and congregations have arisen in almost every century to meet specific needs and wants of the church. But what speaks loudest in the Church and our world is not really so much the specific work or apostolate of a particular religious community. No, what clangs like an off-key bell is the clear fact that these human persons, these men and women, have taken vows of celibate chastity, poverty, and obedience. There is nothing more "counter cultural" in our day and age than these three vows. Amassing material goods, doing my own thing, and having complete sexual freedom are hallmarks of our world, especially today in the developed world of

the U.S. and Western Europe. The very existence of men and women who have, for the love of Christ and His Church, handed themselves over, body and soul, to Christ and His Church, that very existence, not even considering an apostolate or work, clashes with contemporary customs and mores. Here is witness that penetrates into the very fiber, to the marrow of the bone, of a person. Here is a witness that does not have a day off, a vacation, a weekend away. No, day in and day out this witness continues, sleeping, eating, working, praying ... always this testimony of the force of the love of Christ that can draw a person to be so countercultural.

Religious profession asks, like it did of Our Lady, a letting go, a setting aside. The Lord himself claims her in a special way. It brings anxiety; there is a sense of loss. For it is not popular today to take up the vows of religious life. It is not just Debra Ann who lets go and sets aside. Others because of her religious profession are asked to do the same. We can be assured that the Lord repays bountifully 30, 60, 100 fold.

If the homily is really Sr. Debra Ann, then I've already spoken too much. She stands as our homily. Sister is the enmeshment of the Sacred Readings. She is the one who carries and will carry the witness, the testimony, of the power of Christ's love whatever the provident future holds for her.

- Help may be as close as your parish priest, or pastor, and a shared faith is a bonus.
- The local hospital, community health center, churches and some funeral homes sponsor group bereavement support at no cost.
- In private counseling it may take a while to find a provider that you are comfortable with so don't be discouraged.
- You must be honest with yourself and the counselor about feelings, regrets, etc.
- No one, not the best counselor, can do your grief work for you but they can help you find a path to recovery.
- Medication can help but it's not an answer for the long haul.
- Don't let anyone tell you not to cry! Allow yourself the release that comes with tears and remember Jesus weeping when told His friend had died.
- The very best therapy is helping someone else.

Autumn can be a poignant season for those who mourn and each leaf that floats gracefully to the ground is a reminder of how fragile is our hold on life. But just as Jesus wept for Lazarus (John 11:35) He weeps for us... and with us: He knows our pain. Our hope, comfort, and our strength come through Him. Email your thoughts: kyboones2@hotmail.com

St. Mary Elementary Bids Goodbye to "Miss Maria"

By Lori Meredith

PADUCAH, Ky. - The students of St. Mary Elementary bid a fond farewell to Maria Stuckenborg in a special ceremony attended by Fr. Pat Reynolds, Pastor of St. Thomas More and the St. Mary School system, Mr. Jim Mattingly, Owensboro Diocese Superintendent of Schools, parents, and friends.

"Miss Maria" received many good wishes and tokens of appreciation for her years of dedication and service to the school and its students. In recognition of her leadership and selfless service she was welcomed into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. She was presented with a check representing donations from the staff and families to help her enjoy her trip to France with the group led by Fr. Tony Shonis to visit the sites associated with St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal. Each class gave her cards, hand flowers and pictures along with lot of hugs.



48 St. Mary Elementary kindergarten children traced their hands on colored construction paper, cut them out, pasted them on pipe cleaners and put them in the decorated flowerpot as their gift to "Miss Maria." Photo by Lori Meredith

She also received 2 baseball caps; one with the UK logo and the other the U of L logo. Not surprising to those who know her, she chose to wear the U of L cap.

Maria started working at St. Thomas More as the secretary for the parish in 1977 and a year later became the secretary at St. Mary Elementary School for the next 28 years. "I began working when the last of my 4 children entered school to get out of the house but when my husband died in 1980 I needed to work. The Social Security check that the kids got just wasn't enough for us to make it. and even with my check we had to do a lot of planning to get by. I have been very lucky in my life; you have to work twice as hard to be both mother and father but my kids all turned out great. I have many really good friends and I love my job. it is something different everyday. You have to love kids to work at a school. You can be having a bad day and a student can come up and give you a hug and say, 'I love you,' and everything changes. As the secretary I get to know all of the students, not just those in one classroom. The best thing about being here is that it is having an extended family. You feel like you can call on these people whenever you need someone. I will always carry my memories with me. One incident I will never forget happened on one day I was coming to work and a truck was blocking the driveway as the parents were dropping off their children and causing a big traffic jam. I came into the office fussing and complaining about the stupid person that had left the truck in the way. Fr. Henry Weider came through the door and said, "It's my truck." I was so embarrassed." Maria continued, "I am looking forward to retirement and traveling and where ever the Good Lord sends me. I am looking forward to the trip to France; the donation from the parents and kids for my trip was wonderful."

Owensboro Catholic High Class of 1961 45th Reunion
Saturday, September 16, 2006, Cookout @ Linda and Charles Kamuf, 3428 Monticello Drive, Owensboro, KY
Time: 6:00 - ? Cost: \$20 per person, Remit to Judy Higdon, 2412 Ford Ave. Owensboro, KY 42301. For food count purposes - payment must be made no later than September 4, 2006. For more information: Margaret Moorman - 684-4686 or Judy Higdon - 689-9888

Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz



"God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in the furnace, He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them." (Wis. 3: 5-6)

This man's story contains dramatic events sufficient for several plays. Author and actor Leonardo Defilippis (also stars in and produced Therese the movie) has brilliantly condensed a wide-ranging and heroic life into a gripping drama which climaxes in the story of Maximilian Kolbe's martyrdom at Auschwitz. In this ninety-minute, one man portrayal, Defilippis brings to life key characters from the life and times of the saint, easily yet dramatically slipping from one role into the other and alternating between the good and evil.

MAXIMILIAN: SAINT OF AUSCHWITZ

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2006 at 7:30 pm, RiverPark Center, 101 Daviess Street, Owensboro, KY 42303

Admission: Adults \$18, Students \$8, Children 12 & under Free

For tickets call River Park Center Box Office at 270-687-2787
For more information call St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Bookstore at 270-689-9485

Sponsored by - St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Book Store
- Marian Shrine Committee of Owensboro

Ministry of Today's Catechist

Sponsored by Harcourt Religion Publishers

Friday-Saturday

November 3-4

Workshop directed by Brian Lemoi

Diocesan director of Evangelization and Lifelong Faith Formation in St. Petersburg, Florida. MA in Catholic Education Leadership.



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They are the ones to whom we give the awesome responsibility of passing on the faith, to adults as well as children. We understand that those whose hearts prompt them to say "yes" and step forward as catechists are indeed responding to a call from God. Therefore, it's essential now and then for catechists to pause and consider how they are living out that vocation.

This workshop is for those working in elementary, junior high, high school, youth ministry, adult ministry, RCIA, or any other level of catechesis.

The cost to attend is \$100 (includes room and meals) or \$80 for commuters. To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org


Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

A Profile In Faith

Charlie Hardesty: "Be More Intentional About Sharing Faith"



Charlie Hardesty sharing a part of his faith journey at a Presbyteral Day meeting April 25, 2006, at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Staff Photo

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Charlie Hardesty, Youth Minister for Holy Name Parish in Henderson, shared his story with the April 25 workshop about Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry. He grew up as a Catholic in Madisonville, which used to brag at being the largest town in the area without a Catholic Church.

"I was not thrilled being at church as a kid," Charlie said. "In third grade I was an altar server. I was doing something in church and I felt so important. I was in the altar server community, summer trips; I was a CCD kid, the classroom setting. All that just stopped around 6th grade until Confirmation, so from age 12 to 16 - nothing in church!

"Kids in other churches had strong group experiences that made changes in them. I was drawn to something deeply spiritual, but I was just not getting it in those years of my life. Mom tried to keep my brother and me in the church; I was drawn to other experiences outside the Catholic Church. My most significant Christian first time faith experience of

encountering Jesus did not happen in a Catholic Church.

"I got involved in the Methodist Church youth group in town. Camping at Loucon, that's the place where I identified my faith, but not a church. I wasn't being grounded very well. I didn't think that youth ministry was in the Catholic Church, and I wanted then to be a Methodist youth minister or something in that church.

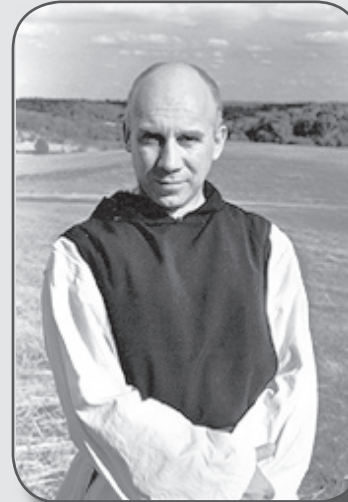
"My Mom didn't give up. She made sure I went to Mass on Ash Wednesday in Louisville. I got online to find a church, and discovered that Louisville's Our Lady of Lourdes parish was only a block away from where I lived.

"I walked in that Church on Ash Wednesday, ... and it was home! In time, I felt called by God to volunteer for something at Our Lady of Lourdes parish. As I did that, I came to see a long line of doors opening for me to come back to the Catholic Church. I got into youth ministry. At Loucon, I met Steve Angrisano and his music. In talking with him, I found out that he, too, was a youth minister and a Catholic. I said, 'Hey, man, there are two of us!' Along about that time, I met Melinda (Prunty), and heard the talk about Camp Dreaming, and Fr. Jason McClure called to ask me to go to Youth Ministry activities. In all these events, I can see the intervention of the Holy Spirit; it all looks like an accident, and feels as if it may have all been by chance. But I got slapped by the Holy Spirit! What I was doing was not home; it just didn't feel like home. I am so thankful to those Methodist folks who helped train me in youth ministry, though.

"And I still have one big question: 'How come my most spiritual experience in life in those teenage years was not in my Catholic parish, had to happen somewhere else?' From the 7th to the 9th grade I was clueless, and there was nothing for me there. Now, in my mind foremost as I serve at Holy Name Church is the thought, 'Keep kids tied to the Church so that no kid can say at Holy Name that my most significant spiritual experience occurred somewhere else.'

"If you're not tied to the Sacraments, to Confession, to the Eucharist, you're gonna miss something. Be more intentional about how we share our faith and our ministry."

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



Friday-Sunday

November 17-19

Retreat directed by
Rev. Dan Kenneth Phillips



Mount Saint Joseph
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Using the books and journals of Trappist Monk Thomas Merton, we will study solitude and silence and discover God's ability to touch our lives in unique ways. The cost of this retreat is \$150 (includes room for two nights and meals) or \$105 for commuters.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM

This program, which begins Monday, October 9, consists of eight weekly sessions held quarterly over a two-year period (2006-2008). The training will take place at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center in rural Maple Mount, Ky. Participants receive intense training, practice and supervision.

Hurry - registration ends soon!



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

To register or for more information, call Kathy McCarty

270-229-0200

E-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org • www.msjcenter.org



Saint Sebastian Faith Community Joined Hands To Build New Church

By Norma Blankenship

Calhoun, Ky. - There is an old saying "It is an ill wind that blows nobody good." At first, the tornado that blew through Calhoun on January 30, 2002, seemed to be an "ill wind," but after cleaning up the debris and having a chance to catch our breaths, the members of St. Sebastian parish came to believe that while protecting citizens of Calhoun from harm, God had handed us an opportunity to make something good come out of that storm. We were going to build a new church, a real church, not a cobbled-up skating rink. The old church had served us well for over fifty years, but it was time for a change.

This new church building would be the third one since the parish was organized in 1858. The first church building was in downtown Calhoun and dedicated in 1871. Fr. Paul Volk oversaw its construction. In 1952, in order to open a school, the parish bought a former skating rink. This building had space for a church, classrooms, and living quarters for the teachers, and it served us well for over 50 years.

Then at 10:30 pm, January 30, 2002, a tornado came through Calhoun and damaged all four buildings in the parish complex. The storm ripped concrete blocks from the front part of the church and dropped them through the roof very near the altar, where Bishop McRaith and Fr. Pete Hughes had concluded Confirmation only two hours earlier. The roof was lifted off the walls, shifted several inches, and dropped down. The classrooms and parish offices were destroyed. The Rectory was damaged but repairable, as was a small building that was being converted into office space. Another building housing the pre-school was rendered unsafe. The church and parish hall were damaged but usable. Religious Education classes had to meet elsewhere as did the pre-school. Cleanup began immediately. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike helped.

Planning for the new church was a long process. There were many meetings of the building committee, meetings with the Diocesan building committee (We wanted to do this right!), meetings with our Parish Council, meetings with architects, meetings with potential contractors and vendors, and meetings with the parish. The women of the parish held meetings to plan the kitchen. Fr. Pete insisted that the women do the planning and wouldn't let any man put in his two cents worth.

In the meantime, the lot just east of the old church became available. The unoccupied house on it was destroyed. We were able to buy the lot, and planned to build the new church on it. This saved money because we could remain in the old church until the new one was completed. The new location permitted a lovely view of the church from Highway 81.

Construction started in the spring of 2004. Every Sunday, members of the parish checked on the progress of the builders. There were plenty of sidewalk superintendents. We had the usual setbacks that come with any building endeavor. But we trudged on to completion.

Now, we had to find a way to pay for our new church. The insurance money was only a small part of the budget. The parish held raffles, fish fries, and silent auctions. Many parishioners made three-year



Artwork portraying Jesus with the woman at the well greets people entering St. Sebastian Church, Calhoun, Ky. Staff Photo



A view of Saint Sebastian Church today. Staff Photo

pledges. The young people collected aluminum cans and pennies for the steeple. The pennies were put in a pink piggy bank named Pauly Pigg. The Extension Society featured Saint Sebastian, Calhoun, Ky. in the May, 2005 issue. The response from that was so good that the Society gave more than the original grant. Donations came from all over the world. St. Sebastian's in Okinawa, Japan sent us a generous donation of \$2,000. Fr. Pete went up in a cherry picker in order to take a picture of the new building along with the parish members standing in the courtyard. It was included in our letter of thanks to the other St. Sebastian's. Another church that meets in a skating rink sent a donation along with a letter saying that they thought that they were the only parish to meet in a skating rink. One of the first donations came from Bethel Baptist Church near Beech Grove. Years ago, their church was damaged by a tornado, and St. Sebastian had sent a donation. A church from near Chicago came on a bus tour to see St. Sebastian's and made a donation. Several Catholic residents of Calhoun contributed money. The pews for the new church were donated, as were all the stained glass windows. The rest of the money came from a diocesan loan.

From the beginning, the community showed its support. The residents of Calhoun seemed excited about the new church as the parish was. Immediately after the tornado, Calhoun United Methodist Church offered their Sunday School rooms for St. Sebastian's use on Wednesday. The Methodist Church also took in our pre-school. St. Sebastian's showed their gratitude by treating them to a dinner in St. Sebastian's new parish hall. Here are just a few of the people who worked very hard to make our dreams come true: David Scott, Matt Hayden, Jamie Durbin, Judy Sallee, Mike Sallee, Paul J. Logsdon, Mike Vollman, Lee Edwards, Betty Logsdon, Jerry Hayden, Pat Bickett, Norma Blankenship, Lance Green, Alvin Bickett, Betty Bickett, Bob Simon, Linny Scott, Elaine Fulkerson,

Inevitably, in thanking all those who contributed time, talent, and prayers, someone will be omitted. If that happens, please know that we are just as grateful to you as we are to those who known are to us. Besides, God knows who you are. That's the most important thing.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and worship with us.

Father Pete Hughes added a few thoughts about the new church: "One thing that stands out in my mind about the tornado was that during Confirmation, the bishop spoke about the rushing wind of the Holy Spirit. On Thursday, I called the Bishop to tell him about the tornado (no one in Owensboro even knew at that point about the tornado). I told the Bishop that the next time he gave the speech about the the rushing wind of the Holy Spirit, to cool it, as the Holy Spirit came and we were gone with the wind.

"It was is Feb., 2003, I think, that we got the \$60,000 from the Catholic Extension Society, and a few months later, they sent another \$10,000 because the response to an article about us in their *Extension* magazine was so overwhelming. When the Bishop came in 2005 for Confirmation, he brought us the news of the money from the base in Japan.

Continued on page 25

Saint Sebastian Faith Community

(Continued from page 24)

“A group came from Chicago - a Catholic Woman’s group that makes an annual mission trip to an area that they had read about in The Catholic Extension Society’s *Extension Magazine*. We also got a donation from a church in Baton Rouge, LA right after Hurricane Katrina.

“Other memories are: a kindergarten child who on the last day of school played Bingo and won money, said that her church needed a roof, and that she was going to give her \$52 to the church. Then there was the girl who had her sweet 16 birthday and told her friends that she did not need anything, but if they did wanted to do something, they could give a gift to the church in her name. And then there was the couple who got married, and gave the money raised from the Bridal dance to the Church. Another child wrote me a letter asking if she could collect pennies for the steeple, and turned in over 300 dollars. We remember the high school youths who collected aluminum cans to help pay for the steeple; today that they have raised over \$1,000.

“On the night of the tornado,” Fr. Pete wrote in an e-mail, “I had planned on going to bed early since I had to get up early for a Mass in Owensboro. The distant rumbling of thunder and rain caused the power to go out, so I thought that I would just lie down and wait for the power to get restored, set the alarms, and get some sleep. I listened to the wind, and every now and then, it would howl. Occasionally things would pelt the windows, but the wind became stronger, and there was more noise. When I heard the train noise that people warn you about, I ran from the bedroom to the bathroom at the back of the rectory. I could hear the screeching of the wind and the breaking of glass. At first, I felt a breeze, thinking that the wind had broken a window, but there was no broken window. I do remember seeing the living room carpet flutter in the wind. I can remember looking out the back door after the wind died down, but was not able to see anything due to the mud and grass that was plastered over the screen door. I slowly opened the screen door and looked out and wondered where all the boxes had come from in the parking lot behind the rectory, only to find out later that they were not boxes, but parts of the upper wall that was blown away. The garage door was gone and was part of the front of the preschool. I then checked on my neighbors, the Dames, but they were in the basement of their home, and then slowly I could see flashlights and hear neighbor calling to neighbor to see if they were all right. In the midst of all that destruction, no one was injured.”



At left, a view of a Marian Grotto and a Memorial to the Unborn in a small grove behind St. Sebastian Church in Calhoun, Ky.

At right, a panoramic view of the Saint Sebastian Church campus. Staff Photos



A view of the interior of Saint Sebastian Church, Calhoun, Ky. from Fr. Peter Hughes' Silver Jubilee on June 4th, 2006. Staff Photo

Building For St. Sebastian: Growing for GOD

O God, Almighty Father, you gather this parish church in Jesus Christ, your Son. Here, you call us to be a priestly people, a household of faith, a temple of your Holy Spirit, a light shining from the hilltop. As with faithful generations past, you now send us to labor in the vineyard of the Kingdom. Grace our minds and hearts and hands with your Spirit to do the work you place before us. So that, building on the one foundation which is Christ, we may accomplish your will, the service to which you have called us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom all good things come. Amen.



Window in Eucharistic Chapel of Saint Sebastian Church. Staff Photo



Hopkinsville Families Dedicated Themselves to the Holy Family

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - In March, 2006, 28 young people from Sts. Peter & Paul parish here celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. After Reconciliation, the children renewed the baptismal promises made for them at baptism, and then they and their families dedicated themselves to the Holy Family.

Remembering the story of the Prodigal Son, children received a coat of the finest cloth, which had been prepared for them by their parents.



Dominic Piffko wore his elaborate coat proudly!



David and Jennifer Folz, blessing their daughter, Emma, at the baptismal font.

Glen and Michelle Roeder and family at their family dedication service. Submitted by Franki Durbin



Grandmother Pat Puckett and mother Julie Crawford mark Jeremy Crawford with the sign of the cross.

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Corey and Nicholas Caudle pledging their family to follow the example of the Holy Family.



Spiritual Direction Training

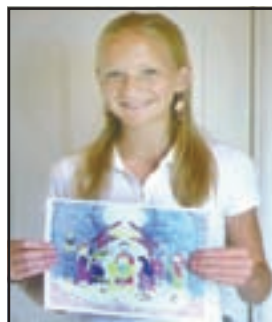
Thirteen graduates of the Spiritual Direction Training Program 2004-2006 received certificates at a liturgy at Mount Saint Joseph on July 28. This institute prepares persons for the ministry of spiritual direction, as well as enhancing the skills of experienced spiritual directors, in the spirit of Ursuline founder Saint Angela Merici. The two-year program consists of four weekly training sessions each year. The 2006-2008 program begins October 9 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.

Celebrating in the photo at left are participants and team members. Row 1 from left: Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, and Sister Elaine Burke, OSU, coordinating team members; Terry Harvey, Cordova, Tenn.; Carnie Harmon, Antioch, Tenn.; Rufina Bush, Antioch, Tenn.; Sister Marietta Wethington, OSU, coordinating team. Row 2: Sister Ann McGrew, OSU, coordinating team; Sister Rita Dressman, OSU, Louisville; Sister Pam Mueller, OSU, Maple Mount, Ky.; Michele Thomas, Ph.D., coordinating team. Row 3: Ann Lang, Antioch, Tenn.; Sister Mary Ellen Backes, OSU, Springfield, Ill.; Karen Siciliano, Springfield, Ill. Row 4: Father John Elmer, OFM, Conv., Floyd Knobs, Ind.; Michael Ziegler, Memphis; Larry Devocelle, Springfield, Ill.; Judy Gray, Memphis; Martha Little, Owensboro.

For information about the Spiritual Direction Training Program 2006-2008, contact Kathy McCarty, 270-229-0200, ext. 413, kmccarty@maplemount.org.

Holy Name Student's Art Selected For Advent E-greeting

Maddy Fritz, a recent graduate of Holy Name School, Henderson, Ky., received notification that her artwork was selected from among thousands of entries to be used as one of 24 Holy Childhood Association (HCA) 2006 Christmas Cards. Her winning entry will be displayed at www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org and featured as an "e-greeting" during Advent 2006. HNS Photo



Father Frank Ruff, in white vestments, with Padre Marcelo, the parish priest in Chiapas, as they were about to lead a procession. Submitted Photo

Mission in Chiapas, Mexico

By Paul Witte

The Tzotziles are native Mayans who live in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. In June Father Frank Ruff, parish priest of St. Susan in Elkton and Sts. Mary and James in Guthrie traveled with other Catholics from Clarksville, Tennessee and from Kentucky to show friendship and solidarity with the people of Chiapas and to build a shower stall. Ten days isn't much time to do a project, but because of the organizing done beforehand by university professor Matthew Kenny from Immaculate Conception parish in Clarksville, they achieved their goal.

Father Frank wrote a diary about his experiences with the Tzotzils, a people still very attached to their ancient indigenous traditions. Although they are poor materially, it hasn't always been that way. The Mexican state of Chiapas has a rich history of culture, since it was where the Mayan culture once flourished and enjoyed some prosperity. They still speak their language, and at times Spanish, in the places these gringos went. They were accompanied by a Colombian woman who is a member of St. Susan Parish, Eunice Arevalo, and her task was to translate. Matthew also since he speaks Spanish well. His wife, Marta, is a native of Mexico.

This was the third year that a group from here has visited Chiapas. The purpose for going is not tourism but the gospel. We are all God's creature and brothers and sisters in Christ. There in Mexico many are Catholic, others are Protestant evangelicals, and others follow their traditional indigenous practices. What unites us is God. We want to know God better and unite under God's banner. The trips to Mexico the group has made have enriched them spiritually.

I doubt Father Frank will ever forget his experiences, especially the day the people asked him being a priest to conduct a procession. Of course he doesn't speak Spanish much and no Tzotzil at all, so he had to depend on the Holy Spirit for getting the event started. He was saved, however, when the parish priest finally showed up to take over. Despite the unexpected that occurred, that didn't get Father Frank down. On the contrary, he arrived back in Kentucky full of respect and appreciation for the vigorous faith of the people of Chiapas.

Dutch cardinal, pioneer in ecumenism, dies at 96

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Dutch Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, a driving force behind improved Catholic relations with other Christians and with Jews, died in Denekamp, Netherlands, Aug. 2 at the age of 96.

Pope Benedict XVI offered his prayers for the late cardinal, saying he humbly served Christ and worked tirelessly to fulfill Christ's will that all his followers would be one.

"I give thanks to the Lord for all the work accomplished by the cardinal in ecumenical relations, of which he was an ardent promoter from the beginning of his priesthood and in an eminent way following the Second Vatican Council," the pope said in an Aug. 2 telegram to Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Attracted to the topic of ecumenism while still a seminarian in the 1920s, the cardinal was named the first secretary of the Vatican's office for promoting Christian unity in 1960 and served as president of the office from 1969-1989.

Before, during and after the Second Vatican Council, he also was instrumental in fostering improved relations with Jewish leaders. When the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews was established in 1974, he was appointed president.

Simultaneously, Cardinal Willebrands served as archbishop of Utrecht, Netherlands, in 1975-83 traveling back and forth between his offices at the Vatican and the Netherlands.

Cardinal Willebrands was the oldest member of the College of Cardinals; his death leaves the college with 190 members, 120 of whom are under age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave.

Retired Australian Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, who succeeded Cardinal Willebrands as president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said his predecessor was "the driving force behind Catholic ecumenism" for more than 60 years.

"He was there from the beginning," Cardinal Cassidy told Catholic News Service. "His contributions to Christian unity and to relations with the Jewish people were fundamental.

"He was the key person as far as open-

Cardinal Johannes Willebrands is pictured in an undated file photo. The Dutch prelate, a driving force behind improved Catholic relations with other Christians and with the Jews, died in Denekamp, Netherlands, Aug. 2. He was 96. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano) (Aug. 2, 2006)



ing up relations with the Orthodox churches. He went and personally invited them to come to the (Second Vatican) Council," Cardinal Cassidy said.

"He was able to see how he would like things to be without being pushy when it didn't happen," he said. "He was very Dutch -- very determined. He did not give up easily, which was very important for the work he was doing."

Rabbi David Rosen, president of the International Jewish Committee for Inter-religious Relations, said that it was under Cardinal Willebrands' leadership that "the Catholic-Jewish relationship was institutionalized in a way we take for granted today."

"He was the captain of the Catholic-Jewish ship and steered its significant voyage in the transition from the pontificate of Paul VI to the incredible pontificate of John Paul II," the rabbi said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem.

Msgr. John A. Radano, a Newark, N.J., archdiocesan priest and an official at the Christian unity council, said Cardinal Willebrands was "a Catholic pioneer in ecumenism. The church is indebted to him, and other Christians also recognize that he was instrumental in much of the progress in ecumenism."

Born Sept. 4, 1909, in Bovenkarspel, Netherlands, he studied at the Warmond seminary before being ordained to the priesthood in 1934.

He earned his doctorate in philosophy from the Pontifical Angelicum University in Rome.

Returning to the Netherlands, he served as a chaplain and as a professor of philosophy. In 1946, he was appointed president of the St. Willibrord Association, which promoted ecumenical work in his

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SEPTEMBER-JANUARY 2007

September 2006

- 10 Mount Saint Joseph PICNIC
- 15-17 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 19-22 Runaway Quilters
- 23 Adult Faith Formation Conference
- 27 Sacred and Secular Music of the Middle Ages
- 29-30 McLean County Leadership
- 30 Ministry Formation Program Retreat Day

- 27-29 Catholic Engaged Encounter

November 2006

- 3-4 Ministry of Today's Catechist Workshop
- 4-5 Academy for Young Leaders
- 5-10 International Program for Religious
- 10-12 Mount Hope Weekend
- 16 Watershed Workshop
- 17-18 Thomas Merton Retreat

October 2006

- 3 RiverValley Behavioral Health Staff Day
- 6-8 Marian Retreat with Msgr. Bernard Powers
- 8 New Rosary Walk Dedication
- 9-13 Spiritual Direction Institute No. 2: Week 1
- 14-15 Alanon
- 17 Center Board Meeting
- 18 Kenergy
- 20-21 First Baptist Youth Choir
- 23-27 Priests Retreat

January 2007

- 12-13 St. Joe and Paul/Women's Retreat
- 19-21 Retouvaile
- 17 Center Board Meeting
- 22-26 Spiritual Direction Institute No. 2: Week 2
- 26-27 First Church of God



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homeland.

In a speech in Rome in 1994, he said that after World War II he and some of his friends traveled around Europe looking for other Catholic theologians whose experience of cooperation with other Christians during the war had sparked an interest in the ecumenical movement.

The group of 50 to 60 theologians, known as the Catholic Conference on Ecumenical Questions, informed the Vatican about what they were doing, but did not ask for or receive official permission, he said.

When Pope John XXIII formed the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in 1960, then-Msgr. Willebrands was named secretary, and the majority of the consultants were priests who had participated in the conference meetings.

In a published tribute to Cardinal Willebrands marking his 90th birthday in 1999, the staff of the pontifical council said the cardinal and other secretariat staff members helped draft the Second Vatican Council's documents on ecumenism, religious freedom, relations with non-Christian religions and divine revelation.

Pope Paul VI named him a bishop in 1964 and a cardinal in 1969.

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Building Families Through International Adoption – Part II in a Series

By Nick & Melissa Polites

When we were asked to share our journey of international adoption, so many things pop into my head at one time. First of all, I always think about how the name of our child came to be. We struggled for a long time picking out the right name for our son and finally decided on Caden Emmanuel. Emmanuel was chosen when a friend of ours from church looked at his picture and exclaimed “He’s Emmanuel. Look at him, God is with Us!” Then they range from the flight to Guatemala, seeing and holding MY baby for the first time and getting to see many of his “firsts.” Being there to see my son cut his first tooth, sit up, crawl, and now run and talk and call out for mommy and daddy. Gone, but not forgotten, is that road through infertility that we had to walk to get to be the parents that we are today. For me personally, I had to exhaust all of the scientific options that my morals and my church would allow before pursuing adoption. Hindsight being twenty-twenty, I would love to have that time back, lose those emotional scars and have the thousands of dollars spent on fertility treatment back, but that is not possible. Instead, I get wonderful laughter everyday from my son, “I love you Mommy,” and hugs and kisses from that beautiful little boy whom God placed in our lives. So much of the beginning of our marriage was filled with waiting, shots, tests, surgeries and even more painful disappointments, but the prize at the end has been worth enough to go through that a million times more.

Our journey to international adoption began before we were even married. Deep in my heart, I had always wanted to be a parent, but I also knew that I would probably have difficulty conceiving. In my junior year at Brescia University, Martha Hagan spoke to my marriage and family class about the wonderful gift of international adoption. I kept all of the information that she provided us. The day it came to be that we would be pursuing adoption, I pulled those papers out and remembered the joy in her life that she shared with us when talking about her daughter, and I knew that it was something we needed to find out more about. We initially tried domestic adoption, but after two failed attempts, we decided to internationally adopt from Guatemala. The reasons we chose Guatemala over other countries was very simple. Guatemala was a very easy process, the children from Guatemala were typically younger than from other countries when they came home and very healthy, it was an easy travel schedule, and the children are beautiful! We began our process and within 6 months, we were on a plane to pick up our son! The day we got the call that we had been chosen to be the parents of a boy born on June 8, 2004 in Zacapa, Guatemala is one that is etched in our memories for all time. We were both home from work due to the funeral of Ronald Reagan and the phone rang. I answered the phone and started crying. The closest thing I could find was a used envelope and scribbled through my tears “BOY” “JUNE 8” and “6 LBS.” Nick, not knowing what was going on, was very nervous. Because we were so early in the adoption process, his initial thought was something was wrong with the adoption. I handed him the phone and had our caseworker tell him the wonderful news. We immediately got in the car and drove to the adoption agency to see the picture of our son for the first time. He was ours and, after years of waiting, we were finally parents.

The next five months were a total blur. We had a nursery to finish getting ready, still more paperwork, and waiting and hoping everything went smoothly which all too quickly turned to travel plans and finally a baby bag to pack. Some parents have extraordinary birthing experiences to share about their child. We are quick to share our “labor” story too. A flight on a holiday weekend in the winter to a country where we didn’t speak the language to be handed a child whom we did not know and who did not know us, who had already bonded with a wonderful woman who had cared for him day and night for five and a half months. When we opened the door and saw that beautiful smile on that little boy dressed in Bob the Builder, all of the memories of the “labor pains” were becoming a



Nick and Melissa Polites are the proud parents of Caden, 2. Submitted photo

distant memory. We went to Guatemala City and brought our smiling son home to the United States on Thanksgiving Day. And we had so much to be thankful for! Seeing all of our family surrounding us at the airport gates and pulling back the blanket that my husband had been brought home in from the hospital as a baby to show everyone the newest member of our family is to this day breathtaking.

The last 21 months have been a whirlwind! Caden has recently celebrated his two year birthday, is learning to sing his ABC’s and count to 10, loves to visit his friends and family, and his favorite food is corn on the cob. I often think about his birth mother and the gift that she gave to our family; she made us whole. I want her to know how loved our son is every day of his life, how there are so many people in his life that think he is the world, and how much joy he brings us everyday. We are so lucky to be surrounded by so many people who loved us and supported us in our adoption journey. I have said many times that a child usually comes into a family out of the love of two people, but our son came to us out of the love of a community. We were very lucky to have the support of our church community of St. Ann as well as Union County as a whole. I know that God put Caden in our lives for a reason, and that reason is different every single day. It is amazing how many times we have been told he looks just like his dad and how many of our mannerisms he is picking up as he gets older.

This is just the beginning of our story. Our family is more complete but we are not done yet! We will definitely pursue adoption again. Maybe next time we will venture to another country, perhaps China, Haiti, or El Salvador where the country’s conditions have left so many children waiting for families. We have seriously talked more about trying domestic adoption again, now that our hearts are a little less tender. We are not sure where God is going to lead our family, but we do know that we are a family now, and that is an answered prayer.

Editor’s Note: Nick and Melissa are the proud parents of Caden, born in Zacapa, Guatemala. Nick is a Therapeutic Child Support Professional for River Valley Behavioral Health and Melissa is a Case Manager with River Valley Behavioral Health. For more information about their infertility and adoption journey, please feel free to contact them at melissapolites@bellsouth.net or contact them at 270-389-9647.

For more information on either international or domestic adoption, contact Catholic Charities Adoptions at 270-852-8328.

Bishop argues for commuting death sentences in South Dakota
RAPID CITY, S.D. (CNS) -- In an opinion piece published Aug. 19 in the Rapid City Journal daily newspaper, Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City asked Gov. Mike Rounds to commute two convicted killers’ sentences to life imprisonment. Elijah Page, 24, is scheduled to be executed the week of Aug. 28 for his part in the 2000 beating, torture and killing of Chester Poage during a robbery. Briley Piper, 25, also awaits execution for the crime. A third man, Darrell Hoadley, 26, was sentenced to life in prison. Bishop Cupich wrote that, clearly, criminals must be held accountable for their actions. “But let’s be honest,” he said. “The execution of convicted criminals is an act of violence. It is an act of violence in which -- with our representative form of government -- we all participate.” The only way to break society’s cycle of violence is to uphold the dignity of all human life, Bishop Cupich said.



Front row: Jennifer Ferguson, Fr. Terry Devine, Nancy French, Roger Ruark, Rebecca Buckman; back row: Lynell Greenwell, Linda Gough, Rose Fenwick, Jennifer Buckman, Linda Ruark, and Jerry Floyd. Submitted by Linda Gough

UNIONTOWN, Ky. - Cancer has affected us all in one way or another. With this in mind, sixteen members of St. Agnes Parish here joined together to form a team for the Union County Relay for Life. By selling candy bars, cookies, and asking for donations, the team raised money for the American Cancer Society. At 7:00 p.m., the Walk of the Survivors started the night of continuous activities. Through the Luminary service at 9:00 p.m. and continuing until the early morning, these dedicated people walked, performed talent acts, joined in many activities. With the theme, "Don't monkey around, swing for a cure," the team was awarded the best campsite.

Lisa Ferguson and Jennifer Buckman performed in the talent show and won first place with their rendition of "Gitarzan." Rebecca Buckman dressed as "Elvis" and represented her team during the Elvis lap around the track. Anyone who has been touched by cancer knows the need for a cure. It takes much work and many hands, but is worth every effort that we can put into raising money for the American Cancer Society. The team is already looking forward to next year and planning to be very active in the fundraising efforts.

New adult catechism talks about U.S. Catholics who made a difference

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In the new U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, those not very familiar with American Catholic history may find some interesting stories about U.S. Catholics who contributed to that history. Each of the book's 36 chapters begins with a brief biographical sketch. Some of them are about historical figures known worldwide such as Moses, Jesus, St. Augustine, St. Thomas More and Blessed Pope John XXIII. Others are American saints, well known to most American Catholics, such as Sts. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Katharine Drexel, John Neuman and Frances Cabrini. But there are still other American Catholics, not declared saints, whose names could serve as a test of how well acquainted a person is with U.S. Catholic history. Among these are: Father Isaac Hecker, an adult convert to the faith who in 1858 founded the Paulist Fathers, and Orestes Brownson, a 19th-century Unitarian minister whose religious searching led him to the Catholic Church and a long career as one of the most prominent and influential Catholic laymen in the country.



Every Quarter Helps Feed Malnourished Children In Disadvantaged Countries

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church's grades 3, 4 & 5 Bible School class collected quarters for the Feed My Starving Children Program, resulting in 334 hot, nutritious meals being provided to malnourished children in disadvantaged countries such as Haiti, Tanzania, Peru, Jamaica, Pakistan, and Liberia. Lupita Soto Garcia was the top contributor. Contributing class members pictured are in the front row, T.J. Gledhill, Kiah Gledhill, Foster Desmond; and in the second row, Austin Boarman, Micaela Thomas, Amethyst Burnette, and Nate Payne. Also contributing were Milton Sheets and teachers Kim Vance and Pam Hayes (who are so proud of their class!!) Submitted by Pam Hayes

Bowling Green Knights Help Member Family With Wheel Chair Ramp

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - The Knights of Columbus Council #1315 and the Patriotic 4th Deghree K of C Assembly # 2231 built a wheel chair ramp at the home of one of its members who recently became wheel chair dependent - Harold West, M.D.

Dr. West's wife, Stephanie, is the principal caregiver, and this ramp has assisted her immensely in transporting Dr. Hal. The ramp was completed this past May at their residence in Bowling Green.

Doctor Harold West is shown here with his wife Stephanie who is using the new wheelchair ramp built at their home in Bowling Green by local Knights of Columbus. Submitted by Robert Graham



Secular Order Carmelites Celebrate

By Margaret Kelley, O.C.D. S. President, Community of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Saturday June 1, The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites "Community of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament" met to celebrate with Jane Greenwell, Jasper In., Marilyn Clements, Owensboro, Ky., and Melanie Neel from Paducah, Ky.

Jane Greenwell completed her period of Aspirancy and meeting all other requirements, was admitted to a more serious period of formation that usually lasts for two years leading up to the first promises. Jane was given the Scapular which is an outward symbol of membership in the Order and the sign that Mary is both Mother and Model on this journey.

Melanie Neel also completed a period of formation, and made her First Promises to follow the evangelical counsels and to live in the spirit of the beatitudes for a period of three years. In the last three years of initial formation, an aspirant does a deeper study of prayer, the Scriptures, the Documents of the Church, the Saints of the Order and formation in the apostolate of the Order

Marilyn Clements completed the three years also and made her Definitive Promises to live the evangelical counsels and the spirit of the beatitudes for life.

The Rites of Admission to formation and of Making the Promises were held during the Celebration of the Eucharist at the Carmel Home chapel. Father Ben Luther, our new Spiritual Assistant, presided at the Celebration. He wore a white stole.

After the Gospel and a brief homily on the Magnificat, Jane, Melanie & Marilyn were called forward and Father Ben asked Jane, "What do you ask of this Community of the Secular Order of Carmel?" Jane replied, "I ask to be admitted to the period of formation in the Community of the Order of Discalced Carmelites." Father Ben accepted her petition in these words: "The Church and the Order of Carmel accept and confirm your petition. May the Lord grant you to persevere in your purpose, so that, when the time comes, you may make your promise for the glory of God and the good of all the Church." All answered, "Amen." Assisted by the Director of Formation, Kathryn Crowe, Father Ben clothed Jane with the large brown ceremonial Scapular, which is the "*signum habitus*," or token of the habit of the Carmelite Order while saying, "Receive this scapular. It is the habit of the Order of Carmel. Wear it worthily by imitating Mary in the service of Jesus Christ."

Melanie and Marilyn asked that they be allowed to make their Promises in these words: "We ask to be admitted to the Promise in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. The experience of the period of formation has confirmed us in the certitude that the Lord is calling us to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world in union with Mary, Mother of God, and under her protection, as Secular members of Carmel." Father Ben answered, "This Community accepts your petition, and it accompanies you with its prayers. May the Holy Spirit confirm in you the work which he has begun." All answered, "Amen."

Next, there was an examination of the Candidates. Father Ben asked a series of questions on their wishes to embrace the evangelical life as set forth in the Rule of Life of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. The Candidates answered: "Yes, I do," to all questions. Father Ben then invoked the Divine Assistance in these words: "Look with favor, Lord, on these, your servants. Fill their hearts with your Spirit of Love so that by the help of your grace, they may persevere faithfully in the life they propose to live."

Once the prayer was ended, Melanie and Marilyn made their Promises with this formula. "I (Melanie-Marilyn,) inspired by the Holy Spirit, in response to God's call, sincerely promise to the Superiors of the Order of the Teresian Carmel, and to you, my brothers and sisters, to tend toward evangelical perfection in the spirit of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, obedience, and of the Beatitudes, according to the Rule of the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites, (Melanie) for three years and (Marilyn)for the rest of my life. Confidently entrust this, my Promise, to the Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel."



From left, are members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, Marilyn Clements, Melanie Neel, Jane Greenwell, and Kathryn Crowe, with Father Ben Luther, also a Carmelite. Submitted photo

Father Ben then confirmed their commitment of the promise and wished them the grace and peace of the Lord. All present congratulated them, and welcomed them with joy.

Marilyn was presented with a copy of the New Testament and a Crucifix to be worn around the neck as an emblem of membership from her Community, as is our local custom. And then Father Ben continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

After Mass, everyone gathered in the Social Hall where the celebrations continued. Everyone brought a favorite dish for the special occasion, and also to welcome Father Ben Luther. Our Community is doubly blessed to have him as our Spiritual Director as he is also a Carmelite. We got to know him better and after the meal, he shared with us a lot about his life. We all love him already and look forward to great spiritual growth and blessings under his guidance.

Father Joseph Rhodes, our former Spiritual Director made a short appearance in his wheel chair. He has been with us from the beginning, but had to retire because of his health. We will miss him (and his jokes) very much and hope that he can visit us often. Father Rhodes is also a Secular Order member. Even though the clergy may belong to the Secular Order, the great majority of its members are lay men and women, and it is they who give the Order its secular character.

Anyone interested in learning more about our Community or a way of living a more spiritual life is welcome to attend one of our meetings. Contact Margaret Kelley 729-0504 or Kathryn Crowe or Carmel Home.

Life Chain 2006

In its annual event, on Sunday October 1, 2006, LIFE CHAIN participants will again display Pro-Life messages in more than 1100 North American cities and towns for one hour from 2:30 to 3:30 in each time zone. Firmly committing to the sanctity of human life from its conception, participants will stand silently and pray while holding a sign. In Owensboro, the locations are along Frederica Street from downtown to the Town Square Mall, with designated areas for individual churches and organizations.

LIFE CHAIN is fully supported by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Cardinal Roger Mahony and Bishop Carl Fisher of the Los Angeles Diocese have participated in the Los Angeles LIFE CHAIN. To volunteer to assist in the promotion of LIFE CHAIN 2006 or for further information, please contact Gerry Fanning at (270)683-1760 or ger@anningkmail.com.

Fired up about Jesus

By Faye Klee

BROWNS VALLEY, Ky. - Have you ever walked into a room where lots of kids are singing? Dancing? Having fun, regardless if they know the words or not? Well that's what happened when we put 32-48 kids together for 5 nights at St. Anthony's Vacation Bible School, the week of July 17-21. Our kids were "Fired up about Jesus" at the fiesta; there they sang, made crafts, visited Hot Bible Adventures, made and had snacks, enjoyed watching Chadder, played games and sang more songs.

Some of the crafts included maracas, fish sun catchers, amigo bags, and picture frames. At Hot Bible Adventures, the students heard stories about Lazarus, threw a fishing net, crawled through a cave, and found out about Jesus. Making snacks was a favorite for each child. Each snack revolved around the theme and the Bible verse for the night so that the "Jesus stuff" got stained in their memory. If you haven't heard about Chadder, ask any VBS child. He is a tall, fuzzy chipmunk who tries to do what's right even as the "bad guy" tries to stop him. At Grande Games, the youth group entertained the kids in relays, cooperative events, and very hot activities to teach those Bible verses.

As I said earlier, the kids sang (on and off key) with much enthusiasm every night. But at mass the singing was a definite highlight as they "fired up" their voices for Fr. Mike. Almost every child was able to be involved in mass even if it was just holding a sign! Following a very participating mass was a great fiesta accompanied by a wonderful slide show. The families all had a fabulous time. A super service project was also done during the week to collect paper supplies for Centre Latino. Thanks to all at St. Anthony's for getting "Fired up about Jesus;" let's keep that fire burning!



Photos by Faye Klee of St. Anthony parishioners and pastor, Father Mike Clark Fired Up About Jesus at Vacation Bible School.

Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration Held in Owensboro

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Over 300 people from both urban and rural communities attended the Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration on August 6, 2006 at the Owensboro Sportscenter to enjoy food, fellowship, acknowledge the link to the land we all have, and honor God for His generous gifts. This event, held on the first Sunday of August each year, is organized by the Rural Life Committee for the Diocese of Owensboro led by Rick Kamuf, Cindy Taylor, Mike Mullican, Charlotte Paez, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Elliott, Sissy Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Mike McCarty, Wayne Mattingly, Tom Curtsinger, Paul Scherm, Gene Schadler and his son George Schadler, Danny Ebelhar, Jerry Knott, Denny Grant, Bernard Krampe, and many others. This year's event celebrated the contribution women make to agriculture.

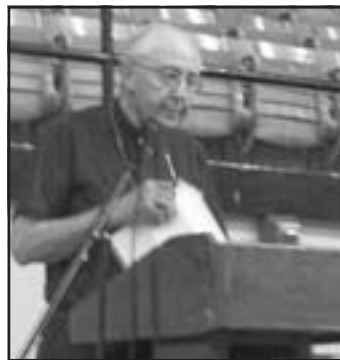
Bishop John McRaith, the former president of the National Catholic Rural Life Committee, welcomed the many guests to the gathering and offered the invocation. Musical entertainment was offered by Molly Troutman from Calhoun, Ky., and Caty Gerteiseh from Philpot, Ky., while those present enjoyed a barbecue chicken dinner, with vegetables locally grown, and some delicious home made desserts. Three speakers addressed the audience on the subject of the importance of women in agriculture: Mrs. Olivia Garcia-Desota from Ohio County; Mrs. Joannie Hayden from Daviess County; and Mrs. Sandra Wood from McLean County.

Mr. Rod Kuegel presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Mrs. Donna Stephen and her son, Ross for the efforts of Joe Stephen, husband and father, who died in November 2005. Joe Stephen was one of the founders of this event, and worked to raise the money necessary each year to make the Rural Life Celebration possible. Joe loved his faith, family, farming, and his friends. His "can do" spirit in health and illness was an inspiration to all who knew him.



Farmworkers Efrain Ramos, Jesus Hernandez, Gerardo Madrigal, Eugenio Gomez, Juan Hernandez, Erik Jauregui, and Alex Hernandez posed for Joe Elliott's camera at the Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration on August 6, 2006 at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

In near photo at right, Jim Kamuf talked with Father Paul Powell at Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration on August 6, 2006 at the Owensboro Sportscenter about farming and good clean humor. At far right are William and Bill Brey, father and son family farmers from Whitesville, Ky. Joe Elliott Photos



Bishop John McRaith delivered an address to the Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration on August 6, 2006 at the Owensboro Sportscenter. Joe Elliott Photo



From Left are Brad Ebelhar, Rod Kuegel, and John Kuegel at Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration on August 6, 2006 at the Owensboro Sportscenter. Joe Elliott Photo



Caty Gerteisen, left front, helped provide some of the entertainment for the Fourth Annual Rural Life Celebration on August 6, 2006 at the Owensboro Sportscenter. With her are Gladys, Lisa, Sam, and Michael Gerteisen. Joe Elliott photo



26th Annual Walk For Life Fundraiser

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The 26th Annual Walkfor Life Fundraiser is Saturday, September 9, 2006, beginning at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 4029 Frederica St. Muffins, juice, and registration begin at 9:00 a.m. and the 3-mile walk (with a midpoint break) is at 10:00 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to all those who have \$50 or more in pledges, plus other prizes. People of all ages welcome. All participants must sign a waiver form, regardless of age.

For pledge forms, waivers, and additional information, contact the Right To Life of Owensboro office at 685-4922, or Tina Edge at 691-9912.

A special invitation for our Young Adults! Come celebrate with us!



What do you get when you mix the best of "Saturday Night Live" (rated G, of course) with the rich heritage of our Catholic Faith?
Come and find out!

This one-man, character-changing production has been
Compared to the best of the best 'character-based'
Broadway shows and movies!

Come with your family and friends and see how much fun it can be
to Lighten Up your mind, body and spirit!

If you need to laugh, if you need to plan for your future,
if you need to connect your faith into everyday life...
then Lighten Up! may be just what you have been praying for!

Saint Pius Tenth Parish
Invites You To A

Whole Community Celebration

Two night series (Each night is different...come both nights!)

Oct. 2-3 COME BOTH NIGHTS!

6:47p.m. SHARP!!! (yes, 6:47!)

SUN	MON Oct. 2	TUES Oct. 3	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	✓	✓				

mark your calendars ...set the Tivo...bring your family & friends WITH you...Invite everyone you

Trust us...you will be glad you came! It can change your life!

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 August program beginning with a weekend on August 18-20 call (270) 683-1545 ext.357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com <mailto:dpretrowens@aol.com> or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org <http://www.retrouvaille.org>

Suit against USCCB harms sex abuse prevention, says bishop

SUPERIOR, Wis. (CNS) -- A lawsuit brought against the U.S. Catholic bishops by relatives of a man believed to have been killed by a priest "will only hurt the positive progress we have made" to end clergy sex abuse of minors, said Bishop Raphael M. Fliss of Superior. The suit was filed in a Wisconsin court Aug. 8 against the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and against its member bishops as individuals. It does not ask for monetary damages. It asks for a court injunction to have the bishops release the names and addresses of priests and church personnel who at the least have had accusations of child sex abuse against them deemed credible. It also asks the bishops to release documents that it says could be evidence of a failure by the bishops to report suspected child abuse to law enforcement authorities and documents that could be evidence that child sex abuse took place. "While I am certain their motives are sincere, I believe these actions will only prolong their pain and anger and will hinder our efforts to move forward in providing safe environments for our children and youth," said Bishop Fliss in an Aug. 14 statement.

St. Stephen Cathedral Hosts Western Caribbean Faith Afloat Cruise



By Lois Rutigliano

OWENSBORO, Ky. On June 24, 2006, a group of parishioners from St. Stephen Cathedral and other parishes embarked on a Western Caribbean Cruise adventure we will not soon forget. We boarded the Navigator of the Seas cruise ship in Miami, Fla. and headed for such exotic

ports of call as Labadee, Hispaniola, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel, Mexico. We nicknamed our ship "Faith Afloat," a name Mary Ann O'Bryan came up with while planning the cruise. Fr. John Vaughan, pastor of the Cathedral, went along with us as our cruise Chaplain and celebrated the mass every morning in the ship's chapel for our group and with visitors who happened to come by and join us. It was wonderful to have our very own pastor with us to be our go-between with God as we began each day with joyful song, prayer, God's word, and Fr. Vaughan's wonderful words of wisdom.

Each island was unique and each held God's special thoughts for us to enjoy. In Jamaica we experienced the powerful rush of water pounding down upon us and pouring over us from the spectacular Dunn's River Falls as we joined hands and struggled to climb the rugged slick rocks. With perseverance and the grace of God we all made it to the top. It was exhilarating and a real sense of accomplishment to overcome a small part of the powerful force of nature as the white foam swirled around us after crashing against the rocks and us as it pulled and tugged us in every direction.

Some of the more adventurous type who seemed to thrive on conquering the somewhat risky challenge of nature decided to join Danny Payne's suggestion to shoot the rapids in an inner-tube down the white water river on Grand Cayman island. We had no control over where the fast moving rapids took us or didn't take us. Some of us bounced off the big rocks and kept moving. Others, like our pastor, got hung on a fallen limb along the riverbank that held him in its tangle of branches as if to devour him like a bird of prey. Two natives came to his rescue and freed him from the massive tree branches, which finally relinquished their hold on him, but took a big bite of his shirt in the process.

Most of us continued our exciting journey together and headed for Stingray City to feed and swim in the crystal clear water with these wonderful gentle and graceful creatures. As they glided through the water toward us to be fed and rested on our chest, it was an unforgettable moment to look into their big soulful human like eyes, and to experience the touch of their grainy back and soft velvet-like tummy. Being so close to one of God's creatures was so amazing and somehow very humbling. It was especially unforgettable to kiss and be kissed by this wonderful creature!

Thanks and praise to God for His wonderful thoughts for us! I still have a visual image in my mind's eye of the beautiful lush green foliage, the unique painted scenic beauty of each island with white-sand beaches, crystal clear water with waves crashing in on the beach and slipping away again into its depths with a soft whisper. What secrets did such beauty hold in her depths? As if this wasn't enough, we were blessed with the magnificent sunrises and sunsets and the time of day when water



The St. Stephen Cathedral Parish group on board the Caribbean Faith Afloat Cruise were pastor Fr John Vaughan, Jo Ann Moore, Wilma Baird, Mary Margaret Drury, Jiame Tiu, Eve Tiu, Annie Tiu, Ivy Tiu, Moises & Portia Domingo, Don & Carol Ralph, Doug & Cheryl Hayden, Don & Sharon Speaks, Margie and Ginny Speaks, Archie & Angela Clark, Larry & Cathy Wright, Lottie & Kris Miller, Danny and Rose Ann Payne, Mary Ann O'Bryan, Joe & Nancy Hendricks, Lois Rutigliano (who took the photo) and Robbie Knott (not available for photo)

Cruise Comments: Out Of The Boat

By Rose Ann Payne

We had a fantastic time on our cruise. We really enjoyed our travel group and thank them for helping us celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. Our day started with 8:30 mass and usually ended with a live show on the boat then sharing a drink and conversation with various members of our group. Our days were filled with activities and tours, which included climbing a 600' falls in Jamaica; tubing down a river through a rain forest; swimming with sting-rays; snorkeling; and of course shopping. We also had time to lounge by the pool. We ate our meals together which were special times for sharing and community. There were four couples at our dinner table with anniversaries in July. Another highlight was a mini retreat on our return trip which was based on the book "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat". It was a time for us to refresh the body as well as the spirit and for that we feel blessed.



Danny and Rose Ann Payne

and sky seemed to merge and became one with no beginning or end.

Not much of material value exists on these islands but the magnificent beauty of God's thoughts for us, being with old friends, and cultivating new friendships fills one's heart with great love and appreciation for the things money can't buy!

Prison and Jail Ministry Opportunity: When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you? (Matt. 25:39).

The Catholic Conference of KY and the KY Council of Churches are sponsoring a statewide prison and jail ministry gathering on Saturday, September 30, 2006 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Catholic Center, 1310 West Main Street in Lexington. This event is open to those who participate in prison ministry and those who would like to explore serving Christ in this fashion. The goal for the day is to foster this ministry. Lunch is FREE, but pre-registration is required, so we know how many lunches to order. Registration deadline is September 15, 2006. A registration form and schedule of the day are at: www.ccky.org.

Reflections While Walking

Down The Gangplank

(Editor's Note: A few of the people who made the Western Carribean Cruise wrote to organizer Mary Ann O'Bryan after the cruise was over.)

Life ... what is it all about? To feel that inner peace, share unconditional love and find purpose amongst the chaos. This Western Caribbean "Keep the Faith Afloat" cruise did just that! Peace came in the early mornings ... reflecting, walking or jogging on the upper deck with anticipation of watching the sunrise. Then we joined together as a group in the Chapel to celebrate daily mass with Father Vaughan: all gifts from God, only if we take the moment to see.

Love was spread all throughout the days ... experiencing new adventures at every port, talking with the natives on Island shopping excursions, then resting in Hammocks and sharing stories. Coming back on board and finding towel animals in our cabins and laughing at dinner. We also celebrated anniversaries and birthdays all the while strengthening family bonds, renewing old friendships and creating new ones: all gifts from God, only if we take the moment to see.

So, I encourage you to take a moment and see ... all the gifts of God not only while on vacation when it is easy, but also in the day to day activities of life to love and laugh and thank HIM all the time.

Blessings, - Ginny Speaks, Nashville, Tn.

Hi, regarding the cruise, it's an experience of a lifetime. It's not only the camaraderie and new friendship but the fellowship in humanity and God. It reminds me of the wonderful creation of God and the kindness of people. It reinforced my feeling to be grateful of the graces of God and not complain of daily life pressures, instead to count our blessings. Everybody and everything are wonderful. I'm definitely grateful that God allowed us to go and enjoyed His generousities. Portia and I are already contemplating the next cruise.

- Moises (Mike) Domingo, M.D.



Don & Sharon Speaks, Margie and Ginny Speaks.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY WEEKEND COLLEGE



Brescia is accepting applications for the module 2 session. Classes begin October 20th and conclude December 16, 2006.

Registration deadline is
Friday, October 13, 2006.

Call the admissions office for more
information at (270) 686-4241 or
1-800-BRESCIA.



Nominees approved for Saint Meinrad Alumni Board of Directors

Six nominees for the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors have been approved, and a seventh person has been appointed to a one-year term.

Approved for membership for three-year terms are Fr. Joe Mills, a retired priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY. He studied at Saint Meinrad before earning his MA in philosophy from Catholic University and his JCL from the Lateran University in Rome. He has served as pastor, professor, and head of the Theology Department at Brescia University, judicial vicar, vicar general of the diocese, and as chaplain to the Ursuline sisters in Maple Mount, KY. He has been a member of the Saint Meinrad School of Theology Board of Overseers, the Brescia University Board of Trustees, the Priests' Council, the diocesan personnel board, and diocesan review board. Fr. Mills is active in Jesus Caritas and serves as Defender of the Bond and as chaplain to the Owensboro Serra Club. He recently completed his first term on the Alumni Board.

Other Directors approved were Fr. Tom Boyer, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK.; Fr. Frank Murd, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH.; Sherie Berg and her husband, John, from Indianapolis, IN.; Sr. Francis Marie Pifer, OSB, a member of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN; Fr. Ralph Schipp, a retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, was appointed for a one-year term.

Three From Diocese Daughters of Isabella Attend Convention

The Daughters of Isabella 2006 International Biennial Convention was held August 5-10 in Toronto, Canada. Along with the 356 delegates that convened in Toronto were three Kentucky delegates, including Martha Floyd, KY State Regent, Sheila Thomson, Regent of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Circle #241 in Owensboro, and Sheri Babbs, Delegate of St. Francis de Sales Circle #258 in Paducah. The charitable events sponsored at the Convention included a walk for Breast Cancer Awareness and a Baby Shower in which delegates brought baby items from their Circles to donate to Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the Toronto area. The order of business included in the Convention included revising the Daughters of Isabella Constitution and Ceremonial, electing international officers for the next two years, and reviewing reports from all the committees reporting to international. The History Project of the Daughters of Isabella is being organized by Dr. Carol Dorr Clement, Ph.d. of Catholic University in Washington D.C. The completed history will be available in 2008 in book form. Spiritual guidance was given by the Chaplain's Committee and the Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Richard J Malone. Social activities included an evening dinner cruise on Lake Onterio, an excursion to Niagra Falls, and a closing banquet with entertainment. Many new friendships were fostered and ideas were exchanged between the delegates and guests.

The Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of



Three Kentucky delegates to the Daughters of Isabella Convention were Martha Floyd, KY State Regent; Sheila Thomson, Regent of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Circle #241 in Owensboro; and Sheri Babbs, Delegate of St. Francis de Sales Circle #258 in Paducah. Submitted photo.

Catholic women founded on the principle of their motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity. One of the goals of the Daughters of Isabella is to emulate the virtues of the noble Queen Isabella of Castille who helped Christopher Columbus discover and evangelize America. Circles of the Daughters of Isabella are serving their communities and churches in Owensboro, Paducah, Covington, and Newport in Kentucky.

Latin Days Heritage

Revisited in Grand Rivers

By Carol York

GRAND RIVERS, Ky. - A Tridentine Rite Mass, complete with choir and altar servers, was held at St. Anthony of Padua here on July 16 at 4 p.m. There were many faithful at the Mass. It brought back many memories for our older parishioners of the Latin days and the Latin responses. In fact, the altar servers had to re-learn their Latin from days of old. The pictures show the congregation and the choir standing, Monsignor George seated, wearing his biretta, two altar servers (who had to re-learn their Latin). The altar was turned around so that the presider's back was to the congregation. For many, it was a chance to go back to the days they remember so well and, for younger ones, a chance to see our heritage in action. Thanks to Msgr. Hancock for putting this Mass together so well!



The congregation and the choir standing in St. Anthony of Padua Church. Carol York Photo



Monsignor George Hancock sitting in the presider's chair wearing his biretta. Carol York Photo



Two parishioners who were altar servers who had to re-learn their Latin from the days of their youth as altar boys. Carol York Photo

A Mini-Editorial

I read this in a recent National Catholic Reporter:

"Horace Mann: 'Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for mankind.' I pray that when my time comes I don't make a disgraceful exit."
by George J. Bryak.

Sounds like common ground for the left, the middle, the right, and the lukewarm!

You're invited to e-mail your thoughts about Church life today to - mel.howard@pastoral.org to be printed as space, clarity, and charity allow.

JustFaith

We are called to be compassionate as our God is compassionate. (Luke 6:36) What does the compassion of Christ look like in the modern world? How do I become a more compassionate person? The JustFaith program is an intensive thirty-week program that helps to answer these questions through reflection, study, prayer and community. An informational meeting will be held on August 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center. JustFaith classes will be held on Tuesday nights and will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 6:30 p.m., in the Sts. Joseph & Paul Religious Education Center (located at 423 Clay St.). For more information about this life-changing program, contact Suzanne Rose at sdrose@bellsouth.net or Martha Crabtree at marthd.crabtree@ky.gov.

A Scout is Reverent

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

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

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

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

Faithful Citizen Advocacy

The Catholic Conference of Ky (CCK), the public policy arm of the four Ky Bishops, has a legislative advocacy network to help bring Gospel values and the Church's teachings on human life and dignity to bear on public policies. We invite you to sign up for this service and receive periodic alerts about opportunities to communicate with your legislators in Frankfort and Washington D.C. The service is free. You can unsubscribe at any time. With each alert, you choose whether to communicate on the particular issue. In addition to alerts, advance copies of the CCK Newsletter, press releases and statements of Ky's four bishops are provided. Join today at www.ccky.org by clicking on the words Faithful Citizen Advocate on the Home Page or type in <http://capwiz.com/ccky/mlm/> in the address box of your web browser.

**Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph
Maple Mount, Kentucky**

36TH ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, September 10

For the Benefit of the Retired Ursuline Sisters



**Award Winning Barbecue
Chicken - Mutton - Pork**

SERVING TIME

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Silent Auction

Booths - Crafts

Cakes - Candy - Fruit

**Plants - Bingo
Games for children
and MORE!**

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE \$2,500

• Other Prizes Include \$1,000 - \$500 - \$100

• Handcrafted *Rose Heaven* Quilt

• Oak Bookcase Trio (Value of \$1,999)

• Crosley Bandmaster Entertainment Center

• Pottery Barn Swivel Desk Chair

• Wall Mirror

• BBQ Ham

Raffle Tickets Only \$1 Each

Get your tickets from any Ursuline Sister or call

270-229-4103, ext. 278

Capital Prizes Awarded at the Picnic (Need not be present to win)

Please plan to join us at the picnic!



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

License #0290

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Kentucky

Director of Religious Education

Good Shepherd Parish (900 families), Diocese of Lexington, Ky. seeks DRE to coordinate religious ed and sacramental formation programs. Communication, leadership and organizational skills essential. Creative, energetic and willing to work collaboratively. MA in religious ed + three years successful experience in religious formation program required. Salary/benefits commensurate with education/experience. Resume and 3 references by 9/15 to: Miriam Picconi, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 310 Wapping St, Frankfort, KY 40601 or email: miriam@gssfrankfort.org.

Love Your School: Unique Writing Contest for High School Students

True Girl magazine is providing an opportunity for high school students to share their thoughts and see their names in print. The magazine has plans to feature an article titled "I Love My School," composed of writings by students who attend Catholic, public, or home schools. In an effort to highlight the unique and diverse learning environments from which our Catholic youth receive their education, the feature article will give students a choice to voice what they love about their school in their own words.

The contest will run from September 1 through December 1, 2006. Submissions must be written by a high school student and should include the author's name, address, email contact, phone number, school name, school address, and school phone number. Articles should be 500 words. Three winners will be chosen for publication - one Catholic school student, one public school student, one homeschooled student. Winners will have their names, pictures, and school information published along with their article. Send submissions



to Brandi Lee, Editor-in-Chief, True Girl, 703 Michigan Avenue, Suite 2, LaPorte, IN 46350 or via e-mail to brandi@truegirl-online.com.



Ursuline Sisters Gather for Community Days

Relaxing at lunch during Ursuline Community Days at Mount Saint Joseph, July 5-7, are (clockwise from left) Sisters Evelyn Latham, Nancy Murphy, Mary Patrick McDonagh, Frances McDonagh, Mary Ellen Backes, Dorothy Helbling, Catherine Kaufman, Nancy Liddy, Mary Elizabeth Krampe, and Marilyn Mueth. The group includes several sisters of the Belleville, Illinois, Ursuline Community that merged with the Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph last fall. Community Days are a time of prayer, fellowship, and planning for the Ursuline Community.

A Brief History of the Diaconate

Editor's Note: Both articles on this page were submitted by Father John Thomas

From the earliest days of the Christian Church the deacon has been intimately associated with the ministry of the Bishop and Priests. In the primitive Church of the Apostolic and Post Apostolic age, as witnessed to in the Christian Scriptures, the deacon was described as a minister in the liturgical assembly and preacher of the word. The deacon prepared catechumens for entrance into the Church and was a dispenser of aid and food to the poor and distressed. The very term "Diakonia" announces the central characteristic of this Order, the deacon is called to service. The witness of Saint Irenaeus already understood the apostolic appointment of the "seven" men in Acts 6: 1-6 to take care of the Greek speaking widows and orphans as the institution of the diaconate. Saint Paul refers to deacons in his exhortation in Philippians (1:1) and Saint Timothy lists the qualities and virtues which all deacons are expected to possess and exercise in their ministry (Tim 3:8-13).

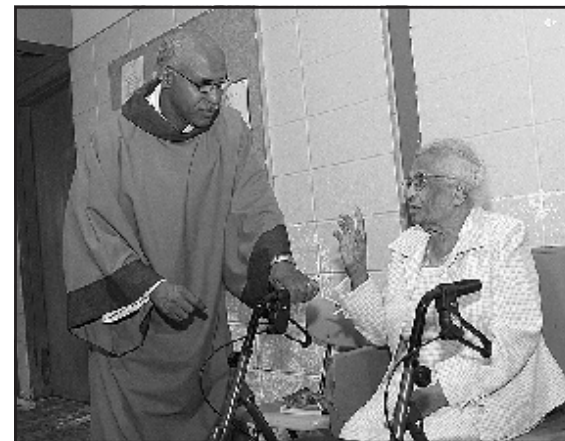
The witness of the Fathers of the Church certainly acknowledges the importance of the diaconal ministry in the early Church. Saint Ignatius of Antioch says that it would be impossible to have the Church without bishops, priests and deacons. He speaks of the deacon sharing in the ministry of Christ. The deacon is a minister of the Church of God. In the Patristic Age the deacon continued to assist the bishop in the administration of the community, performing the sacred rites, and providing charity.

After the fifth century, there was a steady decline in the permanent diaconate in the Latin Church. From the early Middle Ages the diaconate remained only as a traditional order that men received as part of their preparation for ordination to the sacred

priesthood. There were occasional exceptions to this rule however, St. Francis of Assisi, for example, was ordained a deacon but not a priest. In the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent directed that the permanent diaconate should be restored to the Latin Church but this directive was not carried into effect. The reality was that the permanent character of this Order was abandoned by the Latin Church for many centuries.

The permanent character of the Order, however, was restored and renewed when the Second Vatican Council (October 30, 1963) called for the reestablishment of the ministry of the Permanent Deacon for the Universal Church. On 18 June 1967, Pope Paul VI car-

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Deacon Terrel Broussard talks with 89-year-old Grace Armant following Mass at St. Maria Goretti Church in eastern New Orleans July 23. Deacon Broussard, one of the hundreds of thousands of displaced Louisiana residents, commutes 60 miles from where he now lives in Baton Rouge, La., to be with his parish family. The neighborhood surrounding the church suffered severe flooding after Katrina. A small portion of residents have returned to rebuild. (CNS photo/Michael Alexander, Georgia Bulletin) (Aug. 16, 2006)

Vocation and Discernment: The Mystery of Vocation

"The history... of every Christian vocation, is the history of an inexpressible dialogue between God and human beings, between the love of God who calls and the freedom of individuals who respond lovingly to God. The calling forth from God is marked first in the reception of the sacraments of Christian initiation. From out of this body of believers Christ then calls some of his disciples, and the Church ordains them to a service of the whole Church" (National Directory, #164).

Diaconate Vocation - The foundation of the ministry of the Order of Deacon is a divine vocational call. A call to vocation is a grace from God. There are many ways in which this grace may present itself: through an invitation on the part of priests, deacons, and the faithful who suggest to you that you might consider entering the diaconate. Through a personal conviction that arises from your own personal prayer life or the pastoral activity you are already engaged in for the sake of building up the kingdom of God.

Men who seek to enter the Diaconate Formation Program in the hope of receiving the Order of Diaconate already feel themselves called by Christ to this particular ministry of service. The call to Diaconate is a call to a life dedicated to the service of God and the Church in fidelity, compassion, and courage. The Deacon is especially called to make present, in the midst of the community, the image of Christ the servant. The deacon is especially to be identified by his witness to charity, his service to the bishop, and his love and concern for the poor, the outcast, and the weak. Before he can enter into the Order of deacon a man must feel called to a life of radical witness for the sake of the kingdom of God.

Formation and Discernment - Acceptance into the diaconate formation program is not a sign of the completion of a man's vocational discernment. Rather, it is the beginning of a more intense personal, family, communal, and ecclesial questioning, prayer, and scrutiny of the call and vocation.

"Discernment is an essential spiritual process in determining the presence of a vocation to the diaconate, as well as the capacity to live it fully after ordination.... A strong spiritual life and a realistic commitment to serve people converge in the con-

tinual transformation of the participant's mind and heart in harmony with Christ" (National Directory, #116).

Discernment of vocation has two major components:

1. The candidate continues to discern his vocational call
2. The Church discerns the vocational call of the candidate

Discernment is realized in the convergence of a number of aspects:

Personal Discernment - The initial stage of discernment is seen in the candidate's original sense of a calling to love and serve the Church, a sense of vocation. This is especially realized in his desire to serve his brothers and sisters, bring to them the message of the Gospel and in his deep desire to comfort and raise up the poor. At this stage, the candidate feels a personal call, which leads to the seeking of information and advice. This initial discernment should normally be confirmed by the positive response of the pastor and parish staff/community.

Family Discernment - For those who are married the discernment of wife and family is essential. The support and consent of a wife is required before a man can enter into the formation process for diaconate. Support and consent should arise from an informed understanding of Diaconate and Holy Orders.

Communal Discernment - As the parish is the primary Church experience for most inquirers, a discernment on the part of this community is also necessary. It is the local community, and in particular the pastor, who invites those who may be qualified to serve as Deacons in the Church.

Ecclesial Discernment - Ecclesial discernment includes such elements as: admission recommendations from pastor and others, parish community recommendation, admission board scrutiny and acceptance, psychological evaluation and consultations, suitable academic background, participation in formation program. Those appointed by the Bishop for the immediate formation of the Deacon, the Diocesan Vocational Director, Director of Diaconate, and the Associate Director of Diaconate have the responsibility of discerning the authenticity of a vocation on behalf of the Church. While they do not have the final say in who is to be ordained, they do have the responsibility of recommending to the Bishop, after suitable enquiry among the People of God and those responsible for their training, those they consider "worthy" of ordination.

"The history of every priestly vocation, as indeed of every Christian vocation, is the history of an inexpressible dialogue between God and human beings, between the

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To Talk of Many Things

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

By H.J. Ramage, Jr.

“War and More War”

Israel was at peace with Lebanon and the rest of the world; even though it was an uneasy peace, it was peace. That all changed in July of this year when the terrorist group Hezbollah, kidnapped two of Israel’s soldiers and opened fire on the country with rockets.

This war didn’t start in July; it began over five thousand years ago when Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael from his camp.

Hezbollah, al Qaeda, and numerous other groups who live by violence are the enemy not only of Israel, but the entire Western World! The militant religious leaders of Islam have an unquenchable hatred for anyone who is not Islamic. They have no tolerance for any Christians, Jews, and other non-Islamic religions. That they blame the United States and Israel for all their problems is to be expected, but what is more amazing is the attitude of some European nations. Some of them are taking sides with Hezbollah and criticizing Israel for defending their nation, and the U.S., for saying Israel has a right to defend itself. Lebanon either could not, or would not, control and disarm Hezbollah as required by U.N. resolution 1559! The United Nations has been monitoring this area for nearly 30 years, yet they never reported seeing any missiles or rockets being moved into this restricted area. So what was the purpose of the U.N. in Lebanon? Israel really had no choice but to go after Hezbollah, terrorists who disguise themselves as civilians in order to get the sympathy of the world if they are killed. No doubt some innocent people are being killed as always happens in war.

Let us remember who started this war. As far as diplomacy is concerned; how do you negotiate with a terrorist-minded, terrorist-oriented, destructive group of radical religious who have only one of two goals: either you surrender to us, or we kill you. If you want to know their beliefs, read the Koran, especially the article that deals with Christianity. Evil must be defeated!

In the St. Joseph edition of the Holy Bible, (copyright 1962) the book of Ezekiel, chapters 38 thru 39, presents an interesting prophecy. In reading these chapters, one should pay special attention to the direction from which Israel’s enemies come. Are these prophecies relevant to the fighting that is going on in Lebanon? I don’t really know! No doubt that some will say that these prophecies from the Old Testament are out-dated and no longer apply to today’s situation; however, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Article IV, chapters 121-123, clearly state that the validity of the Old Testament is very much a part of our Catholic teaching.

There is much in the Old Testament that is related to the current world situation. One thing is clear; the militants who lead this religion are evil people! The goal of these people is the destruction of all Western society and to create an Islamic state world-wide

Israel will survive! God does not break His covenant, and if you read the books of the Old Testament, you will see exactly what covenants He has made.

A Brief History of the Diaconate

(Continued from page 40)

ried out the desire of the Council when he published the Apostolic Letter *Sacrum diaconatus ordinem* in which he reestablished the permanent diaconate in the Latin Church. The Council, in its Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (*Lumen Gentium* 29), echoes the ancient image and concerns of the New Testament when it speaks of the ministry and nature of the diaconate:

“At the lower end of the hierarchy are deacons, upon whom hands are imposed ‘not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service’. For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests, they serve the People of God in the ministry of the liturgy, of the Word, and of charity. It is the duty of the

Vocation and Discernment: The Mystery of Vocation

(Continued from page 40)

love of God who calls and the freedom of individuals who respond lovingly to him.” However, alongside God’s call and the response of individuals, there is another element constitutive to a vocation, particularly a ministerial vocation: the public call of the Church. “*Vocari a Deo dicuntur qui a legitimis Ecclesiae ministris vocantur*” (“Those men are said to be called by God who are called by the legitimate ministers of the Church”). The expression should not be understood in a predominantly juridical sense, as if it were the authority that calls which determines the vocation, but in a sacramental sense, that considers the authority that calls as the sign and instrument for the personal intervention of God, which is realized with the laying on of hands. In this perspective, every proper election expresses an inspiration and represents a choice of God. The Church’s discernment is therefore decisive for the choice of a vocation; how much more so, due to its ecclesial significance, is this true for the choice of a vocation to the ordained ministry.

This discernment must be conducted on the basis of objective criteria, which treasure the ancient tradition of the Church and take account of present day pastoral needs. For the discernment of vocations to the permanent diaconate, some requirements of a general nature and others responding to the particular state of life of those called should be taken into account” (*Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons*, #29)

Personal Discernment During Formation - During the period of Diaconate Formation, a candidate is called to an even more intense time of reflection, prayer, spiritual sacrifice, and spiritual direction so that he can more completely discern his vocational call. Aids to this discernment include a healthy spiritual and sacramental life, spiritual direction, meeting with mentor couples, retreats, days of recollection, and an ability to participate and master the academic aspects of the program. A candidate is primarily responsible for his own personal discernment of his vocation. While a number of aids are provided and while positive advice is given, ultimately the depth to which an individual enters into the discernment process is an individual choice.

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.

For information about the Owensboro Diocesan 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

deacon, to the extent that he has been authorized by competent authority, to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages in the name of the Church, to bring viaticum to the dying, to read the Sacred Scriptures to the faithful, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside at the worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, and to officiate at funeral and burial services. Dedicated to duties of charity and of administration, let deacons be mindful of the admonition of Blessed Polycarp: ‘Be merciful, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all’ (*Lumen Gentium* #29).”

Wisdom

by Ginny Knight-Simon

**George & Evelyn Henshaw - St. Ambrose
Sophia Award Winners 2001
Rebecca Greenwell - St. Ann
Mattie Keach - St. Ann**

MORGANFIELD, Ky. - On a recent visit, to the Morganfield Nursing and Rehab Center with Rebecca Greenwell, I met her parents, Geo. and Evelyn Henshaw. Mr. Henshaw has never spelled out the name, "George," and has always signed his name Geo. Henshaw. Evelyn's maiden name was Dyer.

"I met him (Geo.) at a party when were young and it was love at first sight," said Evelyn with a sparkle in her eyes. "We had known of each other because of school and church, but had not really ever met. Not long after that we married.

"I had seven children, and I made every one of them their first coat. One of my daughters really wanted a ready-made dress to wear to a Christmas dance, so that's what we got her for Christmas. She went to the dance, and came home so upset. Someone at the dance had on a dress just like hers. That never happened before since I had made all the clothes for her. She never asked for a ready made dress again."

Geo. said, "I farmed all my life. I raised corn and about 3000 head of hogs."

The Henshaws are both 90 years old and will be married 68 years on October 3. "My husband and I got married on my parents' 38th wedding anniversary. We will be married 30 years on that day." Rebecca told me while we chatted with her Mom.

Of the Henshaws' seven children, five are still living and they have total of 78 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Rebecca said, "Until two years ago when Mon and Dad came to live here, all of us went to their house for all the holidays. Dad had to put floor jacks under the floors because he was afraid the weight would break the floors in. There are about 100 of us when we're all together.

"Mom and Dad made the choice about 2 years to come live here at the nursing home. Not to have to make that decision was such a blessing to all of us kids. Mom fell several times, and Dad wasn't able to help her. So one day they told us that wanted to come here where they could be around people all the time. I think they feel safer." Rebecca told me. "We all took care of our parents and stayed with them and did for them, but they wanted to come here."

"In June the Nursing Home had a Senior Prom which was so much fun for them. One of the CNA's named Ashley did all the ladies nails and they looked so pretty. My parents, like many of the residents here, had never been to prom. Dad didn't want to wear a Tux, but finally came around to the idea. It was wonderful for them." Said Rebecca.

Miss Mattie Keach, who we also visited, is the oldest member of St. Ann's Parish. "They tell me I'm 103 years old she said with a wave of her hand. So, I guess I am! "My parents were Phil and Kate Keach. He farmed and we all worked in the fields. I cooked, cleaned and did ironing for a living. I remember one sister and on niece. My niece is a nurse."

There is a prayer and communion service one time per week that Miss Keach attends. "I still like to play bingo." Miss Ke-



Miss Mattie Keach, 103, attended a Senior Prom at the Morganfield Nursing and Rehabilitation Center June 28, 2006. Photo by R. Greenwell



Rebecca Greenwell beside her favorite statue inside St. Ann Church, Morganfield. Photo by Ginny Knight-Simon

ach said with a smile.

"I always visit Mattie when I visit my parents," said Rebecca.

"I have been working in the office at St. Ann's since June of this year. I worked as a bookkeeper for Bickett's for 38 years. I am an office aide at the parish office. I get to go see my parents every morning and attend Mass before I start my day."

My husband, Mike, works at the Job Corps and is in information technology. We have one son, Joe, and daughter -in-



George and Evelyn Henshaw at the Senior Prom in Morganfield. Photo by R. Greenwell.

law, Nita, and four grandchildren: Daniel, Katie, Adam, and Nici. Mike and I are looking forward to doing some traveling now that we know Mom and Dad will be okay.

"My greatest blessing in life, without a doubt, is my faith. Mom and Dad always took us to church and they continued going. That example just always stayed with me."

(Mr. and Mrs. Henshaw won the Sophia Award from St. Ann's Parish, MORGANFIELD, Ky. in 2001)

Rebecca said, "One day I was crying because I didn't know how I was going to pay some bills, and my great-aunt told me to just always put it in God's Hands. I always have since that time and things have always worked out."

Cathedral Club 50

Fall Tour

Saturday, October 28, 2006

to Lamberts Cafe (the only home of throwed rolls)
in Sikeston, Mo. for dinner,

LAMBERT'S CAFE
THE ONLY HOME OF THROWED ROLLS

- and to the Kentucky Opry, Benton, Ky. for an 8:00 p.m. show featuring
- Slick Tire & White Sidewalls '50s & '60s Old Tyme Rock 'n Roll show
 - plus Kentucky Opry Country Music Variety Show

Seating is limited. Return to Owensboro at approximately 11:00 p.m. \$62.00 per person, including transportation, dinner, and show.

**For reservations, call Mavis Blandford
at 1-270-683-8180 or 1-270-993-5119**

By Rev. Ken Mikulcik

As one listens to public discourse in news commentary and reads editorial statements in the papers and listens to conversations one cannot help but pick up on the vast spectrum of opinions on immigration. Most of those opinions have been formed over the past few months as the invisible workforce of undocumented workers revealed its face in public rallies in major U. S. cities on April 10th and May 1st. The bishops of the United States and Mexico, however, have been reflecting on this pastoral concern for many years.

Following upon the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, and the U.S. bishops' own *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us*, their more recent document, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* offers a mature understanding of the dignity of the person and the phenomenon of modern migration. Written jointly with the Mexican bishops it shows the Universal Church's capacity to address the human condition in a comprehensive and clear way, laying out the principals of Catholic social teaching as it applies to migration, the pastoral response needed, and the public policy challenge and responses.

After pointing out the common history of migration and a shared faith in Jesus Christ in the two countries of Mexico and the United States, the document offers a reflection on migration in the light of the Word of God and Catholic social teaching. Migration was present as a factor in the history of Israel beginning with Abraham and Sarah welcoming the three strangers who were a manifestation of the Lord. The whole episode of Israel's migration to and from Egypt is a key event in the Old Testament. That migration was echoed in the Holy Family's trip to Egypt as refugees. Jesus' identification with the needy in the judgment scene in Mathew 25 can easily be connected with the experience of the migrant being so often hungry, thirsty and detained. Finally, the risen Jesus commands his apostles to go to all nations, sealing his mandate with the gift of the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit's guidance has been manifested in "Catholic social teaching, in particular the teachings on human dignity and the principal of solidarity." (SNL n. 27).

What has seemed remarkably absent in the public discourse on migration, namely the dignity and rights of the one who is migrating, is the starting point for the bishops. Beginning with Pius XII's *Exsul Familia*, the bishops point out that persons have a right to migrate to achieve conditions worthy of human life. They also point out that John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* includes not only a right to migrate, but also a right not to migrate. This is all in the context of the sovereign state's right to control its borders keeping in mind that that right is not

absolute. John Paul II referred to the refugee crisis as a "festering wound." And he reiterates in *Ecclesia in America* the rights of migrants even in the case of "non-legal immigration."

The two Bishops' conferences echo this rich tradition as they lay out for us five principals that emerge with regard to immigration. The first is that "Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland." Work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need. Second, "Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families." The goods of the earth belong to all, so persons have a right to migrate in order to survive. Third, "Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders." This control does not include closing a border to accumulate more wealth. Therefore wealthy nations have a stronger obligation to accommodate migrants. Fourth, "Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection." At minimum, this means that asylum seekers should not be incarcerated and that they deserve a full hearing by the competent authority. Fifth, "The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected." (SNL nn. 34 - 38) Regardless of one's legal status, migrants possess inherent human dignity that should be respected.

Finally, the bishops of the two conferences offer their assessment of the current situation between the United States and Mexico:

"The Church recognizes the right of a sovereign state to control its borders in furtherance of the common good. It also recognizes the right of human persons to migrate so that they can realize their God-given rights. These teachings complement each other. While the sovereign state may impose reasonable limits on immigration, the common good is not served when the basic human rights of the individual are violated. In the current condition of the world, in which global poverty and persecution are rampant, the presumption is that persons must migrate in order to support and protect themselves and that nations who are able to receive them should do so whenever possible. It is through this lens that we assess the current migration reality between the United States and Mexico." (SNL n. 39)

The prophetic character of the bishops' statement, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* shines through as a timely document providing clarity at a time when many in the United States are caught up in the fear that accompanies loss of jobs and a costly war effort. The bishops faithfully frame the whole discussion as it should be framed: with a foundation in the inherent value of human dignity. June 2006

This is the fourth in a series of articles by the CCK Hispanic Committee on the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform which aims to reach beyond the networks of the participating national agencies,



Fidel Castaneda, 52, a fieldworker from Mexico, harvests watermelons in the early morning of May 19 at a Pasquinelli Produce Co. field about 30 miles east of Yuma, Ariz. Located near the Mexican border, the company knows firsthand some of the problems migrant farmworkers face with the U.S. immigration system. (CNS photo/David Maung) (May 23, 2006)

and to enlist the support of Catholic individuals and institutions in dioceses throughout the country.

Visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org for more information. Le invitamos a visitar nuestra página con regularidad, debido a que se estará actualizando constantemente con materiales, noticias relevantes y otra información que esperamos sea de su utilidad.

Rev. Ken Mikulcik is a priest working in the Owensboro Diocese as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield, KY

Action: Join Catholic Conference of KY's legislative advocacy network to influence immigration public policy, www.ccky.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

Atentamente: Liliana Durán, Pablo y Alejandra Rosas.

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

Hacer una sacrificada donación al Fondo de La Respuesta de Los Discípulos da respuesta a su llamada de Dios

Mis amigos en Cristo,

“Plantar las semillas de la Fe” es nuestro tema de este año para la Petición anual del Fondo de la Respuesta de Los Discípulos. Como nuestros campesinos trabajadores de esta diócesis saben, plantar semillas (cualquier tipo de semillas) es un acto de Fe. Las semillas de la fe son como las otras semillas. Requieren plantarse con cuidado y a propósito en buena tierra. Se les debe cuidar, nutrir, refrescar y proteger si van a crecer.

Como escuchamos en el Evangelio de hoy según San Marcos, fue a través de gran fe que la gente de Decápolis trajo a Jesús al hombre sordo para ser curado. También escuchamos de la Carta de San Santiago que Dios escogió a aquellos que son pobres en el mundo para ser ricos en fe. Fe en Cristo y en los demás, en sí es una parte integral de nuestra herencia Cristiana.

Mientras nosotros cultivamos y nutrimos nuestras semillas de la fe, continuamos creciendo más cerca de Dios. Cada vez estamos más concientes que todo lo que somos es un don de Dios. ¿Qué temor inspirador es el que Dios nos ha dado todo simplemente porque Él nos ama, nada más y nada menos? Nuestro don de fe nos es dado a cada uno de nosotros como individuos, pero entonces tenemos que compartir ese don con otros. El Fondo de La Respuesta de los Discípulos es una buena herramienta para hacer eso posible.

Nosotros demostramos nuestra gratitud y amor a nuestro Dios viviendo la vida como un servidor Cristiano. Expresamos nuestra gratitud en grandes y pequeñas formas. Por el servicio Cristiano, demostramos nuestra gratitud y fe profunda sirviendo a otros, compartiendo nuestro tiempo, talentos y tesoros con aquellos que lo necesitan. Mediante su ofrenda de este año a la petición anual del Fondo de la Respuesta de los Discípulos, usted ayuda a aquellos en la diócesis cuyas necesidades son las más grandes: los pobres y aquellos marginados de la sociedad.

También necesitamos dedicar a las vocaciones recursos adicionales. La necesidad no podría ser mayor de lo que es ahora por jóvenes hombres y mujeres que estén concientes de la llamada de Dios para servir como sacerdotes y religiosos. Y nos debemos asegurar que aquellos que responden a Su llamada reciban las mejores herramientas y entrenamiento y así ellos estén preparados apropiadamente para servir una vez que se ordenen o hagan sus profesiones finales. Tendiéndole la mano al pobre y al marginado y fomentando las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa son sólo dos ejemplos de cómo las generosas donaciones del Fondo de la Respuesta de los Discípulos hacen posible que la Iglesia de Kentucky Occidental – Diócesis de Owensboro llevar a cabo la misión de la Iglesia de anunciar la Buena Nueva del amor de Dios, la Buena Nueva de la salvación.

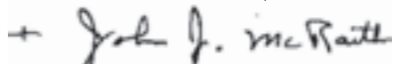
Mis hermanos y hermanas de Kentucky occidental, su fe resplandece a través de todos los buenos trabajos que ustedes hacen. Es una gran fe que yo los invito a unirse a mi y otros servidores Cristianos a participar en la Petición Anual del Fondo de la Respuesta de los Discípulos. Al hacer una donación sacrificada al FRD, ustedes dan respuesta a la llamada de Dios:

- Como discípulos a servir a otros,
- A incrementar su propia fe y
- A ayudar a otros a hacer crecer las semillas de la fe en sus vidas.

Hay muchas necesidades y nosotros –juntos como Iglesia- podemos sólo responder a aquellas necesidades cuando nosotros todos damos generosamente nuestro tiempo, talentos y recursos financieros.

Estoy agradecido para siempre a ustedes y a cada miembro de nuestra familia diocesana que ha apoyado continuamente el trabajo de la Iglesia a través de la participación en la petición anual de FRD, con sus oraciones y apoyo financiero. Si ustedes no han dado al FRD en el pasado, los invito a hacerlo empezando este año. Su participación tendrá un efecto profundo no sólo en aquellos que cuentan con él, sino en ustedes y en su familia también. Que Dios continúe bendiciéndoles a ustedes y a su familia.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Reverendísimo John J. McRaith

Obispo de Owensboro en Kentucky Occidental.

La migración a la luz de la enseñanza social católica.

Por: Rev. Ken Mikulcik

Cuando uno escucha el discurso público en los comentarios de noticias, lee los editoriales en los periódicos y oye las conversaciones, uno no puede hacer nada sino ponerse al corriente del vasto espectro de opiniones a cerca de la inmigración. La mayoría de esas opiniones se han formado durante los últimos meses mientras la fuerza de trabajo invisible de los trabajadores indocumentados dejó ver sus rostros en manifestaciones públicas en las ciudades más importantes de los Estados Unidos el 10 de abril y el 1 de mayo. Sin embargo, los obispos de los Estados Unidos y de México, han estado reflexionando sobre esta preocupación pastoral durante muchos años.

Dando seguimiento a la exhortación apostólica del Papa Juan Pablo II, *Ecclesia in América*, y a la de los propios obispos de los Estados Unidos *Dándole la bienvenida a los extranjeros entre nosotros*, su documento más reciente, Ya no somos extranjeros: Juntos en el camino de la esperanza ofrece un entendimiento maduro de la dignidad de la persona y del fenómeno de la migración moderna. Escrita conjuntamente con los obispos mexicanos muestra la capacidad de la Iglesia Universal para señalar la condición humana de una forma profunda y clara, poniendo a la vista los fundamentos de la enseñanza social Católica según aplica a la migración, la respuesta pastoral necesitada y los retos y respuestas de la política pública.

Después de hacer notar la historia común de la migración y una fe compartida en Jesucristo en los dos países de México y los Estados Unidos, el documento ofrece una reflexión sobre la migración a la luz de la Palabra de Dios y la enseñanza social Católica. La Migración estaba presente como un factor en la historia de Israel empezando con Abraham y Sara dándole la bienvenida a los tres extranjeros que fueron una manifestación del Señor. El episodio completo de la migración Israelí hacia y desde Egipto es un evento clave en el Antiguo Testamento. Esa migración fue repetida en el viaje de la Sagrada Familia a Egipto como refugiados. La identificación de Jesús con los necesitados en la escena del juicio en Mateo 25 se puede conectar con facilidad con la experiencia del emigrante que está con frecuencia hambriento, sediento y es detenido. Finalmente, el Jesús resucitado ordena a sus apóstoles ir a las todas las naciones, sellando su mandato con el don del Espíritu Santo. Esa misma guía del Espíritu Santo se manifiesta en “La enseñanza social Católica, en particular en las enseñanzas sobre la dignidad humana y el principio de solidaridad.” (SNL (por sus siglas en inglés) n. 27).

Sobre todo lo que parece remarcablemente ausente en el discurso político acerca de la migración son la dignidad y los derechos del que está migrando, este es el punto de partida para los obispos. Empezando con *Exsul Familia* de Pío XII, los obispos hacen notar que las personas tienen el derecho de migrar para alcanzar condiciones dignas de la vida humana. Ellos también recalcan que Juan XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* incluye no sólo un derecho a migrar, sino también un derecho a no migrar. Esto está todo en el contexto de los derechos de soberanía de los estados a controlar sus fronteras teniendo en mente que ese derecho no es absoluto. Juan Pablo II se refirió a la crisis de los refugiados como una “herida que supura.” Y él reitera en *Ecclesia in América* los derechos de los emigrantes incluso en el caso de “migración no legal.”

Las dos conferencias de obispos hacen eco de esta rica tradición cuando ponen ante nosotros cinco principios que emergen respecto a la inmigración. El primero es que “Las personas tienen el derecho de encontrar oportunidades en su tierra natal.” El trabajo que les proporcione un justo salario para vivir es una necesidad humana básica. Segundo, “Las personas tienen el derecho de migrar para sostenerse ellos mismos y a sus familias.” Los bienes de la tierra nos pertenecen a todos, por lo tanto las personas tienen un derecho a migrar a fin de sobrevivir. Tercero, “Las naciones soberanas tienen el derecho de controlar sus fronteras.” Este control no incluye cerrar una frontera para acumular más riqueza. Por lo

Sigue en la página 3

Las peripecias de un joven e inexperto Cura

Por el Padre Carmelo Jiménez

Llegada a San Juan Chamula, Chiapas.

Quiero compartir en esta ocasión algo de lo mucho que me ha tocado vivir en mi poca y larga vida.

En más de una ocasión había oído hablar del pueblo de Chamula, pero nunca me había interesado mucho el conocer la historia y los valores (o anti-valores) que este pueblo representaba.

Cuando fui ordenado diácono, por decisión de quien fuera mi obispo (en coordinación con quien en ese entonces era párroco de Ntra. Sra. del Sagrado Corazón, en Tuxtla) tendría que atender de manera emergente al pueblo de Chamula.

Chamula era conocido por un pueblo “católico tradicionalista”. Estas dos palabras juntas eran las características de fuertes de este pueblo. Porque, aunque tuvieran imágenes y pedían servicio de la Iglesia, no se respetaba las normas de la Iglesia, sino lo que la tradición decía, por lo tanto, una falta a su tradición era una falta grave que podía costarle la vida. De entre 1970 a 1998 hubieron muchas personas que tuvieron que abandonar el pueblo porque para poder vivir su fe tenían que ir a vivir a otros pueblos. Fueron expulsados de manera violenta, le quemaron sus casas y golpeaban a los señores, violaban a las mujeres o casi los mataban; la expulsión era tanto a católicos como de otras sectas religiosas.

Entrar al templo de este pueblo es encontrarse con un sincretismo de lo católico y las tradiciones mayas. Mezcla de rituales de sacrificio de animales, lo mágico, la superstición y un poco de la fe católica. De tal manera que cuando yo llegué, siendo del mismo estado –Chiapas- me impresionó, que no sabía qué iba hacer yo como pastor de aquel pueblo.

Lo primero que tuve que aprender era que habían 9 sacristanes, que juntos representaban la autoridad dentro del templo, y que el sacristán mayor era quien me iba a instruir para conocer la tradición y no faltar. Lo primero que hizo fue llevarme a presentar al colegio de ancianos, que representaba la autoridad de todo el pueblo. Ellos me instruyeron sobre cuales iban a ser mis funciones. Después me llevaron a un balcón de la presidencia municipal, que daba a plaza principal, que servía de mercado los sábados y domingos, y en las reuniones de todo el pueblo – era el lugar central. Desde ese balcón me enseñaron una cruz, que está al lado sur de la plaza y en alto, donde un sacerdote fue martirizado (febrero de 1973), indicándome que si cometía falta alguna a la tradición que ahí iba a ser mi martirio.

Mis funciones se reducían a: bautizar a los niños (en las fiestas eran 3 días, cada día mas o menos 250 niños), bendecir el agua, incensar las imágenes y celebrar la misa (no distinguían entre misa y celebración de la palabra) cuando se me solicitara, únicamente. Para el bautizo no recibían pláticas. Para la Celebración de la Palabra no sabían ni responder.

Tengo que aclarar que tuve que asistir a misa dominical a un pueblo cercano porque los primeros domingos no podía celebrarla ahí. Los sacristanes solo eran funcionales para celebración, de tal manera que la primera celebración que tocó realizar, uno de los sacristanes levantó el incensario, sacó un cigarro y empezó a fumar enfrente de mí.



Una pareja de novios y sus padrinos en su traje matrimonial tradicional. A bride and groom, with their 'godparents' in traditional wedding dress.

Yo quería celebrar todos los domingos pero no sabía como hacer para que ellos me permitieran. Un domingo salgo a la plaza y veo que todas las autoridades están sentadas en una pequeña plaza, y ahí enfrente de todos estaban resolviendo los problemas de los pobladores. Llegué con el sacristán mayor y pregunté porque hacían eso, a lo que me respondió: “Porque hoy Dios descansa y los hombres tienen que responder los problemas públicamente”. Eso lo estuve meditando, de tal manera que el domingo próximo llegue, casi exigiendo que fuéramos hacer la Celebración (Misa, para ellos) porque Dios descansa y por eso hay que alabarlo. Ellos no pusieron ningún obstáculo, prepararon las cosas y me llamaron para iniciar. El problema fue un domingo que iba a faltar, porque Dios no se podía quedar sin su celebración, y si no había celebración ese domingo, que tomara mis cosas y que me fuera definitivamente. Ese pueblo, poco a poco, fue valorando la eucaristía, de tal manera, que en número reducido, aun hoy siguen amando la Eucaristía.

Siempre hay una manera para iniciar las cosas, si confiamos en Dios, y que toda la obra de evangelización es de El, El nos mostrará la manera de cómo realizarla, a pesar de que nuestros planes humanos no estén de acuerdo o a veces den miedo al inicio.

Así fue mi llegada al pueblo de San Juan Chamula, Chiapas. Les contaré, varias historias vividas, en medio del miedo y desconcierto, peligros y obstáculos, pero que hoy puedo contarlas gracias a Dios.



El Padre Carmelo da una bendición a los padres de familia en el día de los papás. Parroquia San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville, Ky. Father's Day blessing by Fr. Carmelo.

La migración a la luz de la enseñanza social católica. (Sigue de la página 2)

tanto las naciones ricas tienen una mayor obligación de acomodar inmigrantes. Cuarto, “Los refugiados y los que buscan asilo deben recibir protección.” Como mínimo, esto significa que los que buscan asilo no deberían ser encarcelados y que merecen una audiencia completa por parte de las autoridades competentes. Quinto, “La dignidad humana y los derechos humanos de los inmigrantes indocumentados deben ser respetados.” (SNL. nn. 34- 38) A pesar del estatus legal de alguien, los inmigrantes poseen la inherente digni-

dad humana que debe ser respetada.

Finalmente, los obispos de las dos conferencias ofrecen su evaluación de la situación actual entre Los Estados Unidos y México:

“La Iglesia reconoce el derecho de un estado soberano a tener control sobre sus fronteras para fomentar el bien común. También reconoce el derecho de la persona humana a migrar de tal forma que puedan obtener sus derechos dados por Dios. Estas enseñanzas se complementan entre sí. Mientras que el estado soberano puede imponer

Sigue en la página 5

Obispo, Conferencista pide con insistencia a los educadores pasar a los estudiantes un Corazón Amoroso como Jesús.

Por Mel Howard

Henderson, Ky. – Los educadores católicos de toda la diócesis viajaron a la escuela El Santo Nombre de Jesús (Holy Name of Jesus) el viernes 28 de julio, para asistir al día anual de servicio interior para maestros y directores de escuelas católicas. El día es como una afinación para el año escolar cuando los educadores católicos del oeste de Kentucky se reúnen para darse la bienvenida y apoyarse unos a otros, conocer las últimas noticias acerca de las escuelas y ganar algo de ímpetu para iniciar el nuevo año escolar. Se le da la bienvenida a la gente que es nueva en el sistema y la gente con largo tiempo de servicio es reconocida. Algunos tienen que iniciar a las 4:30 a.m. para asistir al largo día de servicio interior; este puede ser un arduo día de trabajo. ¿Cuál es su motivación?

Mike Patin de LaFayette, La, respondió a la pregunta en una forma que los educadores de Kentucky occidental no van a olvidar pronto. Combinando anécdotas de su propia vida como atleta, padre, esposo, maestro, ministro de la juventud y una persona joven criada en el condado Cajón de los Estados Unidos de América, Mike Patin aconsejó a los maestros. No, de hecho, él se entrometió “Yo estoy aquí no para entretenerlos ni para aplaudirlos,” dijo él, “Estoy aquí para entrometerme, para enfrentarlos a la cara, para hablar con ustedes acerca de porqué hacen lo que hacen como maestros.” Patin hizo un buen trabajo entrometiéndose; él tenía el salón un minuto muriéndose de la risa y en seguida asintiendo de acuerdo con la cabeza, arriba, abajo, despacio, luego atrayendo con fuerza la atención de la audiencia a intervalos, Mike Patin consiguió que los educadores católicos de Kentucky occidental le echaran un segundo vistazo a lo que están haciendo y porqué lo están haciendo.

Por ejemplo, él preguntó, “Si les doy un millón de dólares, ¿qué harían con él? Después de un breve momento de silencio, llamó a un voluntario, Jaime Clark de St. Mary Elementary in Whitesville, quien dijo que él probablemente donaría la mayor parte. Entonces el Sr. Patin saltó del podium y con paso cómodo se dirigió a donde estaba el Sr. Clark, se paró justo en su cara y dijo, “Ahora, jefe, ¿cuántos niños habrá en su clase en pocos días?” El Sr. Clark dijo, “Como unos 27, creo.” Patin dijo, “Imagine que cada uno de esos niños vale un millón de dólares y le han sido confiados para enseñarlos. ¿Qué va a hacer con sus \$27 millones? El Sr. Clark estaba listo: “Los voy a amar,” dijo él. Patin claramente gritó “Bingo ¡Tenemos un ganador! ¡Ya no necesito entrometerme con usted nunca más!

En otro momento, él le preguntó a los educadores, “¿Cuántos de ustedes se metieron en esto (enseñar) porque sintieron que es para lo que fueron llamados?” Dieciséis filas de cómo 20 personas en cada una levantaron su mano indicando que ellos sintieron ser llamados a enseñar. “Entonces todos ustedes no están en esto por el dinero, ¿o sí?” Patin dijo. Él señaló hacia un crucifijo en la pared trasera. “El hombre que esta sobre el signo de más (La Cruz) allá atrás, Jesucristo, es él que los está llamando.

El habló acerca de salarios, paquetes de beneficios y adornos que algunas veces la gente obtiene en otras profesiones y como gente con altos ingresos que obtienen cosas caras algunas veces pueden tratar con despotismo a los maestros, haciendo alarde de lo que ellos ganan y que la gente anhela. “Si la gente les pregunta cuánto hacen (ganan) como maestros,” Patin dijo, “díganles que hacen la diferencia en la vida de los niños. Dios puede usar a cualquier para hacer Su trabajo. Ustedes enseñan porque hay algo dentro de ustedes que quieren regalar para hacer mejor gente.” Llegando tan profundo como él se atrevió ese día, Patin dijo, “Ustedes se erigen como íconos contraculturales; Dios confía en ustedes y les permite jugar en Su cancha con la gente joven.” Entonces hablando como padre de un estudiante católico de 13 años, dijo, “Yo quiero que sean buenos en su materia. Les vamos a dar una educación sólida. Necesito que estén mirando a través de las pistas en la superficie (de cada estudiante) y vean quién está realmente dentro del estudiante y entonces ámenla, ámenlo.”

Mike Patin usó muchos juegos de percepción visual con voluntarios de la

audiencia para ilustrar el punto que los educadores deben buscar qué en realidad está ahí en una persona, dentro de los estudiantes que vienen a clase: “Busquen en el interior y vean si hay algo escondido ahí.”

“Los he llamado por su nombre, nuestro Señor nos dice,” dijo Patin, “y ahora ustedes tienen que ir y hacerlo. Ella les necesita; él les necesita. Como padre puedo decirle a mi hija que tiene un don y ahora mismo, ella piensa que soy el hombre más tonto sobre la tierra. Pero si un maestro le dice a un niño que tiene un don, el niño lo puede creer, tomar acción, incluso si un padre ha estado tratando de decirle a ese niño lo mismo por años.”

Después de haber escuchado la homilía del Obispo John McRaith el día de hoy temprano con cerca de 320 educadores católicos, el Sr. Patin volteó hacia el Obispo John McRaith diciendo que él había dicho bien en su mensaje dentro de su presentación. El Obispo John ha dado en la clave de la lectura del día del profeta Jeremías que hablaba en contra de la perversidad de la dureza de corazón, diciendo, “Hay muchos corazones amorosos entre nuestra juventud cuyos corazones aún se están desarrollando con su ayuda. (Ustedes están llamados) a traer la Buena Nueva a un mundo con el corazón endurecido. Ésta es una tremenda llamada que Dios les ha hecho a ustedes, para pasar a los jóvenes con corazones que se empiezan a formar, no en corazones endurecidos sino en corazones amorosos como Jesús.” El Sr. Patin remarcó, “Obispo, usted está en lo correcto; pensamos de la misma forma.”

Probando que se ha graduado, Mike Patin mostró un hallazgo de investigación del Instituto de Investigación de Minnesota. “Ustedes están tratando con seres humanos en salón de clases,” dijo él. “La gente tiene cinco hambres espirituales. #1: La gente está hambrienta de relaciones con significado y estructura. #2: La gente está hambrienta de una vida que tenga propósito. #3: La juventud está hambrienta de alguien que los escuche. #4: La gente está hambrienta de lo sagrado, algo que no cambie. ¡El regreso de Dios! La gente quiere saber qué es el poder sobre todos nosotros. #5: La gente está hambrienta de justicia, equidad y una oportunidad para servir.”

“Como padre, quiero para mi hija maestros que estén haciendo las cosas de Dios,” dijo Patin, “Quién está dentro de ella, mi hija. Algunos padres necesitan que ustedes escarben y amen a sus hijos.” En sus pláticas con los educadores católicos, Patin usó comedia mezclada con valores espirituales sólidos, muchas veces libretos de obras de su vida en Louisiana. Contó chistes de Boudreaux y Tibideaux. Para hacerlo más real, les dio a los maestros una tarea al final del día.

“Yo quiero que hagan una de estas tres cosas en algún momento durante la primera semana de su regreso a la escuela:

- #1 Lean, no sólo un libro, sino a la juventud que viene a su salón de clases. Encuentren una de las cinco hambres que necesitan ser llenadas.
 - #2 Recuerden. Su salvación no depende de qué tan bien ellos se vuelvan. Ellos son Alguien más. Ese no es su reino. Su trabajo es ser fieles.
 - #3 Supliquen. Pidan ayuda. Cuídense las espaldas unos a otros. No son sólo esos 27 en su salón de clases, todos ellos son sus niños. También, cuiden a cada uno en el cuerpo docente. Quiero estar seguro de que lo lograremos. Necesitan pedirle a Dios. Sólo porque ustedes trabajan por Dios todo el día no significa que ya lo tienen todo. Tienen que hablar con Él. Sean personas que rezan.”
- “Gracias por lo que hacen. A las 10:00 a.m. los viernes, si se sienten un poquito como zancudo sacúdanse para que se les vaya de la cabeza, alguien está rezando por ustedes. Yo le llamo mi oración del hoyo en el techo, como en la parábola de la Biblia de los que abrieron un hoyo en el techo para bajar a su amigo para que Jesús lo sanara. Yo estaré rezando por todos ustedes.”

El que se auto describe “pequeño hombre flaco,” Mike Patin, consiguió una ovación de pie por parte de los educadores católicos de Kentucky occidental. ¡Ahora eso es hacer algo!



Kathy Kneer, maestra del sexto grado en Saint Mary Middle School, Paducah, fue elegida como la Educadora Católica del año 2006. Kathy ha pasado todos sus 27 años enseñando en las escuelas católicas del condado de McCracken Staff Photo

Los Tzotziles son indígenas mayas que viven en el estado de Chiapas, Mexico. En junio el Padre Frank Ruff, párroco de las iglesias de Santa Susana de Elkton y Santa María y Santiago de Guthrie viajó con otros católicos de Clarksville, Tennessee y de Kentucky para demostrar su amistad y solidaridad con el pueblo de Chiapas y para construir un baño. Diez días no es mucho tiempo para hacer un proyecto, pero por la organización previa que había hecho el profesor universitario Matthew Kenny de la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción de Clarksville, lograron su meta.

El Padre Frank escribió un diario sobre sus experiencias con los Tzotziles, una gente muy apegada a sus tradiciones antiguas indígenas. Aunque son pobres de cosas materiales, no ha sido siempre así. El estado mexicano de Chiapas tiene una historia rica de cultura, habiendo sido el lugar donde había florecido y gozado de prosperidad la cultura maya hace siglos. Todavía hablan su idioma, y a veces el español, en los lugares donde fue el grupo de gringos. Fueron acompañados por una colombiana que es miembro de la Parroquia de Santa Susana, Eunice Arevalo, y su tarea era de traductora. También Matthew traducía como él habla bien el español. Su esposa, Marta, es oriunda de Mexico.

Esta fue el tercer año que un grupo de aquí ha visitado a Chiapas. La razón para que fue el grupo no es turismo sino el evangelio. Somos todos criaturas de Dios y hermanos en Cristo. Allá en Mexico, muchos son católicos, otros evangélicos, y otros que siguen sus



El baño que contruyó el grupo.

prácticas tradicionales indígenas. Los que nos une es Dios. Queremos conocer mejor a Dios y queremos unirnos más bajo su amparo. Los viajes a Mexico que ha hecho el grupo los ha enriquecido espiritualmente a los miembros.

No creo que el Padre Frank nunca olvidará su experiencia, especialmente el día cuando la gente le concedió a él como Padre el honor de guiar a una procesión. Como él habla poco español y nada de Tzotzil, tuvo que depender del Espíritu Santo para iniciar el evento. Sin embargo, fue salvado cuando el Párraco del pueblo por fin llegó para encargarse del asunto. Apesar de lo inesperado que ocurrió, el Padre Frank no se desanimó. Al contrario, llegó de nuevo a Kentucky lleno de respeto y aprecio por la fe vigorosa de la gente de Chiapas.

La migración a la luz de la enseñanza social católica

límites razonables sobre la inmigración, no se sirve al bien común cuando los derechos humanos básicos del individuo son violados. En las actuales condiciones del mundo, en el cual la pobreza global y la persecución son rampantes, se presume que las personas deben migrar para mantenerse y protegerse a si mismos y las naciones que pueden recibirlos deben por lo tanto hacerlo cuando es posible. Es a través de este cristal que nosotros valoramos la realidad actual de la migración entre los Estados Unidos y México.” (SNL n.39)

El carácter profético de la declaración de los obispos, Ya no somos extranjeros: Juntos en el camino de la esperanza resplandece a través de un

documento oportuno dando claridad al tiempo que muchos en los Estados Unidos son cogidos en el miedo que acompaña la pérdida de trabajos y un costoso esfuerzo de guerra. Los obispos fielmente enmarcan toda la discusión como debe ser enmarcada: con un fundamento en el valor inherente de la dignidad humana. Junio de 2006.

Este es el cuarto en una serie de artículos del la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky Comité Hispano en la Campaña Católica para la Reforma de la Inmigración la cual anima a alcanzar más allá de las redes de las agencias de participación nacional y enlistar el apoyo de individuos e instituciones Católicas en las diócesis a través del país.

Mi experiencia como Misionera

Por Kendra Montejos

Los pasados sábados he tenido gratas experiencias. Nuestra Iglesia ha tenido un grupo de misioneros los cuales fueron a diferentes partes del pueblo (de Hopkinsville) encontrando familias Hispánas e invitándolas para que vengan a nuestra parroquia.

El primer sábado fuimos a una parte de la ciudad que no era de la mejor condición. Nosotros nos suponíamos solamente tocar la puerta y dar volantes para hacerlo mas fácil y simple, ya que a nadie le gusta estar en el calor escuchando a una persona que hable mucho.

Nuestro propósito era encontrar familias hispanas pero fueron muy pocas. Entonces decidimos tocar todas las puertas, sin importar que hablen inglés o español y darles un Rosario o algo en inglés pero para coincidencia era una familia hispana. Y una joven mujer nos dijo “pasen, pasen.” Nos sentamos y nos invitó algo de tomar y le agradeció al padre por venir. El padre bendijo su casa y además ella pidió que vengamos a rezar a su casa sin importar que su casa sea muy chiquita y que tenía allí viviendo sus dos hijas, y una hermana con su hija. Lo más importante es que quería escuchar la Palabra de Dios.

El segundo sábado tuvimos otra grata experiencia: fuimos a otro vecindario y al salir del carro y dividirnos en grupos, una mujer se acercó corriendo pidiendo al padre que bendiga a su nieto porque reconoció al sacerdote por el cuello clerical. Decía que los padres del niño eran católicos pero se habían ido. Nos pidió un Ro-



Kendra Montejos es monaguilla y parroquiana activa en San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville.

sario para rezar con el niño, entonces mi mamá le ofreció algo más para que pueda aprender a rezar el Rosario, pero ella dijo que sí sabía rezar. Entonces le preguntamos: “¿es usted católica?” Y ella dijo “No. Soy musulmana.” Yo estaba muy confundida pero agradecida al mismo tiempo.

Esta mujer nos trajo su nieto para que lo bendijera sin ser Católica pero respetando nuestra fe. Ella quería que su nieto crezca con la religión en que sus padres lo habían criado. Además nos dijo que tenía muchos nietos de diferentes religiones. Yo pensé en ese momento que esa mujer respetaba cada una de esas religiones y ama a cada uno de sus nietos por igual sin importar en qué creen.

Cuando nos íbamos, un niño tímidamente nos pidió un Rosario. Este niño sólo quería un Rosario sin saber lo que era. Le dimos uno y se marchó. Le mujer le dijo al niño: “Ven para acá te voy a enseñar a rezar el Rosario.”

Esta experiencia como misionera me ha enseñado una cosa: que hay alguien por allí que necesita un empujoncito para hacer algo bueno pero lamentablemente no lo puede encontrar y ese empujoncito debes ser tú cuando tocas su puerta.

que celebran sus culturas y que sirven como respuesta a sus necesidades sociales, encaminándose a un enriquecimiento mutuo de la iglesia local.

(Sigue de la página 3)

Visite www.justiceformigrants.org para mayor información. Le invitamos a visitar nuestra página con regularidad, debido a que se estará actualizando constantemente con materiales, noticias relevantes y otra información que esperamos sea de su utilidad.

El Rev. Ken Milkulcik es un sacerdote que trabaja en la Diócesis de Owensboro como pastor en la Parroquia de San José en Mayfield, KY

Acción: Únase a la Conferencia Católica de la red de apoyo legislativo de Kentucky para influenciar la política pública de inmigración, www.ccky.org

Los obispos llaman a la iglesia local para ayudar a los recién llegados a integrarse en formas que sean respetuosas,