

Western Kentucky Catholic
600 Locust Street
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Change Service Requested

Volume 34, Number 1

Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

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Owensboro, KY
Permit No. 111
42301

January, 2007

Convocation Finds Need for Kentucky Catholic Camp

By Ben Warrell

The Youth Ministry Convocation was an excellent opportunity to gauge the excitement and need around the Diocese of Owensboro concerning the Catholic Camp. At one point, over one hundred youth and youth leaders were asked to share their frustrations and their needs with youth ministry.

Many needs exist, such as a place to meet other Catholic youth in the area, being more involved with other youth groups, new trainings for youth workers and volunteers, a chance to be a part of something larger than just their youth group, a need for more youth, a need for more folks willing to work with youth, a place for leaders to come and learn from others and several more.

As I listened to the needs and wants of our youth and their leaders, I just kept thinking over and over that camp could answer or help answer all these needs. The incredible part of this type of facility and ministry will be that it serves the entire Diocese of Owensboro, not just the youth for two months in the summer but the entire Diocese throughout the year. In addition, each parish represented was asked to share a BHAG (Big Holy Audacious Goal) that they would like the diocese to accomplish within five years. Camp was mentioned several times and received tremendous support from those in attendance. It was exciting to see and experience all that has happened in the past year about camp beginning to come to a head.

If you would like more information on camp and where we stand, please check out our website at www.owensborodio.org/camp. If you would like to be involved in any way with this project, please contact Ben Warrell at the Catholic Pastoral Center by e-mail at ben.warrell@pastoral.org or by phone (270) 683-1545. Please, as always, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this process.

A Good, Safe Place For Children



Sr. Jean Madeline, left, is rocking Allie, and Sr. Annalita is rocking Tyson. These 2 Ursuline Sisters came to volunteer at Precious Blood Day Care. They brought much joy to the children. If anyone wishes to come and help a few hours please call Monti Millay, director, 683-3012 or if you are looking for a good and safe place for your children. Precious Blood Day Care is opened from 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and takes children from 6 weeks-5 years. Photos by Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU

Founder's Week at Brescia University

OWENSBORO, Ky. -In the week of January 22 – 25, Brescia University is celebrating Founder's Week. Different activities are planned to help celebrate St. Angela Merici's Feast Day, and the entire campus community, along with the general public are invited to participate. On Monday, 11:45 am, there will be an Angela video in the Student Center Foyer. On Tuesday, 11:45 am, there will be an Angela video in the Student Center Foyer. On Wednesday, 11:45 am, brown bag lunch: Sr. Rose Marita will tell "Angela's Story at Brescia University" in cafeteria dining room. AT 6:30 pm, APB Scavenger Hunt for Angela, "Where in the World is Angela Merici?" (meet at the Bell Tower) On Thursday, at 4:00 pm, in a Founder's Day Liturgy, Brescia University Chapel; at 6:30 pm, Ice Cream Social at the Cat's Den (under the chapel)

For more information, please contact Dr. Daniel Kuntz at 270-686-4327 or daniel.kuntz@brescia.edu.

Brescia University



Spring registration: January 12, 2007

for spring classes beginning January 15, 2007

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Ecumenical Prayer Service for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

First Christian Church, 700 J.R. Miller Boulevard
Thursday – January 18, 2007, 7:00 pm.

Host: First Christian Church, Rev. Philip Curran, Pastor
Sermon: Rev. John Vaughan, Pastor of St. Stephen Cathedral
Music Coordinators: Mike Conley and Sheila Ann Miller.

Jesus said; "Where Two or Three
Are Gathered in My Name..." (Matthew 18:15-22),
He will also be in their company.

**Let all the Christian Community
in Owensboro and the surrounding area
come together in prayer.**



Carolyn Sue Cecil graphic

The Struggle for Respect for All Life Is a Never-Ending Challenge

My Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we have been working for 34 years to bring an end to legal abortion and to educate people that abortion is wrong whether it is legal or not. Yes, there were abortions before the Supreme Court made abortion legal on that sad day of January 22, 1973. Because it was not legal, people literally went around the world to have an abortion. It is impossible to know how many, because obviously no records would be kept in many places since it was against the law.

Having said that, we do know that there were far fewer abortions because our society up until then made it very difficult to have an abortion. After the fateful Roe v. Wade decision, having an abortion became much easier because it was legal. Records have been kept—exactly how accurate we do not know. We do know that at least 48 million babies have had their lives taken.

So many lost before they had a chance to even be born...so many who had no chance to live out their lives, share their talents with the rest of the world. I often wonder how many of them might have been the leaders of society today. How many of them would have been politicians who knew the value of life and would have seen to it that the life of the unborn was protected as much as the life of the living? One wonders how many great teachers, farmers, electricians, doctors, lawyers, social workers—and the list goes on—would have made a difference in this world. Well, there is no answer, but my guess is that we would be surprised at how very many would have used their God-given talents to serve their sisters and brothers in whatever walk of life they found themselves. If only they had the chance. How many of those who lost their lives to legalized abortion never had a chance to have a family of their own? Some would be parents and grandparents today had they been allowed to live.

We know there are many couples in this world who are unable to have children for medical reasons, who would have been great parents to those babies. So many could have been adopted had they been given the opportunity to life.

One could go on and on with the “what if?” questions, but we will never know the answers until we die. We can, however, calculate that it would be a different world today had they lived. We realize that when we stop and think of what those who were allowed to live have done over these 34 four years. How many mothers’ and fathers’ lives have been seriously affected because of the decision to have an abortion because it seemed such an easy solution to a problem pregnan-



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

cy?

We know abortion is not the easy solution it seems. Today we have a special ministry for those who continue to suffer because of a mistake society helped them make. The Project Rachel ministry helps many to find healing and helps them see that God can and has forgiven them. God still loves them; He only asks that they pick up their lives and move on to help others not make the same mistake.

The bottom line is that we are all losers when abortion takes place in the lives of good people who make bad judgments. Supported in this mistake by many professional people, abortion remains legal in spite of all the efforts of some to prevent it year after year. Yes, we need to change the law, but to do so, we need to change our hearts to respect all life—both the born and unborn.

How can we not respond to our beloved late Pope John Paul II’s plea to change our culture of death to a culture of life? We have to come to terms in our own lives with the fact that *every time we fail to respect another human being, or any of God’s creation, we are in some sense voting for the culture that allows legalized abortion to continue.* I am sorry to

be so blunt, but we cannot have it both ways.

We cannot treat our family members with disrespect and not, in a way, cast a vote for a culture of death and abortion. To disrespect migrants and immigrants who come into the United States in order to feed their families is to cast a vote for a culture of death.

When we treat others with disrespect, we are essentially telling God that He made a mistake in creating them. The hunger in the world is not simply caused by the bad judgment of each individual who is hungry; the greed of those of us who demand more of God’s gifts than we need may well cause the hunger of another person. Now, I realize that individuals do make bad judgments and are hungry because of them. But I also believe that most of the hunger in the world is caused by the greedy judgments of those who have more and want even more of this world’s gifts. Greed often comes at the cost of the lives of other people.

I firmly accept that abortion is our first concern. Without the opportunity to even be born, all the other lack of respect for life is removed from the discussion. But I do believe that there is a slippery slope in this culture of death that facilitates abortion. Once we start down that slope of disrespect for any of God’s children, we take yet another step toward making this a culture that justifies taking a life even before it has had the opportunity to be born.

“Each life just conceived today will thank each of us for all eternity for working on ourselves to change anything that even comes close to disrespect for life.” - Bishop John McRaith

So, while we decry, abhor, and condemn abortion, we must first look to ourselves to see if we have had a hand in the final and most obvious disrespect for life which is ABORTION. I truly believe that if we first looked in our own hearts, we would be amazed to find areas we would have to change in order to love others as He loved us. Once enough of us are willing to take make that change, the Holy Spirit will lead us to quick solutions to legal abortion in our society. In our own hearts, we will be taking the first step to change our world from a culture of death to a culture of life.

Is that not what we all want? So with our prayers, with our sacrifices, and by offering up our sufferings, we will change our values. As we change, the world around us will be affected by that change. Thus a change of heart will lead us to see that we are only stewards of God’s gifts, gifts given to each person *from conception to natural death.* *Only God can give life and only God should be the one to take life.*

Each life just conceived today will thank each of us for all eternity for working on ourselves to change anything that even comes close to disrespect for life. We must join together and be able to say together – I AM FOR LIFE – always and under all circumstances. Let us get started today as we pray for an end to abortion. We will find the answer in the messages of Jesus, in the teachings of the Church, and in the prayer to God “Harden not our hearts” ever.

Our Holy Father summed this up in a much better way than I could when speaking to the Swiss *ad limina* Bishops. Our Holy Father said, “Only if one respects human life from conception to death is an ethic of peace possible and credible. ...Only then can nonviolence express itself in every direction; only then can we truly accept creation, and only then can we reach true justice.”

Sincerely in Christ

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

Bishop John McRaith’s Schedule for January, 2007 may be found on page 5 of this edition.

Annual Commemorative Mass

January 22, 2004

12:00 Noon

St. Stephen Cathedral

Join Bishop John McRaith as we mark the 34th year since the US Supreme Court decision took away all legal protection for the life of the unborn child. All are invited to remember these children as we pray for their mothers, fathers, families, and for our nation.



- Gospel of Life Committee,
Diocese of Owensboro

Prayer To Christ Unborn

Dear Lord, Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, before your birth you filled the unborn Baptist with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Inspire us to see you in every unborn child. Grant us the perseverance to defend vulnerable human life from abortion, abandonment, experimentation, and all violations. Fill us with reverence for the moment of your Incarnation in Nazareth when the Word became flesh. Amen

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Thank You For Your Thoughtfulness And Support

Dear Friends,

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and that the New Year will bring you many blessings and closer to our Lord. I just want to thank all those who remembered me at Christmas with letters, cards and gifts. I will not have a chance to answer each of you individually, so I just want you to know that I am full of gratitude that I am able to serve such people of faith.

I thank you for your thoughtfulness and support during the Christmas season. I assure you that you are in my prayers and Masses each day.

As we work together to bring the Good News of the Birth of our Savior to all who will listen, we thank God for His call to us to share with Him in the Mission of the Church, His Mission. God's blessings on all of you. With much gratitude, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

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

Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest

The Serra Club of Owensboro has launched a program to provide prayerful support for the priests of our Diocese called ADOPT A PRIEST.



A lapel pin has been designed as shown. The initials of the priest and his date of ordination have been engraved on the back of each pin. Along with each pin, a card and envelope will be included, designed especially to be sent by the wearer to the adopted priest. The Serra Club is asking that you pray daily for your adopted priest.

To order a pin, send a check or money order for \$15.00 to: Serra Club of Owensboro, 4213 Spring Bank Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303

A Caring Connection



Kentucky Catholic Charities
Pregnancy & Adoption Network

(270)852-8328 or toll free 1-877-603-5064
www.kycatholiccharitiesadoption.org

The Western Kentucky Catholic

Official Newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, KY

Story Deadline: 15th of month prior to publication. The Western Kentucky Catholic is published monthly except June and July from the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro, KY.

Publisher: Most Rev. John J. McRaith, D. D.

Editor: Mel Howard, e-mail: mel.howard@pastoral.org

Business Address: Catholic Pastoral Center,
600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301

Phone: 683-1545. Fax: 683-6883

Internet Address: www.owensborodio.org

Subscription Cost: \$10.00 per year

The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars.

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


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

Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky

Seminarian Education	\$4,364,351.00
Owensboro Catholic High School	\$3,687,919.00
Owensboro Catholic Schools	\$996,114.00
Catholic Education Scholarship	\$165,527.00
Parish/Ministry/Annuities/Trusts	\$2,349,123.00
Immaculate Conception, Hawesville	\$36,337.00
Holy Name School	\$400,653.00
Thomas Moore, Paducah	\$467,208.00
St. Ann Catholic School	\$121,841.00
St. Edward	\$31,152.00
St. Columbia, Lewisport	\$37,215.00
St. Joseph, Central City	\$195,781.00
St. Joseph, Mayfield	\$37,969.00
St. Alphonsus Cemetery	\$108,894.00
St. Joseph, Bowling Green	\$22,844.00
St. Joseph School, Bowling Green	\$613,498.00
St. Denis Cemetery	\$44,973.00
St. Sebastian Cemetery	\$7,883.00
St. Charles, Livermore	\$35,812.00
St. Charles Cemetery, Bardwell	\$13,747.00
St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro	\$15,910.00
Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville	\$81,968.00
Blessed Sacrament	\$6,551.00
TOTAL	\$13,843,270.00

Diocesan Financial Report

	2005-06	2004-05
Income		
Parish assessments	1,820,249	1,704,754
Contributions & bequests	307,905	74,331
Fees for services	12,343	12,780
Interest & dividend income	348,860	359,926
Net gains (loss) real estate	377,167	6,376
Net gains (loss) investments	469,330	658,790
Income for restricted gifts	430,231	473,656
Other revenue	2,252	2,400
TOTAL	3,768,337	3,293,013
Expenses		
Office of the Bishop	140,091	125,065
Safe environment	75,469	111,061
Catholic Pastoral Center	124,721	123,182
Technology	38,693	37,844
Diocesan properties	25,282	28,035
Religious education	72,635	70,321
Media center	20,589	21,068
Campus ministry	140,022	133,437
Youth ministry	94,330	95,736
Camp dream	27,162	-
Communications/WKC	132,741	131,515
Catholic schools ofc	142,169	133,331
Home missions	82,981	93,060
Archives	9,252	7,417
Outreach & evangelization	75,792	92,170
Diocesan broadcast	76,200	67,713
Worship & Music	126,126	122,389
Spiritual life	32,439	31,964
Catholic charities	106,566	95,288
Stewardship/Annual appeal/Wisdom	236,885	225,732



Riney, Hancock & Co., PSC
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2900 Veach Road, Suite 2
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ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

Most Reverend John J. McRaith,
Roman Catholic Bishop of Owensboro

We have reviewed the accompanying statements of financial position of the Operating Fund of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Owensboro (Diocese) as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of activities and cash flows of the Operating Fund for the years then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of the Diocese.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Diocese personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, with the exception of the matters described in the following paragraphs, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As disclosed in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present only the Operating Fund of the Diocese. Accordingly, the financial statements are not intended to present fairly the financial position, changes in net assets and cash flows of the Diocese overall in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As disclosed in Notes 3 and 4, a valuation calculating the actuarial present value of plan benefits has not been prepared for the Priests' Retirement Plan or the portion of the Christian Brothers' Employee Retirement Plan attributable to the employees of the Diocese.

Our review was made for the purpose of expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The information included in the accompanying schedules on pages 13 and 14 is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes. Such information has been subjected to the inquiry and analytical procedures applied in the review of the basic financial statements, and we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made thereto.

Riney, Hancock & Co., PSC

Owensboro, Kentucky
October 17, 2006

Diocesan good works	91,883	101,554		
Migrant & hispanic	179,212	157,322		
Family life	76,663	62,626		
Bridge to Health	28,738	-		
Other social concerns	25,297	25,258		
Vocations & seminarians	295,853	238,578		
International Priest	32,527	-		
Continuing education	6,840	8,891		
Priest education advancement	2,109	8,742		
			Ecumenical commission	549 2,391
			Diocesan councils	8,037 7,039
			Financial administration	209,100 183,52
			Tribunal	253,083 238,841
			TOTAL	2,990,036 2,781,094

Parish Assessments for 2006-2007

Enclosed is the parish 2006-2007 Assessment with the final breakdown of the "Net Assessable Revenue."

Below is some of the things included in the Diocese budget that are expenses that are not directly attributed to the Catholic Pastoral Center. Every effort was made to keep the assessment rate from increasing. The assessment rate this year is 15.66%, up a quarter of a percent.

• Assessments from USCC, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, and KY Council of Churches	\$ 52,000
• Safe Environment office	\$ 65,200
• Tribunal services	\$309,000
• Subsidies to Newman Centers, Brescia University, Mt. St. Joseph, Bridge to Health	\$192,000
• Youth Ministry events & Camp Dream	\$ 84,000
• Western Kentucky Catholic newspaper for 10 months of the year	\$93,000
• Subsidy to Television Mass	\$79,000
• Diocesan Catholic School Superintendent Office	\$149,000
• Worship office events (Chrism mass, Ordinations, Rite of Election, Choir)	\$25,000
• Parish & mission subsidies	\$132,100
• Subsidies to Apostolic Nunciature, Catholic University, Secretariat for Latin, America, Aid to Eastern Europe, Nat'l Catholic Rural Life	\$ 68,000
• Bereavement & Natural Family Planning Services, Diocesan Marriage Celebration, & Engaged Encounter	\$16,000
• Subsidies for Migrant and Hispanic ministries	\$126,000
• Vocations & Seminarian education	\$399,219
• International Priest enrichment costs	\$108,700
• Subsidize Catholic Charities Adoption ministry	<u>\$42,000</u>
Total attributed to others	\$1,940,219

% of total	Budget	Expenses attributed:	% of total
Income from:		Budget	
Assessment	1,857,145	54.1%	\$1,940,219 to others
Diocese	<u>1,573,354</u>	45.9%	<u>1,490,280</u> CPC
Total Budgeted	\$3,430,499		\$3,430,499

PARISH	CITY	2004-05 Sunday Collections	2004-05 Total Parish Revenue	2004-05 Net Assessable Revenue	2006-07 Assessment Based on 04-05	Asmt% of total 2004-05 Net	2005-2006 Assessment Based on 03-04
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	1,061,501	1,271,925	301,758	47,257	3.72%	53,990
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	23,682	31,575	21,501	500	1.58%	500
Christ the King	Madisonville	370,571	417,816	232,048	36,340	8.70%	36,161
Christ the King	Scottsville	32,491	59,978	34,067	5,335	8.89%	5,869
Holy Cross	Providence	11,949	20,282	15,487	750	3.70%	4,708
Holy Guardian Angels	Irvington	58,690	58,728	56,461	8,842	15.06%	7,241
Holy Name	Henderson	1,248,799	1,256,644	656,940	102,880	8.19%	82,570
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	70,01	82,138	64,386	10,083	12.28%	8,687
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	949,69	1,354,830	413,544	64,763	4.78%	85,912
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	29,028	47,445	28,741	1,000	2.11%	500
Immaculate	Owensboro	887,249	955,088	418,633	65,560	6.86%	51,937
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	67,980	105,136	79,509	12,452	11.84%	11,778
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	120,192	177,736	133,346	20,883	11.75%	18,025
Newman Center	Murray	0	24,086	8,657	50	0.21%	50
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	802,931	1,426,937	359,327	56,273	3.94%	58,033
Precious Blood	Owensboro	373,088	526,795	231,024	36,180	6.87%	25,213
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	33,175	41,240	34,504	5,403	13.10%	3,500
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	91,517	154,585	116,130	18,187	11.77%	18,116
Sacred Heart	Hickman	52,781	56,102	52,107	8,160	14.54%	8,397
Sacred Heart	Russellville	151,214	176,408	172,416	27,001	15.31%	21,680
Sacred Heart	Waverly	75,071	92,139	71,095	11,134	12.08%	9,507
St. Agnes	Uniontown	205,612	395,801	143,225	22,430	5.67%	17,981
St. Alphonsus	St Joseph	103,824	150,228	67,414	10,557	7.03%	8,878
St. Ambrose	Henshaw	37,236	111,301	13,427	750	0.67%	750
St. Ann Morganfield		592,795	642,848	289,436	45,327	7.05%	35,395
St. Anthony	Axtel	119,649	211,796	92,142	14,430	6.81%	15,320
St. Anthony	Browns Valley	156,269	161,305	75,540	11,830	7.33%	10,952
St. Anthony	Peonia	38,571	44,222	41,749	6,538	14.78%	6,444
St. Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	61,014	65,148	54,103	8,473	13.01%	8,307
St. Augustine	Grayson Springs	46,993	54,219	51,339	8,040	14.83%	7,472
St. Augustine	Reed	48,387	130,520	41,127	4,000	3.06%	2,000
St. Benedict	Wax	42,546	58,997	56,118	8,788	14.90%	8,788

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2007 5 St. Mary Music Students

Perform in Rose Parade

Two Paducah St. Mary High School students were among only 100 nationwide selected to appear on the lead float in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California on January 1. The students accompanied the "Oak Ridge Boys" in singing the National anthem and other patriotic songs. The St. Mary girls, Bre Shelby and Montesa Byars, are members of the St. Mary High School Choir and are the only high school vocalists to be chosen from the state of Kentucky. Shelby and Byars were nominated by their choir director, Mr. Doug VanFleet, head of St. Mary's music department.

Both girls agreed that "Mr. Vanfleet is the reason we are going. He is the best music teacher around," said Shelby. "He is awesome, and we are absolutely indebted to him for helping us achieve such a high honor." Byars added, "This is the highlight of my young musical career so far, and I expect it to be high on the list for years to come. It was Mr. VanFleet's inspiration and guidance that led us to this achievement. Because of his teaching skill, we feel we are ready."

"It's the trip of our lifetime so far, said Shelby, "and we're grateful and excited. We want to thank our parents and everyone who helped with the financial cost. We received love offerings from Melber Baptist Church and Olivet Baptist Church of Melber. Additionally, my Dad raised cash donations from many friends and others who wanted to help."

Bishop John McRaith's January 2007 Schedule

1-3	Retreat
4	Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
4-5	Retreat
8 -11	Annual Presbyteral Convocation, Lake Barkley
11	Charter Night, Serra Club
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, CPC CLOSED
16	Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
16	Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
16	DPC Mtg., Madisonville, 6pm
18	Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
18	Christian Unity Service, 1st Christian Church, Owensboro, 7pm
21	Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Parish, Curdsville, 10am
22	Pro-Life Mass, Cathedral, Owensboro, Noon
29	Mass, Catholic Schools Week, Holy Name, Henderson, 9am
30	Mass, CSW, Owensboro Catholic Schools, Sportscenter, 10am
31	Mass, CSW, SMHS, Paducah, 10am
31	Paducah Office Day (located at Lourdes Hospital, across from Chapel)



All Souls Prayer

On All Souls Day 2006, the Rakotoniaina family, mother Anna, Andry, Annelaude, Allen, and Adney prayed for their deceased father Claude as they lit a candle from the Easter Candle in St. Stephen Cathedral. The Catholic Church teaches that through indulgences the faithful can obtain remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and for the souls in Purgatory (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1498.) Lois Rutigliano photo

Does your teenager use MySpace.com?

By Amy Lambert

MySpace is one the most popular information and communication devices that teenagers use these days and most teenagers have a page. MySpace allows you or your child to create a place for you to share conversations, information, and photos with the world. To sign up for a MySpace page, all that is required is an e-mail address. There is also a stipulation that you certify that you are at least 14 years of age, but kids are told how to bypass the rules so they can get a page even though they aren't old enough.

After talking to a few students, I have learned more about MySpace. Most kids keep their pages private so that only select friends can view their page. This is safer for the teenager, but it is difficult for the parent to monitor what their child is posting on the website. MySpace makes it easy to post all information about oneself and a child can easily post too much information. I strongly encourage parents to monitor their child's website to avoid the dangers of predators.

Several students use MySpace to look at pictures from dances and activities that have gone on over the weekend. They did admit they are very cautious about what pictures they put on there, because parents, teachers,

PARISH	CITY	2004-05 Sunday Collections	2004-05 Total Parish Revenue	2004-05 Net Assessable Revenue	2006-07 Assessment Based on 04-05	Asmt% of total 2004-05 Net	2005-2006 Assessment Based on 03-04
St. Charles	Bardwell	80,518	175,991	52,973	8,296	4.71%	16,011
St. Charles	Livermore	29,850	32,523	32,523	5,093	15.66%	5,080
St. Columba	Lewisport	98,157	157,244	114,299	17,900	11.38%	16,722
St. Denis	Fancy Farm	32,263	82,780	53,941	8,000	9.66%	4,000
St. Edward	Fulton	57,693	169,242	60,168	9,423	5.57%	8,298
St. Elizabeth	Clarkson	35,378	63,935	33,735	5,283	8.26%	4,000
St. Elizabeth	Curdsville	79,952	99,192	58,307	9,131	9.21%	8,891
St. Francis Borgia	Sturgis	67,672	129,455	67,539	10,577	8.17%	9,844
St. Francis de Sales	Paducah	645,143	1,373,317	383,861	60,115	4.38%	51,343
St. Henry	Aurora	96,553	172,494	101,334	15,869	9.20%	18,140
St. Jerome	Fancy Farm	319,080	454,914	388,390	60,824	13.37%	58,203
St. Joe & Paul	Owensboro	536,568	766,408	396,514	62,096	8.10%	61,299
St. John Baptist	Fordsville	46,673	91,691	45,554	3,000	3.27%	1,500
St. John Evangelist	Paducah	376,701	511,382	242,079	37,911	7.41%	40,844
St. John Evangelist	Sunfish	25,452	29,411	24,314	1,000	3.40%	1,500
St. Joseph	Bowling Green	379,056	642,862	239,505	37,508	5.83%	38,137
St. Joseph	Central City	95,378	137,767	107,192	16,787	12.19%	12,952
St. Joseph	Leitchfield	177,104	219,660	210,443	32,956	15.00%	19,522
St. Joseph	Mayfield	427,025	435,815	276,990	43,378	9.95%	49,115
St. Jude	Clinton	34,356	50,188	39,214	6,141	12.24%	6,657
St. Lawrence	St Lawrence	133,375	170,811	84,680	13,261	7.76%	8,983
St. Leo	Murray	258,635	286,009	271,294	42,486	14.85%	38,562
St. Mark	Eddyville	56,061	67,743	53,043	8,307	12.26%	8,246
St. Martin	Rome	170,551	251,608	118,895	18,620	7.40%	14,239
St. Mary	LaCenter	92,042	106,005	68,584	10,741	10.13%	11,200
St. Mary & St. James	Guthrie	38,173	57,044	40,836	6,395	11.21%	3,500
St. Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	237,999	298,860	114,509	17,933	6.00%	17,973
St. Mary of Woods	Franklin	104,244	228,839	107,468	16,830	7.35%	17,927
St. Mary of Woods	McQuady	47,415	66,334	32,235	5,048	7.61%	7,060
St. Mary of Woods	Whitesville	860,144	1,113,939	375,791	58,851	5.28%	46,143
St. Michael Archangel	Oak Grove	88,981	197,900	89,470	14,012	7.08%	14,522
St. Michael	Sebree	30,815	32,042	31,075	3,000	9.36%	1,500
St. Paul	Leitchfield	98,998	126,377	61,131	9,573	7.57%	9,669
St. Paul	Princeton	80,664	86,929	75,581	11,836	13.62%	12,065
St. Peter	Stanley	133,924	218,773	103,542	16,215	7.41%	14,083
St. Peter	Waverly	147,414	159,086	120,060	18,802	11.82%	15,602
St. Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	522,245	1,035,379	501,759	78,578	7.59%	54,689
St. Pius Tenth	Owensboro	729,389	1,149,387	338,784	53,055	4.62%	33,998
St. Pius Tenth	Calvert City	122,648	123,015	117,202	18,355	14.92%	14,861
St. Romuald	Hardinsburg	382,157	435,536	188,567	29,531	6.78%	24,932
St. Rose	Cloverport	129,471	133,577	92,099	14,423	10.80%	13,298
St. Sebastian	Calhoun	70,092	468,202	79,112	12,389	2.65%	11,080
St. Stephen	Cadiz	134,507	139,767	130,585	20,450	14.63%	19,603
St. Stephen Cathedral	O'Boro	971,794	1,041,998	431,521	67,578	6.49%	58,248
St. Susan	Elkton	27,247	112,325	24,745	1,000	0.89%	750
St. Thomas Aquinas	Bowling Green	65,636	94,317	71,216	2,000	2.12%	1,750
St. Thomas More	Paducah	1,242,493	1,843,671	690,709	108,169	5.87%	104,386
St. William	Knottsville	342,682	366,448	176,944	27,710	7.56%	14,280
St. William	Marion	64,438	82,083	74,210	11,622	14.16%	10,454
TOTALS		\$18,989,313	\$26,654,270	\$12,021,825	\$1,848,254	6.93%	\$1,670,322

coaches and employers can view these same pictures.

There are several dangers involved with MySpace, if not monitored closely by a parent or guardian. One that has caused problems here at Owensboro Catholic High School is bullying. Sometimes kids post things that should never be put in print. In today's time, people can say things and not literally mean it, but it could be taken seriously.

Parents, there are ways to protect your child from the dangers of MySpace. Talk with them daily about the importance of not sharing too much information. Sometimes children have the mindset of "that will never happen to me and I'm not in any danger".

If your child wants to have a MySpace page you need to have access to it. There is also monitoring and filtering software that can be installed. We can never be too protective of our children in today's society.

Amy Lambert is the Dean of Students at Owensboro Catholic High School; reprinted with permission from OCHS Parentlines, December, 2006.

Cursillo Combustion

By Cami Frey

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:15-16)

I was lukewarm and I knew it. I knew I was a sinner destined for Hell if I didn't change my ways, but I just couldn't seem to muster the action it would take to change. I knew because I had tried. I was a very independent person; if it had to be done, I could do it. I was in control, and proud of it. Yet, recently, there were so many curve balls, knocking my feet out from under me.

Where had I gone wrong? I was raised a Catholic and went to Catholic schools. I received a good moral foundation. Mamma taught us to share, to give, and to treat others as we wanted them to treat us. I remember kneeling in our living room to pray the Rosary each night and going to confession each month. I learned Bible stories and Catholic principles. I knew that we were made to know, love, and serve God. And even though I was going to Mass every Sunday, trying to raise my children to be good little Catholics, and doing what I could for my Church, I knew it wasn't enough.

I had begun to hear God's voice, very faintly, echoing in my head and heart, calling me, "Come closer, I love you, I have so much to give you, I want you to live with me." I thought about it long and hard. I knew I wasn't really making God the center of my life. My use of the sacraments was infrequent. I didn't have a personal relationship with God; to be honest, I barely knew Him. Oh, I knew all about Him, but I certainly didn't know Him. I rarely thought of Him. I was a shallow, immature Christian, focused on myself and my own little world. I was much too busy for anything else in my life. But the voice wouldn't go away no matter how busy I was.

I would just try harder! Again...and again...and again. No matter how much I tried to change, to do better, to pray more, I was still lukewarm. I couldn't seem to sustain enough heat to spark a fire. I was frustrated, ready to give up on myself and the hope of ever kindling a flame.

Then one evening at a Right to Life Chili Supper, my tepid soul poised on the brink of a blaze. Mr. Bill Hayden was also working that night. He stopped to chat and asked me if I had ever thought of making a Cursillo. What in the world was a Cursillo? I had never heard of it. He briefly explained. I have no idea what he told me or why I said yes, but I did. Surprisingly, so did my husband. We both attended Cursillo weekends in March, 1990, and our lives have not been the same since. Thank God for that!

We each experienced a personal encounter with Christ. I who had always known how much God loved me (in my head) finally learned how much He loved me - in my heart. My heart was deluged with His awesome love. When I finally surrendered control, our Lord took the reins of my life. Since that time, my life has been an analogy of the story of the tandem bicycle ride with Jesus. He is steering, in control, and I am hanging on for dear life, and learning to trust Him, and enjoy the ride as we traverse the hills and valleys of life. The tale ends with "And when I'm sure I just can't do it anymore, He just smiles and says... 'Pedal'."

It is the Holy Spirit who enkindles in us the fire of His love. Through Cursillo, I have learned how to sustain the light of the Holy Spirit in my heart and to light the way for others as have so many before me. Cursillo, a movement of the Catholic Church, began in Spain in the 1940's, quickly spread all over the world, arriving in the United States in 1957. Today it is a worldwide movement with centers in such countries as Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Yugoslavia, and several African countries.

To explain Cursillo to someone who has never experienced Cursillo is, at best, difficult. No one definition can truly explain what Cursillo is. Often, for those who have experienced Cursillo, it is still somewhat mystifying. The reason behind the mystery is God. No one can fully explain how God touches each person in His special, unique way throughout the various elements of the Cursillo movement. Our Lord uses many means to set us on fire with His love. Cursillo is merely one of them but it is a powerful one. If you are hearing the still, small voice of the Lord, I invite you to "come and see." The next Cursillo 3-Day weekends in our Diocese are March 1-4, 2007 for men and March 8-11, 2007 for women.



Former Teacher, Pastoral Minister, Dies in Car Accident



Sandy Compas, 44, a former teacher and pastoral minister in the Diocese of Owensboro, died in an automobile accident on December 3, near Bald Knob, Arkansas. For three years, she had served as associate director for religious education and Christian initiation for the Diocese of Little Rock.

An Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph from 1982 to 2002, Sandy was a teacher at Holy Guardian Angels School, Sorgho, 1989-90. She served as pastoral minister for Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro, 1992-96, and for St. Mary of the Fields Parish, La Center, 1999-2001.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Teresa Church, Glennonville, Missouri, on December 9, with burial in Glennonville. Sandy is survived by her mother, Mildred, and her sister, Lynn.

TEC Leadership Council Appoints Ronald Reiter As Director

Ronald Reiter of Festus, MO. was recently named Director of the TEC Conference, the Catholic Organization which oversees TEC communities in 60 dioceses throughout North America and Europe. Reiter has served as interim director since November 2005 during the transition of the conference office from Des Moines, Iowa to Festus.

TEC, an acronym for Teens Encounter Christ, is a Catholic movement of Spirituality for older adolescents and young adults. Founded in the Lansing, MI Diocese in 1965, TEC helps over 8,000 young people each year deepen their relationship with Christ and discern their vocation within the larger Church. TEC is affiliated with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry; National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association; and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Episcopal Moderator Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz, OMI, Anchorage, Alaska. TEC has been part of Youth Ministry in the Owensboro Diocese since Oct. 1976.

"We are proud that Ron has been discerned to be our new TEC Conference Director," said TEC Leadership Council Chair Mary Kay Marzano, Milwaukee WI. "For the past 15 years, he has served in various TEC leadership roles including past chair of the Council, Region 9 coordinator, finance committee member and trainer for both the 'Renewing the Vision of TEC' and 'Communities of Faith & Follow-Through' workshops."

Reiter also co-chaired the TEC 40th Anniversary Celebration in 2005 at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, IL. His leadership on the event committee helped bring 200 leaders throughout North America together. For Reiter, TEC is not just a ministry he volunteers and now works for, but a "life-changing experience. My wife, Kay, and I were invited by a young man in our parish to make a TEC weekend in 1978."

He explained. "We said 'yes' and our lives haven't been the same since. Our 10 children have all attended TEC weekends here in the St. Louis Archdiocese and some have gone on to serve in various roles on the teams and local board. Our next goal is to invite our grandchildren to make TEC. Our oldest just turned 15.," he said.

After that first weekend, the Reiters, members of Our Lady's Parish in Festus, became active in their local TEC community. Together they served on teams, attended national conventions, led prayer meetings at their house and became "TEC parents" to many local Catholic young people. In addition, they are both currently members of the local Spirit of St. Louis council.

For more information about TEC, check out our website at www.TECConference.org or you can contact Sharrie Cinnamond at sharriecinnamond@aol.com

Submitted by Sharrie Cinnamond, TEC Conference Leadership Council



Bishop McRaith's 2007 Paducah Office Dates

January 31, 2007
February 20, 2007
March 27, 2007
April 26, 2007
May 29, 2007
June 27, 2007

Bishop John's office is located at Lourdes Hospital, near the chapel. To meet with the Bishop on these Paducah Office days, please call Donna Ferguson, 270-683-1545, extension 140, to set up an appointment.

The LAND OF COTTON

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

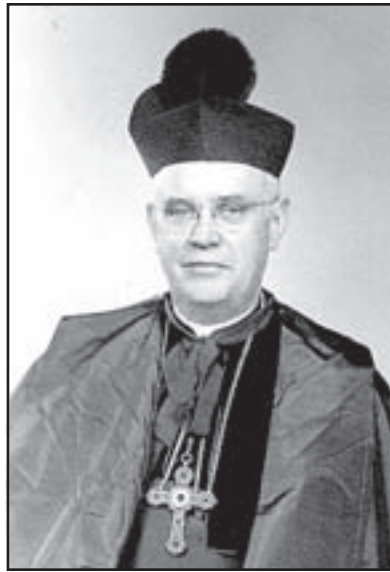
By Father Benjamin Luther

Bishop Cotton received episcopal ordination in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, at the hands of the newly appointed Archbishop of Louisville, John A. Floresch, on February 24, 1938. Then, on March 7, 1938, they joined a motorcade of three cars to Owensboro. At the boundary of the new Diocese of Owensboro, near Cloverport, the procession paused for prayer, and Bishop Cotton and Archbishop Floresch were greeted by lay representatives of the new diocese, who then moved to lead the procession. Arriving in Owensboro, Bishop Cotton took up residence in the rectory of St. Stephen's Church - the new Cathedral. The next day was the installation of the new Bishop of Owensboro.

The new St. Stephen's Cathedral was festooned for the day of the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Bishop Cotton's installation. Four large streamers, in the papal colors of gold and white, were fixed to the ceiling of the Cathedral to a central point overhead. Loads of flowers were up front. Several choirs from various local parishes had prepared the music for the Mass. At the appointed time, the papal decree of Pope Pius XI, creating the Owensboro Diocese, designating St. Stephen Church as the Cathedral and appointing Francis R. Cotton as the first Bishop of Owensboro, were read, first in Latin, then in English translation, by the Rector of the Cathedral, Fr. Albert J. Thompson. Then, the Metropolitan Archbishop Floresch took Bishop Cotton by hand and led him to his episcopal chair (or 'throne') at the left side of the sanctuary. Later, the clergy present filed by to kiss his episcopal ring.

After the festive Mass of Installation, there were several banquets, with talks delivered by priests of the new diocese, and of special interest, by Archbishop Floresch. He took the occasion to thank Bishop Cotton publicly for his devoted service to him and to the Louisville Diocese. He mentioned how much he appreciated his friendship, and that they had lived together for several years. He pointed out that such a devoted priest of God would make a faithful shepherd of the new Diocese of Owensboro, and mentioned Bishop Cotton's choice of the Latin motto on his "coat of arms," *Disce a Jesu*, "Learn from Jesus," and that he had lived that motto from the day of his priestly ordination for the Louisville Diocese, and there was every expectation that he would continue to pattern his life after that of Jesus Christ, the great High Priest of the New Covenant, for himself, and for his priests, religious, and lay people in western Kentucky.

Later, there was a "civic reception" for Bishop Cotton, arranged by the Mayor and City Council of Owensboro, with the assis-



Bishop Francis R. Cotton

tance of leading Catholic laymen. Archbishop Floresch attended. Bishop Cotton responded to the greeting and good wishes of Owensboro's Mayor, saying that, "I am a baby Bishop in a baby diocese," and asking for prayers and help, promising to foster good relations between civil and ecclesiastical authorities. With the civic reception, festivities came to a close, the Archbishop and other visitors departed, and the new Diocese of Owensboro began its daily existence. What kind of "shape" did the new diocese have?

The "Kennedy Directory" of the Catholic Church in America and its possessions gives us the basic statistics for the new diocese. This Directory, published since the 1820's, is still annually in print. There were 46 priests - 41 secular or diocesan priests, and 5 religious priests. There were 33 churches with resident priests, 23 missions attached to those churches, and 5 chapels. There were 29 parish schools, with 3,081 pupils, one junior college, and 7 parochial high schools. There were 4 academies with both grade and high schools. The Directory listed "total young people under Catholic care" at 4,734.

The Directory reported 955 Baptisms the year the Diocese of Owensboro was founded, comprised of 856 infant and 99 adult Baptisms, with 96 adult converts to the Catholic Faith. There were 371 marriages

and 381 deaths. The total Catholic population of the 32 counties of the new Diocesan Church of western Kentucky was 24,059.

These statistics are taken from the 1938 Kennedy Directory, and in the section for the new Diocese of Owensboro, there were the following statements: "Officers of the Diocese not appointed at the time of this printing. Chancery Office 609 E. 4th St., Owensboro, Kentucky. Bishop Cotton, ordained priest June 17, 1920, precognized in Rome as Bishop of Owensboro December 16, 1937, consecrated Bishop on February 24, 1938, installed in Owensboro, March 8, 1938. Residence: 614 Locust St., Owensboro, Ky."

There were negative feelings on the part of some priests of the new diocese, as they were cut off from the possibility of becoming pastors in Louisville or at least in that diocese, as they had been ordained for it; many were natives of central Kentucky. In clerical circles, the priests who awakened with a letter in the mail informing them of the creation of the Diocese of Owensboro gave rise to the saying that the priests "caught" in the severance of the 32 counties of western Kentucky were like "the 40 Martyrs of Sebast" in the early Church, in the days of the Roman Empire. Actually, the sobriquet could only be loosely applied, as there were 46 priests in the new diocese, not 40! But, the "nickname" stuck, and today, there is one of the "40 Martyrs" whom it is our privilege to note - Father Charles Augustine DeNardi, the son of an Italian father and German mother. Born in central Kentucky on December 25, 1909, he received his priestly ordination in Louisville's Assumption Cathedral at the hands of Bishop Floresch on June 6, 1936, on the verge of the establishment of the Owensboro Diocese.

It is noteworthy that throughout his entire time of priestly service, every assignment he received, both as Assistant and as Pastor, involved work in three parishes. He recently celebrated his 70th anniversary of ordination, certainly a rare attainment, and is currently resident, and in good health for his age, at the Carmel Home in Owensboro.

In our next Part XII, we will begin our discussion of how the newborn Diocese of Owensboro began its gradual growth, to the Diocesan Church of today. As we begin "making notes" of how things stood in the period of Bishop Cotton's installation in 1938, to his death in 1960, it may be well to pause and briefly contrast the Church of that time frame of the 22 years of Bishop Cotton's ministry, to today's postconciliar Church.

Initially, we should note that the creation of the Owensboro Diocese was near the end of the post-Trent era of Church history. That is to say, the ecumenical Council of Trent, the 19th in the Church's long pilgrimage of faith, held in the 16th century in reaction to the Protestant Revolt, left a profound imprint on every facet of church life, including our diocese, and only 23 years from the convocation of the Second Vatican Council! But today's era was hidden in God's providence.



Holy Name Elementary first grade students traveled to St. Margaret's Chapel in Henderson, Ky. to sing Christmas Carols to the senior citizens who were attending their monthly luncheon. Pictured is Roger O'Nan handing out candy canes to Gabe McFarland. HNE Photo

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 19-21, 2006 call 270- 683-1545 ext 357 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

Financial Aid Workshops to be held in 2007

High school seniors who want to go to college and their parents can save a lot of time applying for financial aid if they take advantage of the many workshops which high schools, colleges, and universities offer every winter to assist graduating high school seniors reach their goal of going to college. Applying for financial aid from the federal or state financial aid institutions, or from a college by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has definite procedures to follow. If you get some basic facts wrong, or leave them out on the FAFSA form, financial aid may be delayed. School financial aid folks can really help a high school senior and their parents understand the FAFSA form and avoid time-consuming mistakes in the FAFSA application process.

For example, College Goal Sunday takes place every year with Owensboro CTCS, Kentucky Wesleyan College, and Brescia University. This year, Brescia will officially host College Goal Sunday, a Daviess County community-wide event, on January 28th, at 2:00 p.m. in Taylor Lecture Hall in the Brescia University Science Building. Administrators and staff from all three Daviess County area colleges will help students fill out their FAFSA forms online, using Brescia University's computers.

On Tuesday, January 30, a financial aid workshop will be held at Owensboro Catholic High School for senior parents whose students will be filing for financial aid for the 2007-08 school year from 6:30-8:00 PM in the OCHS Media Center.

Jeff Main, Director of Financial Aid and Chris Houk, Dean of Enrollment at Brescia University, will facilitate the OCHS program by helping parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form on site.

Because the FAFSA will be completed at the workshop and because filling out the FAFSA requires completed tax forms, parents need to bring with them their tax forms (e.g., 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ). Parents should also bring information on untaxed income, investment value, and business value. If parents have not filled out tax forms by the time of the workshop they should bring in their W2 forms.

Students will receive FAFSA On The Web forms in their Religion classes, so parents are asked to bring those with them to the workshop.

- The completing of the FAFSA requires parent's filling out tax forms, but these tax forms do not have to have been mailed, just completed.
- The importance of completing a FAFSA form cannot be stressed enough. The form must be completed in order for students to be considered for state and federal aid as well as for aid distributed through colleges and universities (scholarships, grants, loans, etc.). Also, a FAFSA form must be completed by those interested in Federal Work Study.
- Some schools may also require that a CSS Profile be completed along with the FAFSA. Students are responsible for contacting the schools they may attend to determine if this form is also required.
- Even if you don't feel as if your son or daughter might qualify for financial aid, apply anyway. You never know if you qualify or for how much you qualify for if you never apply for aid at all.

The Brescia Financial Aid folks will also be at Trinity High School in Whitesville, Ky. on January 10, 2007, at 7:00 in the school cafeteria.

Sister Mildred (Aloysius Marie) Barr, 85, Died Dec. 12, 2006

Maple Mount — Sister Mildred (Aloysius Marie) Barr, 85, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Tuesday, December 12, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 66th year of religious life.

She was born Mildred Cecilia Barr in Livermore, the daughter of the late William Garrett and Ruth Cecilia Payne Barr. She entered the Ursuline Community in 1940 and made temporary profession in 1942 and perpetual profession in 1945. An educator for 45 years, she taught at St. Raphael, Daviess County (1944-49); Sts. Joseph and Paul (1949, 1957-59), Blessed Mother (1951-54), and Cathedral School (1981-83), all in Owensboro; and St. Elizabeth, Curdsville (1954-56). A gifted artist, she taught art in many schools, including Mount Saint Joseph Academy, 1973-



Brescia University Announces

Contemporary Woman Programs for 2007

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University's Contemporary Woman Program, directed by Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rose Marita O'Bryan, enters the 2007 calendar year with a variety of programs.

The brochure lists new and continuing programs available to both women and men:

Path of Contemplative Dialogue, which begins January 17, from 10-11:30, continues Wednesday mornings into March.

Women Doctors of the Church, exploring the life and writings of the three women doctors of the Catholic Church, is presented on six Tuesday mornings in January and February from 10-11.

Powers of the Universe, using the video series by cosmologist Brian Swimme, leads participants on a journey into the powers that have been active since the beginning of time. Participants meet Monday evenings, 6:30-8, January through March. The Canticle Group, dialoging around the DVD series, *Stillness Amidst the World*, presented by Eckhart Tolle, meets on Friday mornings from 10 till noon, beginning January 19.

The Partnership Group, in its 18th year, gathers to study and discuss *The Power of Myth*, an interview by Bill Moyers with Joseph Campbell, on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., beginning January 10.

Soul Gardening, a special opportunity for the four Tuesday mornings in April from 10-11, consists of guided meditations, journaling, and silence.

The Best Catholic 2006 Writing, a series of six Wednesday evening meetings from 7 to 8, beginning on March 22, invites participants to grapple with the essence of the Catholic idea. Twenty-seven essays, articles, poems, and speeches selected by editor Brian Doyle for *The Best Catholic Writing* of 2006 will be read and discussed.

AND on Thursday evening, March 15, the Contemporary Woman Program of Brescia University will host Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Dianna Ortiz, founder and executive director of Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, located in Washington, D.C. Sister Dianna has been invited to give a lecture on *Torture: A Challenge in Contemporary Times*. Her presentation will take place in the Science Lecture Hall at 7 p.m.

For a brochure and/or more information regarding programs, dates, and costs, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301; 270-686-4275; rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu. Participants are asked to pre-register at least two weeks in advance for each program.



80. Her teaching ministry also included schools in the Louisville Archdiocese, New Mexico, Missouri, and Nebraska.

She also served at Mount Saint Joseph as assistant in the Prayer House and director of the Mount Saint Joseph Shop and of the Museum.

Survivors include four sisters, Mary Lillian Hamilton, Owensboro, Ruth Ann Mayfield, Philpot, Janet Goff, Rome, and Angela Marie Dillard, Franklin; four brothers, Louis B. Barr and Herman J. Barr, both of Owensboro, and Gerald L. Barr and Frederick A. Barr, both of Whitesville; nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was December 14 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Mildred Barr may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

Sparkle Up Your Parish Library!

By Carolyn Haas

MURRAY, Ky. - Seven Sections: yes, that is how I put together St. Leo's Church Library.

It's been that way for over nine years - it works! Thank you to the Holy Spirit who guided us to use that method. Saint Leo parish had a Time and Talent Survey and I'd marked on it that I'd "do" a Library for the Parish. Father Pete Hughes had collected a thousand or so books and needed those added to the couple hundred already in the Church Library. He contacted me, saying I could start when the shelves were built. It would be in the old St. Leo's Church (Gleason Hall) which was then used for activities. Before I could start, he transferred. Just as Father Pete was leaving, he told Marianne, the Church Secretary, to notify me that the shelves were ready. I thought about it, and prayed; not being a Librarian, I wondered what system I should use for shelving these books.

Father Ray Goetz gave me the encouragement I needed to go forward. We had the Welcoming Dinner for him at the Knights of Columbus building on Squire Road in Calloway County. When he met me, there, he said, "Oh! You're the Library Lady." I smiled, and said, "Yeah, I guess I am!" Having a title brings responsibility. I prayed about it, and before I fell asleep that night, I knew I'd be dividing the books into Seven Sections. Seven is a grand number in Catholicism, isn't it? The Holy Spirit was guiding this. The next day the sorting out into Seven Sections began.

Pat Wilson was a fine aide to me after I'd finished the sorting, and the marking of one of seven numbers on each book's spine. The single large number shows up well, written with black felt-tip pen. We worked together for some weeks, day or two a week. We saved money by stamping the books with the Parish's regular stamp, and used long envelopes cut in half to be the holders of each book's Lending Card. We'd glue those half envelopes into the front cover's inside. Each Lending Card, of course, had the book's name and author on it. Stacey Mikulcik suggested I put the Section Number on the Card, too; that proved to be a fine idea. We put the Section number on the Card's bottom. It helped me keep each borrowed book's Lending Card in a separate index file. This way it was easier to know quickly how many books were "out" from which Section.

A group of St. Leo's Fellowship ladies

helped, too, one Wednesday morning, as we formed an Assembly Line in order to process the final Section and have the Library up and running to go. I made a sign for the Gleason Hall's door so folks would know when the Library was open.

Let me now list the Seven Sections and details about each Section.

Section #1 is, of course, without a doubt, BIBLE AND BIBLE STUDY. There were more than 164 Old and New Testaments, with some books in Large Print, too. Catholics tend to know more about Church Tradition and the Catechism and not as much about the Bible. This Section and the many Bible Study Groups (like Little Rock Scripture Studies) aided St. Leo's folks to know more.

Section #2 has books about JESUS AND MARY. These are vital to our faith. The Legion of Mary met in the Library Room at times and the "Mary" books were easily available for them. At a counting of those books, we had 90 about Jesus, and Mary, and, included were many about Our Blessed Mother Mary's many appearances.

Section #3 indicates the importance of our knowing about our CHURCH HISTORY AND INSTRUCTION. At a counting of those books, there were 265, including Purgatory, John Paul II, Portrait

of a Pontiff, McBrien's Lives of the Popes and The Jesuits, by Malachi Martin.

Section #4 is what we all know we need to explore especially during Lent and Advent; PRAYER AND MEDITATION. I know there were 200 plus books in that Section. Sister Mary Matthias donated quite a few excellent books. (At one time we had a Book Discussion Group which she led during lunch time, and with her experiences leading Study Groups, she taught me so much.) That Section included The Imitation of Christ, Prayer for Sunset Years, Living the Lord's Prayer, and Nouwen's With Open Hands.

Section #5 is SACRAMENTS. Caring for Marriage was one of the Matrimony books, and some about natural birth control went to high shelves. Anyone could learn anything about any of the Seven Sacraments from Section #5's selection. A few were for children's reading, and the PSR Staff borrowed from that Section often.

Section #6 - Well, we had someone who isn't a "saint" steal our Butler's Lives of the Saints! This Section is ANGELS AND SAINTS. We hope the Butler book is helping someone learn more about our faith. There were over 45 books there; we appreciated the donation of special Angel books. Mary Fuhrman shared a special Angel book with us.

Donations from Parishioners swelled the many Sections as the years went by. Some who'd died, too, left instructions for us to receive books. Virginia Smart's family made sure we had several excellent volumes. Mary Gertzen knew she was very ill and made sure I picked up books she'd wanted the Library to have. Sallie Gay's husband Al phoned to have me pick up books after she'd gone on to Heaven. Some books were donated by others who'd lost loved ones. When Mike Basile's father died, a book in his memory was given -- Tuesdays With Morrie. As you set up a Church Library, if

you know who donated a book, be sure to note that information on an inside page.

Section #7 - Well, there's got to be a MISCELLANEOUS Section. There are times when a book doesn't fit into the other Sections! There were perhaps 500 books in there, also added to during the years. Science Fiction, Mysteries, Romances, Poetry, Biographies, Cookbooks, Textbooks (Spanish, Sign Language, Science), Reader's Digest Books, (Simone Taylor, among other

Continued on page 11



Carolyn Haas, "The Library Lady," grins as sections #3 and #4 of St. Leo Parish Library are close to completion. Marianne Olsen assisted, supplying the official stamp to mark each book in Carolyn's hand, as well as paper and markers. Photo provided by Mary Gertzen.



An assembly line of workers shared the tasks to complete section #7, completing the St. Leo Parish Library: from left, Pat Wilson, David Jones, Dominik Mikulcik, Kristen Mikulcik, Alaina Mikulcik, Stacey Mikulcik, Dorothy Robach, and Sue Callahan. Carolyn Haas photo



The Richard Haas family visited the library. Photo by Carolyn Haas

Schedule Of 2007 Net Retreats Diocese Of Owensboro

	ARRIVAL DATE	
	OPEN DATE	
Jan. 10, 2007		
Jan. 11, 2007		
Jan. 12, 2007	5:00 - 10:00 PM	Lourdes, Owensboro 8th Confirmation
Jan. 13, 2007	3:00 - 9:00 PM	St. Mary's, Whitesville 8th Confirmation
Jan. 14, 2007	4:00 - 9:00 PM	Holy Spirit, Bowling Green 9-12 Lost and Found
Jan. 15, 2007		DAY OFF
Jan. 16, 2007		OPEN DATE
Jan. 17, 2007	5:00 - 8:00 PM	Holy Spirit, Bowling Green 7 - 8th Lost & Found
Jan. 18, 2007	8:15 AM - 2:15 PM	St. Romuald, Hardinsburg 5-8th Lost & Found
Jan. 19, 2007	5:00 - 10:00 PM	St. Henry's, Aurora 7-12th Firm Foundation
Jan. 20, 2007	Overnight Begins at 3:00 PM	St. Charles, Bardwell 9-12th
Jan. 21, 2007	Overnight- Ends at 6:00 PM	St. Charles, Bardwell
Jan. 22, 2007		DAY OFF
Jan. 23, 2007	5:00 - 10:00 PM	St. Charles, Bardwell 6-8th Confirmation
Jan. 24, 2007		DEPARTURE DAY

If you are interested in having the NET Team on any of the open dates, please call Donna Mills 270-683-1545 or e-mail: donna.mills@pastoral.org

Brescia University Implements Block Transfer Agreement with KCTCS Institutions

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Beginning January 2007, Brescia University will implement a new transfer agreement for students from any of Kentucky's community and technical colleges assisting them to easily earn their bachelor's degree from Brescia. This block transfer agreement recognizes a minimum of sixty transfer credits and awards junior standing to any graduate from a KCTCS institution, with an associate of arts or an associate of science degree.

If a student transfers to Brescia with either an associate of arts or associate of science degree, the hours earned in that degree will satisfy forty-eight hours of Brescia University's General Education Requirements (GERs). If the sixty hours do not include completion of at least one class in world history, foreign language, literature, fine arts, philosophy, and religion, these courses will have to be completed at Brescia University as part of the student's free elective coursework. Plus, at least six credit hours of a student's free elective courses will have to be completed at the 300 or 400 level. Students using the block transfer agreement can enroll in any of Brescia University's nearly 40 undergraduate degree programs.

For more information concerning Brescia University's block transfer agreement, email admissions@brescia.edu or call 1-877-BRESCIA or (270) 686-4241.

Friends of Lancaster Cemetery Need Help Honoring Our Sacred Trust

A Catholic cemetery represents a sacred trust held by the cemetery's caretakers for the sake of present and future generations to honor the memories and lives of their ancestors who are buried within. The friends of the Lancaster Cemetery on Overstreet Road, near Stanley, Ky., are researching and archiving the Lancaster Cemetery. If anyone has information about ancestors buried in Lancaster Cemetery, please call Star McKay at 1-270-764-1664. The friends are currently making a list of those buried in the Lancaster Cemetery. Pictures, documents, and information are welcome. We appreciate any help you can give us.

- The Friends of Lancaster Cemetery,
Saint Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley, Ky.



Dismas Ministry

By Fr. Richard Meredith, St. Pius X, Owensboro

Our Catholic ministry at the Daviess County Detention Center is constantly on the lookout for resource materials to develop the prayer and faith lives of the inmates. Our primary aim is to help Catholic inmates and those who express interest in Roman Catholicism, but we minister to all who attend the prayer services we offer. Over the last six years we have brought in materials from the Catholic Extension Society (free paperback Catholic edition bibles in English and Spanish); the Knights of Columbus Veritas series (free booklets on a range of faith topics, some also in Spanish: www.kofc.org) and the K of C correspondence course (also free: Catholic Information Service, Knights of Columbus, PO Box 1971, New Haven, CT 06521-1971); the Catholic Home Study Service courses (seven well developed courses by Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM, with free materials and testing: www.amm.org/chss.htm); and our parish (once with the help of a diocesan grant) has supplied seasonal missals published by the Oregon Catholic Press (not free, both English and Spanish editions).

In the last six months we became aware of a new source of excellent faith support materials produced and given free of charge by Dismas Ministry of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dismas supports the spiritual rehabilitation of inmates by the production and distribution of religious materials which draw in part upon the creative assistance of incarcerated men and women. They offer a small Catholic prayer book (paperback, English and Spanish), Catholic Bibles (paperback, English and Spanish), and a three part Catholic Bible study course (paperback, English and by January 2007 also Spanish). All of these are available free of charge upon request. Mr. Ron Zeilinger, executive director of Dismas Ministry, has responded generously to all of our requests for the courses and prayer books. Shortly, when our supply of Extension Society bibles is depleted, we will make our first request for the Dismas Ministry bibles.

Because of the generous work and very fine materials of the Dismas Ministry, we enthusiastically invite the Catholic Faithful to offer their support through prayer and financial contributions. Dismas maintains a spiritual outreach for inmates, victims, their families, and the community which they call the "Union of Prayer." Enrollment is based simply on the "promise to pray for this work." Be assured, too, that in addition to prayer any financial support would also be put to very good use. Dismas Ministry currently is serving nine facilities in the State of Kentucky, three of which are in the Diocese of Owensboro, namely, the Breckinridge Detention Center (Hardinsburg), the Daviess County Detention Center (Owensboro), and the Green River Correctional Complex (Central City). With materials such as these available, Catholic parishes in every county could offer new resources to our sisters and brothers in jail or prison. To contact: Dismas Ministry, PO Box 070363, Milwaukee, WI 53207; www.dismasministry.org; dismasmin@wi.rr.com; (414)977-5064.

Parish Library *(continued from page 10)*

Parishioners, has donated cookbooks and Reader's Digest Books.) a Father Greeley novel, Thomas Merton books, C. S. Lewis's A Grief Observed, James Patterson's Pop Goes the Weasel, too. That's just a quick glance at Section #7. It's impossible to list all who donated, but we appreciate each book, video, and magazine.

Return the book in a month was the general suggestion. Borrowers of videos, on the other hand, ought to return those in a couple weeks. I must not forget the magazine shelves that held

donated magazines and religious pamphlets. Anyone could take those and never think about returning them.

Thank you for 'listening' here. I hope I've given suggestions to other Parishes whose Library might be in need of overhauling, of a different way to encourage folks to borrow books. God bless you ... He already has, in the Holy Spirit's Gifts of Knowledge and Wisdom.

Written and sent by 'The Library Lady' for St. Leo Parish, in Murray, Ky., Carolyn Haas, 270-753-5090, elcaha@purchasearea.net

Spreading The Love: Empowering a New Generation of Young Disciples

By Larena Lawson

MADISONVILLE, Ky. - The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office hosted a Youth Ministry Convocation at Christ The King Church here on Nov. 18 to call together young and old for "Sharing The Piece of the Puzzle That We Are." Specifically, the Convocation sought to discuss "What does our faith tell us Youth Ministry is all about, and what do we need to do in our diocese to support and develop vibrant, lively, faith-filled Youth Ministry? What are some goals that we can set in the next 5 years?" Participants heard that Catholics need to view young people as a treasure and not a problem to be solved and "If we can dream it, we can do it together."

When Catholics can share the pieces of the puzzle that we are, we can greet the holiness in each other. All the puzzle pieces are needed to make the picture. This is the call of the great commandment of love given us by Jesus.

This 2006 YM Convocation convened to let youth and their adult advisers ponder more completely the questions: What is Youth Ministry and what are its comprehensive components? What do we need to do in our diocese to support and develop vibrant, lively, faith-filled Youth Ministry? What should our priorities be? What is our vision for the future and some goals that we can set in the next 5 years?

Based on information taken from The United States Catholic Bishops' Document, Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, Tom East, Director for the Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, CT, brought forth these ideas to promote discussion:

- We want to "unlock the treasure chest of gifts that young people have," viewing them not as a problem to be solved, but as a treasure in our Catholic Church.
- We want to know who we are and what's important and have all of our oars in the water going the same way.
- We want to evaluate our current services, identify our priorities, and create ingredients that the Office of Youth Ministry can use to plan for the future.
- We want to establish our Core Values and Core Purpose for Youth Ministry in our diocese.
- "If we can dream it, we can do it together."

In bringing together the youth and those who desire to help them to grow in their faith, the sharing of ideas from both parties brought us all to a greater awareness of the needs of the youth in our parish communities, and led us to know what kind of support is or is not being offered, to all involved. The goal of effective youth ministry is to empower our young people to grow in faith and holiness, and in doing so, to draw young people to responsible

Continued on page 13



Fr. Brian Roby, Bishop John McRaith, and Fr. Andy Garner listen to Kasta Rae, Paducah, Ky., as she read a petition during the closing Mass.



Tom East, Alex French, Fr. Andy Garner, and Christina Best during the opening prayer of the YM Convocation. Larena Lawson Photo



Ben Warrell, center, and Tom East at right rear, have fun with a line shuffle around the room with convocation participants during a break. Larena Lawson photo



Jordan Hagan and Michael Thompson from St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville, and Youth Minister Charlie Hardesty from Holy Name in Henderson, speak to the large group about the evangelization component of youth ministry.



Nicole Long, from St. Columba, Lewisport, with Tammy Nealen, Youth Minister at St. Pius X parish, and Chrissy Stevenson, Brescia University MFP student, sang "Lean On Me" to illustrate pastoral care in Youth Ministry.

participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community. It should not be a ministry set apart, to stand alone, "like a one-eared Mickey Mouse," but one that integrates the youth with other youth, with the family, the parish, and even out into the broader community. The gifts and talents of the young should be acknowledged, affirmed, valued and used in the parish, thus opening the treasure chest that they are. Tom East stressed the point that the same gifts and talents that we see in our young people are the very same things we want to see in our faith communities, our work environments, our schools, etc. Some examples include: their enthusiasm, their energy, their fresh ideas, their desire to make a difference, and their care and compassion for others. So why not do all we can to empower these young people? We need to provide leadership, resources, consultation, networking throughout all parishes, build support systems and have direct youth ministry to our youth and young adults in all of our parishes.

The 2006 YM Convocation set BHAG (Big, Holy, Audacious Goals) for Youth Ministry in our diocese that were consistent with the purpose and core values they want to put into action. The next phase of this Convocation is to take all of the information that was shared, the dreams that were dreamed and pull them all together to plan the future of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro.

In picture at right, Youth Ministers Charlie Hardesty, Holy Name, and Danny May, Our Lady of Lourdes, joined Bethany Doll from St. Joseph parish, Central City and Angie Burgess, St. Jerome, Fancy Farm in leading liturgical music for the Closing Mass. Larena Lawson Photo



Fancy Farm Youth, Madison Carrico, Scott Burch, and Audrey Redden led the Youth Ministry Convocation's opening ice breaker, leading participants in "We're Marching," a rap song with motions, sung by emcee Ethan Bennett on stage in Christ The King Parish Hall Nov. 18, 2006. Larena Lawson Photo



Lindsey Barnard and Danny May, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Jessica Wiggins from St. Joseph, Central City, are explaining the leadership component of Youth ministry using a spoof of FFA, Faith Followers of America. Larena Lawson Photo



In the picture at right, Sr. Pam Mueller OSU, center, Brescia Campus Minister, led a small group discussion about the core purpose of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

At left, participants voting for their favorite Core Values and Core Purpose Summary for the Youth Ministry Office. Larena Lawson Photos



It Is Time To Say Thank You As I Say Farewell



Sister Patricia Froning, OSF

Recently my congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, has asked me to begin a new ministry – beginning an office for mission development. I do believe God calls through the voices of my sisters and I have said yes to the request. I will be moving to Tiffin, Ohio and beginning that new venture the first of the year.

It is with very mixed emotions that I move on. The Diocese of Owensboro has been home for me for many years and I have found friendship and hope and challenge here. I will take that friendship and spirit with me to new efforts. Thank you to everyone throughout the diocese, Bishop McRaith, priests and people, brothers and sisters, I have had an opportunity to meet and to minister with. I have learned more from you about fol-

lowing Christ after the manner of Saints Francis and Clare than you may ever realize and I am truly grateful to you. There are four areas that we focus upon as Tiffin Franciscans: prayer, concern for the poor, care of the earth and peace making. These four areas will also guide the unfolding of the work I am embarking upon.

You will be in my prayer daily. Let us pray for each other. May the peace of Christ be with you always. - Sister Pat

Editor's Note: Sister Pat's new mailing address is Sister Patricia Froning, OSF, 200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, Ohio 44883



How to stay sane when past 65

By Bob Cinnamon

I seem to keep running into Seniors that aren't so happy about life. They keep asking me what I do to stay happy. I did some self reflection and came up with these fourteen points. Maybe they will also help you!

First, stay in touch with nature. Visit a woods and see what you can find. Grow something in your window or put out a garden. It is good therapy to watch things grow.

Second, get in touch with your roots. Rediscover the reasons why your ancestors were happy people. Maybe they held some secrets about living that we need to consider.

Third, be thankful for what you have. Most of the world's population have so much less than what we have. We are truly blessed!

Fourth, teach your children and grandchildren. Don't assume that they know it all when they become of age. The best way to teach them is by example.

Fifth, get out of the rat race and learn to live within your means. Downsizing your material possessions will minimize your frustrations.

Sixth, choose to do the things that will make and keep you physically healthy, even if they are sometimes painful. A good balance of food, sleep, and exercise can do wonders for your ego.

Seventh, enliven your faith life. Get involved in at least one new faith adventure. Make a retreat, teach PREP, join RCIA, or a bible study in your parish. Recommit to daily Mass or a regular prayer time.

Eighth, do something that is intellectually challenging. Try a new game like chess, take a college class, or join a discussion group.

Ninth, spend more time affirming your husband or wife and being sensitive to their feelings. Make a Marriage Encounter or start a new activity that you can do together.

Tenth, accept your ailments and get on with life. Sometimes we need ailments for God to keep us humble.

Eleventh, write your autobiography. Sometime in the future your children and grandchildren might want to know more about you. At least you will learn more about yourself.

Twelfth, limit the technology in your life. Watch only quality programs on T.V. Use cell phones and the Internet only for important communication.

Thirteen, learn to enjoy presence. Sometimes just sitting beside Sharrie in an outdoor swing for an extended period of time sends shivers up my spine.

Lastly, let God be God. It does no good worrying about Iraq, high oil prices, or how many more years I will live. Take God at his word. He said that He would take of us!

Brescia Student Designs Blood Center Logo



Miranda Li

OWENSBORO, Ky. - A Brescia University graphic arts student is responsible for the creation of the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center's (WKRBC) new logo. The logo was designed by Miranda Li, a junior at Brescia University majoring in graphic arts. It will be unveiled on January 31 during a blood drive on Brescia's campus.

Last year, the WKRBC, which was created to collect, test, and distribute voluntarily donated blood, received a \$120,000 gift from the OMHS Community Benefits Committee. That money was used to purchase a new bloodmobile in order to replace the former 1982 vehicle that was falling apart. With the purchase of a new bloodmobile, the WKRBC decided it was time to update their logo, giving them a fresher image.

Vicki Ellis, with the WKRBC, said because they are a not-for-profit organization, they didn't have the funds to hire an expensive firm to design a logo. Instead, they contacted Brescia University's art department to see about holding a contest between the art and graphic art students. David Stratton, associate professor in art, coordinated the event in the beginning of the 2006 spring semester. The contest led to the submission of 35 entries. WKRBC staff narrowed the 35 entries down to five. Three of those five were created by Miranda Li. The WKRBC said they were "very pleased with the ideas submitted by all the students." But in the end, Miranda Li's logo was chosen, "because it kept the integrity of our original design and brought it forward into this millennium."

Miranda Li received \$200.00 for winning the contest and you can see the new logo when the WKRBC unveils it during a blood drive with their new bloodmobile, on January 31, from 9 - 5 p.m. in front of the Campus Center.

In your New Year's resolutions ...

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

January 2007

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

February 2007

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

Center-sponsored programs are in **bold letters**.

To register or to schedule an event, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org

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

March 2007

- 1-2 Diocese of Owensboro/ Acculturation Workshop
2-4 Charismatic Conference
4 Precious Blood/RCIA
9-11 Catholic Engaged Encounter
10 Water Sentinels/Sierra Club
12-15 MSJ Quilter Friends
15 Glenmary Retreat Day
16-18 **Women's Retreat Weekend**
23-30 Saint Meinrad Retreat Week
24 Ministry Formation Program
24 Lourdes Confirmation
25 Lourdes RCIA
30-1 Immaculate Confirmation - LaGrange
31 St. Mary Magdalene RCIA

April 2007

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

May 2007

- 4-6 Retrouvaille
11-12 Church of God in Christ
16-17 St. Gabriel Environmental Retreat
19-20 MSJ Alumnae Weekend
31-6 Centering Prayer Retreat

Adoptive Parent Training

Catholic Charities Adoptions – Adoptive Parent Training. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro is offering a weekend training program for couples interested in pursuing a domestic adoption. Completion of this program is required for adoption through Catholic Charities. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the adoption process and to explore some of the myths and issues surrounding adoption. If you're interested in adopting, please join us for the training program on Saturday, January 6 and Sunday, January 7, 2007. Please contact Rita Heinz at Catholic Charities Adoptions, 270-852-8328 (rita.heinz@pastoral.org) to register or for more information.

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The Contemporary Woman Program at Brescia University presents...

"TORTURE: A Challenge in Contemporary Times"

A lecture by Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU

Sister Dianna is founder and executive director of TASSC (Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition) and the author of, *The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth*, a book about her experience of torture in Guatemala.

Thursday, March 15, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Brescia University Science Building Lecture Hall
\$10 per person (\$5 per student)



For more information, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU
270-686-4275 or rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu

Researchers urge better auditing, fraud response in

Catholic parishes

VILLANOVA, Pa. (CNS) -- More than four out of five U.S. dioceses have experienced embezzlement or other misuse of parish funds within the past five years, but only two-fifths have formal written fraud policies, two Villanova University researchers said.

Villanova business school professors Robert West and Charles Zech reported that according to a national survey of chief diocesan financial officers 21 percent said the diocese "seldom or never" audits parish finances and only 3 percent said such audits are conducted every year.

The most common practice, they found, was to have a diocesan audit when a parish has a change in its pastor or bookkeeper. The median reported time between audits was four years.

The researchers recommended that all parishes undergo internal audits every year, supplemented by an external audit at least once every three years. They recommended all parishes and high schools submit financial data to the diocese at least annually and preferably more often.

They also urged dioceses to establish a uniform budgeting process, using standardized computer software, for all diocesan entities.

They said all dioceses should have written fraud policies spelling out procedures to be followed when there is a suspicion or an allegation of embezzlement or other misuse of church funds.

Zech, a longtime specialist in church finances and management, is founder and director of Villanova's Center for the Study of Church Management, which conducts research and educational programs in church leadership.

He said 78 of the 177 financial officers of Latin-rite dioceses across the country responded to the survey.

He said larger dioceses were more likely than smaller ones to suffer recurring annual deficits. When

DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO		2006	2006	2006	2005	DIFFERENCE
ANNUAL MASS	COUNT -- 2006	POPULATION	ANNUAL MASS COUNT	% MASS COUNT	% MASS COUNT	2005 TO 2006
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2154	1046	48.56%	45.59%	2.98%
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	117	72	61.54%	72.28%	-10.74%
Christ the King	Madisonville	756	408	53.97%	65.57%	-11.61%
Christ the King	Scottsville	94	65	69.15%	78.02%	-8.87%
Holy Cross	Providence	40	23	57.50%	45.45%	12.05%
Holy G. Angels	Irvington	188	164	87.23%	118.62%	-31.38%
Holy Name	Henderson	4094	2277	55.62%	54.72%	0.90%
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	270	261	96.67%	87.05%	9.61%
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	2802	1431	51.07%	52.08%	-1.01%
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	81	92	113.58%	139.06%	-25.48%
Immaculate	Owensboro	1945	1003	51.57%	51.57%	-0.00%
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	162	64	39.51%	50.00%	-10.49%
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	508	255	50.20%	40.04%	10.16%
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	2111	1331	63.05%	64.33%	-1.28%
Precious Blood	Owensboro	930	565	60.75%	58.82%	1.93%
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	99	68	68.69%	77.78%	-9.09%
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	209	104	49.76%	47.14%	2.62%
Sacred Heart	Hickman	72	44	61.11%	43.24%	17.87%
Sacred Heart	Russellville	391	193	49.36%	45.07%	4.29%
Sacred Heart	Waverly	221	186	84.16%	90.18%	-6.02%
St. Agnes	Uniontown	898	494	55.01%	53.96%	1.05%
St. Alphonsus	St. Joseph	500	242	48.40%	44.60%	3.80%
St. Ambrose	Henshaw	95	69	72.63%	59.43%	13.20%
St. Ann	Morganfield	1198	575	48.00%	49.79%	-1.79%
St. Anthony	Axtel	463	335	72.35%	62.68%	9.68%
St. Anthony	Browns Valley	453	217	47.90%	52.98%	-5.08%
St. Anthony	Peonia	185	172	92.97%	94.87%	-1.90%
St. Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	87	111	127.59%	149.28%	-21.69%
St. Augustine	Grayson Springs	90	80	88.89%	92.31%	-3.42%
St. Augustine 1	Reed	96	44	45.83%	24.59%	21.24%
St. Benedict	Wax	120	89	74.17%	86.29%	-12.12%
St. Charles	Bardwell	232	181	78.02%	66.09%	11.92%
St. Charles	Livermore	63	45	71.43%	73.21%	-1.79%
St. Columba	Lewisport	361	108	29.92%	27.96%	1.96%
St. Denis	Fancy Farm	172	123	71.51%	63.80%	7.71%
St. Edward	Fulton	134	80	59.70%	68.31%	-8.61%
St. Elizabeth	Clarkson	198	125	63.13%	70.70%	-7.57%
St. Elizabeth	Curdsville	165	90	54.55%	83.58%	-29.04%
St. Francis Borgia	Sturgis	170	142	83.53%	76.47%	7.06%
St. Francis de Sales	Paducah	1309	732	55.92%	56.97%	-1.05%
St. Henry	Aura	206	187	90.78%	83.75%	7.03%
St. Jerome	Fancy Farm	1344	784	58.33%	53.85%	4.49%
Sts. Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1200	1029	85.75%	98.06%	-12.31%
St. John Baptist	Fordsville	75	69	92.00%	90.59%	1.41%
St. John Evangelist	Paducah	867	509	58.71%	52.13%	6.57%
St. John Evangelist	Sunfish	117	63	53.85%	62.69%	-8.84%
St. Joseph	Bowling Green	1686	1008	59.79%	51.58%	8.21%
St. Joseph	Central City	240	167	69.58%	65.83%	3.75%
St. Joseph	Leitchfield	441	341	77.32%	69.59%	7.74%
St. Joseph	Mayfield	1044	710	68.01%	57.78%	10.23%
St. Jude	Clinton	104	43	41.35%	51.92%	-10.58%
St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence	408	197	48.28%	45.10%	3.19%
St. Leo	Murray	933	612	65.59%	69.05%	-3.46%
St. Mark	Eddyville	155	140	90.32%	77.93%	12.39%
St. Martin	Rome	374	211	56.42%	64.17%	-7.76%
St. Mary	LaCenter	189	108	57.14%	57.65%	-0.51%
St. Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	660	383	58.03%	59.14%	-1.11%
St. Mary	Franklin	291	243	83.51%	83.90%	-0.40%
St. Mary of Woods	McQuady	135	124	91.85%	67.36%	24.49%
St. Mary of Woods	Whitesville	2256	1445	64.05%	59.76%	4.29%
St. Mary & St. James	Guthrie	79	70	88.61%	80.72%	7.88%
St. Michael Archangel	Oak Grove	1086	450	41.44%	42.26%	-0.83%
St. Michael	Sebrae	203	155	76.35%	124.56%	-48.21%
St. Paul	Leitchfield	420	285	67.86%	77.14%	-9.29%
St. Paul	Princeton	163	104	63.80%	67.90%	-4.10%
St. Peter 1	Stanley	316	218	68.99%	75.90%	-6.91%
St. Peter	Waverly	625	270	43.20%	46.96%	-3.76%
Sts. Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1563	961	61.48%	59.76%	1.72%
St. Pius Tenth	Calvert City	317	243	76.66%	93.82%	-17.16%
St. Pius Tenth	Owensboro	1870	858	45.88%	50.50%	-4.61%
St. Romuald	Hardinsburg	1500	744	49.60%	45.47%	4.13%
St. Rose	Cloverport	412	224	54.37%	86.85%	-32.48%
St. Sebastian	Calhoun	257	118	45.91%	61.02%	-15.11%
St. Stephen	Cadiz	313	228	72.84%	67.50%	5.34%
St. Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1874	897	47.87%	50.08%	-2.21%
St. Susan	Elkton	270	123	45.56%	62.69%	-17.13%
St. Thomas More	Paducah	2295	1124	48.98%	43.27%	5.70%
St. William	Knottsville	1122	788	70.23%	60.61%	9.63%
St. William	Marion	127	76	59.84%	56.55%	3.29%
DIOCESAN TOTALS		51770	30015	57.98%	57.53%	0.45%

1. Saturday PM Mass shared

Continued on page 17

Changing Face, Steady Heart

Fund Raising in a Small Parish

Submitted by Diane Beeckler, Photos by Catherine Grapes

SCOTTSVILLE, Ky. - What does a small (50± families) parish do when it begins to outgrow its building? With fewer members, there are fewer dollars available for a new building. That is when traditional events held annually over past years join with creative new ideas to add to the Building Fund as they have at Christ the King in Scottsville.

Ten years ago, Sr. Lene Rubly, then Pastoral Administrator for St. Mary's in Franklin and Christ the King, foresaw growth in Scottsville. She decided it was time to begin a savings account of funds targeted toward future expansion. The following year, the Mass site at Barren River Lake, St. Peter the Fisherman, was sold thus increasing the balance by a good amount.

Over the years the balance slowly increased with occasional 5th Sunday second collections and surpluses (few and far between) from the operating budget.

In July 2005 the Building Fund became a budget line item and we began monthly Building Fund collections. At that same time, parish organizations began looking for creative ways to add to the Building Fund balance. Our traditional yard sale became a source for the Building Fund together with flower bulb sales and a December bake sale. The annual Spaghetti Dinner, held during the worst possible February 2006 weather, added another few hundred.



At right, potential bidders look over the items at the Christ the King BBQ Dinner & Auction last June.



At left, Christ The King parishioners Dell Hall, Joyce Wheeler and Sandy Blencoe serve up the spaghetti, sauce and garlic bread at the Christ the King, Scottsville Spaghetti Dinner last February.

With these small successes under our belts, we began to expand our ideas to larger events. The first annual Christ the King BBQ Dinner and Auction was held in June. God favored us with hardworking parishioners, beautiful weather, hungry diners and generous bidders. The food was delicious and the auction items attractive. We hope to make this a repeat event next year. The most recent fundraisers are the Christ the King cookbook, "Feeding the Flock" containing about 180 treasured recipes from families and friends of the parish, and the 2006 Yard Sale, expanded to a two-day event in hopes of greater income.

So, that's the story of what this small parish has done so far to raise funds for our new church. We are a long way from the amount we need to begin construction and what seems light years away from the total cost. We have faith that God will provide with the help of generous people. If you would like to help us by suggesting a fundraiser, purchasing a cookbook (\$10.75 + shipping), or making a contribution to our building fund, please contact Catherine Grapes, Bookkeeper, at Christ the King Church, P. O. Box 463, Scottsville, KY 42164.

Iraq: More deaths, few stories of hope leave many asking what's next

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The war in Iraq has raised questions baffling religious and political leaders during 2006 as more information surfaced and often resulted in more confusion. Is Iraq in a civil war? Should the United States "cut and run" or "stay the course?" As stories from the few remaining Chaldean Christians started to be heard from Iraq, it became clear that their situation was dire. Father Habib Jajou al-Noufaly, a Baghdad parish priest before he was appointed as head of the Catholic Chaldean Mission in London in 2003, told Catholic News Service in an e-mail Dec. 12 that Iraqi Christians have seen more violence this year than in previous years. According to Father al-Noufaly's calculations, this year alone eight priests have been kidnapped and more than 700 Christians have been killed, including two children who were crucified.

Researchers urge better auditing *(Continued from page 16)*

asked how many deficit years they had in the last five years, the national average was 1.65, or about one year out of every three, but among larger dioceses the average was 2.8, or more than half of the years in question.

The researchers found that diocesan finance councils, required by church law, are relatively active. They reported that such councils met on a monthly basis in 27 percent of the dioceses and on a quarterly basis in 70 percent of the dioceses.

When asked to rank the greatest financial risk faced by their diocese, 36 percent of the respondents called potential litigation their greatest risk and 34 percent cited concern over parish finances and controls.

Funding for the study was provided by the Louisville Institute, a Lilly Endowment religion study program based at Louisville (Ky.) Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

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U.S. church faced more financial troubles in 2006

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Last April Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston called his archdiocese's financial condition "dire." In October the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, filed for bankruptcy protection because of clergy sexual abuse lawsuits. In November the nation's bishops, concerned about rising costs in their own dioceses, voted to cut their diocesan assessments for their national conference by 16 percent. In December the Los Angeles Archdiocese reached a \$60 million settlement with 45 clergy sex abuse victims and a federal judge in Oregon mediated a settlement between the Portland Archdiocese and 150 victims that was expected to be well in excess of \$50 million. For the U.S. Catholic Church 2006 has been, at best, a mixed year financially. The stock market regained strength during the year, with most indexes up 11 to 15 percent since December 2005. But poor market performance in previous years, coupled with burgeoning health insurance costs and other expenses, had caused many dioceses to cut into their investment reserves even as they trimmed back diocesan staff, parish subsidies and other expenses.

South Bronx's Secret? ... The Greatest Gift of All

By Larena Lawson

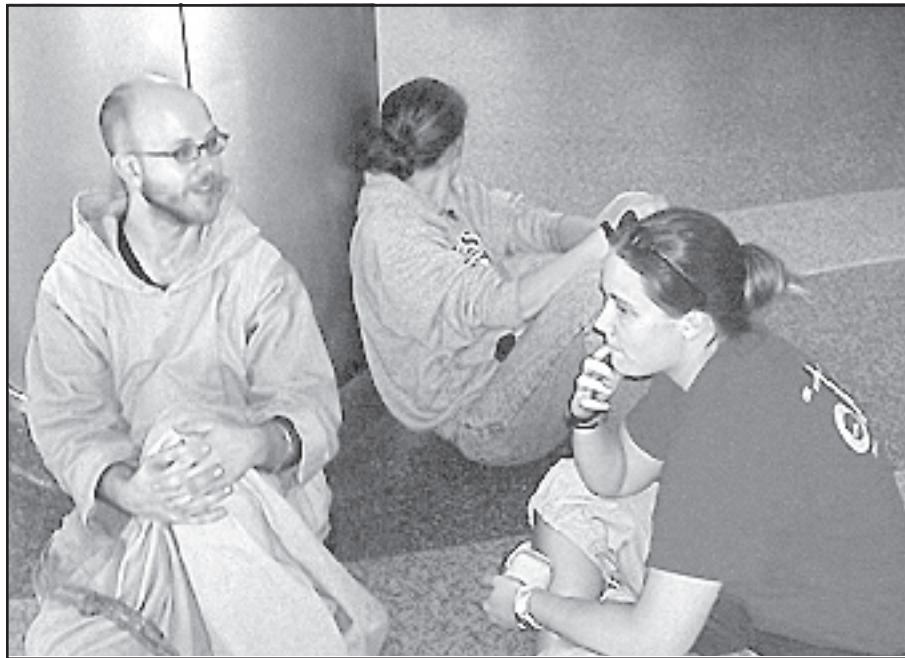
OWENSBORO, Ky. - Christina Best, a Brescia University junior majoring in Elementary Ed and Ministry Formation, and a member of Blessed Mother Parish, came to share with the Serra Club the mission experience she and a couple of her close friends had with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the South Bronx, New York City.

Christina was first introduced to the Friars several years ago through the Youth 2000 Retreats held in Owensboro. She has had a "standing offer" for two years, from Brother Max, to come and visit them. She had thought of a lot of excuses not to go; it was in the SOUTH BRONX, which sounded scary, and she felt she was too young. For two years she gave it a lot of thought and prayer. It was not until she was working on a homework assignment for one of her ministry classes that she felt she received "almost a shout out" that convinced her that she should go.

Christina was studying the Vatican II documents and came across some of Pope Paul VI's closing remarks that he addressed to the young people. They spoke to her in a very powerful way. In part, he said, "It is for you youth that the Church now comes through her council to enkindle your light, the light which illuminates the future, your future. The Church is anxious that this society that you are going to build up should respect the dignity, the liberty and the rights of individuals." It went on to say, "It is in the name of God and His Son Jesus, that we exhort you to open your hearts to the dimensions of the world, to heed the appeal of your brothers, to place your youthful energies at their service. Be generous, pure, respectful and sincere, and build in enthusiasm a better world than your elders had. The Church looks to you with confidence and with love."

Taking to heart this call to serve, a 20-year-old Christina finally made plans to go to New York on her first mission trip without a chaperone and having two friends under her care. The Scripture passage that came to her mind was "Say not I am too young..."

Christina's vibrant enthusiasm about her experience was visibly apparent. She said the trip was "life-changing!" The Kentucky Girls' ascent on the South Bronx was "culture shock!" As they traveled to St. Crispin Friary, they saw bars on the windows, chains, and



Waiting for the Staten Island Ferry to see the Statue of Liberty, Christina Best, right, with friend Amber Krampe, center, talked with Brother Maximilian Mary. Photo by Jordan Hagan

barbed wire. They had left the security they felt in Kentucky to come to a different environment and community. They didn't know how they felt until they were greeted with, "It's Owensboro!" as the brothers recognized them from Youth 2000. Then they were made to feel at home and felt much love.

They were first treated with a tour of Manhattan and then it was work from then on. They began their days in prayer with the friars and their beautiful chanting of psalms. They sorted and distributed food to the poor who came to stand in long, 1st come, 1st serve lines. As they waited for food, Christina was asked to lead them in the praying of the rosary in Spanish. She did the best she could in speaking their language and was deeply touched when they would not get in line for their food until they were finished saying their rosary. At one point a man came up and interrupted her Spanish to say the "Our Father" in English. He wanted Christina to feel loved too. This was a "very special thing" for him to do for her. It was an example for her to remember. They showed love with little things like a smile. She saw great love in small things from people who had nothing. When she came home it made her more grateful for the things that she had in her refrigerator, the clothes she had and the old car that she drives. She counted her blessings.

In the midst of their cooking, cleaning and serving, Christina learned some valuable life lessons. She discovered that you cannot judge people by their appearances or state in life. A prime example was Valentina, who had the look of a rough natured sort with her multiple body piercings and tattoos. They were afraid of her at first, until they found her to be a sweet lady who looked out for their well being. They "absolutely love her!" She broke the barrier for them and taught them so much.

On their last night there they were provided with an experience that Christina felt could never be duplicated. Br. Max and Br. Dismas took them through the streets of the South Bronx for a walking rosary. "Words cannot even begin to describe this experience," Christina shared, "here we were walking through the streets of the Bronx at night, praying, and I was shocked to find that I was never afraid. Caught up in prayer, the whole week replayed before my eyes, and I was at peace."

Christina proudly proclaims, "One word could sum up my entire mission experience: love. The friars are amazing men, on fire for Christ, and doing amazing things in the world. Everyday they show love to those they encounter, both their own love, and the love of Christ. Love was apparent in the poor that we encountered. Materialistically, they didn't have much, but they had something of far greater value that they weren't shy about giving away: love. From Florence who taught us all the ropes of volunteering, to Valentina who promised to be our protector, to the friars who opened their home and their hearts to us; we were constantly showered with love. And God's

love was certainly apparent through all of this. I went to the Bronx to give of myself, yet everyone I encountered gave far more back to me. I brought back from the Bronx a heart full of love, ready to share: love of God, love of the poor, love of mankind. St. Francis of Assisi is well noted for his love of mankind. He must be proud now, because the friars are doing an amazing job of bringing that love to life in the world. I am thankful to have been a part of it, if even for a short time."

Christina closed in borrowing a quote from Br. Max. She said that he summed the whole trip up for her in "A Drama of Reform," a book written about the mission of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. In it he states, "There is always work, and sometimes it is heavy and messy, but many hands make light work. Love is given and received, with our eyes on Jesus, in the Church and in our needy neighbors, all amid the hustle and bustle of the South Bronx!"

Archbishop decries immigration raids at meat plants in six states

DENVER (CNS) -- The archbishop of Denver decried the immigration raids conducted at meatpacking plants in six states Dec. 12 by federal authorities to arrest workers in the country illegally who were suspected of participating in an identity theft scam. "The mass arrest of unauthorized workers in Colorado and across the country this week once again puts a human face on the flaws in our immigration system, a system that needs immediate and very serious reform," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said in a Dec. 13 statement. The Catholic Church supports the law and respects law enforcement officers, he said. But Catholics must question why the federal action occurred so close to Christmas and on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a special day in the church, particularly for Hispanics, he said. Many of the affected workers are Hispanic. The raids were conducted at plants run by Swift & Co., a meat processor based in Greeley, Colo. Federal agents also targeted plants in Grand Island, Neb.; Cactus, Texas; Hyrum, Utah; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Worthington, Minn.

Diocesan Pastoral Council Minutes

Christ the King Parish Hall, Madisonville, November 20, 2006

Present: Denny Mann, Janet Thomason, Jeff Lamb, Mary Prante, Fr. Jerry Calhoun, Marilyn Chandler, Delphine Operle, Charles Rucks, Barb Carper, Charles Pratt, SuzAnne Wilson, Fr. Al Bremer, Bishop John McRaith, Cathy Hagan, executive secretary. Absent With Notice: Sr. Patricia Leighton, Paul Bachi, Homer Barton, Valerie McCoy, P.J. O'Donoghue, Linda Frakes, Perry & Betty Elder. Diocesan Staff: Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, Tom & Kathy Buehrle, Sr. Patricia Froning. Guest: Fr. John Vaughan. Charles Pratt was welcomed and introduced to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. He is the new representative for the Lakes Deanery. Mary Prante, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Delphine Operle led the opening prayer.

The Minutes from September 18, 2006 were approved as mailed. Bishop McRaith said that he would make his remarks during the course of the meeting.

Renovation of Saint Stephen Cathedral – Fr. John Vaughan, Pastor of Saint Stephen Cathedral, began with some educational background of what a Cathedral is (taken from Ceremonial of Bishops): “The cathedral church is the church that is the site of the bishop’s cathedra or chair, the sign of his teaching office and pastoral power in the particular Church, and a sign of the unity of believers in the faith that the bishop proclaims as shepherd of the Lord’s flock.”

“The diocesan cathedral ‘in the majesty of its building’ is a symbol of the spiritual temple that is built up in souls and is resplendent with the glory of divine grace.”

“With good reason, then, the cathedral church should be regarded as the center of the liturgical life of the diocese.”

“Effective measures should be taken to instill esteem and reverence for the cathedral church in the hearts of the faithful. Among such measures are the annual celebration of the dedication of the cathedral and pilgrimages in which the faithful, especially in groups of parishes or sections of the diocese, visit the cathedral in a spirit of devotion.”

“The cathedral church should be a model for the other churches of the diocese in its conformity to the directives laid down in liturgical documents and books with regard to the arrangement and adornment of churches.”

Father Vaughan explained that Saint Stephen was built in 1926 as a parish church. When the Diocese of Owensboro was established in 1937, it was elevated to a Cathedral. The last major renovation of the Cathedral was in 1970. About three years ago the Cathedral began a “Preservation for the Next Generation” campaign and raised 1 million dollars. The funds are being used for tuck pointing, a new roof and other basic maintenance. Now people are asking when the interior will be renovated. The Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council gave their permission to move forward with looking into renovating. A committee was established in 2005 – membership consists not only of Cathedral parishioners but representation from diocesan staff and others throughout the diocese. (Again, realizing that the Cathedral belongs to everyone in the diocese – not just Saint Stephen parishioners.) Liturgical consultant/architect Bill Brown was hired this past summer. He is working with the committee, guiding them through the process. No decisions have been made.

Fr. Vaughan went on to say that this is a “teachable moment” for the diocese. Saint Stephen Cathedral is more than a parish – it is a “home” for the whole diocese. It belongs to each parish, each person. It is “our” Cathedral.

The committee is aware that the current Cathedral is not large enough to do all it should. They have determined that it does not seem feasible/desirable to build a new cathedral – even though it has been suggested. At this time, they feel that the present cathedral should be renovated into the best that it can be.

Fr. Vaughan explained that financial assistance is needed. Saint Stephen Cathedral is planning another capital campaign to help cover the costs. But, like many parishes, they are in the red. If the Cathedral is to be renovated so that it can better fulfill its role as the “mother church” of the diocese, financial help is vital. Fr. Vaughan stated that with financial help they can do more – without it, they will do something. Fr. Vaughan asked for diocesan financial assistance as well as financial help from the people of the



Fr. John Vaughan, Pastor of Saint Stephen Cathedral. Lois Rutigliano photo

diocese. He also asked that the DPC join in the conversation and support the project.

The Priests’ Council has discussed Cathedral renovation at their last three meetings. They are very supportive of the renovation and agree that the diocese and parishes should help financially with the effort.

Fr. Vaughan concluded by saying: “As DPC, you are here to look to the needs of the whole diocese, to advise the bishop on pastoral issues that serve all the people and help us all fulfill our mission as a church united to our shepherd. It is my hope, my dream – in fact, my responsibility, to do all I can to help the Cathedral be the special symbol it is meant to be in the Catholic Church. I suggest that it is your responsibility as well. As one author stated: ‘through our cathedrals and in our cathedrals we can exorcize the diocese from parochialism and bring it to a standard that is classic Roman Catholic: universal, visionary, and always inclusive.’”

Comments: “It is ‘our’ cathedral; it is everybody’s responsibility;” “the whole diocese should support this;” “Make it special – something to be proud of;” “A grand thing.”

“It is ‘our’ cathedral; it is everybody’s responsibility”

The Diocesan Pastoral Council asked what means of support has been mentioned. Father Vaughan explained that several options had been suggested: monthly envelopes, diocesan campaign, and for the diocese to write a check –

a 1st major contributor. Bishop McRaith asked the DPC members to inform their deanery councils and committees about the renovation effort. He asked that they get feedback as to what is done next. In consensus, the DPC agreed to support the renovation effort and recommended that two things happen: 1. An article on the front page of the Western Kentucky Catholic that would be educational and contain interviews with Fr. Vaughan, Bishop McRaith, etc. 2. Develop a DVD for educational purposes that could be used in parishes and at committee meetings. The DPC thanked Fr. Vaughan for coming to the meeting. They expressed their appreciation to Father Vaughan on explaining the role of a cathedral.

Mandeville Report: a written report was distributed to DPC members. A team from Saint Stephen Cathedral had recently returned from Mandeville. Fr. Vaughan was asked if he had any comments he would like to make about the trip. Fr. Vaughan reported that 10 people from Cathedral (himself included) went to Mandeville the first week of November. He said that it was a moving, profound, faith experience. That he had never seen such poverty before in his life. The Cathedral team built a 12 x 12 house for a woman and her two children. The home had no electricity or plumbing – yet the woman thought it was a palace. He said that the team came home with much more than what they left with. Father Vaughan stated that the Diocese of Mandeville is very appreciative of all that this diocese has done for them. The Diocese of Owensboro is truly being church to them.

Joint Retreat Day for Councils and Committees: the DPC decided that they would like for the day to be an educational experience. To explain how communication flows from parish councils, to deanery councils, to the Diocesan Pastoral Council and back. A day to get to know what each group does. Bishop McRaith suggested that Fr. Lambert (former Abbot of Saint Meinrad) might facilitate such a day. He could talk on the theology of the need for consultative bodies. It was also suggested that the day be held at Saint Stephen Cathedral. A sub-committee was established to work on this. The committee consists of Janet Thomason, Tom Buehrle, Jeff Lamb and Cathy Hagan. The DPC suggested that Paul Bachi and P.J. O’Donoghue be asked to also serve. The committee will make a report at the January DPC meeting.

Update on Diaconate Program – Fr. Jerry Calhoun: The Priests’ Council recommended that Bishop McRaith sign a contract with Saint Meinrad to provide the formation/education piece of the diaconate program. Fr. John Thomas, Director, will be receiving applications for those interested in serving as deacons.

Committee and Council Items: Owensboro West Deanery will name two representatives to the DPC at their next meeting.

Future Agenda Items: Retreat Day, Mandeville Report, Update on Cathedral Renovation; Update on Youth Camp, Diocesan Goals and Objectives.

Announcements: Bishop McRaith announced that Sr. Patricia Froning will be leaving the diocese in December. She has been called to her Motherhouse in Tiffin, Ohio. She has been present in the diocese for about forty years. Bishop McRaith expressed his appreciation for all that she has been and done for our diocese and went on to say how much she will be missed.

Continued on page 26

“Thru Ups-n-downs and Smiles-n-frowns” REC Men Fight to be More Christlike

By Father Ray Clark

CENTRAL CITY, Ky. - The first Residents Encounter Christ weekend at the Green River Correctional Complex took place November 9th through 12th. The Green River Correctional Complex is a state-run, medium-security prison that houses approximately 960 men. It is located just outside of Central City. The brick buildings are new and the complex would look like a community college if the razor wire that surrounds it were removed.

One of the buildings houses the chapel. A full-time chaplain and secretary serve there and many volunteers assist with religious services. Inmates are in and out of the chapel.

Each Wednesday, the Mass is celebrated there. Between six to twelve men attend Mass and a smaller number attend a catechism class in the morning. The idea of offering the Residents Encounter Christ weekend began as an attempt to reach out to non-practicing Catholics.

Residents Encounter Christ (REC) is a weekend retreat experience, much like a Koinonia or Teens Encounter Christ weekend. For fifteen years, women at Dismas House in Owensboro, a halfway-house sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, have been participating in RECs. This was the first attempt in western Kentucky to offer the REC to men.

As we planned the retreat, we were comfortable having forty men – one hundred twenty signed up. We settled on eighty. Men from Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Tennessee agreed to serve on the team offering the retreat. Some were Catholic, all were active in the Cursillo and Walk to Emmaus movement. A Church of God minister asked to serve on the weekend. Another Protestant minister served as well. We met three times beforehand to prepare ourselves. St. Joseph's Parish in Central City hosted us in their school building; the Fire Department allowed us to use their showers.

On Thursday afternoon, we entered the prison with some misgivings. We were twenty six white men walking into a multi-cultural assortment of eighty prisoners. We divided into groups of six prisoners and two team members at each table. On Thursday evening, we introduced one another – a formidable task with 110 people.

We returned Friday morning. As Catholic team members shared their faith in prepared talks, as retreatants at their tables expressed how the talks touched them and drew posters, as we sang between talks, as we ate together in the prison mess hall, the walls separating those who live inside the prison and those who live outside diminished. We plunged into an experience like that which the Acts of the Apostles describes, as cultural barriers evaporated and the fire of the Holy Spirit descended upon us, so that we could understand one another as we shared our faith. By trial and error we found what fit in this setting and what didn't fit.

At the end of the retreat, residents shared their testimonies of what the retreat had done for them. One described it as 'having his eyes opened.' Each resident came forward to receive a cross. "Christ is counting on you," the retreat leader said to each resident as he placed the cross and yarn around his neck. "And I on Him," each resident replied.

We team members left exhausted, exhilarated and also sad to leave our fellow retreatants. The fruits of the retreat remain. Several non-practicing Catholics now attend Mass. Several men have expressed interest in joining the Catholic Church and attend the Catechism class and Mass. One of the team members now teaches the Catechism class each Wednesday.

What began as an attempt to reach out to non-practicing Catholics became much more – an event which the Catholic Church hosted for men of all denominations to

come together and to share our faith in Jesus Christ. As we did this, the walls between us diminished and our eyes were opened to see Christ in each other.

Two Letters from REC participants

Fr. Clark,

I would like to take this time to thank you for allowing me to learn more about myself and Jesus. I know that we come from different backgrounds and a totally different walk of life, but you have provided me a chance to open my eyes to a whole new life. I've been saved before, but I never really felt like I belonged to God cause I was still caught up in worldly things and how others look at me, but now none of that really matters after hearing all the brothers speak and share their story with us. Bro. Hiep's story touched me the most 'cause I, too, felt like I had to do things to be accepted by my peers and now I know that if God accepts me that I can stand alone in this life. My burdens, pains, and tears are no longer mine 'cause last night I laid all of them at the

feet of my God and left them there for God to sort out. So, Father Clark and friends, I thank you all for your love and support, for sharing your light not just with me but with all of us here at GRCC. I just ask you to keep praying for us 'cause we go thru ups-n-downs and smiles-n-frowns. Most of all, we lose our peace and joy easily and sometimes we don't know it until someone asks us what went wrong. But mostly Father, I want to thank you for helping me understand that God's love is real and that if I give up my self-will that God will give me His will. So please just pray for me while I fight this fight to be more Christlike in my walk thru life. Thank you again for your love and for caring about us. Also I would like to thank your friends who came with you and the ones who are praying for us for allowing us the chance to call them our friends also. *Love, Anthony Cook*

Fr. Clark,

My name is James Hart. I have thirty years for credit card fraud. I have never been the one to say that I have seen or talked to God and never had a sign from him. I have some religious background and have had God in my life by faith. This weekend has been very special for me. Let me share some of the things he has done.

First my dear friend Joe Begin, known as Gypsy – we're always together on the yard. If you see him, you see me. When I go to church before he would not come. Well, I talked Joe into coming to this REC with me, and he did, and last night he got saved. Praise God. It put tears in my eyes to see my good friend give his life over to the Lord.

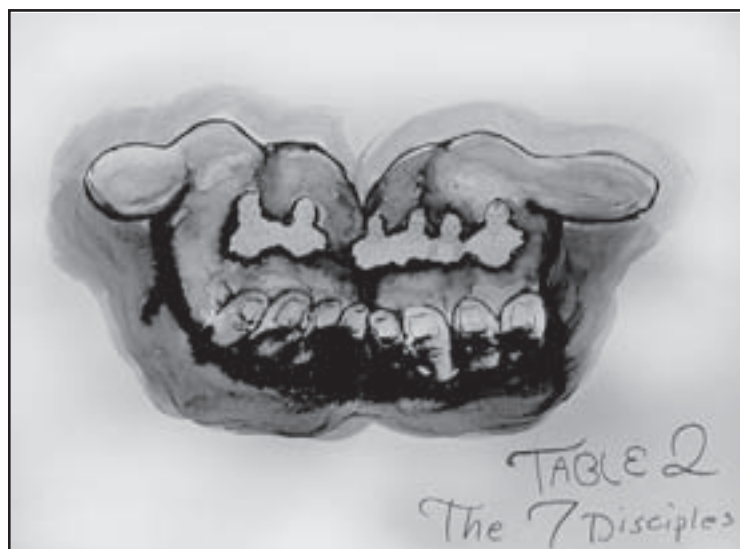
But another thing really got me. Last night at 6:15, I lay down and told my cell mate that I was not going to come back, that all was going on was a little prayer time and some singing. And when I turned over and closed my eyes, the song Amazing Grace was on the T.V. and my cell mate said: Jimmy, do you think that is a sign? And I said: "I'm not taking a chance," and got up and got dressed, and if I wouldn't have come, I would not have been able to see my best friend get saved for Christ. And it would have really hurt me so I think that was definitely a sign from the Lord. Amen.

Also, I asked the Lord in prayer Thursday night when I came home if he would please find a way to tell my daughter's mother to find a place in her heart for me and get my kids in touch with me. And Friday I got a card with their picture in it of them. I have not spoken or seen them in over 3 years. If that is not the Lord answering my prayers, something's wrong. Praise God.

Let me share something else. I've prayed with people before and this has never happened. Me and Laymon prayed together Friday night and I got cold chills down my spine like you wouldn't believe. Is that what they call the Holy Spirit, because I felt it. When Father put his hand on my head warmth went through me like fire. I felt the blessing, fellas.

The Holy Spirit has been here with us all weekend. The emotions have been so strong. My friend and table leader Rick has opened me and my heart by crying and praying with me. These volunteers have brought so much to us. When Jason told me about how he became successful with God in his life and about his family, and he would like to adopt the dog that I'm training, that made me feel so good inside.

I'm going to walk with the Lord in my life now because I've seen more love and hearts full of life this weekend than I've ever seen before. Hopefully God will bless you all the way that I've been blessed. Thank you for your time.



2006 REC Table 2's poster

The Gift of Music; Hearing the Joy Wrapped Up Inside

By Larena Lawson

SORGHO, Ky. - Father Richard Powers may have summed it up best when he gave thanks for the beautiful music that was presented to an overflowing crowd at the parish where he is pastor: St. Mary Magdalene Church here on Sunday evening, Dec. 3. He and all those gathered had just heard an exceptional performance, a Christmas Concert entitled, "O Come Let Us Adore Him." In quoting the encyclical "On the Sacred Liturgy" (Mediator Dei), written by Pope Pius XII, Father Powers proudly exclaimed, "Let the full harmonious singing of our people rise to heaven like the bursting of a thunderous sea and let them testify by the melody of their song to the unity of their hearts and minds, as becomes brothers and the children of the same Father."

Multitalented concert conductor and director Ray Caluag skillfully unwrapped the gifts and talents of his performers, who represented several parishes and religious denominations, and featured The Children's Choir, The Youth Band, The Adult Choir, and The Hayden Singers. He blended them all together in a way that showcased their giftedness, their hard work and their desire to kick off the Advent Season with wonderful, inspirational music. He wrapped up an impressive package, a concert that included traditional Christmas carols, sacred and secular hymns of the season, as well as pieces from the Cantata, "Gloria Deo," by Benjamin Harlan. He then watched it be opened with anticipation and excitement by the audience; eager to see and hear what was inside.

From the jiggling of the children's bells, to the electrifying guitars and the sounding of drums, to the soloists' grand performances from the depths of their souls, to a choir whose voices seemed to explode to the magnitude of joyful harmony; it was music for every ear. It was music that did not fail to capture the minds and hearts of all who heard it echoing the peacefulness of the season and all the hope that the Christ Child brings. Indeed, they did come to adore Him and what a magnificent gift they gave!



The Saint Mary Magdalene Adult Choir, conducted by Ray Caluag, performed over a dozen songs for the parish Dec. 3, 2006 Christmas concert. Members include Sr. Betsy Moyer, Imelda Millay, Jane Thomas, Sue Roberts, Sr. Jacinta Powers, Kim Woodall, Mary Ann Knott, Ita Belle Howard, Ruth Ann Hardy, Charlotte Kamuf, Sue Howard, Doris Waldeck, Martha Kauffeld, Linda Ebelhar, Mary Jane Alexander, Gloria McCarty, Dottie Wilcheck, Donna Ebelhar, Florence McDaniel, Chris Kamuf, Grady Ebelhar, Geri Kramer, Chris Hagan, Rick Millay, Dan Howard, Fred McCarty, and Matt Thomas. Some of the Adult Choir members are missing from this picture. Larena Lawson Photo



The Hayden Singers, Lauren, Blake, and Ryan, from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro, dedicated a song, "Pie Jesu," to their deceased grandparents. Blake's solo was "All Is Well." Lauren Hayden in her first public solo appearance sang "Mary, Did You Know?" Ryan Hayden sang a solo, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." Larena Lawson Photo



The Saint Mary Magdalene Youth Band performed a lively rendition of an Advent favorite, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," with Kaitlyn Larsen as lead vocalist and guest guitarists Ryan Hayden, left, and Aaron Wessman. Other band members include Talisa Leming, Nathan Blandford, Steve Hardy, and not pictured on drums, Logan Haire. Larena Lawson Photo

In the picture at right, twin sisters Mary Jane Alexander, left, and Martha Kauffeld, continue to stick together; here they joyfully sang their alto parts for a traditional Christmas hymn, along with the rest of the Saint Mary Magdalene Parish adult choir. Larena Lawson Photo



Diocesan Quilters Make 400th Quilt, Recruiting New Quilters

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - In the summer of 1992, a group of women, Jean, Martha, Helen, Betty, Alice, Angie, Mary Lou, and Catherine, all from Owensboro, who liked to make quilts were recruited by Father Danny Goff and others to create some 3 ft. x 6 ft. panels using the colors, names, designs, and some photos of people suffering with HIV+/AIDS for a prayer service. The panels used materials not usually associated with quilt-making, such as a dream catcher, a headdress, a medicine bag, pictures, and survivors' notes. The panels represented the deceased person's beliefs and interests. Their AIDS panels appeared in a quilt show in Bowling Green as pieces of folk art that year. They had always liked quilting, and did such a beautiful job quilting the panels that they decided to make some quilts for other people who could use them, no matter what the life circumstances of the people.

This mission statement for the group was part of the display in Bowling Green: "The mission (of the project) is awareness, letting people know that, no, this is not a certain group of people that have children dying of this disease. It happens to the richest and the poorest. It happens to people who go to church and people that don't go to church. It happens to everyone. I think by showing that this group can do what it does and is willing to reach out to others in their pain, they are showing that we've got to work together, everybody. Whether you've had someone die of this dreaded disease or not, it doesn't matter. The fact is, we're all human beings, and we've got to help one another, and I think that's what they do." - Jean

"Inspired by the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, the panels in the exhibit were made as part of an outreach effort sponsored by the HIV+/AIDS TaskForce of the Catholic Diocese, Owensboro, Kentucky. Every Wednesday, six to ten women meet to craft panels commemorating deceased loved ones and stitch comforters to warm the living. They have become an extended family because of the bond they share as a result of losing some-one to AIDS and the cathartic experience they undergo after joining the group."

The quilters group became known as the Diocesan AIDS Quilters, and served in this ministry through the Diocesan Social Concerns Office. They started making quilts in the basement of the Catholic



Diocesan Social Concerns Director Richard Murphy, at back, posed with quilters, l. to r., Helen Bumm, Jean Vesels, and Betty Booker showing their 400th quilt on August 23, 2006 in the Catholic Pastoral Center. Staff Photo

Pastoral Center (CPC), but when the Center was being renovated, they moved to the Saints Joseph and Paul Parish Hall. When the CPC renovations were finished, the AIDS Quilters moved back to the basement of the CPC to make quilts every Wednesday.

Inspired by the beauty of their quilts and by their unconditional love for whomever would use their quilts, Sister Judy Morris, O.P., then the Director of the Social Concerns Office, crafted a poem about them. (See Sr. Judy's poem on this page.)

In 1994, the quilters started making quilts for people living with AIDS. The first quilt was given away on November 30, 1994. On April 19, 1996, the group gave 13 quilts to Hope House for children. In November, 1996, they gave quilts to "Our Little Haven" for children in St. Louis, Mo. In 1997, the quilting ladies made quilts for St. Joseph Peace Mission for children. On December 1, 1999, the group gave nine quilts to the Pitino Center. On June 21, 2000, the group delivered 45 quilts to the men on Death Row at Kentucky State Penitentiary. Then on August 21, 2002, the group started making quilts for people through Hospice, and have made 158 quilts for Hospice since then.

On August 23, 2006, the group made their 400th quilt at the CPC. Diocesan Social Concerns Director Richard Murphy gave each quilter a certificate recognizing their accomplishment and their ministry of service for people throughout the diocese of Owensboro in Western Kentucky. Also on August 23, 2006, the AIDS Quilt Ministry ended as a name for the quilters group. Jean said they're currently looking for a new name for the group, which primarily makes quilts distributed through Hospice & Palliative Care of The Ohio Valley in Owensboro. They will continue to make quilts in the CPC basement, and invite quilters from other churches to join. Jean said, "We want people from other faiths to get together (with us); we can all work together. We want people to see we're all alike and we all have the same problems though we may be of different faiths."

On the back of each quilt, the ladies stitch a red heart with the initials of each person who helped make it. Why a heart? Inside each red heart on one of their quilts are the words, "Wrap yourself in love," with each quilter's initials.

QUILTERS

They come each week to a quiet basement - away from crowds that don't understand.

They come, keeping vigil in a church of mothers, performing a liturgy of sacrifice and love.

They break open the word from the life of a son, memories, like bread shared, held in reverence.

Stories are their gift to each other, to a son, to themselves.

Quilters function to keep memories alive, to keep sons alive.

The thread and fabric bring back one gone too soon.

A death out of sequence that brings sadness to eyes that are preoccupied.

This communion makes the burden lighter.

Tears are held in reverence here.

Their quiet grief is like a candle in a still church.

They stand like Mary at the cross - women of strength, watered by blood.

There is a sadness in quilters' eyes, of loss unimaginable.

Their sadness comes in part from a world that will not understand.

The Pharisees call AIDS a curse from God, shaking their fingers and walking away.

So the mothers come to a secluded basement, hidden away from judgment, and they tell their stories-

Stories of life, love, pain and loss.

And life returns here in a quilt, an embrace,

A story held gently by those who care.

- Judy Morris, O.P.



CPC employee Mark Vollman liked to have his picture taken with the quilts that the diocesan quilters made in the CPC basement. Mark would say, "My people, my people," when the ladies explained for whom they made quilts. Submitted photo

Annual Commemorative Mass

January 22, 2004 12:00 Noon

St. Stephen Cathedral

Join Bishop John McRaith as we mark the 34th year since the US Supreme Court decision took away all legal protection for the life of the unborn child. All are invited to remember these children as we pray for their mothers, fathers, families, and for our nation.

Women and Men, Holy Together



A recent portrait of Lou and Martine Boarman.

By Julie Onstott



Do you believe in marital commitment? Let me tell you about a couple I know who have an incredible marriage built on love for each other and family and a deep profound love for their Catholic faith.

I met Lou & Martine Boarman of Whitesville, Ky. and got to know them from going to Mass at St. Mary's. with my family. They married 58 years ago when Lou was 21, and Martine was 20. They have 10 living children of the 13 born to them; twin daughters and a baby named Paulie Boarman died as babies. Years later, two sons also died, Lewis Patrick Boarman 36 yrs. old, and George Daniel Boarman 28 yrs. old.

When I asked Lou and Martine if I could write about their life and ask them some personal questions, they were very



Lou and Martine Boarman's 1948 Wedding Picture.

gracious and kind to me.

To start this story, let me take you with me as I arrived in their home, and already I could sense that warm, cozy feeling that you get when you visit an older coun-

try home with all its charm. The house was warm, and as I entered into their living room I noticed the gas stove that they use to heat their house. There were pictures of their children and grandchildren on the walls and many religious artifacts throughout their home - a true depiction of the Ole' saying "Home is where the heart is." I turned on my tape recorder, and we shared a wonderful conversation about love, pain, and triumph.

As we were talking, I told Lou that his story that he shared with me months ago of his World War II experience is what prompted me to write about their life together.

Go back now with Lou to 1945; he was 18 yrs old, stationed in Belgium, and was a survivor of The Battle Of The Bulge. His platoon had 15,000 souls, and only 21 soldiers survived that battle. Lou was one of the 21 who by God's grace got to come home to his family. He shared with me a story that depicts a hero in my eyes.

I am a true believer in heroes; they come in many different categories, for instance, being responsible for the conversion of an unbeliever.

In the thick of battle, Lou told me, it was dark, and bombs were going off everywhere around him, and he just knew that he wasn't going to come out of this alive. As the bombs were getting closer and louder Lou reached deep into his pockets and grabbed his rosary and started to pray. As he was praying, a fellow soldier also feeling the fear of death staring right at him, said to Lou, "I don't know

Recorder Recital

Eliana Nunez and Lauren Probus participate in the annual recorder recital at Holy Name School, Henderson. Each fourth grade student learns to play the recorder in music class. HNE Photo



An undated family portrait of Lou and Martine's children. Submitted Photos

how to pray. I don't have any faith. Will you teach me how?" Lou told his friend, "If you want to pray with me, you know we are going to have to hold the force down. I will say them quietly and you just listen."

After they finished the rosary, the bombs had stopped. His friend looked over at him and said, "I didn't know that prayers could be that strong." Lou replied back with emotion that there is nothing more powerful than prayer. It wasn't the time for that soldier to die; but now because of a friend who shared his faith, this man can die a Christian. Once he was an unbeliever facing death, then by prayer and circumstance he became a believer who can reach heaven one day.

I have heard that expression many times that there aren't any atheists in a foxhole. Then I actually heard this true story of an atheist in a foxhole who was converted by prayer. It's just amazing! I love it!

Sitting there in his home this day, Lou proceeded to tell me some pretty painful and horrific detail of his experience in the war. He witnessed atrocities that I have only seen in movies, but his love for God kept him strong. He knew that our heavenly mother would send his prayers to her Son, Jesus Christ. That revealed to me how incredible his faith is.

I told Lou and Martine that I respected them so much, and that seeing them go to church daily, depending upon health, was an inspiration of how I want my married life to be. They pray the rosary together daily, and have told me that a day doesn't go by that they don't offer up their prayers for their children and grandchildren.

I asked them how did they cope with such a tragic loss of three children? How did they keep their marriage so strong? Their son Lewis died at age 36 due to Leukemia, and their son George died at age 28 in a car accident due to a drunk driver. Tragedies of this magnitude can cause division in a family and bitterness. There have been many broken marriages due to the loss of a child. But, through all the heartache and pain they remained faithful to their vows. There were the struggles of raising 10 children at home. Through good times and bad, through sickness and in health, until death do them part, Lou and Martine remain committed to one another and God.

The reason for their survival is their commitment to God. They told me that their life of prayer and sacrifice is what kept them strong. It's when we don't have that outlet that our lives can get away from us.

I shared with Lou and Martine that I was engaged to a wonderful faith-filled man named Keith, and I just pray that our marriage will be as fruitful as theirs. Keith and I know first hand that a marriage is only solid if the foundation is with God centered in our lives, and that we must pray together as a couple.

Thank you, Lou and Martine, for your friendship and your kindness given to me when I was grieving and thank you for imparting to me and others the beauty of a marriage with all its joys and trials that nothing is impossible with God and a lot of faith.

Reflections at the Gates of Ft. Benning – Protesting the School of the Americas

The following reflection was written by Jackie Rinaldo:

On the weekend of November 18, 2006, six members of the Social Justice Committee at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro joined between 22,000 and 23,000 other people in a peaceful protest, whose purpose is to close the School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

We came together from all over this great land in Columbus, Georgia, to be in solidarity with those who have died and been tortured by people who learned these techniques at WHINSEC.

Although it is difficult to commit to paper what we feel in our hearts, some of us have attempted to share a bit of our experiences in the following paragraphs.

The overriding atmosphere of the weekend impressed me greatly. Even though the crowd was large, every event was reverently conducted and flowed into the next event with fluidity and continuity.

This was especially evident in the rhythmical drum-beat as each name of the person who had died at the hands of torture was announced.

I was taken with the sight of an outfit for a one year old girl with the caption, “Baby – One Year – Name Unknown,” and I was very much saddened that my country helped to slaughter this infant.

The following reflection was written by Suzanne Rose:

The young Eucharistic ministers stood in pairs in front of the raised, makeshift sanctuary; each smiling pair lifted up the Body and Blood as the communicant approached. Candles burned brightly – devotional footlights that stretched the length of the sanctuary behind them. Lines of Eucharistic ministers flanked relics of Latin American martyrs, Oscar Romero and the church women, martyred for their faithful ministry to the poor and oppressed. I approached and consumed the Body and Blood of the Lord, poured out for the poverty and misery of the world. And I did so in the presence of those martyrs, who had poured out their blood for love of the impoverished and oppressed. And I knew the

challenge was to live this liturgy, that the sacraments send us forth to live liturgy each and every day. Anything less is a betrayal of those who have paid so high a price for the God of love.

And so we gathered the next morning at the gates of Fort Benning. Our protest was the act of remembrance, of forging community by bringing into our midst those tortured and murdered souls we refused to forget. We began living liturgy by reciting a creed of peace, vowing that we would use no word, no symbol, no act of violence. We paused as we were commissioned to take this journey on behalf of those whose lives had been taken in violence. And then, as the name “Oscar Romero” sounded through the clear morning sky, we raised our crosses above our heads and responded, “Presente.” We walked, and the names rang out for hours. Names of children—2 years old, 9 years old, 2 months old. Names of young parents – 25 years old, 30 years old. Names of old people, the grandmothers and grandfathers of the villages – 75 years old. As we turned the corner



A Massacre re-enactment



2006 March at the School of the Americas

and began our steps back towards the gates of the School where taught to hate, the slaughtered children of a Colombian village were called forth and remembered, one after another. For 20 minutes, 25 minutes, still longer, the litany continued – “Unnamed Child of Bohillachoco, Colombia” – and the stomach sickened as the heart grieved.

At last we returned to the gates of Fort Benning. Almost 3 hours had been required to read the names of all the victims of the violence generated behind these gates. The funeral procession concluded, and the 22,000 people who had participated stuck the white crosses they had carried in procession, each bearing the name of an SOA murder victim, into the fence surrounding the military complex. We left those crosses behind, bearing witness to those men, women, and children in Colombia, in Guatemala, in El Salvador, whose deaths bring resurrection to the truth of God’s peace and justice. And we boarded our buses to bring home the challenge of the martyrs, whose body and blood has been poured out so that others may live.

The following reflection was written by Darrell Howard:

Joining the solemn, non-violent, prayerful three hour procession of 22,000 activists rallying for the closure of the SOA was a moving experience.

Most carried crosses bearing names of brothers and sisters who lost their lives at the hands of Latin American military graduates of the school. Many children who were killed were never identified.

The name on the cross I carried was Juana Escalante; she was Guatemalan. Pondering the terrifying method in which Juana may have given her life is overwhelming. May her soul rest in peace.

Submitted by Suzanne Rose. All three witnesses are Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro, parishioners.



Crosses on the fence, each bearing the name of an SOA murder victim

“

I wish to make an urgent appeal to the People of God: let every Christian be committed to tireless peace-making and strenuous defense of the dignity of the human person and his inalienable rights. ... In Christ we can find the ultimate reason for becoming staunch champions of human dignity and courageous builders of peace.”

- Pope Benedict XVI's Message for the World Day of Peace 2007 "The Human Person, The Heart Of Peace"

By Jerry Birge, Director of Communications,
Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

The trip my wife Mag and I made to the School of the Americas demonstration at Fort Benning, Georgia, November 17-19, was our first social justice experience. It proved to be one of the most moving experiences of our lives. Because of my work at Mount Saint Joseph, I was casually familiar with the School of the Americas, but I still wasn't prepared for the massive opposition to it that exists on an international scale. Over 22,000 demonstrators were there from colleges, high schools, and peace groups from all parts of the country. Featured speakers and entertainers were from many countries as well as the U.S.A.

Speakers included Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking (who was portrayed in the movie of the same name by Susan Sarandon), and Father Roy Bourgeois, a Maryknoll priest who founded the School of the Americas Watch nearly 20 years ago.

One could immediately feel the strong disgust against the SOA and its training methods, but at the same time there was a huge outpouring of love and sympathy for the thousands of victims of the SOA's graduates – the school is often referred to derisively as the “School of Assassins.”

We were there for two of the four days of demonstrations. The final day, without a doubt, was the most moving. Following early morning speeches, the traditional SOA march began. As the marchers walked in procession carrying crosses bearing the names of thousands of victims, singers on stage intoned a litany of the names of the dead and missing. Many were children – some as young as two days old.

Many of the marchers have come year after year to participate. It was easy to understand their passionate commitment to this cause.



Mag Birge, a member of Precious Blood parish, Owensboro, is pictured with Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of the School of America Watch. Father Roy had just addressed the large crowd gathered for this year's watch.



Darrell Howard of Sts Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro, displays a sweatshirt he purchased from a vendor at the School of the Americas demonstration November 18 at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Suzanne, Tom, and Emily Rose, Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, were among the 13 Owensboro residents who traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia, November 17-19, to participate in the annual protest march against the School of the Americas.



The Nov. 17-19, 2006 weekend activities concluded with a School of the Americas march just outside the main gate at Fort Benning. Sister Michele Morek, OSU, and Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, are pictured among those participating in the march.



Sister Michele Morek, left, and Sister Suzanne Sims, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, are joined by Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of Saint Joseph of Medaille, moments after Sister Helen spoke to the thousands of demonstrators at the School of American Watch at Fort Benning. Sister Helen is the author of Dead Man Walking. Photos by Jerry Birge

CACD gets grant to buy chainsaw

Cooperative Action for Community Development (CACD), which provides assistance to those living in poverty in Dubois, Spencer, and Perry counties, has received a grant of nearly \$600. The funds will be used to buy a chainsaw and safety equipment for the CACD's Energy Assistance program.

The \$598 grant was awarded by the Christian Social Action Commission of St. Luke Catholic Church in Indianapolis.

The Energy Assistance program provides free firewood for home heating for individuals and families with insufficient income. CACD volunteers collect, cut, stack, and deliver the wood to the local families.

Originally a program of Saint Meinrad College, CACD is a non-profit organization located in St. Meinrad, IN, with volunteers from the surrounding area, as well as from Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology. Last year, 100 volunteers participated.

In addition to home heating assistance, CACD underwrites the expenses of the Special Olympics held each year in the tri-county area.

Members of the CACD board of directors are: Fr. Anthony Vinson, OSB, Saint Meinrad Archabbey, president; Jeremy Gries, Indianapolis/Saint Meinrad School of Theology, vice president; Cathy Schwindel, St. Meinrad, secretary; Dr. Mark Labhart, Bristow, treasurer; Judy Colby, Bristow; Joe Weidenbenner, Campbell, MO/Saint Meinrad School of Theology; Therese Ebert, St. Meinrad; and Matt Weinzapfel, Jasper.

CACD raises funds for its community work through the “Sounds of Spring” event, to be held at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on March 17 and 18, 2007, and through donations. Gifts can be sent to: CACD, P.O. Box 56, St. Meinrad, IN 47577.

CACD volunteer Steve Hohman, a seminarian from the Diocese of Owensboro, stacks wood. Photo by St. Meinrad seminarian Joe Newton





Living the Sacraments

The Catholic's Role: The Dry Well...

When I Had No More to Give

By Pat S. Smith

It was a month away from my son's high school graduation when it happened again.... black depression hit me hard, spiraling me down, down, down. I simply felt I had no faith left, no strength left, and surely no more to give... my well had run dry. At 18, our son had decided our rules had gotten too strict and although we tried hard to reason with him, on Holy Thursday he packed up and left home. My last child, my only son. My heart broke. I could feel it, tinkling little pieces hitting somewhere in the pit of my stomach. No anger or pleading could change his mind and no prayers for healing, counseling or "pulling yourself up by the boot straps" was going to help. It was time for a trip to Louisville to Caritas, formerly Our Lady of Peace. I have suffered from chronic depression for well over thirty years, beginning with the birth of my second daughter. The spells are sometimes brought about for no reason, and other times they are situational, like in a death... or an empty nest.

I arrived at Caritas in the early afternoon of Holy Saturday, really down, sobbing, bedraggled looking, and having not slept or eaten in 2 days. After the long process of red tape, I finally was taken to a room where I had a physical and was asked if I was suicidal. I thought about and wondered did I really want to live? What for? An empty nest, no job, heart problems. Where is God, where are you, where? I asked over and over. My attending psychiatrist thought it best I be watched for a day or two until anti-depressants could kick in. Saturday I sat looking out the window crying. I went to a group or two and we drew posters about our feelings.

I kept seeing a tall black man watching me as I talked about our son leaving home and how I felt like I had nothing left... my well was finally dry and God had surely turned a deaf ear to my prayers. I can't remember for sure, but I believe this man was

named Chris and he was about 40 years old.

Easter Sunday dawned black and dreary and we watched from the TV room as rain poured in sheets outside our fifth story psychiatric ward. Easter being a holiday and a Sunday, we were "off" from classes and discussions. Chris came over and sat beside me. "Still feeling like there is no hope, Ms. Patty?" he asked. I began to cry again and blubbered about children and God gives them to us and then they go away. "I'm just TIRED, Chris. I can't take any more. All I have known my whole life since I was barely 19 was raising children."

"Tired?" Chris asked me. "No, Miss Patty... you can't be 'no ways tired.'

I didn't understand. We walked to the end of the hall and to the smoking area which just happened to be temporarily empty. Here, Chris began to pour out his heart to me. He had been here for over 30 days and because of his cocaine addiction and his dealing, he really HAD lost everything. His wife had left him; he lost his children, his house, his large bank roll. All gone. But while at Caritas he had had a reminiscence of growing up in his teens when he had been inspired by a wonderful black preacher and singer, the Rev. James Cleveland. He said, "One night these words back to me, as if in a dream. I had shouted at my therapist earlier that day that I was SICK and TIRED of living. Somehow the word TIRED stuck in my mind and I remembered a revival my mama and I went to where the Rev. Cleveland talked about getting to your very bottom and he sang this beautiful song to the crowd."

Puzzled, I raised my eyebrows and sniffled. What did I have to be crying about? This strong man of color was testifying to me and wasn't I just about a perfect Christian? No way. I guess I had to hear a much harder story and much more loss than I had experienced to be in this black cloud of hopelessness.

"What was the song about, Chris? What was it called?"

"Here, Ms. Patty, I'm going to sing it for you right now, if it's okay."

"Sure," I said, drying my eyes. Chris began his a capella song softly at first, but clear and in a very, very good voice he sang:

"I don't feel no ways tired! I've come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me the road would be easy But I don't believe He brought me this far To leave me now.

"I don't feel no ways tired. I've come too far to turn back now. Nobody told me, Nobody promised me, That the road would be easy. But I just don't believe I've come this far To turn back now.

"I don't know about you, But I've been running with Jesus for a long time. There's something about walking with Him That's sweeter than the day before And for some reason I don't mind the pitfalls Because every time I get to one He's right there to pick me up And I can say, just like that old Mother said:

"I don't feel no ways tired. Come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me the road would be easy I jes' don't believe He brought me this far Jes' to leave me."

Continued on page 28

Why Not Become Pure Flame?

Catholic Charismatic Conference and Retreat

March 2-4, 2007



Retreat Directors David Thorp and Father John Gordon

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

Diocesan Pastoral Council Minutes

(Continued from page 19)

Bishop McRaith explained that Pope John Paul II had granted an indult allowing extraordinary ministers to purify the vessels at Mass. Word has now been received from the Congregation that the Holy Father has decided not to renew the indult. This means that vessels will be purified by priests, deacons or acolytes. Bishop McRaith will be sending a letter to all the priests encouraging them to continue distributing the Eucharist under both forms of bread and wine. The letter will also include a date when the new procedure of purifying the vessels is to be in place.

Bishop McRaith, again, stressed the need to be communicating with councils and committees about the Cathedral renovation project. He asked them to get the conversation started – gain support for this effort.

Bishop McRaith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressed his appreciation for all they do. The next meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Marilyn Chandler will prepare the opening prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. with a blessing from Bishop McRaith.

Submitted by Cathy Hagan

Glenmary Sisters win First Place Award

The Glenmary Sisters received first place honors for best decorated booth at this year's "Trail of Treats" sponsored by Owensboro Parks & Recreation. The Sisters' booth featured a 16 foot tall Pumpkin Tree, many special lighting features and unique decorations.



Pictured at the award ceremony from left to right: Andrew Deal (Staff, Owensboro Parks & Rec) Christina Vasquez (volunteer) Sr. Kathleen Mulchrone (Glenmary) Kimm Richards, RN (volunteer) Sr. Rosemary Esterkamp (President, Glenmary Sisters) Sister Sharon Miller (Glenmary) and Patrick Clary, Artist (Lead organizer of event)



Vatican says world must never forget Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As the Iranian government hosted a conference questioning the truth of Holocaust, the Vatican said the Nazis' Jewish victims must be remembered and the world must make a commitment to ensuring such a tragedy could never happen again. The Dec. 11-12 Iranian conference, "Review of the Holocaust: Global Vision," was called by the country's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has said the Holocaust was a myth. Speakers at the conference in Tehran included David Duke, former U.S. leader of the Ku Klux Klan, and several authors who have been sued or arrested in Europe for denying the Nazis' mass murder of European Jews. The Vatican issued a statement Dec. 12 saying, "The past century witnessed the attempt to exterminate the Jewish people with the consequent killing of millions of Jews of all ages and social categories simply for the fact that they belonged to that people. "The Shoah (the Holocaust) was an enormous tragedy, before which one cannot remain indifferent," the Vatican statement said.

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Call for Action

This is the last in a series of eight pastoral statements by Catholic Bishops of the South on the Criminal Justice process and a gospel response.

“The challenge of curbing crime and reshaping the criminal justice system is not just a matter of public policy, but is also a test of Catholic commitment. In the face of so much violence and crime, our faith calls our church to responsibility and action. A wide variety of Catholic communities have responded with impressive programs of service and advocacy....yet more is needed.” U.S. Catholic Bishops statement, “Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice,” November 2000.

As pastoral leaders of the Roman Catholic community, we continue to reflect with you on the themes of responsibility, rehabilitation and restoration in light of the reality of crime and criminal justice in our area of the country.

In preparation for this pastoral statement, we asked the Glenmary Research Center to conduct a nationwide survey on criminal justice/prison ministry. The response was most heartening. We received 220 responses from diocesan offices, eparchies and ecumenical prison ministries. We were edified by the dedication and creativity of those involved in this ministry. At the same time, we acknowledge the challenges, both to our dioceses and to our local parishes.

Our Catholic belief in the inherent dignity of every human person, even a convicted felon, compels us to declare that virtually no non-violent offender should be incarcerated. The Catholic principle of promoting the “common good” also suggests that public funds can be more effectively spent on rehabilitation programs, rather than penal facilities. In the event that incarceration has occurred, we urge dioceses to encourage parishes to engage in restorative assistance to prisoners who have completed their sentences, helping them make the difficult transition from cell to community.

Social Transformation: In West Virginia, an ecumenical team with lengthy experience in the corrections system pioneered an effort to implement restorative justice. Instead of building costly new prisons, a pilot project was initiated in three counties. This project highlighted community based corrections that incorporates day-report centers, pre-trial home confinement, and community service for moderate to low-risk offenders who are sentenced by treatment courts. This reserves expensive prison cells for violent offenders. The program is now being applied statewide. It is saving millions of dollars for the state and county governments while at the same time saving lives by providing effective treatment for offenders.

Diocesan Resource: The importance of having a diocesan coordinator for criminal justice/prison ministry was mentioned again and again. In most dioceses, the prison population is often in isolated rural areas. Even though the incarcerated are members of the local parish, a parish response is always a challenge. In light of limited staff and resources, such a diocesan coordinator can serve as an inspiration and encouragement to efforts at the parish level, e.g. developing parish teams.

Education: In Louisiana, there is an ongoing effort to raise awareness of prison issues. Activities include parish homilies, meetings with community groups, and stories in the media. Bulletin inserts are being made available to requesting parishes in Wisconsin. In Kansas, ex-prisoners share their experience from the pulpit with local congregations.

Parish Response: In Missouri, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has organized a host of service opportunities in local parishes. These endeavors include bringing Communion and other pastoral services to inmates, offering Kairos retreats, volunteering as tutors, participating in one-on-one visits, and organizing pen pals. Upon an inmate’s release, she or he is provided with clothing, bus tickets, medical help and “release to rent” (providing housing to those with no family).

Re-entry into local community: “Re-entry is one of the most important times in a man or woman’s life after leaving prison. Often they leave with only the prison clothes on their back.” Diocese after diocese reported fledgling programs for re-entry, but the response is acknowledged as far too limited. We issue a challenge to each parish, or cluster of parishes, to sponsor an inmate returning to the local community. This would include establishing a relationship with the inmate at least months prior to release, accompanying the inmate through the gates upon release, and mentoring the person, not only for the first months during re-entry into the local community, but on an ongoing basis.

Comprehensive Plan of Action: The Texas Catholic Conference, encompassing 15 dioceses, is developing a comprehensive action plan that could serve as a model for the region.

Ecumenical Collaboration: Respondents concur that ecumenical collaboration is essential, especially when the focus is on education, vocational training, and re-entry into the community. This requires proper evaluation at the parish level. We highlight these programs: Prison Fellowship (PF) partners with local churches across the country to minister to a group that society often scorns and neglects: prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families. Transition of Prisoner (TOP) is recognized as a best practice program for serving recently released ex-prisoners. After ten years in existence, no ex-prisoner having gone through the TOP program has been sent back to prison for the commission of a new offense. Restorative Justice Ministries Network (RJMN) provides email messages to the community the very day the prisoner is scheduled to return home to enable the parish to welcome the prisoner. Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) provides support for prisoners and family members, and works to reform the system. Finally, Kairos Prison Ministry offers cursillo retreats for prisoners.

As we and our brother bishops stated in Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration, “We hope these reflections will encourage those who are already working for reform, both inside and outside the system. We also hope many others will join with them in efforts to prevent crime, reach out to victims, offer ministry and rehabilitation in our prisons, help to re-integrate ex-offenders, and advocate for new approaches.”

Living the Sacraments *(Continued from page 26)*

- Song by Reverend James Cleveland was born in Chicago in 1931 and died in 1991; he was a black gospel singer.

Silent tears of hope ran down my face. What a testimony! How much harder Chris’s road had been than mine, and yet he uttered no words of unfaithfulness or thoughts of suicide. His well had surely run much drier than mine. I still had my husband, my home, my beloved dogs and yes, of course, my son. This was just a little “pitfall.” My son would come home and we would compromise and make up and everything would be okay.

Chris told me he was “getting out” on Monday. Now we were no longer black or white, mentally ill or well, man or woman. We were just two Christians sharing stories of faith and hope. He me told me that I had to renew my faith and to look back to Jesus, that He had not left me. That I just need to keep walking with Him and talking to Him and everything would turn out according to His will. Then he said, “If you don’t mind, Ms. Patty, can I kiss you goodbye.”

I said, “Of course,” and I tiptoed up and he bent down and hugged me, and kissed my cheek very lightly. Chris left the next morning, and I was sad to see him go. I thanked him one more time for his testimony, a young black man who had lost everything, sharing with me, taking time to pull me up and fill my soul with hope. I didn’t even know his last name, and knew pretty much that I would never see him again.

My depression started to fade, and I felt “my well” filling back up. I had a lot to live for and the psychiatrist was encouraging, too, telling me that empty nesters always recover and find life again with their spouse, sometimes even better than before they had children. But he did caution that I would always suffer the pitfall of depression. “It’s chronic,” he warned, “and you must always go for help when you feel yourself sinking for no reason. That’s when you’ll need medication again.”

I left for Bowling Green, still a little weak, but was sleeping better and appetite returning. I shared my experience with my husband and my best friend, Brenda, and of course with my son, who sheepishly came dragging his stuff back home about two weeks later. After graduation, he moved out again, but came back again after 3 months. At the beginning of his sophomore year, he left again, and this time I helped him move, made up his bed, then came home and cleaned his room and closed the door. I knew a chapter of my life was closing forever. My child bearing and child rearing days had ended, as they must for all women. And a few times the depression will creep back on me. Most of the time I can work it out, but sometimes I have to go back for medication, as directed. But depression should not be the BIG HUGE SECRET we try to hide any more. It is like the common cold of mental illness and I function quite well most of the time. As a Catholic living the sacraments, I know I can call on Jesus for help when my well runs dry, and pray the Rosary and go see Father for counseling. I know sometimes I will feel less energetic, but then I will think of a young black man named Chris and I know I’m running with Jesus and I don’t feel “no ways tired.”

Editor’s Note: Pat S. Smith, Holy Spirit parishioner, is unashamed of her chronic depression and hopes that by sharing her story, perhaps others with mental illness will feel less stigmatized, know there is always hope, and encourages all to seek help.

A Day Off Is Good!

Submitted by Janet Butler

UNIONTOWN & WAVERLY, Ky. - On December 5, 2006, Fr. Terry Devine gave his staff from St. Agnes, St. Peter, and Sacred Heart the day off to attend a dinner at the Opryland Hotel and show at the Grand Old Opry House in Nashville, TN. Along with members from other parishes in Union Co., they witnessed the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes. What a great time and fabulous show!

In the picture at right, those attending were (not in order): Fr. Terry Devine, Linda Gough, Beverly Buckman, Billy Joe Buckman, Rosemary Payne, Carolyn Rowley, Cathy Watson, Joyce Greenwell, Billy Don Greenwell, Alma McBride, Jimmy Duncan, Carolyn Duncan, Joan Mattox, Mary Evelyn Eckman, Charlene Hite, Bill Hite, Marie Gillerman, Mike Gillerman, Annetta McBride, Betty Clements, Cindy Vincent, Joycelyn Hagan, Tommy Hagan, Kay Greenwell, Donald Buckman, Ellen Buckman, Bob French, Pansy French, Ursula Davis, Dottie Peak, Charlotte O'Daniel, Mitzi Butler, Patsy Lane, Kay Owen, Helen Willett, Sylvia Franklin, Janet Butler, Irene Tapp, Agnes Utley, Helen Dean Thomas, Paulette Wolfe, Cathy Dayberry, Carolyn Crowds, Diane Conley, Hilda French, Don Wolfe, Peggy Thomas, Pat Thomas, Ed Marie Padgett, Bernie Wathen, Sharon Rideout and David Rideout. Submitted by Janet Butler



Beaver Dam Man Shares "La Migra"

Story with US Bishops

Submitted by Glenmary Brother David Henley

On November 4th Fr. Victor Subb from the Glenmary Missionaries, some students from Glenmary along with some members of Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam, Kentucky traveled to Cullman, Alabama for a meeting of the Catholic Committee of the South. The Catholic Committee of the South provided a place for Catholics to meet other Catholics, share their faith and find support. Quitofel from Oaxaca, Mexico and now a member of Holy Redeemer in Beaver Dam, Ky., related to the group the recent events in Georgia with immigration and deportations. His story inspired the group and the executive committee asked Quitofel to travel the following week to Baltimore, Maryland to share his testimony with the Bishops during their annual meeting.



Quitofel, parishioner of Holy Redeemer

November 13th, Quitofel, with Fr. Les Schmidt and Brother David Henley from Glenmary had an audience with the five Bishops of the South of the United States during the National Conference of Bishops. The goal of the meeting was to give a report to the Bishops of the experience of the Hispanic community and ask for their support through a letter in favor of reforming immigration laws. The Bishops present were Bishop John J. McRaith from the Diocese of Owensboro, Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, Louisiana, Bishop Joseph N. Latino of Jackson, Mississippi, Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, SVD of Beaumont, Texas and Bishop Kevin Boland of Savannah, Georgia.

During the meeting, Quitofel described the raids of "la migra" in Stillmore, Georgia that occurred in a chicken processing plant during the month of September. During the operations of "la migra," almost 200 people were detained and the majority have been deported. After entering the plant, "la migra" went to the houses surrounding the plant, entering them by force. Also they stopped vehicles and arrested all the Hispanic drivers. Five US citizens that immigration assumed were undocumented were detained, against their rights. During the raids many fled to the woods where they spent days hiding. Some Americans received news of the events and took food and blankets to the people in hiding. The Diocese of Savannah sent a truck full of food and other supplies to help the people that stayed. Eventually some of the residents that were not arrested left for other states with their family members. Today, the plant in Stillmore has less than half of the workers it had before. And to continue production some nearby jails have sent prisoners to work in the vacant positions.

The Bishops of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina have signed a letter in favor of immigrants. We continue asking for more Bishops to sign the letter and for a conversion of heart for the people working against undocumented immigrants. The five Bishops have sent the letter to the Senate and the House of Representatives with the hope of having a comprehensive reform for all immigrants soon.

Comfort & Hope...a message about grief

By Jeannie Boone

Granddaughter Claire has a little body that has been dancing since before she could stand alone. It was only after she learned to talk that I understood her love of classical music, ballet, and as time passed, her dream of dancing ballet. I'm thrilled to say that, through the grace of God, I was able to help her realize her dream. And never doubt that dreams are important, even necessary, to our well-being. The late Joseph Campbell, a noted American professor, writer, and orator, probably best known for his vast knowledge and study of mythology, was convinced that each of us is born with a bliss; some God given talent or ability that cries to be recognized, to be fulfilled. "What is your bliss?" he was fond of asking, for he believed our bliss connected us to God in a way nothing else can.



A few weeks ago I was blessed to be present at the Four Rivers Center, in Paducah, to watch Claire dance on stage with the Moscow Ballet presentation of The Nutcracker. Yes, it was a small part, but in the great scheme of things it was tremendous. It had been just over a year since she started classes and her heart, filled with unbelievable confidence, believed it was fitting and right: I am where I belong.

I wonder how many of us ever feel that certainty, and I am glad that I was allowed to witness it, to be a part of it, and thanks to a precious friend, I had a very good seat!

If you read the December column you probably realized I was on a pity trip. Hey, pity parties can be a good thing, even when you're the only guest, as long as you don't make it an full-time event! I had shaken off the blues to attend Claire's big premier and just as I passed through the doors of the theatre I ran into a friend I had not seen for many years. We were such good friends, devoted St Francis de Sales parishioners, and we delivered baby girls within days of each other in 1980. After a hearty hug she pointed across the tarmac outside, "there's my baby and that's my granddaughter walking beside her. Can you believe it? She's 26 now."

I wanted to say that yes, I knew how old she was. And yes, I could believe it because I had cried for so many days of those 18 years. I wanted to ask if she remembered my Katy, but that would have been cruel. My friend, in the warmth of the moment, had forgotten Katy's death. And though this was hard for me, it's the way it should be, for if we dwell on the heartache of life we will never savor and honor the bliss of each day.

God is good. As I left the embrace of my friend I asked God to help me live in the present while remembering all those who had blessed my life and helped me be who I am today. Talk about answered prayers! The past few weeks have been a virtual kaleidoscope of faces and memories.

I find comfort and immense hope in these things--- dreams and old friends, memories and faith, the way the song of Life continues... and that we'll catch up to the music when we're ready to resume the dance.

May the New Year find you willing, ready or not, to hear the beat of the music and remember your deceased loved ones with joy and gladness.

Note: my computer has been down and I lost some messages. Please email again: kyboones2@hotmail.com

Wisdom *by Ginny Knight-Simon*

St. Mary of the Woods, Franklin, Ky.

The Ladies Guild of St. Mary of the Woods parish in Franklin had their annual fall Taster's Luncheon on October 25. The luncheon is all pot-luck. Approximately 300 lunches were sold with the proceeds going to pay for the new carpeting in the church. "There is a Spring Taster's Lunch also, and a dinner auction all done by the Ladies Guild," said Rose Mary Estep, a major volunteer for the Ladies Guild.

"People from all over town come for lunch which is either eat-in or carry-out. Mostly eat-in, though. It's always fun to see who all is here, and get a chance to chat and catch up with friends," Estep continued.

"It's wonderful watching everyone get involved with the luncheon," said Sharon Henderson, a long time volunteer for St. Mary's.



Dovie Garrett enjoys the food and the people at the annual luncheon.



Sharon Maloney smiles as she takes a turn at the stove in the kitchen at St. Mary's parish hall.

All pictures on this page were taken by Ginny Knight-Simon, Coordinator of Wisdom for the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. Her Wisdom columns share the wisdom of Western Kentucky's senior Catholics.



Steve Maloney isn't worried about getting "dish-pan hands" even though he has been at it all morning.

At right, Sharon Henderson and Rose Mary Estep take a minute from their busy day to pose for a quick picture at the Taster's Luncheon.



Dr. David Fowler treats his staff for lunch!



"The money lady," Joan Bradford counts the money as she sells the \$5 tickets for lunch.

In picture at right, Sara Drake, keeps a close eye on the buffet table, making sure everything runs smoothly.

In the picture below, good friends, Maxine Warren of Franklin, and Mary Lou Green of Bowling Green, smile for the camera after a tasty dessert.



May King, takes a quick inventory of paper plates as a group of guests come in for lunch.





Tom Hall, Sister Mary Henning, OSU, Jean Hines and Marty Hill sit near a picture of Thomas Merton at the Thomas Merton Retreat held November 17-19 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The theme of the retreat was, "Living in the Desert: Moments of Solitude and Silence with Trappist Monk Thomas Merton." MSJ Photo



Participants at the Thomas Merton Retreat included Patti Terrell, Owensboro; Vickie Shei, Lexington; retreat director Rev. Dan Phillips, Nashville; Barbara Schnapf, Lexington, and Gloria Cecil, Owensboro. MSJ Photo



Rev. Steve Wolf, right, brought his entire staff from St. Stephen Catholic Community in Old Hickory, Tennessee, for a retreat on November 13-15 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. MSJ Photo



In the picture above, "Honoring Mary: Praying the Gospel Rosary" was the purpose of a special prayer event on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8. Pictured at the event at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center were Marcus Cornish, Brenda Cornish, Allen Summers, Arlene Summers, and Tammy Hayden. The devotions were led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU (forefront).



In the picture at left, Audubon Area Community Services, Inc., came to Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center for a planning and goal-setting retreat November 20. Some of those attending were Terry Payne, Aubrey Nehring, Ronald Logsdon and Cathy Lamar. MSJ Photo

Adoption is a concrete way of love

KY's four Catholic dioceses and OFL offer adoption help

As Christians, our faith sustains and supports us during our trials and brings blessings into our lives. The circumstances that bring families to adoption, either as placing or adopting parents, may be the hardest they ever face. Faith and prayer lead persons in difficult situations, like infertility or an untimely pregnancy, toward solutions, and toward others who can assist all parties to an adoption to find joy, solace, and love.

There are a number of examples of adoption in Scripture. Not all were cases of providing for orphans, although God specifically calls all people to care for orphans. Some were occasions of placing a child in adoption for a specific purpose, but all were cases of providing for the well being of the child. Moses' adoption by the daughter of the pharaoh provided rescue and security for a child set adrift by a parent who prayed for his best interest. Joseph's adoption of Jesus and his model of fidelity and vocation is a New Testament example of the importance of adoption in God's plan. The overarching theme in these biblical stories is two-fold. Adoptions take place for the well-being of the child with his or her best interest at heart, and as a means of accomplishing God's good purposes for all people.

Many modern situations involving adoption can be just as complicated and heart wrenching. A birth mother can range in age from 11 to 48 years with most being young women in their twenties. This may be her first pregnancy or this may be her second, or more. The birth father may be actively involved in the pregnancy or he may not. Birth mothers share few commonalities but all are pondering the best possible future for their child. This is where Catholic Charities of Kentucky plays a role. The four diocesan agencies offer a full range of counseling services for expectant families and

those who may be considering growing their family through adoption. The pregnancy counseling and adoption staff at the four diocesan offices work together to provide services statewide. They are called A Caring Connection, and average 25 to 35 adoptions a year. Catholic Charities of Owensboro and Lexington have completed several international home studies. The Covington Diocese will begin international adoptions in early 2007. In conjunction with the four diocesan Catholic Charities programs, Opportunities for Life (OFL), a statewide ministry of the four Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, provides a 24-hour helpline staffed by trained volunteers. OFL refers callers interested in learning more about the option of adoption to A Caring Connection, confident that caring and experienced professionals will assist in making a plan that is best for both the mother and her baby.

The diocesan agencies are uniquely committed to providing professional counseling to all involved. Without this dedication to serving the needs of the families, there is no one to address a birth parent's grief, an adoptive parent's fears or the adopted child's questions regarding their heritage or why an adoption plan was made for them. These programs are not only concerned with the welfare of the child but also with the long term mental health of all involved.

Birth families of all faiths are offered counseling free of charge. Pregnancy counseling may or may not result in an adoption depending upon the wishes of the birth mother and father. Staff offer support and encouragement to birth parents providing them with the information needed to make an informed decision. Birth parents can choose between closed and open adoption when making an adoption plan.

Families interested in adopting a child must meet certain eligibility requirements, which vary slightly among the four Charities agencies. Adoptive families must work with the agency located within their diocese of residence. They must have explored medical solutions concerning infertility, have a normal life expectancy and have the physical, financial, and emotional resources to attend to the need of a growing child. Potential parents must commit to adoption education/preparation and a home study as well as a fair amount of paperwork. Those prospective adoptive families who are hesitant to pursue adoption because of cost should be reassured that adoption is very affordable, especially since the establishment of the Federal Adoption Tax Credit. After the completion of the home study, staff members provide tremendous support for the prospective adoptive family as they await a placement. The local Catholic Charities office can be contacted for more detailed eligibility requirements.

Today, nationwide, less than one percent of unexpected pregnancies result in an adoption. With so many screened and prepared couples awaiting placements, why are

Continued on page 37

Gerald Emmanuel (Jerry) Carrico, 90, died

Nov. 27, 2006



Gerald Emmanuel (Jerry) Carrico, 90, died at his home in Leesburg, Florida, Monday, Nov. 27, 2006. Jerry was born in the Saint Lawrence community of Daviess County, Ky. and attended elementary and high school in the parish schools. He graduated from St. Mary's University, Baltimore, Md., and retired from CIT Corporation.

Jerry was an active member of Saint Paul Catholic Church in Leesburg, Fl., of the Leesburg Lions Club, and was a writer for the Western Kentucky Catholic.

Survivors are daughters Angela Adkins, Leesburg, Fl., Brenda M. Carrico, Leesburg, Fl., a sister, Sister Lucy Carrico, SCN., Louisville, Ky.; a grandson, Brian Adkins,

and a great granddaughter, Kaylee Rae Adkins. He was predeceased by his wife, Oda Mae Carrico in 1982, his son-in-law Kent Adkins in 2003, and his granddaughter Katrina Adkins in 2006.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Jerry Carrico was held at St. Paul Church in Leesburg on Dec. 1, 2006. Interment was at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Leesburg, Fl.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Hospice of Lake Sumter Co., 12300 Lane Park Rd., Tavares, FL 32778

A Note from the Editor: Jerry Carrico dearly loved his beautiful Kentucky Home of Saint Lawrence, Ky. He called frequently to ask about people and events in St. Lawrence. A favorite childhood memory he recounted often was one Charity Sister's comment about her boy students' speaking in Jerry's class: "All I ever hear from you boys is 'maters, 'taters, 'lasses, and 'git!'"

Jerry is the only writer I know who sent me his work typed on an old typewriter. Jerry often enclosed this prayer in his typed articles with a typical note: "Here is an interesting article I ran across. Maybe you will enjoy it, too."

Dear God,

So far today I've done alright. I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful so far. BUT, in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed. From then on, Lord, I'm probably going to need your help. Author Unknown.

Jerry often wrote about heaven and the life hereafter. Now he knows the truth, and he also knows who wrote this prayer he so enjoyed.

Sister Mary Carolita Young, 93, Died Nov. 29, 2006

MAPLE MOUNT— Sister Mary Carolita Young, 93, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died November 29 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 74th year of religious life. She was a native of St. Mary in Marion County.

An educator for 60 years, Sister Mary Carolita taught at St. Charles School, Bardwell (1934-46) and Mount Saint Joseph Academy (1942). She served as teacher (1959-63) and librarian (1983-84) at St. Romuald High School, Hardinsburg, and as librarian at St. Pius Tenth (1984-85), Blessed Mother (1985-89), and St. Angela Merici (1989-94) schools in Owensboro. She was also a teacher in elementary and high schools in Raywick, Holy Cross, and New Haven, and in New Mexico, Nebraska, and Missouri. She served as teacher and librarian in Flaherty. After her retirement, she served 10 years part time in the community library at Mount Saint Joseph.

Survivors include a sister-in-law, Aileen C. Young of Lebanon, nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass took place December 1 at Mount Saint Joseph. Burial was in the convent cemetery.

Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial gifts for Sister Mary Carolita Young may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



Happy Anniversary

Marriage Celebrations for January 2007. Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

John & Cindy Rightmyer, 25
Charles & Shirley Clark, 57
Harold & Anne Clark, 55
Robert & Dena Montgomery, 52

Holy Name, Henderson

Fred & Sue Hagan, 40
Forwood & Ann Hargis, 64
Leonard & Anna Patterson, 51
James & Elizabeth Thomas, 54

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Carmol & Mary Cook, 56

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Jeffrey & Karen Smith, 25
Raymond & Helen Grudzielanek, 58

Immaculate, Owensboro

Edward H. & Wanda Powers, 54
Henry & Mary Jean Hodskins, 55
Charles & Mary Bonnie Gray, 50
James & Mary Posante, 56
Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 58
Melvin & Lois Connor, 50

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 53

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Robert & Martha Bailey, 56
Anthony & Mae Kamalich, 53
Donald & Martha Hamilton, 40

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Arnold & Toby Boarman, 54
Doug & Betty Howard, 52
Henry & Mary Orth, 53

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Thomas & Lisle Threlkeld, 59

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Kerry & Leslie Willett, 25
Hamel & Rose Floyd, 54

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Frank & Tommie Clouse, 55

St. Ann, Morganfield

Glenn & Elizabeth Cox, 57
Jack & Theresa Davis, 55
Donald G. & Peggy French, 56
J. Parvin & Mildred Moore, 52
Adrian & Mary Frances Wolfe, 60

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Chalmus & Mary Agnes Henderson, 64

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Hurley & Juanita Higdon, 60

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Kathy & Billy Brown, 25

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

W. J. & Norma Word, 56

St. Henry, Aurora

Ray & Betty Jerge,

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Thomas & Jean Ballard, 57
Jimmie & Linda Goatley, 52
Conrad & Razella Spalding, 51
Joseph & Alma Stahr, 50

Norman & Virginia Elliott, 52

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Irlan & Christine Payne, 60

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Charles Owen & Mildred White, 60

St. Joseph, Mayfield

James & Frankie Riley, 50
Matthew & Christine Meyer, 66

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James & Frances Marie Payne, 57

St. Leo, Murray

Robert P. & Simone Taylor, 57
Ronald & Carolyn Reimer, 50
Darryl & Joyce Rezac, 25

St. Mary, Franklin

A. V. & Kay Wilwayco, 50

St. Martin, Rome

Donald & Vivian Fischer, 54

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Joe Bill & Marge Merimee, 52

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Michael & Sharon Coomes, 25
Donald & Sharon Carmon, 40
Joseph Virgil & Jackie Head, 50
Elmer & Marcella Schepers, 51
Thomas & Margaret Conder, 52

John & Stella Howe, 54

Charles G. & Catherine Hamilton, 55

St. Michael, Oak Grove

Theoflo and Ruby Macias, 54

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Bruce & Cathy Meredith, 25
St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
Jerome & Bonnie Blair, 40
James & Mary Keller, 50
William & Lillian Young, 53

St. Peter, Waverly

Marty & Marilyn Greenwell, 40
Clyde Fredrick & Margret French, 53

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Tony & Janet Johnson, 25
Steve & Linda Valentine, 25
Hilary & Aline Garrett, 61
Francis L. & Mary Lee Howard, 54
Wilsie & Marjorie Ward, 54
Irvin & Lena Wathen, 62

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Charles & Isabell Winchell, 67

St. Rose, Cloverport

Stewart & Barbara Rearden, 25
Robert & Mary Najar, 54

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

J. C. & Barbara Knott, 40
Charles & Mary Jane Young, 50
Jim & Evelyn Mattingly, 54
Jerome & Wilma Fenwick, 58
Norman & Betty Coomes, 58

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Anthony & Nancy Mornar, 25
Gary & Cecelia Reside, 25
Bernie & Connie Herrmann, 54
Douglas & Elizabeth Edwards, 58
Harold & Elizabeth Connor, 61

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St. William, Knottsville

Raymond & Mary Frances Payne, 54

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Phillip & Debbie Castlen, 25
Charles C. & Bonnie Gray, 50

Sts. Mary & James, Guthrie

Larry & Donna Blevins, 54

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Angel & Florencia Marcos, 40

Ursuline Sisters Complete Spiritual Direction Program in Tucson

Ursuline Sisters Ann McGrew and Marietta Wethington completed the program of the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction, a ministry of the Redemptorist Renewal Center near Tucson, Arizona, in November.

Nestled in the Sonoran Desert, the Hesychia School prepares and updates spiritual directors through in-depth study, peer learning, and spiritual mentoring so that they may serve the growing community of persons from all walks of life and religious traditions who seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit through spiritual direction. The formal training program of study, prayer, and reflection is designed to deepen the spiritual life of the participants and to aid them in their discernment as spiritual directors.

Sisters Ann and Marietta devoted four weeks to this program, studying topics such as spirituality, spiritual direction and tradition, interfaith spiritual direction, self care for spiritual directors, 12-step spirituality, dreams, supervision, and honoring the feminine and masculine in spiritual direction. Led by Hesychia program director Teresa Blythe, instructors presented this material through lecture, interaction, and small group discussions. Participants also had the opportunity to practice in a fishbowl setting, after which instructors and group members offered compassionate and constructive criticism.

The program culminated in a ceremony of completion led by Teresa Blythe, Redemptorist Renewal Center director Father Tom Santa, CSsR, and Deacon Ken McNely, who with his wife Margaret assists with the program.

Sisters Ann and Marietta are members of the coordinating team for the 2006-2008 Spiritual Direction Training Program currently being offered at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. There are 12 participants. The initial program, from 2004-2006, concluded July 13, 2006, with 13 men and women receiving certificates.



Ursuline Sisters Marietta Wethington (left) and Ann McGrew hold the certificates they earned from the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction in Arizona. Their four weeks of training ended November 10. The sisters are part of the Spiritual Direction Training Program team at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.

By Diane Yvonne Hatchett

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The tenth National Black Catholic Congress will be held in Buffalo, New York from July 12th-15th 2007. Congress only happens every five years. The Diocese of Owensboro held a Day of Reflection at Blessed Sacrament Chapel on Saturday, December 9, 2006 in preparation for The National Black Catholic Congress X. Blessed Sacrament Chapel co-hosted the event with St. John the Apostle Catholic Church of Evansville, Indiana. Sister Jane Nesmith, Parish Life Coordinator of St. John the Apostle, helped coordinate and plan the event along with Blessed Sacrament Chapel Pastoral Associate Veronica Wilhite. Feedback would be gathered from the participants at the end of the day via evaluations to help with the formation of the Black Catholic Congress agenda based on concerns, issues, and innovative ideas discussed as they related to the theme. Everyone was encouraged to provide input thus inadvertently participating in the formation of policy and decision-making.

Although the participants were predominantly black in attendance, the gathering consisted of Catholic men, women, and children of all ages and races, including Bishop John J. McRaith, Father John Vaughan Pastor of St. Stephen's Church and for Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and Associate Pastor for both Blessed Sacrament and St. Stephen's, Father John Okoro. Father Charles Smith, Associate Pastor of St. Rita's Catholic Church, Indianapolis, In., led participants in meaningful dialogue and prayerful reflection on the Congress X theme: "Christ is with us: Celebrating the Theme of the Sacraments."

Father Charles stated that the theme was founded in the following scriptures: Isaiah 7:1-14, John 1:1-14. He gave reference to these and several other scriptures throughout the day. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 states, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one spirit we are baptized into one body. Jews or Greeks, slaves or free. And we were all made to drink of the one Spirit. (Porque asi como el cuerpo es uno, y tiene muchos miembros, pero todos los miembros del cuerpo,



Vivian Higgs, left, and her mother, Jean Higgs, enjoyed participating in the Day of Reflection at Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Lois Rutigliano photo

The National Black Catholic Congress Day of Reflection



Diocesan Director for Black Catholic Ministries Veronica Wilhite, left, with author Yvonne Hatchett who won a door prize at the Day of Reflection at Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Lois Rutigliano photo

asi tambien Cristo. Porque un solo Espiritu fuimos todos bautizados en un cuerpo, sean judios, o gregios, sean esclavos o libres; y a todos se nos dio beber de un mismo Espiritu. Corintios 12: 12-13)

As facilitator for the day, Fr. Charles encouraged those present to begin to look deeper at the gifts of the sacraments. Upon further examination the participants were asked to share specific examples of how the spiritual gifts of the sacraments impacted and enriched their everyday lives. La Familia, el Mejor Camino al Sacramento.

This is in relationship to the action called for by the Declaration of Eight Principles adopted in Chicago, Il. at Congress IX. These principles are: Racism, Social Justice, Youth and Young Adults, HIV/AIDS, Spirituality, Africa, Parish Life, and Catholic Education. The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders. Los siete sacramentos (Bautismo, Eucaristia, Confirmacion, Penitencia, Extrema Uncion, Matrimonio, y el Orden.) The remainder of this article will summarize the message that was "heard" at the day of reflection.

We are called to Evangelization. The sacraments and guiding principles are but vessels on the quest for understanding. Our mission is that of Christ, therefore, we understand and appreciate that we are given the charge to serve, along with



Fr. Charles Smith speaking at rear as Blessed Sacrament Chapel pastor Fr. John Vaughan and parishioner Charlene Meadows share the moment. Lois Rutigliano photo

believers everywhere across the world as witnesses, spiritual and whole, in order that we may spread the message that Christ is alive. In everything we seek to do, it should be wholesome and pure of heart. Christ is with us and Christ is within us. We are to be bold with the sacraments. Be not afraid to claim Christ as your Savior. Obtain a strong prayer life. God is with us.

Therefore, we are to engage in activities, which show the world and emanate from the heart in body and spirit. Father Charles suggested that we need the huddle in the midst of it all to keep going on. Our sacraments move us from place to the next if we stay committed to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Spiritual gifts of the sacra-

Continued on page 35



Bishop John McRaith signing in at the Day of Reflection at Blessed Sacrament Chapel as Georgia Holland, center, and Jill Mueller staffed the welcoming desk. LOis Rutigliano Photo

(Continued from page 34)

ment come together with our actions.

We are called to be a royal priesthood. We must monitor and manage time with those who would drag us down. Strength comes from within by means of prayer. It is imperative to have a personal relationship with God. The Eucharist is the source of life for Christians. It is the source of our spiritual strength. When you have good times and bad times God will be there to see you through. God can fix the world. Train your eyes to avoid anything that might fan the flames of discord and confusion. Have faith and believe!

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick guides work on the principle of HIV/AIDS. It reminds us that God is a merciful God. He has compassion for his people. He heals holistically, reaching out to those suffering in mind, body and spirit. We are charged to do the same. Consequently, we must exercise purity in all relationships. Confirmation highlights through the fruits of the spirit in self-control, gentleness, faithfulness, peace, love, joy and patience. It sanctifies our mind, body, and spirit. You are not your own and neither is your body. (Corinthians 1: 19-20) What you see is what you are. Realize that your outward physical appearance reflects your mind and spiritual condition. Make your body your slave for there is an eternal body on the inside. We run from the lust and desires of the flesh. There are saints to emulate as spiritual mentors of service and justice. The lives of the saints help tie Confirmation to the principles of Spirituality. This principle is important because it lays the foundation, the rich legacy among African American Catholics that God keeps you going. He makes a way out of no way. To quote Father Charles, "it's a J thing," J meaning Jesus.

Through the sacrament of Reconciliation we are able to minimize our weaknesses and maximize our strengths. We demonstrate respect for one another. Reconciliation is the source of liberation. It opens the door for healing and peace. This sacrament also brings Christ to us. This leads to the principle of Racism and Africa. As Catholics we are challenged to explore ways to contribute to peace in Africa among the various nations. We are to become the voice of Africa. We need to encourage political, social, and economic support for Africa, particularly increasing developmental aid. African clergy should be welcomed. Often goodwill from Africa is misconstrued and unwelcomed. We need to represent a true Universal Church as it was intended. In that respect, we are also challenged to love our neighbors in the U.S. There is an eternal battle for good and evil. We have a tendency to focus on what is best for ourselves rather than for others. We must work at stewardship in our home and parish life. It is time to take ownership in the church.

We are called to be faithful. You will speak the truth about God and the promises of Jesus always with respect and never pressure. You don't have to force Jesus down anyone's throat. Instead, be a witness for faith, hope, and love in action. Be about those three things. Holy Orders does this by the unfolding of baptismal graces. We must encourage the youth and young adults to consider the priesthood and religious life, sharing the gifts of faith, hope and charity with the Church. Holy Orders invites us to the principles of Youth and Young Adults as well as Catholic Education. Catholic Education both formal and religious has been noted as the priority by the church and the bishops. This is where we begin to plant the seeds in our youth outside of the home.

We are called to give witness in the kingdom deeply divided. We can't assume everyone thinks alike. There is no room for racist ideology, leading to division. Dialogue and education are needed to cause people to embrace one another as equal partners. We are co-partners. We are called to be church. Yet, sometimes we build upon our own kingdoms. Evangelization is about collaboration and working together as one body, not with disunity. It is about building up the kingdom of God. Isaiah 6:8 speaks to us, then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?" "Who will go for us?" Here I am Lord," I said. "Send me!" He speaks of a call to a special mission. His mission like ours was to restore the people of God to full citizenship in the kingdom. Isaiah is the official scripture of the Black Catholic Congress.

Many are called but few are chosen.

We are called to be a universal church. We were created in his image and we should reflect his image in our parishes. Congress is not just for African-American Catholics. It is for the community. Evangelization is what our challenge is today, yesterday and always. We need to understand the order of structure, thus exercising our God-given talents. When we share our talents with the world we are utilizing the grace received through the sacrament of baptism. "Be assured we must account for what the Lord



Sister Jane Nesmith from the Diocese of Evansville, In., led the opening song for the National Black Catholic Congress Day of Reflection, "We've Come This Far By Faith." Facilitator Fr. Charles Smith of Indianapolis is at back here. Lois Rutigliano Photo

has given us, (Psalm 116:12). At Congress you will hear the following question, and answer: "Do you have the strength? If you have the strength, I have the strength... I have the strength...Are you the Chosen One?" Yes, I am.

God speaks to us in many ways. He commands us through the inspired Word of God. God is speaking to us when we read, study and listen at school, home and in church. It is important to seek competent and wise counselors on your spiritual journey to evangelization. The rappers are the priests of today. We need to take responsibility to educate our youth, young adults and ourselves on both the Word and on church doctrine. Interestingly enough this is given credence via a facet of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony entitled the "domestic church." Here, members of the faith community, particularly friends and family, support one another on a faith journey. This is in agreement with the principle of Parish Life. Many problems come because we are led astray and have little or no support. In order to be obedient you need to deal with the circumstances that come into your life and that change the way you think and feel. Psalm 139 states, "You are fearlessly made."

Consequently, we must walk in the spirit of self-control. Sin can destroy the spiritual interior. Father Charles challenges the people to engage in self-reflection. He stressed that it is mandatory to be open to what God wants us to do. This is support the principles of Social Justice and Holy Orders. Serving the faith community means becoming a servant of the Most High in word, spirit, and truth. It is a spiritual awakening; you answer the call by abandoning your old self and becoming a vessel for Christ. It means doing the right thing and taking up the cause of Social Justice. We are called to transform our society, our schools, church and home. We are called to keep on keeping on through evangelization. As a collective body, we must strive to meet the needs of the people be they black, brown, yellow or white.

We have begun a journey that will cover not only miles, but also relationships between people and God. The day of reflection called upon the people to be holistic, socially, politically and economically. The Holy Spirit, who is our Wonderer, Counselor, the one who will lead us and guide us along the way, aids our conscience. There is nothing better than Jesus. Do not be led astray by negativity. There is hope for a better tomorrow. Faith is the substance of things hoped for... the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrew 11:1) Congress calls us to be ready to discover the spiritual destiny. Decide to today that you are going to follow Christ. Say to yourself, "I know me, I love me; God lives within me." Seek ye the kingdom of God! If God is for us who can be against? Follow-up to this day of reflection will be held at St John the Apostle on March 3, 2007. This will be held at St. John the Apostle Church, located in Evansville, Indiana. Father Charles Smith will once again be the facilitator. He will continue to focus on the sacraments and preparing oneself to be a true evangelizer. You are all invited to attend. Admission is free and lunch will be provided.

Seniors Have More Fun!

HARDINBURG, Ky. - The Seniors' (55+) Group meeting at St. Romuald has been very active since it began in June of 2004. While we usually meet at St. Romuald, the group is open to all from the county. We have enjoyed a variety of activities over the past two years. Most of our gatherings begin with Mass, followed by an activity, and then a potluck meal.

We have enjoyed the music and song of friends who come with a banjo, guitar, bass, and sometimes fiddle, mandolin, and sax in tow. This past month we toe tapped to some great music by our friends who entertain us regularly. Special treat this month was Carl on the sax; he gave us a special rendition of Amazing Grace. It brought tears to our eyes.

In May we made our third trip to Rough River State Park. We joined Fr. Tom at St. Anthony Church for the celebration of Mass. Then we traveled on to the Park to feast at the buffet meal there (a treat of the parish) and play Bingo for prizes. Some in our group have been really lucky! Sr. Joan won the "Cowasocky" shirt and a lot of teasing to go along with it. Others have won prizes including cash. We always have a great



Our group listening to our tour guide in the Abbey at St. Meinrad.



Our Mardi Gras King Louie Bland and Queen Dorothy Carter with the St. Romuald school children.



On one of our game days this group enjoyed playing dominoes: Judy Tivitt, Donnie Jarboe, Libby Kidder, Susie Flood, and Linda Greenwood.



Msgr. Bernard Powers kept using Marty and Merl Kanapel as an example during the Lenten retreat. Also pictured are Libby Kidder and Anna Francis Brown.

time there. Twice last year we went on the boat tour of the lake there.

After Fr. Tom and Fr. Greg were assigned to our area, we held a gathering with them and Fr. Tony. We learned a bit more about their lives and enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions about our faith. We have also celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as a group. When we had a mission here last November, the mission priest spent some time talking with us; and, during Lent last year Fr. Bernard Powers led us in a retreat.

We don't always party. Some of our get-togethers are learning experiences. Sr. Jacinta Powers has visited us several times to talk about the Medicare Prescription Program and help with that. As a service project this year we invited the parish to help us in donating care packets to the nursing home and extended care residents here. We have had the opportunity for many different experiences, but by far what we enjoy most is gathering for conversation and a meal with each other!

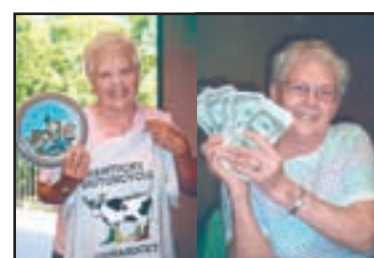
Submitted by Marie Rose, St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg, Ky.



Some of the group that gathered for Mass at St. Anthony Parish with Fr. Tom Buckman before heading for Rough River State Park.



Eugene Hinton tries to stump Fr. Tom, Fr. Tony, and Fr. Greg with a hard question.



At left, Sr. Joan displaying her Bingo prizes including that Cowasocky shirt! At right, Louise Kennedy displaying her Bingo bonanza!



Pictured doing what we love best – enjoying a meal and conversation.

Warm Hearts and Prayers

On Wednesday, September 13, 2006, a group of 16 children from St. Romuald Church traveled to the Daniel Pitino Shelter in Owensboro. While at the Shelter, the children presented 9 fleece blankets that were made at this summer's Vacation Bible School. The words "Jesus Loves Me" were on each side of the blanket, one side with English and Spanish on the other. Inside each blanket was a small flannel heart which each VBS child held and prayed for the person who would receive the blanket. The children also toured the Soup Kitchen and Chapel. The children were transported by Kim Brumfield, Shannon Loughran, and Bridget Lucas. The children are seen presenting the blankets to Charlotte Statts, Pitino Shelter Volunteer Coordinator, and are as follows: Row 1: from left, Emma Payne Johnathan Loughran, Meredith Lucas, Amelia Barr, Molly Dowell, Lauren Whitfill, Brenna Lucas, and Joanna Anthony. Row 2: from left, Katie Rhodes, Olivia White, Brian David Brumfield, Luke Priest, Kirk Rhodes, Luke Loughran, Andrea Anthony, and Jessica Anthony. Submitted by Kim Brumfield-DRE K-6th

In photo at left, on Sept. 13, 2006, Saint Romuald parishioners presented fleece "Jesus Loves Me" blankets to Charlotte Statts for people staying at the Daniel Pitino Shelter in Owensboro. Kim Brumfield Photo



Scouts Ready To Help Others

Girl Scout Troop 416 celebrated their Christmas party on December 2, 2006. The girls made cookie jars, headbands,



and brought goods to give to a family in need for Christmas, 2006. The girl scouts are all third and fourth grade students at



Saint Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville, Ky. The girl scouts are Hannah Bland, Taylor Johnson, Shawna Aud, Hannah Armes, Jessica Henson, Jennifer Haynes, Lacy Johnson, Mollie Beatty, and Alex Hamilton. The girls are pictured here from left



to right, with the cookie jars, headbands, and their baskets of good for the needy. Submitted by Lisa Armes

Adoption is a concrete way of love *(Continued from page 32)*

more young women not choosing adoption? Remarkably, there is tremendous pressure for women to parent their children even if doing so would place them under significant financial or emotional strain.

"Why do we encourage a young mother to parent a child when she typically does not yet have the emotional resources to make such a monumental decision? Most adults would not advise a teen to choose a career at this point in their lives but we encourage teen parents to make a life-long commitment before they have the chance to really understand the full meaning of this decision," said Monica Kuhlman who has served the Diocese of Covington as an adoption counselor for over 30 years.

"Teenage moms are still teenagers. Because of their lack of maturity, it's hard for them to grasp that statistically there's a very small chance of staying in a relationship with the birth father, that they will likely be parenting alone, and that they could be committing themselves and their child to a lifetime of poverty. If they were mature enough to understand all this, it might affect their decision," said Kuhlman.

In 2003, 12% (6,867 children) of all births in Kentucky were to mothers under age 20. A full 74% of these births were to single mothers and 19% were repeat births meaning this was not the mother's first child. It is estimated that 11% of Kentucky teen pregnancies ended in abortion. Of Kentucky high school students, 52% are sexually active. (www.childtrends.org)

Children placed in adoption experience God's grace in a way similar to children

who are born into a family. Adopted children receive comfort and love knowing that a future has been planned for them that is in their best interest. As children grow older this can be palpable evidence of God's direction and sovereignty in their lives. An adoption plan, as it progresses and after it is in place, is a powerful example of God's participation in the good of all those involved, one which furthers wholeness and healing. The church's active involvement in fostering the work of qualified service providers vastly improves the prospects for successful adoption in our society. These caring and experienced professionals assist young women in developing a plan that is appropriate for them and for their infants and give hearty endorsement to adoption as a way of prospering the lives of all concerned.

Contact info: Catholic Social Services, Covington, 1-800-227-3002, (859) 581-8974 www.cssnky.org, Monica Kuhlman. Catholic Social Service Bureau, Lexington (859) 253-1993 extension 216, www.cssblexington.org, Laurie Hainley. Catholic Charities, Louisville, (502) 637-9786, www.catholiccharitieslouisville.org, Helen Rothgerber. Catholic Charities, Owensboro, (270) 852-8328, www.kycatholiccharitiesadoption.org, Rita Heinz. Opportunities for Life, Frankfort, 1-800-822-5824., www.opportunitiesforlife.org, Michelle Herberger.

(Submitted by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.)

Holy Name School Celebrates 135 Years!

HENDERSON, Ky. - Holy Name School celebrated its 135th birthday by hosting a dinner and inviting all friends, parishioners, and alumni to come and join in the celebration on Friday, November 17, 2006. The evening began with a wine and cheese reception in the Erminia Evans Library. The over 400 guests visited the school and looked at memorabilia which was placed on tables throughout the hallways. Dinner, which was prepared by the Holy Name Men's Club, started with an invocation from Holy Name's Pastor, Rev. Ed Bradley. The guests were served dinner by the future graduating classes of 2007 and 2008.

The entertainment for the evening included birthday cake complete with candles and the making of a wish. Each guest was also given an engraved framed picture of the school created by local artist Iris Gentry. The Holy Name Children's Choir performed under the direction of Mrs. Janet Barkley as well as performances from the students in seventh grade.

The crowd was also entertained by guest speaker, Bill Goldey from the high school class of 1952 and from HNS Principal, Daryl Hagan from the 8th grade class of 1978. Father Bradley and local architect Tim Townsend spoke on the plans of future additions onto the school and church. The night was concluded when the descendants of John Killion Gabe were recognized as the oldest generational families to still have students attending Holy Name School. The students currently attending are the fifth generation of Gabe's to attend the school. What started out in 1872 is still very much alive and well in 2007!



Holy Name celebrated Grandparents' Day with a Mass and Luncheon on Thursday, November 20, 2006. Pictured is sixth grade Anna Leigh McVicar and eighth grader Emery McVicar with their grandmother, Mrs. Jenkins HNE Photo



Kevin and Ann Kauffeld attended the Celebration Dinner. Ann graduated from 8th grade at HNS in 1973. HNE Photo

Father Greeley receives 2006 Champion Award from America magazine

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Sociologist and author Father Andrew Greeley received the 2006 Champion Award presented by America magazine during a Nov. 16 ceremony in New York.

The award, given on a regular basis to a noted Christian person of letters, is named for St. Edmund Campion, an English Jesuit who was noted for his writings in defense of the faith. He was put to death in London in 1581 and was canonized in 1970.

"For his scholarship, priestly service and manifold contributions in a variety of literary categories, we honor Father Andrew Greeley in the name of Edmund Campion -- likewise a priest, writer, and champion of the faith," the editorial board of the Jesuit-run magazine said in announcing the award.



Father Andrew Greeley

Previous winners of the Champion Award include Muriel Spark, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, John Updike, Cardinal Avery Dulles, Jesuit Father Karl Rahner, Jesuit Father John Courtney Murray, and Frank Sheed and Maisie Ward.



Holy Name School's Grandparent Volunteer of the Year is Mrs. Ruby Chappell. Ruby was recognized by Father Bradley for sharing her time and talent with the school. She volunteers in the office and library and is a Eucharistic Minister at all the student liturgies. HNE Photo



Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Casino attended the Celebration Dinner. Mrs. Casino did a great job planning all the details for this celebration. HNE Photo

St. Mary Again Accredited as Outstanding, Quality School System

PADUCAH, Ky. - All schools in the St. Mary School System have received a five-year extension of their accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Approval was based on the recommendations of (2) Quality Review Teams who visited the St. Mary campus on November 27 and 28. The periodic evaluation consisted of over 150 interviews with St. Mary constituents, as well as studying written school system reports, and observation of the schools' operations. Interviews were conducted with students, parents, teachers, administrative staff, school stakeholders and leadership groups, and community business leaders. Review teams were composed of local area education professionals, not associated with St. Mary.

One team evaluated St. Mary Elementary School's performance, while the other reviewed the middle and high schools' qualifications. Pat Cairney, St. Mary System Director, said the review teams' findings "indicate they believed our written reports accurately portrayed what is happening in our classrooms. We are proud that not only were our faculty and principals judged to be competent and committed, but our parents' involvement was identified as a meaningful component of our success. No doubt, our students' academic and extracurricular achievement levels were also a major consideration."

SACS accreditation is based on a number of criteria, including mission and goals that focus on student performance, and demonstrated progress in the areas of teaching and learning. The accreditation team looks for indications of continuous improvement, scrutinizing all facets of the school's planning and direction.

With regard to improvement efforts, the team which reviewed St. Mary Elementary commented, "The concept of 'The Pursuit of Excellence Through Christ' permeates the entire school and community." The team recommended, "without reservation... that St. Mary Elementary School be awarded continuous accreditation as a quality school."

The high school review team "found St. Mary High/Middle to be an outstanding school led by a skilled and talented professional staff, with educated and involved parents. It is evident...that...improving student achievement is the highest priority.... the Quality Assurance Review Team certifies that St. Mary meets all the standards for Accreditation."

The teams made recommendations to assure continued improvement in the measured areas, with emphasis placed on the importance on continuing to implement the school system's Strategic Plan. The plan was formulated, and is annually revised, by a broadly representative group of St. Mary stakeholders, is approved by the school system's priest-pastor, adopted as policy by the St. Mary Education Committee, and implemented by the administration and staff.



Sister Annalita Lancaster, OSU, and Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, braved the cold to collect money from over 60 cars that drove through the "Christmas at Panther Creek Park" light show on December 1. A portion of the proceeds from the entire month-long event will be returned to the Ursuline Sisters, who worked at the entrance booth each night from December 1-7. The sisters will use the proceeds for their ministries. The event ends January 2. MSJ Photo



As part of Mary Carrico Memorial School's Thanksgiving celebration the kindergarten and first grade students dressed up as pilgrims and Indians and invited their family to join them for a special meal. Pictured is Callie Lanham and her father, Pat. Submitted Photo



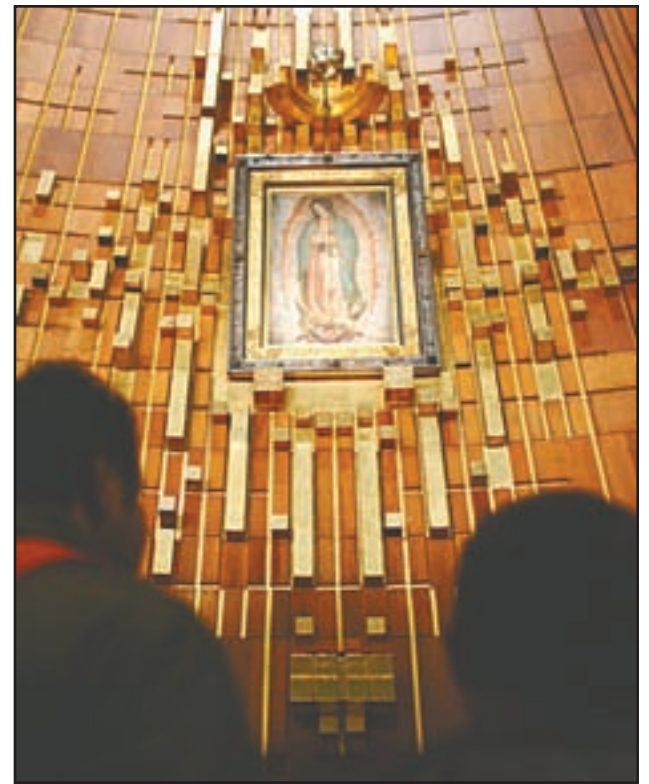
St Nicholas (aka Seminarian Daniel Dillard) visited the PSR pre-school class at St Leo Parish in Murray, KY. Posing with St Nicholas is Will Stewart, Chellum Antony, Thomas Smetana and, back row, Nathan Thompson and Thomas Ferreyra.



St Leo parish participated in the annual Christmas parade in Murray KY with an Advent float. A special thank you goes to Cheryl Chadwick and her family for working so hard on the float. It was beautiful!

Children's decision to be baptized brings Wyoming family to church

CASPER, Wyo. (CNS) -- Joanne Demorest felt her sons would fare better in a small Catholic school than in public school and wouldn't have to be so tough, as she put it, to survive socially. She was raised Catholic as a girl in Canada, but she had left the church some time ago, and was more interested in the academics at St. Anthony Tri-Parish School in Casper than the spiritual lessons. But shortly after they were enrolled, her boys decided they wanted to be baptized and their decision brought the whole family to church. In an interview with the Wyoming Register, newspaper of the Cheyenne Diocese, Demorest said she had to use the old "Because I'm the mom and you're the kid" line to convince Connor, 9, and Carson, 6, to leave their friends at public school to attend St. Anthony. After about a month in the third grade, Connor came home with a question, "Mom, was I baptized?" She gulped and admitted, "No." So Connor surprised her when he said he wanted to be baptized in the Catholic Church. Carson, who looks up to his big brother, wanted to be baptized too. "If Connor says it's a great idea, it's a great idea," Demorest said. Demorest has been attending the school's Mass along with her boys and is excited about what she sees as changes in the church. She's even taking Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes to reconnect with the church's teachings.



Pilgrims view the original image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the basilica named for her in Mexico City Nov. 29. The appearance of Mary to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531 is said to have resulted in millions of conversions to Catholicism. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Dec. 12. (CNS photo/Greg Tarczynski) (Dec. 4, 2006)

Millions flock to Mexican basilica to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- Millions flocked to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to mark the Marian feast and pay homage to the dark-skinned Mary often referred to as "mother of Mexico" and "patroness of the Americas." In cars and caravans, on bicycles and on foot, pilgrims from across the nation -- some traveling the last miles on their knees -- converged on the basilica in northern Mexico City on the Dec. 12 feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and in the days leading up to it. City authorities estimated that more than 5 million people visited the basilica Dec. 12 and millions more in the preceding days. Many camped out on the surrounding streets, with only blankets to fend off temperatures that dipped close to freezing at night. On Dec. 12, crowds of the faithful filled the plaza adjacent to the basilica, mixing with scores of Aztec dancers in tribal garb who moved to booming drum beats. Some pilgrims strained to hear Mass celebrated in the crowded basilica, while others climbed nearby Tepeyac Hill, where Mary appeared 475 years ago. In 1531, Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego on the hillside where the basilica stands. When local clergy were dubious of Juan Diego's claims, Mary gave him a cloak upon which her image was emblazoned -- reportedly the same cloak that hangs in the basilica today.

Vocation

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

Archbishop Harry Flynn Addresses Owensboro Presbyterate About Priesthood Nov. 21, 2006

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - "Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus."

Slowly, each time more quietly, with eyes closed, humbly offering this prayer, Archbishop Harry Flynn opened his talk with the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Owensboro Nov. 21, 2006 at The Catholic Pastoral Center.

He wanted to talk with the priests of the Diocese about taking care of themselves physically, spiritually, and psychologically. Throughout the day, Archbishop Flynn guided the priests in reflections to see where each one was with all three of these. Archbishop Flynn is uniquely qualified to guide priests in these ways since he has been a seminary Rector, a Bishop of a Diocese, a leader in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and now an Archbishop for St. Paul/Minneapolis, Mn. The Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn has been archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, St. Paul, Minn., since 1995. Before that he was bishop of Lafayette, La., from 1989 to 1994.

Sometimes in church, one encounters a man for many seasons; such a man is Archbishop Harry Flynn. He talks to every person who crosses his path, and though a prince of the Church, he humbly addresses every ordained man as "Father," as if asking each one for his blessing.

He said to our priests this day, "Who are the people who offer you the healthy type of love? This is so necessary for a priest. We still need someone to sustain us and to give us their encouragement when we need it."

"Don't be the Lone Ranger," Archbishop Flynn warned priests. "The very nature of Priesthood is *communio*, a sharing," he said.

Archbishop Flynn proceeded to share his three themes of caring for oneself as a priest as being basic appetites within a priest: physical, spiritual, and psychological. He spent a lot of time detailing the first two by showing how they affect a man's management of psychological appetites, "...with which we are all very unfamiliar at times," because in seminary men are guided most through caring for physical and spiritual needs. "Appetites are not interchangeable," he said, "Caring for one's physical needs does not mean one is also caring for spiritual or psychological needs. Grace builds on nature as well as on one's spiritual and psychological needs."

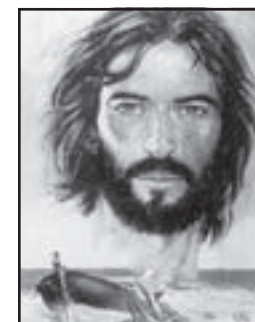
Among the psychological needs which Archbishop Flynn urged priests to care for are the need to receive personal affection, the need to give and encourage personal affection, the need to experience more freedom to manage one's needs, the need to experience variety and change; "People die gently," he said, "people need time off, to not have to do the same thing each day, and to get away from the office, to relax in a change of atmosphere." Other psychological needs he listed are the need to feel a sense of accomplishment, the need to experience solitude, to sense the presence of God, the need to have fun: "Do," he said, "what liberates the psyche; walk, go to the mall."



Fr. Tony Shonis, left, Fr. Bob Drury, and Fr. Al Bremer share moments of reflection during a break of the Presbyteral Day Nov. 21. Staff Photo



Archbishop Harry Flynn, above and at right, speaking with the Owensboro Presbyterate at the Catholic Pastoral Center Nov. 21, 2006 Staff Photos



In photo at left, Bishop John McRaith, second from left, enjoyed sharing discussions with diocesan priests Nov 21 during Presbyteral Day. Staff Photo



Archbishop Flynn said that "we minimize our psychological needs as we age, and see them as a selfish thing. We then lose control over our day as we become more unaware of our psychological needs. Priests can live in a starving atmosphere with people who haven't had a good psychological meal in months." How to build communion as a priest Archbishop Flynn asked. "Care for your psychological needs," he said.

The Archbishop then listed many of the signs he sees in people who are not taking care of their psychological needs: discouragement, becoming cranky, confusion about prayer, about sexuality, indecision, procrastination, inability to concentrate, sleep problems, "All I touch turns to mud," anxiety attacks, drinking, eating too much, destructive sexual behavior, and temper outbursts, screaming at people. As he said this last thought, Archbishop Flynn laughed, "...as I am doing right now with you!"

Archbishop Flynn urged the priests to take the time to find out what are one's psychological needs, to make changes to be a healthy person, to be a part of a group of priests such as Jesu Caritas, or Companions of Christ, to say no to requests, and to expect to feel better than you've ever felt in your life.

He closed the morning's talk this day with a quote from a 14th Century unknown author's *The Cloud of the Unknowing*: "For the love of God, tend to your body and soul alike with great care, and keep it as fit as you can."

Archbishop Flynn's topic this presbyteral day in many ways was healing. In April 25, 2002, he wrote in *America*: "We are all one in the body of Christ. If we as Christians truly believe this, we will realize that we are being called to embrace all injured souls in the fullness of the church and to remind one another that the path to freedom lies in the hope and love Jesus Christ has promised to all. Christ himself promised us that against his bride, the church, 'the gates of hell will not prevail.' Can the church be healed? With God all things are possible."

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.***Catholic Campaign For Human Development Local Grant Information**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a national social justice program of the United States Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self-help organizations, and through transformative education of the non-poor.

Each year in November, the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky participates in the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection. From that collection, 25% of monies are retained to provide grant funding to local organizations, which meet CCHD criteria. Catholic Charities administers and allocates the grant funding, by consulting with a group of panelists who review and recommend allocations to various groups that meet funding criteria.

Please request an application from Richard Murphy by calling at 270/ 683-1545, or emailing Richard.Murphy@pastoral.org to apply. The application will ask for a brief narrative of your organization, budgeting information, how your organization would meet the CCHD criteria of systemic change, what community organizations your group receives support from, and whether your organization's policy-making board has one-third low-income members (if your board does not contain one-third of its members who are low-income also include an explanation of why this is not so).

Applications for grant funding must be received by April 16, 2007 so that grants can be awarded by May 2007. The grant is a non-renewable and must be applied for each year. Three years is the total number of years any one group can receive this grant. Each year several grants are awarded averaging \$500-\$1200 each.

In 2006, eleven programs request local CCHD funds. The available monies were \$5500. Six were awarded some funds, while five did not receive allocations for various reasons as determined by the Review committee.

Criteria:

1. The applicant's project must be within the thirty-two counties, which comprise the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. These counties include: Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Ballard, McCracken, Carlisle, Calloway, Marshall, Trigg, Lyon, Livingston, Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Todd, Logan, Simpson, Allen, Warren, Butler, Edmonson, Grayson, Ohio, Breckinridge, Hancock, Daviess, McLean, Henderson, Union, Webster, and Crittenden.
2. The applicant's project policymaking board must be at least one-third low-income. If this is not the case, the applicant must explain why the board does not have sitting low-income board members. (Low-income board members do not include those considered voluntarily poor such as clergy, religious sisters, students, VISTA volunteers, etc.)
3. The applicant's projects efforts must seek to benefit a poverty group.
4. The applicant's project must seek to create institutional or systemic change by changing the structures that keep people poor and powerless.
5. CCHD will consider favorably only those projects which demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human person. CCHD will not consider projects or organizations which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.
6. The activity for which funding is requested must be consistent with the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
7. Projects should generate cooperation and solidarity among and within diverse groups in the interest of a more integrated and mutually understanding society.
8. Projects should document that as a result of CCHD funding there are possibilities of generating funds from other sources or of moving towards becoming self-supporting within the time lines established in the proposal.

Papal peace message stresses human rights even when terrorism strikes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Even when faced with a potential terrorist attack or in the midst of war, basic human rights must be respected, Pope Benedict XVI said in his message for World Peace Day 2007. "Peace is based on respect for the rights of all," the pope said in his message for the Jan. 1 commemoration. The message, "The Human Person, the Heart of Peace," was sent to heads of state around the world and was released Dec. 12 at a Vatican press conference.

The Universal Call to Holiness

By Fr. John M. Thomas

With the opening of the new calendar year, we as a diocese move closer to the first meeting of the Permanent Diaconate Program. On Saturday, January 27 at 10am in Hopkinsville, I officially call together men who are interested in discerning the call to a life of ministry in the Church through the Order of Deacon.

Did you know each of us has the same vocation? The Second Vatican Council calls every Christian, every Catholic to a UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS. No matter if we are a man or woman, child or adult, smart or dull, rich or poor, the Church calls each of us to holiness. This call of the Church is the responsibility of us all. In everything we think, everything we do, and everything we say, we are to make manifest the presence of Jesus. The call is manifested through our lives in one of three particular vocations given by the Church.

For some, this call is expressed through the single life. For this person, they are not called to the married state nor are they called to the ordained life. They are called in a particular way to live out the teaching of Jesus so that whether they are bound to a religious order or not they dedicate their lives to service in the Church. This vocation is often overlooked or misunderstood. However, the Church calls particular people to service in such a way that demands singular devotion to serve His people. I believe it is through this vocation many have served the Church and specifically our own diocese faithfully in a unique and unselfish way.

The Church calls some members to the vocation of marriage. Although this is the vocation to which most people feel called, I believe it is also the most misunderstood. It seems to me that most people enter the vocation of marriage because it makes them feel fulfilled or happy (not that this is bad in and of itself. I pray every day that more married people feel completed, fulfilled or happy). The Church, however, understands this vocation not to fulfill one's own happiness, but that the other might be made holy through the commitment and expression of love between man and woman and their children. The vocation of a person who is married is to aid the spouse in their salvation and to receive that same expression of support for their own salvation.

The ordained state is the third and final particular vocation given by the Church. For most Catholics this calls to mind the ministry of the priest and the sacraments, especially those of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Actually, when the word vocation is used this is the picture or idea that comes to mind for most people, the priestly vocation. The Church, however, expresses the ordained state not only through the order of presbyter, but also through the order of deacon. It is the deacon who is to assist the bishop in seeking out those who are the poorest among us. It is the deacon who is to give voice to the needs of the people when we are gathered around the altar in prayer. It is the deacon who is to offer petition on behalf of those in need of God's mercy.

We are all called to a life of holiness. The Church calls us to live out that call in these particular ways: the single life, the married state, and the ordained state. I ask for your prayerful support as our diocese formally calls forth men for discernment so as to respond to the call of the Church in service as deacon. Pray for the Spirit to open our hearts and minds so as to encourage and for some, to receive this ministry given us by the Church.

As we enter this new year of grace, let us pray as well that in whatever particular vocation God has called us, we may become holy in its expression and that through our example those around us may be made holy too! St. Stephen, Pray For Us!

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



Father John M. Thomas

Love Has No Boundary; Our Lady of Guadalupe Builds a Bridge of Hope

By Larena Lawson

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Sts Peter and Paul Parish, Dec. 12, 2006 - Curiosity has a way of grabbing hold and leading someone somewhere in order to satisfy their desire to know. The seeking of answers to questions, the quest to understand the reasons why, prompts one into action. Hearing of the anticipated joy and excitement of an upcoming celebration might just tempt one to want to be a part of that special moment... to see for oneself what makes this such an extraordinary event. Curiosity may kill the cat, so it's said, but it might also give it a new look at life.

I received a letter from Hispanic minister, Byron Macias, telling me of the upcoming Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, on Dec. 12. He spoke about all of the work being done to prepare for it and of how it is such a special feast day for the Hispanic parishioners. I wanted to go. I wanted to experience it for myself in order to come to a better understanding of the Hispanic cultural tradition of celebrating it with such great fervor. I thought, "If all of the Americas are under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, then why do we not all celebrate her feast day with such joy and significance?"

Not knowing what to expect, a friend, Veda Mattingly, and I, made our way to Hopkinsville. We were met with instant hospitality and kindness. We were strangers taken into a home, not personally knowing our hostess, Ms. Helen, but were assured by our seminarian friend, Josh McCarty, that we would be well taken care of. He



Owensboro seminarian Josh McCarty with Sts Pater and Paul, Hopkinsville, parishioners. Larena Lawson Photo

had graciously made the arrangements for us. We planned to awaken early and attend a serenade to Our Lady of Guadalupe at dawn and also the special Mass that would be celebrated in the evening with the Bishop. Beyond that, we were in the dark as to what would transpire on the following feast day.

Five o'clock a.m. came quickly and as the dimly lit Church revealed the bright faces of the faithful, I was amazed at their willingness to begin this special day so early in the morning. Many carried fresh flowers to offer Our Lady and placed them

at the foot of her statue which stood in honor beside the altar. They soon began to sing the "Mananitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe," first light songs, at dawn. In their native Spanish language they sung with lively faith, enthusiasm, and thanksgiving. I couldn't understand a word, but I didn't have to. I could almost feel the passion they proclaimed in song. Their joy was contagious! I felt assured that the praising of la Morenita (the Little Dark One) was heard, and smiled upon with love. When they finished singing they placed the statue of the Virgin in a specially decorated glass box and two young ladies carried her as they led a candlelight procession to the gym where their traditions continued. The aroma of hot chocolate filled the air and the traditional pan dulce (Mexican bread) was ready to be served...and again, we encountered friendly hospitality.

In the evening we attended the bilingual Mass that was celebrated with Bishop John McRaith. It was well attended and began with the uplifting singing of Oh Santisima, O Most Holy One. As I later listened to the seemingly powerful words of the homily in Spanish, I could tell by Father Carmelo's spirited animation that Our Lady of Guadalupe is very highly revered. Byron affirmed this observation when he unexpectedly translated the homily to English. Following this, there was a special Reenactment of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In beautiful costumes those portraying Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego, acted out the story as it was told. It spoke of the courage of poor Juan Diego, who felt so unworthy to be a messenger of Our Lady's, but because she insisted that he was her chosen one, he did as she asked and his life was transformed by the love that she conveyed to him. Her love had no boundary.



Father Carmelo Jimenez

It was all unfolding for me. I was seeing, hearing and feeling things that explained what I longed to know. I glanced through the program and came across a statement printed at the bottom of one of the pages. "Our parishioners, two cultures united in Christ." I heard Bishop John say at the end of Mass that he hoped for a time when we could all be understood by one another; when we could all be one. Our Lady of Guadalupe builds that bridge of hope. She wanted all peoples to know love, a love with no boundary.

At the reception following the Mass, in the gym, more was to be experienced. A Mexican meal was served. Everywhere I looked I saw happy people, children running around playfully and some girls clothed in bright, colorful, native dresses, with matching ribbons in their hair. They couldn't wait to break open the piñata that was hanging from the basketball goal. Their excitement mounted. The Bishop blessed the crèches (nativity scenes) that were brought in and displayed. A lively band played Spanish music and others joined in song. The kind ladies made it a point to serve us. We encountered many smiles. It was then that I was reminded of a story that I was told when I had said I wish I knew Spanish, so I could communicate better. I was gently told that when Mother Teresa was to make a trip to Poland someone said to her, "But Mother, you do not speak Polish." In her wisdom she answered, "No, but I can smile in Polish." By the end of the day I came to realize that this parish community definitely knew how to smile in English!

What a joy it was to celebrate with them! They gave me a new look at life. My curiosity was satisfied. I saw that life can be blessed if love has no boundary, if faith is placed in the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe who came to build a bridge of hope for all peoples. She came to convey the love of God, which does not discriminate. He sent her to give us the courage to follow His will with love.

Yes, Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Protectress of the Americas, and

A young mother helps her child break open the piñata in the Sts. Peter and Paul gym Dec. 12. Larena Lawson Photo

we could all benefit in making her feast day as special and significant as our Hispanic brothers and sisters do.



Reenactment of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe portrayed by Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville parishioners. Larena Lawson Photo



The Adventures of a Young and Inexperienced Priest

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2007 43

VI: WHY THE ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG PRIEST?

By Father Carmelo Jimenez

When I started to write these little stories, I did so motivated by a young friend of mine, Byron Macias, who is the director of Hispanic ministry here in Hopkinsville, at Saints Peter and Paul. I wanted to title these stories "The adventures of a young and inexperienced priest," because I want to share my experiences from Saint Peter Apostle parish in Chenalho, Saint Paul the Apostle parish in Chalchihuitan and Saint John the Baptist parish in Chamula, state of Chiapas, Mexico. I was the pastor of these parishes for two years; I also had to take pastoral care of 281 communities. Though these three parishes belong to the Diocese of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, I was on loan from another diocese.

The Bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas was Samuel Ruiz, and when he reached the age to retire from the Diocese as a Bishop, he did so following the norms of Canon Law. He did so as a man of faith and church, holding strongly to them despite how controversial that Diocese had become because of its leaning toward Liberation Theology.

The Diocese received a new Bishop, Felipe Arizmendi, who gave priority to the parish in Chenalho and tried to reopen it. He had to negotiate with the local authorities, who would only accept a priest from outside of that Diocese (San Cristobal). So Bishop Arizmendi had the task of searching for a priest from other dioceses in Mexico to send to this parish.

The Bishop of my Mother Diocese, Felipe Aguirre, who wanted to collaborate with the diocese of San Cristobal, asked me to serve in Chenalho as a full time pastor. Via telephone, I told him that I had been a priest only for a year and although I was a pastor, I did not have the experience necessary to guide such complex parish. In addition, the Parish in Chenalho had been closed for long time already due to many social problems. I was not willing to go there.

That day, May 10, 2000, I saw my Bishop angry for the very first time; he was mad. He asked me to meet that very moment at the Diocesan Curia. I told him I had to visit a small community and I could meet with him the next day if he wished. He responded that he would be waiting the next day.

As for me, I went back to my room, took my breviary out of my back and in its place



**Son fotos de la elegante cocina, y nuestro lugar de lavar los trastes
A picture of the elegant kitchen and the place to do the dishes.**



Fotos de una jornada de Vida Cristiana Juvenil, con mas de 100 jóvenes viviéndolo; Pictures of a retreat of Youth Christian Life with more than 100 youth.

packed the Code of Canon Law to look for a way to defend myself without falling into disobedience when meeting with my Bishop the next day.

Once at the community I had to attend, I did all that needed to be done: confessions, Mass, and meetings with the different pastoral leaders. I came back to the house I was staying at around 10pm after visiting the sick and homebound and blessing some houses. I started to study and search for all the right articles for my defense in front of the Bishop. I found them and got ready for bed very late. Yet, I could not manage to sleep so instead I preferred to get up and went into the Chapel, walked to the altar and the tabernacle and I was there, gazing into the Blessed Sacrament. I said so many things to the Lord; I expressed my fears and my total opposition to going full time to another Diocese. I explained my reasons to the Lord for refusing such an invitation but there was also the vow of obedience that I made on my ordination day, along with my very present fears. It was a fight between what God was asking me through my Bishop and my prejudices about going to another Diocese. There, by the Blessed Sacrament, there by the Tabernacle, in the complete solitude of my soul and the presence of God, the greatest of my fights took place. I could prove that it was God's voice asking me to go wherever He may send me. I remembered the words God said to Jeremiah: "you will go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you." It was not me the one who had to go, I only had to do and say what God commanded. By 6am I ended up telling the Lord that I would go wherever He may send me, but that I was only going to go and He had to take care of the rest.

It was clear that God had won the fight and I was a simply priest of His. I am not a priest because of my own merits but because of His Mercy.

When I met with the Bishop, he too had prepared to motivate me to go to another Diocese, if I accepted. He was quite surprised when I interrupted his argument and asked him what exactly the assignment was. When I told him that I accepted he asked me what had happened to me because he saw such a change in me overnight.

This is how I accepted to experience the adventures I have been narrating, and will keep trying to narrate. They are not science or fiction; they are realities lived among a people that suffers in the mountains and is often marginalized. They have been living for a long time in extreme poverty, but with such great faith, thirsting to have an encounter with the true God.

I would like to conclude by motivating you to search for God, especially there, in front of the Tabernacle. Remember that the more we look for him, the closer the Lord is to us and He never fails us. I experienced this in such a way during my missionary work that when the Bishop asked me to come back to my diocese, I accepted only after hearing that I would be permitted to return to missionary work again after a reasonable time.

Las Apariciones Guadalupanas The Apparitions of Guadalupe

Fue el año 1531, cuando un indio pobre llamado Juan Diego se caminaba y oyó cantar sobre el cerrito llamado Tepeyac. Se paró y entonces oyó que alguien lo llamaba: "Juanito, Juan Dieguito." Miro y vio una doncella quien dijo que era la Virgen Santa María, Madre de Dios. Ella le pidió que hablara al Obispo para pedirle que construyera un templo en aquel lugar.



It was the year 1531 when a poor Indian named Juan Diego was walking and heard the birds sing joyfully above the mountain of Tepeyac. He stopped and then heard "Juanito, Juan Dieguito." He looked and saw a woman who said she was the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God. She asked him to speak to the Bishop and request that he build a temple in that place.



Juan Diego fue a hablar con el Obispo y decirle lo que había visto, pero no lo creyó. Después de hablar otra vez con la Señora, regresó otra vez y el Obispo le pidió una señal que realmente era la Madre de Dios quien le hablaba.

Juan Diego went to speak to the Bishop and tell him what had seen, but he didn't believe Juan. After speaking to the woman again, Juan returned to the Bishop who asked for a sign that it was really the Mother of God who spoke to him.



La Señora le había prometido darle una señal el día siguiente, (i.) pero Juan Diego decidió ir por otro camino porque le urgía buscar un sacerdote para su tío que estaba tan enfermo que se iba a morir. Pero le apareció otra vez la Virgen, diciéndole que no se debe preocupar porque su tío ya estaba bien. Le pidió que buscara unas flores (d.) subiendo al cerrito y que las llevara al Obispo como señal. Las encontró Juan Diego y los llevó en tilma al Obispo.

The woman had promised to give him a sign the next day, (i.) but Juan Diego decided go a different route since he was in a hurry to find a priest for his uncle who was so sick that he was going to die. But the Virgin appeared again saying that he should not worry because his uncle was already healed. She asked him (r.) to look for some flowers up the hill and to take them to the Bishop as a sign. Juan Diego found them and brought them in his cloak to the Bishop.

Cuando abrió su tilma para mostrar las flores al Obispo vieron que apareció de improviso la venerada imagen de la siempre Virgen María, Madre de Dios, tal como ahora tenemos la dicha de conservarla, guardada ahí en lo que es su hogar predilecto, su templo del Tepeyac, que llamamos Guadalupe.



When he opened his cloak to show the Bishop the flowers they saw that the image of Guadalupe, the Virgin Mary, Mother of God appeared on the cloak just as Juan Diego had seen her. Now, 475 years later, it is still conserved in the temple of Tepeyac.

La Lucha por el Respeto a Toda Vida es un Reto que Nunca Termina.

Queridos amigos:

Es difícil creer que hemos trabajado durante 34 años para terminar con el aborto legal y educar a la gente a cerca de que el aborto está mal sea legal o no. Sí, había abortos antes de que la Suprema Corte hiciera legal el aborto en aquel triste día del 23 de enero de 1973. Porque no era legal, la gente literalmente iba alrededor del mundo a practicarse un aborto. Es imposible saber cuantos, ya que obviamente no se mantenían registros en muchos lugares pues era en contra de la ley. Habiendo dicho eso, sabemos que había mucho menos abortos porque nuestra sociedad hasta entonces hacia muy difícil practicarse un aborto. Después de la fatal decisión de Roe vs. Wade, practicarse un aborto se volvió más fácil porque era legal. Se mantienen registros (que tan precisos no sabemos). Pero sabemos que al menos a 48 millones de bebés se les ha quitado la vida.

Muchos perdidos antes de que tuvieran la oportunidad de incluso nacer... muchos que no tuvieron oportunidad de vivir sus vidas, compartir sus talentos con el resto del mundo. Con frecuencia me pregunto cuántos de ellos habrían sido líderes de la sociedad el día de hoy. ¿Cuántos de ellos habrían sido políticos que conocieran el valor de la vida y hubieran visto a través de ella que la vida del no nacido fuera protegida tanto como la vida de los vivos? Uno se pregunta cuántos maestros, agricultores, electricistas, doctores, abogados, trabajadores sociales y la lista sigue y sigue, habrían hecho la diferencia en este mundo. Bueno, no hay respuesta, pero yo creo que estaríamos sorprendidos de cómo muchos de ellos habrían usado el talento dado por Dios para servir a sus hermanas y hermanas en cualquier camino de la vida que ellos se encontrarán. Si solo ellos hubieran tenido la oportunidad. ¿Cuántos de aquellos que perdieron su vida por la legalización del aborto nunca tuvieron la oportunidad de tener una familia propia? Hoy algunos serían padres y abuelos si se les hubiera permitido vivir. Nosotros sabemos que hay muchas parejas en este mundo que no pueden tener hijos por razones médicas, quienes pudieron haber sido buenos padres de esos bebés. Por lo que muchos pudieron haber sido adoptados y se les habría dado la oportunidad de la vida.

Uno podría seguir y seguir con las preguntas “¿Qué tal si?”, pero nunca sabremos las respuestas hasta que muramos. Podemos, sin embargo, calcular que sería un mundo diferente el día de hoy si ellos hubieran vivido. Nos damos cuenta de ello cuando nos detenemos y pensamos lo que aquellos a los que se les permitió vivir han hecho durante esos 34 años. ¿Cuántas vidas de madres y padres han sido seriamente afectadas por la decisión de practicarse un aborto porque parecía una solución fácil al problema del embarazo?

Nosotros sabemos que el aborto no es la solución fácil que parece. Hoy tenemos un ministerio especial para aquellos que continúan sufriendo por un error que la sociedad ayudó a cometer. El Proyecto ministerio Raquel (Rachel en inglés) ayuda a muchos a encontrar la cura y les ayuda a ver que Dios puede y los ha perdonado. Dios aun los ama; Él sólo pide que ellos recojan sus vidas y sigan adelante ayudando a otros a no cometer el mismo error.

A fin de cuentas todos perdemos cuando se comete un aborto en las vidas de buena gente que toma malas decisiones. Apoyados en este error por muchos profesionales, el aborto continúa siendo legal a pesar de todos los esfuerzos de algunos para prevenirlo año tras año. Sí, necesitamos cambiar la ley, pero para hacerlo, necesitamos cambiar nuestros corazones para respetar toda la vida – tanto el que nació como el que no ha nacido.

¿Cómo podemos no responder al ruego de nuestro querido Papa Juan Pablo II difunto a cambiar nuestra cultura de muerte por una cultura de vida? Tenemos que llegar a un acuerdo en nuestras propias vidas con el hecho de que cada vez que fallemos en respetar otra vida humana o cualquier creación de Dios, estamos de alguna forma votando por que continúe la cultura que permite el aborto legal. Discúlpenme por ser tan contundente, pero no podemos argüir en forma contradictoria.

No podemos tratar a los miembros de nuestra familia sin respeto sin, de alguna forma, votar por una cultura de muerte y aborto. Faltarles al respeto a los emigrantes e inmigrantes que vienen a los Estados Unidos para alimentar a sus familias es votar por una cultura de muerte.

Cuando tratamos a otros sin respeto, esencialmente le estamos diciendo a Dios que Él cometió un error creándolos. El hambre en el mundo no es causada simplemente por el mal juicio de cada individuo que tiene hambre; la codicia de aquellos de nosotros

Cada vida apenas concebida hoy nos dará las gracias a cada uno de nosotros por toda la eternidad por trabajar en nosotros mismos para cambiar cualquier cosa que incluso se acerque a una falta de respeto por la vida. Reverendísimo John J. McRaith

que demandan más de los dones de Dios de lo que es necesario puede ser muy bien la causa del hambre de otras personas. Ahora, comprendo que los individuos toman malas decisiones y tienen hambre por esa razón. Pero también creo que la mayor parte del hambre en el mundo es causada por las decisiones codiciosas de aquellos que tienen más y quieren aun más de los dones del mundo. La avaricia a menudo viene al costo de las vidas de otra gente.

Con firmeza acepto que el aborto es nuestra primera preocupación. Sin la oportunidad de incluso nacer, el resto de las faltas de respeto por la vida están fuera de la discusión. Pero creo que hay una pendiente resbaladiza en esta cultura de la muerte que facilita el aborto.

Una vez que iniciamos la cuesta abajo de la falta de respeto a cualquiera de los hijos de Dios, damos otro paso hacia hacer de ésta una cultura que justifica tomar una vida incluso antes de que haya tenido la oportunidad de nacer.

Por lo tanto, mientras censuramos, repudiamos y condenamos el aborto, debemos primero mirar hacia nosotros mismos para ver si hemos tenido una mano en la decisiva y más obvia falta de respeto a la vida que es el ABORTO. En verdad creo que si nosotros primero vemos en nuestros propios corazones, estaríamos asombrados al encontrar áreas que tendríamos que cambiar para poder amar a otros como Él nos amó. Una vez que suficientes de nosotros tengamos la voluntad de cambiar, el Espíritu Santo nos guiará a rápidas soluciones al aborto legal en nuestra sociedad. En nuestros propios corazones, estaremos tomando el primer paso para cambiar nuestro mundo de una cultura de muerte a una cultura de vida.

¿No es eso lo que todos queremos? Entonces con nuestras oraciones, con nuestros sacrificios y ofreciendo nuestros sufrimientos, nosotros cambiaremos nuestros valores. Al cambiar nosotros, el mundo alrededor de nosotros se verá afectado por ese cambio. Así un cambio de corazón nos guiará a ver que somos los únicos administradores de los dones de Dios, dones dados a cada persona desde la concepción hasta su muerte natural. Sólo Dios puede dar la vida y sólo Dios deberá ser el que quite la vida.

Cada vida apenas concebida hoy nos dará las gracias a cada uno de nosotros por toda la eternidad por trabajar en nosotros mismos para cambiar cualquier cosa que incluso se acerque a una falta de respeto por la vida. Nos debemos unir y poder decir juntos “YO ESTOY A FAVOR DE LA VIDA” siempre y bajo todas las circunstancias. Empecemos el día de hoy mientras rezamos para poner final al aborto. Encontraremos la respuesta en los mensajes de Jesús, en las enseñanzas de la Iglesia y en la oración a Dios “No endurezcamos nuestros corazones” nunca.

Nuestro Santo Padre resumió esto de una mejor forma de la que yo podría hacerlo mientras hablaba a los obispos de ad limina de Suiza. Nuestro Santo Padre dijo, “Sólo si uno respeta la vida humana desde la concepción hasta la muerte es una ética de paz posible y creíble. ...Sólo entonces puede la no violencia expresarse a si misma en toda dirección; sólo entonces podemos de verdad aceptar la creación y sólo entonces podemos alcanzar la justicia verdadera.”

Sinceramente en Cristo

Reverendísimo John J. McRaith, D.D., Obispo de Owensboro

Gracias a ustedes por sus atenciones y apoyo.

Queridos amigos,

Espero que hayan tenido una maravillosa Navidad y que el Año Nuevo les traiga muchas bendiciones y les acerque a nuestro Señor. Sólo quiero agradecer a todos aquellos que se acordaron de mí en Navidad con cartas, tarjetas y regalos. No tendré la oportunidad de responder cada una individualmente, por lo que sólo quiero que sepan que estoy lleno de gratitud de poder servir a gente de tal fe.

Les doy las gracias por sus atenciones y apoyo durante la época de Navidad. Les aseguro que están en mis oraciones y Misas cada día.

Mientras trabajamos juntos para traer la Buena Nueva del Nacimiento de nuestro Salvador a todo aquel que la escuche, le damos gracias a Dios por su llamada para compartir con Él la Misión de la Iglesia, Su Misión. Las bendiciones de Dios sobre todos ustedes. Con mucha gratitud, permanezco

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Reverendísimo John J. McRaith, Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es venerada y celebrada a través de la Diócesis el 12 de diciembre...



en San José, Mayfield



en Cristo Rey, Madisonville



en San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville



en Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam



en Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson



en Sagrado Corazón, Russellville



en San Miguel, Sebree



en Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah



en San José y San Pablo, Owensboro



...y en hogares católicos en todo el año

en Santa
Susana,
Elkton

Un hombre que reside en Beaver Dam da testimonio a los Obispos sobre las redadas migratorias en Georgia

por Hermano David Henley

El 4 de noviembre el Padre Victor Subb de los Misioneros de Glenmary, algunos alumnos de Glenmary junto con miembros de la parroquia de Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam, Kentucky viajaron a Cullman, Alabama para una reunión del Comité Católico del Sur. El Comité Católico del Sur proveyó un lugar para que los católicos pudieran conocer a otros católicos, compartir su fe y encontrar apoyo. Quitofel de Oaxaca y ahora miembro de la parroquia Santo Redentor, relató al grupo sobre eventos recientes en Georgia con la migración y deportaciones. Su historia inspiró al grupo y el comité ejecutivo pidió que el Quitofel viajara la semana próxima al Baltimore, Maryland para compartir su testimonio con los Obispos durante su reunión anual.



Obispo J. Kevin Boland de Savannah, Georgia con Quitofel en la reunión de los Obispos del Sur de los Estados Unidos

Durante la reunión, Quitofel describió las redadas de “la migra” en Stillmore, Georgia que ocurrieron en la pollera durante el mes de septiembre. Durante las operaciones de “la migra,” casi 200 personas fueron detenidas y la mayoría ha sido deportada. Después de entrar en la planta, “la migra” pasó a las casas alrededor de la planta, entrando en ellas por la fuerza. También se pararon automóviles y arrestaron a todos los conductores hispanos. Cinco ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos que la migra presumió eran indocumentados fueron detenidos, en contra de sus derechos. Durante las redadas muchos huyeron al monte donde pasaron unos días escondidos. Unos estadounidenses recibieron noticias de los eventos y llevaron comida y cobijas a la gente escondida. La diócesis de Savannah envió una camioneta llena con comida y otros abastecimientos para ayudar a la gente que quedó. Eventualmente algunos de los residentes que no fueron arrestados salieron hacia otros estados con sus familias. Hoy día la planta en Stillmore tiene menos de la mitad de los empleados que tenía antes. Y para continuar las producciones algunas cárceles alrededor la planta han mandado prisioneros para trabajar en los puestos vacantes.

Los Obispos de Georgia, Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur han firmado una carta a favor de los inmigrantes. Sigamos pidiendo que más obispos firmen esta carta y que haya una conversión en los corazones de la gente en contra de los inmigrantes indocumentados. Los cinco obispos han enviado la carta al Senado y la Cámara de Representantes con la esperanza de que pronto tengamos una reforma comprehensiva para todos los inmigrantes.

El 13 de noviembre, Quitofel, con el Padre Les Schmidt y el Hermano David Henley de Glenmary tuvieron una audiencia con cinco de los Obispos del Sur de los Estados Unidos durante la Conferencia Nacional de Obispos. La meta de la reunión fue a dar un informe a los obispos de la experiencia de la comunidad hispana y pedir su apoyo por media de una carta a favor de reformas a las leyes de inmigración. Los Obispos presentes fueron Obispo John J. McRaith de diócesis de Owensboro, Obispo William B. Friend de Shreveport, Louisiana, Obispo Joseph N. Latino de Jackson, Mississippi, Obispo Curtis J. Guillory, SVD de Beaumont, Texas y Obispo J. Kevin Boland de Savannah, Georgia.

¡Vengan Jóvenes! Fiesta Juvenil



Todos los jóvenes hispanos están invitados a participar en un evento especialmente para ellos en Hopkinsville.

- * Reflexión juvenil
- * Vía Crucis
- * Misa Catequisada
- * Noche de Talentos
- * Baile

Sábado, 6 de enero

11am - 6pm

**Iglesia San Pedro y San Pablo,
Hopkinsville (902 E. 9th St.)**

Retiro “Nueva Vida”

Por Liliana Duran — el primer encuentro en Mayfield, KY. Ese día fue un día muy especial, un día de esperanza, de tristeza, de libertad. Fue un día de reflexión, me sentí libre de problemas fuera de este mundo. Sentí la presencia del Señor, al mismo tiempo sentí miedo, no hay palabras para explicar esta experiencia que fue única que nunca se me olvidara. A mi me gustaría invitar a todas las personas que vivieran un retiro de sanción y que le abran el corazón al Señor y que le den la oportunidad de que pasen por sus vidas.



Por Arabel Arellano--- es muy bonito compartir lo que ahora siento. Es como volver a nacer, siento mucho gusto y gozo de haber ido al retiro “nueva vida” y bien como dice el titulo tengo nueva vida ahora. Ahora mas que nunca creo que Dios esta conmigo, porque ese día lo sentí muy cerca de mi. Tenía mucho miedo que algo me pudiera pasar cuando escuchaba como la gente lloraba al pasar el padre con el “santísimo” y cuando llegó donde yo estaba sentí muchas ganas de llorar y pues me gustaría que ahora mas que nunca la gente sintiera como Dios vela nuestros días y noches y que se despierta mañana con una sonrisa y mucho amor que cada día nos da.

Por Lucio Leco--- Quiero invitar a todos los jóvenes a los retiros de sanción. Yo que viví experiencias muy bonitas con Dios, quiero decir que me siento muy a gusto cuando siento la presencia de Dios y también tener el don de Dios. Ya que nuestro Señor hace muchos milagros. Nos sana espiritualmente en todo lo que le pedimos, siempre cuando le entregamos el corazón y lo hagamos con mucha fe. Yo recomiendo a todas las personas que cuando hagan un retiro de sanción, les recomiendo que vayan.

Las peripecias de un joven e inexperto Cura

VI: EL PORQUE DE LAS PERIPECIAS DE UN CURA JOVEN

Por el Padre Carmelo Jiménez

Cuando empecé a escribir estas pequeñas historias lo hice motivado por un joven amigo, Byron Macias, quien es director del ministerio Hispano acá en Hopkinsville, parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo, y quise titular estas historias como: “Las peripecias de un joven e inexperto Cura”, porque pensé en contar las experiencias vividas en las parroquias de San Pedro Apóstol, en Chenalho, Parroquia de San Pablo Apóstol, en Chalchihuitán y Parroquia de San Juan Bautista, en Chamula, Chiapas, donde fui Párroco al mismo tiempo por dos años, y me tocaban atender mas de 281 comunidades. Estas tres parroquias son de la Diócesis de San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. Yo no pertenezco a esa Diócesis.

El obispo de San Cristóbal de las Casas, fue Mons. Samuel Ruiz, y cuando cumplió la edad de renunciar a la Diócesis como Obispo, lo hizo siguiendo las normas del Código Derecho Canónico y como hombre de fe y de Iglesia, a pesar de lo controversial que dicha Diócesis había sido debido a la línea de la Teología de la Liberación que seguía. Al cambio de obispo, Don Felipe Arizmendi, nuevo Obispo de dicha Diócesis, dio prioridad a la atención de la parroquia de Chenalho, y trató de reabrir la; para eso tuvo que negociar con las autoridades locales, pidiéndole éstas que solamente aceptarían un sacerdote que no fuera de dicha Diócesis (San Cristóbal), y se dio a la tarea de buscar sacerdote de otras diócesis de México para mandar allá.

Mi propio obispo, Mons. Felipe Aguirre, queriendo colaborar con dicha diócesis, me pidió que me fuera a tiempo completo para aquella diócesis. Yo le respondí, vía teléfono, que yo tenía sólo un año de ordenado sacerdote, y aunque era párroco no tenía la experiencia necesaria para guiar una parroquia tan compleja, además la Parroquia de Chenalho permanecía cerrada desde ya hacia mucho tiempo y con muchos problemas sociales, por lo que no estaba dispuesto a ir.

Ese día, 10 de mayo del 2000, conocí por vez primera a mi Obispo molesto; él me pidió que me dirigiera ése mismo momento a la Curia Diocesana, y respondí que iba a una comunidad y que volvería hasta el día siguiente, y entonces podía llegar a la curia, si él así lo deseaba. El me respondió que me esperaba el día siguiente.

Yo por mi parte regresé a mi habitación, saqué de la maleta mi liturgia de las horas y puse en su lugar el Código de Derecho Canónico, para buscar la manera de defenderme el día siguiente sin caer en desobediencia.

Ya en la comunidad, hice todo lo que debía hacer, las confesiones, la Misa, las reuniones con los diferentes grupos de pastoral, y después las visitas a los enfermos y algunas bendiciones de casas. Regresé a la casa donde dormiría como a las 10.00 p.m. Y me dispuse a estudiar y buscar los artículos necesarios para defenderme delante del obispo. Los encontré, y ya muy tarde me dispuse a dormir, pero no pude conciliar el sueño, por lo que preferí levantarme y entrar a la Capilla, ahí, entre el altar y el Sagrario me senté, mirando fijo al Santísimo. Le dije al Señor no sé cuantas cosas, expresé mis temores y mi total desacuerdo en ir a colaborar con la otra Diócesis. Le expuse al Señor mis razones para rechazar tal invitación, pero también estaba en mí la promesa de obediencia que hice el día de mi ordenación sacerdotal, pero, también mis temores estaban presentes. Fue una lucha entre lo que Dios me pedía a través de mi obispo y mi sentir. Ahí, junto al Señor Sacramentado, ahí junto al Tabernáculo, ahí en la soledad total de mi alma y la presencia del Señor tuve el más grande de mis pleitos y pude constatar la voz de Dios que me pedía ir a donde él me enviaba. Recordé las palabras que un día Dios le dijo a Jeremías: “irás a donde yo te envíe y dirás lo que yo te diga”. No era yo quien tenía que ir, yo sólo tenía que hacer y decir lo Dios me mandaba. A las 6.00 a.m. yo terminaba diciéndole al Señor que estaba bien, que iría a donde él me enviaba, pero que yo solamente iría y que El tenía que hacer y decir lo necesario.

Constataba que Dios había ganado aquel pleito y que yo, simplemente soy sacerdote de El, no soy sacerdote por méritos propios sino por su misericordia.

Cuando yo volví, y fui con el Obispo, él también se había preparado para motivarme, y si aceptara yo el envío a otra Diócesis. Lo cual se sorprendió cuando le suspendía sus palabras pidiéndole que dijera qué era lo que él quería, y cuando yo le dije que sí aceptaba, él me preguntó qué había pasado conmigo porque me notaba muy cambiado respecto al día anterior.

Es así como acepté vivir las aventuras que he estado narrando y trataré de continuar narrando. No son ciencia y ficción, son realidades vividas en medio de un pueblo que sufre en las montañas y marginados muchas veces y por mucho tiempo, viviendo en la vil pobreza, pero eso sí, con gran fe y anhelando encontrarse con el verdadero Dios.

Quiero terminar diciendo y motivando a buscar a Dios, sobre todo ahí frente al Sagrario. Recuerden que entre mas lo buscamos mas cerca está el Señor de nosotros y nunca nos defrauda. Así lo experimenté en la misión de tal manera que cuando mi obispo me pidió que regresara a mi Diócesis, solo lo hice después de escuchar que me permitiría volver a misionar después de un tiempo razonable.

El Llamado Universal a la Santidad

Padre John Thomas

Con la apertura del nuevo año, nosotros como diócesis nos acercamos a la primera reunión del Programa del Diaconado Permanente. El sábado 27 de enero a las 10am oficialmente llamaré a todos los hombres interesados en discernir el llamado a la vida del ministerio en la Iglesia por medio del Orden del Diaconado.

¿Sabían que cada uno de nosotros tenemos la misma vocación? El Concilio Vaticano Segundo llama a cada cristiano, cada católico a un LLAMADO UNIVERSAL A LA SANTIDAD. No importa si somos hombres o mujeres, niños o adultos, inteligentes o no tanto, ricos o pobres, la Iglesia nos llama a todos a la santidad. Este llamado de la Iglesia es la responsabilidad de todos nosotros. En todo lo que hacemos y decimos, tendemos que poner de manifiesto la presencia de Jesús. Este llamado está manifestado por medio de nuestras vidas en una de las tres vocaciones particulares dadas por la Iglesia.

Para alguno, éste llamado está expresado por medio de la vida de soltero. Para estas personas, ellos no están llamados al estado del matrimonio ni a la vida consagrada. Ellos están llamados de manera particular para vivir las enseñanzas de Jesús para que en una comunidad religiosa o no, dediquen sus vidas al servicio de la Iglesia.

Esta vocación esta siempre ignorada o mal vista. Sin embargo la iglesia llama a gente particular a servir de tal manera que demande una devoción singular para servir a Su gente. Creo que es por medio de esta vocación que muchos han servido a la Iglesia y específicamente nuestra diócesis fielmente de una manera única y altruista.

La Iglesia llama a algunos a la vocación del matrimonio. Pese a que ésta es la vocación a la cual mucha gente se siente llamada, creo que también es la más malentendida. Me parece que mucha gente entre a la vocación del matrimonio porque los hace sentir completos o felices (no que esto sea malo en sí mismo. Pido para que cada día más gente casada se sienta completa, realizada o feliz). La Iglesia entiende esta vocación no para realizar la felicidad de uno pero para que el otro sea hecho santo por medio del compromiso y expresión de amor entre hombre y mujer y sus hijos. La vocación de una persona que está casada es la de ayudar al esposo/a en su salvación y recibir esa mima expresión de apoyo para su propia salvación.

El estado de Ordenes es la vocación tercera, final y particular dada por la Iglesia. Para la mayoría de católicos esto le hace pensar en el ministerio del sacerdote y de los sacramentos, especialmente de la Reconciliación y la Eucaristía. Actualmente, cuando la palabra vocación es usada, la gente piensa en su mayoría en la vocación sacerdotal.

La Iglesia, de todos modos, expresa el estado de Ordenes no solo por el orden del presbiterio sino también del diaconado. Es el diacono quien ayuda al obispo a buscar a los mas pobres entre nosotros. Es el diacono el que responde a las necesidades de la gente cuando nos reunimos alrededor del altar en oración. Es el diacono quien ofrece la petición a nombre de todos que necesitan la misericordia de Dios.

Estamos llamados a una vida de santidad. La iglesia nos llama a que practiquemos esa llamada en maneras particulares: la vida de soltero, la vida de casado y la vida de Órdenes santas. Les pido que rueguen por nuestra diócesis, la cual esta llamando formalmente a hombres para que disciernan la vocación al Diaconado Permanente. Recen para que el Espíritu Santo abra nuestros corazones y mentes para que nos anime y nos haga recibir este ministerio dado a nosotros por la Iglesia.

Al iniciar este nuevo año de gracia, pidamos para que en cualquier vocación particular que Dios nos haya llamado, nos podamos convertir santos en su expresión y que por medio de nuestro ejemplo, todos los que nos rodean sean santos también. San Esteban, ruega por nosotros.

Si está interesado en aplicar para el Programa del Diaconado Permanente de la Diócesis de Owensboro, por favor contacte a: Reverendo Padre John M. Thomas, Director del Programa del Diaconado Permanente, 902 East Ninth Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240 jmthomas@saintspeterandpaulchurch.org Tel. 270-885-8522 Fax. 270-885-5296