

# Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

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## Fr. Larry Hostetter Formally Installed as Brescia's 5th President

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - October 27th, 2007 was an exciting day for Brescia University. The day began with prayer by celebrating mass at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Students, members of the community, and around 55 alumni and members of the Board of Trustees joined together around the Eucharistic Table. Fr. Robert Congdon, a pastor in the Diocese of Boston, MA, was invited to preach the homily during the celebration. Fr. Congdon was a classmate of Fr. Hostetter's while studying in Rome.

During his homily, Fr. Congdon called the new president "the chief bridge builder," and spoke of his responsibility to build new bridges while sustaining the old ones. "The Catholic University has much to offer our country and our world in light of the Gospel," Congdon said. "Love transcends knowledge and is capable of receiving more than thought alone." He also spoke of promoting the dignity of the human person and using the Spirit's gifts for the common good. He ended by inviting faculty, staff and students to continue the dialogue between faith and reason.

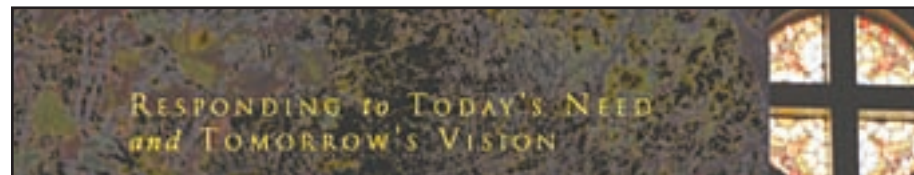
At the moment of the Creed, Fr. Larry stood before all at the lectern and professed his faith before the congregation. In front of the bishop, 18 fellow priests, alumni, board members, students and members of the community, he swore fidelity to the Church and her teachings.

Although the day turned out cloudy and cold, the sun broke through for a few moments while the congregation was receiving Communion. It was as if God wanted to show some magnificent sign of blessing to support us on this historic day. In his closing remarks, Bishop John McRaith commented, "I think we should say a prayer of thanks because I see the sunlight beginning to stream through."

Fr. Larry Hostetter was formally installed as Brescia's 5th President during a 2:00 pm ceremony on Brescia's campus. After Stephanie Thomas, a Brescia student, beautifully intoned the National Anthem, Bishop John McRaith began the ceremony with an invocation. He congratulated and prayed for Fr. Larry in his new role. The new president was then greeted by many honored attendees, such as Owensboro Mayor, Tom Watson, a representative of Governor Ernie Fletcher, and Alex Mattingly, President of the Alumni Association. Before giving his Inaugural Address, Fr. Hostetter was invested with the Presidential Medallion by Christie Wall, President of the Student Government Association and Dean Jones II, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

During his address, Fr. Larry stated: "I'm particularly proud of the presence of our students. You are the reason we are here today. Our work, our mission of teaching and learning, is directed to you, our students, and as president I have been charged to serve that mission. [...] So, today, dear students, is ultimately about you and our commitment

Continued on page 3



Mr. Homer Barton, Smith Barney (retired), member of Immaculate Parish, Owensboro, Ky.

**Announcing the  
Co-Chairs for the  
2007 Diocesan  
Capital Campaign,  
"Responding to  
Today's Need and  
Tomorrow Vision."**



Mr. Mike Reynolds, Attorney with Reynolds, Johnston, Hinton & Pepper, LLP, member of St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green, Ky.

(turn to page  
10  
for more  
information)



Erin Schrecker, (class of '09) aide to Fr. Hostetter, Sr. Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU (class of '68), Christie Wall, president of the Student Government Association, Fr. Larry Hostetter, Bishop John McRaith, H. Dean Jones II, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees listen to Sr. Michele Morek, OSU (class of '66) MSJ Ursuline congregational leader as she officially greets Fr. Larry during his inauguration. The ceremony took place outside in the quad of Brescia University's campus. Hubert Powers Photo

## I ask God's blessing upon each of you. May you have a wonderful Christmas.

My Dear Friends,

As you receive this *Western Kentucky Catholic*, you will be in the midst of the Christmas season. Let us all stand with the shepherds at the side of the crib in the stable, to give praise and glory to the Son of God. The Son of God has become one of us that we might be one with Him — on His birthday and for all eternity.

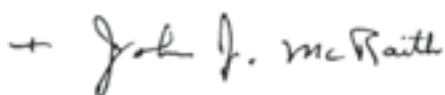
I am deeply grateful this Christmas for your generous and loving celebrations of my 25th anniversary. Some wonderful celebrations have already been held, and I wish I had words to express how much your kind words mean to me. I look forward to the diocesan celebration on December 16th, when we can give thanks for our 25 years of working together to carry out the mission of the Roman Catholic Church of Western Kentucky.

During the holy time of Christmas, may we grow deeper in our understanding that God loves us so much that He became a helpless baby to be one with us. Let us love God and love each other as He has loved us. This would be our way of praising God: loving God and loving each other.

May we each have a joyful Christmas, and may we commit ourselves to our sisters and brothers — that all may have a new year of peace in the world, a new year to come to know the love of God through our love for each other. This is what Christmas is all about.

I ask God's blessing upon each of you. May you have a wonderful Christmas. Thank you for each and every Christmas you have shared with me. Please know of my love and promise of service to you and the Diocese of Owensboro in the New Year.


Your loving servant,



Bishop John J. McRaith,  
Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky



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



### A Scout is Reverent

The annual Religious Emblems mass will be held at St. Stephen's Cathedral on March 9 at 2:30PM with Bishop McRaith presiding. Bishop McRaith will present emblems to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and those adults who would be receiving awards. The deadline for applications will be December 31, 2007. But for those who need a board of review (Ad Altari Dei & Pius XII emblems), the applications will be received at the time of the boards. The boards of review will take place February 2nd at 10:00AM at St. Thomas More in Paducah, St. Joseph in Bowling Green, and St. Pius X in Owensboro. In case of bad weather the boards will be on February 9th. Please send the applications to the Catholic Pastoral Center Attn: Charlotte Hedges, 600 Locust St. Owensboro, KY 42301. If you have any questions you may call Jeff Hedges at (270) 925-7254 or Fr. Ken Mikulcik at (270) 247-2843.

## Highlights of 2007 USCCB fall general meeting

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- At the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops' Nov. 12-15 fall general meeting in Baltimore, the bishops:

-- Received details of Pope Benedict XVI's April 15-20 visit to the United States.  
-- Authorized a new statement on Iraq that says some U.S. policymakers "seem to fail to recognize sufficiently the reality and failures in Iraq and the imperative for new directions." The statement was issued in the name of the outgoing USCCB president, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash.

-- Elected Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago as their new president, and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., as vice president. They had been USCCB vice president and secretary, respectively.

-- Heard a briefing from staff of the New York-based John Jay College of Criminal Justice on an ongoing study of the "causes and context" of clerical sexual abuse, with the early research suggesting that patterns of sexual abuse within the church are consistent with the experience of society as a whole.

-- Voted to draft a brief policy statement on embryonic stem-cell research and a pastoral document on reproductive technologies.

-- Approved a \$147.7 million budget for 2008 and a 16 percent reduction in the diocesan assessment to fund the USCCB.

-- Issued the 2008 version of their quadrennial "Faithful Citizenship" election statement, which rejects politics based on "powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype" and calls instead for "a different kind of political engagement," and approved a bulletin-ready insert summarizing its main points.

-- Gave their approval by a 221-7 margin to legislation specifying when a bishop must get the consent of his diocesan finance council and college of consultors before making certain financial transactions or commitments. The legislation now awaits Vatican approval.

-- Approved several liturgical agenda items: a document on liturgical music, 183-22, with three abstentions; an English-language version of a document on weekday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, 190-18, and a Spanish-language version, 188-16, with five abstentions; and revised readings during Lent, 199-6, with five abstentions.

-- OK'd a curriculum framework for developing catechetical materials for high school students, 117-97, with one abstention.

-- Approved an English-language version of a document on stewardship and teenagers, 198-6, and a Spanish-language version, 202-5.

-- Approved a 21-page set of guidelines on catechetical instruction on chaste living for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, 212-3.

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### Bishop McRaith's December 2007 Schedule

- 2 Josh McCarty Candidacy, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, 10:30am
- 5 Diocesan Administration Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 8:30am
- 6 CCK Mtg., Louisville, 12:30am
- 8 Mass, Staff Christmas Celebration, CPC, 6pm
- 9 Confirmation & 175th Anniversary Celebration, St. Ambrose Parish, Henshaw (includes St. Francis Borgia Parish, Sturgis), 2pm
- 11 Christmas Celebration, Bishop Soenneker Home, 5:30pm
- 12 Diocesan Capital Campaign Steering Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 11:30am
- 12 Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Holy Name Parish, Henderson, 6:30pm
- 16 Mass, Diocesan Celebration of 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop John J. McRaith, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 3pm (All invited.)
- 17 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 17 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 18 Paducah Office Day (Office located at Lourdes Hospital, across from Chapel)
- 20 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 24 Children's Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 4pm
- 25 Midnight Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 12am
- 28 Mass, 50th Anniv. of St. Pius Tenth Parish, Owensboro, 5:30pm







In this photo gallery, from top left clockwise are T. Alex Mattingly, President of the Brescia Alumni Association, Bishop John McRaith, H. Dean Jones II, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sister Michele Morek, O.S.U., Congregational Leader, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, and at center, Father Laurence Hostetter, S.T.D., Brescia's Fifth President. Hubert Powers Photos

## Pope to visit New York, Washington in April, papal nuncio confirms

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI will visit Washington and New York April 15-20. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, confirmed the dates of the papal trip and announced the pope's itinerary in remarks Nov. 12 at the beginning of the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore. According to the archbishop, the pope will arrive in Washington April 15 and will receive an official welcome at the White House April 16. That afternoon he will address the U.S. bishops. The following day he will celebrate Mass at the new Washington Nationals baseball stadium in Washington. Later that day he will meet with directors of Catholic universities and colleges and diocesan educational leaders at The Catholic University of America in Washington and then he is to attend an interreligious meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. On April 18, the pope will be in New York to address the United Nations in the morning and attend an ecumenical meeting in the afternoon. The following day he will celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the morning and meet with youths and seminarians in the afternoon. The pope also will visit ground zero on the morning of April 20. That afternoon, he will celebrate Mass at Yankee Stadium, the final event of his U.S. trip.

to you." He also touched on the four key points of the 'Brescia Difference: Respect for the Sacred, Devotion to Learning, Commitment to Growth in Virtue, and Promotion of Servant Leadership. He continued by speaking on six values, which he called lodestars, (a guiding star, or, in a figurative sense, an idea that inspires). The Brescia Lodestars are: Catholic/Ursuline identity, academic excellence, student life, community outreach, stewardship, and institutional effectiveness. He ended by affirming that "we are going to make sure that we deliver on what we promise," because "education is more than just about getting a diploma; it's about making a difference."

Many of those present remained on the grounds to take part in a reception following the ceremony. Fr. Larry shook hands and smiled, graciously allowing pictures to be taken and giving thanks for kind words spoken. He followed through on his earlier statement that this day was ultimately about the students by personally speaking with those students present.

Crissy Stevenson, a junior at Brescia is very excited to see Fr. Larry as president. "He's very personable. I think we're going to see some good things happen. He's a prime example of servant leadership." Philip Edge, a sophomore, agreed by adding, "Fr. Larry as a person is warm and caring toward the students and I believe he has the best interest of the students at heart." Stephanie Thomas, also a junior, summed it up by commenting, "We already know him through the discernment program, so we have a relationship with him already. He makes it a point to be present at the events that are important to the students. He rocks!"

Although the sky boded dark and threatened rain, sunshine invaded our hearts during this great event. As a student of Brescia University myself, I see great potential in this milestone in Brescia's history. Not only is Fr. Larry loved by staff, students and the community, but he has the authority and leadership to make great things happen, both on and off campus. I'm excited to be a witness of what's to come.

*Tami Schneider is a junior in Brescia's Weekend College Program.*

## St. Mary Magdalene Christmas Concert

We are inviting the public to "An Evening of Christmas Carols and Sacred Arias" a Christmas Concert on Dec. 16, 2007, 6:00 PM featuring the St. Mary Magdalene Church Choir and Youth Band. Special guests include Friends from Whitesville and St. Elizabeth Church Choir, featured soloists Geri Kramer, TJ Smith, The Hayden Singers and Jacob Johnson. Tickets at a donation of \$5.00 per person at the door will help cover the cost of the Production. Limited seating available, doors open to the public at 5:15 PM. A Reception will follow at the Social Hall after the Concert. Please call the office at 771-4436 for advance tickets and more information.

## The Western Kentucky Catholic

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*"Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God."* -Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971

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

## A Tribute On Our Bishop's 25th Anniversary

By Father John Vaughan

*This is the text of a talk given at Diocese of Owensboro Priests' Retreat Oct. 25, 2007 in honor of the Bishop John McRaith's 25th anniversary as Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro.*

Twenty five years and two days ago Bishop Soenneker was at a Forty Hours celebration at Holy Name Parish in Henderson. During the dinner conversation he not too subtly hinted that the announcement of the new diocesan bishop would be made the following day. This news spread quickly and the following day many priests grabbed the Catholic Directory and eagerly listened to the news reports. We were excited to hear that Pope John Paul had appointed Father John McGrath (sic), the Vicar General of the Diocese of New Ulm, as the third bishop of the Owensboro Diocese.

In the first letter to Timothy, St. Paul wrote: "Whoever wants to be a bishop, aspires to a noble task." (I Tim. 3:1) Bishop John, I don't know if you aspired to it or not, but certainly the role of bishop is an awesome task and a weighty responsibility. We have often enjoyed your telling of the phone call from Archbishop Laghi informing you of your appointment as you tried to get to a funeral in Wanda.

What joy, expectation and hope filled (or almost filled) the Sportscenter that wet December night in 1982. I recall the proud look on your mother's face and your brother Jim pushing your father's wheelchair into the arena on what your father later termed "your big day." How well we remember Sister Madeline being led to the podium where she so beautifully proclaimed the first reading - in braille! With his usual charm and wit, Archbishop Kelly spoke to you of the communities in Peonia and Paducah, Fancy Farm and Sunfish. We were moved to tears by your own as you processed around the Sportscenter while the choir sang "Here I am Lord."

Last night I took the time to read the forty-four paragraphs of *Christus Dominus* (the Vatican II document on the pastoral ministry of bishops) and the thirty-six canons of the Code (Canon Law) outlining the job description of a diocesan bishop. I can summarize all that by saying a bishop is a man who is "faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound." Yes, to be a bishop is to be a super man as one strives to teach, govern and sanctify the People of God. The documents tell us that a bishop must be one who serves "in the midst of his people," "as a good shepherd" "a true father" "personally performing his proper functions" "directing the works of the apostolate" and that he must "welcome priests with special love as sons and friends."

Most of us here undoubtedly have many memories of the past twenty-five years. I have such special remembrance of the seven years I lived with you and worked with you daily as your Vicar General. After your ordination, one of my first memories goes back to January 1983. I was invited to your home on Mayfair Avenue along with some other priests, a couple of religious and several lay people. We enjoyed a delicious pot of soup that you had prepared and engaged in delightful conversation. Sister Donna Ciango, was visiting and she acquainted us with RENEW a process of renewal which we eventually brought to the diocese. That evening remains in my mind as a paradigm of your episcopal ministry. There were four aspects of that gathering which char-



**"Here I am, Lord." Bishop John greeting the crowd in the Sportscenter in 1982 after his ordination as our third Bishop. WKC File Photo**

acterize your life among us during these years.

The first is hospitality. How many groups of priests, lay organizations and other individuals have been warmly welcomed to your home or to St. Raphael during this time.

The second mark of your ministry is inclusiveness. Through the years you have accepted, welcomed and reached out to all groups and segments of people. Tonight I am especially mindful of your initiative toward the Latino community and our missionary brother priests.

Third, you have exercised your leadership in a spirit of collaboration. Throughout the years you have always tried to be truly consultative. Indications of this spirit include the Priests' Council, the clergy Per-

sonnel Boards, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Deanery Councils etc. Two innovations you have embraced as a result of such consultation, contrary to your initial personal preference are the Diaconate program and the current diocesan capital campaign.

The final characteristic I want to mention is familiarity/warmth. We have never had to kneel beside your desk, nor go through three monsignors to gain access to you. Your door is always open and you answer your own telephone. I experienced an indication of your spirit in the early months of your time here when you were celebrating a youth Mass in Henderson. At the sign of peace I overheard one of the young people say to you, "I have never hugged a bishop before." You responded, "well you are going to now!"

These twenty-five years have been "the best of times and the worst of times." Some of the best have been the years our diocese had the highest percentage of Mass attendance in the country and the largest number of seminarians per capita in our nation. I include in this category the initiation of the lay ministry program at Brescia and the benefits package for the lay employees throughout the diocese.

But we have also had some difficult experiences in these years. We have had no ordinations in the last four years; too many priests have left active ministry and your heart has broken when you have had to remove some of our brothers from the active priesthood. You have cried with the victims of sexual abuse and even faced threats on your own life. This, and more, has taken a toll on your knees and your blood pressure.

In many ways, this has not been the cruise you thought you had signed up for. Even so, you have remained at the helm and have not abandoned ship.

Bishop, you would be the first to admit that you have not been a perfect bishop. But you have been no less perfect than the original twelve whose successor you are. Neither have we been a perfect presbyterate, although I am sure that each of us knows exactly what a bishop should do!

Throughout, you have been a loving bishop, a zealous shepherd, a solicitous father. You were so young when God gave you to us. In these twenty-five years we have journeyed with you as you have grown in wisdom, age and grace. We have hurt with you as your knees and body aged. What a special blessing it has been to see a father grow old, wearing out in loving service to his family!

We look forward to the diocesan celebration at St. Stephen Cathedral on December 16th. For now, we once again pledge our obedience and respect. We, your "sons and your friends" thank you and thank God for you. We pray for you - we love you!

## A Poem For My Bishop

**As our Diocesan Pastor, Bishop John, celebrates 25th years of episcopate, I would like to honor him. I have learned that the best way to honor somebody is to use the talents God has generously given. Therefore I dedicate these simple stanzas to our beloved Bishop. -Byron Macias**

**This poem is for a good person:  
a pastor, father, divine physician,  
believer and friend.**

**You were given such a mission  
about twenty five years ago.**

**God chose you to be his Apostle  
and as such you brought Jesus to us  
in the Eucharist, in your words,  
in the peace of your eyes,  
in the compassionate way with  
which you shepherd us.**

**You planted seeds on this soil  
and you water us with the Gospel  
and the Sacraments.  
Though one day you may go away  
here there will be  
the trees you planted.**

**The Lord made you humble  
with a heart full of compassion  
so that we can form our identity**

**and through your simplicity  
we may find salvation.**

**We love you, Bishop John,  
our leader,  
We are the trees you have planted.  
Thank you for your care,  
for being a good shepherd;  
Thank you for doing  
what the Lord wanted.**

*Byron Macias  
serving Bishop  
John McRaith  
at a Mass in  
Saint Joseph  
Monastery  
Chapel  
October 20,  
2007. Staff  
Photo*





# The Mass:

## What we believe is what we pray and live

By Father Tom Margevicius

*The first in a series of six articles. Western Kentucky Catholic Readers are invited to send letters to the editor about "The most memorable Mass experience I have ever had." Space is limited; please keep your letters to within 300 words. - Ed.*

"Ite, Missa est." This is the Latin ending of the Mass, rendered in English as: "The Mass is ended, go in peace."

"OK," you're thinking, "here's another article — or worse, a series of articles — on the pre-Vatican II Mass." Wrong. I know the old Latin Mass is a hot topic, but I start this column with the Latin words for two other reasons. The first is to say that "missa" is where we get the English word "Mass." Second, "Ite, Missa est" means we are "missioned" by Jesus Christ himself to bring the Good News to the world (Matthew 28:19-20). The dismissal more than just signals that we can go home — it tells us what to do after Mass. The church uses the Latin phrase, "lex credendi, lex orandi" — "the law of believing is the law of praying" ("Catechism of the Catholic Church," 1124). This means that if you want to know what we Catholics believe, look at how we pray, and vice versa.

Pope Benedict XVI's exhortation, "The Sacrament of Charity," follows that basic pattern: Part 1 is titled "A Mystery to Be Believed" ("lex credendi"). Part 2 is "A Mystery to Be Celebrated" ("lex orandi"). But the pope adds a Part 3: "A Mystery to Be Lived." One might say Pope Benedict XVI expands the phrase to "lex credendi, lex orandi, lex vivendi" — the law of belief is the law of praying is the law of living.

Mass is about more than fancy words and strange vestments and vessels. It's about changed lives: ours, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the lives of those we encounter. For that reason, the popular "Gather" hymnal we use in church could also have been titled "Dismiss!" because we are charged to go out and bring Christ to a world that needs him.

These articles on what happens at Mass mean nothing unless we are converted. But I'm ahead of myself. We'll discuss the dismissal in a few months. For now, let's start with a few other basic concepts for understanding Mass.

**"Not just anybody leads the Eucharist. We choose particular men and ordain them to do so..."**

• Time and space. The incarnation, Passion and resurrection of Jesus

are timeless. Though they happened historically and geographically in Palestine 2,000 years ago, their reality becomes present here and now in our celebration. "Remembering," in the strong liturgical sense, is how we become present to that always-and-everywhere reality (CCC, 1362-1363).

• Signs and symbols. Question: Is the Eucharist the real presence of Christ, or is it a symbol? Answer: Yes.

The Eucharist is both the real presence and a symbol, or better, a collection of symbols. We hesitate because "symbol" to us connotes something unreal, but that is not the traditional Catholic understanding. Every sacrament is a sign (CCC, 1123); the sign is the reality, present in a particular way. To say the eucharistic presence is symbolic means Jesus Christ comes to us through bread and wine, which the Spirit changes into Christ's Body and Blood, and also through the Word, people, actions and even objects of the Mass (CCC, 1131).

• Distinctive roles, words, actions and objects. A few years ago, a college sports team met with President Bush, and people gasped because some women on the team wore flip-flop sandals. The reaction was reasonable because for really special events we dress up. The Eucharist commemorates the most important event ever, and our words, actions and objects should dress it up. That's why the church protects worship from becoming too pedestrian. Not just anybody leads the Eucharist. We choose particular men and ordain them to do so. We don't use paper cups and plates, nor do we talk to God using words like, "Hey, Dude!" Something special is going on.

• Full and active participation. St. Pius X didn't want people to pray at Mass, he wanted them to pray the Mass. Pius XII encouraged full and active participation, a phrase re-emphasized at Vatican II. The better we understand our special roles, words and actions, the better our worship.

During the next five months, we will look at each part of the Mass in succession so we can understand, celebrate and live it even better.

Father Tom Margevicius is instructor of liturgical theology at St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity in St. Paul, Minneapolis.

## Centro Latino Doubles Efforts To Support Hispanic Ministries Around Owensboro

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Centro Latino held a fundraising dinner at Sts. Joseph and Paul's new Parish Hall on October 21, 2007. This event was part of multiple and ongoing efforts to keep the center going, despite economical setbacks. The whole community was invited to participate, including many city officials and area political leaders. Although many seemed enthusiastic, only Judge Payne followed through by attending. Judge Lisa Payne graduated from Brescia University in 1993 with a degree in Social Studies.

The reason Centro Latino is experiencing this difficulty is because of growing need and lessening resources. The center normally depends on two annual grants from Catholic Care Partners. This year, one of those grants was cut in half. At the same time, another interpreter was hired on in the face of the ever-growing needs of the Hispanics in our community. Centro Latino currently functions through the generosity of organizations such as the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, the Council of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph and St. Vincent de Paul. At this time, three personal donors also give monthly gifts.

The center was founded back in 1993 by Sr. Fran Wilhem, OSU. After Fr. Tony Shonis brought her to a home where 8 men slept on the floor because they had nowhere else to go, she felt she had to do something. She brought the idea of housing for Latinos to the Bishop, who was in favor. For the first few years, Centro Latino was located at the old school house of St. Peter's Church in Stanley, KY, where they often housed more than 8 people a night. After six years in this location, the center was moved in town to its current location on Locust St., just two houses down from the Catholic Pastoral Center. Since this move, the center has not allowed borders, but services have abounded.

The staff currently consists of Sr. Fran, who directs and coordinates the ministry, Connie Caceres, Sr. Rosemary, OSU, Allen Screve, and Ruth Bittel, who serve as interpreters, and MaryAnn O'Brien, a part-time secretary. Nine volunteers serve on a regular basis and many others lend a hand throughout the year.

Besides offering interpreting services for the area's Hispanics, Centro Latino also serves in many other ways. It offers networking to other agencies, rides to appointments, and Christian compassion to those in need. Centro Latino also organizes an annual Health Fair, where it offers the Hispanics information from local community organizations.

Referring to the USCCB's Catholic Social Teaching on the Option for the Poor, Sr. Fran states, "With the Church's option for the poor, we are inspired to expect that many people would want to support ours and others' social justice works." Donations may be sent to: Centro Latino, 524 Locust St., Owensboro KY 42301.



The Centro Latino staff consists of, front row, l. to r., Allen Shreve, Sister Fran Wilhem, Connie Caceres. Back row, Ruth Bittel, Mary Ann O'Bryan and Sister Rosemary Keough. Mount Saint Joseph Photo

## Teens Encounter Christ: “Come, Lord Jesus”

By Father Eric D Riley  
wkytecspdir@bellsouth.net



As the Church enters into our new liturgical year with the season of Advent, we are reminded of our preparation for the Coming of the Lord. This season of anticipation not only prepares us for the annual celebration of the Birth of the Messiah, but is also a reminder that we are a people who are preparing for the return of the Christ as the Judge of the

living and the dead.

For us in the TEC movement this Advent is a great time to take stock of our spiritual lives over the past year. How have we allowed the Paschal Mystery (the death, resurrection and glorification) to take root and produce fruit in our lives? Have we cooperated with the Holy Spirit in allowing the seed of Faith planted in Baptism to take root deep in our soul? Have we been open to the gift of the Holy Spirit who strengthens the seed of Faith with knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord? Have we worthily approached the gift of the Eucharist, the Bread of Life, that the seed of Faith may be nourished? Have we allowed the justice and mercy of God to pull up and remove the thorns, briars, bushes, weeds of sinfulness that we have given pride of place in our lives? Are we celebrating our Life in Christ to the full, or are we giving way to the culture of death that stifles, strangles and steals the joy of everlasting Life? These are just some of the areas of our lives of which we need to take stock.

We know from the very basics of the Paschal Mystery movement that growth and ideals are key to a life well-lived. This “new year” in the Church’s liturgical cycle is a great opportunity for us to be restored in the newness of life through sacramental Confession and to set our goals for this liturgical year. Rather than making “new year’s resolutions” in January that have somewhat become a running joke in our culture, let us make a Covenant with the Lord for this liturgical year. Seek the counsel of the Holy Spirit: pray, fast, abstain and seek the will of God. Prepare the way of the Lord anew in your life. Discern what God is asking of you for this upcoming year: what is His plan, and how can you cooperate with it? You may be very surprised at the good things God has in store for you. But unless you are unwilling to plant the seed, how will you ever reap the fruit? Think of it as winter wheat.

Let us especially sow wheat for the upcoming events. Let us recruit and invite others to come into the field. Let us send wheat letters. Let us bring in the sheaves at the appropriate time of reunion. Let us walk with one another as we encounter the riches of Christ more deeply. Let us be faithful disciples in the Family of Faith, especially by being active in our local parishes and Newman Centers.

### Upcoming TEC Events (Mark your calendars now):

• 14 January, Paschal Mystery Eucharistic Holy Hour, 7-8:30, St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, Adoration, Praise Music, Meditation, Small Groups, Benediction, Social. All are welcome.

• 19-21 January, TEC # 160, Gaspar River Catholic Camp, Bowling Green, KY, Lay Director: Cody Shupe Spiritual Director: Fr. Eric Riley Mass 4 PM  
• 16-18 February, TEC # 161, St. Charles Parish, Bardwell, KY, Lay Director: Joe Bland Spiritual Director: Fr. Mike Williams Mass 4 PM

## Once More With Love

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

Saturday, February 9, 2008  
Catholic Pastoral Center, 600

Locust Street,  
Owensboro, KY 42301

Telephone: (270) 683-1545  
ext 357

or [betty.medley@pastoral.org](mailto:betty.medley@pastoral.org)



# Planning For The Holidays When You Are Grieving



Betty  
Medley

By Betty Medley

People who are grieving often dread the period of time from Thanksgiving to the New Year holiday. Coping with the loss of a loved one is difficult enough on a day-to-day basis, but the time of holiday and family celebrations are even more difficult. For individuals and families who have lost a loved one through death, times of family gatherings during the holidays can cause feelings of sadness and longing for the absent family member. The common question raised becomes, “Should we?... How can we celebrate?” “How do I get through this terrible time?”

Planning is an important task for persons who face the holidays following the loss of a loved one. The anticipation of the holiday as a time of sadness is often worse than the actual living of the experience. Planning can give concrete details to the question of “How can I do it?” When looking ahead to the holidays, the person who is grieving often sees only the pain of being away from the person who has died. At times the only option appears to be trying to ignore the entire season and hoping that January 2 arrives very quickly. This option is rarely helpful because it usually is not a sufficient coping mechanism. There are too many reminders, too many occasions when one cannot ignore what is happening in the rest of the world. As the constant reminders of the Christmas season become more and more powerful, the person who attempts to use avoidance as a coping mechanism finds it unsuccessful. He/she is eventually forced to deal with the pain of their situation whether they choose it or not.

Planning is a way to survive the holidays and try to understand the experience as an opportunity for potential healing. Time spent in planning to cope can be more profitable than time utilized in anxiety and worry. Though it is impossible to completely avoid all of the pain associated with the loss of a love, it is possible to plan ways and utilize methods of coping. Planning is best done before the season begins in order to channel energy into positive methods of coping and preventing useless anxiety.

• Identify each specific day during the holiday season that you can predict will be difficult for you or your family.

• Keep in mind that the pain of grief can be eased by meaningful tasks or activities. Plan at least one activity that is new or different to be done on that day. Even if it only involves a portion of that day, it may provide a source of distraction and respite for a portion of time.

• Give yourself permission to enjoy the activities that you plan. Often bereaved persons feel guilty when they experience some positive thoughts and feelings. You cannot grieve every moment. Times of respite are normal and healthy for the process of coping with loss.

• Expect that some time during the holiday will bring pain. Also expect that you will be given the strength and courage to survive.

## Owensboro Catholic Radio To Air Ball Games

At right, from left, are Parker Whitehouse, Adam Clark, and Alex Bumm, as they prepare to broadcast Brescia University’s game against Mid Continent College on 11/07/07. Not pictured, but part of the broadcast crew are Chase Lilly and Kyle Mattingly. WIMM radio (107.7 FM) plans to broadcast Brescia University’s home basketball games and all of Owensboro Catholic High School’s home basketball games that are not broadcast on WBIO. WIMM is working with Brescia University to make the broadcasts available via live internet streaming as well. WIMM broadcasts also include programming from EWTN, Catholic talk radio, apologetics, daily prayers, the Holy Mass, and much much more. Submitted by Charlie Castlen





## ARISE! What's It All About?

By Cecelia Hamilton, Lay Director, Owensboro Diocese Cursillo

There is excitement in the air! A program sponsored by Cursillo called Arise has held five weekends over the past 20 months. You see pictures from the last two weekends above. Here are some comments from those who have attended.

**George:** For those that belong to the Catholic faith, it should have been a great refresher course. The Arise program was really what I was looking for since I will be going through RCIA this fall and become a member. If you want to hear the Word of God explained in simple English attend the Arise weekend. If after attending you still don't have faith, you have problems.

**Angie:** The Arise weekend is a very informative non-threatening weekend for Catholics and non-Catholics. It will help to answer many of your questions as well as eliminate a lot of myths about our faith. I found it very enjoyable and also found a phrase that I love. Definition of a saint: A sinner that keeps on trying.

**Susan:** Being a convert myself, I could see myself in many of the attendees on the weekend I was privileged to work. I experienced the awareness these people had when they learned that the Catholic faith was so similar to their faith in basic belief. The fact that we all were in it together in worshiping and loving the same Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was evident. I feel as Catholics we should share our faith whenever we can. This weekend provides an opportunity to learn of the Catholic faith prior to going through RCIA. It was a great experience.

**Mary Grace:** During the summer of 2006, I attended a weekend retreat that became an experience I'll never forget. The Arise weekend was something I felt led to do, but wasn't something I was sure I wanted to do. Coming from a Protestant background, I was resistant to the Catholic faith. I attended the Catholic Church with my husband and children, but didn't give much thought to becoming Catholic. Earlier I attended RCIA to learn more about the Catholic faith, but didn't really absorb the information. Then I attended Arise. Here I met the nicest people. They explained that they weren't going

to twist our arms and make us become Catholic, we were just there to listen and to learn. During that weekend, we listened to many speakers, some more interesting than others. One talk on Sunday caught my attention. The speaker mentioned that becoming Catholic didn't mean that you have to give up everything that had been learned so far in our walk of faith. Suddenly I was overwhelmed by emotion. I realized it wasn't like I was converting to another religion; it was just another step up the ladder of my faith. After coming away from this experience, I again attended RCIA, where I learned much more and have since joined the Catholic Church.

The next weekends are scheduled for September 2008. If you would like more information, please call one of the following: Denis/Martha Wheatley (270) 927-6540, Charlie Krampe (270) 546-7773, or Cecelia Hamilton (270) 926-4176.

### Hispanic group fears new USCCB structure splits whites, nonwhites

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A national organization for Hispanic ministry is raising concerns that reorganization of the bishops' conference and its national staff "structurally divides the church into two groups -- one for Catholics who are white, and the other for Catholics who are not white." A letter prepared by the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry was the product of a symposium among leaders in Hispanic ministry in August about the current state and future directions of ministry, given the structural changes of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Dated Nov. 11, it was sent to the bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, whose members discussed it at their meeting during the annual fall gathering of the USCCB Nov. 12-15 in Baltimore. It also was sent to the Hispanic ministry council's membership and other "collaborators and leaders in ministry," it said. Among the groups represented by the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry are the national associations of Hispanic deacons and priests and various provinces of religious orders, including Augustinians, Capuchins, Conventual Franciscans, Divine Providence missionaries, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sulpicians and the Religious of Jesus and Mary.



ARISE #5, Men Weekend, August 10-12, 2007 - Row 1: Brett A Mills, Paul D. Coomes, George F. Holland, Rafe Wheatley, Sr. Mary Thomas, Kelley V. Wheatley; Row 2: Charles Krampe, Roger Bickett, Fr. Richard Meredith, Denis F. Wheatley, Jody Wheatley; Row 3: Tyler Powers, Don Speaks, Greg Howard, David Butler, Dennis Mann; Not Pictured: Fr. David Kennedy.



Arise #4 Women - Row 1: Josie Hagan, Debbie Lanham, Toni Isbill, Bernadine Westerfield, Martha Wheatley, Sandra Thomas, Sister Mary Thomas, Mary Hagan, Tina Lantz, Terri Reburn; Row 2: Fr. David Kennedy, Angela McCarty, Tina Powers, JoEtta Mayfield, Cecelia Hamilton, Mary Grace Woodward, Marcella Wethington, Fr. Phil Riney, Barbara Hertel. Submitted by Cecelia Hamilton.

### You Can Help Your Marriage –

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 18-20, 2008 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).



## Sts. Joe and Paul Provides Safe Haven for Owensboro Tornado Victims

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Sts. Joseph and Paul was in the eye of the storm, offering a calm, quiet place for those suffering damages from the October 18 evening tornado that damaged over 200 buildings in the city here. As soon as he heard about the impending storm and later in the evening gathered the reports of people's houses being ripped apart in the 80-mile-an-hour winds, Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor of the downtown Owensboro Catholic Church, opened the Parish Hall as a temporary shelter for those whose houses were hit hard. After hearing that the Budget Inn had been hit, Father Carl walked about the streets, visiting parishioners to make sure they were okay, as he headed toward the Inn. Soon after, he called some of his parish staff to help out during the crisis. Among those on the scene were Pastoral Associate, Martha and John Little, Philip McCarthy in maintenance, and Ken Castlen, the youth minister. The team went from house to house checking on parishioners in the area who may have been affected by the storm, many of whom are elderly or homebound. Martha Little says that you could see the love in their eyes seeing Father Carl standing at their doors.

People have an instinctive need for prayer when confronted with an emergency or with trauma. It's automatic to say "Oh, God!" even in the movies; but this night in Owensboro was not the making of a movie. It was for real; so was the destruction, the pain, and the trauma. For a person of Faith, just knowing that a man of prayer, a Catholic priest, is with them in person, can help her or him handle whatever life or death can dish out.

Fr. McCarthy decided to open the Parish Hall at the request of Fire Battalion, to whom he offered his services to help in any way possible. Although the hall was without power, over a dozen people took advantage of this building, whose doors were open for approximately two hours, from 10:00 pm -12:00 midnight. After the Red Cross set up their station at First Baptist Church, the displaced persons were then directed to that location. The St. Benedict Joseph Shelter was also offered to authorities as a refuge, but was not utilized since the Red Cross' services were sufficient.

The day after the tornado hit, Fr. Carl decided to personally visit the area's churches to speak with pastors about what they could do to help their flocks. The general consensus was to direct those in need to the Red Cross shelter. Fr. Carl has also made an effort to network with parishioners in helpful professions such as construction workers and contractors to help assess the damage, board up windows, and cover roofs with tarps. He feels that this crisis should be a lesson. "All parishes should have a plan," he said. He suggests they set up at least two alternatives for where to meet, as well as to set up a network of medical professionals, social workers, construction workers, etc.

Martha Little was oblivious to the gravity of the storm until she received a call from Fr. Carl. When she opened her front door, she heard what sounded like "every siren from every emergency vehicle in the city" going off at once. She says she felt that "gut shock all over again," referring to the 2000 tornado which hit Owensboro. She called her daughter who works at the hospital, and they had already begun setting up Emergency Triage. Martha decided to join the aide effort. Walking through the streets, she recalls the look of shock on most faces. At the same time, she was confident that Jesus was truly present.

At times like these, neighbors come together. No one feared for their safety or feared looting. When they arrived at the home of a single, elderly woman to check on her, they discovered that a neighbor boy was already at her side. "He always takes care of me," the woman stated. "There was a common bond of 'let's take care of each other,'" Martha said.



Father Carl McCarthy, shown here in the Saints Joseph and Paul Parish Hall, led parish staff and volunteers in helping people displaced by the Oct. 18, 2007 tornado which hit Owensboro. Tami Schneider photo

## A Rider On The Storm: October 18 Tornado Hit Owensboro

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The winds rose and the winds fell. The winds blew and the winds abated. They seemed to pick and chose their victims. The good always shines above the bad. No one was hurt. Very few were seriously injured. The damage done was to things more than people. God was merciful.

As a Weekend College student at Brescia University, I was concerned as to what effect the natural disaster would have on my education. Would buildings be shut down? Would classes be cancelled? Although many windows were blown out on the south side of the Science Building and the roof was damaged, only one day of classes was cancelled for traditional college students, and Weekend College stayed right on schedule.

Stephanie Thomas, a traditional college commuter student, recalls walking around campus moments after the storm was over. She commented on how many of her fellow students joined her in surveying the damage. They were all shocked. Debris lay everywhere. A large air-conditioner unit lay atop a truck, crushing it. Tree branches and telephone poles littered the streets.

Brescia was lucky. Other than minimal power outages, life is almost back to normal. But what about the dozens of people whose roofs blew off? What about Third Baptist Church, who reported millions of dollars in damage?

Help is on the way. Hope is on the way. The Red Cross set up a shelter in town, as did Sts. Joseph and Paul Church. Their newly built and newly dedicated Parish hall served as a refuge from the storm. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike were welcomed and given a roof over their heads.

Being a Northerner from above the Mason-Dixon Line, I am not used to inclement weather like this. Thunderstorms I can handle. Snow storms I can handle. But tornadoes? Now that's a bit too scary.

I can tell you I was raising prayers up to the Almighty time and time again that night. And my prayers were answered. So many buildings destroyed, yet all lives were spared. Thank you Jesus, for Your mercy.

### Grant Writing Workshop for Non-Profits

A grant writing workshop for non-profits will take place Tuesday-Thursday, January 8-10, 2008 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Topics include "Understanding the Federal Government's Faith-Based Community Initiatives." Workshop director is Karen Dueker, executive director of the Volunteer Center. Contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-4103, ext. 413 or [kmccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kmccarty@maplemount.org) for information. A flyer can be found online at [www.mscenter.org](http://www.mscenter.org)



# The Kentucky Council of Churches Meets In Owensboro

The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2007 9

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. -On October 18th, about 100 people gathered at Third Baptist Church in Owensboro for the annual meeting of the Kentucky Council of Churches. The council is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. According to Karen Owen of the *Messenger & Inquirer*, its member organizations represent nearly 1 million Kentuckians in about 3,000 congregations.

On Thursday, the first day of the meeting, the group gathered in the sanctuary for prayer and group activities and then broke out into separate rooms for workshops and discussion groups. In one room, many Catholic priests and lay people asked question to a panel which included Fr. Richard Meredith, a Roman Catholic priest from St. Pius the Tenth Church in Owensboro, Dr. Mark Medley, Professor of Theology at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, and Fr. Thomas Galloway, an Orthodox Priest from Lexington.

This particular group discussed the lack of evangelization among Catholics. One participant mentioned that our young people have 'itching ears' to see what else is out there and that other churches are often better at evangelizing than Catholics are. Bishop John J. McRaith followed up by pointing out that 80% of the world has not heard the Catholic message. "We're 2,000 years old," he said, "and we're 20% of the world's population. That doesn't seem like a very good batting average. [...] We're messing up on carrying out the basic command of Jesus to get out the Good News."

Unity and ecumenism remain a primary goal for the Kentucky Council of



This photograph of a meeting of the Kentucky Council of Churches meeting was taken the the day before a tornado ripped through Owensboro, sending the steeple of Third Baptist Church crashing into this very spot. The meeting was still going on at the time of the storm, but all participants, including Bishop John McRaith, had left the church sanctuary to ride out the storm in the church basement. No one in this meeting was injured in the storm. Photo by Tami Schneider

Churches. Executive Director, Nancy Jo Kemper, says the council seeks "an organic or dynamic kind of unity, in which we accept one another's baptism and recognize the ministry of one another and can share the sacraments at the table. Those are signs of unity now." Fr. Richard Meredith states that "the unity of the Church is not an end in itself. It is so the Church might lead."

Fr. Michael Clark, Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Owensboro believes that "there is benefit in us coming together to pray and build relationship with one another." He found it especially interesting to see the fronts on which many churches are willing to work together, and the common concerns we have. For example, many denominations seem to be concerned with recruitment and education of seminarians in the face of the ever decreasing numbers of clergy.

The gathering was scheduled to continue Friday, October 19, ending with a tour of the working farm at the Ursuline facilities at Mount St. Joseph. However, on the eve of October 18th, tragedy struck. During an Ecumenical Prayer Service attended by over 120 people, a tornado hit the city of Owensboro. The group made it to the basement just moments before the steeple was ripped off and fell into the sanctuary. A prayer service was held in another location on Friday morning, but the rest of the day's programming was cancelled.

Bishop John McRaith stated: "It was a great joy for me to gather with my sisters and brothers from the various Christian Church from the state of Kentucky to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Kentucky Council of Churches. I found it to be a real religious experience as well as a learning experience. The tornado cut the time together short but this too was a religious experience. We come face to face with the incredible power of God as we join together as a community in a time of real danger for all of us. I thank God that no one was hurt and am most grateful for the warm welcome received by Dr. James Byrd, Pastor of Third Baptist Church and by all of those serving with him."

Fr. Mike Clark added that although each denomination approaches God in a different way, at that moment of crisis they all recognized that they were praying to the same God and have the same basic human needs. That fact in itself is a great point of foundation and solidarity.

*"Ordinary" miracles ...*

## Life Lessons from Women in the Bible



### Women's Retreat

with Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

February 29-March 2, 2008



The Bible is filled with spiritual treasures. Prayerful examination also reveals hidden gems, usually found within "ordinary" everyday lives of biblical characters. Throughout this weekend, retreatants will be invited to reflect on how stories of biblical women intersect with their own contemporary lives. Then as now, women wrestle with the opportunities and difficulties of commitment to family, faith community, and the wider world.

Through conferences, liturgy, quiet personal prayer and sharing together, each retreatant will seek to discover the life lesson treasure she most needs to live more joyously the "ordinary" miracle of daily Christian life.

The Women's Retreat begins Friday at 6 p.m. and ends Sunday at 1 p.m.

Cost: \$165 residents or  
\$115 commuters.

To register, call Kathy McCarty  
270-229-0200 ext. 413

kmccarty@maplemount.org

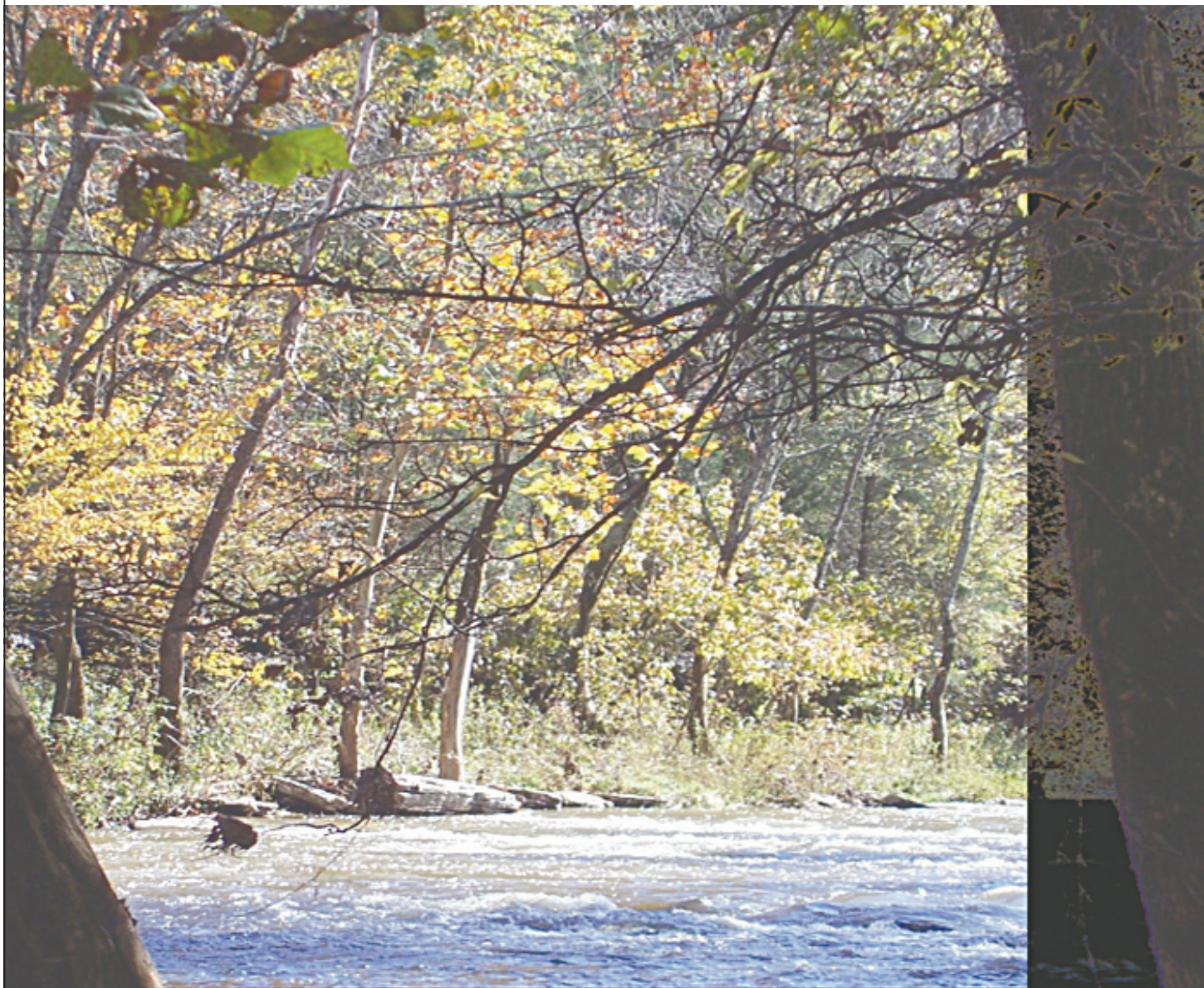
A brochure can be found  
at [www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org)



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999  
270-229-0200  
[www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org)  
[msjcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:msjcenter@maplemount.org)





**THE DIOCESE of OWENSBORO**

*Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision.*







The Diocese of Owensboro was established in 1937, and throughout these seventy years, many priests, religious, and laity have worked tirelessly ministering to the faithful of the Church of Western Kentucky. In 2007, more than 50,000 individuals make up the faith family of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. Just as every family plans for the future, so must our diocese.

Four specific challenges face our mission at this time. We need to:

- + Provide a faith-filled camp and retreat environment to foster and strengthen the Catholic identity of our young people,
- + Completely vest the Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund, Inc., which was established for the benefit of our sick and retired priests,
- + Fund restoration and renewal of our Cathedral, the seat of our diocese, and
- + Establish a diocesan Catholic School and Religious Education Endowment Fund to meet the growing educational needs of our children and youth.

I believe the answer to these and future needs lies in stewardship. As I have stated many times before, stewardship is a personal commitment to Christ's teachings. When we take time to help family, friends, or strangers, that's stewardship. When we share our treasure to ensure that future generations are fully formed in the Catholic faith, whether in parish religious education programs or in our Catholic schools, that's stewardship. When we use our financial resources to build and support a diocesan camp for our youth, that's stewardship.

The faithful use of our gifts unites us as one Body of Christ. Christ teaches that all we have in this life is a gift from God. We are called to steward these gifts of time, talent, and material resources according to God's will. Faithful stewardship helps us to grow in our faith—the greatest gift God has given to us all. I remain totally convinced that to be true and faithful disciples of Jesus, we must be good stewards. As we each steward His gifts according to His will, the mission that Christ gave to the Church on that first Pentecost Sunday will be carried out, changing our lives and changing the world in which we live.

Our capital campaign, Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision, must be seen as part of our effort to be good stewards. In the 25 years that I have been blessed with shepherding the faithful of the Diocese of Owensboro, we have not had a capital campaign to raise money for the diocese, and launching one now does not mean we are giving up on being a diocese funded by good stewardship. How we spend our money sends a message about what is important to us in life. Because the four challenges mentioned above are worthy of our time, talent, and treasure (money/material resources), I believe this campaign presents a great opportunity for us each to make a visible re-commitment to support the needs of the mission of the Church in a special and unique way.

You are a faith-filled, generous people who make up this wonderful diocese. Please use this opportunity to share what you have been given by God to make Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision a successful campaign.

God's blessing on you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

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

*Like a wise man who builds  
his house on rock ...  
Matthew 7:24*

## An Invitation To Be Especially Generous

Perhaps, you may be financially able to pledge a substantial gift of \$25,000 or even more. If so, we hope you will join us as a leader in this diocesan campaign to address the current needs of the Church and provide a strong Catholic presence for future generations. No matter what size the gift is, your donation will be appreciated. Not everyone can make the same-sized gift, but everyone can make an equal act of sacrifice.

+ Payments can be made over a period of time that is convenient for you. The gift plans shown forecast payments for up to five years. A longer or shorter period may be arranged, if necessary.

+ Payment reminders and a special payment envelope will be mailed to you in accordance with your payment plan.

+ Pledges are not legally binding, but rather an indication of your intention and commitment.

+ Please make checks payable to Diocese of Owensboro.

+ Donations of securities, life insurance policies, real estate, and bequests also provide opportunities for individuals to make a gift. For assistance or information, please contact Sr. Joseph Angela Boone at 270-683-1545.

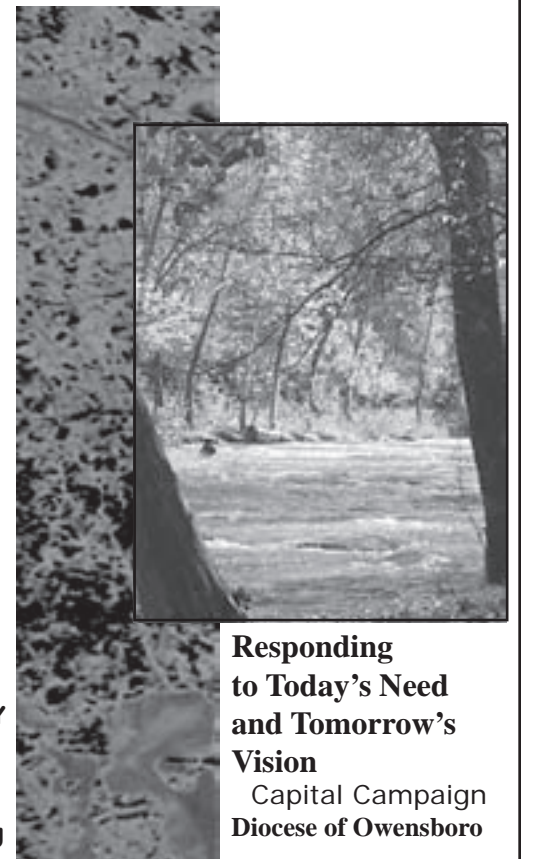
**Loving God,  
help us to acknowledge  
that we are your creation  
and your children.**

**We are loved  
and are called to love  
in the act of just  
and sacrificial  
giving.**

**In giving,  
we accept who we are  
and  
give honor to You.**

**We ask this through  
Christ, our Redeemer.  
Amen.**

**Diocese of Owensboro  
Catholic Pastoral Center  
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY  
42301-2130  
270-683-1545  
FAX: 270-683-6883  
Website: [www.owensborodio.org](http://www.owensborodio.org)**



**Responding  
to Today's Need  
and Tomorrow's  
Vision  
Capital Campaign  
Diocese of Owensboro**



# RESPONDING to TODAY'S NEED and TOMORROW'S VISION

For whoever does the will  
of my heavenly Father...  
Matthew 12:50

## Our Diocesan Challenge

We are a family, indeed brothers and sisters redeemed by the same loving Jesus Christ. As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we are called to spread the Good News and provide a firm foundation in the faith for all Catholics in western Kentucky. Our diocesan campaign, Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision, offers all members of the Diocese of Owensboro an opportunity to share in Christ's vision for the church.



*Responding to Today's Need  
and Tomorrow's Vision*

will address the following needs of the Church:

- + Diocesan Education Endowment Fund
- + Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center and Youth Camp
- + Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund
- + Saint Stephen Cathedral Restoration and Renewal



## Diocesan Education Endowment

Quality Catholic education for our children and youth is core to the mission of the Diocese of Owensboro. Catholic schools and parish religious education programs build on the foundation of faith established by parents in the home. Through the unified efforts of the home, the school, and the parish, our children are given the priceless gift of a Catholic education. As our children mature into adulthood, they in turn give back to their families and faith communities the gifts they were given as youngsters.

In order to provide for a strong and viable future for the parishes in the Catholic Church of western Kentucky, it is critically important that Catholic schools and religious education programs are amply supported in their mission of service to our youth. In order to solidify Catholic education ministries for decades to come, a diocesan education endowment will be established. Dividends from this fund will provide ongoing support for Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.



Some seed fell on rich soil...  
Mark 4:8

## Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center and Youth Camp

Living in the Bible Belt as we do, with a low percentage of Catholics in so many of our 32 counties of western Kentucky, makes it more difficult for our youth to identify with the Catholic faith. The diocesan Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center and Youth Camp near Bowling Green, Kentucky, offers experiences that help deepen the faith and strengthen the Catholic identity of our young men and women.

A Catholic youth camp engages young people by combining faith, friends, fun, and team-building in ways that enable them to grow and celebrate their faith at retreat facilities surrounded by God's natural wonders. *Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision* will initially subsidize the camp, including funding for renovations and operational expenses.

## Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund

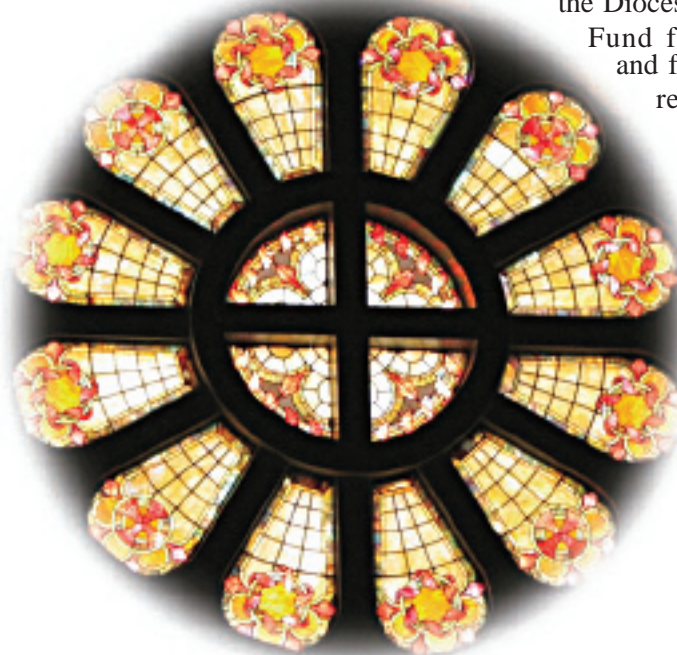
From a baby's Baptism to the Last Rites, our diocesan priests are there for us. They dedicate their lives in service to the Church. What commitment do we make to each of them in return?



Our priests minister to the faithful by celebrating the sacraments, offering pastoral outreach to the sick and dying, and daily saying yes to God's call to the priesthood. Each and every one of our diocesan priests relies upon the Diocesan Charitable Trust

Fund for his health care and for support upon his retirement or illness.

Fully vesting the Charitable Trust Fund through a donation to *Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision* can be our way of thanking these laborers for their commitment to Christ's Church.



Ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers... Matthew 9:38





# RESPONDING to TODAY'S NEED and TOMORROW'S VISION

Your Light must shine before others ...  
Matthew 5:16

## The Cathedral of Saint Stephen

As the “Mother Church” of the diocese, Saint Stephen Cathedral stands as a shining symbol of the unity of the diocesan Church. Home of the bishop’s chair (cathedra), the Cathedral serves as the center of our diocese’s liturgical life. The documents of the Church instruct that measures should be taken to instill esteem and reverence for the Cathedral in the hearts of all the faithful. Cathedral restoration and renewal will ensure that Saint Stephen Cathedral continues to fulfill its role for the diocesan Church as a place of worship renowned for its spirit of prayer and beauty. All Catholics of this



diocese may have a sense of ownership and pride realizing that Saint Stephen is truly their Cathedral.

The primary restoration and renewal projects include:

- + Restoring the Holy Spirit window
- + Replacing the ambo, the presider’s chair, and the altar server’s seating
- + Making the sanctuary and choir loft handicapped accessible



### An Invitation to Make a Sacrificial Gift

The Diocese of Owensboro has grown from 52 parishes in 1937, to 79 parishes and two Newman Centers in 2007. For this heritage of faith, we may thank many, many good stewards whose sacrifices built the Church of Western Kentucky.

As a member of the Diocese of Owensboro, you are asked to combine your gift with others to continue to build the Church now and into the future. *Responding to Today’s Need and Tomorrow’s Vision* to expand Christ’s presence in this diocese relies on the faithful, on each and every one of us.

Please carefully consider your personal response to *Responding to Today’s Need and Tomorrow’s Vision*. The gift plan in this brochure is designed to help you decide the gift that best expresses your commitment to these efforts to build the mission of the Church. Your gift may be made as a pledge payable over three to five years, on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual, or annual basis.

**Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be ...**  
Matthew 6:21

Let anyone who thirsts  
come to me and drink ...  
John 7:37

### An Invitation to be a Steward of Our Faith

A successful *Responding to Today’s Need and Tomorrow’s Vision*

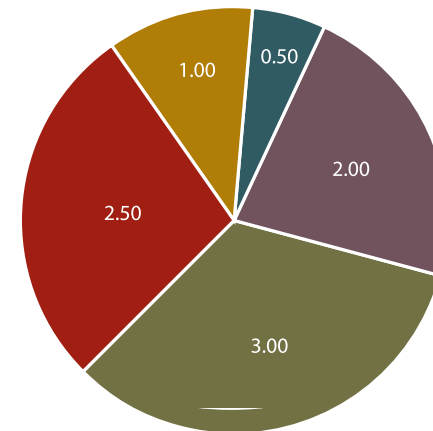
campaign will help ensure that Catholic education in schools and parishes will be available for our children and youth, that we will provide for our sick and elderly priests, that our youth will have a special place to experience faith based camping activities and retreats, and that our Cathedral will be restored and renewed for the next generation.

The greatest strength of this diocese has always been the faith of our people. As always, the mission of the Church relies on the faith and generosity of every Catholic household in the diocese. Please be part of this historic effort to help what was built on faith to grow and thrive. It’s our chance to make a difference.



## Responding to Today’s Need and Tomorrow’s Vision

(amount in mils)



- Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center
- Charitable trust fund (Priest’s retirement)
- Catholic education endowment
- Cathedral renovation
- Administrative expenses

Amounts listed above are guidelines.  
Actual amounts for each initiative will be determined by donor designated gifts.

### Tax Advantages of Charitable Giving

Federal and state laws on income and inheritance taxes encourage charitable giving. All annual contributions to this campaign are tax-deductible for those who itemize their donations and based on their individual tax situation.

It is particularly advantageous for some people to contribute securities, real property, or other valuables. The current fair market value of securities or property is deductible, and by transferring these assets to the diocese, the donors incur no capital gains tax. For substantial gifts of property, other than marketable securities, the IRS requires an appraisal.

Because each family situation is unique, we urge you to discuss your commitments within your family. You may also wish to consult your financial advisor about which plan would be most beneficial to you and the Diocese of Owensboro.





**What is Responding to Today's Needs and Tomorrow's Vision, and what is its primary objectives?**

*Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision* is a campaign, unprecedented in the history of the diocese, to raise \$9 million. The primary objective of the campaign is to: fund a religious education endowment, establish a Catholic retreat center and youth camp, provide for the retired priests of the diocese, and restore and renew our cathedral.

**How are the parishes asked to participate?**

Each of the 79 parishes will conduct their own effort for Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision Campaign with the assistance of campaign staff. The parishes will be conducting their local campaigns beginning in January of 2008.

**How will parishioners be contacted during the Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision Campaign?**

It is intended that each Catholic family within the Diocese will be presented with the needs and objectives of the campaign. This will be achieved through a variety of ways including personal contact through receptions, Pulpit announcements, mailings, brochures, and Volunteer visits.

**How will Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision affect parish-operating expenses?**

In the short term, offertory giving should remain constant or even increase. Throughout the Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision Campaign, parishioners will be asked to make pledges above and beyond their regular giving. Parishioners are not asked to diminish giving to their parishes, but rather, are asked to consider a greater sacrifice and commitment to the diocese. In the long term, similar campaigns in other dioceses have actually enhanced parish offertory levels.

**How much will it cost to conduct the Responding to Today's Needs and Tomorrow's Vision Campaign?**

Although the expenses are based on bids and flat fees, the diocese projects the cam-

paigned to cost between 3.5 and 4 percent of the established campaign goal. This is well below the cost of many established community and institutional efforts, which often exceed 10 percent of their goals. The diocese has already budgeted for this project.

**Why are parishioners asked to pledge different amounts? Would dividing the parish target by the number of households be an easier and fairer method?**

It would certainly be an easier method. However, it would not be fair. We all support our parish in different degrees. For a variety of reasons some are only able to give a little. Therefore, asking everyone for equal amounts would make it unfair and unlikely that a parish would succeed. Instead, we ask for different amounts based on past giving, financial ability, and commitment to the diocese. We challenge all to give, as they are able and according to their blessings.

**How much should I give to the Responding to Today's Needs and Tomorrow's Vision Campaign?**

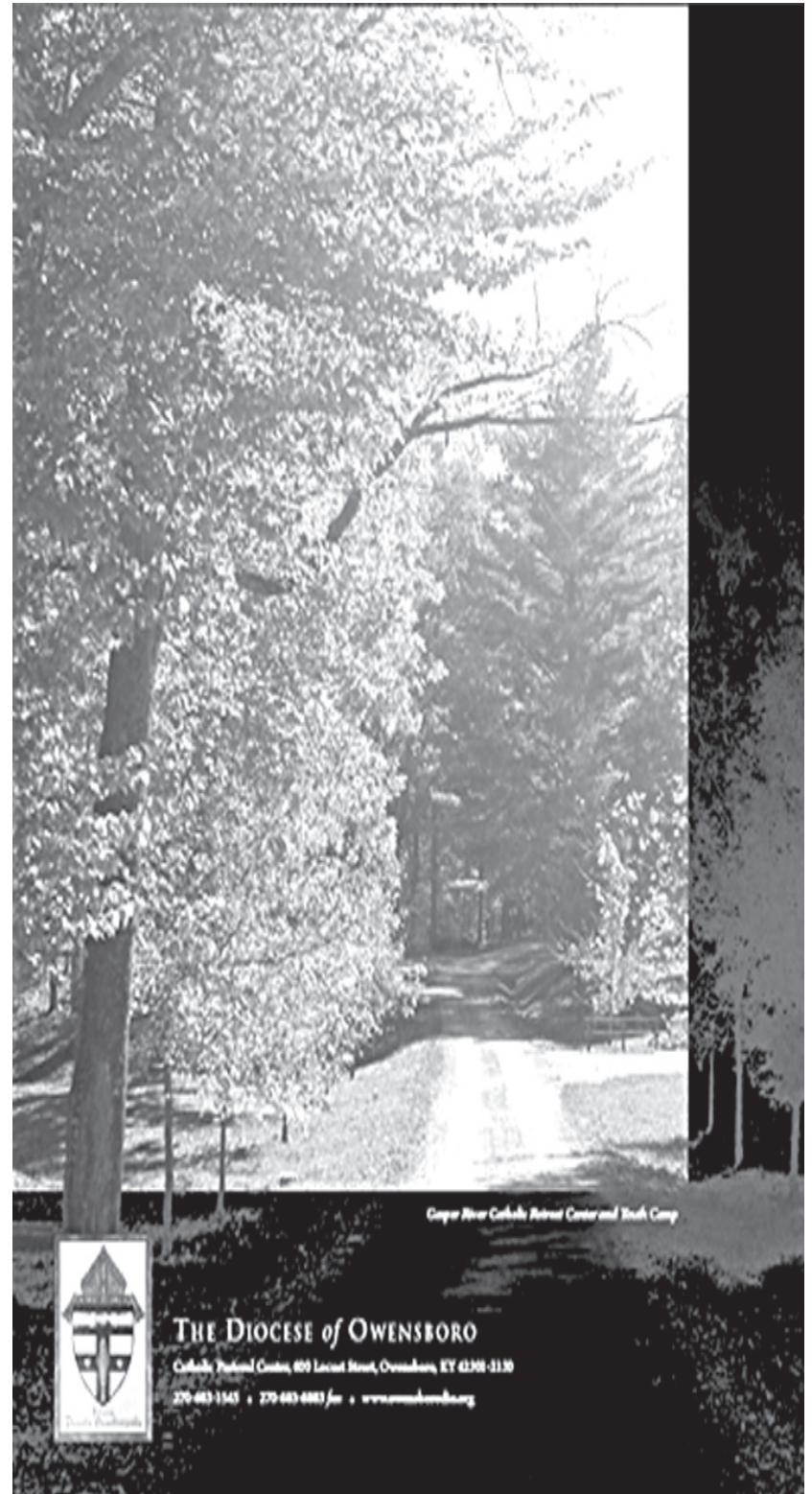
All parishioners are asked to consider a sacrificial gift to the campaign in the spirit of Christian Stewardship. Parishioners are asked to consider prayerfully a specific gift plan in accordance with their own means and circumstances. Pledges are payable in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual installments over a three- to five-year period. All gifts are gratefully accepted. The principles of Christian Stewardship promote equal sacrifices rather than equal gifts.

**Why are pledges encouraged, instead of one-time donations?**

Pledges provide parishioners with the opportunity to make a more significant gift to the diocese. A contribution is easier to pay off over a period of time rather than out of pocket.

**How do I pay my pledge?**

You will receive a special campaign envelope to be used for honoring your pledge.



**THE DIOCESE of OWENSBORO**

Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301-3130

270-683-1543 • 270-683-6883 fax • www.owensboroky.org



# St. Stephen Cathedral - Restoring and Renewing our Mother Church

By Janice C. Scherm

OWENSBORO, Ky. - In its document *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship* the National Conference of Catholic Bishops calls the process of building or renovating a church "one of the most significant and formative experiences in the life of a parish community." It is a process both complex and profound in which "members are called upon to study the Church's teaching and liturgical theology and to reflect upon their personal pieties, their individual tastes, and the parish history." The renovation of a Cathedral presents even greater challenges, as it affects not just the parish faithful, but each and every Catholic in the diocese which it serves.

St. Stephen Cathedral is the "Mother Church" to more than 20,000 families throughout western Kentucky. It is both the symbol and the center of diocesan liturgical life. In the words of the Ceremonial of Bishops, the Cathedral church is "the site of the bishop's cathedra or chair, the sign of his teaching office and pastoral power... a sign also of the unity of believers in the faith that the bishop proclaims as shepherd of the Lord's flock."

The Cathedral has a rich and vibrant history as the center of Catholic life in western Kentucky. Historian William Foster Hayes gave this account of the installation of Bishop Francis R. Cotton: "Bishop Cotton, first bishop of the newly-designated diocese, was installed as such with elaborate and impressive ceremonies held at the newly designated cathedral on March 8, 1938; Archbishop Floersch presided. Some 250 priests from various dioceses were in attendance and a vast throng filled the great Cathedral."

Since that day nearly seventy years ago, St. Stephen Cathedral has been the setting for the many liturgies, solemnities, celebrations, prayer services, meetings and forums which comprise the vivid tapestry of life in a Catholic faith community. Within its walls we have witnessed the conferring of Holy Orders on new priests, and we have honored lives of love and commitment at both the Diocesan Marriage Celebration, and the jubilee celebrations of our priests and religious. We have recognized the wisdom and example of our Catholic elders through the Sophia Awards, and we have acknowledged the sanctity of life in supporting Right to Life and opposing capital punishment. We have celebrated Catholic education at the Owensboro Catholic High School Ring Mass, and the Brescia University Baccalaureate Service. We have hosted adoption support groups, and we have comforted the bereaved.

Our present stewardship of St. Stephen Cathedral is clearly both a privilege and a great responsibility. The members of St. Stephen Cathedral Parish have always had a special love for their church and take great pride in its stature as the Mother Church of the diocese. Over the past three years, the parish raised more than one million dollars through its Preservation for the Next Generation campaign, funding improvements to the structural integrity of the church and its offices: masonry tuck-pointing and sealing, correction of drainage problems, and installation of a new clay tile roof. The last significant renovation of the Cathedral interior occurred in the 1970's, in response to the liturgical changes which followed the Second Vatican Council.

Renovation of the diocesan church demands a great deal of organization, education, and prayer. Bishop John J. McRaith believes that the Cathedral must be a true center of hospitality, a church of timeless beauty which instills in all Catholics of the diocese a sense of ownership and pride. To that end, a Steering Committee consisting of sixteen parish and diocesan representatives was formed in 2005. This committee, led by Doug Borders, Chair, Tom Payne, Vice-chair and Fr. John Vaughan, pastor of St. Stephen Cathedral, was charged with studying the feasibility of renovation, and with administering any subsequent renovation project.

Since that time twelve Action Teams have been formed, which focus on the myriad details of worship space renovation-- from acoustics to accessibility, from maintenance to fine arts. As part of the education process, all members of the Steering Committee and Action Teams were required to study the full 82 page *Built of Living Stones* document, which was published in 2000 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to give direction to those involved in the building or renovation of churches. (The document can be viewed in PDF format at <http://www.catholicdoc.org/br/files/g-stones.pdf>.) Following much study, discussion, and prayer, the decision was made to renovate, and the project was named: Cathedral Restoration and Renewal.

With the goal of honoring the history of the Cathedral, while enhancing its beauty and dignity as a center of worship, witness, and service, the Steering Committee has engaged Granda Liturgical Arts, Inc., a liturgical design company founded in Spain in 1891 by



Fr. Felix Granda. Granda consultants from its American headquarters in Chicago were invited to study the existing Cathedral structure, and to develop concepts and drawings for further consideration and cost analysis. On September 6, 2007, at a gathering to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of St. Stephen Cathedral, a presentation of the concepts was made by Elia Rivera, Granda's Director of Sales and Marketing in the United States. Ms. Rivera explained that the Cathedral is of the Romanesque style, and that all of the design concepts developed were consistent with that basic architectural style. These initial concept drawings-- proposals for the sanctuary, baptismal font, and Eucharistic altar, among others-- were received with great enthusiasm by those in attendance, and have been placed on display in the rear of the Cathedral for viewing.

The scope and extent of Cathedral Restoration and Renewal is, of course, contingent upon the amount of funding which is received for that purpose. In 2008, the diocese will initiate its first capital campaign--"Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision." The campaign, with a goal of \$9 million, will provide funds for four projects: a youth camp and retreat center, the vesting of the Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund Inc. for the benefit of sick and retired priests, the establishment of a diocesan Catholic School and Religious Education Endowment Fund, and assistance with the restoration and renewal of the Cathedral as the diocesan center of worship.

This fall, the faithful of St. Stephen Cathedral Parish will launch a five year, \$2.5 million capital campaign--Cathedral Restoration and Renewal. The campaign goal includes \$1 million for construction and repair, \$1 million for sacred art and new furnishings, and a \$437,000 parish contribution to the diocesan capital campaign. These are ambitious campaigns which will demand both ongoing prayerful support, and truly sacrificial giving.

The restoration and renewal of St. Stephen Cathedral, our Mother Church, is a most worthy undertaking for all Catholics throughout western Kentucky, and one which affords us a singular opportunity for our own renewal as a faith community. In an address on "Cathedral Ministry in the New Millennium", (San Antonio, TX, January 11, 2000) Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, had this to say about the significance of the Cathedral in Catholic life: "However modest or magnificent the Cathedral, and the Cathedral Liturgy which is the heart of its ministry, it must be a jewel, drawing all by its simple beauty to the abundance of light and life in Christ. And by that light, to move forward in preparation for the coming of the Day of the Lord!"

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Christina M. Rosario, bilingual counselor at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Evansville, will offer a Power Point presentation in English, of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her talk will cover the story of the apparitions of Our Lady in 1531 to St. Juan Diego. It will include the meaning and symbolism of Our Lady's image. Her presentation will also include Our Lady of Guadalupe's interesting method of evangelization. This will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 5:30pm at Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish Hall, 514 E. 4th St.

## Women and Men, Holy Together



Julie  
Murphy

### Strangers & Friends

By Julie Murphy

I really don't know exactly how to approach this story because in today's world we are so afraid to approach strangers. I completely understand those fears, especially when we have young children at stake. But, I'm the type of person who has never met a stranger and I'm sure that this used to worry my parents when I was very young.



I can recall when I was eight or nine years old, we went on our first trip to Florida. My poor Mom; I don't think it was much of a vacation taking thirteen children to the beach. Can you imagine trying to relax on the beach, and every time you hear a scream you're pretty sure Jaws took a bite out of one of the thirteen kids you took to the ocean? Not much rest and relaxation there! Of course, if that were me lying on the beach, all I would be hearing is that music from the movie Jaws. And knowing how mischievous my brothers were and depending on her sanity that day, Mom could've had thoughts of throwing one of my brothers in the ocean to feed the sharks. Just kidding, Mom; it would've been one of the girls getting tossed in by them. Back when my brothers were young, they were quite the daredevils. I am very serious. How they are still alive and well goes to show you that God has given us Angels to watch over us. Those poor Guardian Angels, they probably thought about switching sides after protecting my brothers, wishing they could have a pitch fork, and use it on them. Oh boy, I'm having a lot of fun writing this. My brothers know how much I love them and this is all in fun. I beg them to tell me stories of their adventures when we lived in the country. They have my undivided attention when they start to talk about when they were young boys. Well, there I go again, veering off the subject."

Anyway, I still can remember that stern look I got from my Dad, when he told me to quit talking to every stranger I came across, while we were at the beach. I was confused by that remark, because I thought I was just being nice. Then of course my feelings got hurt, and that doesn't take much, so I slowly walked away pouting and mad at my dad for fussing at me. Of course now that I'm an adult and have raised my kids and am still raising a young teen, I completely understand the fears we have for our kids interacting with strangers, especially with so many kids talking and meeting with strangers they chat with on the Internet.

I would like to share with you my experience with a total stranger I met while walking at Moreland Park in Owensboro. To protect her identity, I will give her a fictitious name. I've always liked the name, Emma. Emma and I exchanged hellos as we walked past one another at the park. Coming around the second time, we both smiled and started to talk about how nice the weather was. Emma has dark hair and she was maybe about 5'5". We immediately struck up a conversation; then what started out as just polite conversation ended up with her sharing with me some of her turmoil and why she ended up in Kentucky. As I was leaving the park, I started to think about our conversation, and how Emma felt comfortable enough to reveal to me, a perfect stranger, some very private details of her life. Then a light bulb in my head came on. I don't know Emma and anyone else in her family and I can be objective and not be quick to place blame on her. Emma was once a Nun, and with a painful decision, decided to leave her vocation. She packed up all her belongings and left her family and came to a town she didn't know. She told me that she never moved away from home before and she was hurting financially as well. Emma felt totally overwhelmed and scared of what her new life might bring her. She was in a lot of emotional turmoil and just needed a change. After everything that she went through, she still finds solace in the arms of a religious order in Kentucky. They know of her painful experiences and have given her love and support. She is still very homesick but loves her family of sisters she sees every day.

I got up that morning ready to walk off the pounds that day, and instead I met a new friend. I haven't seen or heard from her since but will always be grateful for her sharing with me her daily struggles that we all face and how we can overcome them through prayer and faith that God gives us: the strength to get us through those uphill climbs.

I was given permission from Emma to write about our conversation and I ask that those who have read this article will pray for my stranger at the park.

+JMJ+ Julie Murphy



## Three Cheers!

The Owensboro Catholic Middle School cheerleaders attended the HalloJam Jamfest cheerleading competition at the Centre in Evansville, IN on October 27, 2007. They came in 3rd place in their division and received a bronze bid invitation to the National Competition in Indianapolis, IN. The team will compete in the Winter Jamfest on December 8th in Lexington, KY. The team includes the following cheerleaders: Carli Barr, Mary Grace Boarman, Caitlin Coomes, Kindra Evans, Chelsea Hagan, Rachel Hamilton, Brittany Nash, Kali Paul, Avery Trogden and Stephanie Wall. Team coaches are Mrs. Sonya Evans and Miranda Evans. OCS Photo

## Welcome Into The Catholic Church,

### Katie!



Holy Name School fifth grader Katie Armstrong shows one of the many presents she received at her reception held by the fifth graders at Holy Name School. Katie's reception was to celebrate her baptism that occurred at one of the school liturgies in November. Father Bradley took this wonderful opportunity to welcome Katie into the Catholic Church while explaining the steps involved in a baptism to grades 5-8 who were present for Katie's baptism! HNS Photo



# Great Prayer for Life Urgently Needed

The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2007 17

The Diocesan Gospel of Life Committee serves the Catholic Community in Western Kentucky in its efforts to implement the National Catholic Bishops' pastoral plan for promoting and teaching the Gospel of Life. The Gospel of Life Committee has four objectives:

1. Initiate and sustain all other efforts on behalf of life through prayer, fasting and reflection on the Gospel of Life.

2. Inform and educate our own parishes, as well as the general public, to deepen understanding of the humanity of the unborn, the sanctity of life, the moral evil of abortion, and the consistent efforts of the church to witness on behalf of all human life.

3. Support a pastoral effort addressed to the special needs of women with problems related to pregnancy, of men and women struggling to accept responsibility for their power to generate human life and of all persons who have taken part in an abortion.

4. Encourage and serve as a resource for a public policy effort directed at promoting the Gospel of Life in all its social and political aspects.

The Diocesan Gospel of Life Committee recognizes that the current battle for recognition of the value and sanctity of life is first and foremost a spiritual conflict. Therefore, it rightly places prayer, fasting and reflection on the Life and Dignity of the human person as the first priority. Pope John Paul II put it this way in his encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*, no.100:

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God.... Let us therefore discover a new the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the site of so many... the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life."

What might be some means in prayer to raise our voices to God for this purpose? There are many options available.

• **Petitions:** Parishes are encouraged to include in the petitions at every Mass prayers that ours will become a nation that respects and protects all human life, born and unborn, reflecting a true culture of life. The Gospel of Life Committee makes available each month from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) to each Parish in the Diocese intercessions and possible bulletin quotes called Word of Life.

• **Prayer Vigils and Masses:** Each year, in conjunction with the anniversary of Roe v. Wade (January 22), a National Prayer Vigil for Life is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Thousands travel from all corners of the country to take part in the opening liturgy and all-night prayer vigil. Dioceses and parishes might conduct similar prayer vigils so that those unable to travel might participate in this prayer occasion. This date is also designated as a particular day of penance in the Roman Missal.

Bishop McRaith celebrates a Mass for Life at 12:00 at St. Stephen Cathedral each January 22nd. All are invited to come throughout the Diocese, or to consider asking their Pastor to celebrate Mass in their own Parish on that day.

The Bishops of Kentucky have recently posted on their collective website, [www.cck.org](http://www.cck.org), prayers to aid the faithful in ongoing intercession for life. It is listed as *Pro-Life Prayer Services for Times of Transition*. The Bishops have also recently published a Pastoral Letter: *Reverence for Life...A Need for "Hearts That See"* which can also

be found at the website.

Life Chain is a prayer vigil held on the First Sunday of October, Respect Life Month on Respect Life Sunday. These events of witness and prayer occur throughout the Diocese and the United States. Participants stand on designated streets in their home towns, holding pro-life signs and offering prayers on behalf of Life.

• **Cenacles for Life:** The Cenacles of Life are prayer groups that pray two rosaries (ten mysteries) offering the rosaries up with fasting. Each member fasts one day a week on bread and water, to end this culture of death. Those that cannot fast on bread and water, due to sickness or age, can offer up a day of fasting from their favorite thing (such as watching television or talking on the telephone.) They offer up their fasts - at the prayer group - with the rosaries prayed.

The prayer group agrees to meet at least once a week. Some groups will meet twice a week! (preferably inside a Church, not a home) The Cenacles of Life are for renewing the Spirit of Life - from within the Church. The word "Cenacle" refers to the Upper Room, where the Apostles would meet to pray with the Virgin Mary, after the death and Resurrection of her Son. It is also where Jesus had His Apostles come for the Last Supper. In the Catholic Church, the Tabernacle holds the Presence of the Lord. Members gather around the Tabernacle, praying the rosary and offering their fasts, just as the Apostles gathered around Jesus at the Last Supper, in the Cenacle.

Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro has formed a Cenacle for Life and meets on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary. Those interested are invited to come and participate. More information on this type of prayer is also available at [www.cenaclesoflife.org](http://www.cenaclesoflife.org).

• **Spiritual Adoption Program:** This program has been discussed before in *The Western Kentucky Catholic* and has been endorsed by Bishop McRaith. It is a program designed to have an entire Parish or school community pray for children endanger of abortion. Prayer cards are supplied by the Gospel of Life Committee for those involved in the program to "adopt" a just conceived child, name the child, and pray for this child during the entire 9 months of life in the womb that the parents will say yes to life. At the end of the 9 month period those participating host

a shower for children recently, or soon to be born, and give these items to a Crisis Pregnancy Center in their area.

There are many other ways of offering prayer in the cause of life, including intercession at abortion clinics in Louisville and Nashville. For more information on the programs listed and others, please call Richard Murphy at 270/ 683-1545.

According to the USCCB *Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life*, prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Our efforts—whether educational, pastoral, or legislative—will be less than fully fruitful if we do not change hearts and if we do not ourselves overcome our own spiritual blindness. Only with prayer—prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and our souls—will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life. Let us pray as if Life depends on it!

**Photo: Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, center, prayed the Rosary at the EMW Women's Surgical Center in downtown Louisville November 10, 2007, witnessing for Life for nearly 1½ hours. He spoke only when he gave a blessing that ended the gathering. Photo by Amanda Reffitt**





## All Souls Day Memorial Service : A Time To Remember And Thank God

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - The memorial service that was held at St. Francis de Sales in Paducah was a bit different this year. A few weeks before All Souls Day parishioners were asked to bring framed photos of their deceased loved ones to be placed in front of the altar. During the service the name of each person from the parish who had died during the past year was read and a family member or friend came forward to receive a lighted candle that was then placed before the altar. Father Brian Roby then invited others to come forward to place a candle of remembrance for other loved ones who were deceased. The memorial service was very meaningful especially to those who had experienced the death of a loved one since the last All Souls Day.

Stan Walter was a long time member who recently died. His daughter, Susan Walter, opened the service by playing a song that she had played for her father so many times. Rita, his wife commented, "The service was a very healing moment for the whole family." Marty Hill added, "It was a beautiful service, I felt so much peace and the music added so much to it; it was beautiful."

Lois Stephany said she particularly wanted to come because one of the ladies being remembered was a lady she had taken Communion to. "I wanted to be there for her and I went up when her name was called." Doug Arnold commented, "I thought the memorial service was wonderful. Everyone I have spoken to told me they thought it was very meaningful; the tone and the setting were perfect. They particularly mentioned the pictorial display of the deceased loved ones."

During the homily, Fr. Brian shared a quote from the Letters and Papers of Dietrich Bonhoeffer written while he was in prison. "Nothing can make up for the absence of someone whom we love, and it would be wrong to try to find a substitute; we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bond between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn't fill it, but on the contrary, keeps it empty and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain."

When asked about the service, Fr. Brian commented, "The Memorial Service was an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died and gone before us marked with the sign of faith. The gift of memory is holy and, for many, an opportunity of great joy while for others it was opportunity for continued healing. In

## Remembering Loved Ones with Prayer

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Lighting a candle seems to send an inner glow to the person doing the lighting. Lighting a candle in honor and memory of a loved one who has died, warms both the heart and the soul.

On November 2, approximately 85 people gathered at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville for an All Soul's Day prayer service to honor and remember loved ones they have lost.

As is the tradition at Sts. Peter and Paul, families of parishioners who died in the past year received personal invitations to attend the prayer service. Names of these parishioners were read out loud and family members were invited to approach the altar and light a candle in their loved one's honor.

In addition, anyone attending the prayer service was also called forward to light a candle for any loved one they have lost. Everyone who lighted the candles were encouraged to take the candles home and display them in their homes. They were also encouraged to light the candles throughout the month of November in remembrance of their loved ones.

## High School Juniors and Seniors:

As life becomes chaotic it is always helpful to take some time away with the Lord. You are invited to make a Teens Encounter Christ weekend at the Gaspar River Catholic Camp in Bowling Green, 19-21 January 2008 (it's not that far away). This weekend is a great opportunity for you to gather with youth and adults from the diocese, to slow down and to allow the grace of Christ to help you set the priorities of your life. For more information: wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net or see your local youth leader.



Father Brian Roby offering the gifts at a November 2 celebration of the Mass on All Souls Day at St. Francis de Sales Church in Paducah. The feast day was a time to remember our dearly departed loved ones and to thank God for the gift of their lives among us. Edie Keeney Photo

our own humanity, we look for and find ways to keep the memory of our deceased loved ones alive while we pray for them and they intercede for us."

I attended the Memorial Service not to write this story but to remember my mother who died this past April. Her photograph is among the others in front of the altar. The service was very meaningful for me, it was a time to remember her and to thank God for the gift that my mother was to me, to our family and so many others with whom she shared her love.

## Teens called to simple acts of stewardship in new statement

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- The U.S. bishops in a new statement are calling teenagers to be disciples by performing acts as simple as assisting with liturgical ministries, giving up the cost of a movie ticket to support the poor, or visiting people who are alone. In "Stewardship and Teenagers: The Challenge of Being a Disciple," approved in a 198-6 vote Nov. 14 during their annual meeting, the U.S. bishops spelled out in simple language what young people can and should do to share their "time, talent and treasure." The text is intended to be circulated as a brochure. A Spanish-language version of the brochure also will be published; it is called "Coresponsables de los dones de Dios en mision." Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Ala., who chairs the Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship, said the Spanish version is not a translation, but was written originally in Spanish to better reflect language suited to young people.

## Rediscover Your Marriage -

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Aug 18-20 call 270-683-1545 ext. 357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).



# Happy Anniversary

## Marriage Celebrations for December 2007: Celebrations of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage

### Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Greta & Ron Beals, 52

### Christ the King, Madisonville

Robert & Floy Daugherty, 54

### Christ the King, Scottsville

John & Dell Hall, 52

### Holy Name, Henderson

Tony & Andrea Graham, 25

Steven & Delores Sauer, 40

Spencer & Ruby Chappell, 51

Robert & Betty Pritchett, 52

Thomas & Julia Speaks, 53

### Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Darrell & Patricia Logsdon, 25

### Immaculate, Owensboro

Patrick & Dorothy Doyle, 56

Paul E. & Donna Munsey, 40

### Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

David & Elizabeth Sterett, 66

### Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ralph & Martha Ashworth, 60

Odie & Martine Warren, 61

James & Linea Warren, 40

### Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jerry & Ellen Blandford, 50

Leo & Cindy Schwartz, 25

### Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 55

### Sacred Heart, Russellville

Michael & Linda Slaughter, 40

### St. Agnes, Uniontown

Kenny & Linda Gough, 40

Richard & Linnie Powell, 57

James & Norma Bickett, 58

### St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

F. G. & Winnie Riney, 68

Frank & Bernice Thomas, 57

### St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Ron & Janice Tindall, 40

### St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Keith & Dorothy Dunker, 55

### St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Leon & Martha Hill, 40

### St. Charles, Livermore

Dennis & Peggy Tharp, 40

### St. Columba, Lewisport

Roy & Mable Hodges, 65

George & Betty Allard, 58

Anthony & Margaret Hall, 40

Rick & Monica Adkins, 25

### St. Edward, Fulton

Don & Rachel Cox, 54

### St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Richard & Patricia Weisenberger, 25

John & Patricia English, 55

### St. Henry, Aurora

Paul & Edna Jones, 52

### St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Willis & Treva Bartski, 67

W. B. & Linda Kilcoyne, 58

James & Agnes Robb, 55

Samuel & Ella Dean Haydon, 53

Joseph W. & Ruth Ann Higdon, 55

Will Ed & Rose Carrico, 51

Edward D. & Mary Ruth Elder, 50

Donnie & Elizabeth Nelson, 40

William & Margaret Sasseen, 40

Denis & Peggy Tharp, 40

Kenneth & Karen Carter, 25

Tommy & Bobby Cash, 25

### St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Don & Imogene Poston, 57

James & Phyllis Huggins, 40

### St. Joseph, Central City

Don & Marlene Monaghan, 51

### St. Joseph, Mayfield

Leroy & Betty Dowdy, 52

Robert & Pat Elliott, 52

Joe & Wanda Mike, 59

Sanford & Ernestine Sumner, 61

Clarence & Jeanette Elliott, 65

### St. Leo, Murray

Denton & Ann Shaffer, 25

Conrad & Ange Boisvert, 40

### St. Mark, Eddyville

Randall Lee & Anne Webber, 25

### St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter

Floyd & Fran Roderfeld, 56

Clyde & Mary K. Riepe, 40

### St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Vincent & Mary Pheobe Ebelhar, 67

### St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Louis and Elaine Hinton, 40

### St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Larry & Norma Kaelin, 25

Ronnie & Patsy Mayfield, 40

Richard & Clara McDaniel, 51

Raymon & Emma Whistle, 55

Emmett & Ella Mae Barnett, 58

John O. & Mildred Boarman, 63

### St. Michael, Oak Grove

Bernard & Amalie Canby, 61

Lionel & Sue McElroy, 55

### St. Paul, Leitchfield

William & Edna Drake, 61

### St. Paul, Princeton

Alphonse & Fonciene Giordano, 50

### St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

James & Nina Howard, 57

### St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Randy & Annette Blincoe, 25

Robert & Karen Wells, 25

### St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Chester & JoAnn Bruington, 25

Harold & Betty Payne, 56

### St. Rose, Cloverport

David & Elizabeth Sterett, 66

### St. Stephen, Cadiz

Sal & Irene Jaso, 56

### St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Ed & Grace Pickett, 63

Dan & Kathy Dowdy, 25

Doug & Sue Borders, 40

Herman & Mary Taylor, 63

### St. Thomas More, Paducah

Floyd & Bernadine Watkins, 53

Robert & Carol Crane, 54

Cliff & Ann Thomasson, 66

### St. William, Knottsville

Joseph & Effie Edge, 53

### Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

George & Jane Mouilleseaux, 65

Edwin & Kathleen Roeder, 56

## Sister Marie Hill, S.C.N., Died Nov. 9, 2007

Sister Marie Hill, SCN, formerly Sister Thomas Veronica Hill, age 91, a native of Brockton, MA, died at Nazareth Home on Friday, November 9, 2007. She had been a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth for 73 years.

Sister served in the apostolate of education on both the elementary and secondary levels in Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio and Virginia as both teacher and principal for 51 years. In the Diocese of Owensboro Sister taught at Holy Name High School, Henderson, from 1965-66, and served as Principal of St. Mary of the Woods High School, Whitesville, from 1966-67.

Sister also served as Coordinator of Religious Education and Parish Minister in the Boston Archdiocese after retiring from education. Survivors include two nieces: Rita Mahan of Lecanto, FL, and Sandra De Vito of Seabrook, NH; many other relatives, friends and former students, and her Sisters in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth with burial following in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P. O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.

## Sister Louise Maria Effinger, SCN, 89, Died October 30

NAZARETH, Ky. - Sister Louise Maria Effinger, SCN, age 89, died at Flaget Hospital, Bardstown, on Tuesday, October 30, 2007. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 70 years. Sister served in the apostolate of education on both the elementary and secondary levels in Kentucky, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Ohio as teacher, principal and bookkeeper for 44 years.

In the Diocese of Owensboro Sister taught Grade 6 at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, KY from 1964-67; was transferred to Fancy Farm Grade School in Fancy Farm, KY where she taught Grades 7 and 8 from 1967-69, and returned to St. Joseph School, Bowling Green where she served as Principal from 1969-71.

After retirement from the educational apostolate Sister lived at Russell Hall, Nazareth, from 1986 till August 2007 when she moved to O'Connell Hall, Nazareth. During that time Sister served from 1987-88 in Retreat Ministry as Secretary and Bookkeeper; and in Community Service in Local Com-

munity Leadership from 1992-95. Sister was bookkeeper at Russell Hall from 1995-98. In her later years Sister served in the apostolate of prayer.

Survivors include two sisters,

Helen McDonald and Emelie McDevitt; and a sister-in-law, Barbara "Bobbie" Effinger, all of Louisville. Sister was preceded in death by three siblings, Louis, R. Ferd and Kathleen Effinger. She was very proud of her many nieces and nephews, and kept in touch with all of them. They mourn her loss as do her Sisters in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, Nov. 2, in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, with burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P. O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.

## Announcement: Theology Position Open:

Brescia University, an Ursuline, Catholic institution, seeks full-time, tenure-track assistant professor to teach undergraduate courses in theology and, if appropriate, general education courses in philosophy starting in August 2008. Ph.D. in theology or STD, with 18 graduate hours in philosophy preferred. Position includes teaching in time-shortened, on-line, and traditional formats, advising and serving on committees. Send letter of interest, vita, three letters of reference and copies of transcripts to D. Kuntz, Ph.D.; Theology Search Committee Chair, Brescia University, 717 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301. E-mail: daniel.kuntz@brescia.edu Closing date January 15, 2008. EOE





## Our Adoption Experience with Owensboro Catholic Charities

Our adoption experience with Catholic Charities was a wonderful blessing. Catholic Charities did a fabulous job keeping us on track and informing us what we needed to do next and how the adoption process through their agency worked. They went above and beyond to make sure that we would be certified as foster parents to ensure that our baby would come home from the hospital with us. Our adoption process went very smoothly and quickly. It was wonderful! There were hardly any worries because the staff kept us so informed at all times with what was going on with the birth parents and her doctor visits. They made sure that all parties were on the same agenda at all times. The meetings with the birth parents were informal and in a relaxing environment. It made meeting birth parents kind of fun and not so tense. If I ever decide to adopt another child, I would definitely go through Catholic Charities. The agency was heaven sent!

Our experience with the birth parents was also a wonderful blessing. We all seemed to get along and it was like we were one big family. I am so proud to be able to tell my child some day that he comes from a wonderful biological family. The birth mother kept us informed about her pregnancy and she chose for us to be in the delivery room. At first I didn't know if I could emotionally go through this process. I agreed, but in my heart I didn't know if I really wanted to be present. I thought that it would be very hard to see another woman's body do things only in my wildest dreams I wish that my body could do. After being there and our son being born, it was the most wonderful experience and the best gift that a birth mother could ever give me. I cried when the birth mother went into labor, not because I had pity for what my body could not do, but I cried because of the pain that she had to go through to give me such a wonderful gift. If I could have traded places with the birth mother, I would have in a heartbeat because she is such a wonderful person. I could hardly bare to see a wonderful angel suffer. Seeing our son born was the most wonderful miracle I have ever witnessed and I have felt so bonded with him every since. Being there was as if I had given birth to him myself.

Since the birth of our son, no more tears, no more heartaches. When I use to see other people with their child I would be so happy and sad at the same time. I would be happy to know that other people were so blessed. It's a blessing to have a child, but I would hurt so bad in my heart and it was all I could do to not cry. There was always this empty feeling of whether I would be able to be a mother some day. I use to say, "God, why me?" But long ago I started saying, "Thank you, God. If it had to be anyone, thank you God for letting it be me."

I found out that I had many friends that were infertile. There are so many people that cannot have children. I never would have known there were so many until I started talking about it and talking to my friends about how God is good and we are not being punished for not being able to conceive. God just has a bigger plan for us. I found that I started being a counselor and talking other people through their pain. However, without a child, sometimes at night I would still find myself crying in prayer.

I leaned on my faith and prayer and I kept saying in my mind – it was also posted on my desk at work, "If God will bring you to it, he will bring you through it." Right before the call about our child I kept getting e-mails saying, "Isn't God good? All the time God is good!" God may not come when you call but He is always on time!

Well, to make a long story short he was on time. With the call from Catholic Charities, a birth mother that is truly an angel, being present during the birth of our child, and the adoption of our son, I now never feel the pain or the hurt. I never thought this would ever go away but it has and so has the empty feeling. Mother, mom, and mommy, no one can ever take those words away from me and I will never have to cry again. Catholic Charities and staff, thank you all for being heaven sent and giving us the most important role of our lives...being parents!

Thank you all for the blessing!

A grateful couple

## My Story Of A True Blessing

"I've learned that in life everything happens for a reason, even if you think it's the worst thing, it could be the best thing for someone else. You may not be friends, family or even know one another, but in the end, you most likely gave the best thing that could ever happen."

I want to share with you my story of a true blessing, not only for me but for total strangers that became not only friends but family.

At the beginning of December 2006, I became pregnant which to me at the time was one of the most horrible things that could ever happen.

As months went on, I hadn't told my mother. I hadn't told anybody. I wouldn't even let myself believe that I was even pregnant or had something growing inside of me. Because of my not telling anyone, I went through a lot on my own, stress and depression the most. At night I would even cry myself to sleep. I felt alone in this world filled with billions of people. I would hide my feelings and my problems. Every real thought I had about this growing situation was hidden behind a laugh and a fraudulent smile. I would hide my arising belly by wearing hoodies and large comfy shirts and jeans. It worked, but only for awhile. Not in a blink of an eye I was 7 1/2 months pregnant and I had finally worked up enough sense to tell my mother. She didn't react the way I had thought. She was open and caring, and very supportive when all I wanted to do was cry and say I was sorry.

While I talked to my mother, we would think of things we needed to do. We had no idea where to go or who to turn to. We knew adoption would be the best thing and I knew that was what I wanted to do. My mother had told her boss and she helped us out. She talked to me about so much and she knew what I was going through because she too had placed a child with a loving family. I talked to her for hours about everything I had pondered about in the back of my mind, everything that was hidden inside me burst out like a popped balloon. It's what I had needed for so long, to be relieved of pain and suffering that had tied me down for 8 months. She told me there were couples out there who would love to adopt. Soon after that, I found myself sitting at Applebee's eating lunch with a social worker from Catholic Charities. I wanted to see portfolios of couples who had been approved to adopt. I was nervous and anxious at the same time. As I looked through many portfolios, there was this one couple that seemed to intrigue me. This couple had been married for 16 years and are a inter-racial couple. They were perfect. Everything I wanted in my life and in my future they had. I just had to meet them and that day came soon enough. Through out the process of meeting and, me going into labor, we became closer and closer. They were there with me from the beginning of labor to the end. A social worker with Catholic Charities was there with me through it all as well.

After the longing hours of my labor, our son was born, not just mine, but he belonged to this couple as well. They had waited for this very moment for so long. To watch them hold him didn't hurt me. It put the biggest smile on my face that I had ever had in the past 9 months. It was a new life, not only for them but for me as well.

Before I was released from the hospital, I hugged the couple and held this precious child for the last time, because I knew the next time I would see him he would be too old to hold. I looked into his eyes and almost cried because he was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. I gave him a "See you later kiss," and "I'll miss you hug" because I knew I would see him again. I have no doubts in my mind I will. I can see it now. My door bell ringing on a sunny afternoon, and I answer it, shocked and confused as someone says "Are you my birthmother?" and I say "Yes," and he looks me in the eyes and tells me I'm his biological mother. Just thinking about that day gives me something to look forward to in my future.

I don't look at this as not wanting my child, or giving my baby away or throwing him off to some one else as people ask me all the time. I see it as giving my baby a wonderful life he will want to remember and not making him suffer consequences for silly things I did. His parents can give him all the things I want to give him but know I can't. I gave my baby a life to look forward to.

I can truly and honestly say that he is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I look at the world and society so much differently, and I wouldn't take back any moment of it, even though at first I thought it was a "mistake," I've come to find out that there aren't mistakes in life, only lessons learned.

Sincerely,  
Birthmother



## Christ The King School PTO Program: “Loved it all,” Superior Job,” “They Worked Hard”



Christ The King principal Mr. Larry Bishop listening to a parent. CTK Photo



In Madisonville, Ky., October 23, 2007, Christ the King School PTO sponsored a program in which Kindergarten and 1st grade performed to the delight of their parents and all in attendance. The evening was a fine example of family atmosphere, and fellowship with friends and family demonstrated by the Community here at Christ The King. The teacher/organizers for this program were Christ The King Elementary teachers Laurie Cox and Danielle Stewart. In this picture, the Kindergartners are Layne Adkins, Lauren Adkins, Noah Crider, Alex Crutcher, Chase Garrett, Colin Garrett, Nova Gilkey, Wes Greene, Danielle Henning, Isabella Henning, Chole Jolly, Karis Littlepage, Boyd Matheny, Noah Nisbet, Averie Robinson, Kaitlyn Shoulders, and Annie Taylor; First Graders are Kelly Jo England, Nick Himmerle, Elizabeth Johnston, Patrick Parker, Alyvia Ridenour, William Nesbitt, and Sara Thornberry. CTK Photo



Kaitlyn Shoulders and Danielle Henning singing October 23, 2007 at Christ The King Elementary, Madisonville, Ky. CTK Photo



Annie Taylor and Patrick Parker: goblins in the dark or waiting for chocolate cake? CTK Photo



Isabella Henning: big scary eyes. CTK Photo



## Food For The Poor Offers Gifts From The Heart

**Gifts that will change lives — yours and theirs**

Coconut Creek, FL (October 25, 2007) – Food For The Poor, the foremost relief organization working in the Caribbean and Latin America, is offering the opportunity to make a difference this holiday season. The gifts that are illustrated in the catalog are gifts that epitomize the spirit of giving—and are intended for those who need them so desperately. Food For The Poor works in the poorest countries of the Caribbean and Latin America, and the gifts available will change the lives of those who receive them!

For those of us who are fortunate to be living in a country that enjoys a

higher standard of living, it is a privilege to be able to affect the life of someone who does not enjoy the benefits we have. When a gift is given from Food For The Poor's gift catalog a life is forever changed. The catalog allows individuals to creatively select and sponsor projects on behalf of loved ones to benefit the truly destitute.

“I encourage others to invest in the life of a child this Christmas,” explained Robin Mahfood, president of Food For The Poor. “By doing so, you can help to lift someone out of poverty and into a productive lifestyle. Our gifts of food,

educational materials, school and band supplies, housing, tilapia ponds, animals, water wells and fruit trees go so far at such a small cost.”

Housing presents a tremendous need in the Caribbean and Latin America. Most companies or groups of employees can easily fund the cost of \$2,600 for a home. Food For The Poor homes can be built in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua.

The catalog is filled with creative gift ideas that enable communities to sustain themselves economically. Tila-

pia ponds provide entire villages with ongoing food sources; fishing villages provide the boats, engines, tackle and equipment needed for the fishermen to support their families.

The catalog offers a wide range of gifts – from a fruit tree for \$ 10, a gift of a goat for \$90, to the outfitting of an entire marching band for \$3,644.

All gifts are tax-deductible. To send a gift, the catalog can be accessed through the charity's secure Web site at [www.foodforthe poor.org/gifteatalog](http://www.foodforthe poor.org/gifteatalog), or a printed version of the catalog is available by calling 800-427-9104



## Serving With A Smile and Hope For the Future



Back row: Alex Williamson, Patty Day, John Mueller; Middle row: Barbara Bowers, Barbara Barnett; Front row: Antel Mueller, Imogene Poston, Brigid Milea. Photo by Fran Smolen

By Fran Smolen

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Before 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday people are lined up outside of a warehouse on Church Street in Bowling Green, KY. Bread, sweets and often food and clothing are given to the needy from 10:00 a.m. — noon on both of those days. The amount of people served each of those days numbers from 100 — 150.

“The bread program started in the early 1980s,” according to Patty Day’s best recollection, and has grown by word of mouth. Patty is a St. Joseph’s parishioner and one of several volunteers from St. Joseph’s and Holy Spirit parish who volunteer at the warehouse at least twice a week. Clients can be as choosy as the quantity of bread and sweets allows and according to the size of their families.

The bread comes from a local grocery store and is picked up at three different locations. At the present time there are 18 — 20 drivers that pick up the bread seven days a week and then deliver it to the warehouse. Patty enjoys working directly with the poor. “Being present to them is as important as what we give them,” she said. “It’s addictive. You feel a connection with all of these people. It bothers me when I’m not here.”

Barbara Bowers, president of the St. Joseph St. Vincent dePaul Conference also works with the bread program and said, “I’ve been blessed and I’m finding a way to give thanks. A lot of people have difficult challenges and I admire the way they handle them.”

Volunteer Barbara Barnett feels that “Many of these people have blessed me. They’ve helped me to be more patient as I see them standing in line-, also more understanding of other people’s needs.”

“I enjoy helping,” said Imogene Poston, adding “This is my way of volunteering, my extra ten percent of my time.” Other volunteers include Kathleen Baumgarten, Ken Baushe, Gladys Faller, Brigid Milea, Antel and John Mueller, Alex Williamson and Georgia Zoellner.

## NCYC 2007, Columbus, Ohio



This panoramic photo composite shows the 162 representatives from the Diocese of Owensboro who attended the National Catholic Youth Conference Nov. 8 - 11 in Columbus, Ohio. Our diocesan youth, youth ministers, adult chaperones and three priests (Fr. Dave Kennedy, Fr. Terry Devine and Fr. Bruce McCarty) were among the 20,000 people who attended the national convention. Two Owensboro Diocesan youth served as youth ambassadors for the event....Adam Keyser from Holy Spirit, Bowling Green and Jil Yong from St. Francis de Sales in Paducah. Youth Ministry Office Photos

### From The Office Of Worship Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2007.

This is a reminder that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Saturday in 2007, making scheduling celebrations perhaps a bit confusing. The following is a guide as to what Masses are celebrated for the weekend of December 7-9, 2007:

• Dec. 7, Friday morning: Memorial, St. Ambrose

• Dec. 7, Friday evening: Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

• Dec. 8, Saturday morning: Mass of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

• Dec. 8, Saturday evening: Vigil Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent

• Dec. 9, Sunday: Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent

The evening Mass on Saturday, December 8, 2007, is the evening vigil Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Attendance at the evening vigil Mass does not fulfill both obligations (that for the solemnity and that for Sunday).



## Paducah Third Annual Fall Day of Wisdom - A Big Hit Among Over 55 Crowd

Over 80 participants filled the St. Thomas More Parish Hall in Paducah on October 22, 2007 to listen, learn and laugh with speaker, Lorie Duquin.

Lorie Duquin, on staff at the Diocese of Buffalo in New York, is a motivational speaker and the author of several Catholic Books.

Duquin's topic for the Fall Day of Wisdom, was Saints. "It is very hard to live saintly in today's world," said Duquin. "I find it hard to go that extra mile on most days." She said to her audience.

The program evaluation consensus was that the day was well rounded with prayer, learning, humor, fellowship and food.

The Spring and Fall Days of Wisdom are for anyone 55 and over from throughout the Diocese. Watch this paper in coming months for 2008 dates.

At right, Cleo and Bob Higdon with friends Irene Jaso and Ruth Metschuleit.



Above right, Dot Carrico, Janet Wilson and Wanda Wilson enjoying the presentiaon at the Fall Day of Wisdom.

Below, Lorie Duquin Presenter at Fall Day of Wisdom 10/22/07 in Paducah, Ky.



Above, Jean Riddle discusses some "Saintly Trivia" with folks at her table.

At left, Dorothy Wurth takes a moment from her trivia sheet to smile for the camera.



## Couple Believes God Wants Them Together, Serving His Church

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - David and Frann Hadfield have come from different worlds but believe that God brought them to Him and to each other. Frann was born in Tennessee and as a child moved to Owensboro. She was raised Baptist, but her parents didn't attend church. She started going to a Presbyterian church near her home because they had an active youth program. Frann married a man from Grand Rivers, Ky. The family attended a Baptist church and both parents were active there and Frann taught a Sunday school class. After 39 years, that marriage ended in divorce.



David and Frann Hadfield

Frann went to London for a vacation with some friends and that is where she met David. She commented, "One evening we went out with a couple who were David's friends from Manchester and I enjoyed it but I didn't understand a word that the three of them said. I've gotten better at understanding how they talk and David's Manchester accent is not so strong, so it's O.K. now." After she returned home, they kept in touch through the Internet. Their relationship deepened and she moved to England. But after 6 months, she returned to the States to help her daughter who was having a difficult pregnancy and her ex-husband had been diagnosed with a serious health problem. "I told David that I needed to go home. I told him I loved him, but I needed to go home to take care of my family. My daughter needed me and I felt an obligation to help my ex-husband," Frann explained. After a few months, David moved to Ledbetter to be close to Fran. She continued, "I cared for my ex until he died. At the end, he was in a nursing home and I went 5-7 days a week to care for him until he died in 2005. Fran had cared for him for 5 years.

David explained that his background was different than Frann's. "I was a cradle Catholic and practiced my faith until I was 15 and for the next 25 years I was a lapsed Catholic. The last 10 years of that 25 years I was an alcoholic. I went into a hospital to detox and a priest came to see me. He asked if I wanted to return to the church. During our marriage, my wife and I had not gone to church but I wanted to return so I said, 'Yes'. I went to confession and returned to my faith. Shortly after that I went through a divorce.

David left England and came to Ledbetter to be near Frann. Fran explained, "David and I had gone to Louisville to see about getting his papers to be a permanent resident of the States. We decided to get married while we were there, that was 7 years ago. We were married by a District Judge." Having married out of the church, David could no longer be a participating member. They both wanted to attend church together and tried

Continued on page 35



# Witnessing the Fruits of a Loving Family Life

By Larena Lawson

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - The day had finally come. Their daughter would soon become a bride. They had already experienced the weddings of some of their other children, as was evidence in seeing all the little grandchildren that were there with them for this very special day. But this one was to be different. This daughter had been chosen for a religious vocation. She was to become a bride of Christ. They had always tried to teach their children about God and how to follow Him in their lives and now they would witness how one of their daughters had decided to follow God's call to the consecrated life of a Passionist nun.

Dave and Carol Niehaus, of Newburgh, Indiana, are caring parents, who strive to do their best to carry out what Pope Benedict XVI encouraged for all married couples at the World Day of Prayer for Vocations in 2006, "Let us not forget Christian marriage is a vocation to holiness in the full sense of the word, and that the example of holy parents is the first condition favorable for the flowering of priestly and religious vocations." Their daughter, Sister Mary Andrea, would be the first to tell you that her parents were very instrumental in fostering her vocation. She says, "Without the support and encouragement of my parents and siblings, I don't think I would be a Passionist today. My family taught me the values of working together and being obedient to Mom and Dad and to my other siblings, as well as the importance of attending Mass on Sundays, of putting my faith into practice, as well as relying on God and His direction in daily life. In general, there was no one big thing that my family did to foster my vocation, except that they were faithful to their own calling as Catholics, passing on the faith through family and private prayer times, attending Mass on Sundays, Holy Days, Holidays, and on numerous other occasions, and teaching us the faith through word and example."

It was easy to see how the love of this Niehaus family continues to grow as they all gathered for the Mass of Profession for Sister Mary Andrea Niehaus, at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, Kentucky, on Saturday, October 20. Everywhere you looked there were smiling faces and little children all around who made it a day of celebration for their family, as well as for the family of the community of Passionists in which Sister Mary Andrea also belongs.

Growing up in a large family of 10



Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word

children, Sister Mary Andrea continues to hold being a part of a loving family as something that she doesn't want to give up and even in being in a cloistered community, she doesn't have to, because she's feeling right at home living in the monastery. She insists, "I like the family atmosphere and the fact that when help is needed, all are willing to help, even if they are not able. The way things are done here (in the community) is very similar to the way my family taught me. I could go on for quite a while about the things I like about the community, but one last thing I would like to mention is that we are where we are; meaning, when it is time to pray, we pray, when it is time to work, we work; when it is time to play, we play."

In the midst of this first profession celebration, it was a time to play...at least, for the little children. The nieces and nephews of Sister Mary Andrea could be seen playing between the couches, crawling down the hall, and filling the parlor with laughter and cheer. What a joy to see the beauty in a family filled with love! Sister came together with them for family pictures and several of the little ones wanted her to hold them, one crying to be picked up. Getting them all situated for the photo was a "Kodak



Front row: Sr. Mary Andrea, Dave and Carol Niehaus, Emily, Melanie; middle row: Bridgett, Theresa; back row: Gary, Dan, Chris, Mike, Rob

moment" opportunity, as they wiggled and squealed and blurted out "Cheeeeeez" at a screeching decibel! They were the center of attention and they captured everyone's hearts.

We couldn't fail to notice the females of the family too. After the family photos were taken, all the sisters of Sister Mary Andrea could be seen holding each other's hands in a close-knit circle with her. There has to be time for some "girl talk." They looked to be comparing their shoes, just like they surely did many times growing up together and getting all dressed up and ready to go somewhere special.

What about the rest of the family? Sister Mary Andrea comes from a family of builders. In addition to building a family bond of love between them in their home, some are also builders of homes for others. Sister fits right into that building family in the way she likes to compare the image she finds most helpful as a contemplative within the Church, to the image of building the Kingdom of God. She explains, "The type of work my family normally does is framing houses. There are times when their work is visible, but when the house is finished, what they have worked so hard to accomplish is all covered up! Nevertheless, without the frame, the house would collapse, if it even stood at all. In the same way, what I do as a contemplative is often unseen, but I know that without it, the Church cannot stand. Just as the building of a house requires many different skills and types of work, so also the Church requires many different people to meet the various needs of souls in order to bring all to know Christ in an intimate and personal way without neglecting our own need to know Him. As a cloistered religious, I am called to do some of the hidden tasks of building the Kingdom, following the direction and guidance of the Divine Contractor, our Heavenly Father, through listening to the voice of His Word." In essence, Sister

Mary Andrea is carrying on the family tradition of being a builder and works for the Master Builder.

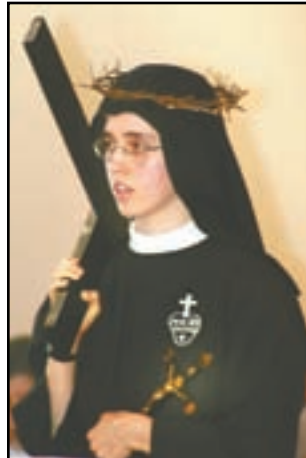
As the Niehaus family continues to build the Kingdom of God by their example of love to one another and the sharing of their gifts with the whole Church community, let us recall what the late Pope John Paul II said in 1979 at the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, "Never stop praying for...vocations, and for perseverance in the commitment of consecration to the Lord and to souls. Above all, create in your families an atmosphere suitable for the flourishing of vocations. And you parents, be generous in responding to God's plans for you children." And also let's consider what he spoke about on the Consecrated Life, "It is to be considered a great honor that the Lord should look upon a family and choose to invite one of its members to set out on the path of the evangelical counsels! Cherish the desire to give the Lord one of your children so that God's love can spread in the world."

We can give thanks to God for calling newly professed Passionate nun, Sister Mary Andrea Niehaus to serve Him in the consecrated life, and to her, for her willingness to say yes to her vocation. We can also be thankful for the loving Niehaus family who have nurtured her in her vocation and continue to support her. They are witnesses to us of the rich beauty of wholesome, Christian family life.



# Sister Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word Makes First Profession

*"To you, young people, I say: if you hear the Lord's call, do not reject it! Dare to become part of the great movement of holiness which renowned saints have launched in their following of Christ. Readily accept God's plan for you if he invites you to seek holiness in the consecrated life....The Third Millennium awaits the contribution of the faith and creativity of great numbers of young consecrated persons, that the world may be made more peaceful and able to welcome God, and in Him, all His sons and daughters." Pope John Paul II*



**Sr. Mary Andrea of the Incarnate Word**



**Sr. Mary Andrea and nieces and nephews Larena Lawson Photos**

On Saturday, October 20, 2007 at the Monastery of Passionist Nuns in Whitesville, Kentucky, Sr. Mary Andrea Niehaus pronounced her first vows. Surrounded by her faith-filled parents and family, Sister

tasted some of the hundredfold joy Jesus promises to anyone who is willing to leave everything in order to follow Him in consecrated life.

Nevertheless, four years ago when Sr. Mary Andrea had first shared her desire of becoming a cloistered nun with one of her nine siblings, she met with the immediate reaction: "What a crazy idea!" Later, when asked by one of her brothers why she had to go now (she was only 19 years old), Sister replied, "I believe that each person, no matter what state in life God calls them to, has sufficient grace to persevere in that calling, and I have that grace now."

Commenting on why she chose the Passionist Nuns, Sr. Mary Andrea said: "The simplicity of Passionist contemplative life

and of the community is something that initially attracted me and continues to keep me here. The simplicity and genuineness of Gospel living reminds me of St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians in which he defines that love is patient, love is kind, love does not put on airs, and so on. I like the family atmosphere and...I also enjoy the variety of personality types and the way these are viewed as gifts from God, complementing one another."

The Passionist Nuns are the cloistered branch of the international family of Passionists whose charism is to spread the knowledge and love of Christ Crucified. More information can be obtained by visiting their website at [www.passionistnuns.org](http://www.passionistnuns.org)

The Whitesville community hosts silent retreats at the retreat house attached to their monastery. To make a reservation for a retreat, contact the Nuns through their website.



**Fr. John Schork, CP, the new Superior of the Louisville Passionists attended Sister Mary Andrea's First Profession on October 20, 2007. Submitted Photo**

## Giving Veterans Honor and Thanks



**Chief Pace, Father Baker, Beth Hendrickson, Bethany Ziegemeier. St. Ann School Photo**

St. Ann School in Morganfield, KY put on an amazing Veteran's Day Celebration! The American Legion presented the colors at the start of the celebration. Father Baker gave the invocation. A slideshow of family and close friends that are veterans of St. Ann students and staff was shown. CW3 John Pace of the 5th Special Forces Group out of Ft. Campbell was the guest speaker. The students really enjoyed how he interacted with them and allowed them to ask questions. Some of the classes honored the veterans through their own presentations. Ms. Brooks' 5th grade



**Ms. Ziegemeier's 3rd grade class**

class, Mrs. French's 4th grade class, Mrs. Brewer's & Mrs. Mason's Kindergarten classes, and Ms. Ziegemeier's 3rd grade class all participated and did a wonderful job. Many veterans came to the celebration and really appreciated the honor and thanks the students gave them.



## 26 The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2007 **Trinity High School Celebrates First Ole Time Country Carnival**

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - The Trinity High School would not let a tornado spoil their carnival the evening of Oct. 18. While tornadoes thundered through the skies of Daviess County that Thursday night, the crowd who had started coming to Whitesville's first Ole Time Country Carnival for the benefit of Trinity High School ducked for cover. By the time the winds had blown around the town and the storms subsided, the event was cancelled for the night.

But the next day, word had spread that the Ole Time Country was back on, and the people came for the attractions which included rides, provided by Derby City Amusement, a wiener dog race, bingo, a car cruise-in, a tractor show, a basketball three-point contest, a corn hole tournament and a chili cook-off. Various student organizations also sponsored booths, the proceeds of which benefited their causes.

The most popular attraction seems to have been the grease pole. Participants were asked to climb the pole, covered in grease, for a chance to grab and keep the cash at the top. Another well-liked activity was the live music provided each day. Performances incorporated all sorts of music, and many of the musicians were students of Trinity High School, including Jacob Boarman, Chris Hamilton, Katelyn Howard, Emily Merritt, Jordan Merritt, Nathan Nash, Jacob Payne, Isaac Rhodes, & Mercedes Varble.

Organizers Robin Isbill, Trinity's Fund Raising Coordinator, and Whitesville City Commissioner Keith Morris estimated the attendance number at around 500, but believe that more would have attended had they not been forced to cancel the event for the safety of the people. Both feel that the crowd was supportive and that many shared positive comments about the carnival. Most attendees seemed excited about an even bigger affair next year. Ms. Isbill estimated that the Carnival brought in about \$2,000 for the THS School general fund, and that the first year appears to have been successful, and the school is looking forward to more

**Continued on page 27**



**The Trinity High School Raiderettes and Junior class worked a booth for the first Ole Time Country Carnival in Whitesville October 18-20, 2007. Robin Beatty Photo**



**Sara Boehman, eighth grade student at Saint Mary of the Woods School, got her back into the hammer and rang the bell at the Ole Time Country Carnival Oct 19 in Whitesville. Staff Photo**



### **Spinning Days at Mount Saint Joseph**

Above, Anna Conn (Ursuline associate), Roberta Shelton and Brenda Semar (Ursuline associate) crochet and spin during a yarn spinning day November 10 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.



At left, Debbie Webb spins yarn during a spinning gathering at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The next gathering will take place February 2, 2008. Everyone is welcome to attend.



to come.

Ms. Isbill said, "We plan to have this Ole Time Country Carnival again next year, but this was our first time to try this, and we learned a lot. The Carnival company were just so easy to work with; they helped us a lot in getting the grounds set up. We plan to go to the churches in town for next year as well as the various civic organizations and make this Carnival truly a Whitesville event in 2008, celebrating our town's shared heritage and our common pride in our town. We're thinking of having some more activities for the afternoons and evenings of the 3-day event that will involve family members of all ages."

Various people around Whitesville had been telling Ms. Isbill that "we ought to have a carnival for our town like they do in (the neighboring towns of) Fordsville and Dundee." She said that when the word got around town that there was going to be a carnival, people stepped up to offer their group's participation: people like THS alumnus Dennis Clark and Trinity parent Jeff Higdon, who helped organize the antique tractors and the historic cars for the parade; people like THS School Council President Gayle Rhodes, THS parents Carol Ebelhar and Angie Collins, who helped organize the bingo, baby races and wiener dog races. "The city was also very helpful," Ms. Isbill said. "They closed off Frankline Street for the safety of the people who staffed and visited the booths and the rides. The classes at Trinity offered to staff booths to help raise money for their school at our first Carnival."

Even with all the bad weather and the uncertainty of whether a first-time event would go over well, the first Ole Time Country Carnival in Whitesville brought together people from across eastern Daviess County for a good time of rides, food, fun, and music. "It was really a fun event," Ms. Isbill said. "I think we can do this again next year."

Contributing to this article was THS teachers Christina Rhodes, Lisa Armes, and photographer Robin Beatty.



Michael Moran, C.P., a Brother of the Eastern Province of the Passionist Community, poses beside two of his religious paintings. He is chaplain of the Supportive Care Program of St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City.

## The Heart of Creativity: Contemplation, Art, Mystery Retreat coming in February

A retreat titled, "The Heart of Creativity," is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, February 22-24, 2008 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center in Maple Mount. Anyone with a creative heart will enjoy this weekend, where a method of meditation will be presented that leads to a more contemplative outlook and "seeing with the eyes of an artist." Participants will explore prayer, the mystery that surrounds us, and the Christ we encounter in prayer. Retreat director is artist Brother Michael Moran. The retreat fee is \$165 (room for two nights, materials, meals) or \$115 for commuters. Some scholarships available. To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail [kmccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kmccarty@maplemount.org). A brochure can be found online at [www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org).



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## "Behold, I Do a New Thing"

—Isaiah 43:19

### Catholic Charismatic Conference and Retreat

February 15-17, 2008

Retreat directors  
Tom and Pam Edwards

*Have you experienced the new thing  
God wants to do in your life?  
Instead of complacency, a  
Living God expects us to experience  
progressive spiritual growth.*



The Catholic Charismatic Retreat begins at 6 p.m. Friday and ends after a 1:30 p.m. closing liturgy Sunday. Retreat fee is \$165 (room for two nights, materials, meals) or \$115 for commuters.

Make plans to join us!  
To register, contact  
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A brochure can be found online  
[www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org)



## Please help. Love and Blessings.

Dear Editor & Readers,

I wish you a very happy Christmas and a bright New Year. There are five thousand children and three schools in my residential area. Kindly help me by sending pens, pencils, rosaries, used cards and used magazines and statues for the children.

We shall be praying for you in return. Please help. Love and Blessings.

- Fr. Paul Cruz, P.O. Box - 691571,  
Kottiyam - P.O., Kollam - 691 571, Kerala - India



OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Owensboro Catholic High School SCRUBS group won a Kentucky state award November 1, 2007 at the Champions/ASAP (Agency for Substance Abuse Policy) Annual Conference in Louisville. SCRUBS stands for Students Creating Respect Using Better Solutions. The OCHS SCRUBS group is the "Kentucky Yes!" Group of the Year 2007.

The Office of Drug Control Policy for the Commonwealth of Kentucky sponsors Kentucky Yes! as an effort to involve communities in Kentucky in the struggle to prevent substance abuse. The OCHS SCRUBS group has been particularly active in getting the city and county governments in Daviess County to pass legislation to ban smoking in all public buildings and in area restaurants in 2006; that goal has been accomplished. In 2007, SCRUBS at OCHS has also been active in leading an effort to bring to awareness among parents and alcohol sales outlets the need to prevent underage drinking in Daviess County. The group sponsors Red Ribbon Week in their school, and is working with various community groups to find a way to bring a social host ordinance to the Daviess County Fiscal Court.

At the conference in Louisville on Nov. 2, the SCRUBS group heard a speaker present facts and examples of how "hurt people hurt people." Dr. Stephen Sroka, Ph. D., reinforced the concept that parents "have to teach kids that there are consequences to the choices we all make. Actions have consequences." He showed many slides illustrating the concept that the secret to helping yourself is to help others.

Dr. Sroka said that in his experiences with youth and families, "problems today are messages." When a young person does something like run away from home, the community must decode the message which this person's problem contains, not just arrest the kid for being "out of control."

"Adults need to listen to kids more," he said, "for example, how many adults know how alcohol gets into a school today?" The answer Dr. Sroka gave from his having counseled many underage drinkers was that kids put clear booze in water bottles and just walk into school. If an adult tries to understand today's kids by comparing them to how they were as teens, forget about it, he told the conference. Today's culture is different from 15 to 30 years ago, and kids live in the now.

"All of us need some help some times," Dr Sroka said. "When as a parent or as a friend of a youth with a problem, one somehow connects with the youth." Dr. Sroka pleaded, "Learn all you can. Take care of one another. Tell that person that you love them. Don't just hope somebody else will help them."

## OCHS SCRUBS Unique Group in Drug and Alcohol Prevention

OWENSBORO, Ky. - SCRUBS (Students Creating Respect Using Better Solutions) was created by a group of students at Owensboro Catholic High School in 1998 after attending a TLC (Teen Leadership Conference) sponsored by the RPC at River Valley. The group was created so that the members could work to create a better school atmosphere with the theme of Respect at the center encouraging all students to make good choices during their teen years in regards to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It was not created exclusively as a drug-free club because we felt that members of the group could learn to make better choices also by being part of the activities that were sponsored by the club. However, the officers of the club do take a pledge to be alcohol, tobacco and drug-free during their term in office because they are role models to the student body as officers. They model the message that we are trying to convey throughout the year in regards to drugs and alcohol.



**SCRUBS (Students Creating Respect Using Better Solutions) at Owensboro Catholic High School was named YES! Youth Group of the Year by the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy Justice and Safety Cabinet at the annual KY-ASAP and Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky on Nov. 1, 2007 in Louisville, Ky. for their work in drug and alcohol prevention. SCRUBS worked with the Tobacco Coalition in 2006 to help Daviess County become smoke-free. The focus in 2007 has been on underage drinking. In the photo above, from left to right are: Kelsey Cash (OCHS), Zach Smith (OCHS), Teresa Barton (Deputy Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet), Kathryn Dueker (OCHS), Ben Helms (OCHS), Bill Patrick (Executive Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy), Adam Goedde (OCHS), Bev Howard and Kathryn Crowe (Co-Sponsors of SCRUBS). Photo by John Perkins, KY Office of Creative Services.**

Some of the accomplishments of SCRUBS are:

- OCHS became a smoke-free building through 3 years of education and activities within the school.
- Bathroom monitor for lunch periods paid for by the grant money initially and then principal continued when there was no grant money—he saw the impact that the monitoring had on kids smoking in the building.
- Students worked with the Tobacco Coalition with the smoke-free restaurants.
- Scrubs worked in conjunction with Owensboro High School to make the Sportscenter smoke-free where most basketball games were played.
- Partnered with Community Solutions and RPC to work on alcohol initiatives in the community by doing public service announcements and TV programs to talk about the issue of underage drinking in the area.
- SCRUBS sponsored many activities within the school to educate and bring awareness on tobacco, alcohol and other drugs during Red Ribbon Week, Great American Smoke out, Kick Butts Day, and Prom Promise with weeklong activities for each time.
- Helped work telephone surveys and opinion polls along with the Tobacco Coalition and the RPC to gather data to be used to promote the Smoke-free

Ordinance for Daviess County.

- Sponsored GO COLD TURKEY at OCHS and the last 2 years has done a community wide effort to encourage people to quit smoking or at least not smoke around young children.
- Attended National Alcohol Conference in Boston in 2003 to present the work done by the group to get a Keg Registration Ordinance passed in the county (not successful but plan to try again with this)
- Partnered with MADD to offer Buzz Free Prom as part of our Prom Promise activities-yearly weeklong event.
- Letter writing campaign to encourage elected officials to raise cigarette tax.
- Students attended and spoke at City and County Commissioners meetings in support of Smoke Free Ordinance, which passed in Daviess County in Mar.2006.
- SCRUBS awarded by the Lifestyle Summit for work done to make policy changes in city and county.
- Students created own video "A Natural High" as part of activities at school.
- SCRUBS officers participated in Underage Drinking Forum in 2006 sponsored by Community Solutions and other agencies in the county.
- SCRUBS partnered with other local high schools in 2006-2007 to survey students and adults on teen alcohol use as well as adult perception of alcohol use by teens



## St. Thomas More Parish Commissions Enliven Faith Life of Parish Community



Pastor Fr. Pat Reynolds and server Michael Langston assist Bishop John McRaith during the confirmation of Adam Tarantino after presentation by sponsor, Jeannie Vannerson at St. Thomas More. Submitted by Missy Eckenberg [Missy@stmore.org]



**Liturgy & Worship Commission** - On Sunday, November 4th, 44 young men and women from Saint Thomas More Parish, Paducah, received the Sacrament of Confirmation, conferred by The Most Reverend John J. McRaith, Bishop of Owensboro. The ceremony completed their full initiation into the Catholic Church; a journey of faith which began when they received the Sacrament of Baptism. The Names of the Confirmation Class are (alphabetically): Ashley Brantley, Joey Bray, Morgan Bucher, Ashley Ciallella, Neal Clark, Jessica Cruz, Edgar Dominguez, Dakota Durrett, Ellen Ebelhar, Marco Galvan, Oscar Galvan, Nathan Harris, Sarah Hendley, Evan Hughes, Chris Hunt, Ryan Hunt, Adam Jones, Jessica Jones, Christopher Kight, Isabelle LaBarge, Jake Lawson, Madison Loyd-Webster, Ryan Lutz, Kyle Marshall, Alessandra Mayo, Sarah Merges, Taylor Mudd, Kassy Palermo, Madi Parker, Linsey Quigley, Andee Shannon, Ashley Shever, George Smith, Macey Smith, Martin Solis, Mayra Solis, Colleen Spoden, Chelsa Stevens, Adam Tarantino, Peyton Vaughn, Johnathon Vaughn, Sara Wallace, Sam Whittaker and Julia Zaninovich

### **Community Outreach Commission**

- In the three photos stitched side by side at lower right, Don Page (white cap and t-shirt), a member of the Community Outreach Commission at St. Thomas More, reached out to a larger community by working with other team members from the Diocese of Owensboro to build a home for a family in Mandeville, Jamaica. The purpose of the team mission trip was to observe, firsthand, the vast needs of the people of the Mandeville Diocese. Don noted, "We visited several homes where they lived in poverty that you had to see to believe." St. Thomas More parishioners contributed to the food, clothing, and medical supplies that were delivered during the trip.



### **Mount Hope Weekend**

In the picture at left, Ruth Connor speaks to the Mount Hope group at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center during the November 2-4 Mount Hope Weekend.



### **Kentucky Awards SCRUBS** *(Continued from page 28)*

using new computer voting machines from the County Court Clerks Office.

•Survey results used in PowerPoint presentations presented to several area groups to educate adults of the problem of underage drinking.

SCRUBS is a unique group in drug and alcohol prevention because they also do many service projects in the school and community not directly related to drugs and alcohol. Its mission statement says: "We want to scrub out gossip, rumors and disrespect by setting an example that will create an atmosphere that will encourage our fellow classmates to do the same. We also want to educate others and ourselves about the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on the body and find better ways to deal with stressors in our lives. In other words: choose better solutions to everyday problems."








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**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph

*Join the Ursuline Sisters  
on a Saint Angela  
Pilgrimage to Italy!*

Pray with Angela as you experience the small farmhouse  
where she was born and the fields where she heard  
the voice of God in her prayer.

**May 27-June 5, 2008**

with Spiritual Directors  
Sister Marietta Wethington, OSU  
and Father John Vaughan (Ursuline Associate)

*Destinations include  
Milan, Desenzano,  
Brescia, Florence,  
Assisi and Rome.*

**Interested in joining us?**  
Contact Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU  
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ssims@maplemount.org  
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

*The cost per person is \$2,799 if paid by Feb. 17, 2008...Sign up soon!*

## NEW URSULINE ASSOCIATES

Father Jerry Riney (second from left), pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Bowling Green, and Victoria Cecil (second from right), a member of Blessed Mother Parish of Owensboro, made their first commitments as associates of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph at a ceremony during Mass November 8 at the Mount Saint Joseph Chapel. Pictured with the new associates are their associate "contact sisters," Sister Suzanne Sims, left, and Sister Alicia Coomes, and Father Tom Kirkendoll, who celebrated the Mass.

## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2008-APRIL 2008

### January 2008

- 8-10 Grant Writing Workshop
- 11-12 Scrapbooking for Friends
- 11-13 Grayson County Ursuline Associates Retreat
- 18-20 Retrouvaille
- 21-25 Spiritual Direction Institute Week 6
- 25-27 First Christian Church Elders Retreat

### February 2008

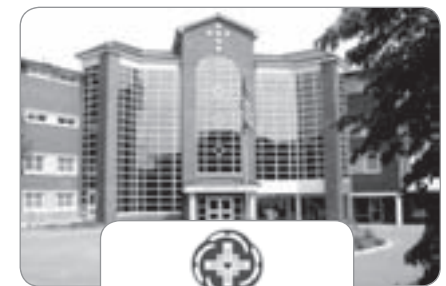
- 1-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 2 Yarn Spinning Gathering
- 15-17 Catholic Charismatic Conference: Behold, I Do A New Thing
- 17 Precious Blood RCIA
- 22-24 Art of Creativity: Contemplation, Art and Mystery Retreat
- 29-2 Women's Retreat with Sr. Cheryl Clemons, OSU

### March 2008

- 2-5 Mount Saint Joseph Quilter Friends
- 7-14 Saint Meinrad Retreat Week
- 9 Lourdes RCIA
- 14-16 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 14-16 Immaculate Conception LaGrange
- 15 Lourdes Confirmation Retreat
- 29 Private Wedding Reception

### April 2008

- 4 Ministry Formation Program
- 4-5 Opportunity for Life Training
- 4-6 Christian Women's Retreat
- 11-12 Immaculate Conception Hawesville/Saint Columba Lewisport Confirmations
- 11-13 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 18-20 Mount Hope Weekend
- 21-25 Spiritual Direction Institute Week 7
- 22 Saint Bernard Environmental Day
- 24-25 Kentucky Wesleyan College Reunion Group



Center-sponsored programs in **bold**.

**To register or to schedule your event, call Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org**

**The Center is located 15 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56 at 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356**





# GRANT WRITING

## Workshop for Nonprofit Organizations

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

### JANUARY 8-10, 2008

Topics include the Art of Grant Writing and Understanding the Federal Government's Faith-Based Initiatives Program



**Karen Dueker**  
Workshop Presenter

*Karen is executive director of the Volunteer Center of Owensboro and has 25 years of experience working with nonprofits. She teaches grant writing at Kentucky Wesleyan College.*

**Workshop Hours:** 9-5 Tuesday and Wednesday  
9-1 Thursday

This workshop will help you find ways to get that extra money you need for your organization.

The cost varies depending on lodging (up to 2 nights), meals, and days in attendance. Full workshop cost with accommodations is \$195.



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
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To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail [kmccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kmccarty@maplemount.org). A flyer can be found online at [www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org)

## Dan Heckel, Jean Allen named to managerial posts at Mount Saint Joseph



**Dan Heckel**

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have named Dan Heckel and Jean Allen to two managerial positions at the Mount.

Heckel has been named director of mission advancement and communications. Allen has been named staff administrator.



**Jean Allen**

Heckel, a native of Louisville, worked 21 years for the Messenger-Inquirer, serving as a reporter, editorial page editor, city editor and editor. He is a 1986 graduate of Murray State University, and a 2001 graduate of Leadership Owensboro. Heckel serves on the Greater Owensboro Education Alliance and the Owensboro Catholic Schools long-range planning committee. He and his wife, Sherri, live in Owensboro with their 15-year-old son, Max, a sophomore at Owensboro Catholic High School. They are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

As staff administrator, Allen, a native of Owensboro, is responsible for the overall management of human resources, services and operations at the Ursuline Sisters' Motherhouse. She received a bachelor of science degree in organizational communications from Murray State University and has worked in the hospitality industry at the Executive Inn. She has also been employed by Kelly and Wilmore in the underground cable industry. She spent seven years as the human resources manager for Dana Corporation. Allen, her husband, Christopher, and their one-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Anne, live in Owensboro.

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

By Jeannie Boone

My email box is never more full than as the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas come around. The messages are from bereaved parents and spouses, from siblings, lovers, and friends; some who have made the journey and want to share their experiences, and some seeking ways to cope and make new rituals without their deceased loved one. Many of these messages are incredibly painful, so very sad, and replies hard to compose---- you carry the weight of the sadness long after the reply has been sent. I am honored that you share with me and I am humbled by your stories.

A young man wrote that the girl he was to marry had died in a auto accident just days before the wedding. He no longer believed in his ability to love, he said, it had all been spent. The only way he felt he could survive the loss was to harden his heart and not let anyone else get close. In the next paragraph this sweet soul talked about loneliness, asking if I thought he could make through Christmas without breaking down.

We were created to love and to deny it, to cut ourselves away from its potential, is to create a dismal existence: there will be no comfort and no hope if you choose that route. To quote a favorite writer, Leo Buscaglia, "Love is always open arms. If you close your arms about love you will find that you are left holding only yourself."

When we open ourselves to love we're vulnerable, but it's that vulnerability that allows loves to begin, and never will you be more so than when in mourning. The holiday celebrations are vivid reminders of those we have loved and lost, in whatever manner, and the best way to get through is to prepare and have a plan for each day and stick to it.

As for meeting people and allowing others into our life the late columnist Lew Grizzard, had the best advice. He told of his mother's advice to be sweet and what he thought that meant: Be kind and be gentle. Be tolerant. Be forgiving and slow to anger. Be tender and be able to cry. Be kind to old people and dogs... Be loving, and be tender. Share. Don't pout. Don't be so loud. Hold a puppy. Kiss a hand. Put your arms around a frightened child. Be sweet.

I would only add be patient.

Take care of yourself physically and mentally, take things slow, and follow his advice. You'll be just fine as you adjust to a different reality. In loving and giving to others you'll find the more you share the more you have. And remember, too, that no love is never lost... it goes on.

God is with us and His care is infinite. We carry on in this world and look to the next, confident and walking by faith. Christmas is the celebration of the greatest gift you'll ever have. It is pure love and sacrifice. God loved us so much He gave His only begotten son that we might be saved and have eternal life in heaven. I believe. Merry Christmas

## We the People

A number of Ursuline sisters, associates and Mount Saint Joseph employees participated in the We the People America Speaks town meeting November 10 at the Executive Inn in Owensboro. Sister Elaine Burke (left) was among



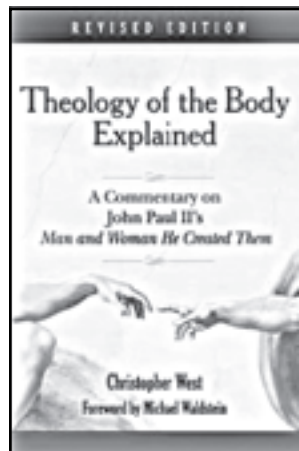
more than 600 people who took part in the event. Groups identified community values and assets and developed and prioritized strategies to accelerate five goals and to gain a commitment to action from leaders and citizens.

Sister Amelia Stenger (right) was one of the facilitators. Susann Bell is shown reacting to a comment by Sister Amelia.





# Theology of the Body Explained: A Commentary on John Paul II's Man and Woman He Created Them, By Christopher West, November 2007, 0-8198-7425-6, \$29.95, Approximately 530 Pages



The first edition of *Theology of the Body Explained* (2003) quickly became a Catholic best-seller, serving as a standard reference text in universities, seminaries, and for private study. This newly revised and expanded edition is based on Michael Waldstein's outstanding translation of John Paul II's catechesis published by Pauline Books & Media under the title *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body* (2006).

In this newly revised and expanded edition:

- All quotes of John Paul II have been updated with the new translation;
- Key insights discovered through Dr. Waldstein's access to the John Paul II archives have been incorporated;
- The outline of the text has been substantially reorganized to reflect what we now know about the structure of John Paul

II's original manuscript;

- The newly discovered headings of the Pope's original text have been incorporated throughout;
- The illuminating insights of John Paul's six undelivered and previously untranslated addresses on the Song of Songs, Tobit, and Ephesians are unfolded here for the first time;
- The Prologue has been thoroughly revised, updated, and expanded based on new insights into the mind of Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II.

Christopher West is recognized around the globe for his work teaching and promoting John Paul II's theology of the body. He serves officially as a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute near Philadelphia. West has also taught graduate and undergraduate courses on a number of other faculties, including St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne, Australia, and the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. He is the best-selling author of four books, and his popular column "Body Language" is syndicated to newspapers throughout the United States. Christopher lives with his wife Wendy and their four children near Lancaster, PA (Please look at right side of this page of the WKC to find West's latest column.)

## Body Language:

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West

### The Agony and the Ecstasy of Being One-Flesh

The title of a recent article in the Sept. 30 National Catholic Register caught my attention — "Divorce: In the Image and Likeness of Hell." The first few sentences confirmed what I intuited from the title — this writer, Melinda Selmys, was going to speak plainly. It seems she'd had enough of the sweet, pious lingo with which many Catholic writers often speak about marriage. Heck, for all I know, she may have had me in mind.

She observes: "The theologians remind us that our married life is an image of the union between . . . Christ [and the church]. We hear of . . . the bliss of the two becoming one." When things get tough, we are told "to improve our communication, fall in love with each other all over again, observe the tender moments, etc., etc."

Then she allows such advice to butt up against the all-too real experiences of actual marriages. "But how are you to fall in love again," she asks, "with an insensitive beast who has broken your heart and slept with another woman? How can you see your sex life as an image of the intimate life of the blessed Trinity when your wife consents only on a full moon when Mars is in Virgo, and makes love with the enthusiasm of a dead frog?"

When I first read that last line, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. But I did breathe a sigh of relief. Man, it's refreshing to hear people say it like it is. For whatever reason, such brutally honest writing seems rare in much of the Catholic press. It's as if those who promote Catholic teaching are afraid it won't go over so well if we talk about the real sufferings of following Jesus. So we conveniently promote the glories of the Christian life without a realistic assessment of the sorrows. I, myself, have been guilty of that on occasion, I think.

Christian marriage is a messy, painful business. How could it be otherwise? "Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church" (Eph 5:25). If marital union is an image of Christ's union with the church, this means, as Selmys observes, that marriage will involve "the same agony, the mingling of tears and blood, the same thorns digging into our skulls, the same nails plowed through our palms."

In light of how many people believe the church is "down on sex," the glories and ecstasies to which authentic Catholic teaching calls spouses in their union should be emphasized. But these glories and ecstasies are the fruit of embracing much purifying suffering. If the joy is not set before us, we will have no motivation to endure the suffering. "For the joy set before him Christ endured the cross" (Heb 12:2). But if the path to those joys is not also realistically assessed, we will naively wonder why marriage is so agonizing.

As Selmys writes: "In every marriage there are moments when it seems impossible. I am sure that when Christ fell on the road to Calvary, the thought of lifting his cross again . . . seemed like madness. Perhaps it is different through divine eyes, but for men, there are always moments when we turn to heaven and say, 'Are you insane?' When we are hardly able to see to the top of Golgotha through our dust-bitten tears, we derive no comfort from reassurances that crucifixion isn't all that bad, and that, seen in perspective, it's really a beautiful expression of love and self-giving."

It is a beautiful expression of love, to be sure. But it's beautiful precisely because Jesus selflessly embraced the wine-press of suffering. It's when we're face to face with that wine-press that we're most tempted by sexual sin — be it an affair, Internet pornography, masturbation or contraception. Why? Because sexual sin promises the pleasure without the pain, the "wine" without the wine-press. True love is always linked with suffering. As author Father Paul Quay said in his book *The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality*: "It is precisely this link between true love and suffering that is rejected by sexual sin." Christ suffered greatly in loving his spouse. We are to follow him.



Christopher West



*As we celebrate the birth of  
the Christ Child, may this joyous  
season remind us anew of His  
enduring message of peace.*



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By Fr. John S. Rausch

Last Labor Day (2006) agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) swooped down on a poultry plant in Stillmore, Ga., arresting 120 people with false papers and scattering another 300 in all directions. As people dispersed, one family hid for two nights in a tree, while other frightened workers fled into the woods, leaving women and children behind without resources.

Intentional or not, the raid on Labor Day symbolizes our failed immigration policies, because at its core the debate involves mainly foreign workers seeking a better, life for themselves and their families through their labor.

As a representative of the Catholic Church, I invite people of faith and those of good will during this Labor Day holiday to examine with me some of the realities and principles that could frame a fair and just immigration program. In a spirit of civility, let's explore some possibilities to create a kinder and gentler society.

To begin, we must face reality: undocumented workers form a significant sector of our workforce. Estimates vary, but probably their number exceeds 5.3 million over the age of 18. They account for roughly 10 percent of all restaurant workers, nearly a quarter of private household workers and more than half of the 1.6 million agricultural field workers. The work of the undocumented contributes to our society and no immigration policy will work without acknowledging that fact. The option of deporting all undocumented workers and their families (estimated at 12 million) appears tactically impractical and economically dangerous.

A more realistic option creatively links principles with pragmatism. Christian theology, for example, teaches that everyone is created in the image and likeness of God and has a right to life and life's basic necessities, hence workers have the right to immigrate to support themselves and families. Yet, nations have a right to protect their borders for the sake of the common good. A middle ground would rest on two approaches: to recognize the current contributions of the undocumented, streamline the process for legal immigration.

First, to recognize the worth of the undocumented, we could offer them a path to citizenship through earned legalization. Earning legalization could come with certain stipulations, such as requiring six years of employment, the payment of a fine and any owed back taxes, plus English instruction before workers and their families could become

eligible for permanent residency. After gaining permanent residency, the individual could apply for citizenship—another five-plus year process.

Critics, always nervous about rewarding illegal activity, are invited to draw water at the well of compassion. Most civil crimes allow for restitution and fines. Earned legalization represents a process that may demand an undocumented person 11 to 13 years to complete the requirements for citizenship. This plan blends the American ideals of hard work and initiative with a Gospel touch of mercy and compassion.

Second, to slow illegal immigration to the U.S., we need to encourage local sustainable development in hemispheric countries by amending our trade agreements that favor trans-national corporations, while expanding and expediting our visa policies. Poverty pushes people. Mexican experts estimate that more than one million farmers have left land because of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and those landless become the ready pool for border crossings. Ideally, migration should be driven by choice, not necessity.

Initiating a guest worker program provided with safeguards for just wages and essential legal guarantees would keep families together and ultimately serve the economic needs of U.S. businesses, while better controlling the flow of immigrants. Few would face a cruel desert crossing, given the alternative of sitting confidently in an air conditioned office awaiting their visa.

High tech and barbed wire provide limited effectiveness in keeping out economically desperate people. True security comes from the practice of justice and the respect for all people. To cultivate the ground for immigration reform, this Labor Day I'm meditating on a passage from the Hebrew Scriptures: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among



Four Hispanic ministers working in the Diocese of Owensboro traveled to St. Augustine, Florida on October 18 to attend a meeting of the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI). Catholic pastoral agents from nine southeastern U.S. states came together to discuss more effective ways of serving the spiritual needs of the Hispanic community. Those representing the Owensboro Diocese were Luis Ajú, Father Carmelo Jiménez, Cristobal Gutierrez, and Paul Witte. Photo submitted by Father Frank Ruff

you ... for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34; cf. Matthew 25:35).

*This op-ed first appeared in the Lexington Herald Leader, September 1, 2007. Fr. John S. Bausch, a Glenmary priest, directs the Catholic Committee of Appalachia and coordinates the Justice and Peace Commission for the Catholic Diocese of Lexington. He writes a monthly syndicated column that is published in 20 Catholic newspapers.*



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph held a Christmas Craft Sale November 10-11 in the Precious Blood Parish Hall. Parish member Kristen Powers, left, top photo, attended the sale along with her mother Carole Peak, right, also a member of Precious Blood Parish, and her children, l. to r., Braxton, 3, Braden, 7, and Briley, 1.

Mary Jo Meadows (right) also attended the Ursulines' Christmas craft sale in search of Christmas gifts. She is a member of Precious Blood parish.





## She's A Catholic Girl Trying To Return Home

By Dave McBride

There has been some confusion in the life of Judy Williams in the past few years. And that has been accompanied by and followed by periods of doubt and indecision. Not exactly ideal conditions for a young mother of two facing an-almost certain divorce and tangled up in religious turmoil.

Born a Catholic in Breckinridge County but never having had the advantages of a Catholic education, the things Williams learned about the Catholic faith were gleaned from years of CCD classes. "What I got out of CCD classes was no more than I managed to put into them," she said during a recent interview for *The Western Kentucky Catholic*. And what she put into CCD apparently was not enough to sustain a strong bond with the Catholic Church.

"I have to place as much blame on myself as I do anybody else," she said. "I'm not perfect and I never made perfect decisions." What she did do was stop being a Catholic, start being a Baptist, and start again being a Catholic.



Judy Williams



Susan Warrell Photo

**'I know I probably can if I wanted to, but right now it just doesn't seem right, and that's probably what makes me still feel like an outsider.'**

"I guess all of that appears to be hypocritical, but such things happen when you're not on sound religious footing," Williams said. "I really didn't have that much of an understanding of the Catholic faith and how it operates." With a Catholic mother and non-Catho-

lic father, Williams was a member of St. Mary of the Woods Church in McQuady.

"All of my family had some kind of formal Catholic education," she said. "But I didn't. My dad wasn't a Catholic but he always made sure we got to church." Williams was married to a non-Catholic boy in the Catholic Church when she was 18 years old. The young couple moved to Eastern Kentucky, but returned home about one year later. The marriage produced two girls and both were baptized in the Catholic Church. The children were raised as Catholics until Williams decided she no longer wanted

to be a Catholic. That decision came after the young couple left Breckinridge County and moved to Owensboro.

"I went to this one Catholic Church in Owensboro and I never really felt I was a part of it," she said. "The people were cold and removed and I just never got what I felt I should be getting out of a Church." Williams' relationship with that church lasted for 10 years, and it was then that she decided to look elsewhere for religious fulfillment. "I talked with another priest but still didn't get a lot of satisfaction," she said. "Then I talked to Baptist minister and immediately felt more welcome than I did in the Catholic Church." It was at that point in her life that Williams became Baptist and a 12-year member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro. Williams said she eventually was baptized into Bellevue Baptist and that both of her daughters were raised as Baptists.

"My daughters became very involved at Bellevue, and I have always said I would never apologize for raising them Baptists," she said. "And I will never have anything bad to say about Bellevue Baptist. I was always welcome there, made friends, and felt I was a real part of something."

Then Williams' life started taking still another change. She went through a divorce, saw her now-grown daughters move to Nashville, and started dating Chuck Thompson, a Catholic. While she attended Mass every Sunday with Chuck, Williams still was not bonding with the Catholic Church in a way she had hoped. "I'm happier now than I was before in the Catholic Church," she said. "I have to do some things myself in order to improve my relationship with the church. That relationship is improving but I still need to learn more about the Catholic Church.

And she's working on that.

Scanning through a bulletin at Immaculate Church in Owensboro - now the church of her choice - Williams read about a program, Catholics Returning Home, designed to draw former Catholics back into the fold had been started. She saw it as a chance to make additional inroads on her journey back into the church and she started attending the weekly sessions.

"I was so impressed by Father Tony (Jones)," she said. "He talked in a way I could understand and he appeared to be very interested in those attending the classes." Despite having a past troubled marriage and a playing field not level as far as religion is concerned, Williams holds herself in relatively high esteem.

"I've always thought of myself as a good person, a good mother, and I want to be a good Catholic," she said. She is gaining but still has some ground to cover. Although she qualifies, according to Father Tony, Williams does not receive the sacraments.

"I know I probably can if I wanted to, but right now it just doesn't seem right, and that's probably what makes me still feel like an outsider."

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# Holy Land Pilgrimage

Chaplain: Fr. Bruce Fogle, Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Holy Cross & Resurrection Parishes. And Tour Hosts: Rick & Penny Torretto\*, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Rio Rancho, NM, invite you to join them following in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ and praying the Rosary where the Mysteries happened from May 27 to June 10, 2008. The cost will be \$3,239 from Albuquerque (other connecting flights available)

We will visit JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM, NAZARETH, CANA, MT. TABOR, and JERICHO. We cross the SEA OF GALILEE, renew Baptismal Promises at the RIVER JORDAN, carry a cross up the VIA DOLOROSA, pray at CALVARY and the TOMB.

We will visit the Upper Room, Gethsemane, Temple Mount, Dead Sea, Masada, Qumran, Caesarea Maritimae and Caesarea Philippi, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Ein Karem, Excavations at Western Wall, the Temple Institute, Dead Sea Scrolls Museum, and many more sites.

For information and flyer: CONTACT: Rick Torretto, P.O. Box 44144, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4144. Call: (505) 994-2038 or Fax: (505) 891-3395. Cell Phone (505) 573-0985 Check out our Web Site: [www.solomonscourt.com](http://www.solomonscourt.com). Email: [Rtorretto@aol.com](mailto:Rtorretto@aol.com).

## Brescia Receives One Million Dollar Gift

OWENSBORO, Ky. – Brescia University announces receiving a major gift from an alumnus during the weekend of the Presidential Inauguration. Joseph D. Moore, 1974 Brescia graduate and current Brescia University Trustee, and his wife Jeanne, have committed a gift of one million dollars to the University.

The announcement was made October 25, during the Brescia University Board of Trustee's meeting and at a major donor dinner on October 26, 2007. Though Moore was not in attendance, he sent a letter which President Larry Hostetter read at both events.

In his letter, Moore stated that in business, one must take calculated risks to seize opportunities and keep a high level of efficiency and recognition as a leader. "Bold, decisive action is required. I am excited about the opportunities awaiting Brescia that must be seized to maximize its potential as a leader in the higher education arena. The fact is no institution can seize opportunities alone – Notre Dame, Harvard, and Yale all have those who are willing to invest in their mission and make the opportunities happen."

Moore said that standing on the sidelines as investors is behind us. "For those of us who believe in the mission of Brescia, there is no better time to invest than now. Brescia is moving forward and we can be a part of its success. It is my pleasure, along with my wife Jeanne, to invest in Brescia with a gift of \$1 million dollars."

Enrollment is a major focus of Brescia's new and fifth president, Rev. Hostetter. Hostetter has six lodestars, points of inspiration, that he announced during his Inauguration, one being Student Life Services. The goal of this lodestar is to "increase the number and quality of students and create a dynamic, vibrant, and fulfilling collegiate experience." Rev. Hostetter said, "This gift of one million dollars will support Brescia's goal of increasing enrollment."

Moore pledged his support of Brescia saying, "We are confident that Brescia is positioned, with the unconditional support of its leadership, alumni and friends, for a promising future as it fulfills its commitment of making a difference in the lives of its students, its community and the Church."

Moore's gift will establish an endowment, to be used to focus on increasing enrollment at Brescia University.

Moore, and his wife Jeanne, currently reside in Nashville, Tenn. Moore is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Vanguard Health Systems, which owns 14 hospitals and other health care related services in four states: Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts and Texas.

Moore graduated cum laude from Brescia College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. He won an award for having the highest accounting GPA in a graduating accounting class.



Joseph D. Moore

# Pet Blessing

The Western Kentucky Catholic, December, 2007 35

Submitted by Kim Brumfield DRE K-6th

HARDINSBURG, Ky. - The yearly Pet Blessings were held at St. Romuald Catholic Church in Hardinsburg on Sunday, September 30th for the K-6th Religious Education program and on Friday, October 5th for the School children. There were many pets brought to each Blessing ranging from rabbits, a pig to many

- cats and dogs. Everyone had a great time and we appreciate -the parents helping their children have a great morning with their pets.



Fr. Tony Bickett gives 6th Grader Zach Smith's dog "Ales" a blessing at the Religious Ed. Pet Blessing. Submitted by Kim Brumfield

## Couple Believes God *(Continued from page 23)*

God and faith. I told him I wasn't able to practice my faith and he told me to come to St. Francis and talk to the priest.

Fr. Larry (McBride) helped me to be able to return to my church. He asked me if I was interested in becoming a Eucharist Minister, but that was all I was involved in until lately. A letter came from St. Francis de Sales inviting anyone who might be interested in learning about the Catholic faith to come to a RCIA meeting. Frann talked to her daughter about the letter and she asked for a copy. After reading it, she called her mother and told her that it wasn't just one meeting that the meetings would be for 9 months. "I told her I would go for at least 1 or 2 times and then make up my mind," Frann explained. "I need to give 100% of myself to something or it doesn't work for me. I went to all 9 months of RCIA meetings and came into the Church during the Easter Vigil this past spring. I have been active in the Church ever since and I just love it. This is where I need to be." Her daughter went through RCIA with her.

David added, "After Frann joined the church, we were able to go together to a church we both believed in. Sharing my faith with her makes it better still. I was never able to share my faith with anyone before Frann. We are involved in several things at St. Francis and it is because of her and even though I grumble I enjoy it and I'm glad to be involved. Frann helps out with several activities at the church and she is also an usher. I am still a Eucharist Minister, I am a RCIA sponsor and I am involved in the Koinonia."



## Vocation

Serving the Gospel, living the Eucharist, building the Church as communion.  
Let yourself be conquered by His gaze and His voice...



### Thank You, Daniel, For Saying 'Yes' To the Lord's Call

On October 21, 2007, Daniel Dillard entered the Candidacy stage of his priestly formation at a parish Mass in Holy Name Church, Henderson, Ky. with Bishop John McRaith presiding.

#### Excerpts from Bishop McRaith's Homily

If we had to summarize today's readings, we would find a common message about the importance of being persistent in developing our relations with God.

We all know how easy it is to give up on living on God's time – we want answers on our time. The readings today tell us that we must be persistent in our relationship with God. In the first reading, we read about the need for Moses to be persistent in meeting God's demands to win a battle with Amalek. As long as Moses keeps his hands raised – a sign of being about God's work – Israel would be winning the battle. If Moses rests his hands from being tired, they would be losing. When Moses can't do it alone – he gets the two helpers to hold his hands up, so they will win the battle.

We can identify with this. We often find ourselves in situations where we simply need the help of others in order to continue doing God's will. This need for help might arise in our work; or we might need help in being a good parent or a good child in the family. Sometimes we need help through difficulties such as sickness, or being out of work, or just having too much work, but God never asks us to do the impossible. God is always there to walk with us, as Jesus teaches us in so many ways. So, today we are called to reflect on our daily call from God – sometimes we go it alone, but at times we need to ask for help from our sisters and brothers in order to be persistent in following God's will.

St. Paul reminds Timothy that in proclaiming the Word of God, he must be "persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching." In other words, to be a true disciple of Jesus in proclaiming the Good News of God's love and of our salvation, Timothy must persist through times of great difficulty. That goes for us too. Jesus leaves us with a question that drives the very mission of the Church. He asks, "...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" In a testament to his own personal faith, Daniel makes a commitment to the Church today. With his help and that of all the faithful, when the Son of Man comes, He will find a strong, *persistent* faith among the people of the Roman Catholic Church of Western Kentucky. The readings are perfect for the celebration of Daniel receiving candidacy. We have called attention to three stories from scripture: Moses, Timothy and the persistent woman seeking justice from an unjust Judge. Daniel is another story of persistence.

Daniel has been working toward this day of candidacy and praying to God for ordination for several years. He has shown the importance of being persistent in growing in his relationship with God and in carrying out God's will. We pray today that Daniel will continue in his persistence to be a priest, and we are gathered here as family and friends, as brothers and sisters, to promise him our assistance when he needs help. This is the time when Daniel will officially declare his intentions to be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Owensboro, and the Diocese will accept him as a candidate to be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Owensboro. We are here for you, Daniel, and will be here for you as

### Saint Meinrad Seminarians Travel Around the World

By Byron Macias

One of the many trademarks of Saint Meinrad School of Theology is its hospitality. New seminarians, visitors, tourists, lay students, and everyone who visits "the hill" (as it is called) always feel at home. I firmly believe that the seminary here brings about the words of Saint Paul: "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ." (1 Cor. 12, 12). On Thursday, October 11, our seminary held "Around the World," a social



Uwem Enoh, far left, dances with fellow seminarians at St. Meinrad during the Seminarians Around the World Celebration. Submitted Photo.

event to celebrate unity in diversity. Seminarians decorated their rooms or halls with pictures, information, power-point presentations and souvenirs from either their state or their country. Food and drinks from their regions were the attraction of the evening. The rest of the community then began their journey through the seminary halls, enjoying and appreciating the richness of the different regions. Some of the rooms included Ohio, The Philippines, Mexico, Korea, Africa (hosted at our very own Uwem's room), "The South" (Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana), and Japan, among others.

The (Western) Kentucky section was well represented by our seminarians Ryan Harpole, Josh McCarty, Daniel Dillard, Steve Harpole and KY adopted Byron "Paco" Macias. Blue and white balloons, strings, maps and pictures were set on the table. A copy of our diocesan newspaper, The Western KY Catholic was part of the display. The seminarians highlighted their home parishes on a map of Kentucky.



Daniel Dillard receives applause after entering the Candidacy stage of his priestly formation October 21, 2007. Josh McCarty photo.

you carry out your commitment that you make this morning. The Church accepts you now and will pray with and for you in the next months as you finish your preparation for ordination. What a joyful day for you, for your family, for Holy Name Parish, and for the Diocese. Thanks, Daniel, for saying "yes" to the Lord's call.

Ryan was in charge of most of the menu: deer meat (which was haunted, marinated and cooked by Ryan himself) and fried Twinkies. There were also green fried tomatoes. The deer went fast and so did the Twinkies.

In the African room there was lively music, goat meat and hot sauce, and lots of fun. Uwem is a gracious host. Seminarians and priests enjoyed good food and fellowship. Through the different seminary halls we were able to travel the world, enjoying great music, traditions, food and camaraderie.

Seminary's Provost-Vice Rector, Fr. Kurt Stasiak, OSB, quoting the autumn issue of *On the Hill*, said, "The International flavor of the student body is both educational and inspiring for the seminarians." It is indeed just like the familiar church hymn, "In Christ there is no East or West." There is only a community of people who have paid attention to the subtle –yet almighty– voice of God: "Come and Follow me."



# Priests Honored with a Special Prayer

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - At the request of Bishop John McRaith, the pastoral parish council members of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville devised two special ways to honor their priests on Priesthood Sunday, which was celebrated during weekend masses on October 27 and 28.

The first was the creation of "spiritual bouquets." A spiritual bouquet is a book in which parishioners write messages of thanks and gratitude. One book for each of the four priests at Sts. Peter and Paul were made available for three weeks, allowing ample time for all parishioners to write their thoughts on the blank pages. Various members of the parish council then presented the spiritual bouquets to the priests during the masses on October 27 and 28.

The second gift was a blessing prayer, which was written by Pastoral Associate Libby Downs, and read by other members of the parish council during the masses. While the prayer was read, all in attendance were asked to kneel and extend their hands toward the priests in blessing.

Following is the prayer that was written for this very special occasion.

## Prayer for our Priests

By: Libby Downs

You came from among us  
to be, for us, one who serves.

We thank you for ministering Christ to us  
and helping us minister Christ to each other.

We are grateful for the many gifts you  
bring to our community:

for drawing us together in worship,  
for visiting us in our homes,



Members of the Sts. Peter and Paul soccer team in Hopkinsville prepare for a pep rally on September 17, the same day as their first home game of the fall season. Front row: Hayley Rideout, Abby Pace, Zach Nosbusch, Kayla Kalani, Amelia Pace; 2nd row: Olivia Harris, Emily Pape, D.J. Langhi, Hunter Plank, Jerome Soldo, Zach Childers, Chris Kinnard; Back row: Jake Plank, Brittany Kinnard, Logan Hulsmeyer, Josh Ell, Alex Hale  
Photo taken by Jodi Romano.

## Cleats Up! The Saint's Fall Soccer Season is Over

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - The Sts. Peter and Paul soccer team here recently wrapped up their third fall season with an overall record of 2 and 6 with two ties. After a stunning record of 10 - 3 last year, the team faltered a bit before winning their first game. Primarily due to losing eight players from last year's team, this team struggled at first, but grew together as the season progressed.

They had lost five games and tied one before finally putting more balls in the net than their opponent on October 1. Their other win, which was huge, came on Thursday, October 25 when the Saints came from behind, erasing a 3 to 1 deficit, and beat their hometown rival Hopkinsville Middle School 5 to 4. This win, which was the final game

for comforting us in sickness,  
for showing us compassion,  
for blessing our marriages,  
for baptizing our children,  
for confirming us in our callings,  
for supporting us in bereavement,  
for helping us to grow in faith,  
for encouraging us to take the initiative,  
for helping the whole community realize  
God's presence among us.

For our part, we pray that we may always  
be attentive to your needs  
and never take you for granted.  
You, like us, need friendship and love,  
welcome and a sense of belonging,  
kind words and acts of thoughtfulness.

We pray, also, for the priests who have  
wounded priesthood.  
May we be willing to forgive  
and may they be open to healing.  
Let us support one another during times  
of crisis.

God our Father, we ask you to bless our  
priests and confirm them in their calling.  
Give them the gifts they need  
to respond with generosity and joyful  
hearts.

We offer this prayer for our priests,  
Who are our brothers and friends.  
Amen.



The priests at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville were blessed with two special gifts during the masses on October 27 and 28 in honor of Priesthood Sunday. Pictured from left to right are: Fr. Chrispin Oneko, Associate Pastor; Fr. John Thomas, Pastor; Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Associate Pastor; and Fr. Shijo Vadakkumkara, Associate Pastor. Photo taken by Libby Downs.

of the regular season, moved them up a notch in the standings for the playoffs.

The Saints fought hard during their last game on October 30. In the first round of the playoffs they suffered another tough loss to hometown team University Heights Academy, losing 1 to 0.

"Looking back on the season, we had a good year, much better than our record would indicate," said Head Coach Greg Ligibel. "We had five games that were decided by one goal or less (a tie), and those games could have easily been wins. What impressed me the most was the team's ability to work together. They played as a team and that is how we were even able to compete with teams that were bigger, faster and more skilled."

The Saints officially ended their season on Saturday, November 3, with an end-of-the-season party. Each player was recognized for his or her contribution to the team with a certificate of award. The awards given were as follows - 5th Grade: Olivia Harris and Amelia Pace, Rising Stars; 6th Grade: Alex Hale, Best Attitude, Kayla Kalani, Commitment, D.J. Langhi, Mr. Determination, Zach Nosbusch, Heads Up! Award, Emily Pape, Miss Fearless, Hunter Plank, 110% Award; 7th Grade: Zach Childers, Best Offense, Josh Ell, Most Potential, Chris Kinnard, Mr. Consistency; 8th Grade: Logan Hulsmeyer, Most Improved, Brittany Kinnard, Best Defense, Abby Pace, Coaches' Choice, Jake Plank, Most Versatile/Valuable, Hayley Rideout, Ultimate Saint, Jerome Soldo, Most Valuable Player.



## Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Picnic Gathers Many People From Various Generations



Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, at right, enjoys a meal of chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs and several side dishes with parishioners Carl and Lilia Schmidt at the annual Sts. Peter and Paul parish picnic in Hopkinsville on September 23. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.



People of various generations enjoyed their time at the annual Sts. Peter and Paul parish picnic in Hopkinsville on September 23. Pictured from left to right are: Maria Perez, Dulce Ma. Del Angel R., and Maria Jose Jimenez. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.



### Special Guest Speaker At Brescia

Father Diarmuid O'Murchu, an Irish social psychologist, counselor and author now living in London, England, was the guest speaker at a Contemporary Woman program November 8 at Brescia University. Father O'Murchu, shown with Contemporary Woman Program Director Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, spoke on "Justice making in a globalized world."



## Communal Anointing of the Sick

**Marriage Help** Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 18-20, 2008, 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)

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at St. Francis de Sales in Paducah during the November 12th noon Mass was well attended by almost 80 individuals. A meal was provided by the Bereavement Committee following the service in the parish hall. Edie Keeney Photo



# Brescia University

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## Reading A Good Book!

Holy Name School principal, Daryl Hagan reads a book to the one of the second grade classes at school. It is fun to visit the principal's office at HNS! HNS Photo



## Saints are Here!

Holy Name School celebrated All Saints Day with a procession of saints with Father Ed Bradley. Pictured are sixth graders Evan Partenhiemer, Taylor Warren, Jacob Grossman, and Hannah Chapman. HNS Photo

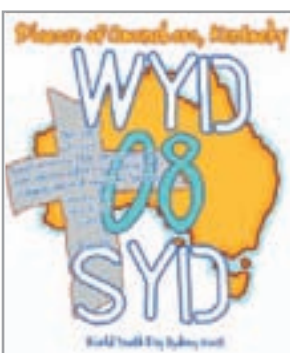
## Annual ❄️ **Holiday Ham Sale!** ❄️

Help a deserving student with your purchase of a savory, boneless, barbecue ham. Proceeds benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund. \$30 will reserve your delicious ham today!

Call (270) 686-4265 to place your order. Hams available for pick up Sat., Dec. 22 from 11 - 1 p.m. in the University Campus Center.



*Ask about delivery options!  
New! Slicing also available for \$5/ham.*



## World Youth Day Local Celebration, Diocese of Owensboro

Fri. & Sat., July 18-19, 2008 at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center  
2695 Jackson Bridge Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101

Tentative Itinerary

3-6 mile Pilgrimage into Site Praying the Stations of the Cross, Live Uplink to Sydney for the Vigil With Our Holy Father, Live Music, Perpetual Adoration, Film Festival, Confessions, Catechesis, Liturgy and MORE!!

For High School Youth through Young Adult. Come check out our new diocesan camp and retreat center!! This event will be in the spirit of an authentic World Youth Day vigil experience. It will be simple with everyone camping out on the ground in front of the large stage.

For more information: Call 270.683.1545, ext. 358 or e-mail donna.mills@pastoral.org



## Making a Difference in the Community

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY - Each year, seniors in the Social Work department, take a trip to Saint Paul's Mission in Crownpoint, New Mexico as part of their field practicum. The mission, which serves Navajo families and children, provides the housing for the students. While there, students work as interns in social service agencies. For the past four years, the Social Work department, along with the Brescia Student Social Work Association, hosts a Soup Day fundraiser to benefit the Navajo families. This year, the event took place on Thursday, November 1. More than 50 homemade soups, desserts, breads and beverages were available. Donations were accepted, which came to a total of more than \$1,200. All the proceeds go to the mission, where the Sisters of the Order of the Adorer's of the Blood of Christ, set up a toy shop for the Navajo families to come and pick out toys for their children's Christmas.

Laura Rhodes, Brescia Student Social Work Association President, says, "As a social work student, I look forward to Soup Day all year. This is one time in which I am able to see the impact that our department is making to the impoverished Navajo children. It is amazing to see how Brescia area social workers, and Owensboro unite for a common good."

The Brescia Social Work Department has raised nearly \$5,000 since the inception of the Soup Day fundraiser to give to the Mission. This fundraiser is just one of the many service projects that the social work students willingly complete to help others, including those outside Owensboro. Rhodes says Soup Day "provides the most challenge and also the greatest reward."



**Brescia area social workers and Owensboro unite for common goal during the annual Soup Day to support Navajo families in Crownpointe, N.M. Brescia University photo.**

# Prayer and Faith Help Her Fight Disability

*Dear Editor:*

Enclosed you will find an article that I wish you could publish for me. This was a gift to my heart a couple weeks ago. When this gift arrived, I was financially, emotionally, and mentally strapped. Hope was fading; it seemed no matter how many steps I took forward I was going twice as many backwards. Tension and strain filled my home. In the midst of all the hardships I was enduring, I worked harder than ever on my faith.

First, let me add that I am disabled. I have severe social anxiety disorder, panic, and depression. I rarely leave my home. I receive a very small disability check once a month. When and IF I leave my home it is not far.

Whether you believe in God or not, there was without a doubt a wonderful divine intervention in my home and heart. This is what happened.

Like many people in this world. I was down, way down, questioning everything. The light at the end of my tunnel was dim. I felt alone and hopeless, even with my children and husband. With my disability, I had no connection to the outside world. I had the internet with which I ran the house, banking and bill paying, all household business done on my computer. Money started to get tighter; bills started to pile up. Once you get behind, it is almost impossible to catch up, and behind we were. The electric, water, house payments, all were behind; everything I had was close to disconnection, if not all ready disconnected. The phone was first, which took the internet. I could do without it. Like many people, we have cell phones. I still had connection to the outside world, but the phones were close to disconnection as well. I had to revert to the old ways of running a home. With the cell phone, I started letting everyone that we owed know we were trying.

One important call I made was not on the phone at all. I was just getting out of the shower. I got dressed, was combing my hair. I looked in the mirror and broke down, sobbing, uncontrollably. All alone in the bathroom, I fell to the floor. Angry, confused, sad, I hollered out to God. WHY? I stopped myself, looked up to the ceiling and said, "God, I know that there is a reason for all things. I also know that things could be worse. I am sorry for feeling sorry for myself. So many people in this world have it so much worse off." The anger and confusion left me. Sadness remained, but surrounding me was guilt. I had healthy children and a husband with a job. I had a house, some food and family that loved me near by. What was I complaining about? Therefore, I changed my prayer. From why to what. What, Dear God, did you want me to do? Guide me.

So, for thirty some minutes I sat on that floor talking to my ceiling and sobbing. When I rose from the floor, I dried my tears and finished the task of getting ready. I

walked out and started my daily housework. Then an unknown feeling came over me and my mind was flooded with words. I sat down on my couch and got a pen and paper. I closed my eyes and said, "God, I am letting you take over." Therefore, I started to write. This is what came out.

### Road Side Assistance

Life is uncertain, that is a fact. However, every morning when I open my eyes and breath fills my lungs. I know in this world of uncertainty there is HOPE. For, three things are certain: 1. I am alive; 2. I am loved; 3. I am blessed.

God showed me today that these are three of many certainties in life that many people take for granted, including myself. I forget sometimes that the road I travel is filled with hills, big bumps, and many obstacles that I have had to overcome. In traveling this road, I also forget that this is MY ROAD that God has chosen for me. Every bump, hill, and obstacle is there for a reason. At the time, the bumps feel hard. The hills feel taller than the world. The obstacles feel uncrossable. I know when you look out at the road you are traveling that it looks long and rough. Sometimes you wonder how you are ever going to get through it. Then, you realize you have the best Road Side Assistance of all, GOD.

No matter where, when, how, or why you break down on this road of life. You can always, no matter the time, day, or season call on Him, and He is at your side to pull you, jump start you, inflate you, unlock you, protect you, tune into you, to be there for anything you need.

There is a small fee for this roadside assistance in life: FAITH in HIM. Even though you may forget to pay Him, or are behind. No matter your credit or debts, God will always, unconditionally approve you and help you, most of the time without asking. You are unaware of his service; yet you continue your road. Then one day, when you are in a big rut, you may think there is no way to get out of it. You turn and look at the road you have traveled and realize there have been many times you have been stuck, stranded, and felt alone. HOWEVER, NOT ONE TIME HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ALONE. God rode with you the entire trip. Sometimes He throws a big rut to stop us. Then, we can reflect and remember. On this road, when in need of love, strength, or help all you have to do is ask for it, believe in it, and accept it. Also, be thankful that you have it. Keep traveling your road. Remember you never know when the road will end. Be assured though, that it is a road worth traveling. --Given in prayer with God, Thursday, 1:51 pm, 08-23-07

With God, anything and all things are possible. Do not pray for what you want. Ask God to guide you to what you need. There is a difference. - **Tammy M.**



### “Encountering God at the Cosmetics Counter”

By Pat S. Smith

Advent is fast approaching as I begin to write this column. I have found, as I age, I can hardly believe it's almost THAT time again. Advent... leading up to the birth of Jesus in a lowly manger in a stable more than two thousand years ago. Tired from working today, I am thinking of workers in all walks of life and of what miracles they might encounter. I am thinking today about the Innkeeper on that night in Bethlehem. He was a working man, just like all of us... we work for a living. It led me to think about the people that WE meet in our work lives. No, we will never be lucky enough to shelter the parents of Jesus on the night of His birth. But so many of the people we encounter in our workplace become as important as friends to us. A lot of them have shown me Jesus' face in my work days and I have tried to be a loving example of God's love for them, too.

After many years in the medical field, I now have a humble job as Beauty Advisor at a local pharmacy chain. Each person I meet, no matter how rich or poor, race, religion or otherwise, I try to be kind to them and meet their needs. And WOW, how often they have met mine.

I have established many regular customers during my one year at the pharmacy. One person that sticks out most in my mind is the lady in her 40's who had been severely burned in a car accident, face scarred, one hand burned almost completely off. She has suffered like our Lord suffered, but every time I wait on her, I have compassion for her; she is certainly dignified, and has the most gracious attitude of all my favorite customers. I know little about her except how her accident occurred and that she is a teacher. One of my other customers told me the story of this woman's tragic car accident and how she never lost hope and lived for the day she would return to her teaching job. After several surgeries, this lady has returned to teach teenagers, even though she is very disfigured. That has to be really tough.

Many of my customers, mostly women, engage me in conversation while I help them choose their products and while I am ringing up their purchases. Talk almost always turns to the war, family, and the like. Recently a customer was telling me how she had been estranged from her 49 year-old son since 1994. I have always thought that I was the only mother with an estranged child. As this lady and I talked about Christmas coming up and what it means to us, and the sadness we both feel at Christmas because of our missing children, tears welled in her eyes and in mine, and we promised to pray for each other's child. Our hope through Jesus this Christmas is that our adult children will become like little children again and remember the Christmases of their youth, the church services, the Midnight Masses, and the happy times we all had before they “grew up” and we “fell from their grace.”

A coworker who is from Bosnia asked me what to do about her relationship with her boyfriend on another occasion and I said “Let's pray.” I reached across the counter and placed my hand on her shoulder and quietly prayed for God's will in this relationship and to grant her comfort and peace. When I opened my eyes, tears were streaming down her face. “How do you do that?” she asked. I told her that I think that God knows what is in everyone's hearts at all times and that He often lays on my heart what to say. Usually, I explained, I just simply ask God to grant what is best in the situation.

One of the assistant managers who is usually a very “up” person has seemed to be down a lot lately. One day in the breakroom she commented, just out of the blue, “I really don't feel like being here today. Sometimes I just hate my job.” I told her that I sometimes felt the same way and if this life is all there is, I would just as soon go ahead and leave now. She said, “You know, that's the truth! If it weren't for my hope in Heaven, I would give up right now.” We both laughed, although it wasn't really a laughing matter. As she was speaking to me, I felt a real kinship with her. No matter how great a position we hold, or how much money we earn, I thought to myself, everyone feels like this from time to time. Perhaps this was God calling me to be a source of strength to her and to agree with her that this life is not always so grand, but the day we meet Jesus, all of the pains of this world won't matter. Or perhaps God was calling her to meet my need to say my greatest hope is in Heaven.

A lot of my customers have a need to talk and I hope that I can fulfill their longing for a connection, like a “skin thing,” as I listen to them revealing their problems to me. A wonderful lady that attends one of Bowling Green's parishes and is almost totally disabled always comes to me to “check out.” As I ring up her purchases, she shares what is going on with her and her spiritual life and her feelings about her Church community, some good, some not. I listen and nod my head in understanding; after all we are only Christ-like, we are not Christ. We are sinners, all of us, and we get hurt and we hurt

others, often, too often, I am afraid. Sometimes I feel like a psychologist. My customers come to me, sometimes just to get things off their chest and I always try, no matter how busy, to bend an ear their way. And in turn, they often do the same for me.

One of most my wonderful, yet startling experiences just occurred last week. I had already “clocked out” and Larry, a parishioner I met years ago at Holy Spirit Parish came up to me with a gift. He said that he had been looking all over the store for me and seemed bursting with joy. He had something very important to share besides the gift, too. Larry and his wife, Marie, journeyed to Israel on a pilgrimage October 8. The pilgrimage included tours of all of the main holy sites. Larry felt a miracle occur during Mass at the Church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in the Elejah Chapel. At the end of his sermon, trip chaplain Fr. Frank Ruff had asked the small gathering, “What is God saying to you?” Larry said that after a long period of silent reflection, he heard these words, “just as plain as day”: “God loves you in spite of your faults.” Larry said that tears of happiness flowed as he told the 19 other member of his group what had just happened. He said that he always knew that God loved others, but had never really felt that God loved him. He went on to explain, “The feeling was absolutely wonderful. I was ‘HIGH’ on the love of God that I felt. Even now as I tell of the occasion, I have tears in my eyes.”

Larry then handed me the gift, an olive wood Rosary from Nazareth. As he placed the Rosary in my hand, I was thinking “What on earth?” But he explained how he had recalled my story in *The Western Kentucky Catholic* about losing all my cherished Rosary beads while praying in bed at night. As I was reveling in his story of hearing God tell of His love for him my thoughts were that yes, God is real and we pray to Him and He listens and sometimes, just sometimes, He does speak to us. I was also thinking how proud I was to know that people are reading my “heart stories” as I call them and that they are not just ramblings of an aging mind.

No, I'm not an attorney, physician, psychologist, and certainly NOT a perfect Christian (who is?) but I feel the power of Jesus and see Him in the eyes of the customers who come to my little cosmetic counter. I am as kind as I can be to each and every one, a tall order sometimes, because unfortunately not all people are kind. Then I remember that not all were kind to Jesus, either, and His is the life I am trying to emulate.

As a Catholic living the sacraments, I don't feel small anymore working in a position that some would consider a “less-than” position, because it is often that I encounter Jesus at the Cosmetic Counter. He is in the eyes and hearts and hands of each and it is my calling to listen when they want to talk. I always ask for their first names if they ask for prayer. “Ora,” is a customer's Mom who is recovering from cancer, “Michael,” is the wayward son who hasn't seen his mother in years, and “Misty” is the daughter who once so loved her Mom so much. Yes, I ask for prayers for my estranged daughter, too. And also there are the overly stressed who are sick and just want to tell someone the fear of their illness, as in the telling and exchange of prayers, they feel hopeful. So no matter the work, no matter how humble the position, Jesus is in our midst, wherever we are... yes, even at the Cosmetics Counter.

*Pat S. Smith is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville, Ky.*

### Why Make A Marriage Encounter Weekend?

By David and Tammy Baird

Driving home from church one day, Tammy was reading the Holy Name bulletin and mentioned the idea of participating in a marriage encounter weekend held in Louisville, at the Flaget Center. She looked at me and asked if I was interested. I told her if it was something she really wanted to do than I would be willing to go. In a few short weeks I found myself packing to spend a weekend away in Louisville. I wouldn't say I dreaded going but I wasn't looking forward to it either. However, one of the few things I have learned over the past 16 years of marriage is that if Tammy is excited about something you are well served to go along. Also, as I have learned over the past 16 years, when it comes to all domestic issues, family, kids, etc., Tammy knows best. This was no exception.

The marriage encounter weekend showed us how to truly communicate with one another. Not just talking to one another, but communicating our feelings and in so doing gain an understanding of each other that continues to bring us closer together. I will have to say that as one going into the weekend with more than a little apprehension I came away with a deeper love and respect for my wife and our marriage, and a method

**Continued on page 42**



## U.S. Catholic Bishops Approve Faithful Citizenship Statement

BALTIMORE-The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) overwhelmingly approved on Nov. 14, 2007 a statement called *Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*. The statement urges Catholics to be involved in public life and to use the values of their faith to shape their political choice. It was approved at the bishops' general meeting in Baltimore, November 12-15.

"In this statement, we bishops do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote," the bishops explain. "Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth. We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election."

The church's role in helping Catholics to form their consciences is a central theme of the document. "With this foundation," the bishops explain, "Catholics are better able to evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and action in light of the Gospel and the moral and social teaching of the Church in order to help build a better world..". The bishops affirm their legitimate role in public life. "The obligation to teach about moral values that should shape our lives, including our public lives, is central to [our] mission," they state. "Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions and concerns into public life."

Respect for the dignity of every human being is a foundation for Catholic teaching about "faithful citizenship." The statement explains the necessity of opposing actions that are intrinsically wrong, such as abortion and euthanasia, because these actions involve directly and intentionally ending an innocent human life. It also affirms the obligation to promote the common good by combating such threats to human life and dignity as hunger, poverty, racism, unjust immigration policies, and unjust war. "Both opposing evil and doing good are essential obligations."

The bishops warn of two temptations for Catholics in public life. "The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life...is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed." A second temptation involves "dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, torture, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or lack health care, or unjust immigration policies are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act."

The bishops call Catholics to a different kind of political engagement shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable." They add, "Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for every Catholic and all people of good will."

The bishops also acknowledge the challenges faced by Catholic voters. "Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the Church's comprehensive commitment to the dignity of the human person." They add, "As Catholics we are not single issues voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support."

The Faithful Citizenship statement concludes with a "call for a renewed kind of politics: focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls; focused more on the needs of the weak than on benefits for the strong; focused more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow interests.

"This kind of political participation," the bishops claim, "reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation."



**MEMORIAL MASS - Mary Ford Vuncannon of Louisville, a member of the Mount Saint Joseph Academy Class of 1955, carries the cross at the start of the annual Alumnae Memorial Mass November 3 at the Mount Saint Joseph chapel in Maple Mount. Twenty-five alumnae attended this year's mass.**

## Marriage Encounter

*(Continued from page 41)*

for continuing that closeness till death do us part.

What Is a Marriage Encounter? A marriage encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together...a time to share feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations...and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face heart-to-heart encounter.

The emphasis of marriage encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other.

It's not a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor group sensitivity. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage.

How Does A Marriage Encounter Enhance A Marriage? The encounter weekend teaches a communication technique which permits each couple to explore important areas of their relationship in a spirit of love and understanding. By continuing the newly acquired technique begun on the weekend, husbands and wives continually grow closer together to live more joyful and purposeful lives.

## Bus Trip From Owensboro To Attend The 2008 March For Life Tuesday, January 22, 2008

### ITINERARY

- Sunday, Jan. 20 – Buses depart from Owensboro -- 5:00 am (Central Time) – Contact, Dana Goodlett (270) 685-4922

Owensboro bus comes to Louisville at 8:00 am Eastern Time)

8:00 pm – Buses arrive at Holiday Inn Arlington (full-service hotel with restaurant), 4610 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 Phone: (703) 243-9800

- Monday, Jan. 21 – Tour George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. Those not wishing to tour this facility and would rather go into DC, can do that.

- Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 8:00 am – Congressional Breakfast, Rayburn Building, rooms B338, B339, B340; 12 noon – March for Life Rally

- Tuesday, Jan. 22 - 3:00 pm – Buses depart for Kentucky

Wednesday, Jan. 23 – 6:00 am -- Buses arrive in Kentucky

- PRICE: Based on 40 persons per bus. Includes: round trip on Toby Tour bus; 2 nights accommodations at Holiday Inn Arlington; KRLA Congressional Breakfast; buffet breakfast on Monday, Jan. 21 at Holiday Inn. Also includes \$11 for trip to Mount Vernon. Owensboro -- 4/rm – \$205.50; 3/rm - \$225.66; 2/rm - \$266.00; 1/rm - \$387.00

Half payment is due Friday, December 21, 2007; Final payment is due Friday, January 11, 2008. Trip sponsored by Right to Life of Louisville, 134 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville, KY 40207-4931 For reservations or additional information call the contact person in your area (Dana Goodlett. (270) 685-4922)

The next marriage encounter is set for February 15-17, 2008. We highly recommend doing something for your spouse by making your marriage a priority. If you have any questions about the weekend feel free to call us at 830-7066.

\*Additional information was included in this article from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter pamphlet entitled, "Take A Fresh Look At Your Marriage".



## Respondiendo a Las Necesidades de Hoy y La Visión de Mañana

*Quien quiera que hace la voluntad de mi  
Padre celestial...Mateo 12,50*

### Nuestro Reto Diocesano

Somos una familia, verdaderamente hermanos y hermanas redimidos por el mismo Jesucristo amante. Como miembros del Cuerpo Místico de Cristo, somos llamados a difundir la Buena Nueva y de proveer una fundación firme en la fe para todos los católicos de Kentucky del oeste. Nuestra campaña diocesana, *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana*, ofrece a todos los miembros de la Diócesis de Owensboro una oportunidad de compartir en la visión que Cristo tiene para la Iglesia.



*Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana* va a dirigirse a los siguientes necesidades de la Iglesia:

- + Fondo Diocesana de la Educación (Endowment Fund)
- + El Centro de Retiros y Campamento de Jóvenes Católicos de Gasper River
- + El Fondo Caritativo Diocesano (Trust Fund)
- + La Restauración y Renovación del Catedral de San Esteban



### Fondo Diocesano para la Educación

La educación católica de calidad para sus hijos y los jóvenes es esencial a la misión de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Las escuelas católicas y los programas parroquiales de educación religioso se construyen sobre los cimientos de fe establecidos por los padres en la casa. A través de las fuerzas unificadas del hogar, la escuela y la parroquia, nuestros hijos reciben el don sin medida de la educación católica. Mientras nuestros hijos se maduren en adultos, ellos, a su vez, devuelven a sus familias comunidades de fe los dones que recibieron en su juventud.

Para proveer por un futuro fuerte y viable para las parroquias en la Iglesia Católica de Kentucky del oeste, es críticamente importante que las escuelas católicas y los programas de educación religiosa estén ampliamente apoyados en su misión de servir a nuestros jóvenes. Para solidificar los ministerios en la educación católica para las décadas por venir, se establecerá un fondo de educación diocesano. Los dividendos de este fondo proveerán apoyo continuo para las escuelas católicas y los programas de educación religiosa en las parroquias.



*Algunas semillas se cayeron sobre  
tierra fértil...Marcos 4,8*

### El Centro de Retiros y Campamento de Jóvenes Católicos de Gasper River

Como vivimos en el "Transversal Bíblica" (Bible Belt), con un porcentaje bastante bajo de Católicos en muchos de los 32 condados de Kentucky del oeste, lo hace más difícil que nuestros jóvenes se identifiquen con la fe Católica. El Centro de Retiros y Campamento de Jóvenes Católicos cerca de Bowling Green, Kentucky, ofrece experiencias que ayudan a profundizar en la fe y a fortalecer la identidad católica de nuestros jóvenes.

Un campamento católico para jóvenes involucra a los jóvenes combinando la fe, los amigos, la diversión, y el trabajo en equipo de manera que los permite crecer y celebrar su fe en unas instalaciones de retiro rodeado por la maravilla natural de Dios. *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana* inicialmente subsidiará el campo, incluyendo los fondos para renovaciones y gastos de operación.

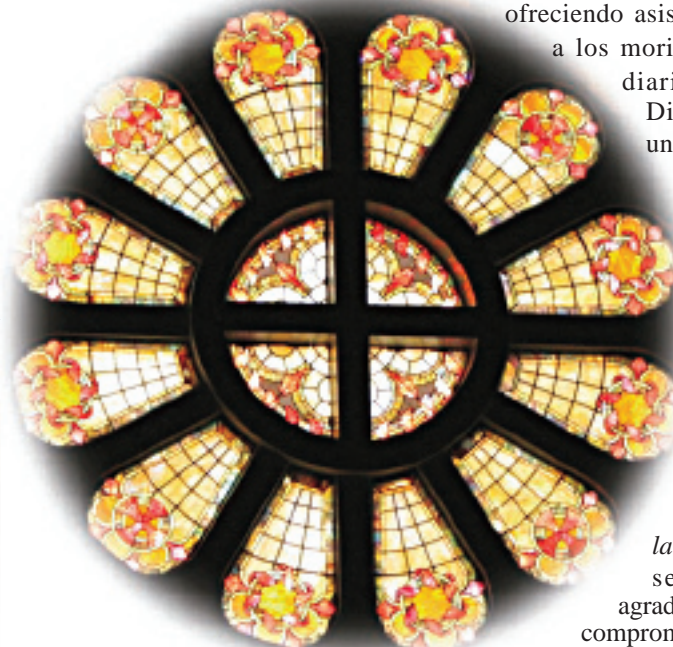


### Un Fondo Caritativo Diocesano (Trust Fund)

Desde el bautizo de un bebe, hasta la extremaunción, nuestros sacerdotes diocesanos están presentes para nosotros. Dedicamos sus vidas en servicio a la Iglesia. ¿Cuál compromiso hacemos a cada uno de ellos de vuelta?



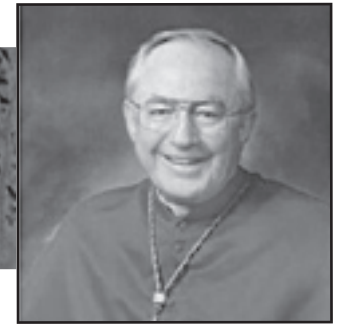
Nuestros sacerdotes son ministros a los fieles celebrando los sacramentos, ofreciendo asistencia a los enfermos y a los moribundos, y diciendo 'sí' diariamente al llamado de Dios al sacerdocio. Cada uno de nuestros sacerdotes diocesanos depende del Fondo Caritativo Diocesano para los servicios médicos y para apoyarlo cuando se retire o en caso de enfermedad. Llenando por completo al Fondo Caritativo Diocesano a través de un donativo a *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana* puede ser nuestra manera de agradecer a estos obreros por su compromiso a la Iglesia de Cristo.



*Pide al señor de la cosecha que mande obreros...Mateo 9,38*



# Estimados Fieles de La Diócesis



By Bishop John McRaith

La Diócesis de Owensboro se estableció en 1937, y a través de estos setenta años, muchos sacerdotes, religiosos y laicos han trabajado sin cesar, llevando acabo sus ministerios para los fieles de la Iglesia de Kentucky del Oeste. En 2007, más de 50,000 individuos son parte de la familia de fe de la Diócesis Católica Romana de Owensboro. En la misma manera que cada familia planifica para el futuro, así tiene que planificar nuestra diócesis. Cuatro retos específicos nos enfrentan en nuestra misión ahora. Necesitamos:

- + Proveer un ambiente lleno de fe para retiros y campamentos para fomentar y fortalecer la identidad católica de nuestros jóvenes,
- + Llenar completamente el Fondo Caritativo Diocesano (Trust Fund), Inc., lo cual se estableció para el beneficio de nuestros sacerdotes enfermos y retirados,
- + Fondos para restaurar y renovar nuestra Catedral, la cabeza de nuestro diócesis, y
- + Establecer un Fondo de Ayuda Diocesana para las Escuelas Católicas y la Educación Religiosa para cumplir con las necesidades educativas crecientes de nuestros niños y jóvenes.

Yo creo que la respuesta a todas estas necesidades del futuro se encuentra en la corresponsabilidad. Como he dicho en muchas otras ocasiones, la corresponsabilidad es un compromiso personal a las enseñanzas de Cristo. Cuando tomamos el tiempo para ayudar a los familiares, los amigos, o los extranjeros, esto es la corresponsabilidad. Cuando compartimos nuestro tesoro para asegurar que las generaciones del futuro están formadas plenamente en la fe Católica, si sea en programas de educación religiosa en las parroquias o en nuestras escuelas católicas, esto es la corresponsabilidad. Cuando usamos nuestros recursos financieros para construir y apoyar a un campamento diocesano para nuestros jóvenes, esto es la corresponsabilidad.

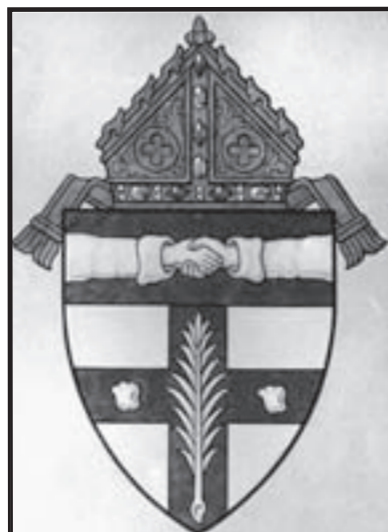
*El fiel uso de nuestros dones nos une como un solo Cuerpo de Cristo.* Cristo nos enseña que todo lo que tenemos en esta vida es un don de Dios. Somos llamados a ser buenos administradores de estos dones de tiempo, talentos y recursos materiales según la voluntad de Dios. La corresponsabilidad fiel nos ayuda a crecer en nuestra fe —el don más grande que Dios nos ha dado a todos. Me quedo completamente convencido que para ser un discípulo verdadero y fiel de Jesús, tenemos que ser buenos administradores. Mientras cada uno administra Sus dones según Su voluntad, la misión que Cristo dio a la Iglesia ese primer domingo de Pentecostés se va a llevar acabo, cambiando nuestras vidas y cambiando el mundo donde vivimos.

Nuestra campaña capital, llamada *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana*, tiene que ser visto como parte de nuestro esfuerzo de ser buenos administradores. Durante los 25 años que he tenido la bendición de pastorear los fieles de la Diocese de Owensboro, no hemos tenido una campaña capital para recaudar fondos para la diócesis, y al lanzar una ahora no quiere significar que estamos dándonos por vencidos en ser una diócesis fundado en la buena corresponsabilidad. La manera en que gastamos nuestro dinero nos manda un mensaje sobre lo que nos es importante en la vida. A causa de que estos cuatro retos mencionados arriba son dignos de nuestro tiempo, talento y Tesoro, (dinero/recursos materiales), yo creo que esta campaña presenta una gran oportunidad para cada uno de nosotros de hacer un compromiso visible de apoyar a las necesidades de la misión de la Iglesia de una manera especial y única.

Ustedes son un pueblo generoso y lleno de fe quienes hacen esta diócesis maravillosa. Por favor, utilicen esta oportunidad de compartir lo que han sido regalados por Dios para hacer la campaña *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana* una campaña exitosa. Que Dios les bendiga siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

El Más Reverendo John J. McRaith  
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro



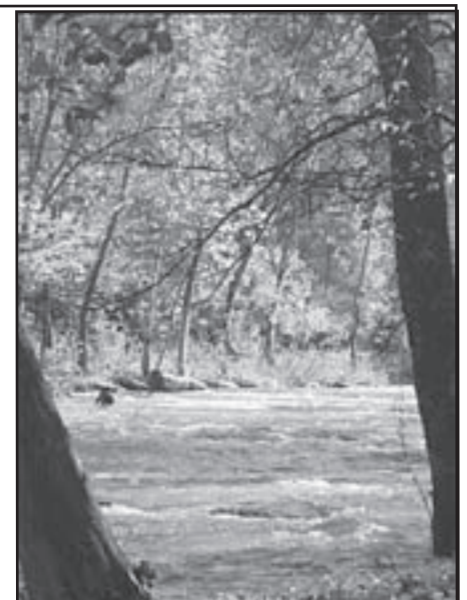
**Dios Amante,  
ayúdenos a reconocer  
que somos Su creación  
y que somos Sus hijos.**

**Somos amados  
y somos llamados a amar  
en el acto de  
la generosidad justo  
y sacrificial.**

**Al dar,  
aceptamos quienes somos  
y  
Te demos honor a Ti.**

**Lo pedimos por  
Cristo, nuestro Redentor.  
Amen.**

**Diócesis de Owensboro**  
Centro Pastoral Católico  
600 Locust Street  
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130  
270-683-1545  
FAX: 270-683-6883  
Website: [www.owensborodio.org](http://www.owensborodio.org)



**Respondiendo  
a Las Necesidades de Hoy  
y La Visión de Mañana**

Campaña Capital

**Diócesis de Owensboro**





*Deje que tu luz brille ante los demás...  
Matthew 5:16*

## Respondiendo a Las Necesidades de Hoy y La Visión de Mañana

### El Catedral de San Esteban

Como la "Iglesia Madre" de la diócesis, El Catedral de San Esteban es un símbolo brillante de la unidad de la Iglesia diocesana. Casa del sede del obispo (catedral), el Catedral sirve como el centro de la vida litúrgica de nuestra diócesis. Los documentos de la Iglesia instruyen que medidas deben ser tomadas para infundir estima y reverencia para el catedral en los corazones de todos los fieles. La restauración y renovación del Catedral asegurará que el Catedral de San Esteban sigue llenando su papel como para la Iglesia Diocesana como un lugar de culto renombrado por su espíritu de oración y belleza. Todos los católicos de esta diócesis puedan tener un sentido de propiedad y orgullo dándose cuenta que San Esteban es realmente su Catedral.



*Donde se encuentra tu tesoro, allí habitarás tu corazón... Mateo 6,21*



*Permite que todos los que tienen sed, vengan a Mí para beber... Juan 7,37*

### Una Invitación para Hacer una Ofrenda de Sacrificio

La Diócesis de Owensboro ha crecido de 52 parroquias en 1937, a 79 parroquias y dos Centros Newman en 2007. Por esta herencia de fe, podemos agradecer a muchos, muchos administradores que se sacrificaron para construir la Iglesia de Kentucky del Oeste.

Como miembro de la Diócesis de Owensboro, se les pide participar con otras persona para seguir construyendo la Iglesia ahora y en el futuro. *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana*, para extender la presencia de Cristo en esta diócesis, depende de los fieles, de cada uno de nosotros.

Por favor, considera cuidadosamente su respuesta personal a *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana*. Su ofrenda puede venir en forma de un compromiso que pagan a través de tres a cinco años, de manera mensual, cada cuarto del año, dos veces al año o una vez al año.

### Una Invitación a Ser Administradores de Nuestra Fe

Una campaña exitosa de *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana* va a asegurar que la educación Católica en las escuelas y las parroquias va a estar disponible para nuestros niños y jóvenes, que podremos proveer por nuestros sacerdotes enfermos y ancianos, que nuestros jóvenes tengan un lugar especial para experimentar actividades y retiros basados en la fe, y que nuestro catedral va a esté restaurado y renovado para la próxima generación.

La fuerza más grande de esta diócesis siempre ha sido la fe de nuestra gente. Como siempre, la misión de la Iglesia depende de la fe y la generosidad de cada hogar católico en la diócesis. Por favor, sean parte de este esfuerzo histórico para ayudar lo que se construyó en la fe a crecer y prosperar. Es nuestra oportunidad para hacer una diferencia.



Los proyectos principales de restauración y renovación incluyen:

- + Restaurando la ventana del Espíritu Santo
- + Reemplazar el ambón, la silla del sacerdote, y los asientos de los monaguillos.
- + Haciendo el santuario y el balcón del coro accesible para los discapacitados



### Representantes de la Diócesis de Owensboro Asisten al Encuentro Regional del Sureste de SEPI

Cuatro ministros en las comunidades hispanas trabajando en la Diócesis de Owensboro viajaron hasta San Agustín en la Florida el 18 de octubre para asistir a una reunión del Instituto Pastoral del Sureste (SEPI). Agentes pastorales Católicos de nueve estados de la región del sureste de Los Estados Unidos se reunieron para platicar sobre unas maneras más afectivas de servir a las necesidades espirituales de las comunidades hispanas. Además recibieron información del plan pastoral del USCCB para 2008-2011. Aquellos presentes representando a la Diócesis de Owensboro eran, de izquierda a derecha: Paul Witte, el P. Carmelo Jiménez, Luis Ajú, y Cristóbal Gutiérrez.



## Celebramos 10 Años Del Ministerio Hispano En La Diócesis De Owensboro, 1997-2007

Por Luis Ajú

Estamos celebrando 10 años de la Fundación e inicio del Ministerio Hispano en la Diócesis de Owensboro KY. A lo largo de este tiempo nos hemos unido al sueño soñado por todos, caminar juntos hacia la búsqueda de una hermandad. Tanto así que el primer Director del Ministerio Hispano, el Rev. P. Stan Puryear, inició un servicio de amor a los inmigrantes latinos para esta área, recibéndolos con un gesto de bienvenida y con una palabra de esperanza para todos, al encontrar una sociedad diferente a la suya, así como la comida, la lengua y otros valores culturales bien diferentes a las nuestras como latinos.

Al iniciar esta labor, seguramente el fundador encontró apoyo y apertura con el Excelentísimo Sr. Obispo John J. Mcraith, obispo actual de esta diócesis. Desde entonces la apertura del Ministerio Hispano se volvió un reto para la diócesis, porque esto implicaba compromiso serio para con la Fe Católica de las otras oficinas adyacentes al nuestro. Además, solicitaba a los fieles católicos no latinos, abrir sus corazones y brazos para recibir a los extranjeros más que sólo abrir las puertas de los templos como edificios, ante estos retos se iniciaron los primeros pasos de nuestro Ministerio. Gracias a Dios, al P. Stan y al Excelentísimo Obispo de la Diócesis por darle un lugar en la Iglesia a la Comunidad Hispana Latinoamericana.

Esto no se terminó aquí. Al cabo de unos pocos años el P. Stan dejó el ministerio hispano en manos de la Señorita Patricia Murphy, persona que también veía la situación con muchos retos pero que ella vio la oportunidad para desarrollar su ministerio laico sirviendo en el Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis, reemplazando al P. Stan como Directora. En su tiempo desarrolló muchas actividades, abriéndose una comunicación con otras Diócesis a nivel estado como nacional, iniciando a ser parte de la red de otros Ministros Hispanos en las diferentes Diócesis.

Logró obtener la información de las diferentes necesidades de las parroquias con comunidad hispana en la Diócesis, esto llevó a elaborar un plan diocesano como guía y manual de la formación de todos los líderes a nivel diocesano. También de todo esto se emanó la necesidad de iniciar un proyecto directo con los asuntos migratorios beneficiando a la población migratoria de la Diócesis, que por el momento, ella ha iniciado con esta noble labor. Esto significó parte de su partida como Directora del Ministerio Hispano, para dejar esta responsabilidad en manos del nuevo director que actualmente lo dirige el Sr. Luis Aju.

Parte de este sueño se ha avanzado, faltará lo que exige el tiempo, porque este es un tiempo de cambios, porque la población hispana ha venido creciendo así como nuevos inmigrantes como nuevos hijos e hijas nacidos en este país. Lo que para las familias los hijos son una bendición de Dios.

Seguir construyendo la historia de la Iglesia Católica hispana en Estados Unidos es también un mensaje, ya que los Señores Obispos reconocen que la presencia hispana en nuestra iglesia local. Es una bendición puesto que esta comunidad es una voz profética que llega a la conciencia de todos, así llegar al día esperado para compartir el mismo pan en el banquete celestial con el Señor Jesús. Para su información existen 16 comunidades

Hispanas, no todos con Ministro Hispano Local, atendiendo una cantidad de 6.06% de la población total de católicos de la Diócesis que es 50,736 (OCD 2007).

La esperanza y la meta final, es siempre servir. Como todos lo sabemos que la Iglesia Católica no es una iglesia de poder sino de servicio. Que con mucha honra seguimos los pasos de Jesús, hoy, mañana y siempre. Dios los Bendiga.

## Calendario de Diciembre para Hispanos Celebraciones Navideñas y Guadalupeñas

### Stos. José y Pablo, Owensboro:

- 2 de diciembre, 5:30pm: Presentación de la Sra. Christina Rosario de la diócesis de Evansville sobre las apariciones, simbolismo e historia de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Salón parroquial y en *Inglés*.
- 9 de diciembre, 12:00 del mediodía: Misa Dominical en memoria de San Juan Diego. Al terminar la misa, procesión y exposición del Santísimos. Bendición a las 6:00pm.
- 10 y 11 de diciembre, 7:00pm: Parte del triduo en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe. Rosario y reflexión mariana.
- 12 de diciembre: 4:00am Mañanitas, seguido de café y chocolate caliente.  
7:30pm Misa, seguido de cena de *traje* y convivencia.
- Dic. 16-24: Posadas en diferentes hogares hispanos
- Dic. 25, 12:00 del mediodía: Misa de Navidad

### San Miguel, Sebree:

- 3 de diciembre, 12:00 pm: Novena Guadalupana empieza en la Iglesia.
- 12 de diciembre 12:00 am (medianoche): Mañanitas y Misa Guadalupana
- 16 de diciembre: Posadas empiezan después de la Misa al 12:00 pm (mediodía),
- 25 de diciembre 12:00 am (medianoche) y 3:00 pm: Misa navideña

### Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson

- 12 de Diciembre, 6:30 pm: Celebración Guadalupana especial con el Obispo para su aniversario.

### Condado Todd

- 9 de diciembre, 5:00 a.m.: Mañanitas en Sta. Susana, Elkton  
12:30 p.m. Misa con mariachi. Convivio después.
- 12 de diciembre 6:00 p.m.: Misa solemne con procesión en Stos. María y Santiago de Guthrie. Convivio después.
- 17 de diciembre: comienzan las Posadas de Navidad.
- 24 de diciembre 5:00 pm: Misa navideña bilingüe Sta. Susana en Elkton
- 24 de diciembre 9:00 pm: Misa bilingüe en Stos. María y Santiago,

### Sto. Tomás Moro, Paducah

- 3 de diciembre: Inicia la novena Guadalupana. Tomará lugar en diferentes casas, con el último día en la Iglesia.
- 11 de diciembre 10:30pm: Procesión en el estacionamiento de la Iglesia.  
11:00pm rezar el ultimo día de la novena, representación de las apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe  
12:00pm Mañanitas y Misa.
- 12 de diciembre 5:00pm: Misa con primeras comuniones de dos adultos.
- 16 de diciembre: Comienza la novena Navideña-en diferentes casas.
- 23 de diciembre: Misa Navideña representación viviente de el nacimiento del niño Jesús realizado por los niños y adolescentes de la catequesis

### ¿Dónde Estará Mi Obispo En Esos Días?

#### Horario del Obispo John McRaith

- 12 de diciembre, 6:30pm: Misa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson, KY
- 16 de diciembre, 3:00pm: Celebración Diocesana. Misa para el Obispo en Celebración de su Aniversario de 25 años de Ordenación al Obispado, Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro. Todos están invitados.
- 24 de diciembre, 4:00pm: Misa Navideña para Niños, Catedral de San Eteban en Owensboro
- 25 de diciembre, 12:00 de medianoche: Misa Navideña de medianoche, Catedral de San Eteban en Owensboro



## Una Poema Para Mi Obispo

*Como nuestro Pastor Diocesano, el Obispo John, celebra 25 años de episcopado, me gustaría honrarlo. He aprendido que la mejor manera de dar honor a alguien es usar los talentos que Dios generosamente ha otorgado. Así que, le dedico estas sencillas estrofas a nuestro querido Obispo. –Byron Macias*



Este poema es para una persona buena:  
Un pastor, padre, médico divino, creador y amigo.  
A usted le dió tal misión  
Hace alrededor de veinticinco años.

Dios le escogió para ser su Apóstol  
Y como Apóstol, nos trajo a Jesús a nosotros  
en la Eucaristía, en sus palabras, en la paz de sus ojos,  
en la manera compasiva que nos pastorea.

Usted plantó semillas en este terreno  
Y nos regó con el Evangelio y con los Sacramentos.  
Aunque quizá un día nos dejará  
Aquí permanecerán los árboles que ha plantado.

El Señor le hizo humilde  
Con un corazón lleno de compasión  
Para que nosotros pudiéramos formar nuestra identidad  
Y a través de su sencillez podríamos encontrar la salvación.

Le queremos, Obispo John, nuestro líder,  
Somos los árboles que usted ha plantado.  
Gracias por su cariño, por ser un buen pastor;  
Gracias por hacer lo que el Señor quiso.

MaryAnn O'Brien, una secretaria de parte-tiempo. Nueve voluntarios sirven de manera normal y varios otros ayudan durante el año.

Además de ofrecer servicios de interpretación por los hispanos del área, el Centro Latino también sirve en otras capacidades. Establece contactos entre agencias, lleva individuos a sus citas, y ofrece compasión cristiana a los necesitados. El Centro Latino también organiza la Feria de Salud anualmente, durante la cual, ofrece a los hispanos información de organizaciones locales de la comunidad.

Refiriéndose a la Enseñanza Social Católica del USCCB sobre la Opción Para Los Pobres, la Hermana Fran dice, "Con que la Iglesia opta por los pobres, nos inspira a esperar que muchas personas querrán apoyarnos a nosotros y a muchos otros trabajos de justicia social." Pueden mandar donativos a: Centro Latino, 524 Locust St., Owensboro KY 42301.

## El Centro Latino Sigue Sus Esfuerzos

Por Tami Schneider

El Centro Latino llevó a cabo una cena de recaudación de fondos en el salón parroquial de Santos José y Pablo el 21 de octubre. Este evento era parte de múltiples y siguientes esfuerzos para mantener abierto al centro, a pesar de problemas económicos. Invitaron a la comunidad entera a participar, incluyendo muchos oficios de la ciudad y líderes políticos del área. Aunque muchos parecieron entusiásticos, solamente la Juez Lisa Payne terminó asistiendo. La Juez se graduó de Brescia University en 1993 con una carrera en Estudios Sociales.

La razón por lo cual el Centro Latino está experimentando dificultades económicas es a causa de la necesidad creciente y los recursos disminuyentes. De normal, el centro depende de dos becas anuales de Catholic Care Partners. Este año, cortaron una de estas becas a la mitad. Al mismo tiempo, dieron empleo a otro intérprete a causa de las necesidades crecientes de los hispanos en nuestra comunidad.

Hoy día el Centro Latino camina a través de organizaciones generosas como la Diócesis Católica de Owensboro, el Concilio de las Monjas Ursulina del Monte de San José y San Vicente de Paúl. También recibe donativos mensuales de tres individuos.

El centro se fundó en 1993 por la Hmna. Fran (Panchita) Wilhem, OSU. Después de que el P. Tony Shonis la llevó a ver una casa donde 8 hombres se durmieron en el piso porque no tenían dónde irse, la Hermana sintió que tenía que hacer algo. Trajo la idea de un asilo temporaria para latinos al Obispo, quien estuvo a favor de la iniciativa. Durante los primeros años, el Centro Latino se encontraba en la escuela antigua de la Iglesia de San Pedro en Stanley, KY, donde casi siempre tenían más de 8 huéspedes cada noche. Después de seis años en este lugar, el centro se mudó a su localidad actual en Locust St., muy cerca del Centro Pastoral Católico. Desde ese momento, no han hospedado visitas, pero los servicios han abundado.

Hoy día el personal consiste de la Hmna. Fran, quien dirige y coordina el ministerio, Connie Caceres, Sr. Rosemary, OSU, Allen Screve, y Ruth Bittel, quienes sirven como interpretes, y

**A la derecha, Yuder, Rosa y Antonio se ven vestidos de ropa tradicional Mexicano. Esta foto se tomó unos momentos antes de bailar unos bailes tradicionales. Foto por Tami Schneider.**



**En la foto de arriba, se ve el personal del Centro Latino: Allen Shreve, Hmna. Fran Wilhelm, Connie Caceres (sentados en frente). Ruth Bittel, Mary Ann O'Bryan y Hmna. Rosemary Keough (parados atrás). Foto de Mount Saint Joseph**







Durante el primer fin de semana de noviembre, Matrimonios en Victoria llevó a cabo un retiro de parejas en el campamento Católico de Gasper River acerca de Bowling Green. La mayoría de las parejas eran de la parroquia de San José en Bowling Green. Una de las coordinadores, Karla Levishon, comentó: "Para la Gloria del Señor les queremos contar que el retiro fue un éxito. Las bendiciones fueron derramadas sobre estas familias a montones, a manos llenas, fue increíble la misericordia del Señor. El Señor se lució este fin de semana. El Señor ha cumplido su promesa, 'donde hay dos o mas reunidos en mi nombre, ahí estaré Yo.' Restauró hogares que estaban perdidos y levantó almas de la miseria y las alabanzas de su pueblo se oyeron hasta el cielo en este fin de semana." La foto de las parejas se ve a la derecha. Foto sometida.



Luis Aju, Director del Ministerio Hispano y el P. Carmelo Jiménez, encabezaron un grupo de jóvenes de las comunidades de Elkton, Hopkinsville y Mayfield para participar en el 2do Taller de la Pascua Juvenil en Dothan, AL. Los jóvenes habían iniciado el trabajo de escribir un artículo en el libro de Pascua Juvenil durante unas reuniones anteriores en Elkton. Al ver el entusiasmo y la disposición de cada uno en seguir formando el grupo juvenil, se notaba que el espíritu de los jóvenes es algo tan especial en las comunidades. En la foto de arriba, los jóvenes participan en una mesa de trabajo. En la foto a la derecha, todos caminan en fila, sin zapatos, rebasando todas las tentaciones de la vida para poder llegar al cielo.



Varios miembros de la diócesis de Owensboro quienes trabajan con las comunidades hispanas participaron en un taller informativo de CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) sobre el proceso de la inmigración. Con el propósito de conocer más el proceso que los inmigrantes deben seguir para obtener un tipo de estadia legal, estuvieron presentes: Patti Murphy, Cristóbal Gutiérrez, Luis Ajú, Tami Schneider, la Sra. Claudia y la Hmna. Fran Wilhelm.

## Le Pido A Dios Que Le Bendiga a Cada Uno de Ustedes. Que Tengan Una Muy Feliz Navidad.



Mis estimados amigos,

Mientras reciban esta edición del *Católico*, van a estar en medio de la temporada Navideña. Parémonos junto a los pastores al lado del pesebre en el establo, para darle alabanza y gloria al Hijo de Dios. El Hijo de Dios se ha hecho uno de nosotros para que nosotros podamos ser uno con El — en el día de Su nacimiento y por toda la eternidad.

Estoy profundamente agradecido este Navidad por las celebraciones generosas y llenos de amor por la ocasión de mi aniversario

de 25 años del obispado. Algunas maravillosas celebraciones ya se han llevado a cabo, y quisiera tener las palabras adecuadas para poder expresarles el significado que sus palabras tan bondadosas han tenido para conmigo. Miro con anticipación la celebración diocesana el 16 de diciembre, cuando podremos dar gracias por los 25 años que hemos trabajado juntos para llevar a cabo la misión de la Iglesia Católica Romana de Kentucky del Oeste.

Espero que durante este tiempo santo de Navidad, podremos ir más afondo en el entendimiento que Dios nos ama tanto que se hizo un bebé indefenso para ser uno de nosotros. Amémonos a Dios y los demás como El nos ha amado. Esto sería nuestra manera de alabar a Dios: amarle a Dios y a los demás.

Que cada uno tenga una Navidad llena de alegría, y que nos comprometemos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas — que todos tengan un nuevo año de paz en el mundo, un nuevo año para llegar a conocer el amor de Dios a través de nuestro amor al prójimo. Esto es el verdadero significado de la Navidad.

Le pido a Dios que le bendiga a cada uno de ustedes. Que tengan una muy Feliz Navidad. Gracias por cada Navidad que han compartido conmigo. Por favor, estén seguros de mi amor y mi promesa de servir a ustedes y a la Diócesis de Owensboro en el Nuevo Año.

Su sirviente amante,

+ José P. M. Roth