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Pope Calls For Work On Nuclear Disarmament, Care Of Environment In Peace Message

Message Of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI For The Celebration Of The World Day Of Peace 1 January 2008, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City

The Human Family, A Community Of Peace

AT THE BEGINNING of a New Year, I wish to send my fervent good wishes for peace, together with a heartfelt message of hope to men and women throughout the world. I do so by offering for our common reflection the theme which I have placed at the beginning of this message. It is one which I consider particularly important: the human family, a community of peace. The first form of communion between persons is that born of the love of a man and a woman who decide to enter a stable union in order to build together a new family. But the peoples of the earth, too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one human family: "All peoples"—as the Second Vatican Council declared—"are one community and have one origin, because God caused the whole human race to dwell on the face of the earth (cf. Acts 17:26); they also have one final end, God."¹

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Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Aziz and Pope Benedict XVI exchange greetings during their meeting at the Vatican Nov. 6. (CNS photo/Chris Helgren, Reuters) (Nov. 6, 2007)

"We do not live alongside one another purely by chance; all of us are progressing along a common path as men and women, and thus as brothers and sisters."

- Pope Benedict XVI, The Human Family, A Community Of Peace. See text of Pope's 2008 World Peace Day Message, continued on pages 2,4.

I wish you God's blessings for a happy and grace-filled New Year.

My Dear Friends,

Words cannot express my gratitude for all the kindness shown to me on my birthday, Christmas and the 25th anniversary of my being with you. There is no way I can thank everyone individually, as much as I would like to do so.

Please know how much I appreciate all the cards and gifts that you have given me on these three celebrations. There is no doubt I am the most blessed Bishop ever for all the kindness and support that I have received these past 25 years.

I give thanks to God for having given me the call to come and spend these many years with a people of deep faith and great and generous hearts. I would like for you to know how much I appreciate all of you. I promise to keep you in my prayers and Masses.

I wish you God's blessings for a happy and grace-filled New Year. For the celebration of the World Day of Peace for New Year's 2008, our Holy Father has written a beautiful message to all Catholics: The Human Family: a Community of Peace. Pope Benedict XVI has a powerful message for us, and I want to pass this on to you and make his words my own, as they express what I want to say to you as we celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas: the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

Again, many thanks for all your expressions of support and for being a people of faith with a great love for the Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ John J. McRaith

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



Bp. John McRaith greeted people of the diocese in St. Stephen Cathedral after the Dec. 16 Mass celebrating his 25th Anniversary as our third Bishop. Staff Photo

Diocese Celebrates Bishop's Silver Anniversary

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On December 16, 2007, we the people of the Diocese of Owensboro came out on a cold wintry night to celebrate the silver anniversary of our Bishop John Jeremiah McRaith with five Bishops of the Ky-Tn Province, with most of the priests of the Diocese of Owensboro during a Mass in St. Stephen Cathedral. The visiting bishops were Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, (Louisville) Archbishop Thomas A. Kelly (retired), Bishop Roger J. Foy (Covington), Bishop Ronald Gainer (Lexington), and Bishop David R. Choby (Nashville). Music for the Mass was provided by a brass quartet, two percussionists, several diocesan choir members, and a host of parish liturgical music directors who alternately directed the music ensemble in various arrangements. During the Prelude before Mass, featured music was from the works of Aaron Copeland, Tomas Pascal, Richard Strauss, Charles DeLaney, Giovanni Gabrielli, and Gerard Chiusanio. Music from Bishop McRaith's Episcopal Ordination was sung during the Mass. Diocesan Music Director Mike

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The Human Family, A Community Of Peace

(Continued from page 1)

The family, society and peace

2. The natural family, as an intimate

communion of life and love, based on marriage between a man and a woman,

Diocese Celebrates (Continued from page 1)

Western Kentucky Catholic Offers Special Invitation
To Tell Bishop John Jeremiah's Story As Our Third Bishop

Bogdan coordinated the evening's music. Each Bishop who spoke during the Mass praised the music as befitting the best in church music. Archbishop Thomas Kelly spoke of the Aaron Copeland piece, *Fanfare For The Common Man*, in his homily. He said that he stood entranced at the back of the Cathedral while Copeland's music was being played, saying how the *Fanfare for the Common Man* so appropriately fit Bishop John Jeremiah's own personality and episcopal leadership style: "I don't have to tell all of you here tonight," Archbishop Kelly said, "you know how he has been willing to lay down his life for us. This has been proven in the signs, the words, the life which Bishop McRaith has shared with the diocese since his ordination (a Wednesday night, Dec. 15, 1982)." Archbishop Kelly said to the people of the Diocese, "I want to tell you that you have a good thing going here in Owensboro. The people of this diocese have displayed a deep faith since its establishment in 1937." The retired Archbishop of Louisville prayed that the people of the diocese would "grow in love together, and continue a work entrusted to an individual church. He repeated a prayer from a Bishop's ordination which describes that work: to promote unity (It's the Bishop's duty to do that), and to be faithful in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to the Bishop of Rome, to seek out the strays, and to be a faithful overseer. "We thank the Lord for this servant (Bishop McRaith) You have sent us. It is God who has loved us and blessed us in Bishop McRaith." Archbishop Kelly concluded, "John, the Church of Christ thanks you for your fidelity."

After Mass, most of the assembly gathered for a reception in the Catholic Pastoral Center basement for refreshments, to share stories with one another and Bishop John Jeremiah, and to view a slideshow display of photos from Bishop McRaith's sister's photo albums and staff files. So many people stood and watched those images that we at *The Western Kentucky Catholic (WKC)* now are offering to the people of the diocese and beyond a chance to continue that story-telling and photo sharing about our Bishop John Jeremiah.



The WKC invites you to send in pictures of Bishop John McRaith from any year of his episcopacy with him in "common man" scenes such as this one with him filling his gas tank before a trip to Paducah. WKC file photo

For the next several editions during Bishop John Jeremiah's Silver Anniversary year we will accept submissions of photos and stories about our Bishop John Jeremiah. Search your photo albums and photo files, rustle around in your memories of Bishop John Jeremiah and write down those shared experiences of his ministry among us as our Bishop. Send your pictures by e-mail to mel.howard@pastoral.org or by USPS mail to Mel Howard, Editor, The Western Kentucky Catholic, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301. The deadline for submitting materials to The WKC is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

We want you to help tell this story about Bishop John Jeremiah McRaith, a most unique common man, holy among us, steadfastly guiding us these past 25 years, and loving us into a shared ministry to promote the Mission of the Church and to tell the Good News about Jesus Christ to the whole people of these 32 counties of Western Kentucky, the Diocese of Owensboro.

2 constitutes "the primary place of 'humanization' for the person and society",³ and a "cradle of life and love".⁴ The family is therefore rightly defined as the first natural society, "a divine institution that stands at the foundation of life of the human person as the prototype of every social order".⁵

3. Indeed, in a healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them. For this reason, the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace. It is no wonder, therefore, that violence, if perpetrated in the family, is seen as particularly intolerable. Consequently, when it is said that the family is "the primary living cell of society",⁶ something essential is being stated. The family is the foundation of society for this reason too: because it enables its members in decisive ways to experience peace. It follows that the human community cannot do without the service provided by the family. Where can young people gradually learn to savour the genuine "taste" of peace better than in the original "nest" which nature prepares for them? The language of the family is a language of peace; we must always draw from it, lest we lose the "vocabulary" of peace. In the inflation of its speech, society cannot cease to refer to that "grammar" which all children learn from the looks and the actions of their mothers and fathers, even before they learn from their words.

4. The family, since it has the duty of educating its members, is the subject of specific rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which represents a landmark of juridic civilization of truly universal value, states that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State." 7 For its part, the Holy See sought to acknowledge a special juridic dignity proper to the family by publishing the Charter of Rights of the Family. In its Preamble we read: "the rights of the person, even if they are expressed as rights of the individual, have a fundamental social dimension which finds an innate and vital expression in the family." 8 The rights set forth in the Charter are an expression and explicitation of the natural law written on the heart of the human being and made known to him by reason. The denial or even the restriction of the rights of the family, by obscuring the truth about man, threatens the very foundations of peace.

5. Consequently, whoever, even unknowingly, circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect the primary agency of peace. This point merits special reflection: everything that serves to weaken the family based on the marriage of a man and a woman, everything that directly or indirectly stands in the way of its openness to the responsible acceptance of a new life, everything that obstructs its right to be primarily

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Bishop McRaith's January 2008 Schedule



- 4 Dinner & Mtg. with International Priest Missionaries, Hopkinsville, 5:30pm
- 6 Confirmation, St. Susan Parish, Elkton, 10am
- 7 Priests' Convocation, Lake Barkley
- 8 Priests' Convocation, Lake Barkley
- 9 Priests' Convocation, Lake Barkley
- 10 Priests' Convocation, Lake Barkley
- 13 Confirmation, St. Paul Parish, Leitchfield, 9am
- 15 Pitino Shelter Board Mtg., 9am
- 16 Paducah Office Day
- 16 Sexual Abuse Review Board Mtg., CPC, 5:30pm
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Ecumenical Service, Holy Name Parish, Henderson, 6:30pm (Dinner 5:30pm)
- 22 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 22 Pro-Life Mass, Cathedral, Owensboro, 12:05pm
- 22 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 22 DPC Mtg., CTK, Madisonville, 6pm
- 23 Diocesan Admin. Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 8:30am
- 25 Family Fun Night & Mortgage Burning, St. Joseph School, Bowling Green, 5:30pm
- 27 Confirmation, Immaculate Parish, Owensboro, 10am
- 28 Catholic Schools' Week Mass, Holy Name School, Henderson, 9am
- 29 Catholic Schools' Week Mass, SMSS, Paducah, 10am
- 30 Catholic Schools' Week Mass, OCS, Owensboro, 10am





Michael Moran, C.P., a Brother of the Eastern Province of the Passionist Community, poses beside two of his religious paintings. He is chaplain of the Supportive Care Program of St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. Brother Michael will be leading a retreat at Maple Mount February 22-24.

The Heart of Creativity: Contemplation, Art, Mystery Retreat February 22-24

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



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, Ms. June Bell, Vice-Chair, Dr. Charles Bohle, Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. William Craig, Jr., Dr. Carroll Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Sr. Jacinta Powers, OSU, and Rev. 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

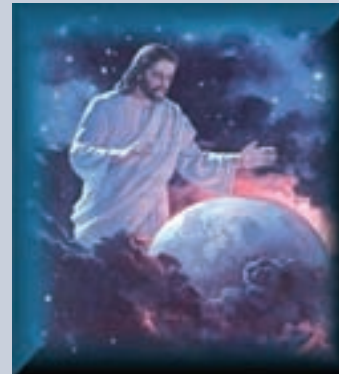
Behold, I Do a New Thing

—Isaiah 43:19

Catholic Charismatic Conference and Retreat

February 15-17, 2008

Retreat directors
Tom and Pam Edwards



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

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

Make plans to join us!

To register, contact

Kathy McCarty

270-229-0200, ext. 413

kmccarty@maplemount.org

A brochure can be found online

www.msjcenter.org



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"Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God."

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

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

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.

The Human Family, A Community Of Peace

(Continued from page 2)

responsible for the education of its children, constitutes an objective obstacle on the road to peace. The family needs to have a home, employment and a just recognition of the domestic activity of parents, the possibility of schooling for children, and basic health care for all. When society and public policy are not committed to assisting the family in these areas, they deprive themselves of an essential resource in the service of peace. The social communications media, in particular, because of their educational potential, have a special responsibility for promoting respect for the family, making clear its expectations and rights, and presenting all its beauty. Humanity is one great family.

6. The social community, if it is to live in peace, is also called to draw inspiration from the values on which the family community is based. This is as true for local communities as it is for national communities; it is also true for the international community itself, for the human family which dwells in that common house which is the earth. Here, however, we cannot forget that the family comes into being from the responsible and definitive “yes” of a man and a woman, and it continues to live from the conscious “yes” of the children who gradually join it. The family community, in order to prosper, needs the generous consent of all its members. This realization also needs to become a shared conviction on the part of all those called to form the common human family. We need to say our own “yes” to this vocation which God has inscribed in our very nature. We do not live alongside one another purely by chance; all of us are progressing along a common path as men and women, and thus as brothers and sisters. Consequently, it is essential that we should all be committed to living our lives in an attitude of responsibility before God, acknowledging him as the deepest source of our own existence and that of others. By going back to this supreme principle we are able to perceive the unconditional worth of each human being, and thus to lay the premises for building a humanity at peace. Without this transcendent foundation society is a mere aggregation of neighbours, not a community of brothers and sisters called to form one great family.

The family, the human community and the environment

7. The family needs a home, a fit environment in which to develop its proper relationships. For the human family, this home is the earth, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit

with creativity and responsibility. We need to care for the environment: it has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion. Human beings, obviously, are of supreme worth vis-à-vis creation as a whole. Respecting the environment does not mean considering material or animal nature more important than man. Rather, it means not selfishly considering nature to be at the complete disposal of our own interests, for future generations also have the right to reap its benefits and to exhibit towards nature the same responsible freedom that we claim for ourselves. Nor must we overlook the poor, who are excluded in many cases from the goods of creation destined for all. Humanity today is rightly concerned about the ecological balance of tomorrow. It is important for assessments in this regard to be carried out prudently, in dialogue with experts and people of wisdom, uninhibited by ideological pressure to draw hasty conclusions, and above all with the aim of reaching agreement on a model of sustainable development capable of ensuring the well-being of all while respecting environmental balances. If the protection of the environment involves costs, they should be justly distributed, taking due account of the different levels of development of various countries and the need for solidarity with future generations. Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibilities and postponing decisions; it means being committed to making joint decisions after pondering responsibly the road to be taken, decisions aimed at strengthening that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.

8. In this regard, it is essential to “sense” that the earth is “our common home” and, in our stewardship and service to all, to choose the path of dialogue rather than the path of unilateral decisions. Further international agencies may need to be established in order to confront together the stewardship of this “home” of ours; more important, however, is the need for ever greater conviction about the need for responsible cooperation. The problems looming on the horizon are complex and time is short. In order to face this situation effectively, there is a need to act in harmony. One area where there is a particular need to intensify dialogue between nations is that of the stewardship of the earth’s energy resources. The technologically advanced countries are facing two pressing

needs in this regard: on the one hand, to reassess the high levels of consumption due to the present model of development, and on the other hand to invest sufficient resources in the search for alternative sources of energy and for greater energy efficiency. The emerging countries are hungry for energy, but at times this hunger is met in a way harmful to poor countries which, due to their insufficient infrastructures, including their technological infrastructures, are forced to undersell the energy resources they do possess. At times, their very political freedom is compromised by forms of protectorate or, in any case, by forms of conditioning which appear clearly humiliating.

Family, human community and economy

9. An essential condition for peace within individual families is that they should be built upon the solid foundation of shared spiritual and ethical values. Yet it must be added that the family experiences authentic peace when no one lacks what is needed, and when the family patrimony—the fruit of the labour of some, the savings of others, and the active cooperation of all—is well managed in a spirit of solidarity, without extravagance and without waste. The peace of the family, then, requires an openness to a transcendent patrimony of values, and at the same time a concern for the prudent management of both material goods and inter-personal relationships. The failure of the latter results in the breakdown of reciprocal trust in the face of the uncertainty threatening the future of the nuclear family.

10. Something similar must be said for that other family which is humanity as a whole. The human family, which today is increasingly unified as a result of globalization, also needs, in addition to a foundation of shared values, an economy capable of responding effectively to the requirements of a common good which is now planetary in scope. Here too, a comparison with the natural family proves helpful. Honest and straightforward relationships need to be promoted between individual persons and between peoples, thus enabling everyone to cooperate on a just and equal footing. Efforts must also be made to ensure a prudent use of resources and an equitable distribution of wealth. In particular, the aid given to poor countries must be guided by sound economic principles, avoiding forms of waste associated principally with the maintenance of expensive bureaucracies. Due account must also be taken of the moral obligation to ensure that the economy is not governed solely by the ruthless laws of instant profit, which can prove inhumane.

The family, the human community and the moral law

11. A family lives in peace if all its members submit to a common standard: this is what prevents selfish individualism and brings individuals together, fostering their harmonious coexistence and giving direction to their work. This principle, obvious as it is, also holds true for wider communities: from local and national communities to the international community itself. For the sake of peace, a common law is needed, one which would foster true freedom rather than blind caprice, and protect the weak from oppression by the strong. The family of peoples experiences many cases of arbitrary conduct, both within individual States and in the relations of States among themselves. In many situations the weak must bow not to the demands of justice, but to the naked power of those stronger than themselves. It bears repeating: power must always be disciplined by law, and this applies also to relations between sovereign States.

12. The Church has often spoken on the subject of the nature and function of law: the juridic norm, which regulates relationships between individuals, disciplines external conduct and establishes penalties for offenders, has as its criterion the moral norm grounded in nature itself. Human reason is capable of discerning this moral norm, at least in its fundamental requirements, and thus ascending to the creative reason of God which is at the origin of all things. The moral norm must be the rule for decisions of conscience and the guide for all human behaviour. Do juridic norms exist for relationships between the nations which make up the human family? And if they exist, are they operative? The answer is: yes, such norms exist, but to ensure that they are truly operative it is necessary to go back to the natural moral norm as the basis of the juridic norm; otherwise the latter constantly remains at the mercy of a fragile and provisional consensus.

13. Knowledge of the natural moral norm is not inaccessible to those who, in reflecting on themselves and their destiny, strive to understand the inner logic of the deepest inclinations present in their being. Albeit not without hesitation and doubt, they are capable of discovering, at least in its essential lines, this common moral law which, over and above cultural differences, enables human beings to come to a common understanding regarding the most important aspects of good and evil, justice and injustice. It is essential to go back to this fundamental law, committing our finest intellectual energies to this quest, and not letting ourselves be discouraged by mistakes and misunderstandings. Values grounded in the natural law are indeed present, albeit

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Happy Anniversary

**Marriage Celebrations for January
Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50
years of Marriage**

Blessed Mother

Terry & Jan Storm, 40
Harold & Anne Clark, 56
Robert & Dena Montgomery, 53
Charles & Shirley Clark, 58
Joseph & Wanda Millay, 56

Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington

Ted & Barbara Brown, 50

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Alfonso & Concepcion Aldana, 25
Wayne & Sondra Mitchell, 40
Forwood & Ann Hargis, 65
Leonard & Anna Patterson, 52
James & Elizabeth Thomas, 55

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Carmol & Mary Cook, 57

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Tom & Rita Parrott, 40
John & Pat Pfeiffer, 40
Raymond & Helen Grudzielanek, 59

Parish of the Immaculate, O'boro

Jerome & Clarence Biscopink, 62
Henry & Mary Jean Hodskins, 56
Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 59
James & Mary Posante, 57
Edward H. & Wanda Powers, 55

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 54
Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Sam & Mary Gail Wolfe, 25
James & Sheila Gaddis, 40
George & Beverly Hendrix, 40
Robert & Martha Bailey, 57
Anthony & Anna Mae Kamalich, 54

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Arnold & Toby Boarman, 55
James & Shirley Ellis, 50
Doug & Betty Howard, 53
Henry & Mary Orth, 54

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Thomas & Lisle Threlkeld, 60

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Roy & Carolyn Rowley, 50

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Hamel & Rose Floyd, 55

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Frank & Tommie Clouse, 56

St. Ann, Morganfield

Tommy & Joycelyn Hagan, 40
Glenn & Elizabeth Cox, 58
Jack & Theresa Davis, 66
Donald G. & Peggy French, 57
J. Parvin & Mildred Moore, 63
Adrian & Mary Frances Wolfe, 61

St. Anthony, Hardinsburg

Harold & Jan Clements, 50

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Hurley & Juanita Higdon, 61

St. Charles, Bardwell

Joe & Rosie Hayden, 61
Dennis & Peggy Sharp, 40

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Norman & Virginia Elliott, 53
Jimmie & Linda Goatley, 53
Conrad & Rozella Spalding, 52
Joseph & Alma Stahr, 51
Charles & Shirley Rowe, 50

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Irlan & Christine Payne, 60

St. Joseph, Mayfield

James & Frankie Riley, 51
Matthew & Christine Meyer, 67

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James & Frances Marie Payne, 58
Thomas & Nancy Bickett, 50

St. Leo, Murray

Robert P. & Simone Taylor, 58

St. Martin, Rome

Donald & Vivian Fischer, 55

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

John & Mary Ann Ebelhar, 40
Joseph & Margie Merimee, 53
William & Rose Thompson, 57

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Tommy & Margaret Conder, 53
Charles & Catherine Hamilton, 56
Joseph & Jackie Head, 51
John & Stella Howe, 55
Elmer & Marcella Schepers, 52

St. Michael, Oak Grove

Theofilo & Ruby Macias, 55

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Eddie & Jeanette Smith, 40
Bill & Lillian Young, 54
James & Mary Keller, 51

St. Peter, Waverly

Clyde Frederick & Margaret French, 54

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Bobby Joe & Debbie Critchelov, 25
Charles & Isabell Winchell, 68

St. Rose, Cloverport

Robert & Mary Najar, 55
Randell & Gerry Brown, 40

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Norman & Betty Coomes, 59
Jerome A. & Wilma Fenwick, 59
Mark & Cindy Mahoney, Sr. 25
James & Evelyn Mattingly, 55
David & Bonnie Montgomery, 50

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Bill & Sylvia Pace, 40
Bernie & Connie Herrmann, 55
Douglas & Elizabeth Edwards, 59
Harold & Elizabeth Connor, 62

St. William, Knottsville

Raymond & Mary Frances Payne, 55
James A. & Linda Hamilton, 50

St. William, Marion

Allen & Arlene Summers, 50

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Charles C. & Bonnie Gray, 51

Sts. Mary and James, Guthrie

Larry & Donna Blevins, 55

Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

A New Year's Message

from Ginny Knight-Simon, Coordinator of Wisdom

Thanks.

Looking back over the years, I realize how lucky I am to be working as Coordinator of Wisdom for the Diocese Owensboro and the seniors citizens whom I serve.

I have met with many of you in your homes or at your favorite hangouts to get an interview for *The Western Kentucky Catholic* and for my *Wisdom* newsletter. Each time I am always met with a warm welcome. After each visit, I always come away feeling wiser because of the stories you have shared with me, and I in turn share with the rest of the Diocese. (That's where Coordinating the Wisdom comes in.)

I've heard stories of immigrants escaping Communist oppression, and stories of segregation of both school and church. I've heard survival stories of the Great Depression era in this country, of floods, droughts, and tornados. I've listened as tears filled my eyes of the stories of wars and the lost innocence of the young GI's being shipped so far from home to fight in life-and-death battles. Also, I've heard of the young women who nursed them back to health while they were in a field hospital on foreign land. I've shared in the memories of the first born child, the long and happy marriages of so many, the struggle to make the right career choice, the death of a spouse or a child or a parent. I've been quite entertained at the stories of the "first date" and the "proposal."

I've enjoyed seeing the collections, the crafts and the gardens, and meeting the children, the grandchildren, and occasionally a neighbor. I've enjoyed sampling homemade delicacies made from scratch and have been fortunate enough to bring home with me bread, cakes, and pies, as well as wreaths, Christmas ornaments and painted rocks. I've laughed at the puppy's



cold nose on the back of my leg and delighted at the curled-up cat on my lap as I recorded your stories. I've learned how to make altar bread, hummingbird food, brownies and pizza, as well as how to grow herbs, prune grapevines, dry flowers, and appreciate the time it takes to do it. I've traveled on bus trips with you, shared meals, and laughs, and along the way I have made many new friends.

You've taught me many things as Coordinator of Wisdom, but, most of all, I've learned how to listen with my heart as well as my ears and to see God's love through others' eyes. You've shared with us all that the one constant throughout your life has been your faith in God.

I have always been made very welcome in your homes and at your senior gatherings, and I thank you for that.

I am blessed by you all. I wish you all a very peace filled Christmas and healthy happy New Year!

Brescia Seeks Candidates for Theology Assistant Professor

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

Brescia Speech Pathology Students Making a Difference in the Community

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University believes in Making a Difference in the lives of our students, our community and our Church. One of the recent ways that Brescia students are making a difference in the community is through conducting speech, language, and hearing screenings for preschoolers.

Ten Brescia speech pathology and audiology students spent two days in November screening children at Cathedral Preschool in Owensboro.

The students saw nearly 80 four and five-year-olds. Donna Goodlett-Collins, assistant professor of speech pathology and audiology at Brescia University, says more of her students will return in the spring of 2008 to screen the three-year-olds.



Lauren Taylor (senior from Owensboro) and preschooler Andrew Johnson



Whitney Brumfield (senior from Har-dinsburg, Ky.) and preschooler Erin Doyle

These screenings were provided free of charge for Cathedral Preschool children.

For more information on Brescia's speech pathology and audiology program, contact Donna Goodlett-Collins at (270) 686-4345 or donnag@brescia.edu.

Brescia Uses \$300,000 Grant for Technology Center

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University recently received a \$300,000 grant from the Marilyn and William Young Foundation in Owensboro. The grant will be used to create the Young Instructional Technology Center within the Fr. Leonard Alvey Library. With the Young Foundation funding, Brescia will create a fully equipped lab for information literacy and multi-media instruction with the necessary technology for faculty trainings and classes, and also provide smaller areas for group or individual research and study. These designated areas will assist faculty, staff and students to learn to identify and build information literacy skills, design quality multi-media presentations, and apply the standards of information literacy to research. The Technology Center will include essential technology such as ePodcasting, Camtasia, digital microfilm and video conferencing.

"Marilyn and William Young, founders of the Marilyn and William Young Charitable Foundation, always had a deep love and passion for Brescia University," stated Sara Hemingway, Executive Director. "In honoring their legacy, the Trustees of the Foundation wish to continue their support of Brescia and its advancement. The trustees have great confidence in Fr. Larry Hostetter and the direction he is taking Brescia. It is their desire to help Brescia move forward by supporting the library's role in being the informational literacy hub, providing services which are so critical for today's students."

The Foundation's gift will also assist Brescia to address making all floors and areas of the library more environmentally comfortable and allow the continuation of removing causes of deterioration of printed materials. A new air conditioning system will eliminate the excessive humidity that the current system generates and will also level out the existing "hot spots" which make it uncomfortable to remain in certain

Teens Encounter Christ: O come let us adore Him!



**Father Eric D Riley,
wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net**

"O come let us adore Him!" As we enter more deeply into the celebration of the birth of the Christ-Child, we are reminded of the need for adoration of the Almighty. While the world has already put away "holiday" decorations, the Church continues to celebrate the Christmas season. We understand that Christmas is not just another holiday, but it is a season deserving of continued celebration. Even a lifetime is not long enough to allow the mystery of Christmas to be fully understood, but the yearly season of Christmas allows us an opportunity to enter more fully into the mystery.

In the TEC movement, adoration of the Christ is an important part of our spirituality. In adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist, we are able to spend time with the self-same Lord Jesus Christ Who has come to us as the God-Man, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, and Saving Lord. He has come among us as one like ourselves in every way, though free from sin, so that as the innocent Lamb of God He might take upon Himself our sinfulness that He might put an end to unending death and bring us the gift of Eternal Life.

As the Christ-Child was adored by His Blessed Mother, His foster-father, the shepherds and the wise men, so He continues to invite each of us to draw close to Him during this holy season. The Holy Family especially gives us the example of the importance of spending time together. While Christ makes Himself most present to us in the gift of the Holy Eucharist, where He is present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, He also makes it clear through His Word that where two or more are gathered together in His name He is there in their midst. Families in the TEC movement are encouraged to make time together to share the love of Christ: praying together, eating together, having a family night for activities together. All of these are important. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta often reminded us that "Families who pray together stay together." The Christ-Child came to us through a family to remind us of the importance of family life. The Holy Family through example shows us that to spend time together in Christ is the way to holiness, and holiness in Christ leads to everlasting life.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family, may you be given the grace to come and adore Him in the Most Holy Eucharist, and may the Christ-Child draw your family together in mercy, peace, love, and joy.

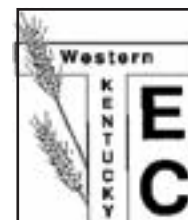
Let us especially sow wheat for the upcoming events. Let us recruit and invite others to come into the field. Let us send wheat letters. Let us bring in the sheaves at the appropriate time of reunion. Let us walk with one another as we encounter the riches of Christ more deeply. Let us be faithful disciples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

Upcoming TEC Events (Mark your calendars now!):

- 14 January, Paschal Mystery Eucharistic Holy Hour, 7-8:30, St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, Adoration, Praise Music, Meditation, Small Groups, Benediction, Social. All are welcome.
- 19-21 January, TEC # 160, Gasper River Catholic Camp, Bowling Green, KY, Lay Director: Cody Shupe Spiritual Director: Fr. Eric Riley Mass 4 PM
- 16-18 February, TEC # 161, St. Charles Parish, Bardwell, KY, Lay Director: Joe Bland Spiritual Director: Fr. Mike Williams Mass 4 PM

areas of the library for any period of time. The new environmentally friendly system will ensure use of all spaces.

The Young Foundation's generosity will enrich the experience and academic preparation for virtually every Brescia student. Regarding the news of the gift, Fr. Larry Hostetter remarked, "The Brescia educational experience will certainly be enhanced with the fruits of this grant."





Supporting US Troops Recovering From Injuries

Members of the St. Thomas More Youth Group prepared Christmas cards to reach out to soldiers who are recovering from injuries at the Walter Reed Army Hospital. Pictured from left are Seminarian, Steve Hohman, Adam Jones, Andee Shannon, Sally Thompson, Matt Gilland, Eric Butterbaugh, Josh Meredith, Maggie Langston, Julia Colgan, Sean Butterbaugh, Malorie Garrett, and Jessica Jones. (Photo provided by Youth Minister, Danny Thomas)

Young Adult Group – C.A.S.T.

Calling all Catholic Young Adults! We invite you to join us for talks, discussion, fellowship and snacks, every other Thursday night.

If you are searching for a community of believers where you can learn more about your faith, make solid friendships and just hang out with people your age (20's & 30's),

Come join us! Our group, called CAST, stands for Catholic Adults Searching Together. We have been meeting for over a year now! Our next meeting will be Jan. 10th, 2008, 7:00-9:00 pm. We meet at St. Stephen's Youth House at 508 7th St. in Owensboro, KY. For more information, contact Tami Schneider at tamaramabuzz@hotmail.com or call (616) 240-3283.

High School Juniors & Seniors

You're Invited to

Teens Encounter Christ # 161

16 - 18 February 2008

St. Charles Parish, Bardwell, KY

This awesome weekend can help you grow tremendously in your relationship with Christ and His Church. If you want to know more about TEC, need applications, or want to make contact, send an email wkytecspsdir@bellsouth.net

Come, Encounter Christ Anew



Foster Teens and Adoption

By Jodie Morgan

I know first hand what it's like for teens that have been in foster care. Most of our lives my brother and I have been in foster care. When we were just little kids we were placed under social services care. My brother and I were moved from foster home to foster home for years, but sometimes it was me who was sent to another foster home because the foster parent couldn't handle me or just didn't like me.

We now have been with our new family for almost five years, I was adopted when I was thirteen and my brother was fourteen. Since my brother and I were adopted we gained a new family - a brother, sister, mom, dad, a niece, a grandmother, aunts, uncles and many cousins, which made us very happy. With my new family I have experienced many life changing things. I have not had to change schools since I was adopted. While in foster care I would change schools each time I changed foster families. Now that I am adopted I have had more help with my schooling and my grades are better.

Why do I think adoption is a good thing for those special young teens that are in foster care? There are many teens out there to be adopted for those people who want to make a home and a family. Many are in sibling groups like my brother and I. Now I am in a home where I feel loved when I come home everyday. When I was in a foster home that is not how I felt. This is not always the case with all teens; some never find a home and are forced to move out without a place to live when they become 18 years old. If we had not been adopted, then I would have aged out of foster care and been on the streets with nowhere to call home. Those that are lucky sometimes find a permanent family or at least a foster family that takes a real interest in them. Sometimes an adoption doesn't workout and it is not finalized before the teen is given a chance to fix what they have done to make the family not want to adopt them anymore. I was one of the lucky ones. I really never worried about the adoption not working, because I knew I was going into a good home. I knew I wouldn't have to worry about going from place to place or moving in with a new family again.

Statistics state that over 50% of teens are adopted by their foster families. For my brother and I that was not how it happened, or at least not exactly. My mom and dad took classes to foster/adopt us, so that we could be moved into their home quickly and we could get out of the foster home where we were living.

In 2007 President Bush passed legislation allowing teens adopted after their 13th birthday to claim only their personal income on their FAFSA form for college financial aid. This support by legislatures has been such a blessing for our family. With the financial support of this bill and the emotional support of our family, my brother and I will be able to go to college, something that wasn't even a dream in my past.

Twelve to eighteen-year-olds adopted out of foster care has risen sharply, from 6,000 in 2000, to 10,000 in 2004. Fifty percent of those adults who responded to a survey, said that reuniting kids in foster care with their birth parents should be the primary objective. If you ask my mom, she would say she thinks the primary objective should be to make sure children are given the chance for a productive happy life, even if that means they are not reunited with their birth parents. She will tell you she lies awake at night thinking about the bad times my brother and I had before we came to live with our family. Fifty eight percent of married couples, in this same survey, think older children in foster care have more problems than younger ones. I think this could be true if they don't have good mentors and a good support system beyond those involved in the foster care system.

My adoption went smoothly and I am going on my fifth year with my new family. I think more people should adopt teens because they can make a teen's life better than what they have lived with before. And if you want to make life twice as good...adopt two teens...that's what my parents did!

* "When Foster Teens Find A Home" by: Anita Hamilton; <http://sks.sirs.com>

Author: Jodie "Dee Dee" Morgan, Daviess County High School, daughter of George and Connie Morgan, Blessed Mother Parish; student of: English Teacher: Ms. Teresa Payne, St. Lawrence Parish, Knottsville, and English Teacher: Sr. Monica Seaton, Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph and St. Stephen's Cathedral; Jodie's Principal is Mr. Matthew Constant, St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Parish Responds to Needs in the Mountains

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - For the sixth year in a row, members of Sts. Peter and Paul parish here gathered thousands of items and donated them to people living in the Eastern Kentucky parish of St. Michael located in Paintsville, Kentucky. This year's shipment was delivered on Saturday, December 15.

The shipment included clothing, toys, household utensils, coats, shoes, baby items, bed linens, comforters and blankets, books, hats, gloves and slippers. As the pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, Fr. John Thomas, likes to say each year, "If it's in your way as you pull out your Christmas decorations, get rid of it!"

The "Paintsville Project," as it has become known at Sts. Peter and Paul, began the year a representative from St. Michael spoke to the parish about the great need in the east. "It's part of our diocesan appeal," said Fr. Terence Hoppenjans, pastor of St. Michael. "Because we are involved in the Mountain Mission, we talk to many about the great need," he added. Knowledge of the need in the mountains comes first hand for Fr. Hoppenjans who has been pastor of St. Michael for 10 years and has lived in the mountains for 47 years.



High school youth group members Brittany Sweet and Dan Ligibel from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville put together boxes on December 12 to hold the many items donated by parishioners for people who are in need in Paintsville, KY.

"When I became pastoral associate of Sts. Peter and Paul, I saw this project as a perfect opportunity for our youth," explained Libby Downs who coordinates the shipment of items each year with Fr. Hoppenjans. "Both our middle school youth and high school youth work hard each year to sort through all the donations and box them to assist in the transport and delivery," Downs said.

In addition to helping sort the items, which is a daunting task in itself, several youth each year accompany a volunteer from the parish, Billy Garnett, in hauling the goods to Paintsville. Each year, Fr. Hoppenjans makes arrangements for Garnett and the young people to stay over night after their nine-hour journey.

Fr. Hoppenjans enjoys receiving the youth of Sts. Peter and Paul every year. "It's helpful for both us and them,"

Continued on page 9



Daniel Sweet, Gloria Crawford, Brooklyn Gardner, and Katie Kennedy, all members of the middle school youth group at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, sort through hats and clothes and pack them into boxes on December 12. All items donated by parishioners were delivered to people in need in Paintsville, KY.

Knights Help Feed Neighbors on Thanksgiving

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - On Saturday morning, November 17, several Knights of Columbus members and members of the youth program at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville gathered in the parish hall to prepare food baskets for their neighbors in need. The food, which was donated by members of the parish, was enough to provide 36 families with food for a blessed Thanksgiving.

After sorting and boxing the food, the Knights paused briefly for their pastor, Fr. John Thomas, to bless the food prior to making deliveries. Once the food was loaded into six different vehicles, the Knights traveled throughout two counties to deliver enough food to feed 170 family members.

In addition to the food gathered over a two-week period, the Knights purchased 36 turkeys along with other perishable items to give to each family. "That purchase was about \$560 worth of food," said Grand Knight Bob Marko.

"The support from Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners was tremendous," said Marko. "The youth group did a great job managing and sorting the food, so Saturday morning went like clockwork," he added.

The Knights of Columbus of the Msgr. Willett Council # 7847 at Sts. Peter and Paul are well practiced at distributing food to their neighbors. The Council has been gathering and distributing food since the council was formed in 1981. In addition, they are the only organization in Christian County to provide food during the Thanksgiving holiday.

As usual, there is not much time to rest for the Knights in Hopkinsville. "On December 22 we get a chance to do it all again!" exclaimed Marko. On that day, the Knights will distribute more baskets for Christmas.



Knights of Columbus members and youth group members at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville carried boxes of food to waiting vehicles on Saturday morning, November 17. 36 families in two counties received enough food to celebrate Thanksgiving due to the generosity of the parishioners who donated the food. Photo taken by Jim Creighton.



Fr. John Thomas, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville, blessed the food donated by his parishioners just prior to it being delivered to 36 families in Christian and Todd counties by the Knight of Columbus members on Saturday, November 17. Photo taken by Jim Creighton.

Sisters Of The Lamb Of God 1958-2008

Sometimes small children wonder and inquire, "How can God be everywhere at once?" As adults, we marvel at the wonders the Lord has done in our lives, in the Church, and in the world through the working of the Holy Spirit. Such is the case with our congregation of religious, The Sisters of the Lamb of God.

In the 1940s, no one heard of persons with physical disabilities or poor physical health or persons over 30 entering apostolic religious life. But the yearning was alive in the hearts of many such people. One of them was Fedora Bessette, from Rhode Island, later to become the first American to enter our order and the one who spearheaded our eventual coming to America. The Holy Spirit also enlightened a Jesuit priest, Fr. Rene Marie de la Chevasserie in France of this new calling of God's "little ones" to serve as religious. He therefore on Feb. 2nd, 1945 founded our congregations which was to receive both healthy persons as well as those with physical disabilities, poor physical health, and late vocations.

In 1954, Bishop Francis R. Cotton, visited our motherhouse in Brest, France. He was touched by the simplicity and poverty of our life style as well as by the kind of ministries in which our sisters offered their service. As a result, he invited us to establish a foundation in his diocese. He wanted us to bring our unique witness of religious community life to this diocese and also to render a different kind of service to the people than the existing religious were offering. From the start, our ministry has been a ministry of presence to the people: in the families, in the neighborhoods where we live, "behind the scenes," as Bishop John J. McRaith expresses it and so appreciates us. We casually see ourselves as "The neighborhood nuns!"

It was in the fall of 1958 that our sisters arrived to settle in a wonderfully prepared house next to Owensboro Catholic High School. The Bishop, the priests, and the Sisters of Charity were a great help to us in the very beginning. The first community consisted of six sisters—three French and three Americans.

Bishop Cotton had a wonderful ministry awaiting us: taking parish census! (This was in the days when one went door to door to take census.) We were warmly welcomed into the parish of St. Stephens: as this message from the St. Stephen's Cathedral bulletin Nov. 30, 1958 tells:

SISTERS OF THE LAMB OF GOD Last Tuesday four more Sisters of the Lamb of God arrived to take up residence within the parish, namely, at 1516 Parrish Ave. This makes a total of six who have come to establish their first foundation in our country. Recently two of the Sisters have been taking up a parish census in Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish.

This week some of these sisters will begin working in our parish. They will begin by doing another type of Social Work. They will visit the Sick, "Shut Ins," etc. These Sisters will not go about begging. They will receive their support from the parishes in which they are working just as our teaching Sisters do. Let's make them welcome and pray earnestly for the success of their work and their new foundation.

It was a wonderful idea because it helped us to know the needs of the people in



Census taking in Owensboro, 1958 . Sr. Marie Madeleine on the left who was blind and did most of the talking while the other Sister did the writing because her English was not yet up to par.

order to develop future service to them. For the next six years, the work outlined in the bulletin quote above was our prime ministry. What is also special about our way of ministering, is that it often may take two of us to do the work of one, but that provides for a greater witness of community in whatever we do. This was especially true in the beginning where some of the French did not yet know a lot of English. Today, it is still a joy to run into people of these early families whom we helped and hear them recount their memories.

Next month we will share with you the expansion of our ministry work in the 1960s.

Eye Glasses for Jamaicans, How You Can Help

From May 24 to June 1, 2008, the group, Volunteer Optometrists Serving Humanity, or VOSH, has planned a mission to the Mandeville Jamaica Diocese. Dr. Andrew Ward, the Chair of the Mandeville Sister Diocese Committee for the Diocese of Owensboro, is serving as one of the coordinators of the group and he explained the mission. Dr Ward indicated that the key part of the team will be 4 to 5 Doctors and support staff that will test the vision of local citizens of the area, and fit them with used glasses. It is likely that between 2000 to 3000 people will be seen, tested and fitted with what they need..

VOSH generally takes about 6000, or more pairs of glasses with them when they go. This is where you can take part in this effort. VOSH is collecting glasses for men, women and children. They need good, serviceable used glasses. There is no need to be concerned about the style, color, or age of the glasses, as long as they are not broken. About two months before the mission, a few volunteers are needed to help sort, clean and categorize the glass for use in Jamaica.

Those who have glasses they would like to send on this mission can send them to the Mandeville Sister Diocese Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Those interested in learning more about volunteering to help sort the glasses can email the Committee by writing Richard Murphy, the staff person for the Committee at richard.murphy@pastoral.org.

Thank you for your care, interest, and help many times in the past with assisting those in need in the Mandeville Diocese.



Are you hurting since your abortion?

Have you experienced depression, guilt, deep sorrow, emptiness, lowered-self esteem, anxiety, anger, difficulty with relationships, and more?

You are not alone.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat can help. This confidential weekend retreat facilitates spiritual, psychological, and emotional healing. Through the warm, caring, non-judgmental support of the team, retreatants will experience the peaceful healing love and mercy of God. Mothers, spouses, and others hurt by abortion are welcome to make the retreat.

The retreat will be held January 25 - 27, 2008.

For more information contact:

Colleen @ 270-776-6177 or www.hopeafterabortionky.com
Healing The Trauma of Abortion - one weekend at a time.

Needs in the Mountains (Continued from page 8)

he explained. "It gives them a sense of responsibility being active with outreach for them and their church. And it helps us in that we are able to do outreach here. We're so small. We need their help to continue our outreach."

"We have a definite appreciation and are aware each day of our dependency on others," Fr. Hoppenjans continued. "We keep our benefactors in prayer every day, and the people of Sts. Peter and Paul are included in those prayers."

Shelter stays strong after 20 years

By Carrie Dillard,, Union County Advocate Editor

Debbie Higgs, Bunny Warlen, and Caroline Thomas met one morning twenty years ago with two needs- a pregnant girl and an adoptive family- and a dream of helping this and more Union County families.

It was in October 1987 that these three founded the Shelter of Love Pregnancy Center in Union County. The Center would grow to become a collective of workers and volunteers who aim to provide a safe environment for pregnant women and their babies. They provide support and education for abstinence and adoption. Carleen McKinney, the current director of Shelter of Love, reports that the Center serves over 200 clients a year, and remains a helping hand for families and children up to five years of age. To date, upwards of 100 babies have been saved directly at the Shelter.

At its inception, Union County was 2nd in pregnancy per capita across the state. Higgs dreamt of building a Right to Life chapter, a pregnancy center, or a maternity home here. She started a petition against abortion and gathered 1,500 signatures. Her petition and letter was sent to the Last Day's Ministries and was chosen for print.

"It's hard to take a stand for righteousness," said Bunny Warlen, who saw the letter in the Last Day's newsletter at that time and came on board. The three women who didn't know each other previously would then begin a countywide campaign together for the right-to-life that would last to this day.



Pictured are Joyce Higgs, Bib Hughes, Debbie Higgs, Bunny Warlen, Carleen McKinley, Mary Jo Carr, and Cathy Hancock of Shelter of Love.

Debbie and Bunny and many more who participated in the making of the Shelter of Love joined in a 20th anniversary celebration on Friday. Long-time volunteer Mary Jo Carr and Bib Hughes, who 10 years ago donated the building which Shelter now occupies, came for the potluck party.

Now Director McKinney was delighted to have the women who represented the beginning of the dream celebrate such an important milestone.

McKinney says that Shelter continues to offer this Christian ministry to Union County families, along with food, clothing, and bible study. All services are free and confidential. The Shelter of Love Pregnancy Center is located on West Main Street, Morganfield.

For more information about the services offered or questions about volunteering, please call 270-389-2847.

"Miracle On Elmdale" A Miraculous Success – St

Mary Nets \$300,000 Announces Millon-dollar Gift

Article from Saint Mary School System, Dec. 17, 2007

PADUCAH,Ky. - While deliberating a name for the 2007 edition of St. Mary School System's biennial benefit auction, the leadership committee decided to parlay the location on Elmdale Road into an appropriate holiday theme, and came up with "Miracle on Elmdale." Little did they realize just how meaningful that name would become. Not only was Saturday night's the most successful event of the twelve St. Mary has conducted, netting the school system over \$300,000, it produced two momentous firsts.

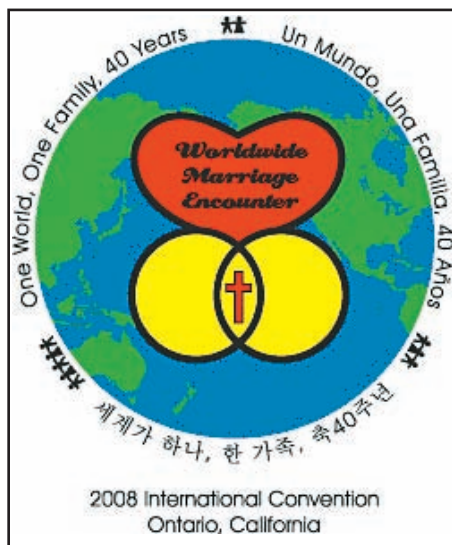
Among the hundreds of items auctioned, ranging in value from \$10 to "priceless," was one very unique and coveted prize. Mr. Larry Bossidy, a St. Mary grandparent and a member of Augusta National Golf Club, donated a trip for two to join him for two days of golfing at Augusta, home of the prestigious Masters tournament. After spirited bidding, the trip was bought for \$110,000, by far the largest amount ever paid for a single St. Mary auction item, and believed to be the largest for any benefit auction item ever in western Kentucky. The trip was purchased by two St. Mary parents (Mr. David Paxton and Mr. Ken Hunt), who will join Mr. Bossidy and will stay in one of the famous cabins at the golf course. In addition to the lodging and meals, the group will enjoy 36 holes of golf on each of the two days.

Separate from the Auction, but announced during the evening, was a \$1,000,000, anonymous gift to the St. Mary Benefit (endowment) Fund. In announcing the gift, St. Mary System Director Pat Cairney made the following

statement: "In the 2½ years I've been at St. Mary, I've seen enough miracles that I've come to expect them. A lot of exciting things have happened here this evening. It is a minor miracle that so many people care enough about what we do here to support us in such great measure and in so many ways. You, the 400 generous benefactors here present, are an important part of that group, along with hundreds more not present, but who choose various ways to contribute to our success.

At this time, it is my great privilege to announce the biggest miracle I have seen here yet. With deep gratitude and humility, we now report having received a \$1,000,000 anonymous gift. This amount has been deposited in our endowment for exclusive use to provide scholarships, well into the future, for students who desire and deserve, but could not otherwise afford, a St. Mary education."

Both Cairney and Jackie Hopper, St. Mary Development Officer, praised the hundreds of volunteers whose time and effort make the auction successful. Hopper stated, "This thing doesn't just happen. People make it happen, and not just a few people. We're indebted to our parents, who provide most of the labor and many of the items, as well as the merchants who repeatedly, every two years, respond generously to our procurement people. In addition to the merchandise donors, we have friends who send us cash gifts. While we can't individually acknowledge the hundreds of people who help it happen, we are filled with thanks and admiration for our Leadership Committee of four, who



Save The Date!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter International Convention

ONE WORLD

ONE FAMILY

40 YEARS

June 27 -29 2008

Ontario Convention Center,
Ontario California

<http://convention.wwme.org/>

Rekindle your own relationship, celebrate your sacrament. Meet other couples and priests from all over the world who will be coming to celebrate their love and the 40th anniversary of Marriage Encounter. Start thinking of old friends who have moved away that you will want to invite.

acted as one and worked like one hundred. They are: Beth Hunt, Lucy Milliano, Karen Petter and Debbie Powell.

St. Mary Development Director Al McKeown pointed out, "One reason we have such great financial results is that the operation is virtually 100% volunteer.. Even our professional auctioneer, Robert Alexander, donates his services. That alone saves us thousands of dollars. I'm not sure, but this may be the largest charitable fund-raiser in this area, with the only exception I know of being the Lions' Club Easter Seal Telethon - next week's great event and great cause. Even then, I believe the proceeds come from, and go to, four different states. This one (St. Mary auction) is very local, and we are overwhelmed by the community's support. Mostly, we are grateful. We're all fortunate to live in a community like Paducah."

Holy Land Pilgrimage

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

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

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

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

St Mary Hall Of Fame/Recognition Dinner

Article from Saint Mary School System, Dec. 17, 2007

PADUCAH, Ky - An overdue acknowledgment of all those who have made a difference, and have had a positive influence on the history of our St. Mary School System, took place on Friday night, September 21st in the high school commons. This solemn occasion was marked by a Recognition Dinner preceding the induction of the Charter Members of the newly instituted St. Mary Hall of Fame.

The first group honored were the (5) religious orders who have served McCracken County's Catholic schools for nearly 150 years, beginning with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Ky., who founded St. Mary's Academy in 1858. Charter Hall of Fame inductees included the first graduate (1859), Miss Anne Menard, who came back to teach at the school as Sister Marie, and Mr. Matthew Carney, an 1894 graduate who, in 1927, established a four-year scholarship to the University of Notre Dame for each year's outstanding male graduate. At that time, Notre Dame was an all-boys' school. The scholarship has been awarded to over 50 St. Mary graduates.

Deceased Charter Members from the recent era are Mrs. Donna Jean McKinney Hanson (SMA 1958) and Mr. Fred Paxton (SMA 1950). Donna Jean was a leading Catholic layperson, and Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Spokane, WA for 27 years. Among her many honors and accomplishments, she introduced Pope John Paul to a Catholic Charities conference, and later received the "Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice" award from the Holy Father himself, the highest award available from the Church to a layperson. Fred Paxton was a legendary contributor to the well-being of St. Mary, his industry (television and newspaper), and his beloved Paducah community - especially its poor and minority groups. Fred was known and respected by, and comfortable among, bishops, national figures including congressmen and at least one president, movers and shakers of NBC and of economic development, and ordinary citizens like you and me. Fred was a humble giant, a hero and role model, and a great Catholic and family man.

The living inductees were: Laura Lambert (SMA 1956), St. Mary's "historian laureate", 50-year iconic faculty member and department head, and DAR "Outstanding History Teacher" in 2006; Mary Yeiser (SMA 1922), artist, teacher and patroness of the arts, founder of the Paducah Art Guild (now known as the Yeiser Art Center in her honor). Mary, at 102, is our oldest living graduate, and resides at a nursing home in Bardstown, KY.

The final (living) Charter inductee, Mr. Louis Haas, is a retired business executive, having been President of L.S. DuBois Son & Co., a local wholesale pharmaceutical distributor which, under his leadership, became one of the leading regional houses in the country. In 1989, Haas sold the company to a leading national distributor and retired from the industry. He is an investor



Louis Haas was recognized during the Hall of Fame induction as the primary donor and leader in establishing the current financial stability of the St. Mary School System. Submitted Photo



Fall Choir Concert at St. Thomas More

As part of the Liturgy & Worship Commission at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, two concerts are held each year to promote the art of sacred choral singing and repertoire. Approximately 250 people attended the fall concert entitled "Music from the English Cathedral Tradition", held Saturday, November 18, 2007 featuring works by Thomas Tallis, Herbert Howells, Edward Bairstow, and Ralph Vaughn Williams. The concerts welcome the public serving to inspire singers and audience alike - both musically and spiritually, as part of the parish's wider mission to the Paducah community. Continued fellowship followed in the parish hall with a fund-raising dinner to support the music ministry.

Photo above: The Saint Thomas More Parish Bell Choir photo - (L to R) - Bell Choir members Tamara Carter, Betty Wise, Jill Mudd, Connie Poat, Lisa Clark, Jacob Hein, with Music Director Jim Hess

Married Singles Lifestyle

The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are now living more like roommates. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing any level of difficulty in their marriage from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the January program beginning on January 18, 19, 20, 2008 call 270-683-1545 or email: dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

who serves and has served, on the boards of many companies and organizations including Citizens' Bank ((later US Bank), St. Mary School System and others. Louis was chair of the St. Mary Education Committee in 1987-88 and chairman of the campaign to build the present St. Mary Elementary School in 1990. His efforts (he was the lead donor as well) inspired and fueled a campaign which raised \$2.63 million in just 60 days. The new school opened in 1992, debt-free. Louis was also the lead donor, in 2004, in the building of our St. Mary Memorial Chapel, while serving on its planning committee. He was recognized during the Hall of Fame induction as the primary donor and leader in establishing the current financial stability of our school system.

Prior to the induction ceremony, members of the Lansing and Jaquith families were recognized for sponsoring memorials in honor of their deceased parents and (Jaquith) brother Larry. It was also announced that the Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust has funded a St. Mary tuition scholarship to be awarded based on financial need. Ms. Doreen Hahn, Executive Director of the Trust, was recognized and thanked.

The Mass

Entrance rites: Getting ready to meet God

By Father Tom Margevicius

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

Last month I mentioned a few concepts that help us appreciate the Mass, such as symbolic objects, words and actions, timelessness, active participation and changed lives. Now let's look more closely at the beginning of Mass.

Of course, we don't think that in the Upper Room one of the apostles fired up an organ, Jesus put on a stole and chasuble, got in line behind the altar servers carrying incense and candles, and they sang "Gather Us In" before beginning the Last Supper.

Around the year A.D. 155, St. Justin explained to a pagan emperor how Christians did it: "On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of



Father Gary Davis enters St. Michael Church in J-Town, Ky. on the First Sunday of Advent as the Assembly sang the Entrance Hymn. Staff Photo

the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read . . ." (See "Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1345).

The rest of St. Justin's liturgy looks remarkably fa-

miliar, and it is reassuring that the early church celebrated Mass pretty much the same way we still do. But notice that St. Justin says nothing about the entrance rites. These developed gradually over several hundred years.

• Altar.

One of the earliest things to develop is the symbolism of the altar itself. At the start of Mass, when everyone reaches the sanctuary, we bow to the altar, even if the tabernacle is in a different chapel. And bishops, priests and deacons kiss the altar. Why?

That's because according to St. Ambrose (late 300s) the altar is a symbol of Christ. The liturgy calls Jesus Christ priest, victim and altar: As High Priest, he makes the offering (Hebrews 5:1-10). As Victim, he is the one being sacrificed, the Lamb who was slain (Revelation 13:8).

But why altar? St. Paul says we "offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, our spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1). Since we know the Father accepts Christ's sacrifice, we place our lives on Christ himself; he is the one through whom we sacrifice our lives. Reverencing the altar is reverencing Christ himself.

• Greeting.

The celebrant greets the assembly with the Sign of the Cross and a scriptural text such as, "The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you" (Titus 1:4). This is much richer than merely saying, "Good morning." No matter how much the priest and people like one another, something more is happening: The priest is wishing God upon the people, and the people respond not just to the man, but to Jesus Christ himself.

That's why the literal translation of the people's response is, "And with your spirit." Christ greets his bride (the church), and the bride greets the spirit of Christ present in the priest.

• Penitential rite.

Are you ready to meet Jesus, who really comes to us in the Eucharist? Sometimes, neither am I. That's why we usually ask for mercy next. This can take several forms: The most ancient predates even the use of Latin in Mass: We cry out "Kyrie eleison," Greek for "Lord have mercy."

The Confiteor ("I confess . . .") first shows up around the eighth century. And sometimes, such as at Easter and Masses with baptism, we renew our baptismal promises and replace the penitential rite with a sprinkling with water.

The Gloria comes from the song the angels sang at Jesus' birth (Luke 2:4) and originally was used only during the Christmas season. It found its way into Mass during the sixth century. Christ is born anew in each Mass

we celebrate, and we sing his praises with the angels and saints who are continually praising him. Each time we pray Mass, we join with the liturgy already going on in heaven (CCC, 1090).

• Opening prayer.

The opening prayer is also called the "collect." The priest intones, "Let us pray," and then a brief silence follows. The silence is not just waiting for the server to bring the book; each of us is supposed to be praying silently during that time, and after a short while the priest "collects" all those silent prayers into the opening prayer. When the priest ends, we all acclaim "Amen!" signaling our agreement with the prayer, and we are ready for God to speak to us.

The Liturgy of the Word

For too long, we have assumed, "Protestants get the Bible, Catholics get the sacraments."

Wrong.

One is not more Catholic than the other; both are essential for the celebration of the Eucharist.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist "are so closely interconnected that they form but one single act of worship."

The word proclaims what the sacrament enacts: it's the same Christ, really present. The Second Vatican Council's "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" taught that Christ is present in multiple ways in the liturgy: in the people assembled, in the word proclaimed, in the ordained minister, in the other sacraments and especially in the Sacred Species.

Three years ago, the world's Catho-

Continued on page 16



December Quilt Club Winner:

Paula Gray of Robards, a 1973 graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Maple Mount, displays a quilt that she won in the December Quilt Club drawing at the Mount. The Christmas-themed "picket fence" quilt was quilted by Sister Eva Boone, OSU, and pieced and set together by Joan Abell. Paula was photographed with the quilt at Saint Angela Hall, an office building at Mount Saint Joseph. A new handmade quilt is given away each month. Annual Quilt Club tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased by calling 270-229-4103.

Rosary Chapel Called To Be ‘Workers and Prophets’ of a Future Not Our Own

PADUCAH, Ky. - Over 130 people participated in a Eucharistic liturgy on the afternoon of Sunday, October 7th at Rosary Chapel. The event celebrated Rosary’s sixty years of Catholic witness and service in the Paducah community.

Bishop John McRaith was the main celebrant of the liturgy, with priests who had been associated with or stationed at Rosary Chapel as the concelebrants. Fr. Brian Roby, current pastor of Rosary Chapel, gave the homily. Rose Lowry and the Rosary Chapel choir led the music for the celebration. The Nia Dancers, a group formed out of Rosary Chapel, led the procession into and out of the church.

After Mass, Bishop McRaith, the priests, parishioners, and guests had dinner in the parish hall. (Photos and text contributed by Mike Bogdan)



Bishop John McRaith spoke to the parishioners and friends of Rosary Chapel in Paducah attending the Oct. 7, 2007 60th anniversary celebration. Mike Bogdan Photos

Fr. Brian Roby’s homily for Rosary Chapel’s 60th Anniversary Mass, October 7, 2007 - “FAITH”

In our Catholic Church, the tradition of faith has, over the centuries, come to be identified in many people’s minds with the content of faith – in other words – with the actual beliefs that we hold to be true. While this is important, we must also remember that faith is much more than knowledge.

When Jesus invited people to have faith – he first of all tried to invite people to have trust. To place their trust in God, to put themselves trustingly in God’s hands, surrendering themselves to what God wanted to do through them. This is still what the challenge of faith is all about.

Yes, Faith is belief in God, but Faith also calls us to let go of our need to control our lives – recognizing that we are part of a bigger picture, that our life truly does fit into the Lord’s plan.

In the comic strip Stone Soup, Grandma Stone has dragooned teenagers, Holly and Andy, into working in a Habitat for Humanity project. It’s the teens’ first experience doing this kind of work and for the benefit of someone they didn’t even know. As they see the house take shape, Andy and Holly are awe-struck by what they have done. “Wow, Holly,” Andy says, “we helped put up the walls of this house! Truly amazing, huh?” Holly agrees. “In three weeks, a family that needed a house will move in here and we made it happen!” In the last panel of the comic strip the pair stands in the midst of the new house, spellbound by what they have been a part of. And Andy simply says: “Kind of makes you think you matter.”

A mustard seed of faith – a little genuine faith to make a difference – to grab hold of opportunities we have for planting and harvesting. No longer in the sense of “I want justice” or “I want to be treated with compassion.” And just as soon as we start living by faith – we no longer are preoccupied with self. Instead we begin to think of all those people who experience little justice or little compassion in their lives – and then each of us will then want to do something in bringing about the continued reality of God’s Kingdom.

Perhaps, you and I lift up only one hand in faith, but withhold the other hand. We

have one leg planted in our faith and the other planted in the ways of the world. We have faith, but it’s not as steady as it might be. We trust in the Lord; but, perhaps, it has less than the wholehearted trust of the child to whom Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.

We do matter! Let us see ourselves as workers and prophets of a future that is not our own.

A Child gets Grandpa’s attention: “Kind of makes you think you matter.”



Above, liturgical dancers; below, the choir during the October 7, 2007 60th Anniversary Mass at Rosary Chapel.



Earned income tax credit could help the poorest

By Beth Dotson Brown

Social justice is one of the moral priorities set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in their document, Faithful Citizenship. Several of the Church's teachings relate to those in society who are economically poor, such as the preferential option for the poor as outlined in Catholic social teaching. Based on Matthew 25, which calls the faithful to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, etc., this teaching says that those with the greatest need require the greatest response.

One way the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) will address the poverty issue during the upcoming General Assembly is through encouraging the establishment of a state refundable income tax credit. "People at the poorest level are paying a higher percentage of tax than people at the higher level," says Ed Monahan, CCK executive director.

A considerable percentage of Kentucky's population is at that poorest level. According to 2005 numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau, Kentucky has the ninth highest poverty rate in the country at 17 percent, or one in six residents. Thirty-eight percent earn less than \$25,000.

When the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities studied income tax liabilities for the year 2006, it found that a Kentucky family of four with an income at 125 percent of the poverty line, or \$25,769, had to pay income taxes of \$891. That figure was the largest income tax burden proportionately in the country.

Currently, the federal government recognizes that one way to alleviate economic burdens for low-income families is by offering an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which gives them a refund based on the money earned and family size. In addition to the federal tax credit, 22 states and the District of Columbia have enacted state versions of the EITC. According to a policy brief by James P. Ziliak, Ph.D. and Erica Meade of the University of Kentucky, the federal EITC has been the most effective anti-poverty program for working, low-income families in the country. It is a \$40 billion program that reaches more than 20 million Americans. In 2005, this tax credit injected \$630 million into Kentucky's economy. The policy brief further states that a state EITC in Kentucky would assist more than 360,000 working poor people.

Toby Wilcher, a member of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (who are also working on this issue) knows how the state EITC could benefit her family. She and her husband have one daughter and recently assumed guardianship for three grandchildren. Wilcher receives disability assistance and her husband, when he is able to find work, is employed for minimum wage or slightly more.

Enacting a state EITC could put up to approximately \$700 in the pocket of a working poor family. Wilcher says that although some people think that isn't much, "When someone's living at a low income level that's a lot of money." She laments the rising cost of gasoline and milk, two staples for her household, and says if she could get the tax credit, "That would be enough to give a family a boost." Wilcher also notes the EITC benefits more than just the families who get it because it touches the larger economy. "Whatever I would use an EITC for, it's going back into the economy." Monahan calls EITC a targeted approach that is sure to reach people who need it while also encouraging people to work. "A state refundable earned income tax credit is a way to address the fact that the people at the bottom are paying a higher percentage and to somehow mitigate that. And secondly, to say these are people who are struggling and we need to find a way to get them more money to pull them out of poverty," says Monahan.

Other tax-related initiatives CCK is looking at are: de-linking the Kentucky estate tax rules from federal rules so the state can consider changes rather than just doing what the federal government does; assessing a slightly higher tax on people who earn more than \$75,000 a year; adding a tax to luxury services that the poor typically do not use, like dry cleaning and lawn care.

"Faced with the sacredness of life and the human person, and before the marvels of the universe, wonder is the only appropriate attitude." John Paul II

Women and Men, Holy Together



Julie Murphy

On Being A Catholic Evangelist/ Apologist

By Julie Murphy

I am going to bet that many readers of WKC will be able to relate to an incident that happened to me. Have you ever been challenged to defend your Catholic beliefs? Even to go so far, as to have been criticized for being a Catholic. I have



been challenged many times in the past, by a few Protestants, who believe we're going against everything the Bible teaches. As a matter of fact, a distant relative, who had left the Catholic Church, was the one who caught me off guard. I was so completely overwhelmed and embarrassed that I couldn't defend my faith. I've been Catholic all my life. I thought that I knew enough, at least enough to explain the seven Sacraments. The questions poised to me were in fact about the sacraments and yet I failed to give a solid explanation of why we believe in them. He was throwing Bible scriptures to me one after another and I couldn't say squat. "Oh my gosh, he was 'Quick Draw McGraw'." This man knew his Bible passages and he quoted one after another to me. The forcefulness of his indignation towards the Catholic Church was so overpowering. I was told we were doing things strictly forbidden by God's laws.

I was so overwhelmed with his accusations, I felt like a complete idiot. Nothing could flow out of my mouth the way this man had succeeded to do. I did give it my best shot, but I failed big time in a big way. The miracle of that incident is that it completely changed my life on many levels. I knew that I never wanted to be caught off guard again, and, I truly wanted more than anything within my soul, to defend the faith that I love. This man is responsible for lighting a fire in me to become a defender of the faith, an Apologist! One thing I knew for sure, I decided that I wouldn't be put into that position again.

I was now on a mission, and I wanted a second chance. I wanted another opportunity to debate, because I knew deep within me he was mistaken and I needed to get the facts and set him straight.

Guess what? I did get my chance. It felt GREAT!!! I had just a smidgeon of victory! It felt so good! Of course he didn't convert and come back to us but I did give him cause to ponder and think about our traditions. Well, was it all worth it in the end? "You better believe it!" It felt very rewarding and satisfying to now have the knowledge I needed to educate others: the truths of the, One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church.

I made several trips to St. Maximillian Kolbe Catholic store and I stocked up on all kinds of awesome books. I read conversion testimonies of ministers who kept studying and the deeper they studied were seeing that the early Church Fathers were Catholic. I can't begin to write in this article all they found and how the Holy Spirit worked in their lives to move them to become Catholic. As I was reading their conversions, I just couldn't get enough. I would stop and read to whomever was in the room at that particular time. Then I would say with so much enthusiasm; "Did you know this about our church?"

There is one book I think everyone should read if they haven't already. Its title is *Rome Sweet Home*, and is written about the conversion of a former minister, Scott Hahn, and his wife, Kimberly Hahn. I finished it in one day; I was so into the testimony.

When I reflect back on that incident, I see that it opened up a window of opportunity for me. I am now able to defend my faith, practice what I preach, and I can reach out to others who never quite understood why we do certain things. Maybe, just maybe I could've had an impact on someone and they started to read the Bible.

The Holy Spirit has given us all a very special gift. "The ability to be an Evangelist/Apologist." There is no question about the Holy Spirit being the One to stir up in me a desire to understand and humbly teach the best I can, to offer some answers regarding the faith.

We are all called to step up and speak up when we hear heresy, but we have to be willing to educate ourselves. It is very rewarding in the end and uplifting! You will have an interior joy that you have pleased God in some way.

+JMJ+ Julie Murphy

Grayson County Enjoys Finding Clergy Waiting Tables

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2008 15

Special to The Western Kentucky Catholic
LEITCHFIELD, Ky. - According to the Acts of the Apostles, the Apostles decided that it was not good to neglect the Ministry of the Word in order to wait on tables. However there come times when waiting on tables also falls within the scope of the Ministry of the Word.

Each Wednesday throughout the year the priests in Grayson County would gather at a restaurant for lunch and to keep in touch with what is going on in each other's parishes and lives.

During the First week of December, 2007, the Farmers Family Feed Mill, a family restaurant in Leitchfield wanted to do a promotion to help



A menu board announces "God's Servants Serving You."

provide food to families over the Holiday season. The solution was to have a week of "Celebrity Waiters and Waitresses." Monday was hair dressers, Tuesday was Clergy, and Wednesday was business professionals. One day was law enforcement; another day was elected officials. The restaurant set a goal to raise \$5,000 in one week. The money was raised by tips to the celebrities going to cause.

On the Clergy Day the three priests in the county, Fr. Marty Hayes, Fr. Brian Johnson, and Fr. Randy Howard, volunteered to wait table during the lunch hour rush with Fr. Randy's secretary, Joanne Deweese as the guest hostess. The supper time was covered by ministers from differ-



Father Randy Howard bringing food to a table.



The first and second grade students at Holy Name School have adopted the neighbors who live next to the school. As part of living out the mission of the school, the students pray daily for their neighbors and for Thanksgiving made a home visit where they sang songs, read a poem, left cards they had made and some pumpkin bread made just for the neighbors. Pictured is Ann Beckham giving a hug to second graders Hayes Sights for presenting her with the bread. Also included in the visit was Sister Margaret Ann Aull bringing the Eucharist to Ann. HNS Photo



Father Marty Hayes, in left photo, and Father Brian Johnson at right, taking orders at the Farmers' Family Feed Mill in Leitchfield in December. Submitted photos.

ent congregations. Some have claimed that the clergy had an advantage by being able to publicize it in their bulletins. Whatever the reason, the Clergy had a record setting day.

Several parishioners came in for lunch that day. Some said they wanted to see priests actually working for a day. Others said they wanted to see the show. Fr. Randy managed to learn to handle a tray full of orders. Fr. Brian eventually figured out the computer system for placing orders. Fr. Marty managed to get the last drop out of the tea urn so that the diners wouldn't have to wait for their drinks.

The three developed a closer rapport with the restaurant and its servers. At the end of the shift the priests had taken in over \$750 in tips during lunch. The week exceeded the goal of \$5,000 and the priests either were told not to quit their day jobs or decided that the day job was easier. On a positive note, they all agreed to do it again next year if the restaurant asks.



Thanks For Your Support For Us To Go To NCYC

Our experiences at the National Catholic Youth Conference, Columbus, Ohio, Nov 9&10 were just awesome! Union Co. High School CCD would like to thank all of the donors and all those who supported our fundraisers in order to make our trip possible. Pictured L to R are: Front Row - Alix Mattingly, Katie Sheridan, Zion Omer; 2nd Row - Janet Butler, Olivia Watson, Krista Willett, Amanda Gough, Laura Gough, Lacey Dame. Fr. Terry Devine; Back Row - Linda Gough, Amie Buckman, Hannah Berry, Miles Clevidence, Matt Burke, Zach Owen, Matt Thomas, Joan Mattox, Angelan Buckman. Submitted by William Butler

Where We Grieve

By Betty Medley



Betty Medley

"I try to keep my grief inside when I work. After the first few days, nobody seemed interested."

"I know I cannot concentrate like I use to; my mind drifts. Is that grief?"

"Every since his Mom died, Joey seems to get in trouble in school a lot."

"I just can't sit still in church. I keep thinking of Darrell."

Whenever we experience a loss, we experience grief. That grief comes in unpredictable waves. We feel like we are on a roller coaster, full of bad and good days. There are times that our grief seems less present as well as times when it wells up inside and threatens to overwhelm us. We cannot control these experiences. They happen in their own time.

Grief, too, takes time. It is not over when the funeral ends. It may last for years. Even as we experience grief, in its midst, we need to return to the rhythms of our lives. We go back to work, to school, to worship.

Try as we might to control our grief, to keep it in our private times when we are at home or with friends or support, we do not always have that control. Sometimes our grief comes out. Mary, for example, worked as a school secretary. Her adult son died. At times, a child would walk into the office and would do something that reminded her of her late son - an expression, a look, or a smile, and she would well up with tears. Other memories and feelings also can intrude. Marie still went to Mass every week but often, in the middle of the service, she would want to shout out and ask God why her mother had to die.

In short, there are many places where we grieve. These include not only our homes and communities but our work places, schools, and places of worship. How they respond to our grief can either help or hinder us.

It can help when they provide support and sensitivity. Dan benefited from that support when his wife died. His supervisor not only offered sympathy but helped him in tangible ways. He was sensitive to the increased demands of Dan's life and helped work out care arrangements for his children. He knew that Dan's abilities might suffer for a while, and kept constant tabs on what assistance he needed and what Dan felt he could tackle. His supervisor made him aware of what the Employee Assistance Program could offer. Others may not be as lucky as Dan. Their place of work, school and worship may ignore their loss and seem embarrassed by their grief.

But as we need to be our own advocates-helping others know how we are feeling and what we need, asking questions about the programs, policies and service that might assist us in all the place we are, and all the place we grieve. And if they are not available, we will need to find that support and sensitivity in other places.

Betty Medley directs the Diocesan Family Life Office which also includes the ministries Bereavement; Sep/Divorced Support Groups; Once More With Love; Engaged Encounter; Pre-Cana; Sponsor Couple; Retrouvaille; Project Rachel; she assist swith adoptions for Catholic Charities. Betty has a BSW (Social Work) from Brescia University and is certified in bereavement through the Archdiocese of New York.

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

Saturday, February 9, 2008,
Catholic Pastoral Center, 600
Locust Street, Owensboro, KY
42301 Telephone: (270) 683-
1545 ext 357 or betty.medley@
pastoral.org

High School Juniors and Seniors:

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

The Mass (Continued from page 12)

lic bishops held a synod discussing the Eucharist. Pope John Paul II followed up with the wonderful document "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," resulting in resurging interest in the importance of the Eucharist in the life of the church. That's great, but we need to go further.

Pope Benedict XVI has instructed the bishops that when their next synod meets in October 2008 the topic will be the word of God. I predict the Holy Father will follow up with his own document on the word of God. (You heard it here first.) The bishops already have their "homework" assignment: you can read it on the Vatican Web page (www.vatican.va) if you search for "synod," "word" and "lineamenta," which is Latin for "outline."

No better food

Maybe you know someone who left the Catholic Church because they found another church where they "get fed," meaning they hear the word preached better. Of course, the irony is they can't get fed any better than in our Eucharist. But we should take their departure seriously: a fuller celebration of the word of God will only enhance participation in the Eucharist.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" directs: "The Liturgy of the Word is an integral part of sacramental celebrations. To nourish the faith of believers, the signs which accompany the Word of God should be emphasized: the book of the word (a Lectionary or a Book of the Gospels), its veneration (procession, incense, candles), the place of its proclamation (lectern or ambo), its audible and intelligible reading, the minister's homily which extends its proclamation, and the responses of the assembly (acclamations, meditation psalms, litanies and profession of faith)."

Notice how we offer the word what we usually associate with the Sacred Species: incense, gilded books even processions. The General Introduction to the Lectionary goes so far as to say, "The church has honored the word of God and the eucharistic mystery with the same reverence, although not with the same worship, and has always and everywhere insisted upon and sanctioned such honor."

"It is reassuring that the early church celebrated Mass pretty much the same way we still do." - Father Tom Margevicius

Proper Preparation

To honor the word of God, let the ambo be a fixed, dignified place that parallels the altar itself, since there is "one table of the word and the Eucharist." Don't proclaim the word from disposable booklets for the same reason wine should not be consecrated in a throwaway cup. Let there be adequate lighting and amplification.

Regarding preparation, Pope Benedict writes, "I ask that the Liturgy of the Word always be carefully prepared and celebrated. Consequently I urge that every effort be made to ensure that the liturgical proclamation of the word of God is entrusted to well-prepared readers."

Just as we appreciate silence after receiving Communion, include periods of silence after the word so it can resonate in our hearts. Finally, encourage priests and deacons when preaching homilies. Not a single preacher I know thinks it's easy. Pope Benedict is straightforward on this issue: "The quality of homilies needs to be improved. The homily is 'part of the liturgical action' and is meant to foster a deeper understanding of the word of God, so that it can bear fruit in the lives of the faithful. Hence ordained ministers must 'prepare the homily carefully, based on an adequate knowledge of Sacred Scripture.' Generic and abstract homilies should be avoided. "In particular," he said, "I ask these ministers to preach in such a way that the homily closely relates the proclamation of the word of God to the sacramental celebration and the life of the community, so that the word of God truly becomes the church's vital nourishment and support."

That intersection of three terms — word, sacrament and community — all come together in a beautiful way in the part of the liturgy we'll examine next month: the preparation of the gifts.

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

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

January 2008

- 4-5 First Christian Church of
Madisonville Retreat
8-10 Grant Writing Workshop
11-12 Scrapbooking for Friends
11-13 Grayson County Ursuline
Associates Retreat
18-20 Retrouvaille
21-25 Spiritual Direction Institute
Week 6
25-26 First Christian Church Elders Retreat

February 2008

- 1-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
1-3 Saint Joseph Parish of Central
City Senior Retreat
2 Yarn Spinning Gathering
9 Bible Study Group
15-17 Catholic Charismatic Conference:
Behold, I Do A New Thing
17 Precious Blood RCIA
22-24 The Heart of Creativity:
Contemplation, Art and
Mystery Retreat
29-2 Women's Retreat with
Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

March 2008

- 2-5 Mount Saint Joseph Quilter Friends
7-14 Saint Meinrad Retreat Week
9 Lourdes RCIA
14-16 Catholic Engaged Encounter
14-16 Immaculate Conception Parish
of LaGrange
15 Lourdes Confirmation Retreat
27-29 Quilt Guild from Paducah
28-30 Regional Spring Cursillo
29 Private Wedding Reception

April 2008

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



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**The Center is located 15 miles west
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The St. Francis de Sales Circle 258 of Daughters of Isabella hosted their annual Christmas Tea on December 9. The ladies of Daughters of Isabella enjoyed special Christmas Tea along with home baked goodies. The service project related to the tea is each member brings food for the food baskets for the needy. Eight food baskets were organized to be delivered to families of the St. Thomas More, St. Johns the Evangelist, and St. Francis de Sales parishes of Paducah. The Daughters of Isabella Circle 258 serves all of the Paducah Area with charitable giving and volunteers. Submitted by Sheri Babbs



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

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



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

Ups, downs mark ecumenical, interfaith relations in 2007

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The year 2007 marked a year with some progress for the Catholic Church in its relations with other Christians and in interfaith dialogue, although the year was also beset by some setbacks on the path to unity and understanding. One positive move, recorded in November, was what Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, called a "real breakthrough" in a new Catholic-Orthodox dialogue document in that the Orthodox were willing to discuss how authority was shared and exercised on a universal level in the early church. The document was finalized during a meeting in Ravenna, Italy, attended by members of the dialogue commission. One negative came along with the breakthrough, though: The Russian Orthodox Church delegation to the meeting walked out. In July the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed that the Catholic Church is the one, true church, even if elements of truth can be found in separated churches and communities. The document said some of the separated Christian communities, such as Protestant communities, should not properly be called "churches" according to Catholic doctrine because of major differences over the ordained priesthood and the Eucharist. Protestant leaders worldwide voiced dismay over the document.

Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education

Jan. 27 - Feb. 2, 2008

**Catholic Schools Week, "Catholic Schools
Light the Way."**

January 31, 2008

National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools.

Prayer for Catholic Schools Week

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Thank you for the gift of Catholic education.

Day after day, week after week, you give us many opportunities
to grow and learn. Help us respond to the gift of faith
so that we may be recognized as your disciples. Amen.

Celebrating Our Lady Of Guadalupe

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - The morning of December 12th a group of St. Francis de Sales parishioners gathered in the parish hall to reflect on the extraordinary story of the Blessed Mary's appearance to Juan Diego in Mexico. After attending the noon Mass the group returned to the parish hall for refreshments.

The group joined Fr. Brian Roby in singing Immaculate Mary followed by a reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe. Then Adam Rewa, Pastoral Associate, talked about Mary's appearance and how it changed the course of Christianity in Latin America. 476 years ago Mary appeared to the Indian peasant Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico at the location of a pagan shrine. This was one of the first appearances of Mary and one of the most famous. The striking thing was that Mary's features and clothing were Aztec and she spoke to him in that language. "Know for sure, my dearest, littlest, and youngest son, that I am the perfect and ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of God and of truth through whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near us, the Lord of Heaven and earth. I want very much to have a little house built here for me, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him and make Him manifest. I will give Him to the people in all my personal love, in my compassion, in my help, in my protection: because I am truly your merciful Mother, yours and all the people who live united in this land and of all the other people of different ancestries, my lovers, who love me, those who seek me, those who trust in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their complaints and heal all their sorrows, hardships and suffering."

Our Lady instructed Juan to go to the bishop and tell him of his vision and that the Lady requested a church be built for Her. Juan's efforts to convince the bishop failed. Finally in Her third appearance to Juan, as an answer to the bishop's request for a sign, Mary told Juan to take some roses that were blooming near by (unusual at that time of the year) and give them to the bishop. Mary wrapped the roses in Juan's tunic and he brought them to the bishop. When he opened the tunic to show the roses there was a perfect image of Mary in the fabric. Word of the miracle spread rapidly. Thousands came to see the image and millions were baptized. A church was built at the spot of Mary's appearance and for nearly 500 years the tunic has been hanging in the huge church of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the image shows no signs of deterioration.

Adam explained that in the early 16th century, the Spanish Conquistadors arrived in the new world searching for precious metals. The Aztec had established a powerful empire but they were no match for the superior military might of the Spaniards and they were defeated after many bloody battles. The Aztecs actively practiced human sacrifice; the Spaniards demanded conversion or death and there seemed little possibility for any compromise or reconciliation between the two cultures. This was an environment of cruelty and death. Mary came speaking love, healing and compassion. Her appearance led to the conversion of an entire people; there were some 9 million baptisms in just 10 years and an entirely new culture in the Americas was born; a mixing of the European and the Indian. Where once there had been enmity, exclusion and violence, there was the beginning of a united identity, one of the children of the same mother. It could only have been brought about by God.



Adam Rewa addressing participants at Our Lady of Guadalupe service December 12th in the St. Francis de Sales parish hall to recount the extraordinary story of the Blessed Mary's appearance to Juan Diego in Mexico. Edie Keeney Photo



A group from St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, paused at NCYC after attending the session exploring the topic of Eucharist. 1st row (L to R) - Paula Englert, Danny Thomas (St. Thomas More Youth Minister), Jeffery Johnson, and Sean Butterbaugh; 2nd row - (L to R) - Bradley Englert, Josh Meredith, Eric Butterbaugh, Matt Gilland, Bart Hatton, Jared Thweatt, and Cindy Butterbaugh

NCYC 2007 Connected Faith With Real Life

PADUCAH, Ky. - Nine chaperones and 32 youth sponsored by St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, journeyed to Columbus, Ohio with other Diocese of Owensboro participants to become part of the 20,000 strong attending the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), November 8 - 10, 2007. Great music, moving speakers, and individually chosen sessions that dealt with real life issues filled the weekend. A Mass in Nationwide Arena, with 10 Bishops and 200 priests concelebrating, brought the experience to a memorable close. The St. Thomas More High School Youth Group is supported by the parish's Total Catholic Education Commission.

In photo at right, St. Thomas More seniors Hannah Gilland and Chelsa Urhahn pose with "the Bible Geek," Mark Hart, in the Port Discovery exhibit hall at NCYC.



Vatican recruits 'spiritual mothers' to pray for priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With a letter to the world's bishops and a 40-page illustrated brochure, the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy is encouraging eucharistic adoration for the holiness of priests and is recruiting "spiritual mothers" to pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The project, launched Dec. 8, aims to highlight the link between the Eucharist and the priesthood as well as Mary's special role as the mother of every priest, said a letter from the congregation's top officials. Cardinal Claudio Hummes, congregation prefect, and Archbishop Mauro Piacenza, congregation secretary, said that as part of a wider effort to address the challenges facing priests today, they wanted to promote perpetual eucharistic adoration "for the reparation of faults and sanctification of priests." But they also hoped to promote "a commitment on the part of consecrated feminine souls," who, following the example of Mary, "might wish to spiritually adopt priests in order to help them with their self-offering, prayer and penance." The letter asked bishops to promote in their dioceses "a movement of prayer," centered on perpetual eucharistic adoration and involving priests, religious and laypeople.

Schaefer family has made a lasting mark on Christ The King Parish Life

By Tom Clinton

MADISONVILLE, Ky – Each step of Gwen Schaefer's Gold Scout Gold Award project is a prayer.

Each step along the path from the rear of Christ The King Catholic Church to the large replica of "The Pieta" is a rosary bead in hard concrete, as solid as the faith of those who pray there.

Now completed, with some minor alterations to landscaping still pending, the rosary walk at Christ The King offers parishoners the opportunity for quiet reflection and a chance to pray five decades or 15 if they choose. As they pray, they come ever closer to The Pieta and the cross.

Gwen, the 17-year-old daughter of Bob and Cheryl Schaefer, began with a dream and refused to allow the enormity of the undertaking to dissuade her. The idea was to create just the right path where none had existed before. She discovered it involved 200 feet, a gentle slope and plenty of backbreaking work. And that was just the physical part of the project.

Just getting things together, doing all the paperwork, drawing up plans, calculating costs, and getting it approved for Gold Award status was no easy task, Gwen said. A great help to her was her mother, who has also been her scout leader since she began as a Daisy Scout in kindergarten at Christ The King.

This summer's drought, followed by heavy rainfall, didn't make the task any easier. Some landscaping had to be delayed because of weather conditions.

Like many young women her age, Gwen also has a busy agenda beyond Girl Scouts. Late summer band camp, a long and demanding requirement, came and went while the project was taking shape, along with the start of school and related activities.

Also helping her along the way were parishoners, businesses and friends who donated around \$3,000 that funded the project. The volunteer hours of those who helped with preparing the site, pouring and engraving "beads" into the concrete and landscaping, were not measurable in dollars.

The path, inspired by the rosary walk at Mt. St. Joseph, begins with 10 "beads" for the Hail Marys, then a square for the Glory Be and Our Father. At the end of the concrete decades is another square, then three more beads leading up to a cross, also engraved into the concrete.

While the walkway is concrete, it is fashioned to look like flagstone, with a border on each side in the same color as the "beads."

"The Pieta" replica had been at the site for more than 15 years, a donation, in part, from Drs. Ron and Marsha Segebarth in memory of all who struggle with raising children. The rock underneath the large cross had begun to crumble and was removed and replaced. Other repairs were also made around the statue. The cross was also given a fresh coat of white paint.

Christ The King Pastor, Father Jerry Calhoun said, "I think it is great that a high school student will reflect on a project for her Gold Award that reflects her faith and the faith of the church. The rosary walk and refurbishing the Pieta shrine certainly is a reflection of her faith and the faith of the church." Gwen's older brother, Drew, received his Eagle Scout Award for a project he completed at Christ The King. To the east of the rosary walk is a path leading up a hill to an outdoor altar. Drew's Eagle project was restoration of the stations of the cross along that path.

Gwen's older sister Kristen also received the Gold Award. Gwen, a junior at Madisonville-North Hopkins High School said she was amazed at the amount of work involved in just preparing for the project. She was equally amazed and gratified at the outpouring of financial and in-kind labor support from so many individuals and businesses. Materials that were not donated outright were made available to her at a discount.

The Schaefer family has made a lasting mark on Christ The King Catholic Church, the school and virtually every aspect of parish life. As generations to come walk the rosary path, they may not know it was the fulfillment of Gwen's dream or that she received a Gold Award for her efforts. But they will be grateful for an opportunity to pray the rosary in a place of serenity, remembering all the children who have been a part of Christ The King and those who love them.



Gwen Schaefer's Gold Scout Gold Award project is a rosary walk at Christ The King Church in Madisonville featuring a large replica of "The Pieta" at the end of a concrete path with a cross and all the beads of the Rosary. Submitted Photo

Priesthood Appreciation Sunday at St. Henry Parish

On Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007 Potluck in Parish Hall, Saint Henry Parish, Aurora, Ky. Shown here during the Prayer Before the Meal are Father Babu Kulathunkal Joseph, Pat Day, Rose Logsdon, Myra Fassett, and Danny Carrico. Photo Submitted by St. Henry Parish.



Appreciation lunch for Ministers of Praise

Article and pictures by Jan Mott

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - The first appreciation lunch was held for all Ministers of Praise of Holy Spirit Parish was held on Oct. 31. The lunch followed a 12:05 mass in which 8 new members were added. The staff of Holy Spirit Parish put on the lunch under the direction of Lori Lewis, chief cook and Kelly Lewis chief decorator. The staff served in their Halloween costumes. It was attended by 34 of the 57 commissioned prayer ministers. This was the first time that many of these parishioners had an opportunity to visit meet other ministers and to renew old friendships. A good time was had by all as we gave thanks to those who pray faithfully for Holy Spirit and for the dedicated staff who made the event possible.



In photo at left, Newly commissioned Ministers of Praise: Carolyn Baseheart Panchyshyn, Peggy Cahill, Ann Stuller, Tony and Marie Mefert, Edna Mason, Mary Jane and Don Scarbeau. Fr. Jerry Riney, Don and Jan Mott top row.



Above, Fr. Jerry Riney giving the olive wood cross to Edna Mason, Don and Mary Jane Scarbeau on the left and Marie Meffert on the right.

based on the equal dignity of all men and women, and by putting respect for the fundamental rights of individuals and peoples at the centre of human coexistence. This was a decisive step forward along the difficult and demanding path towards harmony and peace. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Holy See's adoption of the Charter of the Rights of the Family (1983-2008) and the 40th anniversary of the celebration of the first World Day of Peace (1968-2008). Born of a providential intuition of Pope Paul VI and carried forward

with great conviction by my beloved and venerable predecessor Pope John Paul II, the celebration of this Day of Peace has made it possible for the Church, over the course of the years, to present in these Messages an instructive body of teaching regarding this fundamental human good. In the light of these significant anniversaries, I invite every man and woman to have a more lively sense of belonging to the one human family, and to strive to make human coexistence increasingly reflect this conviction, which is essential for the establishment of true and lasting peace. I likewise invite believers to implore tirelessly from God the great gift of peace. Christians, for their part, know that they can trust in the intercession of Mary, who, as the Mother of the Son of God made flesh for the salvation of all humanity, is our common Mother.

To all my best wishes for a joyful New Year!

From the Vatican, 8 December 2007

Notes:

1 Declaration Nostra Aetate, 1; 2 Cf. Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, 48; 3 John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, 40: AAS 81 (1989), 469; 4 Ibid.; 5 Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, No. 211; 6 Second Vatican Council, Decree *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 11; 7 Art. 16/3; 8 Holy See, *Charter of the Rights of the Family*, 24 November 1983, Preamble, A. TYPIS VATICANIS

The Human Family, A Community Of Peace

(Continued from page 4)

in a fragmentary and not always consistent way, in international accords, in universally recognized forms of authority, in the principles of humanitarian law incorporated in the legislation of individual States or the statutes of international bodies. Mankind is not "lawless". All the same, there is an urgent need to persevere in dialogue about these issues and to encourage the legislation of individual States to converge towards a recognition of fundamental human rights. The growth of a global juridic culture depends, for that matter, on a constant commitment to strengthen the profound human content of international norms, lest they be reduced to mere procedures, easily subject to manipulation for selfish or ideological reasons.

Overcoming conflicts and disarmament

14. Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future. Vast areas of the world are caught up in situations of increasing tension, while the danger of an increase in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons causes well founded apprehension in every responsible person. Many civil wars are still being fought in Africa, even though a number of countries there have made progress on the road to freedom and democracy. The Middle East is still a theatre of conflict and violence, which also affects neighboring nations and regions and risks drawing them into the spiral of violence. On a broader scale, one must acknowledge with regret the growing number of States engaged in the arms race: even some developing nations allot a significant portion of their scant domestic product to the purchase of weapons. The responsibility for this baneful commerce is not limited: the countries of the industrially developed world profit immensely from the sale of arms, while the ruling oligarchies in many poor countries wish to reinforce their stronghold by acquiring ever more sophisticated weaponry. In difficult times such as these, it is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of nuclear arms. At a time when the process of nuclear non-proliferation is at a standstill, I feel bound to entreat those in authority to resume with greater determination negotiations for a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons. In renewing this appeal, I know that I am echoing the desire of all those concerned for the future of humanity.

15. Sixty years ago the United Nations Organization solemnly issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948-2008). With that document the human family reacted against the horrors of the Second World War by acknowledging its own unity,

Bishop praises New Jersey lawmakers for vote to abolish death penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Bishop John M. Smith of Trenton, N.J., said Dec. 14 he was pleased New Jersey legislators voted to abolish the death penalty, but said he would not have a "triumphalist attitude about it" because capital punishment is such a sensitive issue. Members of the General Assembly voted Dec. 13 to end the death penalty in their state, four days after the measure was approved by the state Senate. Gov. Jon Corzine signed it into law Dec. 17. In remarks at the state capitol, Corzine said the decision to abolish the death penalty in the state demonstrated that "New Jersey is truly evolving." He said a fundamental argument against the death penalty is for society to "determine if its endorsement of violence begets violence, and if violence undermines our commitment to the sanctity of life." The governor also issued an order to commute the sentences of the eight men on the state's death row to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He thanked advocacy groups, naming the New Jersey Catholic Conference and the American Civil Liberties Union among others, for their efforts "that put pressure on those of us in public service to stand up and do the right thing."

What Is Happening In The Diaconate Program?

Bill Bach, Deacon Candidate

The Diaconate program for the Diocese of Owensboro began in January, 2007 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville. The early months were devoted to getting to know each other, to ask questions, to spend time in prayer and reflection to continue the necessary discernment of a vocation to the diaconate. Those who are married, were strongly urged to bring their wives to every session so that they too could enter into discernment with their husbands, to learn and grow with them and ultimately to provide the support that would be needed. Bringing the wives into the training process would allow growth for both partners.

The fourth weekend of the month was chosen by Fr. John Thomas, Director of the Diaconate program. Initially the group met from 10 am until 12 noon. In August, the aspirancy portion of the training began with a retreat from 10 am to 4 pm led by Fr. Harry Hagan, O.S.B, from St. Meinrad. Subsequent sessions were provided by other excellent speakers from St. Meinrad, Atlanta, GA and Atchison, KS, all under the aegis of St. Meinrad Seminary. Beginning in May, 2008, class time will extend from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, and will continue until the ordinations in 2012.

This Diaconate program is a first for the Diocese of Owensboro. However, there are four deacons already serving in the Diocese having received their training elsewhere. They are Deacons Jack Cheasty, St. Michael the Archangel in Oak Grove; Robert Imel, St. Joseph in Bowling Green; John Kromer, St. Joseph in Leitchfield and St. John the Evangelist in Sunfish; and Joseph Ohnemus, St. Leo in Murray.

What are deacons? Deacons are men called to be servants to the Church. They are well described in 1 Timothy 2: 8-13. Deacons have been called 'Heralds of the Gospel.' So yes, they may proclaim the Gospel at Mass, may preach, and are ordinary ministers of the Eucharist. While deacons cannot celebrate Mass, deacons are fundamental to the Mass. Deacons may baptize, witness marriages (when there is no Mass) and can provide funeral services. They cannot give absolution or the sacrament of the sick, nor can they confirm. Many deacons function in parishes as DREs, RCIA directors, parish managers, have homebound ministries, and minister in prisons and in hospitals. Deacons provide whatever ministry the Bishop orders them to do. Deacons are answerable to the Bishop.

There is an extensive application form which requires the full support of each man's pastor and the parish council. An autobiography must be included and several statements made about each man's commitment to the program and to the Church. A complete physical and psychological exam must be submitted. For those who are married, their wives presence is so important. Deacons must have their support.

At this point, these men are only in the aspirancy portion of the program. It is a time for further discernment, for studying and learning, and for Fr. John and his team to determine if they truly have a vocation to the diaconate. Men are encouraged to discern their calls to the diaconate. The time commitment has already increased from 10 am to 4 pm every fourth Saturday, but in May, 2008, it will be extended from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. This will continue the fourth weekends of each month until ordination in 2012.

The course work will be heavy at times and will require much research, reading and preparation. Most of the men have jobs and will need the time to put into the diaconate studies. Assignments and papers are graded by the faculty. There is no degree offered, but there is ordination - hopefully for all in the spring of 2012.

St. Peter & Paul Church in Hopkinsville offers all of the men and their wives a very prayerful and spiritually enriching environment. The aspirants and their wives have been told that the parishioners are all praying for them. This and their hospitality is very impressive and meaningful. These men and women ask that the remainder of the Diocese of Owensboro will keep them in daily prayer too.

Already this is a blessing for the Church of Western Kentucky. Our Bishop is calling forth men in service in the Diaconal Order. Above all else, the deacon is called to serve the poor and the marginalized. God willing, our first class of deacons will be an example of humility and commitment to the people of our diocese.

What a Cursillo Weekend Meant to Me

By Jeff Rhinerson, Cursillistas from St. Pius X, Owensboro, KY

This weekend

helped me to be closer to Jesus Christ. I can listen to Jesus Chris beside me. I have faith in the men who attended this weekend with me. I had begun to hear God's voice inside of my heart and echo in my head and heart. I let the Holy Spirit in my heart. Cursillo has helped me to a closer relationship with God.



I put God at the center of my life. This weekend helped me to be closer to the other men who worked or attended the



Jeff with his sponsor, Charlotte Hedges.

weekend. I need to walk with Jesus. I have a friend and brother in Christ. I learned how to have faith and to be patient with Jesus. I was an unhappy person to Christ, and had to give up my own life to Him, let Jesus do everything in my life.

I could jump from the Ohio River Bridge. I could not have life without Jesus. I am not alone any more. Everyone at Cursillo cares about me and they can help me to become a better Christian. I can follow and serve Christ.

Cursillo has helped me to see Jesus beside me in life. I want to be focused on God and my good friend Jesus. I am so blessed to have Him bring me a smile and laughter. I can bring hugs to lots of people.

Jesus gave me two questions about my faith. 1) What is God calling me to do? 2) Which gift is God calling me to do? I can choose other people around me. I can develop a prayer life, devotion to Jesus, and have conversation with Jesus. I have a heart to believe in Jesus as the center of my life.

With Jesus Christ in the middle, here are six ways in which I can to be an example. 1) Be patient with Jesus. 2) Trust in Jesus. 3) Bring Jesus into my life. 4) Live with Jesus. 5) Walk with Jesus. 6) Pray with Jesus. If someone can think and listen to Christ, they can listen to other Christians in their life. I have friends who listen to me and share my life in Christ.

Immigration, Iraq War named top stories of 2007, pope top newsmaker



Pope Benedict XVI walks in procession at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Rome Dec. 16. The pope consecrated the

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The national debate over immigration issues was the top religious news story of 2007 and Pope Benedict XVI was the top newsmaker, according to the annual poll of client editors of Catholic News Service. Catholic response to the war in Iraq took second place among the 30 news stories on the ballot, while developments in the stem-cell field came in third. Pope Benedict dominated the newsmakers list, with 20 of the 24 first-place votes cast. U.S. President George W. Bush was a distant second, followed by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The poll was the 46th annual survey of CNS client newspapers. This year's ballots were distributed Dec. 4 and the deadline for returns was Dec. 13. When the editors' poll was first conducted in 1962, the overwhelming choice for top story was the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Last year, editors chose Islam's relations with church and society as the top religious story of the year and Pope Benedict as the top newsmaker.

new parish church. (CNS photo/Chris Helgren, Reuters) (Dec. 17, 2007)

Children Bring Spirit of Hope Through Christmas Program



Students at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville brought hope to their audience of more than 400 people with their representation of the night Christ was born. The program was held on Thursday, December 6 and ended with a representative from each class bringing a crown to the Newborn King. Pictured from left to right are 'Angel' Elisabeth Mauldin, 'King' Logan Hulsmeyer, 'King' Raphael Douglas, 'Shepherd' Brittany Kinnard, 'Mary' Rebecca Lee, 'Angel' Chris Milligan, 'Banner Bearer' Joshua Ell, 'Joseph' Jerome Soldo, 'Shepherd' Amanda Auld, 'King' Jon Lober, and 'Shepherd' Hayley Rideout. Photo taken by Diana Porter.

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - The students of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville brought hope to those who attended their annual Christmas program on Thursday evening, December 6, in the church sanctuary. Words such as "beautiful," "respectful," "reverent" and "incredible" filled the air coming from the more than 400 people who attended the "Glory to the Newborn King" program, which was created and directed by the school's music teacher Missy Craft.

"A parishioner who approached me after the program, was obviously filled with emotion, and said 'This gives me such hope,'" said Fr. John Thomas, pastor of Sts. Peter



Three animals took part in a Christmas program created and directed by Sts. Peter and Paul's music teacher Missy Craft. The owner of the three animals, Sherry Viall, works to calm her llama in the narthex before his time to enter the church. "He changed (when he entered the church)," said Viall. "He felt God's spirit in the church." Photo taken by Chris Kennedy.

and Paul. "And that is the entire point of the season of Advent."

The idea for the program, which represented the night Christ was born, came to Craft through prayer. "As I prayed about the program, the word crown kept coming to my mind," said Craft. "I somehow wanted to incorporate a crown or many crowns into the program. To me, a crown clearly says 'king,'" she added. To make crowns part of the program, Craft asked each class at the school to create and decorate their own crown. Then during the program, a representative from each class approached the altar where "Mary" and "Joseph" sat by the infant child "Jesus" and laid a crown at the foot of the crib.

"When those children starting coming forward with their crowns, that's when I started crying," said Jodi Romano, a parent who has two children attending the school.

The program began with the preschool, kindergarten and first grade children taking turns and singing two songs each. The actual "play" part of the performance was accompanied by the second through sixth grade children singing eight songs, and included narration from the Scriptures, to tell the story as seventh and eighth grade children played the parts.

After two opening songs ("Who Would Imagine a King" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem") and narration, the crowd grew quiet as an angel led "Mary," "Joseph" and their "donkey" (portrayed by a miniature horse) to the manger situated in front of the altar while the choir sang "Breath of Heaven." After speaking with the innkeeper, Mary and Joseph took their places on each side of the crib while the innkeeper escorted the "donkey" out of the

church.

Next the three shepherds, with a sheep, and their young assistant (the owner of the sheep) proceeded to the altar during "The First Noel." During the singing of "Silent Night," Mary and Joseph unveiled the baby Jesus in the crib. Immediately following "Silent Night," four dancers posing as angels danced their way up the center aisle to "Pat a Pan."

The grand finale began as the three kings proceeded up the aisle bearing their gifts following a gold star carried by another angel. A "servant" leading a llama, who was representing a camel, followed the kings. While the choir sang "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," the class representatives presented their crowns to the newborn king. The program concluded with the choir singing of "All is Well."

While the entire program was per-



Eight grader Jerome Soldo represented Joseph in a musical Christmas performance by Sts. Peter and Paul students on December 6 in Hopkinsville. Here Joseph approaches the Innkeeper with his 'donkey' (portrayed by a miniature horse). Photo taken by Diana Porter.

formed virtually without a mistake, similar to Jesus' own ministry, some controversy surrounded the program in the weeks leading up to the performance. Again through prayer, Craft came to realize that the program would be more realistic and meaningful if live animals were included. Based on that belief, she approached the school principal, Scott Marks, and Fr. Thomas for permission to include the animals. Both wholeheartedly supported her idea.

The owner of the animals, however, was less enthusiastic; at least in the beginning. "I'll be honest, I was one of the people who had an issue with having animals in the church," admitted Sherry Viall, owner of the llama, sheep and miniature horse used in the program. "But I prayed about it and decided God was telling me it would be OK."

Viall was not the only member of the

Continued on page 23



Are you hurting since your abortion?

Have you experienced depression, guilt, deep sorrow, emptiness, lowered-self esteem, anxiety, anger, difficulty with relationships, and more?

You are not alone.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat can help. This confidential weekend retreat facilitates spiritual, psychological, and emotional healing. Through the warm, caring, non-judgmental support of the team, retreatants will experience the peaceful healing love and mercy of God. Mothers, spouses, and others hurt by abortion are welcome to make the retreat.

The retreat will be held January 25 - 27, 2008.

For more information contact:

Colleen @ 270-776-6177 or www.hopeafterabortionky.com

Healing The Trauma of Abortion - one weekend at a time.

Aunt Eva and the Sea of S-I-N



Photo illustration of Galen A. Smith, Jr. and his Aunt Eva.

By Galen Smith, Jr

I've never been a family oriented person; I'm not particularly close to anyone besides my mother and father. I'm not sure if it's lack of interest, but I do know that I've always felt a bit out of place within the realm of my extended family. Most of my cousins, aunts and uncles are somewhat "southern," and tend to enjoy football, food, and exchanging stories about their factory work more than my interest of anything involving creativity and imagination. There was, however, one aunt in particular who had a little more edge than the rest: Aunt Eva.

Aunt Eva was a sturdy, yet

attractive woman who had worked at the post office most of her life and had a caring yet "ain't gonna take no crap from anyone" attitude. I used to spend a whole week at her house in Russellville during the summers of my childhood while my Mom worked. Aunt Eva never judged my appearance or interests nor the fact that our family were the only Catholics. She always treated me as if I were one of her own grandchildren. She always seemed healthy for a woman who had just a toe into her sixties. This held true however, until I started high school.

Aunt Eva came down with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, a disease in which

Children Bring Spirit of Hope *(Continued from page 22)*

parish concerned or even angered over the thought of animals in the church. Fr. Thomas countered such expressions with an explanation of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' entire earthly existence was intended to shock people out of their normal way of thinking. He was born in a stable; He healed on the Sabbath, and He ate with the tax collectors. His goal was to shake people up and get them to think differently. I wonder if He were here today, would some of us even notice him and the miracles He would perform because we might be too caught up in the way "I think things should be."

If Viall had any lingering doubts about allowing her animals to play a part in the controversy, those doubts quickly dissipated during the first rehearsal. After weeks of working with the sheep and the horse, she felt confident they would cause no difficulty during the program. She even built a stanchion for the sheep and practiced with her at home standing in it for 45 minutes at a time (the estimated length of the program). It was the llama that had her concerned. A llama can be a contrary animal in good situations; she just didn't know how he would react with all the people around.

While she waited in the narthex with "Pappy," the llama, to make their entrance during the first rehearsal, the llama was clearly nervous and not happy as was indicated by his ears laying down and his short jerky head motions. The moment he stepped into the sanctuary, however, he calmed immediately. "It was amazing," said Viall. "As soon as he walked through that door, he looked up and he just changed. I've never seen him look up. It was unbelievable. His ears came up and his tail came up and he was fine. It brought a tear to my eye to see him change like that. There's no doubt in my mind that he felt God's spirit in the church," Viall explained. The llama behaved exactly the same way during the second rehearsal and the program.

"That was exactly the type of miracle I was referring to," explained Fr. Thomas. "Those who refused to attend or were possibly here but upset about the animals most likely missed the miracle that occurred right before their eyes."

"I couldn't have been more proud or pleased of all the children and the animals," Craft commented after the performance. "I really wanted this program to show reverence and to glorify God. I think through the children and the animals, His will was done here tonight."

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2008 **23**

the brain cells gradually deteriorate, and she began losing her speaking ability and eventually could not even write. She could still think clearly; she just seemed to be losing control over any sort of communication.

Before her condition went from "bad to worse", my mother and I went to visit Eva at The Greenview Hospital. Aunt Eva lay peacefully enough in an upright position with a piece of paper in front of her which imitated a keyboard. When she wanted something, she'd point to several letters, eventually forming words and phrases. It was an arduous task, but it was the only way of letting us know what she was thinking.

Being the shy kid I've always been, I was a little taken aback by this new form of Eva. I was so used to her bombastic presence and strength, that it was a little too much to take in. Repressing any emotions I could've felt at the moment, I attempted to avoid this harsh dose of reality by watching the hospital TV. My mother sat with Eva by her hospital bed as they had what was to be one of their last "conversations." My mother told Aunt Eva how excited she was about my upcoming choir concert. Overzealously praising my singing abilities, she continued to remind her of how I've always pursued my musical ambitions. The conversation moved on and I stopped listening and returned to the television.

During the last 15 minutes of our stay, I joined Mom and Aunt Eva by the bedside to hint that I was ready to go. Aunt Eva stared at me boldly and began to point on her makeshift keyboard. My curiosity peaked as she began pointing out the letters slowly: S-I-N. Maybe Aunt Eva thought that I was progressing into decadence in my early adolescence? Even though she was Baptist, she knew I was baptized in the Church and had even sent gifts on the occasions of my First Communion and Confirmation. She also knew, however, that I had stopped going to Mass, much to Mom and Dad's chagrin.

Our confusion continued as she respelled S-I-N several more times, shaking her head, trying to speak. Becoming frustrated, I blew it off as some sort of Alzheimer's-like symptom related to her condition and was ready to leave. But as I was about to wash my hands of the whole ordeal, Aunt Eva made a small noise with her mouth and pointed once more. I looked down to the paper keyboard where she spelled, this time with ease, S-I-N-G. Aunt Eva wanted me to sing for her.

I overcame my coy attitude and decided to sing for what would be the second to last time I saw Aunt Eva. We had been rehearsing a German folk song from our upcoming musical at Bowling Green High, "I See a Lovely Linden Tree." Since it was still fresh in my mind, I stood up straight and began to sing, "I see a lovely linden tree, oh God, what does this mean? Since I have lost the one I love, since I have lost the one I love..." The words dug deep into the heaviness that had now settled into my chest. I had a big aching lump in my throat, but knew even though I wanted to, I would not cry now, maybe later. Gosh! I wondered if these words were as appropriate for her as they now seemed to me... for I was losing the one I loved, not a lover, but my sweet Aunt Eva.

We exchanged goodbyes and a month later Aunt Eva passed away. Mom and I were there at her bedside and it was a dreadful experience for me, just barely 16. Later I would be glad that I had been there as I would happily remember the sturdy southern woman who had always encouraged me to be whatever I wanted to be. For now all I could think of was that she was gone and I was sad, but proud that I had honored her last wish of me, just to simply sing. This image of her dying wish and my fulfillment of it will always be imprinted on my heart.

In the following months following her death, a few of us guys started a band. To this day I continue to sing for everyone ... including Aunt Eva. Every time I sing my rock songs, I still think of Aunt Eva, as she was reeling on her own personal sea, dealing with an illness she knew she would not overcome.

Although I am still just a "once in a while" attendee at Mass, I know that God loves us all, and I'll just bet that when I am there Aunt Eva approves and hears me as I pray, usually in my singing, to my encourager, my mentor, my "I don't judge you honey." Aunt Eva lives on today in photos and videos we had made, and I know we will meet again in Heaven, where she will be the Aunt Eva of my childhood all fresh and new and free of her illness. Won't that reunion be great?

Galen A. Smith, Jr. is a member of Sacred Heart parish in Russellville, Ky. and a junior majoring in art graphics and journalism at Western Ky University.

Happy 20 Year Anniversary

By Kathy Hancock Shelter Of Love!

MORGAFIELD, Ky. - I have been working at the Shelter of Love for approximately 18 years. I volunteered the first 5 years. I recall the day I was going to tell my director, Debby Higgs, that I would have to slow down on my volunteering because at the time I had a 2 year-old son and I had to pay a babysitter to keep him. My director asked me the very same day if I would go on the payroll and work 3 days a week. To me this was a great sign for me to stay at the Shelter and to continue this pro-life work. Now I am the client service director in charge of the clients at Support Group every Friday. Other responsibilities are the First Fruit Store which we keep stocked with items such as bottles, diapers, shampoo, personal items for mom, toothpaste, infant clothes, maternity clothes, etc. - anything for a mom or child. The store works as an incentive program.

We have helped so many ladies and babies throughout the 20 years. The clients are very needy and very appreciative for the material, spiritual, and emotional help that they get.

It is a very rewarding and fulfilling job. I feel I am helping Jesus help His people. He created us all and we are all made in His image. Some of my most wonderful heartfelt moments in conversations and when I felt close to the Lord have been with the Shelter of Love clients. They know how to tug at your heart strings and they know how to keep me in line. They help me to see that what matters the most is my faith in God.

We try our best to help them learn how much Jesus really loves them. How do we do this? We accept them as they are. When they come through the door, we greet them and try to find out what their needs are, treat them with kindness, and be a friend to them. But we also teach them and guide them to grow closer to God. This is done by helping them change lifestyles and be good Christian mothers.



Photos from Shelter of Love: at top, Clients at the Tenth Annual Baby Shower at the Shelter of Love, August 3, 2007; above, the door prize winner, Amanda Perkins and Kathy Hancock; above,

center photo: left center, Carleen McKinley, Executive Director of Shelter of Love, and Kathy Han-

cock, Client Services Director; at far right, the most beautiful baby in the whole wide world! Submitted photos

It is a very big and draining job. And sometimes we have very good help. We do need more help. Please pray for us. I also plan to walk in Washington D.C. Jan 22, 2008 for the March for Life. Please join me! For more information, call your local Right to Life chapter in your area.

Kathy Hancock is the Client Service Director of the Shelter of Love Pregnancy Care Center in Morganfield, Ky.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY HOSTS TRIP TO ITALY



*The experience of a lifetime.
December 16-26, 2008*

Join Fr. Larry Hostetter and other Brescia University friends as they explore and experience elements of Brescia's Ursuline heritage and Catholic foundation while visiting Brescia, Assisi, Florence and Rome, Italy. The trip features Midnight Mass at the Vatican. More information will be posted soon on our website, www.brescia.edu.



If you are interested in receiving more information, contact Karen Wells, Alumni Relations Director, at (270) 686-4265 or karen.wells@brescia.edu

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Father
Shaiju



St. Paul Parish, Princeton, Ky., celebrated Father Shaiju Thomas's 35th birthday on December 9, 2007, with a cake and potluck lunch after Sunday mass. Pictured left from right as Father prepares to blow out the candles are Mary Jane Igleheart, Kaylee McEnaney, Father Thomas, and Mike Wilkerson. Photo by George Barber

Blessed are the poor in Spirit ...

By Valerie Franklin

When I go to a Wal-mart and see a stack of blue tarps for sale, the ones my family uses to cover boats, 4-wheelers, and other toys, I stop and think of the people of Jamaica. Blue tarps have a completely different meaning for me now. Since my trip to Jamaica, I am thankful for drinking water running freely from a faucet; the red, orange, and yellow trees this fall seem brighter. Driving down nice paved roads through the hills of Kentucky, a scene of cattle grazing and a red barn are precious sights to behold. I love to do laundry now. It seems like such a simple task to throw the clothes in and touch a button.

On October 9th, 2007, eleven eager, excited, faithful, and perhaps clueless servants set out on a life-changing adventure. My name is Valerie Franklin and I was one of the lucky eleven who was blessed by being a part of a mission trip to our sister diocese in Mandeville, Jamaica. Only by the grace of God did we all get through customs without much hassle, because we were taking several pounds of medications, clothes, toys, and hygiene products to the people of Jamaica. The first miracle we witnessed was going through customs unchecked. People who think they have nothing to offer by going on a mission trip are missing out.

We worked at a convent the first two days, cleaning, painting, burning brush, and removing debris. We were all impressed with the delicate looking nuns out-working our men! During the course of the trip we visited the St. John Bosco Boys Home, where troubled boys are sent by the government, the home being their last chance before jail. The day that affected me the most was on Saturday, when our NASCAR-in-training driver "Ronnie," took us up and around the mountains to visit the residents. I don't think any of us will ever forget "Mr. Allen." Mr. Allen was a short man in his 80's living way up the mountain. After walking up a very steep hill, we finally arrived at Mr. Allen's home. I will never forget he pointed his finger to a blue tarp propped up by

Your own piece of Jamaican memories is waiting for you.

You have two opportunities to go in 2008. Mission Trip 8 is set for May 21-28, 2008, and Mission Trip 9 is scheduled for October 1-7, 2008. Cost for the trip runs about \$400 to \$600 for airfare, depending on the cost of aviation fuel, and demand for flights, \$300 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.



Front row is Don Page, Jim Scott, Jim Bumpous, and Jo "skip" Schippers, Second row is Valerie Franklin, Father David Kennedy, Belinda Thomas, Rae Derrington, Mary Bumpous, Tim Snyder, Meghan Payne, and our driver Rannie. The picture below is of the house we built, Jim Scott is on the ladder with Belinda Thomas standing next to Jim. Submitted Photos

2 sticks and simply said, "This is my house." Underneath the blue tarp lay a twin size, dirty mattress and a few clothes. Mr. Allen's possessions included a couple of pots where he boiled water on an open fire to cook noodles. Mr. Allen did not complain, did not seem bitter, but it seemed he was only existing. When we all gathered around him and prayed, I remember thinking, this is someone's grandfather and no human being should be living like this.

Throughout the day we visited several families living in the same conditions. We visited several homes measuring about 12 feet by 12 feet housing 5-9 people. The people have no running water, no bathing facility or bathroom and no electricity. We also visited a blind man who really affected me. He was living in a shack perched on the side of a mountain. He lives alone and when we arrived we found him sitting in the middle of a dingy mattress with a smile on his face. We all joined hands around him and he sang the most beautiful spiritual song my ears have ever heard. It was there in that moment that I could truly feel God's presence. There in that dark, stinky, fly-infested shack with a poor blind man, whose happy spirit was infectious, God was all encompassing.

Our trip also consisted of visiting the Mary Help of Christians Home for the aged and indigent, Hope Home for Children, and the Housing Ministry. We also built a 12 ft x 12 ft home for a Jamaican. The house, built



on a concrete block foundation, consisted of 4 wooden walls, a tin roof, and a small front porch. It was very exciting to build the house, even though "Skip" ended up cutting his knee on the tin roof and had to have staples put in later that night! But Skip was a good sport and let us all watch and marvel at his pain while Mary Danhauer stapled him up!

Even if you have never thought about a mission trip, I invite you to pray about it and think about it. And although, you will see some horrifying situations, I do believe your life will be enriched and you will soon find blessings and God's love in the smallest of things.

Continued on page 27

Priests Hear Why Catholics Must Be Involved in Informing State Legislators

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On November 20, 2007, Frankfort came to the Catholic Pastoral Center to speak to the Owensboro Presbyterate about issues within a consistent ethic of life and about lobbying state legislators. Huh? Mixing religion with politics? Risky business, isn't it, mixing preaching with lobbying a state legislature?

Not at all, insisted Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) Executive Director Ed Monahan. He told the priests, "We (Catholics) have the power to influence beyond what we know. It is about responsibility, not just about a particular election. We promote very practical ways for Catholics to influence Kentucky legislators with Catholics At The Capitol in February and with electronic e-mails to legislators."

Monahan told a story about what he heard now-retired Bishop Hughes of Covington say around the time he started to work for the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky. "Bishop Hughes was asked why are the Bishops interested in public policy issues? He answered 'because all those issues affect people.'" That explains why the church must be involved in helping Kentucky's legislators know good information about all the issues they vote on, especially the bills before them which affect the most vulnerable among us who may not have anyone to speak for them.

Rev. Patrick Delahanty, CCK's Associate Director, Rev Joseph Atcher, who represents the interests of Catholic Education with the CCK, Harry Borders, who leads the efforts of the Kentucky League for Educational Alternatives, and Michelle Herberger, who directs CCK's Opportunities For Life, each also spoke with the priests about their work. Other speakers before the priests of the diocese this day were Jim Mattingly, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, Representative Dwight Butler, and Senator David Boswell. The two legislators spoke about best methods for constituents to persuasively communicate with legislators. Both Mr. Boswell and Mr. Butler said that they have staff who get their e-mails and direct them on to their attention. That is a usual method and a good one, the legislators agreed, though they see hundreds, even thousands of these in a year's time, they said. Both preferred to get phone calls from people, or to speak face to face with people. "You get a truer sense," Mr. Boswell said, "of what the person is really thinking and asking when you can see and hear them personally up close." This is why Catholics At The Capitol is such a good activity for Catholics in Kentucky, said Rev. Pat Delehanty.

Besides outlining the goals and activities of each of the ministries of the CCK with Powerpoint presentations, the CCK staff encouraged the Catholic pastors in the room to find time and ways to inform their parishioners about Catholics At The Capitol in February, 2008. They asked pastors in the room who had made the trip to Frankfort for Catholics at the Capitol, Fr. Richard Meredith, Fr. John Vaughan, Fr. Ken Mikulcik, Fr. Ray Goetz, Fr. Marty Hayes, among others, to speak about what they did during those days and how the process of speaking to legislators was received by their parishioners. Fr. Vaughan said that he noticed most strongly how people found the will to speak to legislators as they "came together and found strength in numbers." Fr. Ray Goetz said that "it helps me to be more informed about the issues. I learned that a legislator who



Ed Monahan, Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, was among a group of speakers for the Nov. 20, 2007 Presbyteral Day at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Mr. Monahan urged pastors to encourage parishioners to be informed about issues with which the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky urge legislators to promote the common good for all Kentuckians. Staff Photo

says yes will vote for a bill. If he says no, or 'Boy, that sounds really good! This means he won't vote for it. These people do mean what they tell you." Fr. Richard Meredith said, "Christian pastors are one of the major missing links in the legislative process. People notice when we are there (at Catholics At The Capitol). Most of our legislators will meet with us." Fr. Ken Mikulcik said, "We come with a focus, we are in it for the long haul. We keep a concern (before the legislature) for non-public schools, for parochial schools, for pro-life issues, too."

Ed Monahan summed it up: "The power is in the constituents. We have more power than we imagine to influence votes."

For information about Catholics at the Capitol in 2008 and any of the other ministries with which the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky are involved as a conference, go online at <http://www.ccky.org> or just ask your pastor.

Women Invited To Experience Monastery Life

Single Catholic women, ages 18 to 40, who want to experience the Benedictine way of life are invited to attend a Benedictine Life Weekend January 4-6 at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana.

The weekend will focus on the theme "Stability: Commitment to a Particular People and Place." Participants will have the opportunity to experience the rhythm of the monastic schedule, pray with the sisters, and participate in community life, as well as meet other women who are considering religious life.

There is no charge for the program, which runs from 7 p.m. EST Friday to 1 p.m. Sunday. Women wishing to register or obtain more information can call Sister Agnes Marie Dauby or Sister Michelle Catherine Sinkhorn at 1-800-738-9999 or e-mail them at vocation@thedome.org.

Registration is also available online at www.thedome.org, where there is more information about the vocation program of the Ferdinand Benedictines.

Founded in 1867, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are 178 religious women who minister in schools, parishes, church institutions, health care facilities, retreat centers, and social service agencies. They currently serve in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Maryland, Italy, and Peru.

Many Gifts, One Spirit: Catholics @The Capitol 2008

**February 11 & 12, 2008 at Good Shepherd Parish
1050 Leestown Road, Frankfort, KY**

Join Catholics from across the state for a 2-day legislative education and advocacy conference. Our faith calls us to be Faithful Citizens actively engaged in shaping a society that respects human life and seeks and promotes the Common Good.

If staying overnight, call Best Western Parkside Inn NO LATER THAN JAN. 15, 2008 at 502-695-6111 to reserve a room at the special rate of \$70.00 plus tax (1-4 Persons). Be sure to mention Catholics @ The Capitol to receive this special rate. Registration Fee: \$40.00 per person — includes evening banquet and breakfast.

For Information about registration contact Karen Chambers at 502-875-4345 or e-mail cckstaff@ccky.org. You can register at www.ccky.org; mail your \$40 registration fee to The Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort, Ky 40501

Ursuline Way of Life Weekend

Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, speaking at left, addresses young women and other sisters during a two-day Ursuline Way of Life weekend at Mount Saint Joseph Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Vocation Director Sister Alicia Coomes, far right, hosted the weekend, which was designed to introduce young women to the aspects of living a consecrated life and the traditions of the Mount Saint Joseph congregation. Four young women were in attendance. MSJ Photo

Blessed are the poor in Spirit ...

(Continued from page 25)

Since we returned home, I find myself saying short prayers thanking God when I walk to the post office from work, thanking him for sidewalks and speed limits, and actual painted lanes on our highway. One day shortly after returning home, I was driving on Hwy. 293 on my way to Princeton, and I had just had one of those moments where it just hit me how thankful I was for painted stripes on our roadways separating the lanes, 2 miles later, my 60 mph pace abruptly ended, I was behind the dreaded paint truck. You know the one that pokes along 5 mph, spraying paint on the road, where passing is not even an option. God has a sense of humor sometimes!

Another very important lesson I learned is one of mission work. While growing up, I always wanted to join the Peace Corps, but honestly never had the guts. I now know that being a "missionary" does not have to be as dramatic as spending 27 months of your life in some place no one has ever heard of. Mission work is all around us, right here in Western Kentucky, 24 hours a day. I also have a deeper appreciation for those lives called by vocation.

Although the people of Jamaica seem to be in a very sad situation to us, it seemed as though their spirit was one of faithfulness and happiness. I wonder sometimes that with all we have here in the United States and only being separated by a body of water from Jamaica which one of us is really poor?

... For theirs is the kingdom in Heaven.



Congratulations for your hard work!

Students of the month for November that met the following criteria: helpfulness to fellow students, readiness to work, mass participation, leadership. Kindergarten: Jacey Fulkerson; 1st grade: Savannah Aull; 2nd grade: Olivia Millay; 3rd grade: Kameron Lanham; 4th grade: Emily Estes; 5th grade: Cole Payne; 6th grade: Haylee Evans; 7th grade: Dalton Payne; 8th grade: Sophie Henderson. These students were treated with lunch with our principal, Mike Clark, followed by an ice cream sundae! MCS Photo



Jo "Skip" Schippers at the orphanage; Jim Bumpous is in the back. Submitted photo

World Youth Day Local Celebration, Diocese of Owensboro

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

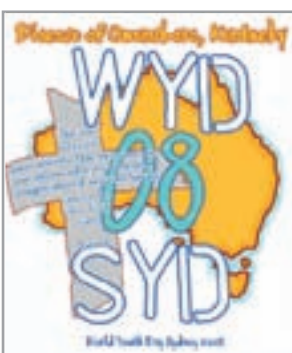
Tentative Itinerary

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

For High School Youth through Young Adult. Come check out our new diocesan camp and retreat center!!

This event will be in the spirit of an authentic World Youth Day vigil experience. It will be simple with everyone camping out on the ground in front of the large stage.

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



Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body: presented and explained by Mr. Christopher West

On Saturday, January 12, and again on Saturday, April 26, 2008, Fr. Richard Meredith will present Mr. Christopher West's video, "Introduction to the Theology of the Body" at St. Pius X Parish, 3814 US 60 East, Owensboro, KY. The program will run from 9:00am-3:00pm. Lunch will be served. Cost: \$12.50 for an individual or \$20 for a couple, covering workbooks and lunch. Call 270-684-4745 to register. Other books by Mr. West, Theology of the Body for Beginners, and Good News about Sex and Marriage) will also be available for purchase at cost (\$12 each).

The Diocese of Owensboro will host Christopher West himself this coming September 19-20, 2008, at Brescia University. On Friday, September 19th, he will give a morning and afternoon presentation to the priests of the diocese. Friday evening and the following Saturday morning and afternoon, he will present Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body in a program entitled "Created and Redeemed." All are invited, especially young adults, parents, married and engaged couples, catechists, Catholic school teachers, pastoral ministers, and those interested in the culture of life and the pursuit of virtue. Further information will be published in the Western Kentucky Catholic.

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

ITINERARY

- Sunday, Jan. 20 – Buses depart from Owensboro -- 5:00 am (Central Time) – Contact, Dana Goodlett (270) 685-4922
Owensboro bus comes to Louisville at 8:00 am Eastern Time)
8:00 pm – Buses arrive at Holiday Inn Arlington (full-service hotel with restaurant), 4610 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 Phone: (703) 243-9800
- Monday, Jan. 21 – Tour George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. Those not wishing to tour this facility and would rather go into DC, can do that.
- Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 8:00 am – Congressional Breakfast, Rayburn Building, rooms B338, B339, B340; 12 noon – March for Life Rally
- Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 3:00 pm – Buses depart for Kentucky
- Wednesday, Jan. 23 – 6:00 am -- Buses arrive in Kentucky
- PRICE: Based on 40 persons per bus. Includes: round trip on Toby Tour bus; 2 nights accommodations at Holiday Inn Arlington; KRLA Congressional Breakfast; buffet breakfast on Monday, Jan. 21 at Holiday Inn. Also includes \$11 for trip to Mount Vernon. Owensboro -- 4/rm – \$205.50; 3/rm – \$225.66; 2/rm – \$266.00; 1/rm – \$387.00

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

Christmas Food Basket Drive

St. Paul parishioners Dan Farmer, George Barber, and Bob Hayes along with Mary Deering (taking the photo) prepare to put turkeys in the food baskets to be delivered to families in the Princeton community. Food was collected and distributed to ten families. Submitted by George Barber



Body Language:

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West

Can Science Explain Morality?

Time magazine recently printed an article by Jeffery Kluger called "What Makes Us Moral" (see Dec. 3 issue). The tagline reads: "Morality and empathy are writ deep in our genes. Alas, so are savagery and bloodlust. Science is now learning what makes us both noble and terrible – and perhaps what can make us better."

Kluger had several very interesting things to say, and I commend this secular magazine for venturing into a discussion about morality. The whole approach of the article, however, betrays two interrelated diseases plaguing the modern view of man and the universe: materialism and positivism. Both views ultimately leave us with a terribly impoverished view of ourselves and the universe. Let me explain.

Materialism is the idea that everything can be explained by material processes. There is no such thing as the spiritual realm. Rather than being an integral union of body and soul, the materialist sees the human being as merely a physical body like all the other animals of the planet. Both empathy and savagery are merely the result of our genes, as Kluger says. Love, rather than being something spiritual, is just an electrical firing of brain waves.

The fact that scientists can link brain waves with various emotions does not mean that things like love and anger are merely brain waves. If one has an integral view of the body and the soul, one would expect spiritual realities to have physical manifestations. When the materialist says, "See those brain waves? There's nothing spiritual going on here," an educated Catholic might say, "See those brain waves? That demonstrates the inherent link of the body and the soul."

As I once wrote in a previous column, so often behind the modern push to equate human beings with animals lies the subtle or not-so-subtle agenda of moral relativism, the rejection of a moral order to which all are accountable. And so often behind the agenda of moral relativism lies the desire to indulge libido without any restraint – that is, the desire to behave like animals when it comes to sex.

The strange thing about Kluger's article is that he acknowledges some kind of moral order, that good and bad exist (although any application to sex is copiously absent from his discussion), but he's looking to explain it materialistically. As such, his search is doomed from the start. Morality is rooted in the spiritual dimension of the human being. Ultimately, it can only be explained philosophically and theologically. But if one is a true materialist, those sources of knowledge are dismissed out of hand. The positive sciences are the only way to know anything. Hence, if one is a materialist, he will also be a positivist.

Positivism (or scientism) is the idea that the positive sciences are able – or, at least, will eventually be able – to explain everything. "Where do [moral] intuitions come from?" Kluger asks. "And why are we so inconsistent about following where they lead us?" Kluger admits, "Scientists can't yet answer those questions. . . ." That little word "yet" betrays the modern world's unbounded faith in Almighty Science.

Science, without a doubt, can tell us and has told us a great deal about the human being inasmuch as he is a body. Thank God for all the wonderful benefits that come from that knowledge! But there is something more to each human being – an inner life, something spiritual – that isn't contained in the concept "individual member of the species homo sapiens." That "something more" is a realm that science, by its very nature, cannot explain.

It's because of our inner life that we experience wonder, recognize beauty, yearn for love, search for meaning, desire knowledge, and seek understanding. It's because of our inner life that we long for truth and goodness and are pained by evil and injustice. In other words, if Kluger really wants to know "what makes us moral" he's going to have to have faith in more than just science.

In Your Charity Pray For The Repose of the Soul of Mary Fedler, SCN



NAZARETH, Ky. - Mary Fedler, SCN, formerly Sister Charles Louise Fedler, 97, died at Nazareth Home, Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 30, 2007. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 78 years.

Sister Mary served in the apostolate of elementary education, both as teacher and principal in Kentucky, Ohio and Maryland. In the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister taught at St. Mary Academy from 1931-32, and at Fancy Farm Grade School from 1932-45.

After retiring from the classroom, Sister Mary remained active and tutored in the Adult Literacy Program in Louisville, Ky., from 1984-88. When she moved to the Motherhouse in 1992, Sister performed Volunteer Ministry at Nazareth Montessori Children's Center from 1992-94. Sister Mary became a resident

at Nazareth Home/Maria Hall in December 2002.

Survivors include one sister, Loretta Sauer of Louisville, as well as several nieces and nephews, and her Sisters in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Visitation was held at Nazareth Home, Louisville on Monday, December 3, 2007, followed by the funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. The body arrived at St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 3, followed by a short prayer service and burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.



Women of Grace Foundational Study

Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life.

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - During this study series we learned more about our Catholic faith and discovered how as women we can embrace our gift of authentic femininity in order to fulfill our call and mission in the world today. The following women participated in the Women of Grace Study Group on Sept. 6, 2007 through Nov. 15, 2007 at St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville: Back Row---Gerry Taylor, Carrie Howard, Lori Mattingly, Janice Clark, Debbie Hagan, Sandy Mills, Sandra Thompson, Veda Mattingly, Janie Gayhart. Middle Row---Tammy Hamilton, Whitney Hagan, Sandy Merritt, Peggy Clark, Janetta Booker, Majella Mills, Linda Payne, Debi Hopkins. Front Row---Deanna Isbill, Cindy Mattingly, Lillie Mae Hagan, Mary Linda Kreisle, Mary Bess Boarman, Darlene Mills. Not pictured---Marilyn Beyke. Women from five different parishes attended this group, St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville, St. John's, Fordsville, Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, Immaculate Parish, Owensboro, St. Rupert's, IN. Submitted by Majella Mills

In Your Charity Pray For The Repose of the Soul of Sherman Noble

Kentucky State Penitentiary Death Row inmate Sherman Noble, 54, died Oct. 1 of illness, before the state could execute him.

Noble, a Vietnam veteran and Louisville native, had been on Death Row for two years after being convicted for the 1987 murders of two Jefferson County men. He was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a third man.

Noble personified all that is wrong with the death penalty. and the mentally ill. Noble was charged 20 years ago with beating three men to death within a week. Noble confessed to the slayings after police said he had some of the victims' possessions.

He was charged with the murder and robbery of Walker Ison, Charles Thompson, and Lorenzo Harris. Because of the mental illness, however, he was found incompetent to stand trial the following year and spent almost a decade in mental institutions.

He was tried on the charges in 2004 and allowed to defend himself in court, even questioning witnesses and making opening statements.

He received a death sentence for Thompson and Harris' murders and a life sentence for Ison's murder.

Source: *Abolition Now*, November, 2007, newsletter of Kentucky Coalition To Abolish The Death Penalty.

December 13, 2007 Letter From Father Pat

"On behalf of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, I want to express our satisfaction with the vote in New Jersey to Abolish the Death Penalty, knowing the Governor will sign the bill. This historic vote continues a trend in this nation against the use of the death penalty. Concerns about killing the innocent, the costs associated with the use of the death penalty, and the false promise it holds out for closure for surviving family members and friends brought about its end in New Jersey. This is only the beginning of a renewed effort in many states to abolish it and we will certainly be continuing the effort in Kentucky to do so. Reps. Tom Burch, David Floyd, Jim Wayne, Senator Gerald Neal and others have already shown great leadership on this issue in the past. We count on them to do so in the future when they will find others to join them in ending the use of a penalty that is immoral and unjust."

- Rev. Pat Delahanty, Chair, KCADP, [delahantyp@bellsouth.net]

Annual Commemorative Mass

January 22, 2008

12:00 Noon

St. Stephen Cathedral

Join Bishop John McRaith as we mark the 35th year since the US Supreme Court decision took away all legal protection for the life of the unborn child. All are invited to remember these children as we pray for their mothers, fathers, families, and for our nation.

- Gospel of Life Committee,
Diocese of Owensboro

Prayer To Christ Unborn

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



He Is A Winner Because He Gets Involved in Mankind

By Mel Howard

John Donne wrote " ... No man is an island, entire of itself ... because I am involved in mankind ..." John Donne, *Meditation XVII*.

On Nov. 13, 2007 in the Riverpark Center, the City of Owensboro inducted into the Youth Hall of Fame three Catholic School students and a public school student: Michael Thompson of Trinity High School, Michelle Baird of Owensboro High School, Matthew Franey of Owensboro Catholic Middle School, and Ben Helms of OCHS. The awards recognize and celebrate the contributions of outstanding Owensboro-Daviess County youth. Local businesses sponsor the awards. Later, on Dec 5, 2007, Owensboro's mayor Tom Watson presented the Mayor's Award of Distinction to the 2007 Youth Hall of Fame inductees,

It had been a good month for Catholic School students in Owensboro. One, Ben Helms, a junior at Owensboro Catholic High School, won the city's awards for displaying compassion. One may ask what is so special about one young guy having compassion, and why give him awards for it?

In an interview at Owensboro Catholic High School Dec. 4, 2007, OCHS junior, Ben Helms, said, "My Dad died when I was eight. I tried to find a positive in it. Up to my seventh grade, there was no real world thing I could do with my experience. It was in this time that I realized that I could help others through their own strenuous times, that I could just be there to help relieve that stress and anxiety they feel."

In the interview, Ben wasn't very keen about listing all the activities he has gotten himself into for the good of the community. He didn't much like being singled out as an award winner. But he did speak about his involvement in his friends' lives. "People who know me know that they can approach me and just talk or hang out. I find it helps me to be there for someone else. I see someone in the halls at school who looks down, I'll go over to where they are, hang out a while. We usually just talk; I spend a whole lot more time listening than talking. People need to say what's going on for them."

This leading by example Ben was talking about was one of the main qualities the Owensboro Youth Council looked for when finding nominees for its Hall of Fame. Mrs. Angel Freels, Youth Supervisor, Owensboro Parks and Recreation, said that "to be accessible, to encourage other youth in the community, to listen to requests and to make a difference in the lives of others with the Four Cs: (Courage (Matthew Franey) compassion (Ben Helms), Character (Michael Thompson), and Community Service (Michelle Baird)) are the basis of the Hall of Fame Awards. The qualities which the Youth Council looks for to give its award for Compassion are: someone who consistently shows interest, sensitivity, and caring for people's problems and needs; also, someone who regularly extends him or herself to help meet these needs through active service and involvement.

Let's tell only one story about Ben. On November 1-2, Ben traveled to Louisville with his fellow OCHS SCRUBS group, they thought, to attend a convention with OCHS sponsors Kathryn Crowe, R.N. and Bev Howard, OCHS counselor. When they got there, they found they were at an award dinner for the Champions/ASAP annual conference. It was cool and all, youth were getting awards; wouldn't it be nice to hear our name called? Suddenly they called out the name of the SCRUBS group from Owensboro as the 2007 YES! Group of the Year! Huh? Us? The SCRUBS looked at each other, surprised and confused. Ben got up with the other four OCHS students, found his way



Owensboro Catholic High School recognizes many people publicly with a message on its Parish Avenue marquee. This photo of Ben Helms was taken Dec. 5 by Bev Howard, OCHS SCRUBS co-sponsor.

to the podium and accepted the award for his school. It was a "Kodak Moment."

The group came home on Friday afternoon as school let out; some had sports events they had to make, others went to work. The next day, Ben Helms got up about 5:30 a.m. to go to the Owensboro Sportscenter to help with the Junior League's annual Rummage Sale to benefit people in need. Ben carried people's purchases to their cars and helped keep the rummage sale tables neat and ready, a lot of labor. At the end of the sale, Owensboro Parks Dept. Youth Director Angel Freels, one of the sale's sponsors, found herself looking at piles of clothes and shoes and household goods that needed to be disposed of. Ben saw it, too.

"I just could not see throwing all that good stuff into the dumpster," he said. "I suggested that we get it to places in the city who could give it to people in need." There were only three to do the work: Mrs. Freels, Ben Helms and Hannah Ison. They couldn't take it all to one place, so they loaded Ben's truck and trailer three times and took the donated items to the Bouleware Center, to Goodwill, to the Baptist Center, and to the Mary Kendall Home. They finished about 4:30 p.m., a tiring day, but "It was OK," Ben said, "the clothes and stuff got to the people who could really use them."

The WKC asked Ben what he thought of in the word, "Compassion." He said, "Well, you just feel what someone else feels, and you act on it. Sit with, listen, talk, not ignore someone, do the little things that can change someone's view of life in that moment. It takes having a stressful time in life to be sensitized to somebody else's pain."

Ben Helms said for a youth to be compassionate you have to take on someone else's stress and put it on yourself a while. "It is a privilege to help friends. All I really try to do is what my Dad and Mom taught me and my big brother: be nice to people, care about them. Put community involvement over my own activities."

So, we see that Ben Helms' name may be on the Owensboro 2007 Youth Hall of Fame Award for Compassion, but the award really goes to all the family, school, and community people who opened Ben Helms up to the possibility of being a compassionate man in the first place.



This photo was taken after attending a leadership training by Derek Peterson. This is only a small number of the Catholic High SCRUBS group who were selected because they are leaders or show good signs of leadership waiting to be developed. They are as follows: Jarrod Reynolds, Ryan Knott, Elizabeth Fenwick, Kelsey Cash, Emily McCarty, Hadley Clark, Kaley Robertson, Jenna McCarty, Kevin Buntin, Kathryn Dueker, Kate McNulty, Jenna Riney, Susie Solarza, Zach Smith, Lauren Hayden, Trent Ackerman. Ben Helms stands at right front; this photo shows that a compassionate person cannot be very compassionate for long without a community supporting him. Photo by Bev Howard, OCHS SCRUBS co-sponsor

Our Partnership with the Mandeville Diocese and the Upcoming Ash Wednesday Collection on February 6, 2008

By Sister Naomi Rosenberger, OSB Sister Connie Ostrander, OSB
Development Coordinators of the Diocese of Mandeville

Pope Benedict, today and every day calls us to conversion of heart.

For us, a conversion of heart means to open our hearts to the developing countries and to the many missions who cannot support themselves. Some parishes receive as little as \$8.00 US from their poor people, as a sacrificial offering. Your great giving gives two testimonies, one to a great Bishop, John McRaith, who urges you to give consciously to the poor, and to each of you who gives so very generously to help the 30 parishes of the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica.

In so doing YOU...

- + Help with building and repair costs
- + Assist our Diocesan Center to help with our parishes
- + Build Houses for the poor
- + Provide Food for the poor
- + Provide for transportation of our missionaries
- + Give Medical help to the poor
- + Evangelize
- + Assist our many schools and churches
- + Help to educate priests
- + Assist our many religious and lay people, helping our people
- + Help with our Mother Teresa Home for the Aged, with abandoned, sick, poor, elderly
- + Care for Children in our two Homes for Children

Recently we had an explosion and a fire in our distribution center. Everything stored there was lost and the roof was badly damaged. This will be a huge expense, but we will repair it so we can help our people. Fortunately, the offices were not damaged and no lives were lost.

Ash Wednesday is a most fitting day to remember the partnering relationship between the Diocese of Owensboro and the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. This Season of Lent reminds us to put on the mind of Christ, to walk in humility and steadfast love. Through your outreach to the People of God in Jamaica, whom you support through your special collection on this day, you demonstrate that the Spirit of Lent is truly embedded deeply within each person who engages and supports this outreach. You have truly fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the homeless, built shelters for those without a home, and comforted the afflicted. Words will never adequately describe how your generous support and sacrifice translate into compassion and understanding.

Many of you have come to Jamaica, in the Global Solidarity Groups, and brought the spirit of your diocese and the presence of Christ through your presence of kindness and friendship.

Your monetary support is valued and appreciated. Your dedication, sacrifice, and generosity are treasures that can be counted, only by the God of Love. We share an incredible unity...we only wish you could see the faces of the poor, the beauty of the Jamaican people, and the hearts of the missionaries, inspired to go forward because of the help of Owensboro's commitment. Let us journey together during this Sacred Season of Lent, mindful that the bonds of love and friendship are the greatest gifts we share. To you, our brothers and sisters in the heartland of America, we send a renewed friendship filled with abundant hope and love. We live in hope, we experience love, because you accompany us on the journey to the Father, Son and Spirit.

May you be constantly aware and value this relationship between our two dioceses, the Diocese of Owensboro and the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica! May God bless you abundantly for your continued generosity and sacrifices on our behalf. May you receive the blessing of a converted heart in whatever area of your life that special blessing is needed. Please receive our prayer for you, for an enlivened spirit by the Spirit of Love.



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Bridge to Health

Health Ministry of Catholic Charities

By Sister Jacinta Powers, O,S,U.

As 2008 rolls out, pause with me to take a few minutes to share some thoughts on the theme of "resolutions" which always incorporates an element or two of change. However, before speaking of "change," which usually either strikes our "groan" button or moves our

heart to beat a bit faster with excitement, I wish to reflect on our Christian call and, even more intensely, our identity as baptized people.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians we hear, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" Hmm... I am a Temple of the Holy Spirit? I mean: I AM THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!! This is time to pause, ponder and think of that possibility. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches (#1265): "Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte... a temple of the Holy Spirit." Scripture and the Catechism both tell us that we are holding the Holy Spirit within us. Pause, ponder the possibilities of this reality: this body, mind, spirit of mine is more than just mine.

The start of a new year can be a great time to make an intentional resolution to improve this "Temple of the Holy Spirit" we are stewarding while on this earth. The following are some suggestions for making a successful change in the stewarding efforts of the "Temple" each of us have been given: Spend at least five uninterrupted minutes reflecting on the awesome reality: I am the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

1. Ponder why you wish to change. Remember that the Holy Spirit is truly residing within, thus certainly causing one to pause and pray.
2. Make the decision to change something in order to improve the "temple." Many times it is important to begin with a small matter. Remember, little is much when God is in it.
3. Share your decision with someone who also wishes to improve the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This sharing takes on the elements of support, challenge and rejoicing.
4. Have the foresight to know that obstacles may come and thus set-backs will be part of the reality of life. Prepare to not be discouraged if this happens
5. Evaluate the change you wish to occur, on a regular basis with your support person.
6. Have fun! Remember, the joy of the Lord is our strength! And it takes divine strength to make some of the changes needed to better the "Temple of the Holy Spirit."

If I was reading a paper on "resolutions" centering on the concept of improving my Temple of the Holy Spirit, I would want some possible suggestions to get started. The following are but a few:

- Attempt the usual: increase exercise, decrease (or stop) smoking, increase proper nutrition, decrease...
- Make a new resolution for a month's period of time. Short-term goals make success easier and more areas of the Temple better.
- Spend time with spouse, children, neighbor, or self.
- Increase the time of reading.
- Teach a child to play the card game.
- Increase time to pray.

The list could go on, but the energy is moving within you to make a resolution concerning the Guest in your temple. May you be blessed as the New Year begins. Saint Teresa of Avila says it best in her prayer written centuries ago:

Lord Christ,

You have no body on earth but ours,

No hands but ours,

No feet but ours.

**Ours are the eyes through which
your compassion**

Must look out on the world.

**Ours are the feet by which
you may still**

Go about doing good.

Ours are the hands with which

You bless people now.

**Bless our minds and bodies,
That we may be a blessing to
others. AMEN.**

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

FRANKFORT, Ky. - On Nov. 14, 2007, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops overwhelmingly approved a statement called Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States (formerly known as Faithful Citizenship) as well as a summary document, entitled "The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." The statement urges Catholics to be involved in public life and to use the values of their faith to shape their political choices. Both these documents, as well as other materials, are available on the CCK web page at www.ccky.org.

The Catholic Conference offers an easy, almost effortless, means for Catholics to be involved in public life and use the values of their faith to shape public policy. Our Faithful Citizen Advocacy network already numbers more than 1,000 Kentucky Catholics who want to have a Gospel impact on policies that touch on human life and dignity.

Legislators from both parties recently spoke to a group of priests in Owensboro about how much they appreciate being approached by those who want to promote the common good, who do so in a clear, but civil, manner that is not partisan and who communicate in a principled, but not ideological, way. (*See this story in the January, 2008 Western Kentucky Catholic, page 26.*)

Join fellow Catholics and sign up now to become a Catholic Conference Faithful Citizen Advocate. While visiting the website, you can also register for Catholics @ the Capitol, February 11 and 12, 2008.

Source: *Catholic Conference of Kentucky Witness, Winter, 2007, page 3.*

Issued by USCCB, November 14, 2007, Bulletin Insert

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

This brief document is a summary of the United States bishops' reflection Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship (www.faithfulcitizenship.org). It complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We are a nation at war, with all of its human costs; a country often divided by race and ethnicity; a nation of immigrants struggling with immigration. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty; part of a global community confronting terrorism and facing urgent threats to our environment; a culture built on families, where some now question the value of marriage and family life. We pride ourselves on supporting human rights, but we fail even to protect the fundamental right to life, especially for unborn children.

We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

WHY DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ISSUES AFFECTING PUBLIC POLICY?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity that we also understand through human reason. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). According to Pope Benedict XVI, "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity'" (Deus Caritas Est, no. 29).

The United States Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to participate and speak out without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning our central moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

WHO IN THE CHURCH SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL LIFE?

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candi-

dates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good.

HOW DOES THE CHURCH HELP CATHOLICS TO ADDRESS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips her members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. A good end does not justify an immoral means. At times Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build through moral means a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed. Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on human embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed. Other assaults on human life and dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Disrespect for any human life diminishes respect for all human life.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support. 1

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil and doing good are essential. As Pope John Paul II said, "the fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment" (Veritatis Splendor, no. 52). The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war, and unjust immigration policies are some of the serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

Difficult political decisions require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. "Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good" (Catholics in Political Life, 2004). When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see *Evangelium Vitae*,

Continued on page 41

Comfort & Hope... a message about grief

By Jeannie Boone



It's now 2008 and while most of you are packing away the Christmas I'm just now planning our family Christmas gathering, and still singing carols.

The official celebration became more stressful and hard to plan as each child left home, started a family, and took on obligations. Their spouses, just like us, had long-standing family rituals and traditions that they wanted to honor. The arguments about where to be on a certain date, or the hassle of leaving one family event early to rush to another, the pressure of trying to please became more vocal and contentious as the extended family grew. Each of mine insisted that we must be together for our celebration while others insisted that their traditions be kept, and all the while these budding new families were gradually shaping their own unique family rituals----- there just was no way to get everyone together for Christmas at Mom's. The more I heard and saw the sadder I became at their behavior; I heard little about the miracle of His birth, nor the implications of it in their world. There certainly didn't seem to be any tidings of comfort and joy swirling near my bunch! Add to that the grief of missing loved ones and bittersweet memories of past Christmas celebrations with them.

In the beginning there was a great cry of dissent when I announced that my Christmas gathering would be in January. It wasn't right, they said. It wasn't to be a real Christmas, they said. Pointing out that we really don't know the exact date of His birth, that the real evolves from what you carry in your heart and soul, we proceeded to have one of the sweetest and most meaningful celebrations we had observed in a long while. There was no rush and hurry to be somewhere else. The house was full to brimming with my children, in-laws, and grandchildren. And adding to the joy of that day were several children, all grown up, who have called me Mom for many years.

That was 10 years ago and it grows sweeter each year. Most importantly, I think, is the understanding we all took from this experience: that families can mold and adapt, keep and rearrange, discard, renew, or renegotiate most of life's choices as situations change. The essential element we must remember, that we must not cast aside or neglect, no matter the circumstance, is Christ.

Where there is Christ there will be love and from that flows peace, and we can handle whatever comes our way. We can, and should, celebrate Christmas every day of the year.

We are people of God who live in a blessed and free country. We cannot control many events in our life, even though we try so hard. Sorrow and sickness and suffering come to each of us, in greater measure to some, and we can't help but cry and question the why. But if we can remember... if we try... we can make every day a celebration of who we are, and what we have, by the grace of God.

I have gifts to wrap, so I'll leave you with a prayer that 2008 brings peace, comfort, and hope to your life... And that you spread it. Email: kyboones2@hotmail.com

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Contemporary Woman Program

Announces Programs for 2008

Brescia University's Contemporary Woman Program, directed by Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rose Marita O'Bryan, enters its 45th year with a variety of programs for the winter and spring semester. The brochure lists new and continuing programs available to both women and men:

- **Women Doctors of the Church**, exploring the life and writings of the three women doctors of the Catholic Church, is presented on six Wednesday evenings in March and April from 6:30-7:30.
 - **Powers of the Universe**, using the video series by cosmologist Brian Swimme, leads participants on a journey into the powers that have been active since the beginning of time. Participants meet Wednesday mornings, 10-11:30, January through April.
 - **The Canticle Group**, dialoging around issues of spirituality, peace, and justice, meets on Friday mornings from 10 till noon, beginning January 18.
 - **The Partnership Group**, in its 19th year, gathers to study and discuss *The Divine Matrix*, a book by Gregg Braden, on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., beginning January 9.
 - **Soul Gardening with Thomas Merton**, a special opportunity for four Tuesday mornings in April from 10:30-11:30, consists of guided reflections on the life and writings of Thomas Merton, journaling, and silence.
 - **The Marys in the New Testament**, a series of six Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30, beginning on January 22, invites participants to open up the Scriptures and look at the Marys in the New Testament.
 - **Transformation of Desire**, using as the primary text *The Transformation of Desire* by Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC, allows participants to explore the ways in which desire has become corrupted, and the ways in which intuitive wisdom can be reclaimed. Participants meet on the third Saturday of each month, 10:30-11:30 a.m., beginning January 19.
 - **The Return of the Global Sex Trade and How We Can Fight It**, which begins January 31, from 7-8, continues Thursday evenings through February.
- For a brochure and/or more information regarding programs, dates, and costs, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301; 270-686-4275; rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu. Participants are asked to pre-register at least two weeks in advance for each program.



2008 World Communications Day to focus on media, service

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church's 2008 observance of World Communications Day will focus on the need for the media to be more focused on service than on itself.

As the theme for the observance, Pope Benedict XVI has chosen "The Media: At the Crossroads Between Activism and Service; Seeking Truth in Order to Share It With Others."

The Vatican announced the theme Oct. 30. A papal message for the observance is expected to be published Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists.

Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said the theme is a call "to reflect on the role of the media" and "especially, the increasing risk of their becoming self-absorbed and no longer tools at the service of truth -- something which is meant to be sought and shared."

In most dioceses, World Communications Day is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost. That means next year World Communications Day will fall on May 4.

Schools And First Teachers Talk

Owensboro Catholic High School made their annual visit to Holy Name School in December. The informational meeting is an opportunity for the Holy Name School families to come and learn about the great things happening at OCHS and how to register their children for the upcoming school year. Pictured is OCHS Assistant Principal Ann Flaherty talking with Shawna Boom, a prospective parent. HNS Photo

A TIP O' The Hat To St. Ann Talented Students

The Duke University Talent Identification Program's strategic goals are: to identify and serve academically talented young people grades 4-12; to inform students about their abilities and academic options; to work with schools and families to address the unique educational needs of talented students; to sponsor innovative challenging, and highly motivating educational programs; to conduct research on the nature of academic talent; and to provide resources for students, parents, and educators. Duke TIP's major identification activity, the 7th Grade Talent Search, is now beginning its 28th year and is the largest program of its kind in the nation, representing participation from nearly 6,000 junior or middle schools in the Duke TIP 16-state region. The Talent Search identifies academically talented 7th graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates are identified and invited to complete either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Assessment college entrance examination. Duke TIP then provides the participants with comparative information concerning their academic abilities and resources for unique educational opportunities. This year, St. Ann School has identified 15 seventh grade students to participate in Duke TIP. These students scored in the 95th percentile or above in at least



one area based on their Terra Nova scores. Congratulations to our participants this year: front row: Danielle Duckworth, Gabe Ervin, Sean Michael Hargrove, Matthew Loxley, Sarah Bickett, Sam Greenwell. 2nd row Megan Greenwell, Maggie Hancock, Hannah Maloney, Dara Ricketts, Lauren Rust. 3rd row Michaela Sherman, Jeffrey Wurth, Taylor Gumz, and Bailee Herderson. Submitted by J. Brantley

Santa Claus Visits Maple Mount

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Santa and Mrs. Claus and a little elf, Jenna Byrd, 3, visited with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on the feast day of Saint Nicholas, Dec. 6. The sisters were invited to the Mount Saint Joseph Book and Gift Shop for cider, hot chocolate, and sweet treats. Santa's group also visited with sisters in Saint Joseph Villa.



Pictured in the gift shop with the visitors was Sister Eileen Howard.



In The two pictures below at right, Jenna, Santa's little elf, gave hugs to Sister Rose Emma Monaghan (left) as well as Sister Lenora Carrico in the right side photo. MSJ Photos

Pictured at the Villa between Santa and Mrs. Claus was Sister Mary Durr.



His Mother Raised Him Right: Live the Faith Every Day

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Carl McConnell is a very active member of St. Francis de Sales church in Paducah. He was born in St. Joseph, Missouri; his family moved to Denver, Colorado, and finally to Paducah. Carl was raised in a Catholic family but his father was not a practicing Catholic; the marriage ended in divorce. Carl attended Catholic schools but after graduation he drifted away from the Church. He was involved in working to help his mother support the family of 9 children. Carl's mother remarried and the family moved to Paducah when her husband got a job there. Carl's mother was a practicing Catholic and even though her husband wasn't, he attended Mass with his wife during their entire marriage and at the age of 81 was baptized and joined the church. Carl married Patsy in 1975. He explained, "Patsy was raised Baptist and we tried going to several churches, but nothing caught my attention. We have 2 children 29 and 25 years old. I always stressed that they should believe in God but it was their choice to choose a church."



Carl McConnell

"In 1996 I was due to go to surgery and something told me I needed to get back into the Catholic Church. Fr. Jerry Calhoun was at St. Francis at the time and he helped me transition back. Patsy and I had to renew our wedding vows in order for me to get back into the church," Carl explained. He continued, "I started to be involved. The first thing I did was become an usher and then I drove the church bus to pick up people and bring them to Mass. I help at coffee and doughnuts after the 8AM Mass; I am also a lector and a Eucharistic Minister. I am very active in the Knights of Columbus, I'm a chancellor 3rd in command at the council. I help with the food baskets that the Knights give away at Christmas and Easter. I help every year when the Knights sell Christmas trees. For the most part, Patsy supports me in what I do but last year when I took 3 weeks vacation to work every day selling the trees she had a bit of a problem with that. That year I was in charge, this year I am only helping, so I am not gone so much. I will be a member of St. Francis's parish council starting in January. I want to focus on getting younger families with children involved in the church activities. So many of our members who are involved in the church ministries are older. We need to get our younger families involved; the children are our future, they are the ones to carry on." Carl mentioned that Patsy works for the Salvation Army.

Carl has worked on the Ohio River for 20 years operating a dredge. "I stress to my boss that I don't want to miss Mass. 8 AM is my favorite Mass time, but I go to any one so I won't miss. The kids are grown, just Patsy and I at home, and over the years we try to adopt someone in our neighborhood over the holidays who may not have family and especially a family with little children. I try to treat everyone like I would like to be treated like the way my mother brought us up," Carl concluded.

Carl doesn't talk much about his faith but his actions speak louder than words. He is a Catholic who lives his faith everyday.

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Volunteers Needed to Continue Work of Opportunities For Life



FRANKFORT, Ky. - Each January Kentucky's four Catholic Bishops invite Catholics to join them in supporting the Opportunities for Life (OFL) office which they established to offer those facing an untimely pregnancy options other than abortion. With the help of a state-wide network of volunteers the OFL office operates two toll free helplines. Catholics can support this office financially by contributing to the annual collection set for the weekend of January 19/20, 2008 and by volunteering their time to the program. The generous donations received in this special collection help fund the office expenses and the cost of operating the two helplines. Because of the recent increase in the number of Spanish speaking

residents in Kentucky, OFL needs not only English speaking volunteers, but also bi-lingual volunteers who speak Spanish.

To prepare volunteers to respond effectively to the clients, OFL offers training and ongoing support in each Kentucky diocese. Volunteers often speak of the profound impact the ministry has on their lives and how it deepens their relationship with God and allows them an opportunity to develop supportive relationships with others in this ministry. In addition to the initial training, volunteers are offered ongoing training and development as well as opportunities for days of prayer and reflection with other volunteers.

Volunteers have had an especially busy year. By Dec. 31 they will have served more than 5,000 clients. Telephone volunteers answer the 24-hour/7-day statewide helpline from their home as they assist abortion-vulnerable women and men. Volunteers offer a caring, non-judgmental presence to clients and guide them to helpful local resources. Through the generosity of the Catholic community in Kentucky, OFL can afford to pay to list the numbers in nearly every phonebook in the state as well as campus newspapers and resource books. This generosity also allows volunteers access to the most current training materials.

OFL has begun a poster campaign on every Catholic college campus in the state. Hopefully, this campaign will grow to include many additional public and private colleges in Kentucky. These posters, placed in over one hundred locations on each campus, increase awareness of the helpline which will support women in making life affirming choices for themselves and their unborn children.

Training dates for 2008:

Louisville Diocese March 6-8
Owensboro Diocese April 4-5
Covington Diocese March 1 & 15
Lexington Diocese May 17 & 31
Additional dates will be set as needed.

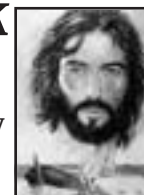
January 13-18, 2008 is National Vocations Awareness Week



"To you, young people, I repeat the word of Jesus: "Duc in altum!". In proposing His exhortation once more to you, I think at the same time of the words which Mary, his Mother, addressed to the servants at Cana in Galilee: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2,5). Dear young people, Christ is asking you to "put out into the deep" and the Virgin Mary is encouraging you not to hesitate in following Him."

- 11th August 2004, IOANNES PAULUS II, Message Of His Holiness Pope John Paul II For The 42nd World Day Of Prayer For Vocations

"Perhaps you know someone you think would make a good priest or religious. Take a chance and say it."



Vocation

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



By Dawn C. Ligibel

On Sunday, December 2, Seminarian Josh McCarty celebrated his Rite of Candidacy, which in layman's terms means McCarty asked for the Church's hand in marriage. Speaking on behalf of the Church, Bishop John McRaith gladly accepted McCarty's proposal during Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville.

Officially known as the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders, McCarty stood with the Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese, Fr. Andy Garner, before the bishop, his pastor, Fr. John Thomas, and 440 family members, friends, and fellow parish members during the ceremony. When the Bishop McRaith asked, "Beloved son, the pastors and teachers in charge of your formation, and others who know you, have given a favorable account of you, and we have full confidence in their testimony. In response to the Lord's call, do you resolve to complete your preparation so that in due time through Holy Orders you will be prepared to assume ministry within the Church?"

"I do," proclaimed McCarty in a strong and firm voice.

"Do you resolve to prepare yourself in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church," asked the bishop.

"I do," McCarty once again affirmed.

"This whole thing basically means, if all goes well, I will be a priest," McCarty explained later. "It means I'm serious. It means I want to be a priest and the Church wants me to be a priest."

After McCarty stated his intent during the Mass, the bishop asked those in attendance to show their appreciation for McCarty's commitment. The crowd erupted into applause quickly followed by a standing ovation. McCarty, who thought he was prepared for their response was surprised.

"I was thinking in my mind that I know the people of Sts. Peter and Paul and I'm sure they will give me a big round of applause, so I will try to receive it graciously," McCarty later explained his thoughts just prior to the outburst. "But when I turned around, it was huge! When I saw several people wiping their noses and dabbing their eyes, well, it was almost overwhelming," McCarty admitted. "I'm not a very emotional person," McCarty continued. "I don't show a lot of emotion. But when that happened, I kind of started to get choked up."

Aside from the emotional aspect, the

Seminarian 'Proposes' to the Church



Bishop John McRaith and Seminarian Josh McCarty pause a moment in the narthex of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville on December 2 just prior to mass during which McCarty (photo at right) declared his intent to become a priest as part of his Rite of Candidacy. Photo by Dawn C. Ligibel.

response of parish members, friends and family means even more to McCarty. "It means that the people want me to be a priest. Bishop McRaith wants me to be a priest. Fr. John wants me to be a priest. My parents want me to be a priest. It means that they are all going to support me. Through them, I see clearly that God wants me to be a priest."

While McCarty claims to know the people of Sts. Peter and Paul, he is still a relatively new member of the parish. "I was kind of homeless because I moved around a lot," explained McCarty. "He's been an orphan for a while," agreed McCarty's mother, Cynthia. "He felt very supported and appreciated while he was here for his pastoral year, so he chose Sts. Peter and Paul as his home parish."

McCarty's father, Greg, also approves of his choice of a home parish. "There is a strong embrace between this parish and Josh," McCarty's father said. "I call it a mutual embrace."

A mutual embrace or mutual acceptance might also be the way McCarty describes his vocation. "It's been a linear process of discernment for me. Some people are confident one day and then in despair another. For me, it has seemed very likely all along so I have followed that direction. I have prayed all along, and I am still praying, 'God, do you want me to be a priest?' It has slowly become a stronger conviction. I am a lot more certain now than I was seven years ago. I've just walked along the path and it is more and more apparent where this path is leading."

McCarty first learned of his path the year after graduating high school. "I was 18 years old when it first began coming clear," McCarty explained. He joined a group called NET (National Evangelization Teams) and



Josh McCarty receives a standing ovation from the congregation present at his Candidacy. Many family, friends and parishioners were even moved to tears. Staff Photo



met a seminarian who is now a priest. "One day he took me out to a Dairy Queen and sat me down and asked me 'Have you ever thought about being a priest?' I responded by saying, 'Not really,' but it got me thinking."

During his year with NET, McCarty claims several changes took place in his life. "The first is that I started having a prayer life," McCarty said. "Secondly, God started to change my heart. I started becoming less selfish. Finally, lots and lots of people started asking me 'Have you ever thought of becoming a priest?' It turned into too many arrows to dodge," McCarty concluded with a chuckle.

When he shared his decision with his parents, "I couldn't have asked for a better response," he said. "They said, 'Whatever God wants you to do is what we want you to do.' With that they gave me their support and also a solid principle to proceed with my life: to do what God wants," McCarty explained.

Upon hearing that their son was being called to the priesthood, neither McCarty's mother nor father was shocked. With several members of their extended family having responded to various vocations in the Church, including their daughter who is a nun, the McCartys are humbled

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



A Watchman Among the People of God

By Brother Thomas Petri, O.P.

"I brother Jacob Thomas Petri make profession and promise obedience to God, and to Blessed Mary, and to Blessed Dominic and to you, brother David Dominic Izzo, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph, in place of brother Carlos Afonso Azpiroz Costa, Master of the Order of Friars Preachers and his successors, according to the Rule of Blessed Augustine and the Constitutions of the Friars Preachers, that I will be obedient to you and to your successors *until death*."

With my hands holding the book of the Dominican Constitutions and the prior provincial's hands holding mine, I recited these words on November 10th and professed my obedience to the superiors of the Dominican Order until the day I die. From that moment, I was a solemnly professed Dominican friar. It was the happiest moment of my life.

A spiritual journey that began twelve years ago reached a pinnacle that day.

I discerned a vocation to the priesthood when I was senior in high school and upon graduation entered the seminary for the Diocese of Owensboro. In my early years as a diocesan seminarian, I never believed God would call me to the religious life. I did not believe myself capable of such an intensely devoted life. But over time, in His loving and gentle way, the Lord was turning me toward the Dominican Order.

Founded in 1216 by St. Dominic, the Order of Preachers (otherwise known as the Dominicans) was established as a teaching order vowed to poverty, chastity, and obedience. (Even though we verbally profess only obedience, the other two vows are implicitly included in that all-important vow.) The Dominicans quickly became known



The brothers who are to make solemn profession lie prostrate as the Litany of Saints is chanted. Photos submitted by the Dominican Province of St. Joseph.

for their eloquent preaching, rigorous study, and, not to be overlooked, their humane emphasis on virtue and mercy in the confessional.

The charism of the Order was increasingly attractive to me but I dreaded leaving the diocese, the spiritual home which nourished my vocation from its infancy. I would miss the people and the priests who had supported me, inspired me, and challenged me. But a great priest once said if God has a right to call us from our homes, he certainly has a right to call us from our spiritual homes too.

The words of St. Paul gave me consolation: "I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them... if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching" (Rom. 12:3-7).

And so I prayed and then followed the Lord's call to the Dominican Order, a decision that came with a certain geographic separation from the diocese I loved. But I had a certitude that comes only by faith that if the Church is really one body, then my work in another part of the vineyard of the Lord cannot but help the vineyard back home in some way, even if known only to God. The Lord has never ceased confirming that decision.

Religious consecration is a sort of covenant between a person and God. In faith, the person makes a public oblation of his life to God. God, in turn, accepts that offering and consecrates the person to Himself. So important is this decision to consecrate oneself publicly to God that the Church requires men and women to spend time as novices and then in simple vows within an order before making a decision to profess solemnly until death.

A sister's, or a nun's, or monk's, or a friar's life is wholly directed toward the pursuit of holiness through the evangelical counsels which have proven so effective in attaining that goal: poverty, chastity, and obedience. This holiness is the same goal to which every Christian is called, yes. But by their own consecration, religious men and women remind the faithful that this goal is the only goal worth living for and it alone gives authentic meaning to every other activity in a Christian's life.

The Church's tradition has made this point by referring to religious men and women as living signs of the kingdom to come. Or as Pope Benedict XVI said recently, "Consecrated persons are like watchmen among the People of God, who perceive and proclaim the new life already present in our history."

May the Lord continue to bless us all on the way to our homeland, His Kingdom.



Br. Thomas Petri, O.P. makes his solemn profession in the hands of Fr. Dominic Izzo, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph.

Br. Jacob Thomas Petri, O.P. is a native son of Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. He joined the Dominican Order in July, 2003 and took the religious name "Thomas." He made solemn profession on November 10, 2007. He will be ordained a deacon on January 12, 2008 and a priest in May, 2009.

People need God to have hope, pope says in new encyclical

By John Thavis, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In an encyclical on Christian hope, Pope Benedict XVI said that, without faith in God, humanity lies at the mercy of ideologies that can lead to "the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice."

The pope warned that the modern age has replaced belief in eternal salvation with faith in progress and technology, which offer opportunities for good but also open up "appalling possibilities for evil."

"Let us put it very simply: Man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope," he said in the encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), released Nov. 30.

The 76-page text explored the essential connection between faith and hope in early Christianity and addressed what it called a "crisis of Christian hope" in modern times.

It critiqued philosophical rationalism and Marxism and offered brief but powerful profiles of Christian saints -- ancient and modern -- who embodied hope, even in the face of suffering.

The encyclical also included a criticism of contemporary Christianity, saying it has largely limited its attention to individual salvation instead of the wider world, and thus reduced the "horizon of its hope."

"As Christians we should never limit ourselves to asking: How can I save myself? We should also ask: What can I do in order that others may be saved?" it said.

It was the pope's second encyclical and followed his 2006 meditation on Christian love. He worked on the text over the summer during his stay in the Italian mountains and at his villa outside Rome.

The pope said the essential aspect of Christian hope is trust in eternal salvation brought by Christ. In contrast with followers of mythology and pagan gods, early Christians had a future and could trust that their lives would not end in emptiness, he said.

Yet today the idea of "eternal life" frightens many people and strikes them as a monotonous or even unbearable existence, the pope said. It is important, he said, to understand that eternity is "not an unending succession of days in the calendar, but something more like the supreme moment of satisfaction."

"It would be like plunging into the ocean of infinite love, a moment in which

time -- the before and after -- no longer exists," he said. This is how to understand the object of Christian hope, he said.

The encyclical's main section examined how the emphasis on reason and freedom -- embodied in the French revolution and the rise of communism -- sought to displace Christian hope. Redemption was seen as possible through science and political programs, and religious faith was dismissed as irrelevant and relegated to a private sphere.

While praising Karl Marx for his great analytical skill, the pope said Marx made a fundamental error in forgetting that human freedom always includes "freedom for evil," which is not neutralized by social structures.

In the same way, the pope said, those who believe man can be "redeemed" through science and technological advances are mistaken.

"Science can contribute greatly to making the world and mankind more human. Yet it can also destroy mankind and the world unless it is steered by forces that lie outside it," he said.

The pope said that while Christians have a responsibility to work for justice, the hope of building a perfect world here and now is illusory. Hopes for this world cannot by themselves sustain one's faith, he said.

"We need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God," he said.

The second half of the encyclical discussed how Christian hope can be learned and practiced -- particularly through prayer, acceptance of suffering and anticipation of divine judgment.

The pope called prayer a "school of hope," and as an example he held out the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Nguyen Van Thuan, who spent 13 years in prison, nine of them in solitary confinement.

In this "situation of seemingly utter hopelessness," the fact that he could still listen and speak to God gave him an increasing power of hope, the pope said.

He emphasized that prayer should not be isolating and should not focus on superficial objectives. Nor can people pray against others, he said.

"To pray is not to step outside history and withdraw to our own private corner of happiness," he said.

"When we pray properly we undergo a process of inner purification which opens us up to God and thus to our fellow human beings as well," he said.

Suffering is part of human existence, and the sufferings of the innocent appear to be increasing today, the pope said. He said Christians should do whatever they can to reduce pain and distress.

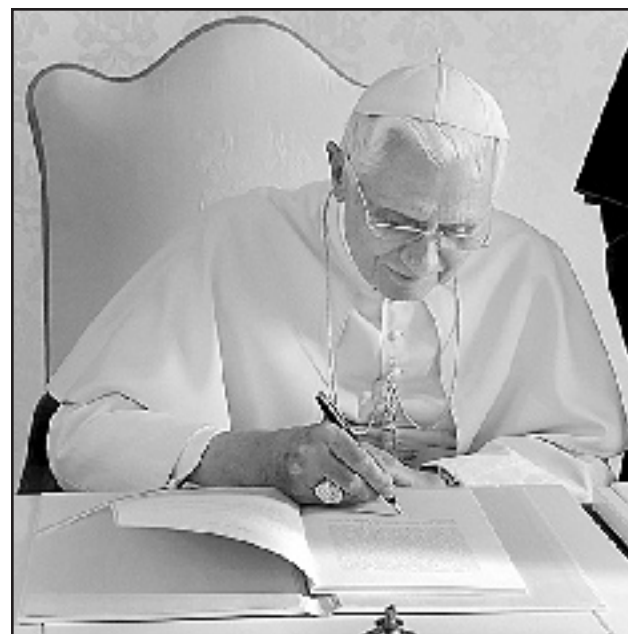
Yet suffering cannot be banished from this world, and trying to avoid anything that might involve hurt can lead to a life of emptiness, he said. Instead, Christians are called to suffer with and for others, and their capacity to do so depends on their strength of inner hope, he said.

"The saints were able to make the great journey of human existence in the way that Christ had done before them, because they were brimming with great hope," he said.

The pope recalled that in the not-too-distant past, many Christians would "offer up" to Christ their minor daily disappointments and hardships. Perhaps that practice should be revived, he said.

The pope said the idea of judgment -- specifically the Last Judgment of the living and the dead -- touched strongly on Christian hope because it promises justice.

"I am convinced that the question of justice constitutes the



Pope Benedict XVI signs his encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), at the Vatican Nov. 30. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters) (Nov. 30, 2007)

essential argument, or in any case the strongest argument, in favor of faith in eternal life," he said.

It is impossible for the Christian to believe that the injustices of history will be the final word, he said.

The Last Judgment should not evoke terror, however, but a sense of responsibility, the pope said. It is a moment of hope, because it combines God's justice and God's grace -- but "grace does not cancel out justice," he said.

"(Grace) is not a sponge which wipes everything away, so that whatever someone has done on earth ends up being of equal value," he said. "Evildoers, in the end, do not sit at table at the eternal banquet beside their victims without distinction, as though nothing had happened."

The pope said the idea of purgatory, as a place of atonement for sins, also has a place in the logic of Christian hope. Heaven is for the "utterly pure" and hell for those who have destroyed all desire for truth and love, but "neither case is normal in human life," he said.

Thus, the souls of many departed may benefit from prayers, he said.

The pope began and ended his encyclical with profiles of two women who exemplified Christian hope. The closing pages praised Mary for never losing hope, even in the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion.

The encyclical opened by describing a similar sense of hope in a 19th-century African slave, St. Josephine Bakhita, who after being flogged, sold and resold, came to discover Christ.

With her conversion, St. Bakhita found the "great hope" that liberated and redeemed her, the pope said.

The pope emphasized that this was different from political liberation as a slave. Christianity "did not bring a message of social revolution," he said, but something totally different: an encounter with "a hope stronger than the sufferings of slavery, a hope which therefore transformed life and the world from within."

The full text of the encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, is available on the US bishops' web site at www.usccb.org and on the Vatican web site at www.Vatican.VA.

Sorgho Youth Share Community Service Project

The Western Kentucky Catholic, January, 2008 39

SORGHO, Ky. - The youth from St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho participated in Jerusalem Project on November 3, 2007. The Jerusalem Project is a day based around doing service projects in the local community. The day was spent doing service around the Owensboro area by many of the youth groups in Owensboro. The youth of St. Mary Magdalene spent the morning at the St. Benedict Joseph Homeless shelter doing cleaning inside and the grounds around the building. That afternoon was spent here at the parish cleaning gutters, washing windows in the center and the church, cleaning the center and the hall, and planting flowers and cleaning at the Rectory. Submitted by Crissy Stevenson



(from left) Nathan Blandford, Sean Thomas



(from left) Clark Payne, Stephen Hardy, Ethan Thomas, Nathan Blandford



(Starting with the girl in the back center working clockwise): Andrea Hagan, Amanda Beyke, Nathan Blandford, Sean Thomas, Clark Payne, Ethan Thomas, Kara Drury, Elizabeth Ebelhar, Gabe Bartley, Nic Drury, Ginger Gilbert, Stephen Hardy, Allie Payne, Meg Bartley, Sarah Hagan, Kelci Drury, and Chelsea Riney.

Opportunities For Life Needs Your Help

Opportunities for Life serves 4 dioceses in the state of Kentucky. This Ministry offers a listening ear and outreach for women experiencing a problem pregnancy to offer alternatives to abortion. Last year alone they received almost 5,000 phone calls and sent out over 100 Information Packets. There are currently 7 telephone volunteers and 14 outreach volunteers working in the Diocese of Owensboro. They need your help to continue this very important ministry. Please be generous when the collection basket passes on January 20th. The lives of many children depend on it! The OFL Hotline phone number is 1-800-860-7165.



Henderson's Rotary Kindness Passes Good Will Forward

Holy Name School recently was the recipient of a kindness from the Henderson Rotary Club. The club provides free dictionaries for all third grade students in Henderson County. Pictured is Father Bradley, a member of the Rotary Club, helping to pass out the dictionaries to the third grade at Holy Name School. HNS Photo



Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest

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

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

Submitted By William Butler [janbillbutler@adelphia.net]

The annual Uniontown Knights of Columbus Burgoo Sale fundraiser was held on election day, Nov 6. A portion of the proceeds are given to fund the CCD programs. There was a great turn out of youth volunteers to help.



Above: Making sure it doesn't stick: Logan Joiner, Holden Buckman, Zach Owen, Chance Whitfield

Left: Taking a turn at stirring the burgoo: Benny French, Joseph Burke, Holdan Buckman, Zach Owen, Chance Whitfield, Waylon Whitfield, Matt Thomas, Ben Thomas



Assisting with cutting up potatoes, cabbage and onions the night before: Morgan Ferguson, Lauren Alvey (hidden), Brice Mackin, Crystal Mackin, Phylisha Pike, Kyle Danhauer and Zach Owen (hidden)

What Is Your Attitude Toward Immigration?

By Sister Fran Wilhelm, OSU

What a plethora of opinions exploded at the time of the attempt in the U.S. Congress to fix our broken immigration system! I think we all had our own opinion, and some of these were much more educated than others that spilled from our emotions.

Many of us got completely entangled in the illegal issue. Our European roots have very successfully taught us the importance of obeying the letter of the law. For many of us, the right/wrong, black/white-ness of the law crowds out all other consideration.

There is another reality of life that is very worthy of consideration. That is the approach that often put Jesus at odds with the Pharisees as they shouted, "But they've broken the law!" Sometimes with a handful of wheat grains ready to pop into his mouth (gleaned on the Sabbath for his hungry apostles), Jesus reproached the Pharisees for being hypocritical.

Many of the cultures brought to America by immigrants have a circular approach toward time, toward the law, toward life itself. It's hard for us with a European mentality to relax our straight-as-an-arrow attitude. Punctuality and obedience take precedence in our thinking. It's hard for us to understand those who "skirt" around the law for a greater good.

Recently an ardent anti-immigrant admitted that, as he took time to look into the faces of the immigrants, he had to say that the majority did not

appear to be criminals. And so, what is being done to these non-criminals? In many places they are being stopped for minor traffic violations, then, being found without drivers license and with false papers, they are charged with a felony and taken to an immigration jail for eventual deportation. This results in a break-up of a family, traumatized children, whose mother is beside herself with worry and cannot function normally.

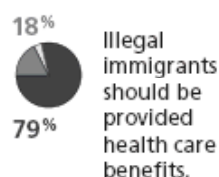
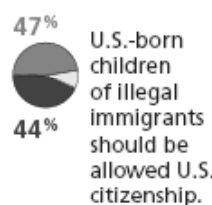
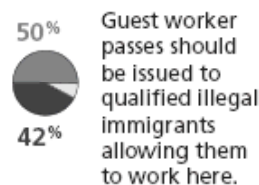
What will become of these traumatized children, if they never have counseling in order to temper the trauma? Isn't this the breeding ground of terrorism, if a person has never been able to express anger in a healthy way? These traumatized individuals drastically need loving understanding and a safe environment for letting go of pent-up rage. Could it not be that we are preparing our own destruction by this negativity toward immigrants?

With Martin Luther King, Jr., we need to reawaken The Dream, in which people's worth will be affirmed without regard to color or language or origin. We need to caress the God-given humanness in each other, lifting one another to reach our full potential.

In Scripture we learn that the letter of the law kills, but the spirit of the law begets life. I don't know where the spirit of the law of America is better expressed than in the quotation at the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the

Views on Immigration

■ strongly/somewhat agree
■ strongly/somewhat disagree



Based on 1,000 phone interviews with U.S. residents nationwide Aug. 27-Sept. 8.
Source: Sacred Heart University Polling Institute

©2007 CHS



U.S. respondents have split opinions when asked to agree or disagree with various statements about legal and illegal immigration. (CNS graphic/Emlcy Thompson) (Oct. 5, 2007)

wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

The Justice for Immigrants Campaign of the Diocese of Owensboro invites others to reflect on their own attitudes and feelings regarding immigration and share their thoughts in a respectful manner through our online discussion board (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JFI_Owensboro) or via e-mail (patricia.murphy@pastoral.org) or mail (600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301). Everyone can learn more about the issues surrounding immigration and the Church teachings at www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Seminarian 'Proposes' to the Church

(Continued from page 36)

by God's call. "I feel totally unworthy that my son has been chosen by God," admitted McCarty's mother. "It's God's grace," McCarty's father stated simply. When asked how he may have influenced his son's decision, McCarty's father responded by quoting St. Vincent DePaul. "Be careful to give no credit to yourself. If you do, you're stealing from God to whom alone every good thing is due."

Giving God credit for all good things is what McCarty hopes to be doing as a parish priest in about a year and a half. "I hope to just be a plain old parish priest," McCarty said. "Not that there will be anything plain about it," he quickly added. "I really think to serve in this diocese is what I'm supposed to do. There is a lot of need for Jesus in Western Kentucky."

As a parish priest, McCarty hopes to elevate worship among his future parishioners. "I hope to celebrate beautiful liturgy and through beautiful liturgy draw people to a holiness of life which in turn will flow into the world and bring more people into the Church."

Faithful Citizenship (Continued from page 32)

no. 73). Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When Church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE?—SEVEN KEY THEMES

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life. This Catholic ethic neither treats all issues as morally equivalent nor reduces Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (Living the Gospel of Life, no. 33). The following themes of Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework for decisions in public life. 2

The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. Direct attacks on innocent human beings are never morally acceptable. Within our society, life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and destruction of human embryos for research. These intrinsic evils must always be opposed. This teaching also compels us as Catholics to oppose genocide, torture, unjust war, and the use of the death penalty, as well as to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism, and other conditions that demean human life.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Each of us has a right to religious freedom, which enables us to live and act in accord with our God-given dignity, as well as a right to access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor and marginalized.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

GRANT WRITING

Workshop for Nonprofit Organizations

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

JANUARY 8-10, 2008

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



Karen Dueker
Workshop Presenter

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

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

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

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org. A flyer can be found online at www.mscenter.org

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity.

Solidarity

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

Caring for God's Creation

Care for the earth is a duty of our Catholic faith. We all are called to be careful stewards of God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

CONCLUSION

In light of Catholic teaching, as bishops we vigorously repeat our call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation.

This drug report has good news, and Catholic schools play a role

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Although it was somewhat overshadowed by former Sen. George Mitchell's Dec. 13 report detailing drug use among dozens of Major League Baseball players, another report released earlier in the week had better news about drug use among middle and high school students. The annual Monitoring the Future survey of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders found that the percentage of students reporting illicit drug use in the past month is continuing a decline that began in 2001. The percentage of those in the three grades who said they had used any illicit drug in the past month went from 19.4 percent in 2001 to 14.8 percent in 2007, a 24 percent drop. The 2007 study involved 48,025 students in a nationally representative sample of 403 public and private schools.



THE POVERTY LINE

It separates nearly 13 million children in America from hope.

Life below the poverty line is a struggle for one in six children in America.

There are many ways you can make a difference. Will you help?

Go to www.povertyusa.org and get involved.



Catholic Campaigns
for Human Development

Mass Attendance 2007

DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO		2007	2007	2007	2006	DIFFERENCE
ANNUAL MASS	COUNT -- 2007	POPULATION	ANNUAL MASS COUNT	% MASS COUNT	ANNUAL MASS COUNT	2006 TO 2007
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2175	1299	59.72%	48.56%	11.16%
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	117	75	64.10%	61.54%	2.56%
Christ the King	Madisonville	670	353	52.69%	53.97%	-1.28%
Christ the King	Scottsville	96	72	75.00%	69.15%	5.85%
Holy Cross	Providence	30	22	73.33%	57.50%	15.83%
Holy G. Angels	Irvington	200	168	84.00%	87.23%	-3.23%
Holy Name	Henderson	4049	2234	55.17%	55.62%	-0.44%
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	204	209	102.45%	96.67%	5.78%
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	2437	1383	56.75%	51.07%	5.68%
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	63	83	131.75%	113.58%	18.17%
Immaculate	Owensboro	1882	1168	62.06%	51.57%	10.49%
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	160	80	50.00%	39.51%	10.49%
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	523	220	42.07%	50.20%	-8.13%
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	2145	1342	62.58%	63.05%	-0.49%
Precious Blood	Owensboro	973	553	56.83%	60.75%	-3.92%
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	93	85	89.89%	88.89%	1.21%
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	145	89	61.38%	49.76%	11.62%
Sacred Heart	Hickman	95	40	42.11%	61.11%	-19.01%
Sacred Heart	Russellville	409	166	40.59%	49.36%	-8.77%
Sacred Heart	Waverly	224	194	86.61%	84.16%	2.44%
St. Agnes	Uniontown	914	467	51.09%	55.01%	-3.92%
St. Alphonsus	St. Joseph	500	282	56.40%	48.40%	8.00%
St. Ambrose	Henshaw	98	61	62.24%	72.63%	-10.39%
St. Ann	Morganfield	1119	569	50.85%	48.00%	2.85%
St. Anthony	Axtel	496	291	58.67%	72.35%	-13.68%
St. Anthony	Browns Valley	462	235	50.87%	47.90%	2.96%
St. Anthony	Peoria	187	156	83.42%	92.97%	-9.55%
St. Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	87	119	136.78%	127.59%	9.20%
St. Augustine	Grayson Springs	99	75	75.76%	88.89%	-13.13%
St. Augustine 1	Reed	130	60	46.15%	45.83%	0.32%
St. Benedict	Wax	120	86	71.67%	74.17%	-2.50%
St. Charles	Bardwell	188	136	68.69%	78.02%	-9.33%
St. Charles	Livemore	57	61	107.02%	71.43%	35.59%
St. Columba	Lewisport	375	109	29.07%	29.92%	-0.85%
St. Denis	Fancy Farm	176	105	59.66%	71.51%	-11.85%
St. Edward	Fulton	154	88	57.14%	59.70%	-2.56%
St. Elizabeth	Clarkson	168	129	76.79%	63.13%	13.65%
St. Elizabeth	Curdsville	180	93	51.67%	54.55%	-2.88%
St. Francis Borgia	Sturgis	145	157	108.28%	83.53%	24.75%
St. Francis de Sales	Paducah	1316	976	74.16%	55.92%	18.24%
St. Henry	Auora	209	194	92.82%	90.78%	2.05%
St. Jerome	Fancy Farm	1345	799	59.41%	58.33%	1.07%
Sts. Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1400	1047	74.79%	85.75%	-10.96%
St. John Baptist	Fordsville	73	67	91.78%	92.00%	-0.22%
St. John Evangelist	Paducah	867	445	51.33%	58.71%	-7.38%
St. John Evangelist	Sunfish	118	56	47.46%	53.85%	-6.39%
St. Joseph	Bowling Green	1702	1009	59.28%	59.79%	-0.50%
St. Joseph	Central City	252	167	66.27%	69.58%	-3.31%
St. Joseph	Leitchfield	420	341	81.19%	77.32%	3.87%
St. Joseph	Mayfield	1031	711	68.96%	68.01%	0.95%
St. Jude	Clinton	101	50	49.50%	41.35%	8.16%
St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence	362	223	61.60%	48.28%	13.32%
St. Leo	Murray	980	665	67.86%	65.59%	2.26%
St. Mark	Eddyville	129	145	112.40%	90.32%	22.08%
St. Martin	Rome	374	236	63.10%	56.42%	6.68%
St. Mary	LaCenter	175	103	58.86%	57.14%	1.71%
St. Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	680	462	67.94%	58.03%	9.91%
St. Mary	Franklin	302	228	75.50%	83.51%	-8.01%
St. Mary of Woods	McQuady	150	169	112.67%	91.85%	20.81%
St. Mary of Woods	Whitesville	2215	1223	55.21%	64.05%	-8.84%
St. Mary & St. James	Guthrie	76	74	97.37%	88.61%	8.76%
St. Michael Archangel	Oak Grove	960	412	42.92%	41.44%	1.48%
St. Michael	Seabree	205	147	71.71%	76.35%	-4.65%
St. Paul	Leitchfield	420	252	60.00%	67.86%	-7.86%
St. Paul	Princeton	131	82	62.60%	63.80%	-1.21%
St. Peter 1	Stanley	266	201	70.28%	68.99%	1.29%
St. Peter	Waverly	649	242	37.29%	43.20%	-5.91%
Sts. Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1658	945	57.00%	61.48%	-4.49%
St. Pius Tenth	Calvert City	375	297	79.20%	76.66%	2.54%
St. Pius Tenth	Owensboro	1900	802	42.21%	45.88%	-3.67%
St. Romuald	Hardinsburg	1343	711	52.94%	49.60%	3.34%
St. Rose	Cloverport	438	203	46.35%	54.37%	-8.02%
St. Sebastian	Calhoun	204	120	58.82%	45.91%	12.91%
St. Stephen	Cadiz	279	217	77.78%	72.84%	4.93%
St. Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1755	717	40.85%	47.67%	-7.01%
St. Susan	Elkton	246	155	63.01%	45.56%	17.45%
St. Thomas More	Paducah	2241	1022	45.60%	48.98%	-3.37%
St. William	Knottsville	1023	751	73.41%	70.23%	3.18%
St. William	Marion	129	77	59.69%	59.84%	-0.15%
DIOCESAN TOTALS		50874	29837	58.65%	57.98%	0.67%

1. Saturday PM Mass shared

The Western Kentucky Catholic
600 Locust Street
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Católico

de Kentucky Occidental

Volumen 35, Número 1
Enero, 2008



A la izquierda, unos miembros de la comunidad de Paducah se reúnen en la casa de Josefina para rezar el Novenario de La Virgen de Guadalupe. A la derecha, el Padre José Carmelo bendice las imágenes de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe después de la misa en Stos. José y Pablo en Owensboro. Fotos sometidas



La Diócesis de Owensboro Celebra:

Por Luis Ajú

Con novenas, procesiones y cantos se congratuló su gran día en la bendecida Diócesis de Owensboro, KY. Sin faltar las tradicionales mañanitas con sabor a ponche, chocolate, tamales y pan dulce, que es el mismo sabor de nuestra Fe y Amor a nuestra Madre que nos acompaña en todas nuestras jornadas y que nos espera a todas horas aun en tierras lejanas. Dios te Bendiga Madre.



Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe



Arriba se ve la estatua de Nuestra Señora adentro de la iglesia de Sto. Tomás Moro en Paducah. A la izquierda, la comunidad de Sta Susana en Elkton camina en procesión en honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe. A la derecha, el Padre Jason McClure se presenta con dos niños durante la novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en una casa en Sebree.



Las Palabras No Son Suficientes Para Expresarles Mi Gratitud

Mis Estimados Amigos,

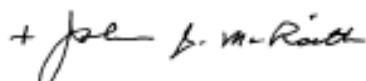
Las palabras no son suficientes para expresar mi gratitud para con todos ustedes por toda la bondad que me han demostrado en las ocasiones de mi cumpleaños, la Navidad y el aniversario de mis 25 años de estar con ustedes. No hay manera que pueda agradecer a cada uno de ustedes individualmente, aunque realmente quisiera hacerlo.

Por favor, sepan cuanto aprecio todas las tarjetas y regalos que me han dado durante estas tres celebraciones. No cabe duda de que soy el obispo más bendecido que nunca por toda la bondad y apoyo que he recibido estos últimos 25 años.

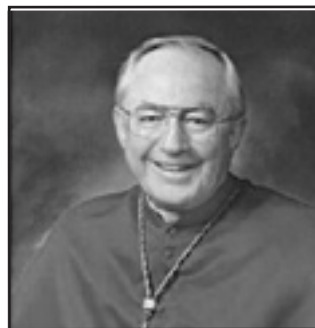
Le doy gracias a Dios por haberme dado el llamado de venir a pasar estos muchos años con un pueblo de profunda fe y corazones generosos. Me gustaría hacerles saber cuanto aprecio todos ustedes. Prometo encomendarles en mis oraciones y en las misas que celebro.

Les deseo las bendiciones de Dios por un Año Nuevo feliz y lleno de gracia. Por la celebración del Día Mundial de la Paz, por el nuevo año, 2008, nuestro Santo Padre ha escrito un mensaje bonito a todos los católicos: *La Familia Humana: Una Comunidad de Paz*. El Papa Benedicto XVI tiene un mensaje poderoso para nosotros, y quiero pasarlo a todos ustedes y hacer que sus palabras sean las mías, como expresan lo que quisiera decirles mientras celebramos el Octavo Día de la Navidad: La Solemnidad de la Santa Virgen María, la Madre de Dios.

De nuevo, muchas gracias por todas sus expresiones de apoyo y por ser un pueblo de fe con un amor tan grande por la Iglesia. Sinceramente en Cristo,



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



MENSAJE DE SU SANTIDAD, BENEDICTO XVI PARA LA CELEBRACIÓN DE LA JORNADA MUNDIAL DE LA PAZ 1 ENERO 2008 LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA CIUDAD DEL VATICANO FAMILIA HUMANA, COMUNIDAD DE PAZ

1. AL COMENZAR UN NUEVO AÑO deseo hacer llegar a los hombres y mujeres de todo el mundo mis fervientes deseos de paz, junto con un caluroso mensaje de esperanza. Lo hago proponiendo a la reflexión común el tema que he enunciado al principio de este mensaje, y que considero muy importante: *Familia humana, comunidad de paz*. De hecho, la primera forma de comunión entre las personas es la que el amor suscita entre un hombre y una mujer decididos a unirse establemente para construir juntos una nueva familia. Pero también los pueblos de la tierra están llamados a establecer entre sí relaciones de solidaridad y colaboración, como corresponde a los miembros de la *única familia humana*: « Todos los pueblos —dice el Concilio Vaticano II— forman una única comunidad y tienen un mismo origen, puesto que Dios hizo habitar a todo el género humano sobre la entera faz de la tierra (cf. *Hch* 17,26); también tienen un único fin último, Dios ».1

Familia, sociedad y paz

2. La familia natural, en cuanto comunión íntima de vida y amor, fundada en el matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer,2 es el « lugar primario de “humanización”

de la persona y de la sociedad ».³ la « cuna de la vida y del amor ».⁴ Con razón, pues, se ha calificado a la familia como la primera sociedad natural, « una institución divina, fundamento de la vida de las personas y prototipo de toda organización social ».⁵

3. En efecto, en una vida familiar « sana » se experimentan algunos elementos esenciales de la paz: la justicia y el amor entre hermanos y hermanas, la función de la autoridad manifestada por los padres, el servicio afectuoso a los miembros más débiles, porque son pequeños, ancianos o están enfermos, la ayuda mutua en las necesidades de la vida, la disponibilidad para acoger al otro y, si fuera necesario, para perdonarlo. Por eso, la familia es *la primera e insustituible educadora de la paz*. No ha de sorprender, pues, que se considere particularmente intolerable la violencia cometida dentro de la familia. Por tanto, cuando se afirma que la familia es « la célula primera y vital de la sociedad »,6 se dice algo esencial. La familia es también fundamento de la sociedad *porque permitetener experiencias determinantes de paz*. Por consiguiente, la comunidad humana no puede prescindir del servicio que presta la familia. El ser humano en formación, ¿dónde podría aprender a gustar mejor el « sabor » genuino de la paz sino en el « nido » que le prepara la naturaleza? *El lenguaje familiar es un lenguaje de paz*; a él es necesario recurrir siempre para no perder el uso del vocabulario de la paz. En la inflación de lenguajes, la sociedad no puede perder la referencia a esa « gramática » que todo niño aprende de los gestos y miradas de mamá y papá, antes incluso que de sus palabras.

4. La familia, al tener el deber de educar a sus miembros, *es titular de unos derechos específicos*. La misma *Declaración universal de los derechos humanos*, que constituye una conquista de *civilización jurídica de valor realmente universal*, afirma que « la familia es el núcleo natural y fundamental de la sociedad y tiene derecho a ser protegida por la sociedad y el Estado ».7 Por su parte, la Santa Sede ha querido reconocer una *especial dignidad jurídica* a la familia publicando la *Carta de los derechos de la familia*. En el Preámbulo se dice: « Los derechos de la persona, aunque expresados como derechos del individuo, tienen una dimensión fundamentalmente social que halla su expresión innata y vital en la familia ».8 Los derechos enunciados en la *Carta* manifiestan y explicitan la ley natural, inscrita en el corazón del ser humano y que la razón le manifiesta. La negación o restricción de los derechos de la familia, al oscurecer la verdad sobre el hombre, *amenaza los fundamentos mismos de la paz*.

5. Por tanto, quien obstaculiza la institución familiar, aunque sea inconscientemente, hace que la paz de toda la comunidad, nacional e internacional, sea frágil, porque debilita lo que, de hecho, es *la principal « agencia » de paz*. Éste es un punto que merece una reflexión especial: todo lo que contribuye a debilitar la familia fundada en el matrimonio de un hombre y una mujer, lo que directa o indirectamente dificulta su disponibilidad para la acogida responsable de una nueva vida, lo que se opone a su derecho de ser la primera responsable de la educación de los hijos, es un impedimento objetivo para el camino de la paz. La familia tiene necesidad de una casa, del trabajo y del debido reconocimiento de la actividad doméstica de los padres; de escuela para los hijos, de asistencia sanitaria básica para todos. Cuando la sociedad y la política no se esfuerzan en ayudar a la familia en estos campos, se privan de un recurso esencial para el servicio de la paz. Concretamente, los medios de comunicación social, por las potencialidades educativas de que disponen, tienen una responsabilidad especial en la promoción del respeto por la familia, en ilustrar sus esperanzas y derechos, en resaltar su belleza. *La humanidad es una gran familia*.

6. La comunidad social, para vivir en paz, está llamada a inspirarse también en los valores sobre los que se rige la comunidad familiar. Esto es válido tanto para las comunidades locales como nacionales; más aún, es válido para la comunidad misma de los pueblos, para la familia humana, que vive en *esa casa común que es la tierra*. Sin embargo, en esta perspectiva no se ha de olvidar que la familia nace del « sí » responsable y definitivo de un hombre y de una mujer, y vive del « sí » consciente de los hijos que poco a poco van formando parte de ella. Para prosperar, la comunidad familiar necesita el consenso generoso de todos sus miembros. Es preciso que esta toma de conciencia llegue a ser también una convicción compartida por cuantos están llamados a formar la *común familia humana*. Hay que saber decir el propio « sí » a esta vocación que Dios ha inscrito en nuestra misma naturaleza. No vivimos unos al lado de otros por casualidad; todos estamos recorriendo *un mismo camino como hombres y, por tanto, como hermanos y hermanas*. Por eso es esencial que cada uno se esfuerce en vivir la propia vida con una actitud responsable ante Dios, reconociendo en Él la fuente de la propia existencia y la de los demás. Sobre la base de este principio supremo se puede percibir el valor incondicionado de todo ser humano y, así, poner las premisas para la construcción de una humanidad pacificada. Sin este fundamento trascendente, la sociedad es sólo una agrupación de ciudadanos, y no una comunidad de hermanos y hermanas, llamados a formar una gran familia. (Continuado en la página 5)



Arriba, Juan Diego abre su tilma y encuentra rosas durante una obra en Sta. Susana en Elkton.

A la izquierda se encuentran dos miembros del coro de Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, quienes cantaron durante la misa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Las personas en la foto de abajo se presentaron en Sto. Tomás Moro para cantar Las Mañanitas a la Virgen.

A la derecha se ve una imagen de la Virgen envuelta de flores y velas.

Arriba, unos hombres cargan una estatua de la Virgen en procesión la noche del 11 de diciembre hacia la Iglesia de San Miguel en Sebree. Foto por Patti Murphy.



¿Cuál Es Su Actitud Sobre La Inmigración?

Por Hermana Fran (Panchita) Wilhelm, OSU

¡Que cantidad tan grande de opiniones explotaron a la hora que el Congreso de EEUU intentó arreglar nuestro sistema roto de inmigración! Yo creo que todos teníamos nuestras propias opiniones, y algunos de estas opiniones eran mucho más educados que otros, que se demarraron de nuestras emociones.

Muchos de nosotros nos enredamos completamente en el asunto ilegal. Nuestras raíces Europeas nos han enseñado muy exitosamente la importancia de obedecer la letra de la ley. Por muchos de nosotros, el aspecto correcto/equivocado, blanco/negro de la ley quita cualquier otro tipo de consideración.

Hay otra realidad de la vida que merece nuestra consideración. Es el enfoque que muchas veces le puso a Jesús en oposición contra los Fariseos mientras gritaban, “Pero, ha roto la ley!” A veces, a punto de meter en la boca unos granos de trigo del puñado (cosechado en el sábado por sus apóstoles hambrientos), Jesús regañaba a los Fariseos por ser tan hipócrita.

Muchas de las culturas traídas a EEUU por los inmigrantes tienen un punto de vista circular hacia el tiempo, la le y la misma vida. Es difícil para nosotros con una mentalidad Europeo de relajar nuestra actitud tan estrictamente linear. La puntualidad y la obediencia tomen precedencia en nuestra manera de pensar. Es muy difícil para nosotros entender aquellos quienes eluden la ley por un bien mayor.

Recientemente una persona ardientemente en contra de la inmigración admitió que cuando tomó el tiempo de mirar las caras de los inmigrantes, tenía que decir que la mayoría no parecieron ser criminales. Entonces, ¿Qué estamos haciendo a estas personas que no son criminales? En muchos lugares, la policía los para por violaciones de tráfico insignificantes, y cuando ve que no tienen licencia y tienen papeles falsos, son acusados con una felonía y están llevados a un cárcel para inmigrantes para eventualmente deportarlos. Esto resulta en la separación de la familia y traumatiza a los niños porque su madre está llena de preocupación y no puede funcionar de manera normal.

¿Qué pasa con estos niños traumatizados, si nunca reciben conserjería para bajar la trauma? ¿No sería tierra fértil para el terrorismo, si una persona nunca ha podido expresar la ira de manera saludable? Aquellos individuos traumatizados desesperadamente necesitan el entendimiento lleno de amor y un medioambiente para dejar la ira que sube más y más. ¿No podría ser que estamos preparando nuestra propia destrucción con esta negatividad hacia los inmigrantes?

Como Martin Luther King, Jr., tenemos que re-despertar El Sueño, dentro del cual el valor de las personas será afirmado sin importar el color de su piel, su lenguaje o su origen. Tenemos que acariciar la humanidad dado por Dios en los demás, levantándolos a llegar a su potencial completo.

Las Sagradas Escrituras nos enseñan que la letra de la ley mata, pero el espíritu de la ley engendra la vida. No sé dónde se expresa mejor el espíritu de la ley de EEUU que en la frase encontrado en el base de la Estatua de la Libertad: “Déme tus cansados, tus pobres, tus multitudes acurrucados anhelando respirar libremente, la basura desdichada de tu orilla rebosante. Mándeme aquellos, las personas sin techo, los tirados por la tempestad. Levanto mi lámpara al lado de la puerta dorada.”

La Campaña de Justicia para los Inmigrantes de la Diócesis de Owensboro les invita a reflexionar sobre sus propios actitudes y sentimientos en cuanto a la inmigración y compartir sus pensamientos de una manera respetuosa a través de nuestra comité de discusión en el Internet (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JFI_Owensboro) o por e-mail (patricia.murphy@pastoral.org) o por correo (600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301). Todos pueden aprender más sobre los asuntos circundando la inmigración y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia al www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Obispos De Estados Unidos Saludan Encíclica Sobre La Esperanza

WASHINGTON – Spe salvi (Salvados en la esperanza), la segunda carta encíclica del Papa Benedicto XVI, ofrece inspiración a todos los creyentes, dijo el Cardenal Francis George de Chicago, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.

“El Papa Benedicto nos llama individualmente y en comunidad a una esperanza anclada en Jesús”, dijo. El Cardenal George ofreció estos comentarios el 30 de noviembre, el mismo día en que fue publicada la encíclica en el Vaticano.

Spe salvi enseña que el mensaje cristiano no es sólo “informativo” sino también “preformativo”. Esto quiere decir que “el Evangelio no es solamente una comunicación de cosas que se pueden saber, sino una comunicación que comporta hechos y cambia la vida”, dice el Papa. Al recibir a Dios a través de Jesucristo recibimos la esperanza. El Papa ilustra este punto narrando la vida de santa Josefina Bakhita, una esclava africana.

El Papa delinea el concepto de una esperanza basada en la fe tal como se recoge en el Nuevo Testamento y en la Iglesia primitiva y afirma que el cristianismo no trajo al mundo romano la esperanza de una revolución social. Muriendo en la cruz, Jesús trajo un tipo de esperanza muy diferente. Hizo posible “el encuentro con el Señor de todos los señores, el encuentro con el Dios vivo y, así, el encuentro con una esperanza más fuerte que los sufrimientos de la esclavitud, y que por ello transforma desde adentro la vida y el mundo”.

Esta esperanza va más allá de las leyes de la materia y la evolución. No son estas leyes las que, en última instancia, gobiernan el mundo y la humanidad y las que tienen la última palabra, sino que un Dios personal gobierna el universo: “la razón, la voluntad, el amor: una Persona”, afirma el Papa Benedicto.

Según él, la esperanza cristiana no es una esperanza individualista sino comunitaria, “comporta estar unidos existencialmente a un «pueblo» y sólo puede realizarse para cada persona dentro de este «nosotros»”. Dado que nuestra esperanza incorpora a todos los hombres y mujeres, ésta nos anima a que no sólo obtengamos la vida eterna sino que también la manifestemos aquí en la tierra. Hacemos esto al esforzarnos por hacer nuestra vida en la tierra como la vida del cielo: una vida productiva, de justicia, de paz y bondad, un orden positivo que prospera.

El Santo Padre también señala la importancia de la fe y la esperanza cristianas en el mundo moderno. En su encíclica, el Papa Benedicto analiza los falsos sueños utópicos de la era moderna y apunta al sufrimiento indecible que éstos han causado a los seres humanos. Desde este punto de vista, la redención no se realiza ya mediante la fe en la acción salvadora de Dios, sino a través de aquello que los seres humanos pueden realizar mediante la aplicación del conocimiento técnico a todos los problemas de la sociedad. Una ciencia orientada a la praxis entiende el progreso como la superación de toda dependencia para crear así el espacio para un “reino” donde Dios ya no está en el centro. En su reflexión, el Papa afirma que cuando la razón ha renunciado a la fe en la revelación o a la sabiduría moral de las grandes religiones esto ha llevado ha desarrollos científicos que, en algunos casos, han causado temor entre nuestros contemporáneos. Así como el hombre necesita a Dios para mantener la esperanza, la razón necesita la fe para hacer del mundo un lugar más humano. “La razón necesita de la fe para ser totalmente ella misma”, afirma Benedicto XVI.

El Papa dice también que la oración lleva a la esperanza. “Un lugar primero y esencial de aprendizaje de la esperanza es la oración. Cuando ya nadie me escucha, Dios todavía me escucha. Cuando ya no puedo hablar con ninguno, ni invocar a nadie, siempre puedo hablar con Dios”.

Y añade que la actuación y el sufrimiento son también lugares de aprendizaje de la esperanza. “Podemos tratar de limitar el sufrimiento, luchar contra él, pero no podemos suprimirlo”, afirma. “Lo que cura al hombre no es esquivar el sufrimiento y huir ante el dolor, sino la capacidad de aceptar la tribulación, madurar en ella y encontrar en ella un sentido mediante la unión con Cristo, que ha sufrido con amor infinito”.

Una persona “no puede aceptar el sufrimiento del otro si no logra encontrar personalmente en el sufrimiento un sentido, un camino de purificación y de maduración, un camino de esperanza. En efecto, aceptar al otro que sufre significa asumir de alguna manera su sufrimiento, de modo que éste llegue a ser también mío. Pero precisamente porque ahora se ha convertido en sufrimiento compartido... este sufrimiento queda traspasado por la luz del amor”, continúa la encíclica.

El Papa Benedicto dice que la práctica de orar por los muertos revela otro aspecto importante del concepto cristiano de la esperanza. “Como cristianos, nunca deberíamos preguntarnos solamente: ¿Cómo puedo salvarme yo mismo? Deberíamos preguntarnos también: ¿Qué puedo hacer para que otros se salven y para que surja también para ellos la estrella de la esperanza? Entonces habré hecho el máximo también por mi salvación personal”.

Spe salvi es la segunda encíclica del Papa Benedicto XVI. La primera, Deus caritas est (Dios es amor), exploró el significado cristiano del amor y como este se expresa en la vida cotidiana. Fue publicada el 25 de diciembre de 2005.

Familia, comunidad humana y medio ambiente

7. La familia necesita una casa a su medida, un ambiente donde vivir sus propias relaciones. *Para la familia humana, esta casa es la tierra*, el ambiente que Dios Creador nos ha dado para que lo habitemos con creatividad y responsabilidad. Hemos de cuidar el medio ambiente: éste ha sido confiado al hombre para que lo cuide y lo cultive con libertad responsable, teniendo siempre como criterio orientador el bien de todos. Obviamente, el valor del ser humano está por encima de toda la creación. Respetar el medio ambiente no quiere decir que la naturaleza material o animal sea más importante que el hombre. Quiere decir más bien que no se la considera de manera egoísta, a plena disposición de los propios intereses, porque las generaciones futuras tienen también el derecho a obtener beneficio de la creación, ejerciendo en ella la misma libertad responsable que reivindicamos para nosotros. Y tampoco se ha de olvidar a los pobres, excluidos en muchos casos del destino universal de los bienes de la creación. Hoy la humanidad teme por el futuro equilibrio ecológico. Sería bueno que las valoraciones a este respecto se hicieran con prudencia, en diálogo entre expertos y entendidos, sin apremios ideológicos hacia conclusiones apresuradas y, sobre todo, concordando juntos un modelo de desarrollo sostenible, que asegure el bienestar de todos respetando el equilibrio ecológico. Si la tutela del medio ambiente tiene sus costes, éstos han de ser distribuidos con justicia, teniendo en cuenta el desarrollo de los diversos Países y la solidaridad con las futuras generaciones. Prudencia no significa eximirse de las propias responsabilidades y posponer las decisiones; significa más bien asumir el compromiso de decidir juntos después de haber ponderado responsablemente la vía a seguir, con el objetivo de fortalecer esa alianza entre ser humano y medio ambiente que ha de ser reflejo del amor creador de Dios, del cual procedemos y hacia el cual caminamos.

8. A este respecto, es fundamental « sentir » la tierra como « nuestra casa común » y, para ponerla al servicio de todos, adoptar la vía del diálogo en vez de tomar decisiones unilaterales. Si fuera necesario, se pueden aumentar los ámbitos institucionales en el plano internacional para afrontar juntos el gobierno de esta « casa » nuestra; sin embargo, lo que más cuenta es lograr que madure en las conciencias la convicción de que es necesario colaborar responsablemente. Los problemas que aparecen en el horizonte son complejos y el tiempo apremia. Para hacer frente a la situación de manera eficaz es preciso actuar de común acuerdo. Un ámbito en el que sería particularmente necesario intensificar el diálogo entre las Naciones es el de la *gestión de los recursos energéticos del planeta*. A este respecto, se plantea una doble urgencia para los Países tecnológicamente avanzados: por un lado, hay que revisar los elevados niveles de consumo debidos al modelo actual de desarrollo y, por otro, predisponer inversiones adecuadas para diversificar las fuentes de energía y mejorar la eficiencia energética. Los Países emergentes tienen hambre de energía, pero a veces este hambre se sacia a costa de los Países pobres que, por la insuficiencia de sus infraestructuras y tecnología, se ven obligados a malvender los recursos energéticos que tienen. A veces, su misma libertad política queda en entredicho con formas de protectorado o, en todo caso, de condicionamiento que se muestran claramente humillantes.

Familia, comunidad humana y economía

9. Una condición esencial para la paz en cada familia es que se apoye sobre el sólido fundamento de valores espirituales y éticos compartidos. Pero se ha de añadir que se tiene una auténtica experiencia de paz en la familia cuando a nadie le falta lo necesario, y el patrimonio familiar —fruto del trabajo de unos, del ahorro de otros y de la colaboración activa de todos— se administra correctamente con solidaridad, sin excesos ni despilfarro. Por tanto, para la paz familiar se necesita, por una parte, *la apertura a un patrimonio trascendente* de valores, pero al mismo tiempo no deja de tener su importancia un sabio cuidado tanto de los bienes materiales como de las relaciones personales. Cuando falta este elemento se deteriora la confianza mutua por las perspectivas inciertas que amenazan el futuro del núcleo familiar.

10. Una consideración parecida puede hacerse respecto a esa otra gran familia que es la humanidad en su conjunto. También la familia humana, hoy más unida por el fenómeno de la globalización, necesita además un fundamento de valores compartidos, una economía que responda realmente a las exigencias de un bien común de dimensiones planetarias. Desde este punto de vista, la referencia a la familia natural se revela también singularmente sugestiva. Hay que fomentar relaciones correctas y sinceras entre los individuos y entre los pueblos, que permitan a todos colaborar en plan de igualdad y justicia. Al mismo tiempo, es preciso comprometerse en *emplear acertadamente los recursos* y en *distribuir la riqueza con equidad*. En particular, las ayudas que se dan a los Países pobres han de responder a criterios de una sana lógica

económica, evitando derroches que, en definitiva, sirven sobre todo para el mantenimiento de un costoso aparato burocrático. Se ha de tener también debidamente en cuenta la exigencia moral de procurar que la organización económica no responda sólo a las leyes implacables de los beneficios inmediatos, que pueden resultar inhumanas.

Familia, comunidad humana y ley moral

11. Una familia vive en paz cuando todos sus miembros se *ajustan a una norma común*: esto es lo que impide el individualismo egoísta y lo que mantiene unidos a todos, favoreciendo su coexistencia armoniosa y la laboriosidad orgánica. Este criterio, de por sí obvio, *vale también para las comunidades más amplias*: desde las locales a la nacionales, e incluso a la comunidad internacional. Para alcanzar la paz se necesita una ley común, que ayude a la libertad a ser realmente ella misma, en lugar de ciega arbitrariedad, y que proteja al débil del abuso del más fuerte. En la familia de los pueblos se dan muchos comportamientos arbitrarios, tanto dentro de cada Estado como en las relaciones de los Estados entre sí. Tampoco faltan tantas situaciones en las que el débil tiene que doblegarse, no a las exigencias de la justicia, sino a la fuerza bruta de quien tiene más recursos que él. Hay que reiterarlo: la fuerza ha de estar moderada por la ley, y esto tiene que ocurrir también en las relaciones entre Estados soberanos.

12. La Iglesia se ha pronunciado muchas veces sobre la naturaleza y la función de la ley: la *norma jurídica* que regula las relaciones de las personas entre sí, encauzando los comportamientos externos y previendo también sanciones para los transgresores, tiene como criterio la *norma moral* basada en la naturaleza de las cosas. Por lo demás, la razón humana es capaz de discernirla al menos en sus exigencias fundamentales, llegando así hasta la Razón creadora de Dios que es el origen de todas las cosas. Esta norma moral debe regular las opciones de la conciencia y guiar todo el comportamiento del ser humano. ¿Existen normas jurídicas para las relaciones entre las Naciones que componen la familia humana? Y si existen, ¿son eficaces? La respuesta es sí; las normas existen, pero para lograr que sean verdaderamente eficaces *es preciso remontarse a la norma moral natural como base de la norma jurídica*, de lo contrario ésta queda a merced de consensos frágiles y provisionales.

13. El conocimiento de la norma moral natural no es imposible para el hombre que entra en sí mismo y, situándose frente a su propio destino, se interroga sobre la lógica interna de las inclinaciones más profundas que hay en su ser. Aunque sea con perplejidades e incertidumbres, puede llegar a descubrir, al menos en sus líneas esenciales, *esta ley moral común* que, por encima de las diferencias culturales, permite que los seres humanos se entiendan entre ellos sobre los aspectos más importantes del bien y del mal, de lo que es justo o injusto. Es indispensable remontarse hasta esta ley fundamental empleando en esta búsqueda nuestras mejores energías intelectuales, sin dejarnos desanimar por los equívocos o las tergiversaciones. De hecho, los valores contenidos en la ley natural están presentes, aunque de manera fragmentada y no siempre coherente, en los acuerdos internacionales, en las formas de autoridad reconocidas universalmente, en los principios del derecho humanitario recogido en las legislaciones de cada Estado o en los estatutos de los Organismos internacionales. *La humanidad no está « sin ley »*. Sin embargo, es urgente continuar el diálogo sobre estos temas, favoreciendo también la convergencia de las legislaciones de cada Estado hacia el reconocimiento de los derechos humanos fundamentales. El crecimiento de la cultura jurídica en el mundo depende además del esfuerzo por dar siempre consistencia a las normas internacionales con un contenido profundamente humano, evitando rebajarlas a meros procedimientos que se pueden eludir fácilmente por motivos egoístas o ideológicos.

Superación de los conflictos y desarme.

14. La humanidad sufre hoy, lamentablemente, grandes divisiones y fuertes conflictos *que arrojan densas nubes sobre su futuro*. Vastas regiones del planeta están envueltas en tensiones crecientes, mientras que el peligro de que aumenten los Países con armas nucleares suscita en toda persona responsable una fundada preocupación. En el Continente africano, a pesar de que numerosos Países han progresado en el camino de la libertad y de la democracia, quedan todavía muchas guerras civiles. El Medio Oriente sigue siendo aún escenario de conflictos y atentados, que influyen también en Naciones y regiones limítrofes, con el riesgo de quedar atrapadas en la espiral de la violencia. En un plano más general, se debe hacer notar, con pesar, un aumento del número de *Estados implicados en la carrera de armamentos*: incluso Naciones en vías de desarrollo destinan una parte importante de su escaso producto interior para comprar armas.

(Continuado en la página 6)

Miembros de 7 comunidades participan en un Retiro Juvenil Diocesano

Por Luis Ajú

El día 2 de Diciembre 2007, en la Iglesia de Stos. Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville se ha realizado el primer encuentro juvenil a nivel Diócesis, dirigido por Luis Aju y el P. Carmelo Jiménez. En el retiro participaron 7 comunidades de diferentes parroquias, con los Ministros Hispanos de dos comunidades acompañando a sus jóvenes. Las hermanas, Ofelia y Adelina vinieron de Mayfield, el Sr. José Gallegos de la parroquia de San José en Bowling Green, el P. Carmelo de las parroquias de San Pedro y Pablo de Hopkinsville, Sta. Susana de Elkton y Guthrie y Luis Aju con los jóvenes de la Parroquia de San José y Pablo en Owensboro.

En el Mini-retiro, los jóvenes compartieron su experiencia en el proceso de la Pascua Juvenil a nivel regional realizado en Dothan, AL. En realidad al escuchar a los jóvenes, se veía como estas actividades les habían impactado en sus vidas.

Como segunda parte del Mini-retiro, se trataron los temas de Adviento y Navidad, compartidos por el P. Carmelo. En la fotografía se aprecia el momento fuerte de la oración como parte de la reflexión. Esta actividad como inicio fue una bendición, puesto que con este encuentro a nivel Diócesis hemos puesto la semilla de la juventud. Ellos piden y quieren retiros de esta índole en el futuro, por un día o dos, en el lugar donde Dios nos abre las puertas. Por lo tanto, estamos viendo los detalles para planificar el próximo retiro.

La oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis, reconoce que la presencia y actividad de los jóvenes en nuestras comunidades Católicas. Debe ser y es una prioridad, por lo que todos debemos de atender y darle vida a las inquietudes de nuestros jóvenes. Es un reto para cada Ministro, velar, orientar y cuidar a los jóvenes, que son el presente y el futuro de la Iglesia en nuestra Diócesis.

También queremos agradecer infinitamente por la presencia del coro de Mayfield dirigido por las Hermanas, Ofelia y Adelina, el coro de San José de Bowling Green que nos han dado la música para conmovir nuestro espíritu de oración. Dios los bendiga y a todos los jóvenes que participaron que este año nuevo les traiga muchas alegrías y logros en sus metas con la bendición de Dios. P. Carmelo gracias por su apoyo y acompañamiento en la jornada de los jóvenes. Agradecemos en forma especial a las familias que nos recibieron con la comida, gracias por su hospitalidad al invitarnos a la mesa donde comimos juntos. Este ministerio lo conforman, las Señoras; Ana E. Alma Valdéz y Tomás Montiel. Gracias por su hospitalidad.



En la foto de arriba, el grupo completo comparte un momento de oración en frente del Santísimo guiado por el P. Carmelo Jimenez. Foto por Luis Ajú.

(Continuado de la página 5)

Las responsabilidades en este funesto comercio son muchas: están, por un lado, los Países del mundo industrialmente desarrollado que obtienen importantes beneficios por la venta de armas y, por otro, están también las oligarquías dominantes en tantos Países pobres que quieren reforzar su situación mediante la compra de armas cada vez más sofisticadas. En tiempos tan difíciles, es verdaderamente necesaria una movilización de todas las personas de buena voluntad para llegar a acuerdos concretos con vistas a una *eficaz desmilitarización*, sobre todo en el campo de las armas nucleares. En esta fase en la que el proceso de no proliferación nuclear está estancado, siento el deber de exhortar a las Autoridades a que reanuden las negociaciones con una determinación más firme de cara al *desmantelamiento progresivo y concordado de las armas nucleares existentes*. Soy consciente de que al renovar esta llamada me hago intérprete del deseo de cuantos comparten la preocupación por el futuro de la humanidad.

15. Hace ahora sesenta años, la Organización de las Naciones Unidas hacía pública de modo solemne la *Declaración universal de los derechos humanos* (1948-2008). Con aquel documento la familia humana reaccionaba ante los horrores de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, reconociendo la propia unidad basada en la igual dignidad de todos los hombres y poniendo en el centro de la convivencia humana el respeto de los derechos fundamentales de los individuos y de los pueblos: fue un paso decisivo en el camino difícil y laborioso hacia la concordia y la paz. Una mención especial merece también la celebración del *250 aniversario* de la adopción por parte de la Santa Sede de la *Carta de los derechos de la familia* (1983-2008), así como el *400 aniversario* de la celebración de la primera *Jornada Mundial de la Paz* (1968-2008). La celebración de esta Jornada, fruto de una intuición providencial del Papa Pablo VI, y retomada con gran convicción por mi amado y venerado predecesor, el Papa Juan Pablo II, ha ofrecido a la Iglesia a lo largo de los años la oportunidad de desarrollar, a través de los Mensajes publicados con ese motivo, una doctrina orientadora en favor de este bien humano fundamental. Precisamente a la luz de estas significativas efemérides, invito a todos los hombres y mujeres a que tomen una conciencia más clara sobre la común pertenencia a la única familia humana y a comprometerse para que la convivencia en la tierra refleje cada vez más esta convicción, de la cual depende la instauración de una paz verdadera y duradera. Invito también a los creyentes a implorar a Dios sin cesar el gran don de la paz. Los cristianos, por su parte, saben que pueden confiar en la intercesión de la que, siendo la Madre del Hijo de Dios que se hizo carne para la salvación de toda la humanidad, es Madre de todos. Deseo a todos un feliz Año nuevo.

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