Lenten Sacrifice

**ABSTINENCE**
No meat can be taken by those 14 and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.

**FASTING**
A limit of one full meatless meal by those 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**SELF-DENIAL**
Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended on weekdays during Lent.

**PRAYER and CHARITY**
Can include daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.

My Dear Friends,

This Lenten Sacrifice graphic outlines the expectations of the Church for us all as we move into the time of Lent. By following the teachings and rules of the Church, we will have a good start on making a Lent that will indeed prepare us to walk with Christ through His suffering and death on the Cross. We must rejoice to have this time to look at our lives and come to a greater awareness and appreciation for the great feast of Easter. It is indeed the Paschal Mystery that we prepare for, and that Mystery is how much God loves every one of us.

We are called during Lent to prepare for the ultimate mystery and the ultimate act of the love of God – the Resurrection, which we will celebrate on Easter Sunday. We can only truly celebrate with the Risen Lord if we have prepared ourselves so that we are open to come to know better how much God loves us.

Lent is a special time for all of us, but I want those who are preparing to be fully initiated into the Church (the Catechumens and the Candidates) to know that we all join you in your final preparation. Let us walk together in this season of preparation for Easter. We will prepare as individuals, and we will together prepare by taking part in the community offerings that every parish and Catholic institution will be offering during this Lenten season.

I wish you a happy and fruitful Lent so that together we can all come closer to Jesus as we prepare to celebrate His suffering, death and resurrection. God’s blessing on each of you.

Sincerely in Christ,

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

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Plan To Help Fill Operation Rice Bowl During Lent

Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Each Lent, parishes, school and other faith communities participate in Operation Rice Bowl to learn more about the work of CRS and put their faith into action. As a Lenten solidarity program, Operation Rice Bowl calls Catholics to reach out to assist our brothers and sisters around the world through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving while learning about their lives overseas. This year, join over 15,400 groups in the United States participating in Operation Rice Bowl and foster solidarity between your community and those who struggle with hunger and poverty around the world.

The Operation Rice Bowl 2007 featured countries are Mexico, Pakistan, Angola, Cambodia, and Niger. Through stories, photos and recipes from these featured countries, participants learn about the joys and challenges in the lives, our brothers and sisters overseas. By signing up for the Operation Rice Bowl Online Community (http://orb.crs.org/), participants also receive weekly emails during Lent which contain reflections on the 2007 featured countries.

To create an enriching Lenten experience for your entire faith community, Operation Rice Bowl provides resources to help coordinate and publicize your community’s participation, including public service announcements for television and radio.

Operation Rice Bowl has served as a tangible way for Catholics in the United States to connect in solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas for over 30 years. Find out more about Operation Rice Bowl’s History, receive answers to your Frequently Asked Questions, or contact us to learn more about how you can become involved in this Lenten tradition.

Your support helps families around the world through Catholic Relief Services’ development projects. 75% of Rice Bowl proceeds come to Catholic Relief Services and help fund development projects designed to increase food security in communities in over 40 countries around the world.

Agriculture projects help farmers improve crop yields.

Microfinance projects encourage the growth of small businesses. Mother and Child Health projects provide basic health and nutrition services. Education projects provide resources and training. HIV/AIDS projects support the local Catholic Church in communities around the world in addressing the many needs of people affected by this disease. 25% of contributions support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in dioceses in the United States.
Pope Calls The Church To Make Present Christ’s Own Loving Mercy Towards Those Who Suffer

My Dear Friends,

The message from our Holy Father that follows this letter says everything I would want to say to the sick and their caregivers – only much better than I could say it. For that reason, I want to pass His message on to all of the people of the Diocese, especially those who are sick and those who care for the sick.

So often, we forget how much those who are sick contribute to building up the Kingdom of God; they present a great witness for the rest of us as they accept the cross that God has given them to carry. I just want to offer my appreciation and respect for that witness to all those who are suffering from every kind of illness for carrying your call from God at this time in your life. Please know how important you are to carrying out the mission of the Church in the Diocese of Owensboro. As you offer your suffering up to the Lord and join your suffering with His redemptive suffering on the Cross, you are not only making a difference in your lives but in the life of us all. As you accept your cross as did Jesus accept his Cross, you do more than you can imagine to spread the Good News of God’s love for us all.

I thank the families of those who are suffering from various illnesses for your efforts as well, as you share your loved ones’ suffering in a very real way. May God bless you and walk with you as you walk with your loved ones during these difficult days. Thanks to all the caregivers who sacrifice their own lives to help the sick in every way that they can. As they play a major role in your lives, they play a major role in the lives of all who are on this journey back to eternal Life.

Now I happily give you the words of the Holy Father.
Sincerely in Christ,

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

Message Of His Holiness Benedict XVI For The Fifteenth World Day Of The Sick

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 11 February 2007, when the Church keeps the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Fifteenth World Day of the Sick will be celebrated in Seoul, Korea. A number of meetings, conferences, pastoral gatherings and liturgical celebrations will take place with representatives of the Church in Korea, health care personnel, the sick and their families. Once again the Church turns her eyes to those who suffer and calls attention to the incurably ill, many of whom are dying from terminal diseases. They are found on every continent, particularly in places where poverty and hardship cause immense misery and grief. Conscious of these sufferings, I will be spiritually present at the World Day of the Sick, united with those meeting to discuss the plight of the incurably ill in our world and encouraging the efforts of Christian communities in their witness to the Lord’s tenderness and mercy.

Sickness inevitably brings with it a moment of crisis and sober confrontation with one’s own personal situation. Advances in the health sciences often provide the means necessary to meet this challenge, at least with regard to its physical aspects. Human life, however, has intrinsic limitations, and sooner or later it ends in death. This is an experience to which each human being is called, and one for which he or she must be prepared. Despite the advances of science, a cure cannot be found for every illness, and thus, in hospitals, hospices and homes throughout the world we encounter the sufferings of our many brothers and sisters who are incurably and often terminally ill. In addition, many millions of people in our world still experience insanitary living conditions and lack access to much-needed medical resources, often of the most basic kind, with the result that the number of human beings considered “incurable” is greatly increased.

The Church wishes to support the incurably and terminally ill by calling for just social policies which can help to eliminate the causes of many diseases and by urging improved care for the dying and those for whom no medical remedy is available. There is a need to promote policies which create conditions where human beings can bear even incurable illnesses and death in a dignified manner. Here it is necessary to stress once again the need for more palliative care centres which provide integral care, offering the sick the human assistance and spiritual accompaniment they need. This is a right belonging to every human being, one which we must all be committed to defend.

Here I would like to encourage the efforts of those who work daily to ensure that the incurably and terminally ill, together with their families, receive adequate and loving care. The Church, following the example of the Good Samaritan, has always shown particular concern for the infirm. Through her individual members and institutions, she continues to stand alongside the suffering and to attend the dying, striving to preserve their dignity at these significant moments of human existence. Many such individuals – health care professionals, pastoral agents and volunteers – and institutions throughout the world are tirelessly serving the sick, in hospitals and in palliative care units, on city streets, in housing projects and parishes.

I now turn to you, my dear brothers and sisters suffering from incurable and terminal diseases. I encourage you to contemplate the sufferings of Christ crucified, and, in union with him, to turn to the Father with complete trust that all life, and your lives in particular, are in his hands. Trust that your sufferings, united to those of Christ, will prove fruitful for the needs of the Church and the world. I ask the Lord to strengthen your faith in his love, especially during these trials that you are experiencing. It is my hope that, wherever you are, you will always find the spiritual encouragement and strength needed to nourish your faith and bring you closer to the Father of Life. Through her priests and pastoral workers, the Church wishes to assist you and stand at your side, helping you in your hour of need, and thus making present Christ’s own loving mercy towards those who suffer.

In conclusion, I ask ecclesial communities throughout the world, and particularly those dedicated to the service of the infirm, to continue, with the help of Mary, Salus Infirorum, to bear effective witness to the loving concern of God our Father. May the Blessed Virgin, our Mother, comfort those who are ill and sustain all who have devoted their lives, as Good Samaritans, to healing the physical and spiritual wounds of those who suffer. United to each of you in thought and prayer, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord.

From the Vatican, 8 December 2006, BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

Bishop McRaith’s February 2007 Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Catholic Schools’ Week Mass, CTK, Madisonville, 10am</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Confirmation, Immaculate, Owensboro, 10am</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Confirmation, Precious Blood, 10:30am</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Admin. Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 8:30am</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Confirmation, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg, 6pm</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Confirmation, St. Thomas More, Paducah, 11am</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Confirmation, St. Francis de Sales, Paducah, 5pm</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Rite of Election, St. Henry Parish, Aurora, 2pm</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Priests’ Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Priests’ Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Paducah Office Day (office located in Lourdes Hospital, near the chapel)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>ASH WEDNESDAY Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 6pm</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Brescia Board Mtg., all day</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Brescia Board Mtg., all day</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Rite of Election, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, 2pm</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Rite of Election, Holy Name, Henderson, 7:00pm</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>CCK Mtg., Louisville, 11am – 2pm</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Provincial Bishops’ Mtg., Louisville, 4pm</td>
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Paper Reminds Me of God’s Love

Dear Editor:

I have been reading your newspaper for a number of years and just wanted to express my appreciation for your work. Although I have not lived in the Owensboro Diocese for the past fifty years, my roots are there. My wife and I are natives of St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm.

The WKC has an aura of youth, hopefulness, and just plain joy in being a Christian. You manage to reflect all ages (Father Joe Mills and I were classmates at Catholic University, so you know my age).

I just finished reading the latest issue and it reminds me of God’s love - so evident in your account of the activities going on in the Diocese. Blessings on you and your family.

- Joseph Emmanuel Willett, JWill32005@aol.com
Mandeville Sister Diocese Collection

Scheduled for Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 21, 2007 this year, and is the day designated by Bishop McRaith to receive an offering in the parishes across the Diocese to assist our Sister Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica. This is the fifth collection authorized in the Diocese of Owensboro for this purpose.

Each year, Catholics in every corner of the Diocese of Owensboro have responded with kindness and generosity to the clear needs of the poorest Diocese in Jamaica, that itself is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. Our support has helped tremendously in a number of ways: to feed the poor, to provide education to the youth of Jamaica, to care for the medical needs of the sick, to provide shelter for the homeless, and to assist with the overall operations for the Diocese of Mandeville.

Our Jamaican sisters and brothers have benefited from our ability to share God’s blessings with them, and we have benefited from their faith, trust, and joy of life in our exchanges with them. The Diocese a Mandeville has hosted six Diocesan sponsored Mission Immersion trips, at least two parish sponsored trips, and several trips sponsored by colleges and universities in the area. The members of these many teams who have visited the Mandeville Diocese all bring back powerful memories and stories of the inspirational faith of the missionary zeal of the church in South Central Jamaica, and of the joy of serving the those in need there.

Please help with your continued support of our brothers and sisters in the Mandeville Diocese, and the ongoing Mission Immersion Trips to see, and minister to firsthand, the pressing needs of the poor. This mutual exchange continues to enrich both Dioceses.

Sacred Heart Catholic School requests
Applications for Principal For Fall 2007

Beginning Contract Date: July 1, 2007

Sacred Heart Catholic School is a rapidly growing school in the historical district of Hattiesburg, Mississippi within the Diocese of Biloxi. The school ranges in grades from preschool-4 through twelfth grade. Sacred Heart is accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Education and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The school advisory council, pastor, parents, and teachers are seeking an innovative and collaborative leader who will continue the academic successes experienced by the students for the last 107 years. The new principal must have administrative experience in Catholic schools, be an active Catholic, and accept the mission and vision of the Diocese of Biloxi and Sacred Heart School.

All applicants for this position are subject to fingerprinting and must follow the Diocese of Biloxi’s Lifestyle Governance. Resumes will be accepted through the mail or e-mail. Interviewing will begin as soon as possible with a decision made by April 1, 2007.

Resumes should include educational experience, professional accomplishments, and a brief description of your current responsibilities. Please send your resume by mail or e-mail to: Rev. Ken Ramon-Landry, Sacred Heart Church, 313 Walnut Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 sachheartpastor@aol.com

Todd Co. Catholic Churches To Host Two Day Parish Mission

A two day Parish Mission/Revival hosted by the parishes of St. Susan and St. Mary and James Churches of Todd County will be held on February 24, 25, 2007. Services will be delivered in both English and Spanish.

The themes for the Mission/Revival: God’s Unconditional Love; God’s Forgiving Love; God’s Healing Love. The Mission’s Objectives are

• Spiritual renewal for parishioners
• Provide an opportunity to invite non/practicing Catholics
• Provide an opportunity to provide an opportunity to invite non/practicing Catho-

• Provide an opportunity to invite non/practicing Catho-

• Spiritual renewal for parishioners
• Provide an opportunity to invite non/practicing Cathol-
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• Provide an opportunity to invite non/practicing Cathol-

The Parish Mission/Revival will be held on a Saturday and Sunday with sessions designed for 1 to 2 hours in length. Each session will consist of preaching, prayer, praise and music. Members of neighboring parishes are cordially invited to join us for the two days of prayer, praise and fellowship.

Basic Parish Nurse Class

The Diocese of Owensboro, Brescia University, and Owensboro Medical Health System are in collaboration in presenting the Basic Parish Nurse course through a three-part series. Parish Nursing is a recognized specialty practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry. Participants will learn from experienced parish nurses, clergy, nursing faculty, and others about the various functions of the parish nurse. Continued education hours will be offered at each weekend session.

Session 1: Friday, February 9, 6 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday, February 10, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Session 2: Friday, March 9, 6 pm - 8:00 PM
Saturday, March 10, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Session 3: Friday, April 13, 6 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday, April 14, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

All sessions will be held at the HealthPark in Owensboro. For more information, please contact Sister Jacinta Powers, 270-683-1545.
On November 30, 2006, the St. Romuald Interparochial School Beta Club held induction for new members. In the photo below, they are as follows: First Row (L to R) Robby Alexander, Brandon Henning, Brian David Brumfield, Curtis Carwile & Neil Critchelow. 2nd Row (LtoR) Dani LaTondress, Haley Loughran, Elizabeth Hinton, Rebecca Hinton, Rebecca Garrett & Andrea Anthony. Third Row (L to R) Maggie White, Caroline Mattingly, Hannah Gedling, Jessica Dennis, Kayla Rothrock, Kacey Bloomfield, & Shannon Pile. The club’s advisors are Connie Critchelow and Cathy Kennedy.   Photo and text submitted by Kim Brumfield

On Sunday, December 3 2006, 27 second-graders from St. Romuald Catholic Church celebrated their First Reconciliation with Fr. Tony Bickett and Fr. Tom Buckman. They are as follows: First row (L to R) Samantha Fentress, Casey Hazelwood, Shelbi Meador & Bailey Morgan. Second Row(L to R) Sadie Carwile, Katie Himmelhaver, Mariah Critchelow & T.J. Hardesty. Third Row (L to R) Ty Voyles, Nikita Barton, Molly Dowell & Joseph Noblea Fourt Row (L to R) Emma Vujaklija, Anna Flood, Madison Schoenbachler, Ella Potts, Shelbi Pollock, Drake Bennett, George Board, & Joshua Laslie. Back Row (LtoR) Taylor Lucas, Jackson Faircloth, Luke Mattingly, Chase Taul, Zachary Brown, Dakota Dennis, and Jennay Jeffries. Their Catechists are Carol Smith and Lesia Whitfill

On Sunday, December 17, 2006, the K-6 Religious Education students at St. Romuald Catholic Church celebrated the Christmas season with a Happy Birthday, Jesus, Party! The children enjoyed listening to Fr. Tony Bickett read the Christmas Story. Each class read off the names of people who they had prayed for and sent cards to since the beginning of classes in September. There were a total of 85 cards sent! The morning was finished with singing Happy Birthday to Jesus and enjoying a piece of delicious cake made by Jennifer Roberts.

In the photo above, attentively listening are the K-6 grade Religious Education students as Fr. Tony Bickett reads them the Christmas Story.

In the photo above, posing around the Happy Birthday Jesus cake are the K-6 Grade Religious Education students wearing their birthday crowns! In the back row are the Catechists for the children: Michelle Simpson, Jill and Jeff Rhodes, Fr. Tony Bickett, Donna Reine, Angie Hughes and Holly Gedling. Photos and article submitted by Kim Brumfield-DRE K-6.
This is my testimony of the abortion:

By Elizabeth Justin

My first pregnancy was complicated by an illness. I was told the baby might have birth defects. I let this change my mind from keeping the baby. I didn’t consider the fact that I was playing God, deciding whether this baby lived or died because I had been told it was a fetus, it wasn’t yet a baby. They say that 12 weeks and under are considered a fetus. I’ve seen the ultra sound of a 12 week old fetus and know better now. I’ve also smoked and drank with my last two babies which I was told would damage the babies, and they are healthy, intelligent and talented. I’m not saying it’s right to put your baby at harm when you’re pregnant, you just shouldn’t use that as an excuse. A lot of special people full of life and love are handicapped.

I went in expecting to be put under, wake up and go on with my life. I went to the doctor and she did ask why I waited so long. I was 12 weeks, and I asked her would she have done it without the money. I had to come up with the money and I had planned on keeping the baby until the last couple of weeks.

She put me under and I woke up with a horrible, tearing pain deep inside me. My baby was holding on for dear life, and I wasn’t meant to miss it. I moaned and heard the doctor shout out that I needed more anesthesia. I awoke with a terrible empty filling. I was told to get dressed, and I was led out. I will never forget the sadness I felt.

That sadness continued to grow when I got pregnant the next two times. I saw the ultrasound of my first son at 5 months. He was hitting or boxing with something in front of his face. I asked what he was hitting, and they said he was trying to get my bladder out of his face. He wasn’t used to having it so big since you have to drink so much water before an ultrasound. It dawned on me, he can think: “Hey, this is in my way!”

My second son’s ultrasound also showed a thought process. He was putting his thumb in his mouth and pulling it right back out. He did this over and over as if deciding if he wanted to suck it or not. After he was born, he wouldn’t take a pacifier. I tried to force one on him, afraid he would suck his thumb. He never did. He made that decision in the womb.

I had a nightmare when pregnant with my oldest son about some evil person chasing me around a table trying to hit me in the stomach in order to hurt my baby. I woke up sobbing with my husband concerned. I couldn’t tell him the cause behind the dream for I was too ashamed. He finally, accidentally found out and was hurt that I hadn’t told him. I was upset because I thought he should understand that there is no good time to tell someone. You carry the hurt and shame quietly.

I was baptized as a young teen and was in church for a couple of years and then fell away. I’ve been finding my way back for several years now. I realized what a terrible sin I committed.

It’s by the Lord’s love and forgiveness that I’ve had the courage to first tell my sons what I did to their brother or sister, then to be able to tell you. I do this for him, for the babies and for the mothers so they never have to spend their lives with the hurt I’ve felt.

God bless you.
Married Love and the Gift of Life

Issued by USCCB, November 14, 2006.

Getting married. What a blessed and hope-filled time.
Men and women considering marriage yearn for certain things. They want to be accepted unconditionally by each other. They want their marriage to be filled with love and happiness. They want a family. In short, they want their marriage to be a source of joy and fulfillment their whole life long.

God’s plan for marriage, from the time he first created human beings as male and female, has always included all this and more. The desire and ability of a man and woman to form a lasting bond of love and life in marriage are written into their nature.

In the Rite of Marriage (1969) a man and woman are asked if they will love one another faithfully and totally—in short, if they will love as God loves. “Have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?” asks the bishop, priest, or deacon. “Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives? Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?” These are different ways of asking the same basic question: Are you ready to accept this person, and all that may come from your union, completely and forever?

The spouses seal their love and commitment through their sexual union. Many today find it difficult to understand how profound and meaningful this union is, how it embodies these promises of marriage. Our culture often presents sex as merely recreational, not as a deeply personal or even important encounter between spouses. In this view, being responsible about sex simply means limiting its consequences—avoiding disease and using contraceptives to prevent pregnancy.

This cultural view is impoverished, even sad. It fails to account for the true needs and deepest desires of men and women. Living in accord with this view has caused much loneliness and many broken hearts.

God’s plan for married life and love is far richer and more fulfilling. Here sexuality is the source of a joy and pleasure that helps the spouses give themselves to each other completely and for their entire lives.

What does the Church teach about married love?

Marriage is more than a civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. It is an intimate partnership in which husbands and wives learn to give and receive love unselfishly, and then teach their children to do so as well. Christian marriage in particular is a “great mystery,” a sign of the love between Christ and his Church (Eph 5:32).

Married love is powerfully embodied in the spouses’ sexual relationship, when they most fully express what it means to become “one body” (Gn 2:24) or “one flesh” (Mc 10:8, Mt 19:6). The Church teaches that the sexual union of husband and wife is meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life. When Scripture portrays God creating mankind “in his image” (Gn 1:27), it treats the union of man and woman as joining two persons equal in human dignity (“This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh,” Gn 2:23), and as being open to the blessing of children (“Be fertile and multiply,” Gn 1:28).

What does this have to do with contraception?

A husband and wife express their committed love not only with words, but with the language of their bodies. That “body language”—what a husband and wife say to one another through the intimacy of sexual relations—speaks of total commitment and openness to a future together. So the question about contraception is this: Does sexual intercourse using contraception faithfully affirm this committed love? Or does it introduce a false note into this conversation?

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God’s gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God’s creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

To be sure, spouses who are not granted the gift of children can have a married life that is filled with love and meaning. As Pope John Paul II said to these couples in a 1982 homily, “You are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others, to the needs of the apostolate, to the needs of the poor, to the needs of orphans, to the needs of the world.”

When married couples deliberately act to suppress fertility, however, sexual intercourse is no longer fully marital intercourse. It is something less powerful and intimate, something more “casual.” Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple’s unity. The total giving of oneself, body and soul, to one’s beloved is no time to say: “I give you everything I am—except . . .” The Church’s teaching is not only about observing a rule, but about preserving that total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity.

This may seem a hard saying. Certainly it is a teaching that many couples today, through no fault of their own, have not heard (or not heard in a way they could appreciate and understand). But as many couples who have turned away from contraception tell us, living this teaching can contribute to the honesty, openness, and intimacy of marriage and help make couples truly fulfilled.

Why does saying “yes” to children at the altar mean never using contraception to close the act of intercourse to new life?

Some argue that if a husband and wife remain open to children throughout their marriage, they need not worry about using contraception occasionally. But practicing what is good most of the time does not justify doing what is wrong some of the time. Even if I see myself as a truthful person “on the whole,” any occasional lie I tell is still a lie, and so is immoral. By such acts, I begin to make myself into the kind of person who lies. This is no less true when we falsify the “language of the body,” speaking total love and acceptance of the other person while denying an essential part of that message. A couple need not desire or seek to have a child in each and every act of intercourse. And it is not wrong for couples to have intercourse even when they know the wife is naturally infertile, as discussed below. But they should never act to suppress or curtail the life-giving power given by God that is an integral part of what they pledged to each other in their marriage vows. This is what the Church means by saying that every act of intercourse must remain open to life and that contraception is objectively immoral.

“[Natural Family Planning] has become more than a totally safe, healthy, and reliable method of birth regulation to us. The essential qualities of self-restraint, self-discipline, mutual respect, and shared responsibility carry over to all facets of our marriage, making our relationship more intimate.” (Faithful to Each Other Forever, 44)

Are couples expected to leave their family size entirely to chance?

Certainly not. The Church teaches that a couple may generously decide to have a large family, or may for serious reasons choose not to have more children for the time being or even for an indefinite period (Humanae Vitae, no. 10). In married life, serious circumstances—financial, physical, psychological, or those involving responsibilities to other family members—may arise to make an increase in family size unwise. The Church understands this, while encouraging couples to take a generous view of children.

What should a couple do if they have a good reason to avoid having a child?

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman’s cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way. This is the principle behind natural family planning.

Continued on page 8
When Someone You Love Dies

By Betty Medley

When listening to some of the grieving clients, many of them will tell me that when their loved one died it felt as though someone had reached into their chest and pulled out their heart. It is a pain like no other. Nothing can prepare anyone for the truly physical and mental pain of grief. What you think it might feel like and how it actually feels is unimaginable. It has been proved that a broken heart causes physical and emotional problems, often bringing about sadness, anger, guilt, fear, and great loneliness. These emotions can have a great effect on our bodies, causing damage to our immune system. Some people become so tired, yet keep going, not giving their body the rest that it needs. Keeping busy is a way many cope with grief.

Physically a person may feel they need to keep busy, mentally they are dazed and confused. Some feel as though they are watching a movie of someone else’s life or that they are having a bad dream. One person told me that he pinched himself to bring his life back to what it once was. I have often thought that perhaps that dazed and confused state of mind we go through when grieving is God’s medication for us. You have to find a way through the maze of the reality that life is no longer what we had planned.

When someone we loved dies, our life changes; we are no longer the person we once were. We are forced to take on a new identity. We are no longer a wife, husband, or parent. It is an identity that we do not choose, but we do have a choice on how we allow it to mold our lives. It is important that we pay close attention to our health and our hearts by getting the help that is needed. And it’s important to know that hearts heal faster from surgery than from a loss. When the center of someone’s life has been blown out like the core of a building, is it any wonder why it takes so long to rebuild?

A bereavement support group will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky starting February 20, 2007 at 6:00 PM. This support group is for anyone who has experienced a death at any time during their life. This group will meet each Tuesday for four consecutive weeks and is open to the public at no charge. Meeting nights are February 20, February 27, March 6, and March 13, 2007. If you would like more information, please contact Betty Medley or Charlotte Hedges at 683-1545.
Women and Men, Holy Together

Why We Hurt the Ones We Love or

Anger Inside My Soul

By Julie Onstott

I have asked that question so many times in my head. When it seems that all the walls are closing in on you from every angle and you can’t break away from the tension, the emotions of anxiety can occur at the slightest mishap in the day. After an explosion of anger, you wish with all of your heart you could push a rewind button and pretend that nothing occurred, that you didn’t hurt your husband, wife, son, daughter, or your siblings. Then I am reminded of the ever so comforting truth about these emotions, that we are HUMAN. I am not saying that we shouldn’t be responsible for our actions and learn from our mistakes. It is a fact that we are all flawed. So it should be our intent to amend our lives with a positive attitude and with the grace that only God can give to make a difference in how we channel our emotions. Every so often I have to keep reminding myself that I am human just like Jesus Christ but I don’t have that main ingredient. I am not Divine!

There is a young man who wishes to remain nameless but has given me permission to tell some of his story. I will call him Peter, because St. Peter had a terrible temper. He had to move to a different city, start in a new school, all within the span of only a year. So, Peter, with all of these enormous changes, has taken out all of his frustration and anger on the ones he loves dearly. I asked him how does he justify doing or saying the things he does to his living parent. He said, “I can’t justify it, I just know that I am sorry after I have hurt them.” Peter holds all of it in all day; then when the timing hits where he can’t take it anymore, it’s the ones he loves the most who suffer the consequences. He has shared with me some of the hurtful things he has said to his living parent, and you could see the shame in his face, and I saw in it his tearful eyes when he choked up to tell me the way he treated the ones he holds dear to his heart. The remorse was evident. He still continues to struggle with an occasional outburst of anger, and knows that there will be serious consequences every time he lashes out. Then he says “Why do we hurt the ones we love most in this world? I really want things to be the way they used to be.” Peter can’t push rewind, but he can turn to God and the saints for help.

What matters the most to Peter is his family. Would a friend or a relative forgive such hostility? I doubt it; maybe; I can’t say for sure, but he knows in his heart that his family loves him, and when he seeks forgiveness they will embrace him. Then I remember what our Lord said about forgiveness. We must always forgive our neighbor for our grievances, because God forgives the most hardened sinners who return to Him with a contrite heart. How do I know that our sins are so grave? Because God sent his only begotten Son to be scourged and crucified to His death on a cross to redeem us.

May we all this new year reach out to whomever it may be who has hurt us or whom we may have hurt, and humble ourselves to say, I Am Sorry.

+JMJ+ Julie Onstott

Nation To Share Day of Prayer for the African American Family

Feb. 4, 2007

By F. Veronica Wilhite, Director, Office of Black Catholic Ministry

On Sunday, February 4, 2007, we will celebrate the 18th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family. This year’s theme is “We Are Going the Distance with Jesus.”

The National Day of Prayer is a fitting opening to Black History Month Activities. Coming together in prayer on that Sunday will be a sign to Black families that we are on one accord with them during these troubling times. The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family was created by Fr. James Goode, OFM in 1989 “as a day set aside for us to give special thanks to God for our families and place our every care in the arms of Jesus.” Even though this is the beginning of a new year, for many it will be a time of fear, fear of losing utilities/heat, fear of losing housing, fear of losing Medicare benefits, fear of losing a job. As a sign of support and solidarity, we ask each parish, family, convent, religious house, etc. to stand and pray for the Black family.

Married Love and the Gift of Life (Continued from page 8)

Conclusion

By using contraception, couples may think that they are avoiding problems or easing tensions, that they are exerting control over their lives. But the gift of being able to help create another person, a new human being with his or her own life, involves profound relationships. It affects our relationship with God, who created us complete with this powerful gift. It involves whether spouses will truly love and accept each other as they are, including their gift of fertility. Finally, it involves the way spouses will spontaneously accept their child as a gift from God and the fruit of their mutual love. Like all important relationships with other persons, it is not subject solely to our individual control. In the end, this gift is far richer and more rewarding than that.

You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor 6:19-20, RSV)

Living God’s design for human sexuality in marriage can be difficult. But husbands and wives have not been left alone to live out this fundamental life challenge. If you have failed to do so in the past, do not be discouraged. God loves you and wants your ultimate happiness. Loving as Christ loves is a possibility opened to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as a free gift of God. Through prayer and the sacraments, including Reconciliation and the Eucharist, God offers us the strength to live up to this challenge. Recall the words of Christ, repeated so often by John Paul II: “Be not afraid!”

The Church’s teaching on marital sexuality is an invitation for men and women—an invitation to let God be God, to receive the gift of God’s love and care, and to let this gift inform and transform us, so we may share that love with each other and with the world.
An invitation to Your Own Piece of Jamaican Mission Immersion Memories

By Richard Murphy

On my bookcase at my office is a small stone from the Milk River area in the Mandeville Jamaica Diocese. It is weathered, almost round, pitted, and reddish brown in color. It is not much to look at, and yet it brings back a flood of memories of my first trip to our sister Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica. It is to find an experience of your own that I would like to invite you.

This stone is a “hold in your hand” variety object that I picked up from a side road near George’s house. George was introduced to us by Fr. Baylon Pascal Mugenyi, a priest from Uganda that serves in the Diocese of Mandeville. Fr. Baylon is pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Victoria Town, and it had been in operation only eight months in October, 2004 when we visited. Fr. Baylon was our host for the day to share with us what it is like on the cutting edge of the formation of the church, where new congregations are being developed, and ministering to the least among us was the regular order of the day.

George and his wife lived in a shanty by the side of the road in Victoria Town. In front of the dwelling was a sheltered area for travelers to sit and rest, enjoy something to drink, or nibble a piece of candy. The revenue from the business was one of the principal means of support for the couple in their twilight years. (I think I recall seeing four or five beers on the shelf, and a jar of hard candy as their sole inventory.)

George’s wife met us at the door, and described their situation. George sustained an injury somehow, that left him paralyzed from the waist down. He had been in bed for six years, and out of work for 23 years. His wife attended to his needs daily. A group of us went back to the bedroom to meet George. Flies were everywhere. There was no place to go away from them since the room was not sealed off from the outside. But George was neither disturbed greatly by this, nor by a visit from a dozen people from the outside world. He was well spoken, seemed well educated, and appeared to know what was going on in the outside world. He said he loved reading, yet his eyes did not allow him to do so any more. Rather, he relied on his wife to read to him now.

George asked for food for his family. He said that since Hurricane Ivan hit in the middle of September, 2004, living conditions were two to three times worse than before the storm. (I stood there wondering what it might be like to endure a category four hurricane in the tiny house with the roof of zinc sheeting tied down to bamboo poles, and still open at the eaves to the rain and wind.) Our group collectively gave the family an assortment of food items. George thanked us and said “when you are poor, nobody knows your name.”

That moment with George touched me. We prayed together for George and his wife, his community, and the country of Jamaica. Submitted Photo

That moment with George and his wife, his community, and the country of Jamaica to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Ivan. I also asked the Good Lord to help me remember George, and the nameless poor of the world that must daily rely on the mercy of God and others to meet their needs. The experience of a family that was truly hungry, and the action of the Catholic community to meet these needs, left me with a sense of solidarity with the mission of the church and its efforts to spread the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps you have considered a trip to our Sister Diocese in Mandeville, Jamaica for some time, or are just now doing so. Maybe you know and have talked with one of the many people that have been so far, or read about past trips as described in the Western Kentucky Catholic of these wonderful life changing experiences. Now, how about considering going yourself?

You have two opportunities to go in 2007. Mission Trip 7 is set for June 4-10, 2007, and Mission Trip 8 is scheduled for October 3-9, 2007. Costs for the trip run about $400 to $600 for airfare, depending on the cost of aviation fuel, and demand for flights; $275 for room, board, and travel costs around the island, and between $50 to $100 for incidental expenses such as a meal out and tips for those serving the group during the journey. Others may wish to bring extra cash for gifts, etc. You will need a passport to go to Jamaica and return to the United States, so there could be additional cost if you do not already have one. Scholarships are available; however an application process is necessary to receive one.

To apply to go and represent the Diocese on an upcoming trip, please submit an application to the Diocesan Sister Diocese Committee. An application can be obtained in one of three ways. Call Richard Murphy at 270/ 683-1545; E-mail him at richard.murphy@pastoral.org and request that a form be forwarded to you; or go to the diocesan website at www.owensborodio.org and download an application. This can be done by clicking on Diocesan Offices, and locating the Office of Social Concerns, and click on it. Once there, find the section on Mandeville Sister Diocese and click on it. You’ll find an application on the upper left of the page. Complete the application and mail it to: Richard Murphy, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro KY 42301. Your own piece of Jamaican memories is waiting for you.
Helping migrant workers remains major challenge, says bishop

IMMOKALEE, Fla. (CNS) – Helping to improve the lives of migrant farmworkers remains “one of the major opportunities and challenges” facing Florida Catholics, said Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice. Migrant workers “look to us with eyes of hope for the benefits of decent and just wages, safe and reasonably priced housing and health care for themselves and their family members,” he said in a Jan. 14 pastoral letter to mark World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Bishop Nevins’ pastoral letter was titled “Always Remember the Farmworkers.” “We encourage all people to work in partnership with farmworker organizations and farmworkers in their quest for fair wages, safe working conditions and dignity,” he said. “Workers also have the right to organize,” he said. The bishop issued the letter while visiting Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Immokalee.
Journey to Jerusalem – Personal Reflections

By Rev. Frank Ruff, pastor of the Catholic Churches in Elkton and Guthrie, KY

I had visited the Holy Land previously, and this time I did not go there to see or to learn more about the homeland of Jesus, but to pray. Every priest makes an annual retreat and this year I felt the call to do it in Jerusalem. Many people wondered about the safety of traveling to the Middle East. One member of the St. Susan Pastoral Council simply asked, “Can’t you find any place closer?”

I prepared for this retreat for six months. Each month my desire and my expectations grew. Even when war erupted this summer between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, my desire to go to the land of Jesus did not diminish.

The Old City of Jerusalem is small and walled, just as it was in the time of Jesus. Today, the walls, built in the 16th century, enclose only about 240 acres, but within the walls live 50,000 people. The 240 acres are divided into Muslim, Christian, Armenian, and Jewish quarters. At the time of Jesus the city was just a little smaller and the population was about 30,000. Obviously, with so many people, most streets are for pedestrians only and there are no sidewalks or lawns or spaces between the two-story stone houses. I liken the city streets to hallways in a hotel, with houses behind the doors on either side. Actually, many of the streets are no more than 10 feet wide.

But, within those 240 acres some of the most important events in the history of the world took place. There the temple stood, which Jesus often visited, where He and the great prophets of the Old Testament preached, and where much of the Bible was written. Also, within this small space Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, was crucified, died, was buried, and rose from the dead. And, here, the Holy Spirit came on His disciples.

Since the 4th century, Christians have built churches to remember these sacred events and since the 14th century Franciscan monks have cared for these holy places, keeping them open for modern pilgrims to visit. Visiting them makes the events that happened there so real. Our faith is based on the actual life of a real person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Sometimes, it almost took my breath away, realizing that Jesus had been at these same places. But, not everything was pleasant.

I began my retreat in Bethlehem, only 5 miles south of Jerusalem, but cut off from the Holy City by a new 25 ft. high solid concrete wall. I passed through the wall with little difficulty because I carry an American passport. Palestinians on the Bethlehem side cannot get out and describe their situation as living in an open air prison. Their economy had been based on tourism but now many pilgrims avoid Bethlehem because of the wall. Therefore, they are desperate. Their teachers, police, and other government workers have not been paid for seven months. The vendors swarm over tourists like hungry vultures on a dead carcass. I could not establish a human connection with them, nor could I ignore their plight. This was not the Bethlehem of our Christmas carols and I knew that Jesus was not born here for this. I lamented the alienations in our world, represented by the wall of separation between Palestinians and Israelis, and I begged God to heal us. I imagined God’s desire for us when He chose to become human in this place. I know Jesus is more powerful than all walls and all our divisions and I trusted Him to unite us.

The next day I spent the morning on the stone pavement where Pilate had Jesus scourged and then condemned Him to death and where the soldiers mocked, tortured, and humiliated Jesus. (John 19:1-16) I reflected how He suffered and how redemptive suffering can be.

I had told the St. Mary and St. James members in Guthrie that I would be at Calvary as they offered Mass that Sunday. Since Jerusalem is seven hours ahead of us, I arrived at 3:00 PM, prayed and touched the hole in the stone under the Greek Orthodox altar where we remember the cross of Jesus standing. The presence of pilgrims from all over the world did not distract from the awe, but our common faith seemed to build one another up. The Son of God freely suffered and died here out of love for us. Mary and John watched Him and shared His suffering.

And I told the members of St. Susan in Elkton that I would be at the empty tomb as they came to Mass that Sunday at 10:00 AM. Actually, I was able to offer Mass myself at that very time on an altar next to the tomb. The Lord is risen indeed!
Journey to Jerusalem (Continued from page 12)

Since the tomb was near Calvary, the two places are in the same church. The original church was dedicated on September 13, 335 AD. Since then, it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times. Today, six different Christian churches are responsible for various sections of the basilica - Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Catholic, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syriac Orthodox. Though we are not united with each other, our faith in the resurrection of Jesus is identical and is the foundation of our Christian faith. I longed for the day when all Christians will be united.

I spent Monday on the Mount of Olives, a ridge east of Jerusalem, about 300 ft. above the Kidron Valley. Jesus crossed this ridge whenever he visited Martha, Mary, and Lazarus in Bethany; from here He ascended into heaven; and toward the foot of the ridge, we remember His Agony in the Garden of Gethsemani. I spent the morning toward the top of the Mount at another 4th century church dedicated to the teachings of Jesus, especially His teaching us the Our Father. There are 9 ft. high ceramic plaques with the Lord’s Prayer in over 110 languages around the walls of the church and in the courtyard. What a gift that prayer is! I only got as far as, “Thy will be done,” in my meditation. That seems to sum up Jesus’ own life.

In the Garden of Gethsemani, is a church set among ancient olive trees, over 1,500 years old and from roots over 2,000 years old. Jesus struggled to do the will of His Father here because He knew it meant suffering and death, but He did surrender. I asked Him for that same gift and also for forgiveness for the times I did not do God’s will.

In the same area is a cave about 60 ft. in diameter and 10 ft. high, called the Cave of Betrayal. It is easy for me to imagine Jesus there. The Scripture says “He often went there with His disciples”. (John 18:2) The limestone cave is warm and dry in winter, cool in summer, and has a cistern for water supply. I pictured Jesus coming there after teaching all day in the Temple, about ½ mile away, to spend the night with His disciples. (Luke 21:37) I’m sure He relaxed with them as they asked Him to explain His teachings, while Mary, His Mother, and Mary Magdalene, prepared bread for them all. I asked Him to help me understand His teachings better.

On Tuesday morning, I went to the Cenacle, where Christians remember Jesus celebrating the Last Supper. I began each visit to a holy place by reading the Scripture passages describing the event that happened there. It is amazing how vivid the passages become when you read them in the place they are describing. The Holy Land is often called the fifth Gospel, and for good reason, because it makes the four Gospels more real. Here Jesus gave His disciples His Body and Blood, gave them the example of humble foot washing, and then gave them the commandment to love one another as He loved them. What a model He is! How I want to imitate Him! How embarrassed I am by my self-centeredness! I had the privilege of celebrating Mass in that sacred place.

In the afternoon, I went to the church where we remember Peter denying even that he knew Jesus and where Jesus was abused and held in prison overnight. Next to the church is a street which archaeologists tell us was a city street at the time of Jesus and therefore the Son of God must have walked on!

In the church are three large icons depicting three moments in the life of Peter - when he denied Jesus, when he wept for his sin, and when Jesus restored him as shepherd of His flock after the resurrection. The church also has a deep pit in the basement which may have been used as the prison for Jesus. When a man is lowered into the pit, there is no escaping.

Often as I walked through the city, I noticed children playing in the streets. Their parents do not seem to worry about their safety. Little children walk to school in the morning alone and unsupervised; and they play in the streets in the evening. Jerusalem seems a safe place for the children and it did not matter if they were Jewish, Christian, or Muslim children.

On Wednesday, I made the Way of the Cross, following Jesus from His condemnation by Pilate to His death on Calvary and His burial. Since the Stations are on city streets, I began at 6:00 AM before the streets filled with shopkeepers, children on the way to school, or Muslims on the way to mosque. Fourteen crosses on buildings mark the fourteen stations, and some small chapels along the way invite pilgrims to linger in contemplation.

Later that morning, I was able to go up on the Temple Mount. This is where Solomon built the first Jewish Temple, which was rebuilt after the Babylonian exile. Herod extended the plaza around the Temple to 35 acres, and to make it attractive, built high retaining walls on three sides of the Mount. Some of the stones in the retaining wall, built by Herod, are still in place, and form the Western Wall, the holiest place in Jerusalem for Jews and where some are always praying.

The Temple Mount is so important to me because I think most of the Bible was composed there. We know that much of the Bible was passed down in oral tradition from one generation to the next. This spacious plaza, in the midst of a crowded city, is the natural place for teachers to gather with their students to tell the Bible stories. Eventually those stories were written down. Here is also where the prophets of God preached. And, since this was the only place for sacrifice, observant Jews, like Jesus and His family, came here for a week at a time two or three times a year, from the time He was a child. Jesus knew this place and preached here Himself, especially toward the end of His life. Here is also where both Peter and Paul prayed and preached.

Since the 7th century, Muslims have been coming here to pray. Only about 1,000 were there that morning. Some had spent the night on the Mount because they were observing Ramadan. Two days later, the number of Muslims on the Mount for Friday prayer was estimated at 175,000. I imagined all the Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims who had prayed on this spot for the past 3,000 years. I added my prayer to theirs and prayed that we could live in peace and that some day there would be a Jewish Synagogue, a Christian Church, and a Muslim Mosque all together on that 35 acre plaza.

On Thursday, I prayed with the Jews at the Western Wall and again prayed for peace between Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

In the afternoon, I went back to the Cenacle to remember Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit coming on the 120 disciples here and prayed for the Holy Spirit to fall fresh on all Jesus’ disciples. God transformed them from fearful doubters to courageous God-centered believers. May He do the same for us.

I closed the retreat time on Friday retracing the steps of Jesus from the Agony in the Garden to the Resurrection. Jesus had trusted His Father throughout His life, especially at the end. His trust led Him to His death and then to His Resurrection. I believe that is a pattern for all Jesus’ followers.

Though my retreat was formally over, I rented a car and continued my pilgrimage

Continued on page 14
Our Roots
St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady, and the amazing Father Knue

By Bob Cinnamon

MCQUADY, Ky. - There was once a stop along a dirt and usually muddy road in Breckinridge County called Jolly Station. It was composed of a general store, a post office, two houses, and remained virtually unchanged for many years. Jolly Station changed to McQuady when Mrs. Lillie McQuady became the postmistress in 1891.

The land near McQuady was poor for most crops and virtually inaccessible, especially in the winter. The inhabitants were very poor and uneducated. Most people lived on small farms raising chickens, hogs, and a few cows. Tobacco was the only cash crop but it was very difficult to get it to market.

Then, in 1909 everything changed. A doctor, a lawyer, a business leader, a carpenter, an engineer, a brick mason, and a priest moved to McQuady. They were all in one very big man: Father John Francis Knue!

Fr. Knue had the heart of a Mother Theresa, the mind of a John F. Kennedy, the business knowledge of a Bill Gates, and the physical strength of Samson. He stood about six foot five and his 250+ pounds were all muscle. Only God would send a Father Knue to McQuady!

After arriving in McQuady he convinced the twelve Catholic families that they needed a church. He purchased the land for one dollar, found a sandstone ledge for a rock quarry near the property, and proceeded to move the rock to the church area. The men of the parish helped him cut the rock and build the church for less than $100!

One of the last challenges in building the church was raising the bell in the bell tower. Fr. Knue had a massive physique, perfectly proportioned with powerful shoulders and arms. Father gently lifted the bell off its scantlings so the workman could adjust the fittings. The bell weighed 1,150 pounds!

Fr. Knue found ways to involve everyone in building the church. Everyone in the first Communion class was asked to raise a pig, sell it, and give the money for the purchase of the Communion rail. Fr. also got the ladies of the parish to donate the eggs to the church that their chickens laid on Sundays.

The interior of the church is now almost 100 years old and one of simple beauty that draws one to quiet prayer. The stone church stands today as a striking accomplishment of what a few men can do when working for the Lord.

After finishing the church Fr. Knue had a telephone line installed between McQuady and Balltown, started a flour mill, and organized one of the first cooperative farmers' organizations in Breckinridge County. When an unexpected church bill arrived Fr. Knue called a meeting of the altar society and asked every member to give him two fat hens. He sold them and paid the bill.

Fr. Knue began to teach the men how to farm. When one man told him that he should practice what he preached, he leased a farm and showed them how to make a profit with the endeavor. Fr. Knue soon became the financial advisor for everyone in the area.

About this time a male parishioner became ill with pneumonia. Fr. Knue went to his house, bathed him in whiskey, and sat with him until his temperature returned to normal. On another occasion he visited a non-Catholic family and found the parents sick with the flu. He cared for the children, washed the dirty diapers, and hung them out to dry. Later he returned and brought in the wash.

A call came in one day that a baby was choking to death. Fr. Knue raced to the home, grabbed the baby by its feet, and holding it aloft pounded the baby on the back until an orange seed popped out!

Looking for ways to make money Fr. Knue discovered that the land was good for raising cucumbers. He enticed a businessman from Louisville to come to McQuady, organized the local farmers, and sold the businessman on raising the cucumbers. It is documented that one farmer, Henry Payne, made $980 selling the cucumbers that year.

By 1920 the parish had grown to 125 families registered and actively serving in every way to keep up with the pace Father set. In 1922 Fr. Knue completed a Catholic school that opened with close to 100 students. He designed and personally built most of the building.

Fr. Knue and the community decided to build a brick sidewalk from the Catholic Church to the railroad station. The sidewalk was to pass in front of a Baptist church. He learned that the Baptist Church was having a special service the next day so he worked by lantern light throughout the night to complete the sidewalk in time for the Baptist celebration.

The dirt roads were so rutted in McQuady that they were almost impassible. Fr. complained to the county officials to no avail. Finding an old rusted road grader, he purchased it, fixed it up, and began grading the roads. The roads quickly became level and 30 feet wide, better than most of the county.

Father had one of the first cars in the area. One day he was caught speeding and given a $20 ticket. He handed the officer $40 and said: “I will be coming back through here again in a short while.” He obtained a contract with a Pittsburgh company to buy turkeys. The next two years the local farmers raised enough turkeys to fill two train boxcars with turkeys.

Noticing that most of the parishioners wore worn-out shoes, Fr. Knue obtained a contract with a shoe repair service in Beech Grove, Indiana. He gathered up the shoes every winter and sent them to be repaired. The reconditioned shoes always returned in time for the next growing season.

Fr. Knue also helped to start a local baseball team and became the umpire. Once a young man was using abusive language behind the catcher. Fr. walked over to the man, picked up the young man by the collar and the seat of his pants, and threw him over the fence. Then he called: “Play Ball.”

Fr. Knue spent about sixteen years in McQuady, (from January 1909 to November 1924) before he was sent to a large parish in Louisville. He brought education, prosperity, a school, a church, and a new excitement to the McQuady area. During his years there he increased the parish roll from about 12 families to more than 125 active families. Fr. Knue was also a good homilist but it was overshadowed by his ability to solve the temporal needs of the people.

Being a priest in the early 20th century was always a challenge. But Father John Francis Knue certainly rose to the occasion. No wonder that his name has not been forgotten almost a century after he left McQuady.

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church at McQuady has remained a strong and viable parish since the era of Fr. Knue. The parish members are proud of their heritage.

Note: Most of the stories in this article were taken from the book entitled: “Fr. Knue” by Sr. Mary Conrad Mellon OSU.

Journey to Jerusalem (Continued from page 13)
PRIESTHOOD

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

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

Two New Bearcat Athletic Programs For Fall ‘07

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University announces the inclusion of two new athletic programs for the fall of 2007 semester. Varsity cross country and tennis will join nine other athletic programs, including basketball, baseball, softball, golf, soccer and volleyball.

This news comes as work at the new Brescia Outdoor Sports Complex on Todd Bridge Road nears completion. Softball and baseball home games will be played at the new sports complex starting this spring. The soccer fields are scheduled to be complete by fall 2007.

To join Brescia University as a student athlete, contact the Office of Admissions at 270-686-4241 or admissions@brescia.edu. Scholarships are available to eligible applicants.

Two Brescia Social Work Students Receive State Child Welfare Training

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Each year the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children selects 15 social work students from 10 universities in the state, to join their Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP). This year, two of the 15 students are social work majors enrolled at Brescia University.

Erin Danelle Williams, a junior at Brescia, is from Henderson, Kentucky. She is the daughter of Trent and Sandy Williams. Kaitlyn Lyon, a junior at Brescia, is from Tompkinsville, Kentucky. She is the daughter of Ray Cecil and Patty Lyon.

Both Williams and Lyon will have their tuition paid in full, through this project, up to four semesters. They will also receive a $1,300-per-semester stipend for books, living expenses, and travel related to the program for four semesters. Once both students complete the program with at least a 3.0 GPA, they’ll be certified and given priority for employment with the Cabinet for Families and Children. If hired, they must remain employed with the Cabinet for two years.

The PCWCP was initiated by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family and Services to better serve the children and families in crisis in the state. The goal of the program is to fill the ranks of Child Protection Workers with the most competent and well-trained workers possible. Investigating family issues, conducting case reviews, and tracking child fatalities is just a few of the job requirements as a Child Protection Worker.

Both Williams and Lyon will graduate from Brescia University in May of 2008. For more information on Brescia University’s social work program, please contact Susan Cecil at (270) 686-4219 or email susanc@brescia.edu.

Brescia University is a co-educational, Catholic, liberal arts institution founded in 1950 by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.
**Catholics On Mission: Prepare the Way for the Lord**

_Father Carl McCarthy, left, with an unidentified attendee, Melvin R. Fleischmann, and Darrell Howard raised their voices in song at the Dec. 29, 2006 blessing and dedication of St. Benedict Joseph Inn._ Carol Alvey Photo

_Fr. Carl McCarthy_  
*Editor’s Note: The late Father George Boehmcke used to be in charge of the efforts our diocese organized to help the missions in foreign lands and here in the US. He once said that we as Catholics are always “on mission,” to help people know Jesus and to simply help people along their pilgrimage back to God. In that spirit, we present this article by Father Carl McCarthy which he wrote for his parishioners at Saints Joseph and Paul Church, Owensboro in the fall of 2006.*

Five years ago, I took my first mission trip to Cap-Haitian, Haiti. I went to visit a mission called the Blessed Pierre Toussaint mission, which has the charism of taking street kids – malmouished kids strung out from sniffing glue and gas – off the streets, giving them food and lodging, and then offering them an education.

Since this was my first time in Haiti, we took a couple of side trips, so I could see the country. One trip was to the town of Milot. We visited the community hospital, staffed by American doctors. We also visited the ruins of an 18th century palace and fort that had been occupied by King Christoph. The palace sat at the bottom of a mountain and, at the top, was the fort that had protected the country from invasion. There was a hiking trail to the top, and it was a winding 1.5 km climb.

As we were making the lengthy climb to the top, a native girl walked with us. She had several handmade bracelets and necklaces that she was trying to sell us. She knew we were tourists, and she thought we would be an easy sell. I can still hear saying in her heavy French Creole accent, “You buy for $3?” Over and over she repeated, “You buy for $3!” I had $3, but what did I need with a bracelet or a necklace? She walked with us about halfway up the mountain, and then she sat down, and I thought, “Finally, she’s gone.”

We reached the top, and we toured the old fort. It was beautiful, with great views of the mountains and ocean in the distance. As we began our hike back down, the same girl sat right where she had stopped, waiting for us. The rest of the way down the mountain, we heard, “You buy for $3?” I honestly began to find it very annoying, and I bought nothing. It would have only cost me $3, which would have been nothing for me, but it would have been a great help for her.

If John the Baptist had been standing on that mountainside that day, perhaps I would have heard him calling out, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his path.” “Carl, prepare the way of the Lord. Give the girl $3 and help her to put food on the table or shoes on her feet. Better yet, build her self-esteem and tell her how pretty her work is.”

Our path to Christ has many twists and turns, potholes and barriers that can keep us from being people of action. Faith calls us to action. We become so lost on the roads that we travel, it even becomes dangerous, and we risk careening out of control. My fear is that we get so caught up in ourselves, and the world around us, that we don’t see the people on this road who need our help.

We, as a people of God, have the power and the potential to do so much, if we would only hear those words of John the Baptist, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his path.” In our own community, we can help prepare for Christ’s coming again. We can straighten the highway for the Lord by volunteering at the St. Benedict Homeless Shelter, by painting the Good Samaritan Home, by participating in our St. Vincent de Paul Society, by sharing in the many ministries in our parish. How often do we pass by opportunities to prepare for Christ coming?

God’s love can help us straighten the winding, selfish roads that we travel. God’s love will give us the smoothest, straightest, most scenic route. God’s love will help us to take down the barriers and fill in the rough spots. That’s what God’s love does. I bet if I returned to Haiti today, to that same winding path up the mountain, that same girl would be there, following tourists up and down the trail, trying to sell her goods for $3. It really bothers me that I didn’t help her when I had the chance. May the words of John the Baptist help us, so we don’t miss the next chance.

**Two FCC commissioners outline principles for an improved media system**

_by Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service_  

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (CNS) -- Media concentration is something that should be stopped, Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Copps told a Jan. 13 audience at the National Conference for Media Reform in Memphis.

FCC attempts to permit greater media consolidation earlier in the decade were thwarted, but if concentration efforts pass congressional and judicial muster next time, “you’ll see a great wave of consolidation, bigger than the one before (permitted by the 1996 Telecommunications Act), and if that happens, you’ll never get that genie back in the bottle,” said Copps, a Catholic.

Fellow FCC commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said the FCC chairman “has enormous power. His greatest power is in scheduling” what the commission will take up and when, and with new FCC chairman Kevin Martin, he said, “we don’t know what he plans to do.” Adelstein added, “If we do our work properly, we won’t have a bad rule” on media deregulation. Adelstein and Copps are the two Democrats on the five-member FCC.

Over the past quarter-century, the FCC, with Congress’ approval, has steadily increased the number of TV and radio stations that can be owned by a single entity in one market. While in the 1970s the FCC mandated an end to television and newspaper cross-ownership in the same city by one firm, it has allowed cross-ownership in the telephone and cable-TV fields.

Noting that only about 3 percent of all broadcast properties are owned by women and another 3 percent are owned by members of racial or ethnic minorities, Adelstein said, “No matter which rule you look at ... consolidation further undercuts minority ownership,” as raising sufficient funds to buy media outlets in a seller’s market becomes a burden difficult to overcome. The number of media properties owned by minorities has shrunk by 30 percent since the 1996 telecommunications law was enacted. “It’s gotten so bad (at the FCC) to get action fast with this, we now are going around like this as a bully pulpit,” Copps said of the trip to Memphis. In his remarks to the Jan. 13 audience, Copps said the FCC was right to approve “video franchise” regulations that allow telephone companies to offer cable services. “The cable companies need competition,” Copps added.

On the subject of children’s television, Adelstein said he does not see “how interactive advertising” exploiting children “would ever be acceptable.” He was referring to the online use of familiar children’s series characters to tout products in a future when television and computers are more closely integrated. Adelstein quoted Haim Saban, who made a fortune with “Mighty Morphin’ Power Rangers,” as saying that children “don’t have the ability to distinguish between programming and advertising.”

Copps also criticized the slow rate at which the United States is gearing up to operate in a wireless environment. “We are the only industrialized country on God’s green earth that does not have a strategy for getting (Internet) broadband out to its people,” he said. “In broadband penetration, we’re No. 21 ... right after Estonia and tied with Slovenia.”
The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be touring in the Diocese of Owensboro in February 2007. The reason for the visit of the Statue is to bring the Fatima Message to the people: peace for the world through prayer, penance, Eucharistic reparation and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This event has been drawing hundreds of people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. The Statue is a representation of Our Lady of Fatima, and the great miracle of Fatima in which the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children in 1917 to request prayer for the conversion of Russia.

Exquisite in detail, with lifelike features, very unusual for a wooden statue, Our Lady's image has become renowned throughout the world where over a hundred million people have venerated it during its pilgrimage, which began in 1947.

As you may already know, in 1917 the Blessed Mother appeared to three children (Lucia dos Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Marto), at Fatima, Portugal, six times, giving to them three secrets, two of which had already been revealed. On June 26, 2000, the “Third Secret” was ordered revealed by Pope John Paul II. Concerning this “Third Secret”.

The importance of the Fatima Message stems from the fact that Our Lady’s prophecies have unfolded in the past as predicted - the rise of Russia (at a time when Russia was not a world power); the spread of Communism throughout the world; the end of World War I, the beginning of World War II; and other important events that have happened. Of utmost importance to us now is that Our Lady of Fatima has also foretold us what is yet to happen, “If My requests are not heeded.”

For more information about the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue please contact the parishes or institutions in the Diocese that are hosting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue. Also one may contact the Fatima Virgin Pilgrim Statue Committee (Ted Kaufman) in Louisville at 502-648-3228 for more information too.

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Wisdom

Dan and Shirley Hagman
Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville, KY
Sophia Award Winners 2000

Coming from Vic and Barbara Hagman’s, I visited with Dan and Shirley Hagman. Vic and Dan are brothers.

It was around 2 p.m., almost time for Dan to go to work. “I’ve been driving a school bus for North Hancock County school for about 6 years. I use to work at NSA (aluminum plant) and farm part time too, but I retired from those jobs and got another one!” Dan explained.

“I was a radio operator in the Navy from 1955 - 1959. I guess I’ve been around the world twice.”

“I went with a group to India, not too long ago, for 13 days. We stayed in convents along the way. It took us 3 hours to go 60 kilometers on the roads there,” Dan said.

“We have 3 children we sponsor in India through CFCA. Dan met them while he was there,” said Shirley.

Shirley and Dan have been married 46 years and have 3 children and 8 grand children.

“We met on a blind date on Valentine’s Day. We went bowling,” Shirley said.

During the time Dan was in the Navy, Shirley was working at G.E. and going to business school. She later went to work in the office of the American Tobacco Company.

“We were both 26 years old when we got married. I wanted to marry a Catholic but I wanted a husband to go in Church with me. Back at that time, I noticed a lot of men would go to church and stand outside and talk and smoke while the women were inside. I didn’t want that! Dan is a very religious man. We went to church at St. Stephens before we went bowling on our first date,” Shirley said. “Church is still a very big part of our life and so is prayer. We say the rosary each day together, go to Mass together.

We have made a Cursillo and Koinonia. On Wednesdays, there is CCD for the whole parish sometimes with special speakers. There is 5:30 Mass with a soup and sandwich dinner and 7 p.m. catechism,” Shirley said.

It was 2:30, and time for Dan to go load up the school bus.

Shirley continued for both of them, “We were very surprised and humbled to receive the Sophia Award in 2000. We feel like it’s our parish and we do what we can. Dan does anything he can. He was helping put a roof on the church one time and fell off and hurt himself. He is Eucharistic Minister and takes communion to the sick. We both work the picnics and I lector. We volunteer at the “Help” office. We organize groceries and bag them for distribution.

“I think it’s very important to go to church and share your faith. The more you go, the stronger in faith you become.”

Vic and Barbara Hagman
Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville, KY
Sophia Award Winners 2003

“We dated about 2 1/2 years and I couldn’t decide if I wanted to live in the country and be a farm wife. I had been a city girl all my life, and I just wanted to be sure, you know, it was such a big step. I was working at G. E. at the time. After about two more years and lots of prayers, we were married and moved out here on the farm. I felt like a bird let out of a cage! I could play my stereo loud and not bother the neighbors! I have loved every day of it.”

Vic and Barbara were winners of the diocesan Sophia Award in 2003.

“Vic was the winner of the Sophia award, and I was just a tag along,” said Barbara. “He does much more for the Church than I do. He is Eucharistic Minister, has served 3 terms on the parish council, and volunteers for a lot of things.”

“But mom, don’t forget that you took care of your aunts all that time. Without you, they would have been alone. You did a lot for them,” James reminded her.

“We both do what we can for the church. We work at the picnic and cook for funeral meals, take up gifts, and receive the Vocations statue,” Vic added.

The greatest blessings for Vic and Barbara are their family and faith. “We didn’t date many non-Catholics, either of us. I just knew I wanted to marry someone of my same faith,” said Barbara.

On my way out, they showed me the Christmas manger scene in the living room. “This morning I asked Andrew where the 3 wise men were, and he showed me here in front of the Baby Jesus. We start the Wise Men figures out in the back part house, and as the Epiphany approaches we bring them closer until they are right in front of the Baby. We have always done that,” Barbara explained.

My visit with the Hagman family ended as I drove past and waved to James and Andrew walking out across the field.
Japanese Ursuline Enjoys Prayer and Study at Mount Saint Joseph

By Sister Ruth Gehres, OSU

In Daviess County, Kentucky, Ursuline Sister Rumi Umezu is about as far from home as she could possibly be on this earth. According to flight miles, her convent in Sendai, Japan, is almost 6400 miles from the Ursuline motherhouse in Maple Mount, where she is enjoying a “sabbatical time” — a period of prayer and relaxation in preparation for beginning a new ministry. Despite the distance, Sister Rumi finds herself very much at home with the Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph.

For the past six years, Sister Rumi has served as superior of the Japanese province of the Canadian Union of Ursulines. Her next ministry, which she will begin after her return to Japan in late January, will be in formation — working with women in their journey to becoming Ursuline Sisters.

Being provincial superior kept her committed to a heavy schedule, including yearly visits to each of the province’s 72 sisters in Japan and its mission station in the Philippines. “I did not have time to pray sufficiently,” she says. Returning to a more intimate relationship with God is one of her most important goals for her sabbatical time at the Mount. Besides much time spent in prayer and spiritual reading, she is using her time to improve her English, as well as doing some knitting.

Sister Rumi also talks about “tasting the beauty of nature” in the wide open spaces around the Mount. Sendai, where she lives, is a city of 1 million people located on the northeastern coast of Honshu, Japan’s “big island.”

Among Japan’s 127 million people, only about 450,000 are Catholic. Rumi herself was baptized while attending a Catholic university in Tokyo, where she found in the Bible the answers to questions that had troubled her throughout her life. Her family, she says, was not particularly religious. But her father, a surgeon, always told her that “God is in your heart.” A great admirer of the humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer, her father inspired her at an early age to want to give her life for others. In 1967, five years after her baptism, she entered the Ursuline community in Sendai.

Like many Ursulines throughout the world, Sister Rumi spent her early years as a teacher. Later she worked in formation, the ministry to which she is returning. She has spent extensive time away from Japan — 18 months in Quebec studying French, and about the same time in India, where she met Mother Teresa and worked for a time with the Missionaries of Charity. She also lived in India with the Tildonk Ursulines from Belgium.

Sister Rumi finds exchanges between countries, such as she is experiencing here, to be positive and essential for real understanding. Before coming here, she says, she saw the United States only in terms of its government — not always a positive view. Now that she has lived with Americans, she sees them as generous people who live by their faith. She is impressed by how much the American people contribute to the international community. “They have a spirit of sharing with others,” says. “And they are tolerant — they have the capacity to accept differences.”

Anyone who talks long with Sister Rumi is likely to receive an invitation to come to Japan. “Living among the people is the best way for us to understand each other — like Jesus,” she says. “Jesus came to this earth and lived among us. And He is still living among us.”

Welcome Home, Gracie!

Resident of the Bishop Soenneker Home Gracie Renfrow became a member of the Catholic Faith on December 15, 2006. Father Tony Stevenson, pastor of Saint William and Saint Lawrence parishes, administered the Sacrament. Gracie is the third member of the Bishop Soenneker Home family to join the Catholic Church since coming to live in Bishop Soenneker Home. Submitted Photo
Living our Baptism in the New Year

Father Masilamani Suvakkin, H.G.N.

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH,Ky. - Fr. Masi, as he is known at St. Francis de Sales and Rosary Chapel, arrived in Owensboro in June, 2006, and came to Paducah shortly thereafter. He is from India and is a missionary priest of the Order of The Heralds of Good News HGN).

How did he happen to come to Paducah? Priests from his Order are serving in South Africa, Kenya, Italy, the Netherlands and the U.S.A. Priests from HGN have been in the Lexington Diocese for almost ten years. Bishop McRaith was aware of this and he contacted the Superior in India to ask for priests for the Owensboro Diocese. And after filling all the requirements that would gain him entrance into the United States, he arrived in Paducah. Fr. Masi divides his time between St. Francis de Sales and Rosary. There are two other priests from his Order serving in this Diocese, Fr. Babu Kulathumkal Joseph, HGN, pastor at St. Mark, Princeton, and Fr. Shaju Thomas, HGN, Parochial Vicar at St. Mark, Princeton.

Fr. Masi spoke about his previous assignments and his life before he entered the seminary. He is one of 7 children, the only one who is a religious. He describes his call to the priesthood as a late vocation; he was 22 when he entered the seminary and was ordained at age 30. He will celebrate his 6th anniversary as a priest in December. Before answering the call, he spent 3 years as a waiter and part time electrician. After ordination, he was an associate in a small parish in Africa, and then was the pastor in another church in one of the larger cities. In the part of India where Fr. Masi was born, Catholics are in the majority. However, there are Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and other Christians in India.

Fr. Masi is a very talented individual. He speaks 4 languages, his native Tamil, 2 other Indian dialects, English, and he studied Latin. He plays the organ, sings and was the choirmaster in the seminary. He also plays the tabla; this instrument could be described as 2 drums, one small and the second one large. Unlike most drums that are struck with drumsticks or the hand, it is played by striking with the side of two fingers.

Diocesan Review Board Members Ready To Respond To Calls

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

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

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

Fr. Carl McCarthy

OWENSBORO,Ky. - When I arrived as pastor of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish here this past June, Fr. Masi Suvakkkin was living at the rectory. Fr. Masi is from India, and is a priest from the Heralds of the Good News Order. He came to our diocese to assist us with our shortage of priests, and is now the associate pastor at St. Francis de Sales and Holy Rosary Chapel in Paducah. I quickly came to learn that Fr. Masi is a faith-filled man; however, he does not like getting wet.

On my first Saturday at the parish, after the evening Mass, Fr. Masi and I were standing at the Sacristy door waiting for the rain to let up so we could get to the rectory. It was pouring! There was a little break in the rain, and I said, “I am going to make a run for it.” Fr. Masi said, “I’ll wait here.” I said, “It’s not that far; you’ll be OK.” His reply was, “No, no. I’ll wait. I don’t want to get wet.”

This scene makes me think of the waters of our Baptism and how we live them. Do we continue to totally immerse ourselves in the waters of our salvation? Do we continue to allow those waters of new life to pour over us? Are we afraid to step out into those waters and live our lives wet with Christ? Or have those waters of new life dried up for us?

The wonderful piece of our Baptism into Jesus Christ is that even if we feel that the waters have dried up, we can take a risk and step back into them. The waters of our Baptism have left us with an indelible mark of God’s grace. This grace is always with us and it will give us the strength to live our lives wet with Christ.

These baptismal waters give us a power that we can find nowhere else. These baptismal waters give us the ability to open that door and step out into the world and live our lives as Christ to others. These baptismal waters empower us to face the daily challenges that life can throw our way. These baptismal waters give us courage, compassion, love and kindness that will assist us on our faith journey.

As we put up our 2007 calendar, we realize that there are 365 days in the year. At this point in the New Year, our calendars may be free of activities. But soon our days will be full of appointments and important life events. I would like to encourage you to make some of these events ways of living your baptism.

Our baptism calls us to full and active participation in the church. As we begin this New Year, I would encourage us to share in a new church ministry; volunteer at a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter; become active with an outreach project to our Sister Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. You may wish to go ahead and schedule the important days of liturgical prayer on your calendar: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. It would also be beneficial to our faith life if we spent some of our days this year reflecting on our Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure, which we give back to God in gratitude for what God has given to us. You even may wish to schedule a retreat for yourself in this New Year. Prayer has a way of helping us to live out our baptismal commitment.

Maybe the next time we are personally afraid to step out into a difficult situation, we could remember the waters of our Baptism. These waters have the ability to bring new life to seemingly impossible situations. So step out into your life of faith this year and live it fully and alive with Christ.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
Marriage Celebrations for February 2007
Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Carroll & Rhonda Dant, 25
Joe & Janet Hardy, 25
Gerald & Brenda Millay, 40
Charles & Patricia Hamilton, 50
Thomas & Janice Foster, 51
Anthony & Mary Brown, 61
Dennis & Betty Keller, 60
Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
Kenneth & Jean Higgs, 53

Holy Name, Henderson
James & Gail Day, 25
James & M'Lea Peak, 25
Kenneth & Harriett Hite, 40
Richard & Kathy Powell, 40
William & Martha Duncan, 53
Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 52
Rex & Gath Haile, 54
Marvin & Katherine Hancock, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Peter & Kay Buser, 40
James & Patricia Signorello, 40
Charles & Martha Peters, 51
Glenn & Alta Senn, 55

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro
James D. & Barbara Brown, 50
Vincent & Lucy Morgan, 62
Rick & Kim Hayden, 25
Martin & Mary Ruth Bumm, 54
John W. & Charlesetta Conkright, 59
Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 52
Earl & Betty Wells, 60
Silas and Catherine Simon, 60

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville
Adrian & Velma Wheatley, 53

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
William & Joan Dant, 52
William & Marjorie Klee, 54

Precious Blood, Owensboro
Bob & Lois Sims, 52
Jim & Donna Stuerzenberger, 52

Rosary Chapel, Paducah
Thomas & Reba Brumlow, 60
Billy & Ruby Gibson, 61

Sacred Heart, Russellville
Ray & Rita Polak, 63
St. Agnes, Uniontown
Robert & Carolyn Mills, 40
J. O. Janet Thomas, 54
St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
James & Dorothy Callhoun, 61
Marion & Maxine Cecile, 64
George & Martha Taylor, 51
St. Ann, Morganfield
Joseph C. & Ruth Alvey, 52
Willard & Joyce Greenwell, 54
Franklin & Agnes Hancock, 59
Joe & Florence Henshaw, 61
Ronald & Mary Davis, 50
St. Anthony, Browns Valley
David & Marilyn Lewis, 25
St. Anthony, Peonia
Clifford & Margie Higdon, 58
Bill & Alberta Sims, 54
Wendell & Mary Vincent, 56
St. Benedict, Wax
Tom & Judy Croghan, 40
Quintin & Mildred Johnston, 59
St. Columba, Lewispport
Harmon & Martha Long, 58
St. Edward, Fulton
Lawrence & Rosetta Mitchell, 26
St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
David & Martina Burkhed, 25
Carl & Paula Ball, 50
St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis
Cletus & Peggy Russelburg, 40
St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
David & Venessa Alexander, 25
St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Paul & Ava Buckman, 57
Richard & Marie Johnson, 57
Jerry & Pat Hobbs, 53
Leonard & Jeananne Foss, 55
Bernard & Wanda Wilson, 40
St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Robert & Kathleen Hard, 61
St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Bob & Joanne Deweese, 40
Arthur & Arlene Bitsky, 51
St. Joseph, Bowling Green
Gerald & Norma Jenkins, 40
H. C. & Gustava Thompson, 54
Donald & Betty McCormick, 54
St. Joseph, Mayfield
Charles & Dorothy Harris, 40
Robert & Rose Coplen, 56
Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
William A. & Betty Jo Payne, 51
William & Katherine Thomas, 56
St. Martin, Rome
Bill & Jane Shelton, 56
Bernard & Jane Payne, 50
St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter
Jim & Marie Funk, 40
Earl & Frances Watson, 61
St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
Gerald & Agnes Stuart, 58
J. B. & Imogene Thompson, 55
St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Eugene & Donna Brant, 25
John & Carolie Morris, 53

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Francis & Vivian Roby, 60
St. Peter, Waverly
Allen Ray & Carolyn Mackey, 55
Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
John & Lillian Cotthoff, 60
St. Pius X, Owensboro
Frankie & Betty Clark, 52
William & Martha Zoglmann, 53
Vincent & Doris Millay, 40
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
William W. & Rita McGary, 52
St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
John & Jean Carpenter, 64
Virgil & Colene Jennings, 60
Bob & Vurble Mahoney, 50
Bill & Opal Brown, 55
St. Thomas More, Paducah
Jerry & Charlene Vandeveen, 55
Thomas & Mary Frances Galvin, 57
St. William, Knottsville
James R. & Evelyn Cecil, 52

Pope Benedict XVI: The Heart of Christian Peacemaking

On January 1, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI gave an address for peace entitled, The Human Person, the Heart of Peace. In his speech for this celebration of the world day for peace, Pope Benedict said that peace is not made in “simple human agreements but in the very nature of man and in the inalienable dignity of the person created by God.”

The Catholic Peace Fellowship presents:
NEITHER LEFT NOR RIGHT: THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKING
featuring
Tom Cornell and Jim Forest, cofounders of CFP
Michael Baxter, CFP National Secretary
Farah Marie Mokhtareizadeh, Catholic Iranian-American activist
Joshua Castell, Iraq War Veteran and Conscientious Objector
March 24, 2007

Join us for lively reflections, good discussion, common prayer, meals, the St. Marcellus Award Ceremony, and entertainment (including open-microphone time!)
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Holy Spirit Women’s Choir Appreciation

By Pat S. Smith

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - On January 9, 2007, an appreciation gathering for the Holy Spirit Women’s Choir was held.

With the Christmas season over, and the Epiphany Concert behind them, now it was time to talk about a very special women’s choir, “The Women of Spirit”.

Choir Director Trish Johnson says that this choir began originally to build a more a cappella intimate setting of faith sharing in November 2005. And how did these ladies come up with their name? “We brainstormed,” says Barbara Parker. Other suggestions were “Ladies of Grace,” “Jubilee” and “Bel Canto.” Finally the group settled on “The Women of Spirit”.

Vicki Gottfried has been in the group since its beginning. She stated that “This is the best worship that there is!” Barbara Parker, recently retired from Holy Spirit staff, said, “I regret not doing this sooner. I was in choir from 3rd grade through high school. I’m so glad I am back.”

Cathedral Secretary, Rose Peck is a newcomer to Holy Spirit and only came to Bowling Green in October 2005. “I found this choir a place to come to where I could meet people and make new friends...to find a sense of belonging.”

Olivia Stokes said she was in choir all through middle school, high school and college. She has been singing at Holy Spirit for about seven years and says she will never leave. “Music is a God given talent and we must use it. I feel especially good, but humble, when people come up to me after the Mass and say how good I sing!” And she added, “Wasn’t it Thomas Merton who said when you sing you pray twice?” Olivia’s husband, Darel is coming into the Church at Easter and they have one daughter Morgan, 2 1/2. Tracey Burke, who had to leave the choir for the summer due to having three children and being needed at home, said “I left for the summer and I did so miss the camaraderie. And also, this was my private time,” she smiled.

Trish said that women can sometimes be catty and backstabbing, ...”but,” she added, “We are not like that. We share, we hug. There is no spirit of competitiveness. We function as a group!”

Barbara Parker added that Dana Gensler and Trish are the “backbone” of the music ministry at Holy Spirit.

And Chris Keyser, wife of Matthew, of “The Brothers Holy” added, “Trish has taught us inner quiet, how to listen to each other and how to blend as a group.”

After the spiritual opening in a cappella song of the gathering, brownies, cheesecake and punch were shared by all and Dana handed out gifts to everyone which included a book mark and pin which simply state “Jesus My Song”. As the Christmas season and Epiphany draws to a close, the Women are looking forward to preparing for the Lenten season and Easter. The music ministry at Holy Spirit is truly a blessing for everyone.

Sister Elaine Burke retires from Retreat Center

Sister Elaine Burke, OSU, speaks with Msgr. Bernard Powers. Sister Elaine retired from Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center after serving 16 years. A reception was held at the Center on December 9 in appreciation for her years of service and dedication. Sister Elaine will continue her work with both ministry formation at Brescia University and the Center’s Spiritual Direction Training Program. MSJ Photo

PRACTICAL HOLINESS:
COMMON SENSE + THE BEATITUDES

Fr. Michael Murray will use down-to-earth wisdom of the Salesian tradition to present the Beatitudes during a three day mission. Fr. Murray explains,

“This mission will focus upon one of Jesus’ most concise - and most powerful - teachings: the Beatitudes. Participants will consider how Matthew 5:3-11 provides a template for pursuing the power, promise, and possibility of Christian discipleship precisely in the stage and stage of life in which we find ourselves.”

The mission will take place from March 12 to 14. Fr. Murray will present an abbreviated session at 11:30 am followed with Mass and a reception including a light lunch. The main session will be in Holy Name Church from 6:30-7:30 pm followed with reception in Parish Hall. For more information contact the Church office at 270-826-2096 or holyname@holynameparish.net
Christmas At Sts. Joseph and Paul
By Carol Alvey
OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Christmas Eve, music wafted to the Heavens from the Church on the corner of Fourth and Bolivar Streets. At the 4:30 children’s Mass the treble choir, directed by Mark Baehl and the youth handbell choir, lead by Lori Ciaccio provided the music throughout the Mass. Rhonda Hoffman, from the adult choir, was the cantor. The 10:00 Christmas Eve Mass had the adult handbell choir accompanying the heavenly voices of the adult choir and cantor Debbie Sims. Mark Baehl is the director.

This peaceful, music-filled ending was the culmination of three days of well distributed decorating by the Art and Environment Committee. Plans were well made so everything could be accomplished between the fourth Sunday of Advent Masses in the A.M. and Christmas Eve Masses in the P.M.

New ‘Seeking Balance’ statement lists priorities for next farm bill
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The National Catholic Rural Life Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, has joined 350 other organizations in a statement calling for substantial revisions to U.S. agriculture policy in the 2007 farm bill. “We have witnessed the continued loss of farms, farmers and valuable farmland. Unprecedented farm and agribusiness consolidation limits competition and innovation in the marketplace,” said the statement, “Seeking Balance in U.S. Farm and Food Policy.” “Current farm and food policies have contributed to the overproduction of certain crops, creating artificially low prices that imperil the livelihoods of farmers here and abroad,” the statement said. “Moreover, the benefits of farm subsidies flow disproportionately to very large farms and specific regions of the country, neglecting entrepreneurial and diversified farms and regions that raise livestock and grow other types of crops, including fruits and vegetables. As a nation, we can and must do better,” the statement said. “These problems and trends are not inevitable, but rather the result of public policy choices.”
Good Samaritan House
By Carol Alvey

OWENSBORO, Ky. - During the past several months of 2006, Sts. Joseph and Paul Parishioners have been busy readying the Good Samaritan House for occupants. Every Saturday, there have been dedicated workers who have become experts at building a house from “the ground up.”

It doesn’t matter what their ages, people have pulled together to help. There have been husbands and wives, parents and children, priests and parishioners working side by side. There have been people in the background providing meals for those hammering nails.

In December, 2006, the painting had begun and the end in sight. Thanks to all who have made this dream become reality. This, in the near future, will become a refuge for an immigrant family.

The Good Samaritan House, located in the 1600 block of Pearl St., began with a piece of Christmas Open House with Father Carl

By Carol Alvey

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Saturday December 16th and Sunday December 17th, Father Carl McCarthy extended an invitation to the people of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish to come to a Christmas open house at the rectory. The parish community took advantage of this time to visit with each other, enjoy a variety of goodies, listen to the choir, and sing Christmas carols.

The Sts. Joseph and Paul youth group participated in the open house by acting as hosts and servers. They also provided instrumental music and sold $20.00 tickets for “Dinner for Eight” which will be cooked by Father Carl. The dinners will take place four times during the year and, if your name is drawn, you will have two seats at the table. The proceeds will go to the youth ministry.

Later that day, the Christmas spirit continued, as members of the parish walked the neighborhood singing Christmas carols.

Dedication of Sts. Joseph and Paul’s New Offices
By Carol Alvey

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Sunday, October 15th Father Carl blessed the new office space which was formerly Prague Hall. Throughout the summer renovations took place to convert the parish hall into workable offices. This space was very much needed after a number of years of the staff working in very close quarters.

The parish is very lucky to have talented and willing parishioners who worked many days and evenings to see the project completed. As the final touch, new furnishings were donated.

In conjunction with the dedication, an open house was held for the rectory and newly remodeled church. During this time Mark Baehl, Liturgist/Music Director, gave us a history of the renovated pipe organ as well as a musical display of the variety of sounds that are possible with this instrument.
St. Benedict Joseph Inn Blessed and Dedicated Dec. 29, 2006

By Carol Alvey


Father Brian Roby, former pastor of Sts. Joseph and Paul, had a great love and compassion for the homeless. A group was gathered by Suzanne Rose to work on finding a way to make the dream of a shelter become a reality. She reached out to St. Stephen’s Cathedral for their help and went to the city to find a building. This was a dead end so she contacted Bishop McRaith for his help. He in turn contacted Sister Joseph Angela Boone and within two hours the St. Vincent de Paul building was found and then purchased for the Diocese.

On Dec. 26, 2005 the building opened for the homeless. With only the manpower of approximately 30 people it remained opened until Feb. 28, 2006. Those people were working full night shifts and going to their jobs the next day. It was apparent that to continue the shelter this year, Sts. Joseph and Paul would need a great deal of help. Suzanne Rose called upon the Social Justice groups in the Deanery for their help.

The shelter opened again Dec. 8th and plans to remain until the end of March when their city permit will expire. The average number housed will be between 10 and 12 each night. This year there are 12 Catholic and 8 Protestant churches involved. There has been an overwhelming support in the form of food, supplies and volunteer help. People who man the shelter will only need to work half the night and once every two or three weeks in contrast to last year.

This season the name St. Benedict Joseph Inn was selected to honor Benedict Joseph Labre. He was a man, born to a prosperous family, who wandered Europe in poverty, spending his days in perpetual adoration in cathedrals. Within three months of his death, there were 136 miraculous cures in his name.

St. Benedict Joseph Inn is very lucky to have the full support of Bishop McRaith and Father Carl McCarthy. It’s known that there are more homeless out there than the ones who come each night. Hopefully, once the trust is gained, more will seek shelter at St. Benedict Joseph Inn.

The Saint Benedict Shelter in Owensboro, Ky. is open seven days a week from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. The shelter is equipped to serve single men, single women, couples, children and families and is operated by trained volunteers. MSJ Photo
Christian Inclusion: Hospitality in Our Worship

By Suzanne Rose

Even though Kentucky is only marginally located in the south, we identify ourselves as culturally southern, particularly when it comes to such values as southern hospitality. The southern character of Kentucky towns is evident in public places of business. You cannot “run into the store to pick up a few things” in Kentucky; you may hurry through the doors, but, once inside, you stop to greet your neighbors, who ask about your Aunt Lorene, which leads to questions about Cousin Bob’s new job, which somehow leads to a recitation of shared genealogies. Only then can you proceed to the diary counter, pick up a gallon of milk, and take your place in line to pay. Such everyday experiences are characteristic of “southern friendliness” and central to our hallmark hospitality.

But to whom are we willing to extend that hospitality, particularly in our places of worship? Are we committed to sharing the Gospel and our beloved worship of God in the Mass with all of our neighbors, or only with those who share our values and lifestyles? I often hear exclusive attitudes in our faith communities justified as “reverence,” yet this behavior appears cold and disdainful of those who wander into our worship spaces looking for God. Many of these “outsiders” wear their brokenness openly; we can see the wounds inflicted upon them by an inhospitable world. They do not know our rituals of song and prayer; they do not know the words of the creed, and they stumble towards the priest, confused by the ritual of communion. They may not be Catholic. Perhaps they do not yet know God at all. But my heart sympathizes with them, for I, too, stumbled into a Catholic church, wounded by the world, confused by the rituals of worship, and ignorant of God’s love. And I know that when God welcomes me back into His embrace, He will seat me at the table with the other broken souls, those shunned by the “reverent.”

Our openness to welcoming these lost ones is a measure of our commitment to the Gospel. Oh yes, we perform good works—many of us financially support Catholic ministries to our addicted brothers and sisters, our homeless neighbors, the many people entrenched in poverty. Some go further, giving of themselves by volunteering at soup kitchens or a homeless shelter. Yet we locate these activities outside of our churches, preserving the pristine environment of our worship spaces. What happens when these lost souls, battered by an unforgiving society, wander inside our parish churches?

Sometimes, we redirect them to the appropriate social service agency. Perhaps this redirection flows from a genuine desire for the well-being of another. But perhaps our efforts to send them on to someone else comes from our own feelings of inadequacy, from our doubt that Jesus will grace us with the patience of compassionate hearts and with the wisdom to walk with a troubled brother or sister.

Our discomfort, from whatever source, can cause us to prefer that these wounded souls remain in the back pews and slink out before the assembly departs. Do we seek them out, greet them, and invite them to sit with us so we can assist them with unfamiliar acts of worship? Our Savior sought out these sinners; should we not do likewise? Some of our greatest saints were first our greatest sinners; perhaps we should view those who enter our churches carrying great burdens of sin and despair as saints-in-the-making.

Perhaps a drunk sees the church doors open and enters; he takes a seat in the back pew, and everyone who passes that pew smells the unmistakable aroma of liquor emanating from him. Should we not rejoice that the Spirit has guided him to a holy place? Should we question the wisdom of the Spirit? Perhaps the drunk simply seeks a place of rest; perhaps he seeks peace; perhaps he has unwittingly entered a place of worship. Whatever the reason, cannot God work with that? Perhaps we should not so quickly hurry the offensive presence out of our midst; perhaps we should stand back and witness the awesome majesty of God at work.

Perhaps someone who suffers from homelessness takes refuge in the warmth of our worship for a few hours. Should we concern ourselves with her disheveled and dirty appearance, requesting that she leave? Sometimes it seems

St. Benedict Joseph shelter is needed

By Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

Why do we need another shelter in Owensboro? That’s a good question, one that people often ask us. I wonder why we need ANY shelters in Owensboro…then I know deep down that Owensboro is no more a “Camelot” than any other city or town in the United States. People are not all doing well in this economy. So many adults in our community lack a high school education and job skills. Families are suffering from lack of the basics to keep them together when unemployment or illness happens. As one of the volunteers mentioned while training other volunteers to work at St. Benedict Joseph Shelter (named for the patron of the homeless) this winter: “I am aware that I’m only about two paychecks away from being homeless.”

Homelessness is a reality that begs our reflection AND action, no matter where it occurs. In 2005, during the weekly inter-parochial “Just Faith” small community meeting, we heard of people living in outside stairwells and under eaves near the Cathedral, mere feet away from our meeting space. This was a test to see how true our study and prayer about the Catholic social justice teachings really was. Our reflection led us to look in the mirror and say to each other: “If not us, who?” So, we asked for help and opened a temporary emergency shelter at the old St. Vincent de Paul store location at Seventh and Sycamore on December 26, 2005.

Last winter, some 30 volunteers provided 160 shelter nights of safety, warmth, and hospitality to those who were turned away from other full shelters in the area. We asked no permissions, but news of the opening spread by word of mouth. This year, with the city permit in hand and many more volunteers recruited, we began service on December 8, 2006, and plan to continue through March.

This time, compassionate people and pastors from other churches in the area wanted to help. With more than 90 volunteers to serve as overnight companions on five-hour shifts, we have hosted over 300 shelter nights in the first 32 days of service. Countless other volunteers ages 15-95, some churched and some not, are helping to bring food, get laundry cleaned, install showers, and provide other needed items. Another cadre of faith-filled people support this ministry in their promise of prayer.

Why are people homeless? Maybe they have just fallen on hard times in their life, maybe no one wants them, maybe they have made some poor decisions. Whatever the reason, it is the rest of us who have the opportunity to reach out in love, non-judgmentally, and to offer a little human understanding, a smile, or a clean towel to a brother or sister in need. “Just Faith” now makes me wonder if what I have and where I live have anything to do with the fact that the Jesus I meet in these “least ones” has “no place to lay his head?” Perhaps the Kingdom of God is near after all.

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Saint Benedict Joseph Shelter client Dave, 19, discusses his sleep problem with Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, a shelter founder and volunteer. Dave has difficulty sleeping at night but says he appreciates the help, friendship, and clean bed he receives at the shelter. MSJ Photo
KYA 2006

By Madalyn Bradley

HENDERSON, Ky. - On Tuesday, December 5, the tension in the Mary Queen of Scots’ room was so thick that you could cut it with a knife. Over one thousand middle school students from across the state of Kentucky were gathered for the closing session of the 2006 West Junior Kentucky Youth Assembly. They had arrived at the conference, which was held at the Executive West Hotel in Louisville on Sunday afternoon, and that day and a half of hard work all boiled down to this.

However, the work for Holy Name School started long before the conference began. 84 seventh and eighth graders from the school attended KYA and were responsible for tasks that were better fit for hundreds of people. They wrote five outstanding bills, taught the Premiere delegates the parliamentary procedure, and prepared various eighth graders for the specialty jobs, including a governor candidate, clerk, doorkeeper, leadership team member, and judicial program members.

When they arrived at the conference on December 3, it was time to put all of their preparation into action. The leadership team began leading the committees with the help of the clerks and doorkeepers, the judicial program started researching their cases, the governor candidates jumped into campaigning, the bill authors began presenting their bills, and the delegates had valuable chances to express their opinions. The delegates at KYA identified Holy Name bill #22 as top ranked and passed all five of them through the House and Senate. The 2006 governor, Maxx Hagan, also had high opinions of the Holy Name bills. He signed all three of the Legislative ones.

Another important part of KYA was the campaign for governor. Holy Name’s candidate, Chase Kauffeld, and the six other candidates were constantly roaming the halls, asking for votes and hoping their platform would take them to the top and make them KYA governor 2007. On Monday night, the election was narrowed down to just two candidates: Chase Kauffeld and Les Gibbs.

Outstanding Speaker Awards, Outstanding Delegation Award, and KYA governor 2007 were all titles each school was pining for at the closing session of KYA 2006. And in the end, Holy Name took home all three. Premiere delegate Weston Coward is proud to be titled an Outstanding Speaker, Chase Kauffeld is excited to return to KYA next year as governor, and the entire school is thrilled to be named Outstanding Delegation. However it was not all the awards that made Holy Name successful at KYA. They really learned about Kentucky’s government and made memories to last a lifetime. That is what KYA is all about.

Chase Kauffeld (above) is the 2007 KYA Governor.

Holy Name Cardinals celebrate their awards at KYA 2006. HN Photos

Christian Inclusion: Hospitality in Our Worship

(Continued from page 26)

that we fear the homeless most of all, and so we blame the homeless for their plight. And yet, if we talked to some of the homeless and heard their stories, we might be less inclined to drive them from our proximity. Yes, some become homeless because of drug addictions or because they have spent time in prison. Some who struggle with recovery cannot return home because they cannot overcome addiction among family and friends who will urge them to join them in their lifestyles of addiction. In order to increase the odds that they will win their battles to achieve lifestyles free of drugs, these recovering addicts “choose” to be homeless. The prayers we share with those who smell bad, whose clothes are ripped, and who return to a park bench or a cardboard box or a homeless shelter after Mass, rather than to the soothing warmth of a fireplace, a bountiful table, and Sunday’s ballgame viewed from an overstuffed armchair, might do more for us than all of the glossy worship aids our money can purchase.

Sometimes the mentally wounded seat themselves in a front pew. They remain oblivious to our preference that they seat themselves in the back pew, so we can worship under the pretense that they have not come amongst us. Some may suffer from mental damage caused at birth or by illness or accident. Others may have inflicted mental damage upon themselves through drug addictions. Sometimes these people know they made poor choices. Sometimes these sinners are, as yet, unrepentant, which truly infuriates us. But how often do we approach the altar of our Lord, unrepentant for, even proud of, our sins against humanity and against God because secular society dictates our behavior?

Despite their mental deficiencies, these people have sought out God in our holy places. Many of them love God deeply and worship Him enthusiastically. Ignorant of our practices, they may shout their joyful exclamations of assent, “Amen!” at inappropriate intervals in the Mass. We fidget in our pews and turn to one another to whisper, “he’s not Catholic!” While the proclamation of God’s word may not rouse us from our complacent worship, the knowledge that there is a non-Catholic among us, responding in heartfelt enthusiasm to the message of God, captures our attention. Should we not aspire to feel the word of God resound as deeply in our hearts as do these visitors in our midst? What a moment for evangelization God brings to us! Over time, perhaps we might teach these wounded ones our understanding of worship. And if their mental disabilities prevent them from learning our rituals, Christ’s compassion should dictate our tolerance of inappropriate sounds or incorrect gestures. If our wounded neighbor holds up the communion line, uncertain of its purpose and what it requires from him, perhaps we could whisper a word to the Eucharistic minister or encourage him to “follow me” once he has received the priest’s blessing. We could do more than extend southern hospitality to these unconventional neighbors – we could practice God’s own hospitality.

Jesus instructed us to share His message with everyone, particularly the poor, the oppressed, the captive. Jesus, in His mercy, touched the unclean, the diseased, and the disfigured. Shouldn’t we do the same? What would the assembly of the faithful look like during Mass if we put into practice God’s preferential option for the poor? Who would be seated in our pews and where would they sit if we believed Jesus meant what he said when he declared that the last shall be first and the first, last? The drunk, the homeless, the mentally ill, those we shun, those we ignore, those we fear would be seated in the first rows, directly in front of the crucifix. They would be first to be served from the table of the Lord. And the rest of us? We would fill the back pews, out of view of those seated in front so that we do not disturb and disrupt the fervor of their worship.

Of course, this hospitality might involve risks; it might incur costs. We might have to remain alert and sensitive to the spiritual and emotional needs of others, rather than to our own needs. We might have to stretch our attention spans or strengthen our ability to focus on the liturgy as we adjust to the “disruptions” of those who differ from us. Such an option for the poor – taking Jesus at His word – would force us to change, and to stretch our tolerance. But the promise of Christ is that the power of Love is greater than any power on earth. The power of Love will help us endure change. The power of Love will triumph if we but invite it into our places of worship. The power of Love will transform our parishes as it enables us to fling open our doors in celebration of Christ’s hospitality.
Tour De France - Walking In The Footsteps
By Patti Sanders

PADUCAH, Ky. - The Pilgrimage of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal led by Fr. Anthony Shonis, began on Thursday, June 1, when 16 adventurous people met in the Cincinnati Airport. After flying to Paris, France our group joined another group for a seven day tour of France starting in Paris. The first two days in Paris included attending Mass at Notre Dame for Pentecost Sunday, taking a bus tour through the streets of Paris visiting the Arc de Triomphe, Opera, Madeleine, Louvre, Champs Elysées. From the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, we were able to see the breathtaking panoramic view of the entire city of Paris. Then we cruised the River Seine for another spectacular view of the Notre Dame and Paris. Then we were off to visit the lavish 17th Century baroque palace in Versailles built by Sun King Louis XIV, with State Apartments, elegant 250 acres of Garden, the Hall of Mirrors, and the Royal Chapel. On Sunday evening we took a drive to Place Pigalle to take the city train up to picturesque Montmartre with landmark Sacré Coeur Church. The view over Paris was unforgettable! We took in the Bohemian atmosphere of the famous Place du Tertre, where we were able to watch artists at work and enjoy a French dinner on the street. To end this full day, we toured Paris at night and enjoyed the Eiffel Tower light show.

Monday started with a pleasant drive to historic Rouen in the lower valley of the River Seine. We took a leisure stroll along the lovely cobbled Rue du Gros-Horloge leading throughout the town. The Cathedral historically is one of the first churches of the Gothic architectural style built in France. Celebrated by Monet, the impressionist painter, in a series of more than thirty paintings, this symbol of the city is nicknamed “the town with a hundred bell towers.” In the square, Joan of Arc was burnt alive in the Old Market Place in 1431. Since 1979, the event has been symbolized by a giant cross, built on the exact site where the funeral pyre and stake were raised on which she perished. Throughout this town, you could see the damage by Allied bombing during WWII. Lunch was enjoyed at one of the lovely street cafes. Then on to Caen for the highlight of the day, which was a visit to fascinating Memorial Museum for Peace. The exhibits of the WWII and video of the Battle of Normandy were very emotional and were getting us ready for our visit the next day at the beaches of Normandy.

Tuesday, June 6, 2006, was a beautiful sunny day when we started our trip to Normandy Beaches. When we departed from our bus at the Omaha Landing beach, the sun was very bright and the winds were very strong, blowing sand in our eyes as we were looking out at the whitecaps. Everyone was in awe; the wind and the whitecaps were the only sounds. Here we were 62 years after D-Day, looking at what our soldiers had to overcome and wondering how anyone could have survived that horrible weather and all the obstacles they had at that time. We were a very somber group after we boarded the bus. We had men with us had been on those beaches 62 years ago. We listened to songs of that time, and many of our group joined in to sing those familiar wartime tunes. It was truly an emotional experience for them and all of us. The next stop was the Point du Hoc which was another scattering experience for us all. There were French soldiers that had camped in one of the bunkers and they saluted our WWII veterans as we walked through the grounds. Then we boarded the bus and the next stop was the American Cemetery. There were many soldiers and families of soldiers visiting the cemetery and many services being held to commemorate D-Day. It was peaceful to walk through these beautiful grounds which are located on one of the many cliffs in the Normandy area. We boarded our bus to leave this beautiful area to travel to Bayeux, where we admired Queen Matilda’s Tapestry which depicted William the Conqueror’s conquest of England. The size, and hours that went into that one tapestry were truly amazing. After lunch, at a wonderful Pizzeria, we traveled on to Mont St. Michael. The abbey was perched on a rocky isle in the Gulf of Saint Malo and for those who ventured to the top it was 350 steps up. That night we slept with the sounds of sheep in the field outside our open windows.

Wednesday, we traveled the beautiful countryside across Brittany to Kloos where we spent two nights. We made a stop for pictures of a 13th century castle. Then we went eastward to Saumur, through the countryside of vineyards known for a great sparkling wine. Thursday, was a rich day of sightseeing through Chateaux country with visits to Chateau Chambord and the 16th century chateau of Catherine de Medici, Chenonceau. Then on to Clos Lucé and marveled at the amazing collection of models of Leonardo da Vinci’s inventions that were reconstructed from the drawings of the genius. That night we had dinner at a private restaurant which was truly a sample of the French cuisine. Friday, we started our day visiting the street markets. You could buy everything you would ever need, live chickens, dressed chickens, seafood, sausages, other meats, fruits, vegetables, clothes, pastries, curtains, fabric, everything. The locals were out early with their baskets to get the freshest items. We traveled on to Chartres with its superb 13th century Gothic Cathedral. Then back to Paris where we had a guided tour of the Louvre Museum. Since this was our last night in Paris we couldn’t leave without attending a cabaret show, dinner and dancing. It was a very wonderful experience to carry with us from Paris.

Saturday, was departure from Paris but also from the larger tour group. So through the tears of goodbyes our group traveled on to Annecy by a four hour fast train through the French Alps. Arriving in Annecy to begin our “Footsteps of St. Francis de Sales” we visited the Church of Sainte Marie, built in 1442, formerly the church of the Dominicans, where St. Francis made his First Communion and was confirmed in 1575. He frequently preached here and taught catechism. He invited the people to come by, having a hand bell rung in the streets. The remains of St. Jane de Chantal were exposed in this church from 1806 to 1826. Then we proceeded to the Church of St. Francis. In 1612, the first community of the Visitation left the Gallery House to come here. The former monastery was made up of the whole block of buildings. The church, consecrated in 1617 by St. Francis de Sales, was restored and enlarged in 1645. It was desecrated during the French Revolution, and again restored to public worship at the end of the 19th century. It is now the church of the Italian colony. The relics of St. Francis and St. Jane were venerated here until the Revolution. On August 2, 1911, the Visitandines moved to their new location on the hill. The relics of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal were transferred there with great solemnity. The Basilica, which dominates the town, was built in their honor and is where Fr. Tony Shonis celebrated Mass for our group.

We were on our own during this 3-day stay in Annecy. So our group did their own things. Sitting in the street cafes eating the wonderful local foods and watching people, browsing the shops, taking a ride around the lake, it was a wonderful time and a place to visit again. Some of us went to Mass again on Sunday morning at St. Mau-

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Tour De France - Walking (Continued from page 28)

rice and after, we were taking pictures as people were leaving. One lady got very upset
with us thinking that we had taken her picture, but after assuring her that we hadn’t,
she got very tearful knowing that we were Americans. Her husband was translating
as best as he could, but she wanted to thank us for the help during the war. We were
deply affected by this display of emotion from this lady and her family. Annecy
was a beautiful town nestling among the Alps, lake and old town and it would truly
win your heart. We hated to leave, but the time had come to travel on to Geneva,
Switzerland and another beautiful drive through the alps. We had our dinner together
as a group because our travels had come to an end and tomorrow we would return to
Paris and then to Cincinnati where everybody would go to their own homes. It was a
wonderful trip. The main thing we really learned to appreciate from the good ole USA
are our “restrooms”!

Footsteps of St. Francis de Sales included:
*Gallery House and chapel, cradle of the Visitation Order, founded here June 6, 1610
by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal.
*Convent and Chapel of the Sisters of St. Joseph; founded by St. Jane de Chantal
in 1634, this was the second monastery of the Visitation in Annecy up to the French
Revolution.
*Statue of St. Francis de Sales by Descatorie was erected in 1924 by the Academy
Florimontane.

*Perrire Gate on January 31, 1621, St. Francis officially welcomed his brother, Jean
Francis, who had been appointed his coadjutor.
*Palais de l’Isle, the former prison which the bishop, Francis de Sales, visited fre-
cquently.
*Madame de Charmoisy’s House. St. Francis wrote a short treatise on the spiritual
life for her. This was the basis for the Introduction to the Devout Life , first published
in 1608.
*The house of President Anthony Favre and his son Vaugelas, was the residence of St.
Francis de Sales from 1610 until his death. It was in this house that the bishop and the
president founded the Academy Florimontance. St. Francis wrote his Treatise on the
Love of God here.
*A marker recalls the site of the former Monastery of the Poor Clares, expelled from
Geneva at the time of the Reformation. St. Francis liked to ordain his priests here.
*St. Peter’s Cathedral, built in 1535, was formerly the church of the Cordeliers. St.
Francis was ordained a priest here December 18, 1593 and officiated as bishop from
1602 until his death in 1622. His remains were venerated in this church from 1806 to
1826.
*Lambert House. St. Francis lived here from 1602 until 1610. He is portrayed in a
stained glass window on the stairs.

Clothes Made By Tender, Loving Care

Members of “Sew Much Love,” parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Chapel, from left, Bever-
ly Gore, Gloria Adams, Bettie Wagner, JoAnn Mason, Francis Johnson, Sr. Maragaret
Alokan, and Wayne Gore. Lois Rutigliano photo

Father John O’Koro, at right, attending a Black Catho-
lic Day of Reflection at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Ow-
ensboro, in Dec., 2006. Lois Rutigliano photo

Clothes Made By Tender, Loving Care

A Call to Solidarity: The Church in Africa

The African Church presently has 488 inaugu-
rated dioceses with more than 10,000 par-
ishes. The continent of Africa has presently
53 independent nations and accounts for more
than 12% of the world’s human population. In
December, 2006, Father John O’Koro spoke to
St. Stephen Cathedral Parish about life in his
home in Nigeria and ways to help Africans and
the African Church.

Most African communities do not have good
health centers. Fr. John noted that $20,000
could provide a college university hospital or
assist with medical equipment.

Sacred vessels for celebrating Mass are in
short supply in most parishes. Western Ky.
Catholics could sponsor a seminarian or as-
pirant to religious life in Nigeria. One could
adopt a boy or girl and choose to pay for his/
her education; Oprah Winfrey showed Ameri-
cans one way to do this.

$7,000 to dig a water well or a bored hole
could provide clean water for as many as 300
families.
The Adventures of a Young and Inexperienced Priest

By Father Carmelo Jiménez

VI: Expulsion From Chamula

I would like to start out this story by saying that none of the stories told in this space are already written. I write them as inspired, and this is why they do not follow a chronological order. Actually, these are the adventures I could write. I also have to say that sharing these stories through this Media has not been easy: these are things I really experienced and they cause some nostalgia because of the people in much need of God, and also because of other things in life.

Today I would like to share the experience of how I was expelled from Chamula. On April 22, 2002, after ministering to them for about 4 years, I was told through my parochial vicar, Fr. Marcelo Perez, that my services were no longer needed so I had to pack my stuff and leave. As soon as I heard the news, we went to the Bishop, who asked us to negotiate with the town’s authorities. I did so for almost a week but was not successful. The situation became tense every time. The local authorities there even prohibited me to enter neither my room nor my office.

On Saturday, [April] 28th, in the afternoon we told some people that we would not have Sunday mass. We also advised them not to go by the priests’ offices or rectory because the authorities would incarcerate them. We were at Sh’alik’s house [his name is translates into English as ‘Savior’], when we heard noises of pots and pans. One of the children went out to see what was going on and saw that the moon was red. For them this symbolizes that the Devil was fighting the moon thus there would be problems on earth, very strong problems, even death. This is why people come out hitting pots and pans to make noises and scare the Demon away so that he would leave the moon at peace. Other people approached us and asked us to leave as soon as possible because the authorities may be looking for us to kill us and these people did not want this to happen.

On Sunday, 29th, I tried to negotiate with the authorities once again but they had really made up their minds. I went to the church to try to enter my office. The authorities sent two soldiers to watch me at all times. I was surprised, though, when I entered the church and found the faithful (about 200 people), on their knees, praying to find and end to this situation. I approached one of them through the back and I told him on a low voice that no one should stand up. I passed by each of them, placing my hand on each shoulder. Some people touched me back, some others were sobbing. We did not know what the end of that situation was going to be like.

As for me, as placing my hand on their shoulders, I started to cry without even realizing it. When I finished, I approached the Sanctuary and fell on my knees. It hurt me so much to see all those people in need of God and how a few people (the authorities) were the cause of not having a pastor, someone to guide them on their search for the Lord.

On May 2, Fr. Marcelo and I went to pick up stuff. We took my pick up to load our belongings; we also took a Beetle, because Fr. Marcelo had gone to Chenalho and I had a meeting with the Diocesan Pastoral Council, to give my report on the Diocesan Commission of Catechesis, of which I was the president. We left the Beetle at the entrance of town. We entered town in my high 4x4 pick up truck.

We had to call the authorities to open the office and bedroom because they had changed the locks. Before packing, I called the State’s General Attorney –whom I knew well, and told him about the situation. I told him if any thing would happen to me, it would be the Municipal President’s fault. The Attorney asked me ti put the President on the phone and they talked.

I started to pack and as we were taking things out, some pictures came out in which I was dressing up with their indigenous clothes like they do. They forbid taking pictures in church; whoever does it, they lose the camera and can be hit. Some of the pictures I had were of the authorities, some festivities and some of their traditions. One of the soldiers took the pictures away from my hands saying that those pictures belonged to the Municipal Palace. I, a little upset, took them back the very way the soldier took the pictures of me in the first place. The soldier lifted his fists to hit me. I crossed my arms and faced the Town President asking him to order to hit me. The President restrained the soldier saying that he could not hit me in town because he would be blamed and taken to jail. Yet he told them to wait until we were off the city limits and then they could do whatever they pleased with us. They left immediately and got in two pick up trucks ready to follow us as soon as we went out. We were done packing and loading and then we left. The distance from the temple to the place where the beetle car was, was about 1 kilometer. There are also many bumps so that one could not speed up. When seeing that they were ready to follow us and try to beat us as soon as we were off city limits, I geared to the maxim, perhaps about 80 miles an hour (inside the town), I ignored the bumps; I just wanted to leave. We reached to the place where the small beetle. I got off the truck – Fr Marcelo would drive it now. I asked him to leave as soon as possible to Chenalho. I hid behind some bushes so that the soldiers would not see me when passing by that area. The passed indeed, following Fr. Marcelo. I got into the other car and decided not to go to San Cristobal yet. Instead, I would follow them keeping a considerable distance. The car I was in was not familiar for them.

Usually, it would take us 45 minutes from Chamula to Chenalho, due to many curves in the zone. That day, when I returned home in Chenalho, the first thing I smelled was the burn breaks in the car. Fr. Marcelo told me he made it from Chamula in 25 minutes.

We talked. I tried to calm him down, tranquilize him and then I went off to my meeting in San Cristobal.

When the Bishop saw me, he was kind of surprised to see me arriving too late because they were already leaving. I asked him to talk in private and told him what happened. He reminded me of the Gospel phrase: “Blessed the persecuted because of me, because theirs is the Kingdom of God.” Yet I was saying to myself: “how can I be happy when lots of people are suffering, and among them, the people God had entrusted me to pastor.”

The Chamulas called ministers from a church so-called orthodox Catholic –but it is not. According to the law from the Association and Public Cult, no religious group could occupy the Catholic temple in Chamula for their worship. This is how we stop people from that other church and bring a different priest from the Diocese of San Cristobal. In all the negotiation meetings between local (civil) and ecclesial authorities (the State Government mediating), I was present as the Bishop’s advisor. On September 21st, 2002, a new priest arrived to Chamula yet it was written for the record that neither Fr. Carmelo nor Fr. Marcelo could ever come back to Chamula.

“My Faith Put To The Test”

By Melina González

A few years ago I was really far from my God and I used to believe that I could do everything by myself. My marriage, though, was not going so well and I had several problems in my life. Yet, “one good day” God decided to teach me a lesson…and it certainly came across clearly because He did so through my son.

It was the morning of September 26th: my son, Jorgito, was at a cousin’s house. Our cousin used to baby-sit him because I had to work. Then, I received a phone call. It was my husband - who told me that my son had fallen from the second floor and had fractured his cranium. My husband told me our son was between life and death and we had to find a better hospital. We found the best hospital in town and my son was admitted into it.

He was in Intensive Care though the evening and night. The next morning the doctor in charge of my son’s care requested to talk to us. Up until then, I had prayed to God for my son but without much faith. The doctor told us that my son had but three days left to live. He also told us that since the hospital was very expensive, it would be better to transfer him to the civil hospital since my son was going to die anyways. At that time I thought if my son were transferred to the civil hospital, he was going to die sooner because, unfortunately, at that time I believed more in the doctors than in God. So my husband, seeing me so desperate, told me that he would not move our child from that expensive and luxurious hospital if I did not want to. He said he would do whatever it took to find money to afford that hospital.

I mistakenly thought it was the best thing for my son. But I could tell my husband was worried about our finances, so I started to pray to the Lord to protect my son since I was going to transfer him to the civil hospital. That very afternoon, he was transferred in an ambulance. My son almost had three heart attacks in the ambulance but my Lord was taking care of him because he made it to the other hospital alive. Jorgito was completely sedated, but made it for 5 or 6 days as the doctors told us not to have false illusions because the child could die at any moment. They told us that even if my son lived, he would have mental problems.

So, I went to the chapel in the hospital anytime I could. I prayed for my child and I knew a lot of other people were praying for his health too, although some suggested

Continued on page 35
Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

Louis and Nora

(Van Rysselburgh) Edge
St. Mary of the Woods Parish
Whitesville, KY
Sophia Winners 2006

Louis and Nora Edge will be married 69 years in May, 2007.
“We were 18 years old when we got married. It seemed old at the time because there were people getting married a lot younger than us,” said Nora Edge.

“We met through our families. We all visited each other. That’s all the entertainment we had back then was to visit each other. People would come and stay all day long.”

“People usually walked or took a wagon to go places. Lots of times we would go to Mass on Sunday and take our breakfast in a bucket to eat on the way home. Because of the fasting you couldn’t eat before going to Mass and then afterwards it took so long to get home, well you’d be pretty hungry,” Louis said.

“We have 11 living children,” Nora said. “In 1961, we had 2 of our girls, ages 12 and 7, drowned. And in 1991, a son died. Because of the fasting you couldn’t eat so we would have extra water. We were standing outside. I realized I was surrounded by so many friends. It lifted me up. It inspired me to volunteer more and do for others. It did for both of us.”

Nora said, “During that time I had a baby and was unable to attend the funeral for the girls.”

Louis said “In 1945, I had four children at home, and I was drafted and put in the infantry, front lines fighting in the Philippines. I was in for 14 months. I couldn’t talk about it when I got home because I couldn’t sleep if I did. I remember being so thirsty and praying for rain at night so we would have extra water. We were in the jungle and it was so hot. We were scared for our lives... carrying those big guns... it was rough. Thank God I came home unharmed. So many didn’t make it home.”

“When all the kids were home, a friend came by one day and said he thought he’d turned in the school yard, there were so many kids out running around,” Louis said.

“I made almost everything we had,” said Nora. “Many things came from feed sacks. Dresses, shirts, tea towels... you name it. I did a lot of cooking too. Usually 2 Dutch ovens of beans a day. We raised almost everything we ate. I worked in the house, in tobacco, in the garden, but I wouldn’t drive a tractor.” Nora said with a smile.

Nora still makes about 20 baby quilts a year for the picnics at St. Mary’s. “We use to have a group that met here in our basement that would make quilts for the picnics. Once a month we would have pot luck and Father would come say mass for us. We would make the priests quilt too. If you don’t quilt you don’t eat we would say! We had a lot of fun. We have since disbanded.”

Louis Edge started the St. Vincent de Paul organization in Whitesville and the store as well. He is a charter member of the Wendell Foster Center and has a street named in his honor on the campus. He still has an annual hayride at his farm for the residents of the center. He has for over 40 years.

“I still play music with the Hoe Downers. I play the violin. We’ve been playing music together for a long time. We play at the Foster Center regularly. We play at senior citizens events and nursing home.”

“We were quite honored to receive the Sophia Award last fall.” Said the Edges.

“It was a wonderful celebration. We are very appreciative to those who nominated us.”

“Our greatest blessing is our children. They were all born perfectly healthy.” Said Nora.

Louis said they all get together the first Saturday of the month in the basement for potluck and they play music together.

What better way could you find to spend a Saturday night than to be with your whole family having fun and playing music, I thought on my drive home. What memories they have to share.

Author’s Note: Louis Edge is on countless boards and has received so many awards and recognition for his acts of volunteerism there is actually not room to list them all. He and Nora both are truly the spirit of stewardship.

Thanks To West Kentuckians Who Helped Provide For Chilean Hospital

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Many individuals from the Western Kentucky area remember Fr. Dan Mangen and his efforts to help the people of Chile. He has been working there for 22 years and since 1991, my husband Dave and I have made 3 trips to visit with him. The second trip was in 1994 and at that time Fr. Dan was living and working in Purranque, a small town in the 10th district of Chile. The town had a small hospital that was built in the 1940s after World War II. In 1995 the wooden hospital caught on fire and was completely destroyed. Purranque is a poor farming community that had lost the cheese factory and the linen mill that were the town’s largest employers along with the hospital. The loss of the hospital meant that the people now were without medical care and the 80 jobs the hospital provided. Chile was just recovering from 17 years of a cruel military dictatorship and struggling to rebuild the economy and social services. It did not have the funds to rebuild the hospital in Purranque. Fr. Dan and several Protestant ministers formed a committee to persuade the government to rebuild the hospital. They were successful but the government would only build the structure, the town would have to find a way to furnish the building.

Many individuals, Lourdes Hospital, Western Baptist Hospital, and the St. Nicholas Family Free Clinic in Paducah donated unused medical equipment, computers, and funds. Individuals in Dan’s hometown in Ohio donated equipment and money to purchase the used cargo containers that were filled with the equipment and supplies that were sent to the hospital.

My husband, Dave, and I made another trip this past November to visit with Fr. Dan. We spent a day in Purranque and were able to visit the hospital. Everyone there was gracious, and when we were introduced as people who had helped get donations of equipment, they were eager to show us all around the hospital. They pointed out many of the things that came from the USA and thanked us over and over again. At the end of the tour, a reporter from the local radio station came to interview us. Most of the interview was with Fr. Dan and one of the administrators of the hospital, but before the reporter ended the interview, she asked Dave and me several questions. Dave had Fr. Dan’s help, and my limited Spanish was definitely put to the test, but I got through it. Later, as we were walking around town, Fr. Dan met several people he knew. When he introduced us as his friends from the USA, everyone said that they had heard the interview and they also thanked us. So on behalf of all those people who thanked Dave and me, I want to pass their gratitude on to all of you who were also involved in some way in helping the people have the beautiful new 45-bed hospital that was so badly needed in Purranque.

Nurses at nurses’ station, Purranque. Edie Keeney Photo

Inalienable Dignity

On January 1, Pope Benedict XVI gave an address for peace entitled, The Human Person, the Heart of Peace. In his speech for this celebration of the world day for peace, Pope Benedict said that peace is not made in “simple human agreements but in the very nature of man and in the inalienable dignity of the person created by God.”
"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth...God looked at everything he had made and he found it very good." - Genesis 1:30

By Sister Amelia Stenger, O.S.U.

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center is committed to religious retreats, the arts, and environmental education. Environmental education will be a major focus during the coming year. For the past 10 years, more than 500 students per year have visited the Mount to learn about good stewardship of Earth. They have walked the land, visited the animals, tested the water, planted seeds, and tasted produce of the land. The Center is now ready to expand its environmental educational programs. Our focus will be "Greening Western Kentucky — Getting Real Environmental Education Now in Western Kentucky."

Our plans include retreats centering on Pope John Paul II's concept of "ecological conversion." There will be workshops for green building techniques, and opportunities for architects, plumbers, electricians, and contractors to learn about building a near zero-energy home. Cooperating with businesses, we will offer a green building expo. Why are we doing this? If future generations are to have what they need, we must learn more now about sustainability and good stewardship of Earth. We simply need to look at Earth in new ways.

One of the great gifts the space program gave us is a picture of Earth — a beautiful blue and green planet set against the dark reaches of space, shining like a distant ornament. Our planet is just one small part of the Milky Way Galaxy, spinning around our sun like the parts of a mobile around their center of focus. This image can lead us to a new appreciation of Earth's beauty and hospitality to all life. It shows that everything is interconnected. We can see human beings as part of one global family, interconnected with other species and with the life systems of our planet. It is our home, our energy — it sustains our life.

Yet, as we move closer to the planet with our spacecraft, what do we see? Destruction of mountaintops in Eastern Kentucky. Polar icecaps shrinking at the poles. Mercury pollution of waterways and oceans. Daily devastation of South American rain forests. Plastics, tires, old refrigerators, and cars piling up in open fields. We breathe polluted air. How can we do this to Earth, which is our home and source of life?

Theologian Denis Edwards, in Ecology at the Heart of Faith, writes that "the continued use of fossil fuels, like the vast amounts of coal...contributes to rapid climate change that will bring terrible suffering to human beings and a further acceleration in the extinction of other species. Already uncounted and unnamed species are being lost forever. All of this will have an unimaginable impact on human beings...when human beings cause the extinction of other species, they destroy creatures made by God."

As the reality of global warming becomes more apparent, more and more people around the world are seeking an alternative way forward, an ecological way. These are people from many different backgrounds — scientists, farmers, business leaders, schoolchildren, politicians, artists, and many others — connected by a common love for Earth and its creatures. They are not only trying to address the economic global crisis but the related moral issue — justice for the poor of Earth and God's creation. Here at the Center, we want to do our part.

Religious faith can give meaning, motivation, and understanding to the ecological movement. Pope John Paul II, insisting that respect for the integrity of creation is a moral issue, introduced the important theme of "ecological conversion" in his writings. He says, "If one looks at the regions of our planet, one realizes immediately that humanity has disappointed the divine expecta-

Sister Catherine Marie Lauterwasser, OSU, speaks briefly before the showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" at Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount. The new Al Gore film about global warming capped off a series of educational videos about the environment that were shown at the Mount. Sister Catherine Marie is the assistant local community life coordinator for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.
Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa
Preacher to the Papal Household
in Lexington/Wilmore, KY
February 19-20, 2007
Sponsored by Asbury Theological Seminary

and the Catholic Diocese of Lexington
[For more information about Fr. Cantalamessa, see www.cantalamessa.org]

Monday, February 19
Noon: Mass, with Bishop Ronald Gainer presiding and Fr. Cantalamessa, homilist, The Cathedral of Christ the King, 299 Colony Blvd., Lexington, KY
• Catholic priests in attendance are invited to concelebrate. Bring an alb and green stole.
• 1:00pm-3:30pm: Lunch and Session with Clergy at the Cathedral of Christ the King, 299 Colony Blvd. (Lunch: $10) — open to Catholic and non-Catholic clergy. Reservations required, see registration form below.
• 7:00pm: Ecumenical Worship Service. Centenary United Methodist Church, 2800 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington. Father Cantalamessa preaching. Music by Matt Maher, contemporary Catholic musician

Tuesday, February 20
• 11:00am: Asbury Theological Seminary morning chapel, 201 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY, Father Cantalamessa preaching; music by Matt Maher
• 4:00pm: Beeson Lecture on Preaching, Session #1* @ Asbury Seminary. Theme: “The New Evangelization: Lessons from the Early Church for preaching in a Post-Modern World.”
• 6:30pm: Beeson Lecture on Preaching, Session #2* @ Asbury Seminary.

All sessions, except the Monday clergy session, are free and open to the public.

Registration for Cantalamessa Clergy Luncheon and Session
(deadline Monday, Feb. 12th)
Name(s)_________________________________________
Church/Position________________________________
Address________________________________________
Phone______________ Email_____________________
Check if you would prefer a vegetarian meal.
Check if you have other special needs (explain on back).

Enclose $10 per person, payable to Catholic Diocese of Lexington, and mail to: Greta Hernandez, The Catholic Center, 1310 West Main St., Lexington, KY 40508

Catechetical Ministry Day
WHERE?
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 4029 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY

WHEN?
March 17, 2007
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fee: $5.00

Donna Glauser, Associate Director of Marketing for RC Keynote Speaker, “An Essential Partnership - Kids, Parents, Catechists, and the Whole Community of Faith” Confronting Fundamentalism: Using Adult Faith Formation as the Key (Part 1 before lunch and Part 2 after)

Ron Lamping is currently the sales representative for RCL serving in parts of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky: “The Use of Creative Strategies and Activi-
ties,” and “Climb Out of Your Teaching Comfort Zone.” This presentation will demonstrate creative ideas to implement the six tasks of catechesis during the catechetical session.

Comfort & Hope... a message about grief
By Deborah J (Jeannie) Boone [kyboones2@hotmail.com]

Looking out my window this afternoon it is gloomy and gray; a slight breeze causes my beloved wind chimes to send forth bountiful sweet notes that seem to be desperate for direction. For weeks it has rained and the yard is like a swamp in some places, a mud bog in others. I can deal with the cold days of winter but this is like March though the calendar says not. I need to see the sun for a few days regardless of the temperature. I need some bright warmth to chase away the blues that envelop me, to help me regain the focus I’ve lost… find some direction that isn’t here in the dark.

Truth says it is here, within me, and I just can’t find it for the chaos that fills my days and my mind. I’m like the chimes out there in the wind, buffeted from every side and putting forth immense efforts that wear me to a frazzle but produce little that can be measured. That is my feeling at this time and I learned long ago that the only way to know who you are, or where you are, is to understand what you feel and not run, much as you’d like. I will deal with this, sort it all out, and find some time to rest and clear my thoughts.

Grief takes the warmth from days. The loss can be so great that it seems there will never again be anything but the surrealness, the pain and loneliness, the isolation. It’s so hard to share feelings that you can’t even define, feelings that threaten to overwhelm, feelings that seem to smother the very essence of what’s left of you. Grief can lead you to believe there is nothing left of you at all... Except maybe memories that break your heart all over again.

There will never be a time when it’s harder to deal with your feelings but doing so in the grief process is the only way to find healing. And when you start to find comfort in the memories, when you come to a place where you can reach out for comfort, you’ll start to find direction and hope.

It takes real courage to show up for life everyday when you want to hide, but it’s the holding on that brings strength. It takes courage to pull up and faith to see wisdom and miracles where only moments ago there was despair. But, oh, the price we pay for that vision... that wisdom.

Take comfort, and find hope, in the understanding that God is ever present and holding on to us… Take some time, even if it’s just a second or two, when you feel overwhelmed to be warmed in that knowledge.
“Living the Sacraments: The Catholic’s Role”
One Woman’s Perspective on the Sacraments and other Important Practices
By Pat S. Smith

Bonnie Broenneke, married to Gary for 39 years, is a cradle Catholic for whom the sacraments are extremely important, and she also encounters them devoutly. Bonnie, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, has some very special experiences with the sacraments.

Bonnie speaks openly about the experiences of the Church, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. “When Fr. Joe Mills was Pastor of Holy Spirit, I had never been to Confession face-to-face before and needless to say, was just a little bit apprehensive about going,” she said. She said she knew Fr. Mills was in there; the door was open and she says, “I slowly peeked around the corner, and there he was sitting in a chair. He was just so kind and easy to talk to and I felt really good when I left church that day. From that day on, face-to-face Confession hasn’t bothered me. Thank you, Fr. Mills.”

Bonnie has never served as a Eucharistic Minister, so she states that she has not had the honor of distributing Communion, but she has cantored with the parish’s Music Ministry, and she states “I have the honor of being able to be right there, up front with Fr. Jerry Riney when he is saying Mass. I can be there near the altar when Fr. Jerry Riney says or sings the Consecration.” She feels it is a deep honor, to say least!

And how does Bonnie feel about mortal sin? “Well I don’t know how other people cope with it, but as for myself, I don’t want to do it! I don’t want to miss Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation. I guess I just have enough ‘fear of the Lord’ in me that I don’t want to jeopardize my relationship with God, and don’t want to have any mortal sin on my soul!”

Bonnie said that she does feel the “sting” and “bite” of conscience which she believes comes from going to Catholic grade school from grades 3 thru 8, and being brought up with the “Baltimore Catechism,” which was taught, in her case, by the Franciscan Order of Nuns in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she is originally from. She states, we all know ‘right’ from ‘wrong’. “She further explains that she learned that the “age of reason” occurs by the age of seven years. “Granted,” she explains, “this is a different age

before meals, and our daughter and son-in-law, Paul, have kept that up with our 2 ½ year old grandson, Evan.” She is happy because even when little Evan comes to visit, he says “Grace” before their meals. “Of course, he says, ‘God is good, God is great, and we thank you for our food. Amen.’ She says he then proceeds to try to make the “Sign of the Cross.” It was very special for the Broennekes that Evan said the prayer before the family ate Thanksgiving Dinner this year! Grandma was so proud of him, and so was Grandpa!

As Catholics living the sacraments, even in these “modern” times, the Broennekes are one fine example of a Western Kentucky Catholic family who respects and practices the sacraments. Hopefully they can continue be a great example for others who may be less mindful of the importance of the sacraments and be prompted to practice and live them more fully on a daily basis.

Pat S. Smith is a member of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green, and incidentally her favorite sacrament is “Confession.”

Holy Spirit Epiphany Concert, 2007, Acclaimed As A Spectacular Musical

Bonnie and Gary Broenneke

Fr. Jerry Riney and Madeline Loiaco- no, Children’s Ministry Coordinator, presenting Epiphany Whole Community Catechesis. Photo by Clinton Lewis

By Pat S. Smith

BOWLING Green, Ky. - On January 7, 2007, the complete Holy Spirit Music Ministry, under the direction of Ms. Trish Johnson, presented a spectacular Epiphany Concert at Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green.

Ms. Johnson, Holy Spirit’s Choir Director for 11 years, is a cradle Catholic and the mother of three daughters, Marilyn, Veronica, and Olivia. Ms. Johnson also teaches Music Theory and Music Appreciation in her “spare” time at Western Kentucky University. Dana Gensler, Holy Spirit’s Director of Music and Liturgy, stated, “We are so incredibly blessed here at Holy Spirit to have so many talented musicians who are willing to share their gifts of music with the parish. We are particularly blessed to have Trish because she brings so many amazing nuggets of knowledge to our music ministry! In addition to our incredible accompanist, ‘Ave Maria’ Trish quipped, “with only members of our families attending.”

Some of the highlights of the 45 minute concert, (and there were many), included classical guitarist Gary Weilage, who presented in pre-concert “Capricho Arade.” Sarah Isom sang “Ave Maria” in a beautiful mezzo-soprano voice. Katie-Rose Gensler, both a percussionist and pianist, 16 year-old daughter of Phil and Dana Gensler, sang “Mary Did You Know?” This particular piece had never been done by any of the choirs before. Although she felt a little nervous with this, her first solo with the Women’s Choir, Katie-Rose stated, “I am just so happy to have been a part of the concert. When you grow up in the Church and are around music all the time, I think musical ability just kinda came natural.” And ability and talent she has. She scored

Continued on page 38
I have had such a sense of peace and joy ever since I attended Cursillo

By Cathy Ray

But as it is written: “What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,” (1 Corinthians: 2:9)

My name is Cathy Ray. I made the 55th Women’s Cursillo in the Diocese of Owensboro and I sat at St. Mary Magdalene’s table.

Growing up in a large family where God always came first, I was privileged to attend Catholic schools for 12 years. My parents took us to church each Sunday, and they were a wonderful example for each of their seven children.

After I married, I had a hunger to get closer to our Lord. I wanted to get more involved in church because it seemed as if I was taking my faith for granted. My faith was growing as I matured. “When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.” (1 Corinthians 13:11) The next step was to become a lector, and then a Eucharistic minister. This helped, but it was just not enough for me.

My husband and I got involved in working a number of Koinonia retreats at St. Francis de Sales. Koinonia definitely brought me closer to God, but I wanted more. Gwen Jennings asked me if I was ready to attend Cursillo, and there was no doubt in my heart that I was. She made the arrangements for me to go, and although I was really nervous about going to the Mount because I didn’t know anyone who would be there, I surrendered all doubt and went with open mind and heart.

Father John Vaughan was our spiritual director at Cursillo. The entire team was filled with so much love for all the women who attended. The Cursillo weekend helped me to get my priorities in order, and to see just what God intends for me to do with my life.

I have had such a sense of peace and joy ever since I attended Cursillo. When problems come my way, God takes care of them for me. The next Cursillo weekends in our Diocese are March 1-4 for men and March 8-11 for women. Come and see what God has ready for you.

“My Faith Put To The Test” (Continued from page 30)

that I give up and offer my son to God. They would say if the child was going to end up handicapped that it would be better for God to take him. Yet, my love and faith as a mother would not let me ask the Lord to take my child. On the contrary, I asked God to keep my son alive; no matter how sick or challenged, but alive. Those were my prayers, day and night.

I can’t remember exactly when, but on the 2 or 3 of October, my child woke up hungry and asking for something to eat. He recognized us perfectly and ever since has been healthy and full of life...thank God.

My friends, now with this miracle God has granted me, my faith in Him is really strong. UNFORTUNATELY I HAD TO GO THROUGH THIS IN ORDER TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD. I REALIZED THAT NEITHER THE BEST NOR WORST DOCTOR HAS THE LAST WORD ON SOMEONE’S LIFE. Please don’t wait for something like this to happen to realize that Christ loves us even though we may think we are far from Him and can make it through life without faith and love for God.

Melina Gonzales is a Lector for Spanish Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville. Her son, Jorgito, sings in the Hispanic Choir and her daughter Aztiri is an altar server.

‘Saturday Morning at the Dome’

at the Benedictine monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana

Recharge yourself spiritually during a “Saturday Morning at the Dome” in Ferdinand, Indiana. The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand provide a program of prayer, reflection, and conversation about prayer for Lent, Holy Week, and ordinary times. 9:30 a.m. through noon lunch. The program began on January 27, and continues on February 24, March 31, and April 21. $20 for each Saturday. Attend one Saturday or more. Call Kordes Center at 812-367-2777, 800-880-2777, or check www.thedome.org.

Marian Talks in Hopkinsville.

Enjoying hot chocolate after Marian Talks in Hopkinsville.

Jorgito (far left), along with cousins Isaias and Pablito. The Women’s Retreat at St. Meinrad's. The Sisters of St. Meinrad have organized a program of prayer, reflection, and conversation about prayer for Lent, Holy Week, and ordinary times. 9:30 a.m. through noon lunch. The program began on January 27, and continues on February 24, March 31, and April 21. $20 for each Saturday. Attend one Saturday or more. Call Kordes Center at 812-367-2777, 800-880-2777, or check www.thedome.org.
Maple Mount Ursulines Attend “Angela Anew” Gathering in Cincinnati

By Sister Ruth Gehres, OSU

How will the daughters of Angela Merici live out the charism of their founder in the 21st and 22nd centuries? This was the focus of the “Angela Anew” meeting of Ursuline Sisters in Cincinnati December 27-29. Participating were 25 Ursulines and one Ursuline Associate from six communities: Brown County, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo in Ohio; and Louisville and Maple Mount in Kentucky. Representing the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph were Sisters Michele Morek, Maureen Griener, Jacinta Powers, Kathleen Kaelin, Lois Speaks, and Pam Mueller.

A charism is a divinely inspired gift or grace that distinguishes a person or an association such as a religious congregation. Angela’s charism — her gift to her daughters, the Ursulines — includes such qualities as openness to the Spirit; a creative, contemplative response to the needs of God’s people; hospitality; a spirit of womanly charity; unity and peace; and finding one’s deepest security always in God. Following God’s call to share the mission of Jesus to bring good news to the poor is a central part of the charism of Angela and of the Ursuline sisters.

The “Angela Anew” participants looked at Angela’s founding of the Company of Saint Ursula almost 500 years ago. They asked questions like: What do her insights offer us in today’s social settings . . . local, global, ecclesial? What does it mean to be a company in Angela’s sense? What witness of relationship are we to give to the communities in which we live? What does it mean to be bread-sharers with the world?

Led by the Spirit, Angela took a bold step into the future. Her Company of St. Ursula was the first non-cloistered community of women in the history of the Church. Her writings reveal that she anticipated and blessed change: “And if, according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice” (Last Legacy). Since Angela’s time, the Ursuline community has seen constant change, growing from its small foundation in Brescia, Italy, to a dedicated association of women serving God’s people on six continents.

During the “Angela Anew” meeting, the Ursuline group considered possibilities for new forms of Ursuline life and looked at some experiments already in progress: Ursuline groups who are studying and living by Angela’s primitive (original) rule; non-canonical groups of vowed and lay members; close relationships of sisters and associates in life and ministry; a canonical “pious union” whose members make “firm promises” rather than vows, in many ways following Angela’s original pattern.

In reflecting on the experience of “Angela Anew,” Sister Michele Morek emphasized the importance of nurturing the Ursuline charism — Angela’s charism — rather than just striving to insure the continuation of Ursuline life as it is today.

“Individual sisters spoke passionately about their desire for simple living, contemplative presence, compassion, and serving the needs of women,” Sister Michele said. “The group recognized that no single structure would meet all needs.”

The Ursulines gathered for “Angela Anew” were energized by the passion of the group and the diversity of ideas that emerged. “This dialog will be healthy both for our existing communities and for new groups that might form,” added Sister Michele. “And just as importantly, it will stimulate a renewed interest in Angela’s writings and spirit among us all.”
The Healing Presence Of The Holy Spirit Conference
February 23, 2007 at the Carmel Home, Owensboro, Ky.
Retreat Master – Rev. Christopher Crotty
This conference is designed to introduce the attendee to the wonders of the Catholic Faith, as expressed through the healing power of the sacraments, the potency of the preached word, and the mystery of the sacramental. This mission will start the attendee on the path to the conversion of heart, healing of the past, and holiness of life.

* 5:30 - Rosary
* 8:00 - Talk - Dangers of the Occult
* 6:00 - Talk - Healing & the Holy Spirit
* 8:45 - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Hosted by: St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Books, Owensboro, Ky.
- For information, call 270-689-9485

St. Valentine’s Day
With Father Stan Fortuna, CFR
“Stay Alert,” Keep Your Eyes On The Eucharistic Jesus
Feb. 14, 2007 at Blessed Mother Catholic Church, Owensboro, Ky.
$5.00 Per Person    Children age 12 And Under, Free
6:00 p.m.  - Holy Mass
7:30 p.m.  – Talk – St. Joseph Parish Hall
8:30 p.m.  – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Pre-sale tickets available at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Book Store
- 270-689-9485 – Old Towne Center, Owensboro, Ky.

Ad Multos Annos, Father Pat!
Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic Community in Whitesville, Ky. invites you to a celebration of our pastor Father Pat Bittel’s Silver Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood at the St. Mary Parish Center March 4, 2007 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Food, Farms and the Environment
Impacting the 2007 Farm Bill
Learn about farm commodity, conservation, and nutrition programs within the context of social and economic justice for all. A panel of speakers will address issues related to the 2007 Farm Bill.
SPONSORED BY: Maple Mount Farm
Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
Sierra Club
Rural Life Office of the Diocese of Owensboro

Friday, February 23, 2007
1:00-4:30 p.m.
Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center
No admission charge
Holy Spirit Epiphany Concert, 2007

(Continued from page 34)

95 on music aptitude in 2nd grade, whereas the majority of other children her age score below 25%.

Melissa Gensler, also the daughter of Dana and Phil Gensler, began playing flute at Holy Spirit when she was in 7th grade. She is now 18 years old and attends Western Kentucky University, with a double major in Flute Performance and Music Education. She is the principle flute with the Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra, received 1st place in the Kentucky Flute solo competition and as a freshman, maintains a 4.0 average. Her flute compliment to Sarah Isom’s “Ave Maria” was very beautiful and relaxing.

Soloist Stephany Nelson, of the “Sisters of Faith” sang a very beautiful “Breath of Heaven,” in which the Virgin Mary pleads for God, her “breath of heaven” to protect her as she carries the child Jesus inside. Stephanie Browning, wife of Gary, and mother of Garrett, sang opening solor from the “Women’s Choir,” “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light.”

Some of the other members of the group include Chris Keyser who has been singing for 14 years and has three children, Adam and Aaron are regular Altar Servers at Holy Spirit, and their daughter, Rachel attends Bellarmine in Louisville where she is a cantor in the choir. Chris and husband, Matthew, who emceed the concert, are both avid musicians.

For this writer, the highlight of the evening was “The Christmas Peace Medley” in which the assembly was invited to sing along with the choirs “Silent Night,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “What Child is This,” and near the end, several more verses of “Silent Night.” A few members of the children’s choir, “Joyful Noise Singers,” joined the women for this medley. Jessica Parker, the daughter of Stephen and Kim Parker and the granddaughter of “Women of Spirit” singer, Barbara Parker, sang with Megan French, daughter of John and Ginny French. Jessica is.

After the concert, an International Potluck Dinner was held in the Parish Hall where dishes from several different countries were enjoyed by all. This year’s Epiphany Concert waas Holy Spirit Parish as a very great event, ending the Christmas season and looking into the New Year and Ordinary time. The event was very spiritual and very uplifting. Holy Spirit has many wonderful choirs and singers with voices specially trained by Trish Johnson.

Food, Farms, and the Environment: Impacting the 2007 Farm Bill

Will authorization of the Farm Bill maintain the conventional policies of the past? Or can we set a course for more innovative farm, food, and environmental policies?

How can citizens support sustainable agriculture here at home while also respecting the needs of our global community?

Anyone concerned about these questions is invited to the Food, Farms, and the Environment forum at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Friday, Feb. 23, from 1-4:30 p.m. The forum will explore reforms needed to support fundamental human rights in the areas of agriculture and the environment. There is no charge for admission.

The discussion will be led by representatives of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Oxfam America, and the Sierra Club.

The forum is an effort to bring about change in federal policy. Visit www.ncrlc.com to learn more about the NCRLC Farm Bill campaign.

Oxfam America is a non-profit organization that works to end global poverty through strengthening communities and campaigning for change. Oxfam’s “Make Trade Fair” campaign seeks to reform the rules of trade and agricultural policies to help people in the U.S. and abroad who make their living in agriculture. Visit www.oxfamamerica.org

The Sierra Club is a non-profit member-supported, public interest organization that promotes conservation of the natural environment by influencing public policy decisions—legislative, administrative, legal, and electoral. Visit www.sierraclub.org

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center is located 12 miles south-west of Owensboro on Kentucky Highway 56. For more information about this forum, contact the Center at 270-229-0200.
“We saw His star at its rising, and have come to do Him homage.” As I read through this passage, this single line kept really standing out to me. I have heard this passage numerous times, yet not once have I ever really thought about the star. Why that star? How did the wise men know it was the right star to follow? What if they had chosen to follow a different star? Would they have ever found the Christchild? It is interesting to think about. There were millions of stars to choose from, yet only one would lead them to the Christ. As we know, the Magi put their trust in God and followed that star. Was the journey always easy? I doubt it. I am sure that along their journey they had times when they were sick, tired, frustrated, and stressed out. More than once, they probably wondered what they had gotten themselves into. Maybe they even considered turning back, or finding a star leading on an easier journey to follow. But they had faith in God, and continued to follow that star. In the end, they found themselves alongside the manger that held their newborn king. Once there, they honored him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In a lot of ways, we are much like those wise men. Everyday, we have millions of stars beckoning us to come and follow them, to journey the path on which they wish to lead us. And everyday, we must choose a star to follow. The choices are many. We can follow movie stars, sports stars, music stars, and we can follow the stars of money, success, victory, power … the list goes on and on. All of these stars promise that they can make our wishes come true, and that they can make our journey easier, more comfortable, less strenuous. Society wants to tell us that these are the stars we should be following; that only these stars will get us where we want to go. We all know that this is not the truth. Because there is another star calling out to us: God’s star, the star that the Magi chose to follow. It does not pretend to promise an easy and comfortable journey. Yes, there will be trials and hardships. But there will also be a joy, love, and peace that can only be known through journeying along the path of God’s star. And if Christ is our destination, it is the only way to travel.

Now that we are on the right journey, what gifts have we to lay before the newborn king? The wise men gave grand gifts, with great love. But these gifts were a one time deal. I propose that we use the time spent on our journey, following the star, to seek out, develop, and give our gift. We all have gifts, things that we are particularly good at, or something that we have in abundance. If we spent our journey giving these gifts to Christ, present in His Body, the Church. We will find that alongside the manger, our gifts far outshine those given by the wise men; for they will be great and continuous gifts given of ourselves with great love.

My prayer for all of us this Epiphany is that we may have the courage and grace to follow God’s one true star; that we may spend our journey, giving the gifts of ourselves to Christ. And that when all is said and done, we may find ourselves in the same position as the wise men: face to face with Christ.
Owensboro Serra Club Excited to Meet With So Many Owensboro Seminarians

On December 29 the Owensboro Serra Club hosted its annual Seminarian Christmas Luncheon at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The Owensboro Diocesan Seminarians took a break from their holiday retreat at St. Joseph Monastery to join the Serrans, Bishop John McRaith, some of their own parish priests, and special guests from The Dominican House of Studies in Washington, Owensboro Diocese’s own Brother Thomas Petri and Brother Austin Litke. It was a time for the sharing of a meal together, a time to meet one another, and a time for the Serrans to express their support and appreciation of these young men in their vocation.

Photos on this page taken by Owensboro Serran Lois Rutigliano

Owensboro Serran Larena Lawson, gives away gift certificates to St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore in a random drawing of a seminarian’s name.

Diocesan Vocation Director, Father Andy Garner, takes a moment to pose with Owensboro seminarians, from left, Josh Clary and Will Thompson, and with Gary Clark who is in the process of application.

Owensboro Serra Club President Larry O’Bryan, second from left, long time Serran Harold Clark, center, future seminarian Byron Macias, seminarian Julio Barrera from Mexico, and Serran Marjorie Hayden, all pictured in the forefront, join Bishop John McRaith as he asks a blessing for the meal and thanks Serra members for their faithful support of vocations to the Church.

Dominican Brothers Thomas Petri and Austin Litke talk with Father Mike Clark after the meal.

New seminarian Trevor Johnson, left, will join his brother Jim at St. John Vianney College Seminary, MN, in January. He is pictured here with seminarian Josh McCarty who is serving his pastoral internship at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville.

Seminarians, Will Thompson, left, and David Jarboe, right, listen to Bishop John McRaith as he talks with them.

Bishop John McRaith with Owensboro Serra Club President Larry O’Bryan and President Elect Ernie Taliaferro.

Uwem Enoh, seminarian at St. Meinrad, IN, talks with seminarian Julio Barrera, seminarian at Holy Mary of Guadalupe Seminary, in Mexico. Serran Francis Thomson is shown in the background.
Julio said that ever since he was a little boy, he has wanted to be a priest. He is the eldest of two sons born to Julio and Sara Barrera, his parents in Mexico. He has four older sisters. His family lives in a little town called Amecameca near Popocatépetl volcano, about a two-hour drive from Mexico City where Julio attends seminary. At first his parents did not like that he would be far away, but now they understand that he wants to do God’s will. Julio goes on to explain, in his limited English. He is taking classes two times a week for four hours to learn the English language. He says that he is “happy to be in formation,” and that, “My parents are very happy with me being in the seminary.”

Julio is 25 years old and has completed his third year of philosophy. He will soon move to Kentucky and will be a student at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, where he will join fellow Owensboro Diocesan Seminarians.

On December 17, 2006, Julio Barrera made his first visit to the diocese. He came here on his Christmas break from school. He was met at the Evansville airport by an excited group who were anxious to meet him in person. Father Andy Garner, Vocation Director of Owensboro, had just recently returned from visiting Julio in Mexico and his experience there was one of blessing, receiving exceptional hospitality. Now he had arranged to meet Julio at the airport with a group of people who would roll out the welcome mat for him. When he arrived, Julio was happy to see Father’s familiar face and to see new ones for the first time.

I had already had the pleasure of corresponding with Julio, via email, for several months before his arrival. I was among those who were eagerly awaiting his visit. Knowing very little Spanish, however, I didn’t really know what I was going to say, but Julio had written me, “I am equally excited about coming to the diocese and I am looking forward to meeting everyone. I am sorry to say my English is not very good, but I have a friend who helps me. Don’t worry, we will communicate somehow.” My anxiety was immediately diminished when he saw me and said, “Larena, I see you first.” His smiling face eased my fear of the language barrier and I awkwardly spoke, while giving him a friendly hug, “Hola, Julio. Welcome.”

As our welcome party made our way out the door of the airport terminal, with our guests now among us, Julio asked, “Where is the snow?” He was hoping to see some snow here because it never snows in Mexico. I had told him when he asked me that sometimes it does snow in December. Unfortunately, we had unseasonably warm weather while he was here with us.

It did not take long in being in the presence of Julio to learn that he is easy to get to know. He is full of questions about life here and of how to say things as we would say them. He is very attentive to people, listening to them speak and wants very much to understand. He might be a little nervous about meeting new people and being with them without someone to help him speak to them, but he tries his best to communicate with them whatever the situation. He is a very humble young man who recognizes that he is at the mercy of God, and does whatever He might ask of him. He is grateful for everything that he has been given and politely tells you so. Calling himself but a “poor seminarian,” I found him to be rich in virtue and character. He owns a sense of humor and likes to tease you, especially if you can’t say his name correctly, rolling the r’s in his last name. He says, “You need to practice,” himself thinking it is very easy. He has an inviting personality that will warm your heart quickly with his smile. He has so many qualities that will make a good priest.

As Julio went about visiting different areas of the diocese, he also learned about us. He learned about the Hispanic communities and ministries that are growing here by leaps and bounds and of the need for more priests to minister to them. He learned of our appreciation of his desire to serve in our diocese. He learned that we would support and encourage him as he journeys toward the priesthood. He also found out what a hillbilly is and how they talk, finding pleasure in mocking the deep, slow drawl of some of the native Kentuckians he met. Have you ever heard Espanol Kentucky style? He likes to make people laugh in his goodnaturedness.

One thing that highly impressed me about Julio was the fact that as he met people around the diocese he told them that he prays for them. At Holy Mary of Guadalupe Seminary every Friday they celebrate Mass in English, so Julio is becoming very familiar with Mass in our language and can say all of the prayers said in it. He offers these Masses for us and daily prays for all the people of the Diocese of Owensboro, already claiming us as his own and genuinely caring for us. What an awesome gift he is to us!

The evening before Julio left to return to Mexico he told a group of people that he had met, some of his fellow seminarians and Father Andy, “Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for your prayers and for your support.” Clearly and humbly he is happy to be a part of us, unselfishly giving of himself to do God’s will in his life.

We await your return, Julio, with pleasure.

If you would like to meet Julio you can write to him at the following address or email him at juliobarre@gmail.com. Julio Barrera, El Seminario de Santa Maria de Guadalupe (Holy Mary of Guadalupe Seminary), Allende 367, Col. Tlalpan en, Mexico, D.F. C.P. 14000, Mexico

Note: Julio Barrera will be joined at Holy Mary of Guadalupe Seminary in January by Basilio Az, a seminarian moving there from Solola, Guatemala, who is also studying for the Diocese of Owensboro. We are blessed indeed!
Fundraising Heat Increases, And I Helped
By Diane Beeckler; photos by Catherine Grapes

Beginning at noon on October 21st, Christ the King Church in Scottsville turned into a little bit of Old Mexico. Our first annual Mexican Fiesta, complete with piñata and traditional music, was under way.

Becky and Rachel are ready to help.

The children, old and young, enjoyed their attempts to break open the piñata while cooks were hard at work in the kitchen preparing traditional Mexican dishes – beans, fajitas, tacos, guacamole, salsa, tortillas, etc. Other parish members provided desserts using recipes from the King’s Angels sponsored cookbook “Feeding the Flock.” (Copies of the cookbook are available from Christ the King church for $10.75).

FUN was the main dish and FUNDRAISING was the purpose, and both were served well. Muchas, Muchas Gracias to our Hispanic families for sponsoring and completely supplying our wonderful fiesta.

World Youth Day (WYD) is July 15-20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia
From the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office:

A planning committee has been formed and has begun trying to discern the plans for a diocesan delegation to attend WYD in Sydney, Australia in 2008. We have collected and continue to collect brochures and information from various travel agencies, land lease companies, etc. to try and discern the most cost effective as well as spiritually enriching experience that we can for the pilgrims that will attend from our diocese.

We are estimating a cost of $5,000 per person for the experience at this point in time. That figure was arrived at by looking at the cost of our trip to Cologne and figuring on increased airfares plus the increased distance we will be traveling.

We’re working with parish contact persons who are a part of the planning committee for the diocese.

For more information, one may go to www.wyd2008.org They are also encouraging folks to participate in an e-pilgrimage at ePILGRIMAGE@wyd2008.org

We have a few copies of a promotional DVD that could be checked out by parish groups to view. The theme for WYD ‘08 is Activ8 which stands for Acts 1 verse 8: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.” Acts 1:8

There are two phases to WYD. There is a pre-experience called Days in the Diocese as well as the WYD experience itself. Dates for both are as follows: Days in the Diocese: 10-14 July 2008; WYD 2008: 15-20 July 2008

The Youth Ministry Office’s committee is trying to discern whether we want to plan a Days in the Diocese experience which we did in Canada in 2003, or our own pre-trip as we did in Poland prior to WYD 2005 that took place in Cologne, Germany. We may also be joining or being joined by other diocesan delegations from our region, Region 5, which includes the dioceses of KY, TN, MS, AL and LA.

If you have any questions, call Melinda Prunty at 270.338.6635 or Donna Mills at 270.683.1545.
Las penitencias cuaresmales nos preparan para caminar con Cristo

Mis queridos amigos,

La gráfica (en la parte posterior de esta página) del sacrificio cuaresmal, resume las expectativas de la Iglesia para todos nosotros conforme nos acercamos al tiempo de Cuaresma. Al seguir las enseñanzas y reglas de la Iglesia, tendremos un buen comienzo haciendo que la cuaresma en verdad nos prepare para caminar con Cristo a través de su sufrimiento y de su muerte en la Cruz. Debemos alegrarnos de tener este tiempo para ver nuestras vidas y llegar a un mayor entendimiento y aprecio de la gran fiesta de la Pascua. Es en verdad el Misterio Pascual para el que nos preparamos y ese Misterio es lo mucho que Dios nos ama a cada uno de nosotros.

Estamos llamados durante la Cuaresma a prepararnos para el más grande misterio y el más grande acto de amor de Dios – La Resurrección, la cual celebraremos en el domingo de Pascua. Únicamente podemos celebrar de verdad con el Señor Resucitado si nos hemos preparado para estar abiertos en reconocer mejor cuanto nos ama Dios.

La Cuaresma es un tiempo especial para todos nosotros, pero quiero que aquellos que se están preparando para iniciarse por completo en la Iglesia (los catecúmenos y los candidatos) sepan que todos nos unimos a ellos en su preparación final. Caminemos juntos en este tiempo de preparación para la Pascua. Nos preparamos como individuos y juntos nos preparamos tomando parte en las ofrendas comunitarias que cada parroquia e institución católica ofrecerá durante el tiempo de la Cuaresma.

Les deseo una feliz y fructífera Cuaresma de tal forma que todos juntos podamos acercarnos a Jesús mientras nos preparamos a celebrar su sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección. Bendiciones de Dios para cada uno de ustedes.

Sinceramente en Cristo.

+ Reverendísimo John J. McRaith
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro
El Papa llama a la Iglesia hacer presente la misericordia amorosa de Cristo hacia aquellos que sufren.

Mis queridos amigos,

El mensaje de nuestro Santo Padre que sigue a esta carta dice todo lo que quisiera decir a los enfermos y a los que se encargan de su cuidado – sólo que mejor de lo que yo lo podría decir. Por esa razón, quiero pasar su mensaje, a toda la gente de la Diócesis, especialmente a aquellos que están enfermos a aquellos que cuidan de los enfermos.

Con frecuencia, olvidamos cuanto aquellos que están enfermos contribuyen a construir el Reino de Dios; ellos dan gran testimonio al resto de nosotros al aceptar llevar la cruz que Dios les ha dado. Sólo quiero ofrecer mi reconocimiento y respeto por ese testimonio a todos aquellos que están sufriendo de toda clase de enfermedad y por llevar su llamada de Dios en este momento en sus vidas. Por favor sepan que tan importantes son ustedes para llevar la misión de la Iglesia en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Al ofrecer su sufrimiento al Señor y unir su sufrimiento con el sufrimiento redentor de Él en la Cruz, ustedes están no sólo haciendo la diferencia en sus vidas sino en la vida de todos nosotros. Al aceptar su cruz como Jesús aceptó su Cruz, ustedes hacen más de lo que pueden imaginar para difundir la Buena Nueva del amor de Dios por todos nosotros.

Les agradezco también a las familias de aquellos que están sufriendo de varias enfermedades por sus esfuerzos, al compartir el sufrimiento de sus seres queridos.

Monseñor John J. McRaith
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Los bendiga y camine con ustedes mientras ustedes caminán con sus seres queridos durante estos días difíciles. Gracias a todos los que se encargan del cuidado de los enfermos que sacrifican sus propias vidas para ayudar a los enfermos en cada forma que ellos pueden. Mientras que ellos juegan un papel preponderante en sus vidas, ellos juegan un mayor papel en las vidas de todos nosotros que estamos en este viaje de regreso a la vida eterna.

Ahora felizmente les doy las palabras del Santo Padre.
Sinceramente en Cristo.

+ John J. McRaith

Reverendísimo John J. McRaith
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Esta es una experiencia a la que todo ser humano está llamado, y para la cual debe estar preparado.

A pesar de los avances de la ciencia, no se puede encontrar una curación para todas las enfermedades; por consiguiente, en los hospitales, en los hospicios y en los hogares de todo el mundo nos encontramos con el sufrimiento de numerosos hermanos nuestros enfermos incurables y a menudo en fase terminal. Además, muchos millones de personas en el mundo viven aún en condiciones insalubres y no tienen acceso a los recursos médicos necesarios, a menudo del tipo más básico, con el resultado de que ha aumentado notablemente el número de seres humanos considerados “incurables”.

La Iglesia desea apoyar a los enfermos incurables y en fase terminal reclamando políticas sociales justas que ayuden a eliminar las causas de muchas enfermedades e instando a prestar una mejor asistencia a los moribundos y a los que no pueden recibir atenciòn médica. Es necesario promover políticas que creen condiciones que permitan a las personas sobrellevar incluso las enfermedades incurables y afrontar la muerte de una manera digna. Al respecto, conviene destacar una vez más la necesidad de aumentar el número de los centros de cuidados paliativos que proporcionen una atención integral, ofreciendo a los enfermos la asistencia humana y el acompañamiento espiritual que necesitan. Se trata de un derecho que pertenece a todo ser humano y que todos debemos comprometernos a defender.

Deseo apoyar los esfuerzos de quienes trabajan diariamente para garantizar que los enfermos incurables y en fase terminal, juntamente con sus familias, reciban una asistencia adecuada y afectuosa.

La Iglesia, siguiendo el ejemplo del buen samaritano, ha mostrado siempre una solicitud particular por los enfermos. A través de cada uno de sus miembros y de sus instituciones, sigue estando al lado de los que sufren y de los moribundos, tratando de preservar su dignidad en esos momentos tan significativos de la existencia humana. Muchas de esas personas -profesionales de la asistencia sanitaria, agentes pastorales y voluntarios- e instituciones en todo el mundo sirven incansablemente a los enfermos, en hospitales y en unidades de cuidados paliativos, en las calles de las ciudades, en proyectos de asistencia a domicilio y en parroquias.

Ahora me dirijo a vosotros, queridos hermanos y hermanas que sufren enfermedades incurables y terminales. Os animo a contemplar los sufrimientos de Cristo crucificado, y, en unión con él, a dirigiros al Padre con plena confianza en que toda vida, y la vuestra en particular, está en sus manos. Confiad en que vuestros sufrimientos, unidos a los de Cristo, resultarán fecundos para las necesidades de la Iglesia y del mundo.

Pido al Señor que fortalezca vuestra fe en su amor, especialmente durante estas pruebas que estáis afrontando. Espero que, dondequiera que estéis, encuentres siempre el aliento y la fuerza espiritual necesarios para alimentar vuestra fe y acercaros más al Padre de la vida. A través de sus sacerdotes y de sus agentes pastorales, la Iglesia desea asistir y estar a vuestro lado, ayudándoos en la hora de la necesidad, haciendo presente así la misericordia amorosa de Cristo hacia los que sufren.

Por último, pido a las comunidades eclesiales en todo el mundo, y particularmente a las que se dedican al servicio de los enfermos, que, con la ayuda de María, Salus infirmorum, sigan dando un testimonio eficaz de la solicitud amorosa de Dios, nuestro Padre.

Que la santísima Virgen María, nuestra Madre, conforte a los que están enfermos y sostenga a todos los que han consagrado su vida, como buenos samaritanos, a curar las heridas físicas y espirituales de quienes sufren. Unido a cada uno de vosotros con el pensamiento y la oración, os imparto de corazón mi bendición apostólica como prenda de fortaleza y paz en el Señor.

Vaticano, 8 de diciembre de 2006, BENEDICTUS PP. XVI
“Convivencia Juvenil en Cristo”

por Cristóbal Gutiérrez

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Que importante es conocer mejor nuestra fe católica, nuestras tradiciones, nuestras celebraciones litúrgicas y devociones. A través de los siglos lo mismo que en la actualidad los cristianos se han esforzado por comprender mejor los elementos y partes que conforman su fe y nosotros fieles de la Diócesis de Owensboro no hemos sido la excepción.

¿Quiénes fueron cómplices de la ejecución de Jesús, hace ya más de dos milenios? ¿los romanos? ¿los judíos? Acaso alguno de nosotros tuvimos o tendremos algo que ver con este suceso? Estas fueron algunas de las muchas preguntas que todos los jóvenes nos hicimos al disfrutar y reflexionar sobre la pasión y muerte de Jesús. A través de una representación teatral y del “Via Crucis” donde se juzga a los implicados nos dimos cuenta de la triste conspiración y complicidad de muchos desafortunadamente. Todo esto nos ayudó a todos a pensar más seriamente en la relación de fidelidad y Gracia que le debemos a nuestro Dios. ¡Estuvo en verdad padrísimo! ¡y chido! el teatrito que nos hechamos...

También, ese mismo día, tuvimos la dicha y el gran regalo de haber disfrutado y aprendido de una “Misa Catequizada” en la ciudad de Hopkinsville. El Padre Carmelo Jiménez, con su rica experiencia en el ministerio y amplio conocimiento de la liturgia nos compartió de su sabiduría. Paso por paso y de forma tranquila, reflexiva y sin prisas, nos introdujo en el rico misterio de las partes de la Liturgia Eucarística. Que importante en verdad descubrir la riqueza de Dios comunicándose directamente con nosotros a través de la liturgia de la Palabra. Que gran misterio también detenerse uno en los momentos de la liturgia eucarística y disfrutar de la presencia real de Jesús en su Cuerpo y Sangre. En fin. Fue en verdad una bendición para todos los jóvenes y los no tan jóvenes que participamos y crecimos con esta celebración.

¡¡¡Ahh!!! y antes de que se me olvide. Les cuento que también comimos re-que-te rico. Las santas personas habitantes de Hopkinsville nos deleitaron con sus ricas recetas culinarias latinas que estuvo pa’ chuparse los dedos. Gracias a todos los que participamos de este evento y a los organizadores, esperamos disfrutarlo de nuevo muy pronto... Hasta luego.

Católicos en el Capitá

Orar, educar y ser testigo en el Capitolio

13 y 14 de febrero

Cada año un grupo de Católicos se reúne en Frankfort, en el capital del estado de Kentucky para aprender sobre el ambiente político y comunicarse con sus representantes. El evento empieza con presentaciones y talleres sobre el compromiso de la Iglesia de promover el bien común y sobre las propuestas actuales en la Asamblea General de Kentucky.

Este año se está invitando especialmente a los emigrantes y a los que abogan por los emigrantes porque nuestros representantes tienen que conocer más a este grupo de residentes de nuestro estado.

Si usted está interesado en participar en este evento, póngase en contacto con alguien en su parroquia o con Patti Murphy: patricia.murphy@pastoral.org o (270) 302-2782 antes del 5 de febrero.

Todos andamos en procesión atrás de la cruz mientras rezamos solemnemente los “Via Crucis,” o Camino de la Cruz.
“Mi Prueba De Fe”  
Por Melina González

Hace unos años atrás estaba muy alejada de mi Dios y me creía que todo lo podía hacer sola. Mi matrimonio no estaba bien y había muchos problemas en mi vida hasta que un “buen día” el Señor decidió hablarme fuerte…muy fuertemente porque lo hizo por medio de mi hijo.

Fue un 26 de septiembre por la mañana: mi hijo Jorgito estaba en casa de la prima de mi esposo. Ella lo cuidaba porque yo trabajaba. Entonces recibí una llamada. Era mi esposo y me dijo que mi hijo se había caído de un segundo piso y se fracturó el cráneo y que estaba entre la vida y la muerte. Me dijo que tenía que buscar otro lugar o un pase en el mejor hospital de la ciudad y lo internamos.

Allí estuvo en cuidado intensivo durante toda la tarde y la noche y a la mañana siguiente el doctor bajo el cuidado del niño pidió hablar con nosotros. Hasta ese entonces yo sí le había pedido a Dios por mi hijo pero no con fe. El doctor nos dijo que mi hijo tenía tres días de vida, que el hospital era muy caro, y que teníamos que trasladarlo al hospital civil porque de todos modos se iba a morir. Yo pensaba que si lo movían se iba a morir más rápido en el hospital civil porque desgraciadamente creí más en los doctores que en Dios. Entonces mi esposo, como me veía desesperada, me dijo que si yo no quería moverlo de ahí, él iba a hacer lo que fuera para conseguir el dinero; no lo iba a sacar de ese hospital tan lujoso y caro. Erróneamente yo pensaba que era lo mejor para mi hijo. Pero lo vi tan desesperado por conseguir dinero que en ese momento empecé a pedirle a mi Dios que protegiera a mi hijo porque iba a pedir que lo trasladaran al hospital civil. Lo trasladaron esa misma tarde y en el camino cuando él iba en la ambulancia le quisieron dar tres paros cardíacos pero mi Dios lo iba cuidando porque llegó con vida al hospital. El estaba sedado completamente y duró desde hacía 5 o 6 días y los doctores nos decían que no nos hicieramos ilusiones porque el niño se podía morir en cualquier momento y que si vivía podía quedarse con problemas mentales.

Entonces cuando yo podía ir a la capilla de hospital y le pedía a Dios por él y también mucha gente estaba en oración pidiendo por la salud de mi hijo, aunque había otra tanta gente que me decía que lo entregara a Dios. Me decían que si el niño iba a quedar mal que mejor me lo llevara. Pero mi amor y fe de madre me impedía pedirle eso a Dios y al contrario, yo le pedía que me lo dejará, como El quisiera porque no se lo llevara. Esas eran mis súplicas de día y de noche. Hasta que el día 2 o 3 de octubre el niño despertó pidiendo comida y nos reconoció perfectamente. Hasta el día de hoy está muy saludable, gracias Dios.

Amigos, con este milagro que Dios me dio ahora mi fe en El es muy fuerte: DESGRACIADAMENTE TÚVE QUE PASAR POR ESTO PARA DARMÉ CUENTA QUE PARA DIOS NO HAY NADA IMPOSIBLE, QUE NI EL MEJOR NI EL PEOR DOCTOR TIENE LA ÚLTIMA PALABRA SOBRE LA VIDA DE NADIE. No esperes a pasar por algo así para darte cuenta que Cristo nos ama aunque estemos alejados de él y pensemos que podamos andar por la vida sin tener fe y amor a Dios.

Las Aventuras de un Joven e Inexperto Cura
VI: LA EXPULSIÓN DE CHAMULA

Por el Padre Carmelo Jiménez

Quiero iniciar esta historia diciendo que ninguna de las historias contadas en esta sección están escritas, y que las voy escribiendo mes con mes. Por lo mismo no tienen un orden cronológico, mas bien, son las aventuras que he podido escribir. También tengo que decir que compartirlas por este medio no ha sido nada fácil. Son cosas que viví realmente y por eso el recordarla causa ciertas nostalgia por aquella gente tan necesitada de Dios y de cosas para la vida.

Hoy quiero compartir la experiencia de cuando fui expulsado de Chamula. El 22 de abril del 2002, después de atenderlos por casi 4 años, me mandaron avisar, por medio del P. Marcelo Pérez, quien era Vicario Parroquial, que no necesitaban mas de mis servicios y lo mas pronto pasara a recoger mis cosas. En cuanto yo supe la noticia, fuimos a platicar con el obispo, quien nos pidió que el dia siguiente fuéramos a negociar con las autoridades y asi lo hice, y casi toda la semana me la pasé yendo a Chamula, pero no conseguí nada. Al contrario, cada día se ponía mas tensa la situación. De tal manera que me prohibieron entrar a mi cuarto y oficina.

El sábado 28, por la tarde decidimos ir a avisarles a algunas personas que el domingo no habría misa, y que no se asomaran por el cuarto de los padres ni a la oficina porque quien lo hiciera iba a ser detenido y encarcelado. Estábamos con una familia, en casa de Sh’alik (Salvador), cuando se escuchó mucho ruido de ollas y sartenes, uno de sus hijos salió a ver que sucedía y vio que la luna estaba de un color rojizo, que para ellos simboliza que el diablo está peleando con la luna, y en la tierra habrá problemas muy fuerte, incluso muerte. Por eso salen con ollas y sartenes, trompetas y tambores, para hacer ruido y asustar al demonio para que deje en paz a la luna. Pero también, mucha gente fue a donde estábamos y nos pidieron que nos fuéramos pronto, porque posiblemente nos andaban buscando las autoridades para matarnos y no querían ellos eso.

El domingo 29, fui a negociar con todas las autoridades pero encontré una negativa total. Decidí ir a la iglesia y ver si podía entrar a mi oficina. Las autoridades mandaron a dos soldados que me vigilaran. Grande fue mi sorpresa al entrar a la iglesia y encontrar a todos los fieles (más o menos 200 personas), de rodillas, orando por la situación. Me acerqué por la espalda de uno de ellos y le dije con voz muy baja que le dijera a los demás que no se pusieran de pie. Pasé junto a cada uno, después de ellos, poniéndoles mi mano sobre el hombro de cada uno. De algunos obtuve un apretón de mano, de otros muchos tan solo inclinaron más sus cabezas y escuchaban un sollozar. No sabíamos en qué iba terminar todo aquello.

Yo por mi parte, conforme fui pasando a ponerles la mano empecé a llorar sin darme cuenta, en cuanto terminé de poner mi mano sobre ellos, caminé hacia el presbiterio, me arrodillé y lloré, me dolía tanto el ver a la gente necesitando de Dios, y unos pocos las autoridades eran los causantes de que no pudieran tener un pastor, alguien quien los guiara en su búsqueda del Señor.

El 2 de mayo fuimos, con P. Marcelo, a recoger las cosas, llevamos mi camioneta para cargar las cosas y un bocho. El P. Marcelo se terminó de trasladar a Chenalho y yo continuaría a San Cristóbal, ya que tendría que informar a la Comisión Diocesana de catequesis. El domingo 29, fui a negociar con todas las autoridades pero encontré una negativa total. Decidí ir a la iglesia y ver si podría entrar a mi oficina. Las autoridades mandaron a dos soldados que me vigilaran. Grande fue mi sorpresa al encontrar a todos los fieles (más o menos 200 personas), de rodillas, orando por la situación. Me acerqué por la espalda de uno de ellos y le dije con voz muy baja que le dijera a los demás que no se pusieran de pie. Pasé junto a cada uno, después de ellos, poniéndoles mi mano sobre el hombro de cada uno. De algunos obtuve un apretón de mano, de otros muchos tan solo inclinaron más sus cabezas y escuchaban un sollozar. No sabíamos en qué iba terminar todo aquello.

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Para poder abrir el cuarto y la oficina fue necesario que llegaran las autoridades porque tenían candados extras que ellos habían mandado colocar. Antes de comenzar a cargar, hablé por teléfono con el Procurador de Justicia del Estado, a quien conocía bastante bien, y le comenté la situación, culpando a todo lo que me pasara ese día en Chamula al presidente municipal, a quien tenía enfrente de mí. El procurador me pidió que le pasara el teléfono al presidente y ellos hablaron.

Inicié a cargar, y conforme fuimos sacando cosas, vieron unas fotos donde yo estaba vestido de indígena como se visten ellos. Ellos prohiben tomar fotos en la iglesia, y quien lo hace pierde la cámara y más de alguna vez hasta han golpeado a quien se atreve a tomar fotos dentro de la Iglesia o a las autoridades. Algunas de las fotos que yo tenía eran de autoridades, de ciertas festividades y de algunas de sus tradiciones. Uno de los soldados, me arrebató de las manos algunas fotos, diciendo que esas fotografías eran del municipio. Yo, un poco enojado hice algo similar a lo que el soldado hizo, porque le arrebaté de sus manos las fotos de regreso. El soldado levantó su puño con la intención de golpearme, yo crucé los brazos y encaré al presidente diciéndole que diera la orden de golpearme. El presidente detuvo al soldado diciéndole que no podían golpearme estando ahí, porque lo culparían e iría preso inmediatamente, pero que se esperaran a que saliéramos de Chamula y entonces si podrían hacermos todo lo que ellos quisieran.

Ellos inmediatamente salieron de ahí, y se fueron a subir a dos camionetas de la presidencia para que cuando saliéramos nos persiguieran. Terminamos de cargar, amarramos lo mejor posible las cosas y partimos. Entré el templo hacia la salida de Chamula, donde habíamos dejado el bocho, consta de más o menos un kilómetro de distancia. Además tiene muchos topes o bordes altos para que los vehículos no puedan ir a velocidades altas. Al ver que ellos ya estaban preparados para seguirnos y tratar de golpearnos cuando habíamos ya salido del pueblo de Chamula, yo aceleré al máximo, alcanzando en medio del pueblo, mas de 120 Km. por hora (mas o menos 80 millas por hora), no me importaron los topes, yo lo único que quería era salir. Llegamos a donde estaba el bocho, yo me bajé de la camioneta, el P. Marcelo se cambió de lugar al de chofer y le pedí que se fuera lo más rápido posible a Chenalho. Yo corrí a esconderme detrás de unos árboles, para que no me vieran los de la presidencia cuando pasaran. Siguieron, ya en la carretera, al P. Marcelo a muy alta velocidad. Yo fui al bocho y ya no fui a San Cristóbal sino que me fui siguiéndolos a una distancia considerando que no me vieran. El carro no era conocido por ellos como nuestro.

Regularmente, entre Chamula y Chenalho, hacíamos 45 minutos, debido a que en esa zona existen muchas curvas. Ese día, cuando llegué a la casa, a Chenalho, lo primero que olí fueron frenos quemados. El P. Marcelo me dijo que había hecho 25 minutos desde que inició a manejar hasta estar dentro de la casa. Platicamos, traté de tranquilizarlo y después salí rumbo a San Cristóbal para la reunión.

Cuando me vió el obispo se extrañó de que yo hubiese llegado demasiado tarde, cuando ellos ya estaban saliendo. Le dije que quería platicar a solas con él y le expuse lo sucedido. El presidente detuvo al soldado diciéndoles que no podían golpear a quien lo hacía. Después de eso, el obispo me explicó todo lo que había sucedido. El procurador me pidió que le pasara el teléfono al presidente y ellos hablaron. El procurador me dijo que le pasara el teléfono al presidente y ellos hablaron.

Los chamulas llamaron a una Iglesia que se dice Católica Ortodoxa, pero que no lo es, para ser atendida. Según la ley de Asociación y culto público, ninguna iglesia podía utilizar para su culto la Iglesia de Chamula. Así logramos detener a los de esa iglesia y no llegaran mas a Chamula y que los chamulas aceptaran a un P. de la Diócesis de San Cristóbal. En todas las reuniones de negociación con las autoridades eclesiásticas y las autoridades locales (como intermediarios estuvo el Gobierno del Estado) estuvo presente como consejero del obispo. El 21 de septiembre del 2002 un padre llegó a Chamula, pero quedaron firmadas las actas de negociación que el Carmelo y el Marcelo nunca mas podrían volver a Chamula.
¡AMIGOS CATEQUISTAS!
Tu oportunidad de crecer con:
“Tres interesantes Charlas”

Sra. Donna Glaser:
Presentadora principal
¡Juntos ustedes mantendrán la fe viva y creciendo!

Pamela Manz con sus muchos años de experiencia nos comparte su fe.

LOS ESPERAMOS...

¿Cuándo?
17 de Marzo, 9:00am - 2:00pm

¿Dónde?
Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en Owensboro, KY

~ Sesiones divididas en español ~

Pamela intentará conectar Fe y Vida a través de distintas estrategias catequéticas, además de ideas y dinámicas creativas que ayuden al crecimiento espiritual de nuestros niños.

Primera Misa Celebrada en Murray, KY

Por Liliana Durán

El día 11 de Diciembre se llevó acabo la primera celebración de la eucaristía en español en la parroquia de San Leo en Murray, KY. Esta misa fue dirigida por el padre Ken y coordinado por la parroquia de San José de Mayfield, KY. Esta primera misa en español se realizó porque, se está organizando una nueva comunidad hispana en la parroquia de Murray, KY. Y también para celebrar el día de nuestra señora de Guadalupe como hermanos que somos. Iniciamos con cantos y porras para la virgen-cita María. Las chicas de la Liga y La Red hicieron una danza indígena para llevar las ofrendas. Terminando la santa misa hicieron la representación de las apariciones a Juan Diego. Saliendo de la parroquia la gente se trasladó a otro salón de la parroquia, porque los chicos de La Liga hicieron unas danzas para toda la gente. También había bebidas y antojitos Mexicanos. Terminado este evento con broche de oro, todos juntos en Murray esperamos la medianoche para cantarle las mañanitas a nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Después de todas estas acciones, los de la comunidad de Mayfield se reunieron en la parroquia de San José a las cinco de la mañana para cantar las mañanitas.

Curso de Iniciación en Pastoral Juvenil

Instituto Fe y Vida está llegando a la Diócesis de Evansville, IN

Para Quienes:
Para jóvenes mayores de 16 años, asesores adultos o agentes de pastoral juvenil

Cuándo:
17 y 18 de Febrero: St. Meinrad Seminary and Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana
3 y 4 de Marzo: St. Mary’s School, Washington, Indiana
21 y 22 de Abril: Kordes Retreat Center, Ferdinand, Indiana
5 y 6 de Mayo: Sarto Retreat Center, Evansville, Indiana

Para Qué Participan:
Para entender su fe mejor y para aprender como ser un buen líder

Visión general del proceso:
1. Introducción a la pastoral juvenil según los documentos eclesiales
2. Jesús: centro y fin de la pastoral juvenil
3. Vida sacramental y espiritualidad cristiana
4. Proceso de madurez como personas
5. La iglesia joven de hoy y su misión entre los jóvenes
6. Procesos, métodos y técnicas para una pastoral juvenil eficaz
7. Principios básicos de la planificación pastoral
8. Espiritualidad de los jóvenes en la pastoral juvenil: Retiro del Viñador

Para recibir el certificado, se necesita participar en todas las clases. El costo es $15 por participante por cada fin de semana. Incluye todos los materiales (menos La Biblia Católica Para Jóvenes), comida, y hospedaje. Hay becas disponibles. La Biblia Católica Para Jóvenes está disponible por $20.

Cupo limitado 50 personas.

Para inscribirse contacte antes del 1 de Febrero:
Guadalupe Center, 511 E Fourth Street, Suite 1, Huntingburg, IN 47542
812-683-5212
guadalupe@evansville-diocese.org