

Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

Western Kentucky Catholic, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
Volume 36, Number 5, May, 2009

Two Young Men to be Ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Owensboro



You are invited to join
Father Daniel Christian Dillard
as he offers his
Mass of Thanksgiving.
Sunday, May 31, 2009
11:30 am
Holy Name of Jesus
Catholic Church
511 Second Street
Henderson, KY 42420
A reception will follow.

With Praise and Thanksgiving
to Almighty God
The Diocese of Owensboro
in Kentucky
together with the families of
Daniel Christopher Dillard
and
Joshua Allen McCarty
invite you to their
Ordination
to the
Sacred Order of the
Priesthood
through the
laying on of hands
and the
invocation of the Holy Spirit
on Saturday,
the Thirtieth Day of May
in the Year of Our Lord 2009
at ten o'clock in the morning
in Saint Stephen's Cathedral
610 Locust Street
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301.
A reception will follow.



You are invited to join
Father Joshua Allen McCarty
as he offers his
Mass of Thanksgiving.
Sunday, May 31, 2009
10:30 am
Saints Peter and Paul
Catholic Church
902 E. 9th Street
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
A reception will follow.

Deacons Assist Blessing of Sacramental Oils At Chrism Mass

Deacon Daniel Christian Dillard,
left, and Deacon Joshua Allen Mc-
Carty, right, assisted Bishop John
McRaith at the Diocesan Chrism
Mass April 7, 2009 in St. Stephen
Cathedral. Seminarian Julio Bar-
erra held the book as Bishop John
prayed the closing prayers of the
liturgy. Photo by Larena Lawson



May 3, 2009 is the
World Day of
Prayer for Vocations.



Prayer for Vocations

Lord, through Your Holy
Spirit, we ask for Your
blessing as we pray for
vocations. Inspire many men
and women to hear Your call
to serve God and the Church
as priests, deacons, vowed
religious and lay ministers.
Give them courage, renew
their faith and inspire them
with confidence to answer
Your call. We ask this
through Jesus' name. Amen.

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Diocese Of Owensboro Priest Assignments For 2009

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

- **Bakka**, HGN, Rev. Suresh: Administrator of St. Augustine Parish, Reed, and St. Peter Parish, Stanley, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Bittel**, Rev. Pat: Administrator of St. William Parish, Knottsville, and St. Lawrence Parish, St. Lawrence, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Buckner**, Rev. Mark: Administrator of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho, effective June 9, 2009.
- **McClure**, Rev. Jason: Administrator of St. Leo Parish, Murray, and Chaplain and Director of the Newman Center, Murray, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Powers**, Rev. Richard: Administrator of St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph, and St. Elizabeth Parish, Curdsville, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Stevenson**, Rev. Tony: Administrator of St. Anthony Parish, Grand Rivers, and St. Pius Tenth Parish, Calvert City, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Vadakumkara**, HGN, Rev. Shijo: Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Hickman; St. Edward Parish, Fulton; and St. Jude Parish, Clinton, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Venters**, Rev. Darrell: Administrator of St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.

SACRAMENTAL MINISTER

- **Bremer**, Rev. Al: Sacramental Minister of St. Michael Parish, Sebree, plus assignments to Prison Ministry at Kentucky State Penitentiary, Eddyville, Kentucky, and Hispanic Ministry to St. Michael Parish, Sebree, and Christ the King Parish, Madisonville, effective June 9, 2009.



First Assignment

Deacons Josh McCarty, center, and Daniel Dillard, right, learned about their first assignments as diocesan priests on April 7, 2009, in Father Mike Clark's office in the Catholic Pastoral Center, Owensboro. Later that morning, all three participated in the Chrism Mass in St. Stephen Cathedral. Staff Photo

SACRAMENTAL MODERATOR

- **Calhoun**, Rev. Jerry: Sacramental Moderator of St. Michael Parish, Sebree, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Thomas**, Rev. John: Sacramental Moderator of St. Susan Parish, Elkton, and Sts. Mary and James Parish, Guthrie, while remaining Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Director of the Diocesan Diaconate Program, effective June 9, 2009.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- **Dillard**, Rev. Daniel: Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Goetz**, Rev. Ray: Parochial Vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and other opportunities in ministry related to homiletics, effective June 9, 2009.
- **McCarty**, Rev. Josh: Parochial Vicar of St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, effective June 9, 2009.

- **Ottagon**, HGN, Rev. Anthoni: Parochial Vicar of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.

OTHER

- **Ahabyona**, Rev. Titus: Full-time ministry to Diocesan Tribunal, while in residence at St. Pius Tenth Parish, Owensboro, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Kreutzer**, Rev. Dan: Parish substitution and other opportunities in ministry in the parishes, while in residence at St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg, Kentucky, effective June 9, 2009.
- **Williams**, Rev. Mike: Chaplain and Director of St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and other opportunities in ministry to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, Bowling Green, effective June 9, 2009.



Congratulations.

We are happy to congratulate Saint Meinrad graduates Daniel Dillard and Josh McCarty on their ordination to the priesthood.

Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB, and the students, faculty, monks and staff of Saint Meinrad School of Theology



Saint Meinrad

Saint Meinrad School of Theology
200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577, www.saintmeinrad.edu

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

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The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars. "Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God." -Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Please let us know politely if you find proofing or factual errors in items of this publication.

The next edition will be the August, 2009 Western Kentucky Catholic.

Close Encounters With Bishop McRaith

The Western Kentucky Catholic, May, 2009 **3**



By Gary Trogden

In this article about Bishop McRaith, I'd like to bypass well-reported statistics such as his birthplace, years as bishop, etc., and instead write about three very memorable and personal encounters I had with Bishop

McRaith while he served as our bishop.

The first encounter was shortly after Bishop McRaith came to our Western Kentucky Diocese. A friend of mine had a small one-room church congregation on his farm near Fordsville. Somehow, he got acquainted with Bishop McRaith, and the Bishop agreed to come and talk to this small group of about two dozen people. My friend knew I was Catholic and I think he wanted some Catholic presence at this gathering, so he invited me to attend.

It was a weekday night and around 25-30 people attended. Bishop McRaith talked about how important it is to keep alive values and customs so unique to rural life. What impressed me most about that informal gathering was, first, the fact that the Bishop would even take time for such a small non-Catholic group. I think this action by Bishop McRaith says that he saw a much larger church to minister to than the formal Catholic Church that he was appointed to. Also noteworthy is how attentive this small group was to Bishop McRaith. Some sat in folded chairs, yet about half of them sat on the floor near the Bishop as if grateful to be so close to him. He truly did give the appearance of a shepherd.

My second memorable encounter with Bishop McRaith was in the late 1990s. A small group of men met bi-weekly at the HealthPark Chapel and would go through a cycle of prayer, bible discussion, and a speaker from faiths other than Christian for the purpose of searching for spiritual common ground. Clarence May, who is now a member at Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church was the main spearhead of this group of men, who called themselves "Sojourners." At our meeting nearest Christmas in 1998, Bishop McRaith agreed to come and speak to our group. The Bishop spoke of the importance of one of our group's goal, and that was to listen to people of other faiths. He said that regardless of any differences, that was putting into practice two of Jesus' important teachings - those being love of neighbor and the promotion of peace. It was a very special evening, informal yet very personal and important.

The following close encounter with Bishop McRaith was my most memorable. It was in the winter of 1988. The Bishop had heard of Fr. Tucker's extensive route to the homebound that he went on every Friday. The Bishop sent word to Fr. Tucker that he wanted to go with him on his route, but that it would have to be on a Saturday. On that Friday before the Bishop was scheduled to go on this route, I had the privilege of driving Fr. Tucker on this route because it was too cold for him to ride his bike. Fr. Tucker told the people that the next day he and the Bishop would be back. Many of the people could hardly believe Fr. Tucker - that the Bishop was actually going to come to their homes. But it did happen. That next day I had the privilege of going with Fr. Tucker and the Bishop on this route. The people were in awe. Yet that quickly changed as the Bishop came into their homes, sat in their rocking chairs and listened to anything they wanted to talk about. We visited 20-25 homes that Saturday and the Bishop - heard stories about their cars, their scars, their wars, their wounds; yet not once did the Bishop seem in a hurry. It truly was Holiness in Homes. The Bishop would listen and then administer the Sacraments and Blessings before he left.

When Bishop McRaith came to be Bishop of Western Kentucky, he had to fill some big shoes left by his predecessor, Bishop Soenneker. But I saw on that cold winter Saturday that Bishop McRaith not only filled those shoes, but he was well on his way to fulfilling the shoes of another person from the city of Nazareth. I think the Bishop's actions in these three encounters could be summed up in five words: "Bring the people unto me."

Reprinted with permission from "Sow The Word," March, 2009, Vol. 3, Issue 1, Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church Newsletter.

A Tribute to Bishop McRaith

By Father Tony Bickett

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Tuesday, March 17, the Feast of St. Patrick, the priests of the diocese gathered at St. Stephen Cathedral to honor Bishop Emeritus John Jeremiah McRaith, in his retirement as our diocese's third bishop. The priests first gathered in the Cathedral to celebrate evening prayer. Music was provided by Michael Conley, music director of the Cathedral, along with a wonderful quartet of flute and stringed instruments. Under the direction of Michael Bogdan, music director of the diocese, six priests served as a *schola cantorum*.

Following the prayer service the priests gathered in the Cathedral undercroft for a social time and a formal dinner. The dinner was provided by the staff at the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center under the direction of Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU.

The meal was a wonderful buffet with prime rib, salmon, and chicken with all the trimmings.

After being welcomed to the Cathedral by the pastor, Fr. John Vaughan, Fr. Jason McClure led the priests in a prayer of blessings. Following the meal, Fr. Ed Bradley had been asked to give a tribute to the bishop on behalf of all the priests. One of the many accomplishments of the bishop was the special care he showed for all the priests.

Throughout the evening, Fr. John tried to tell some Irish jokes; however, he was funnier in his interpretations than the jokes



Father Jerry Calhoun presented to Bishop John McRaith a memory book from the priests of the diocese. Each priest was asked to submit a picture, a letter, card, or a thought and they were combined in that book. The memory book was our priests' gift to Bishop John. Photo by Father John Vaughan

were themselves.

Towards the end of the evening, Fr. Jerry Calhoun came forward to present a memory book to the bishop. The book was a collection of letters all the priests were invited to write as a way of thanking the bishop for his 26 years of service.

Following this, the bishop came forward to thank all the priests and said how his mother would have been proud to hear all the good things said about him this evening. Bishop John also related how he has had to learn to give up the ministry he has really enjoyed over all these years.

The night concluded with a prayer by Fr. Phil Riney in which he quoted an old Irish blessing wishing the bishop a happy retirement.



New Diocesan Website
Check us out at
www.rcdok.org

Welcome, RCIA Candidates and Catechumens

The Diocese of Owensboro Welcomes

New Members To Our Church

2009 CANDIDATES

Susie Adams, Tim Adams, Elizabeth Marjorie Agro, Bret Avra, Ernestine Bard, James Harold Barnard, Rosalie Mary Barnard, Kim Blanton, Nick Boling, Phillip Bradberry, Chris Bradley, Kristi Brewer, Melanie Brewer, Rebecca Marie Bridges, Stacy Britt, Terry Britt, Judy Brown, Ryan Burden, Ciara Buxton, Joshua Buxton, Jesse Castaneda, Bridgette Sue Cline, Amanda LeAnn Conaway, Nicole Conkright-Gonzalez, Amy Cook, Melena Crabtree, Cameron Reece Crider, Kevin Matthew Crider, Mindy Diane Crider, Meshea Crysus, Mitchell Curry, Cassie Danhauer, Camilla Marie Davis, Edward Dewerff, Amber Dossett, Melissa Elder, Kevin Charles Elliott, Ansly Ellis, Jenny Marie Evans, Martin Fanning, Samuel Kevin Fee, Travis Felker, Frederick Emmonel Foltz, Jennifer Leigh Folz, Michael Foster, Olivia Foster, Martha Fowler, Travis Fox, Rhonda Lynn French, Robert Frensley, Linda Frey, Peggy Gates, James Gerald, Jerrod Goff, Robyn Nicole Green, April Greenup, David Griffith, Dustin Grillon, Jennifer Guess, Joel Guess, Robin Jean Halford, Amy Hancock, Michelle Harbison, Joseph Harper, Timothy Harper, Joey Hatfield, Anita Hayden, Jacob Hein, Madelyn Hempen, Patrick (Tony) Hempen, Stacy Hempen, Janet Herzberg, Nash Roy Hightower III, Britney Holland, Jimmy Hopps, Todd Howard, William Huelsenbeck, Sarah Elizabeth Humphrey, Christiane Jennings, Allyn Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Anna Justice, Kristi Kennedy, Gary Kinswa, Melissa Kinswa, Todd Robert Knutson, Ben Lattus, Ashley Lawing, Denise Lawson, Emmy Lax, James Lefler, Leigh Anne Littlefield, Karen Lortie, Bethe Lowe, Krista Mayhall, Bambi McCarty, Steve McChesney, Jak McCormick, Kevin McDonough, Ken Delane McKenney, Lesley D. McKenney, Robert Meador, Jr., Douglas Ray Medlock, Kim Meier, Patricia Menaugh, Daniele Millay, Keith Millay, Julie Miller, Rocio Gasca Moreno, Anna "Michelle" Morris, Glenda Morris, Joe Morton, Lynn Morton, Todd Nelson, Stacy Nichols, Carol Nielsen, Christopher O'Dell, Courtney O'Dell, Bethe Ojeda, Todd Ojeda, Kim Olsen, Lisa O'Rourke, Jay Page, Sarah Louise Patterson, Kirsten Nicole Pattison-Knutson, Missy Payne, Teri Payne, Billy Peay, Mandy Perez, Virginia Perry, Sheri Pfingston, Eric Shane Pruett, Haleigh Rice, Timothy Rice, Benjamin Riedell, Shonna Riedell, Christina Riggs, Gloria Jean Riggs, Gay Nell Rittenberry, Hector Rodriquez, Sue Rogers, Delana Rose, Stacy Rose, Jennifer Rousseau, Katherine Saldana, Katrina Sanders,



Reception into full Communion and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil at Saint Thomas More Church, Paducah – Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds prays as the group of candidates, with their sponsors, gathers around the altar. Missy Eckenberg Photo

Kandice Skabo, Antionette Skinner, Lindsey Smith, Geoff Snyder, Bob Sparks, Scott Stewart, Bridgett Stuart, Kenneth Stuff, Lucas Tanner-Gray, Alexis Thomas, Patty Ann Thurman, Jimmy Tichenor, Selina Vowels, Hailey Elizabeth Walker, Kathy Wardrip, Shannon Warf, Susan Warrell, April Warren, Vester Alan Webb, Allen Welch, Larry Gale Wilson, Donna Witten, Daniel Witworth,

Sarah Witworth, Betty Woodlief, Dean Worthington, Brandon Wurth, Suzanne Yopp, Amanda York, Harry (Gene) Young, Sheryl Zoglman.

2009 CATECHUMENS

Nell Allee, Wayne Arnett, Jack Ballard, Melvin Blackburn, Thomas Paul Bland, Tyler Boone Trevathan, April Bowles, Mark Breese, Jacklyn Lee Burczyk, Amanda Campbell, Trenton Campbell, Truss Campbell, Georgia Carnes, Brett Carper, Annetta Dale, Baron Daniels, Barry Scott Davis, Curt Divine, Derek Wayne Doig, Clint Dowell, Austin Thomas Durbin, Chase Elder, Emma Elder, Inson England, Kristol England, Stephen Fisher, Haley Forshee, Alexa Foster, Seth Foster, Rudy Givens, Alex Green, Celina Green, Michael Gunn, Josh Hagan, Robin Hancock, Jeremy Harper, Cara Harvey, Evan Harvey, Hank Harvey, Zachary Hayes, John Hodges, Gina Horton, Richard "Critt" Hudson, David Hughes, Nick Husk, Logan Kinswa, Wendy Sue Kuehlman, Ben LaCasse, Mike Lawing, Makale Jordan Lucas, Jimna Macias-Acevedo, Daisy Mayhall, Molly Mayhall, Andrea McCormack, Brendan McCormack, Brian McCormack, Mary McCormack, Billy J. McElwain, Jr., Caitlin Millay, Phoenix Miralles, John Eric Mount, Landon Nix, Mason Nofsinger, Emeline Ojeda, Isabella Ojeda, Mike Pierce, April Piper, Jody Piper, Kaylee Nichole Ratliff, Casey Reagan, John Reed, Sean Riggs, Tammy Roberts, Alexander Rodriquez, Lacy Rogers, James Aden Rollins, Toby Rone, Esther Rosales, Jason Scott, Kevin Shelton, Dwain Smith, Brandy Nichole Stamper, Kristina Stevens, Nicholas Stevens, Amanda Sumner, Cynthia Sumner, Oliva Sweat, Kaylynn Michelle Thomas, Zachary Thomas, Tim Tucker, Brant Veal, Christian Waggoner, Cristy Warf, Lyndell Wheeler, Daniel Wilbanks, Susan Ybarzabal, Claire York, Makayla York, Michael Zlamal.



Baptism

Seminarian Julio Barrera associated Father Jason McClure, pastor of Saint Alphonsus Church, during this baptism of a new parishioner at the Easter Vigil. Photo by Larena Lawson

St. Mary, Paducah, Third Graders Mean Business



PADUCAH, Ky. - The students in Mrs. Morrow's third grade have proven their business sense by setting up and running their own business. The "Snack Shack" closed Thursday, March 19 following its fourth day. The Shack was conceived as part of a class project on business and commerce. The entire class went through the major activities involved in forming and running a business.

The class began with resumes. Each person submitted resumes to various selection committees. Based on the resumes, specific candidates were invited to an interview for particular jobs. The new company had a CEO, CFO, COO, advertising and service positions. The executive board then did market research to decide what need the company might meet.

After surveying the student body, the company identified after school snacks as an area of need. The executive board then prepared a business plan and applied for a business loan through USBank where Mrs. Morrow's husband is an executive. Once the loan of \$295 was approved, everyone got down to work. Purchasing agents bought supplies, advertising agents made posters and wrote announcements to be included in the announcements at the beginning and end of each day. Finance people kept track of expenses and income, and negotiated with After School, Library, and Cafeteria for the use of tables and space. Finally, operations branch students conducted sales.

The students learned a lot about the major aspects involved in any business. The project was a huge success. The class appears to have made about \$580 on the project. A portion of the profits will be donated to Hope Unlimited. The remainder will help fund class field trips.

Many thanks are due to everyone at USBank for helping the students put this together. *Submitted by Nikki Fuller*

Prayer for the Selection of a Bishop for the Diocese of Owensboro

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, You are our eternal shepherd and guide. In your mercy, grant your Church in Western Kentucky a shepherd who will walk in your ways and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing. Send your Spirit of wisdom upon those who are to select a new Bishop of Owensboro. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your Name glorified. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2009 Parish Picnic Schedule

May 8-9		Barbecue Festival, Downtown, Owensboro, Ky.
May 16	11:00 a.m.	Carmel Home, Owensboro
May 31	11:00 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
June 6	4:00 p.m.	Precious Blood, Owensboro
June 6	Noon	Saint Joseph, Leitchfield
June 13	4:00 p.m.	St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro
June 20	4:00 p.m.	St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
June 20	3:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
June 20	4:00 p.m. Mass;	serving following-St. Peter, Waverly
June 27	4:30 p.m.	Immaculate Conception, Hawesville
June 27	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
July 4	3:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Axtel (Rough River)
July 4	3:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Peonia
July 4	11:30 a.m.	St. Denis, Fancy Farm
July 11	4:00 p.m.	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
July 18	11:30 a.m.	St. Charles, Bardwell
July 18	4:00 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
July 25	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
July 25	3:00 p.m.	St. Paul, Leitchfield.
July 26	4:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Browns Valley
Aug. 1	11:00 a.m.	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Aug. 1	Noon	Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
Aug. 4	5:00 p.m.	St. Martin, Rome
Aug. 8	4:00 p.m. Mass;	5:00 p.m. serving begins-St. Ann, Morganfield
Aug. 8	4:00 p.m.	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Aug. 29	3:00 p.m. (EST)	Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington
Aug. 29	4:30 p.m.	St. Columba, Lewisport
Sept. 12	4:00 p.m. Mass;	4:30 p.m. serving begins St. Agnes, Uniontown
Sept. 12	11:00 a.m.	St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Sept. 13	11:30 a.m.	Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount
Sept. 19	Noon	St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Sept. 19	4:00 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
Sept. 20	Noon	St. Thomas More, Paducah
Sept 25-26		Holy Name Fall Festival, Henderson, Ky.
Sept 26	3:00 p.m.	Immaculate, Owensboro
Sept. 27		St. Leo, Murray
Sept. 27	11:00 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Sept. 27		St. Joseph, Central City

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky

39th Annual Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009

For the benefit of the Retired Ursuline Sisters

Serving Times: 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Barbecue
- Ice Cream
- Booths
- Games
- Yard Sales
- Silent Auction
- And More!

Get your raffle tickets, only \$2.00, from any Ursuline Sister or call 270-229-4103 ext 278



We hope you can join us at our picnic!
Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY
42356-9999
www.ursulines@msj.org
info@maplemount.org License #0290

Teens Encounter Christ

The Paschal Mystery in the Year of Saint Paul



by Father Eric D Riley, WKYTEC
Spiritual Director, wkytec.org

The Holy Year of Saint Paul ends 29 June 2009. During this past year we have been contemplating the Letters of Saint Paul and their relation to the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the TEC movement.



As we continue to celebrate the Easter season the Resurrection of Christ is fresh on our minds and in our hearts. Beginning with the great Triduum we have been engaged in that time of year that so very familiar to those who experience the Paschal weekends of the TEC movement. We are still looking forward to the celebration of the Lord's ascension to the Father in the glory of the Ascension, when Christ took our humanity in the City of God, the glory of Heaven. He has raised our human nature and restored us to our place in the heavenly Kingdom, prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Soon we will be celebrating the great solemnity of Pentecost. For us in the TEC movement this is a reminder of our call to live the eighth day as active members of the Mystical Body of Christ. As Divine Mercy Sunday has reminded us, we are called to put into action the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Together in Christ let us continue to live the commands of Christ by loving God and our neighbor. Let us continue to turn to Saint Paul's letters for nourishment for the soul. Let us be about the work of the Lord in the Paschal Mystery until He returns to judge the living and the dead. Have a great summer!



The St. Mary Elementary School academic team: from left to right: Cindy Poat, Karina Romero, Emily Bowerman, Kyle Johnson, Emily Hodges, Nathan Hodges, Ryan Ginithan, Helena Icke, Robert Bosch, Molliann England, Matthew Poat.

St. Mary Elementary Academic Team Competes at Governor's Cup

PADUCAH, Ky. - On March 17th, 2009 the St. Mary Elementary Academic Team competed in the Regional Governor's Cup Competition in the Future Problem Solving category. The team members were Houston Babbs, Nathan Hodges, Michael Largent, and Emily Hodges. The team placed 2nd.

On March 21st, 2009 the Academic Team competed in the following categories: Written Assessment, Written Composition, and Quick Recall at the Regional Governor's Cup Competition. The team members in Written Composition were Hannah Waltmon

Body Language:

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West



Sex and the Gospel

The Associated Press recently ran a story about a controversy brewing among a community of "bible-believing" folk in rural Alabama. Many in the town of Good Hope were disturbed by a billboard advertising a series of sermons at the local Daystar Church. The billboard, next to a picture of a bride and groom, read: "Great sex: God's way." "It's really stirred up the people here," said a town clerk.

The prickly topic of sex always seems to "stir us up," doesn't it? Perhaps my sensitivities are just different because of the work I do, but nothing strikes me as untoward in what Daystar Church is trying to do. It strikes me, rather, as an attempt to engage the culture in a conversation about God's plan for sex and marriage. And this is something we must do.

The article reported that Jerry Lawson, the pastor at the center of the controversy, said one of the purposes of his campaign "was to get Christian parents talking to their kids about sex before they learn too much immorality from TV or playground buddies."

Sounds good to me. Not only good – essential. Because if we aren't feeding our children from the banquet of God's glorious plan for man and woman, they will, without a doubt, be eating from the culture's pornographic smorgasbord.

"I think some people are kind of missing the point," said Lawson. The church needs to be out front on the topic of sex when even kids' TV shows depict illicit relationships and homosexuality, he said. "It comes down to God saying the most healthy place for sex and the only right place for sex is within a marriage – one man, one woman, and one marriage," Lawson said.

And this has "really stirred up the people"? Why? Local evangelist Roland Belew gives a simple answer. He said the whole idea of talking about sex in church goes against the teaching of the New Testament apostles. "Paul said preach the

Gospel. ...Talking about sex ain't gonna get nobody to heaven," said Belew.

Oh boy. Where to begin? Obviously discretion is required from the pulpit. But the idea that "preaching the Gospel" has nothing to do with sex and that "preaching about sex" has nothing to do with the Gospel betrays layers and layers of seriously misguided thinking. When we divorce God's love from sexual love, as Pope Benedict says, "the essence of Christianity" becomes "decisively cut off from the complex fabric of human life" ("God is Love," 7). The "gospel" then becomes cold, aloof, inhuman. In other words, we're no longer preaching the real Gospel.

According to John Paul II, coming to understand God's plan for sex – and by that I mean coming to understand God's plan for creating us as male and female and calling the two to become "one flesh" – is essential if we are to understand who God is and what his eternal plan is for us. In other words, it's essential if we are to understand what the Gospel is actually all about – what it promises, how it challenges us, and what it leads us to believe in and hope for both in this life and the next.

For God stamped an image of his own mystery and plan right in our bodies as male and female. "For this reason...the two become one flesh." For what reason? The very Apostle to which Mr. Belew appeals tells us the reason for sex: it's all a great mystery that reveals to us the "good news" of the Gospel: God has wed himself to us forever through the union of Christ and the church (see Eph 5:31-32).

In his "Letter to Families," John Paul II described this passage in Ephesians as "the compendium or summa, in some sense, of the teaching about God and man which was brought to fulfillment by Christ" (19). In other words, if you are looking for a passage that summarizes the entire message of the Bible, this passage about God's plan for sex fits the bill quite nicely.

I can agree with Mr. Belew that talking about sex the way the culture does "ain't gonna get nobody to heaven." But talking about it the way St. Paul does will launch us there like a rocket. If that's what Pastor Lawson is trying to do, I'm all for it.

and Kelly Stewart. Kelly Stewart tied for 6th place. The team members in Written Assessment were Robert Bosh (Science); Kyle Johnson (Social Studies) 6th place; Matthew Poat (Language Arts) 9th place and Matthew Poat (Social Studies) tied for 5th place. In Quick Recall, participating members were Matthew Poat, Nathan Hodges, Ryan Ginithan, Emily Bowerman, Helena Icke, Karina Romero, Robert Bosh, Mark DeNeve, Cameron Crawley and Kyle Johnson. The team placed 6th.

Spring Day of Wisdom Is May 28, 2009



**Theresa L. Rowe,
Christian
motivational speaker**

Owensboro Native Theresa Rowe is the featured speaker for the Spring Day of Wisdom which will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Ky.

Theresa L. Rowe's passion is wellness coaching from a Christian perspective. A former model, Theresa has been in the fitness industry since the early 1980's and has inspired thousands of people to combine their faith with fitness.

Theresa holds ten fitness certifications and is a motivational wellness speaker for groups that include the National Day of Prayer and Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS). She writes a biweekly newspaper column, "Body & Soul," and hosts Shape-Up, a TV fitness show, and Shaped by Faith Break, a radio broadcast. Theresa's new book, Shaped by Faith, reveals the ten secrets that Theresa has found to be essential to nurturing your spirit and body and becoming healthier, holier, and more able to endure.

Theresa lives with her husband, Robin, and three of their seven children in Calhoun, Kentucky. Her web site is www.shapedbyfaith.com. I'm sure we can all benefit from Theresa's great inspirational story and her exercise demonstration to fit our own particular lifestyles.

I hope to see you in May!

Please return this reservation form with your check made in the amount of \$5 per person to the Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street Owensboro, KY 42301. Reservation deadline is Tuesday May 26th, 2009.

Name _____

Address _____

Parish _____

Number of Reservations _____

Check Amount \$ _____.

Sophia Awards Mass Changes Venue



The Sophia Awards Mass Celebration will be held in Henderson, Kentucky this year at Holy Name of Jesus Parish located at 511 Second Street, on Sunday, September 27th, at 2:30 in the afternoon followed by a reception in the parish hall.

The Sophia Award Mass is a celebration of life and recognition of those award winners chosen by their parish.

Anyone in the parish can nominate an outstanding senior citizen of their parish. The persons being nominated should be age 65 or older. They can be a couple, a priest, a nun, or a person can

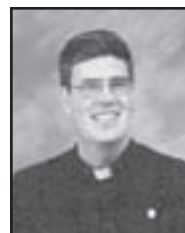
be nominated posthumously. The nominees should be a good example of Catholic Faith in their parish and community. The nominees can be homebound or physically active.

The nominations should be sent with reasons why the person is being nominated, to Ginny Knight-Simon, Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301 or E-Mail ginny.knight-simon@pastoral.org

The deadline for nominations is July 15, 2009

Catholic Ecumenism

**By Fr. Tony Bickett,
Ecumenical Officer**



In this article I want to share with you three main ways of promoting greater unity among Christians. These three ways are prayer, faith sharing, and service.

As Catholics, we are called to lead the way towards the full visible unity among all Christians.

The Church tells us that prayer is the soul of the whole ecumenical movement.. Everyone can pray for unity and indeed we must. We must pray for other Christians and also pray with other Christians.

Our hearts need to be converted more and more to the will of Christ who prayed that we might all be one in him. For greater unity to happen we must grow in our desire for unity in the body of Christ.

Many of the prayers at Mass express this desire for unity. Even the little prayer called the "morning offering" has a petition for "the reunion of all Christians." Prayer changes things so let us pray daily for Christian unity.

In addition to prayer we need to study our faith and the faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Since the Second Vatican Council the Catholic Church has conducted many dialogues with all the main Protestant denominations around the world.

Before Vatican II we often focused more on how we were different from one another. In recent times more emphasis has been placed on seeing what we share in common.

Yes, we have our differences but when we focus on what is most important we

often find that we are much more alike than we are different. Whenever we share our faith with others it helps us to grow closer together.

There are many ways for us to serve together as Christians. As Christians we need to be working together for the sake of the gospel instead of against one another.

There are many things that we can do better together than we can on our own. When it comes to feeding the hungry of the world and among our own poor there is much that we can do.

What a difference it makes when fellow Christians work together to form a community food pantry, rather than for each church to have one of their own.

Together we can make a difference in working for world peace, for basic human rights, for the health and education of the poor. Working together helps us grow closer together.

In most counties in our diocese, local pastors come together for a common purpose. These ministerial associations are a means for churches to pray together, to dialogue with one another, and to witness to the gospel together.

So let us strive to pray together, to learn together, and to serve the world together for the sake of Christ.

I am still seeking individuals who have an interest in ecumenism to serve on the diocesan commission for ecumenism or to serve as parish ecumenical contact persons. If you would like to know more just give me a call at (270) 756-2356, or email me at ftonyb@yahoo.com <<mailto:ftonyb@yahoo.com>>, or look on the diocesan website at <http://www.owensborodio.org/ecumenism.html> <<http://www.owensborodio.org/ecumenism.html>>.

Sister Rita Marie Boteler, 77, Died April 11



Sister Rita Marie, 77, of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, C.P. (Clare Rita Boteler), died Saturday, April 11, 2009. The daughter of Silverius Aloysius Boteler and Virgie Mae Winkler Boteler, she was born Oct. 15, 1931, in Knottsville and was baptized at St. William Catholic Church. She graduated from St. William's grade and high school and

entered the Passionist Nuns monastery in 1950, making her first profession of vows in 1952 and her perpetual vows in 1955. She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Joseph Charles Boteler and Lucian Aloysius Boteler; and five sisters, Mary William Carrico, Teresa Helen Coomes, Catherine Elizabeth Higdon, Sister Rose Mary Boteler, C.P., and Regina Marie Boteler.

Survivors include two sisters, Ann Jones of Grandview, Ind., and Agnes Marie Murphy of Lewisport; and numerous nieces and nephews. Services were April 15 with burial at the monastery. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of Mass offerings.

Spiritual Axioms of the Late Fr. Howard Tucker

As Remembered by Gary Trogden, December, 2008, Part II



Gary Trogden

This is a continuation of *The Axioms of the Late Fr. Howard Tucker* which began in the April, 2009 Western Kentucky Catholic

Gary Trogden is a member of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro.

Fr. Tucker on a simple lifestyle.

Fr. Tucker used a bicycle, and later in his 80s, a bicycle and moped to get around. It was just part of his simplistic lifestyle. Only in severe weather, ice and snow, did I and a few others have the privilege of taking Fr. Tucker on his Friday Holy Communion route. I think he felt at home in my old truck. It was a '63 Chevy truck around 20 years old at the time. He could get in and out easily. It had no heater. I used a candle on the dashboard as a defroster. I think Fr. Tucker felt at home with such meager and simple arrangements.

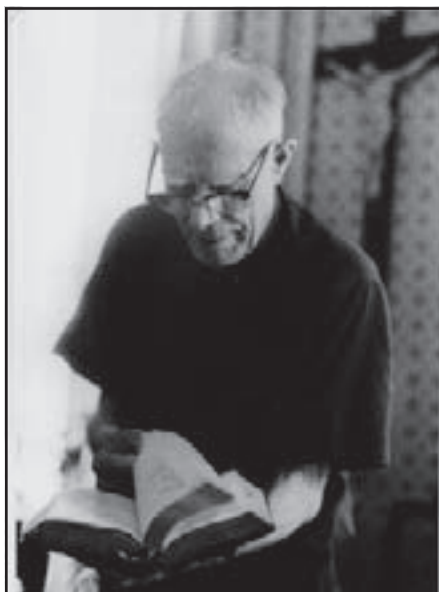
I, too, have often thought of the Sacramental Jesus that Fr. Tucker would carry around with him and how Jesus is the "same today, yesterday, and forever." The Jesus born in a manger, the sacramental Jesus riding with his humble priest in a cold truck heated only by a candle. Those truly were holy moments in my life. No wonder Mary too preferred to be called a lowly servant; for in lowliness, one still finds Jesus.

Fr. Tucker on food.

Fr. Tucker was of average height; around 5'10" or 5'11". He was of slim build; 155 - 160 lbs. Sometimes, after finishing his Communion route on Fridays, I would take him to a food store called Charley's at 9th and Allen. They had a deli. Fr. Tucker would order a hamburger (plain). On the way home he would eat half and save the other half for supper. This just seemed so natural to him, probably a habit he learned while in the monastery of taking what was needed, but no extras. Yet his energy never seemed lacking. Food to Fr. Tucker, as with all things, was to be taken in moderation.

Fr. Tucker, precursor to our parish motto.

"We give our hearts to God, and our talents to His people." Our noble motto was riot yet coined in Fr. Tucker's day. Yet I somehow feel he was the precursor to our parish motto because it was the way he lived. Not only did he live it, but others were influenced by his example. There was such a unique flavor flowing between his



Fr. Howard Tucker holding his beloved Bible, daily reading for him along with his Breviary. WKC file photo

seriousness to serve and his spiritual smile. His life was the precursor to our parish motto, and apply it he did.

Fr. Tucker on hospital ministry.

Fr. Tucker was the hospital chaplain for the hospital which was then known as Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. Fr. Tucker was on call day and night to answer the need of the dying. He would ride his bike the eight blocks to the hospital whenever needed. He took this ministry very seriously and would sometimes make three or four trips per night. Rain, sleet, nor cold would stop the "Fr. Tucker rides." He knew the importance of a soul on the brink of death. He knew of the importance of eternal destiny and did all he could as a minister of Christ and his Church to steer that person, that soul, to God. Never once did he complain, although sometimes you could see a tiredness in his physique.

Fr. Tucker on humbleness.

Once in a conversation, Fr. Tucker revealed that at age 58 he decided to leave the monastery and go study for the priesthood. One of his superiors told him he would "never make it" through the seminary. I suspect Fr. Tucker felt a lot like Moses who said, "No, not I Lord," yet he felt called. We now see all the work and service God had for Fr. Tucker to do, but I suspect self doubt was one thorn in his side he had to deal with. Yet, he relied on God's strength and providence. Perhaps this thorn of not being a scholarly man was the breeding ground for his humbleness. Service with humility

- what a beautiful combination!

Fr. Tucker in Confessional.

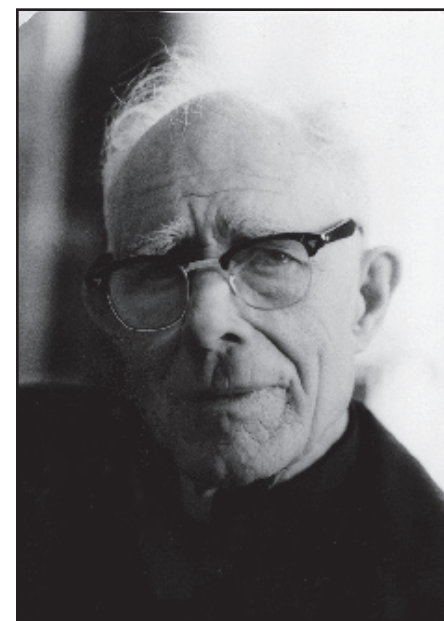
St. John Vienny, the patron saint of all priests, was known for his long hours in the Confessional.

Fr. Tucker was our local version of Saint John Vianney. The Confessional was a cornerstone of Fr. Tucker's priesthood. He was in the Confessional at 5 A.M. (usually earlier) 7 days a week, 365 days a year. And more than just a few would come. But come or not, he would patiently wait for the Prodigal Sons and sinners to come.

Also, each Saturday, Fr. Tucker would hear confessions on the hour, each hour, from 9 to 5. He would hear confessions as long as they came. After all confessions had been heard, he would leave and come back again on the next hour. One Saturday in the early 80s when St. Paul's was being restored after the Christmas morning fire, Fr. Tucker moved his confessional to the priests' house basement. Fr. Tucker asked me to paint the stair rail and steps, so I did. I left one half of the stairs unpainted so people could go up and down the stairs to confession. Painting is a slow job and I was there most of Saturday. I was amazed at the great number of people who went to confession. On the top end of each hour would come a new group. They came from St. Paul's parish, other parishes, and even from Indiana. Fr. Tucker had taken our Lord's great sacrament and made it available with consistency. "He built it and they came." Fr. Tucker knew the graces from this sacrament were so important to people in their spiritual life. His example verified his belief.

More on confessions

One sin that is often overlooked these days that Fr. Tucker took very seriously was taking God's name in vain. It is a command of God's, but I think it just went along with Fr. Tucker's great reverence for who God is and what God is. If one confessed this sin, they would get a good talking to. Fr. Tucker took all sins seriously because he knew they were blocks to God's spirit and grace. One other saying that he would nearly always add at the end of a person's confession was "and be sorry for the good you could have done, but didn't do." These are called sins of omission and they have fallen by the wayside. Fr. Tucker knew we should each day be open to doing what God puts in front of us to do and he knew that if it was done with the right attitude that we would draw closer to God through such service and receive many



Fr Howard Tucker. WKC File Photo

graces.

Fr. Tucker on staying in God's presence.

There exists a spiritual classic called "The Practice of the Presence of God" written by a monk known as Brother Lawrence. Fr. Tucker was the living example of this book. One could sense in his presence that he was constantly in God's presence. He knew when to speak and he knew when to remain silent. This spiritual magnet would extend to others through his countenance. In summary, only one word, Holy.

Fr. Tucker Victory.

Fr. Tucker seemed deeply concerned with his own salvation and that of his flock; however, deep down he felt all would turn out well. His most used term when referring, to God was "Our Lord." He felt blessed and secure knowing of "Our Lord." His faith had deep roots. He felt, through the church sacraments and the Bible, that we could make it to Heaven. He had a strong belief in Christ, as Victor, and he knew Christ would extend that victory to us. He would often clasp both hands together and put them near one side of his head and shake them as if in victory. Victory clasp and Spiritual smile were his trademarks.

Peace — Victory in Christ

Source: Owensboro Diocesan Archives.

How A Bishop Is Chosen



By Martha Hagan, Diocese of Owensboro

As the people of the Diocese of Owensboro learned that their bishop had retired, many wondered how a new bishop would be chosen. Who chooses a new bishop? This page has been prepared to answer that question for

the people of the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Owensboro.

The answer to the question “Who chooses a new bishop?” is “The Holy Spirit.” Christ has not abandoned his church, and continues to guide and govern her through the Holy Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit uses human beings to accomplish this. Another correct answer is, “the Pope.” While it is true that the Pope can appoint any Catholic priest to be a bishop, the actual process usually involves many people.

The process consists of two parts: identifying priests with the necessary qualities, and selecting the one who best fills a specific vacancy.

Identifying the Right Priests

The process of identifying priests with the qualities desired in a bishop is an ongoing process, even if there are no vacancies. The bishops of a province give their archbishop the names of priests they think would make good bishops. The Catholic Church in the United States is divided into 33 provinces. The Diocese of Owensboro belongs to the Louisville Province. Our archbishop is the Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop of Louisville. The candidates passed on by a bishop are usually from his current diocese or from one where he has served, since these are the priests he knows best.

The Qualities of a Bishop

The church is very explicit about the qualities that must be present in a candidate to the episcopacy. He must be “a good pastor of souls and teacher of the Faith.” The church examines whether the candidates “enjoy a good reputation; whether they are of irreproachable morality; whether they

are endowed with right judgment and prudence; whether they are even-tempered and of stable character; whether they firmly hold the orthodox Faith; whether they are devoted to the Apostolic See and faithful to the magisterium of the church; whether they have a thorough knowledge of dogmatic and moral theology and canon law; whether they are outstanding for their piety, their spirit of sacrifice and their pastoral zeal; whether they have an aptitude for governing.”

Consideration is also to be given to “intellectual qualities, studies completed, social sense, spirit of dialogue and cooperation, openness to the signs of the times, praiseworthy, impartiality, family background, health, age and inherited characteristics.”

The Provincial List

Periodically, the bishops of a province meet under the chairmanship of their archbishop to consider the names of priests who are possible candidates for the episcopacy. At the provincial meeting, a list of candidates for the episcopacy is assembled, voted on and forwarded to the apostolic nuncio.

While the nuncio could nominate for bishop someone not from this pool of candidates, and the pope could appoint any priest he wanted, most appointments come from these lists.

When a diocese becomes vacant, the second part of the process gets underway – the search for the specific person who will fill a specific vacancy.

The Apostolic Nuncio

A nuncio represents the Holy Father to both a nation’s civil government (as ambassador) and the Catholic Church in that nation. The Most Rev. Pietro Sambi has been the apostolic nuncio to the United States since 2005.

When vacancies occur in U.S. dioceses and a diocesan ordinary is being chosen (as opposed to an auxiliary bishop), the nuncio chooses several candidates to suggest to Rome from among the names which have been submitted. The nuncio’s recommendations to Rome are based on his own extensive investigation of the needs of the diocese and each candidate’s suitability for that particular diocese. For example, the Diocese of Owensboro has much rural territory. Our Bishops have championed the needs of family farmers and have demonstrated strong support of Catholic Schools.

During his investigation the nuncio sends a confidential questionnaire on the candidate to people who know him. The questions address the physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual, social, and priestly characteristics that one would hope for in a bishop.

Those questioned include priests, religious and laity. Some are suggested by the priest’s diocesan bishop, others are diocesan officials or people the nuncio has gotten to know personally. The laity consulted tend to be officers in diocesan lay organizations or on diocesan advisory committees. Each is told to answer the questions without consulting others. They cannot tell anyone, especially the candidate, that they have received the questionnaire.

Nuncio’s Report

After the nuncio has examined the responses to the questionnaires, he prepares the “terna,” a list of three candidates, and writes a report extracting



Bishop John McRaith in the robes of his office talking with friends Doug and Sue Borders at the Innauguration of Fr. Larry Hostetter as President of Brescia University. Photo by Bob Gilles

and synthesizing the content of the consultation and giving his own judgment. The terna and the report are sent to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome, and no bishop sees them unless he is a member of that congregation. The report gives a description of the diocese, describes the process the nuncio went through in selecting the candidates, describes the candidates and gives the nuncio’s recommendations.

Congregation for Bishops

When the nuncio’s report arrives at the Congregation for Bishops, the members discuss the appointment under the chairmanship of the prefect. The congregation then votes on the candidates and attaches its own recommendations to the report.

The Pope

The final step in the appointment process occurs when the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the nuncio’s, the congregation’s, and his own recommendations to the pope in a private audience. The prefect summarizes the discussions of the congregation and reports any dissenting opinions. The pope may ask for more information about the candidates, or may even ask for other candidates to be proposed. In the end however, the pope, led by the Holy Spirit, makes the appointment.

Notification and Consent

After the pope makes his decision, the nuncio is notified, who then approaches the nominee and asks if he will accept the appointment. When the candidate accepts, Rome is notified and a date is set for the announcement. Although the process normally takes six to eight months, it can be much shorter or much longer. And so the Diocese of Owensboro waits patiently while the Holy Spirit leads the church to the best bishop possible – the “saint who fits the niche.”

May the Holy Spirit be active in the process of selecting new bishops. May they be men of deep faith, integrity, fidelity, and compassion.

Let’s pray daily!



Who can be a Bishop?

Canon Law describes for us the qualities that a candidate for the episcopacy must possess: “namely -- faith and morals, good reputation, 35 years of age, ordained a priest for at least five years and possessing a doctorate or at least a licentiate in scripture, theology or canon law or truly expert in these same disciplines.”

(Canon 378)



Bishop John McRaith posed with Megan Howard, daughter of Jeannine and Jeff Howard of Immaculate Parish, Owensboro, after Confirmation at St. Pius X Church in 2007. Megan is now a junior at OCHS. Bob Gilles Photo

St. Mary Preschoolers Touch a Truck

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary Preschool students were visited by a tow truck from Randy's Body Shop on March 3 as part of "T Week." Each week the preschool students learn a new letter of the alphabet and everything they do that week revolves around that letter. The children are introduced to the taste, sight and sound of the weekly letter. They have snacks, do art projects and letter practice papers, sing songs, etc. - all that start with the featured letter.

The owner of Randy's Body Shop is also a preschool parent and he graciously offered to bring the tow truck for the students to see. They walked all around the truck, touching it, looking at the tires, watching the lights flash, and listening to the big engine.

Editor's Note: We liked this picture because it has a tow truck in it, and that is something that just about every 2-3-4-year-old in America (with their parents, day care providers, and grandparents!) knows as "Mater."

In Disney's Cars Movie, Mater (voiced by Larry the Cable Guy) was inspired by a 1951 International Harvester tow truck.

Mater is also the (self-proclaimed) world champion backwards driver. He attributes his skill to his rear-view mirrors and his own philosophy: "Don't need to know where I'm going, just need to know where I've been."

Nikki Fuller is the Marketing Coordinator for the St. Mary School System in Paducah.



The students are, from left to right: Kenny Wingham, Conner Thomas, Sarah Crass, Elizabeth Kate Morrow, Molly Kate Denton, Abby Wiersma, Tay Rinella, Abby Brown, Cal Strait, Madison Gains, Justin Harrell, Cayden Hansen, Patel, and Kayla Carr. SMSS Photo

Receptions for Bishop John Jeremiah McRaith

Most Reverend John J. McRaith shepherded the Diocese of Owensboro for 26+ years with loving and faithful service. Please join us as we express to him our deep appreciation and love.

• **May 3, 2009** (Sunday) -- Mass at Saint Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception.

• **June 3, 2009** (Wednesday) -- Saint Thomas More, Paducah, Mass at 6:30

p.m., followed by a reception .

• **June 14, 2009** (Sunday) -- Bilingual Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville at 1:30 p.m. followed by a reception.

• **June 20, 2009** (Saturday)-- Prayer service at 11:00 a.m. at Gasper River followed by a barbecue.

You are invited to attend any of these you would like.

Edie Keeney of West Paducah sent this picture which was taken several years ago at Saint Francis de Sales Church. Edie noted that both Father Jerry Calhoun and Bishop John McRaith were wearing red vestments which makes her think of the Holy Spirit. Edie Keeney Photo



Come to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp!

Looking for an affordable, exciting adventure this summer that will help you grow in your faith? Come to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp! Check out our website www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for everything you need for camp-dates, costs, registration forms, and descriptions and pictures of all the camps. Come and see what God has in store for you at summer camp; it will change your life! If you have any questions, please contact our Youth Camp office at 270-781-2466.

Christian Leadership Institute (CLI)

Young people ages 15-19, (who have completed their freshman year of high school) would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? The Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 21-26, 2009, at the Mt. St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you are, or would like to be, a youth group leader/officer, serve on a retreat team, class officer or student council member, this CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making. For registration information contact your Youth Ministry Contact today. Early registration deadline is May 25, 2009.

Miracles Prove the Power of Prayer

By: Dawn C. Ligibel

A little more than two years ago, Pam Carlton, long-time member of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, was nearly scared to death that her husband might die. Her husband, Steve, also a member of Sts. Peter and Paul, most likely would have been scared witless too, had he been conscious enough to know what was happening.

On September 9, 2006, Pam Carlton asked a doctor at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, about her husband's condition and was told that Steve was suffering from West Nile Virus, for which there is no treatment. At that time, Steve was already suffering from encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and spinal meningitis (infection of spinal fluid) caused by the virus. "It's not good news," the doctor said. "He may not get any better than he is now."

Pam was not willing to accept that verdict. After that conversation with the doctor, Pam first called Steve's brother whom she described as a "very Christian man." "I told Paul, 'We need a miracle here.'"

Pam then went out onto the balcony of Steve's hospital room and had a serious conversation with God. "I prayed and said, 'it says in the Bible to pray with confidence. I know you can do this. Steve's a good man. I know he'll have to leave me some day, but not now!'" she said to God. The Carltons had been married for 45 years at that time. "I ranted, raved, cried, and kept praying," Pam admitted.

As a witness to her faith, Steve is still by her side and nearly 95 percent recovered from his "ordeal." The West Nile Virus, however, wasn't the only battle Steve had to overcome.

As a Catholic from birth, Steve has always felt he has had a strong faith. It was that same faith he relied on in June of 2006 when he first learned he had lymphoma. "News like that really devastates a lot of people," Steve explained. "I don't know why, but I just thought 'I've got to fight this.' And she backed me all the way," Steve said pointing to Pam.

"I just told him to get the good stuff and you'll be fine," Pam said. "We prayed a lot," she admitted. "Our church prayed a lot and our family prayed a lot," she continued.

After having the node removed, there was still a trace of cancer in his bone marrow and in the lymph nodes on his sides. To address the remaining cancer, Steve began a regiment of chemotherapy and had high hopes of beating the cancer. In fact, other than a few side affects from the chemotherapy, he felt fairly well until early September.

"I was worried about him," Pam said. "He was sleeping a lot more and just not feeling very good. I thought it was the chemo," she explained. At 3:30 a.m. on September 6 when Steve got out of bed and his legs collapsed was when Pam knew something was seriously wrong.

Much smaller than her husband, Pam thought quickly after he collapsed. "She pulled the car

right up in the lawn to the front door," Steve said. "I had to crawl on my hands and knees to get into the car," he added.

After arriving at the local emergency room, his temperature was 103.4 and they quickly admitted him because he was so weak. "But they didn't know why," Pam said. They administered antibiotics and fluids to try and stave off the fever, but with very little effect.

Two days later, there was still no progress. "He was going from bad to worse to terrible," said Pam. "He could talk to me when we first got to the hospital, but by then he was delirious. He went down hill so quickly. I wanted to get him to Nashville," Pam stated. "They were trying, but they couldn't figure it out."

"I don't remember any of this," Steve admitted. "I remember being in the ER and I remember Anthony (a fellow parishioner) doing the spinal tap. That's all," he added.

On September 8, Pam had arranged for Steve to be transferred to Nashville by ambulance. "A doctor there explained to me that there are viruses that are treatable and will respond to antibiotics and there are many that won't. He told me, 'If he doesn't have one that responds, it's not likely he'll survive,'" Pam recalled.

"They took lots of tests and lots of blood," Pam continued. "Stevie would come to and then fall back (unconscious). It was horrible. I didn't know if he would wake up again!"

It was the next day when she learned of the virus. "They kept asking me if he'd been bitten by any mosquitoes. I didn't know why. I still thought this was all because of the chemo," Pam said.

Then the doctors explained the effects of the West Nile Virus and his prognosis. "They said he had tested positive for spinal meningitis and encephalitis, both caused by the West Nile," Pam explained. "They said, 'It's up to him (to fight off the virus). But he's got the cancer going against him.' That doctor did not believe he was going to survive," Pam stated.

That's when Pam called her brother-in-law and stepped out onto the balcony to talk to God. Later that night, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor, and Libby Downs, Pastoral Associate, both of Sts. Peter and Paul, along with the Carlton's three children, some of their grandchildren and friends joined Pam in a circle around Steve's bed holding hands and praying. "I called everyone," Pam said. "And they came. It was very emotional."

After the prayers and the anointing of the sick, the room grew very quiet. Pam said, "O.K., someone tell a joke." Steve started to talk. "All of a sudden, I got it," Pam explained. "He was talking about America's Funniest Home Videos. I guess that was his way of telling a joke. I asked him, 'Are you talking about America's Funniest Home Videos?' And he said 'Yeah.' I just felt great," Pam said about Steve's joke. "I felt like there was hope."

The entire time Steve had been in both hospitals, he had not eaten any food. Therefore, early



Steve and Pam Carlton smile together in their kitchen in Hopkinsville after recalling the two miracles they received nearly two years ago. Both are members of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, Steve and Pam held firm to their faith as Steve battled through cancer and the West Nile Virus in 2006. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

the next morning, Steve had been scheduled to have a stint put in to facilitate feeding him. "They were going to put a stint in and send him to a nursing home to die," Pam recalled.

The morning after the prayer and anointing, however, a doctor from Infectious Control saw something that made him postpone the insertion of the stint. "Every day the Infectious Control doctor would come in and ask Stevie the same questions. Every day he answered them. You know, 'what is your name and where are you,'" Pam explained. "That morning when the doctor came in, Stevie said the answers before the doctor asked the questions!"

With that, the doctor postponed the operation to insert the stint and asked that a speech therapist work with Steve to see if he could swallow. "That's when I felt he really turned the corner," Pam said. "I felt so much better. I had hope," she admitted.

The therapist quickly determined that Steve could learn to swallow again. "By the third visit, she gave him a little Jell-O," Pam said. "That was incredible. That was a step forward."

Previously, Pam had been searching for a nursing home in which to place Steve because there was nothing else the hospital could do for him. After three visits, however, the therapist suggested that he should go to a rehab hospital.

"Up to that point, I don't remember anything," Steve said. "But I remember that ambulance ride to Bowling Green. It was bumpy and it hurt. My whole body ached. Sixty-five miles seems like 65,000 miles," Steve recalled.

During his time at the Southern Kentucky Rehabilitation Hospital (SKY), Steve had to start all over again. "I had to learn to walk again and everything," Steve said. The virus, which attacked his central nervous system, made him very weak. "They worked on everything," Steve said, referring to the staff at SKY. "Mind, body and soul."

"Once we got to SKY, I just knew he was going to live and be alright," Pam said.

About one month after returning home, it was time for Steve and Pam to face what they originally thought to be their biggest challenge in life – the cancer. While in SKY, Steve learned of a doctor in Nashville he wanted to see about his cancer. "The doctor said he couldn't do anything until he got a complete picture of me," Steve recalled.

After an MRI, a CAT scan and other tests, the Carltons waited patiently to see the doctor again. "While we were waiting, his nurse came in and had a smile that wide," Steve said holding his hands about 18

Continued on page 17

Celebrating Our Diverse Heritage

Beginning in the late 1700's groups of Catholic families packed up their belongings in Maryland and ventured down to settle in Kentucky. These were the first significant groups of Catholics to arrive in the state and were almost entirely of British roots although many brought enslaved African Americans who were practicing Catholics. The Diocese of Bardstown, first established in 1808, was moved to the city of Louisville because of the influx of German and Irish immigrants in 1841. From this growing diocese was carved the Diocese of Owensboro in 1937.

Our country and our Church have been formed by waves of immigrants and continue to be renewed and strengthened by new waves of immigrants. Each culture and ethnicity adds its own unique color to the beautiful tapestry that we have become here in the Diocese of Owensboro. The early German and Irish immigrants worked hard to build our churches and each brought their own traditions and devotions which became woven into their daily lives. Our faith life is now being enriched by new Catholic immigrants from the Philippines and from all over Latin America with their own traditions and devotions. Our parishes are also being served by many missionaries who have come to minister to our needs from India and many parts of Africa, bringing their own beautiful colors to our tapestry.

What an incredible heritage to celebrate! That is the purpose of this year's celebration of National Migration Week, which will begin with parish celebrations on Pentecost

(May 31st) and throughout the week, culminating with a diocesan celebration on Saturday, June 6th.

What is the unique heritage that can be celebrated in your parish? How has its tapestry changed over the years? Ask your pastor who is leading your parish's celebration and see if there is something you can do to help. Don't forget to include everyone in the parish – those whose ancestors arrived generations ago as well as those who have arrived recently. Celebrate your parish's diversity of roots as one Body of Christ. This can also be an opportunity to educate parishioners about the realities that new immigrants face in our country and consider how your parish could make them feel more welcome. If you would like some ideas for how to celebrate National Migration Week in your parish or find out what resources are available, please contact me.

Everyone is invited to join others from around the Diocese of Owensboro for a celebration at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville on Saturday, June 6th from 11am to 2pm. The celebration will include a multicultural mass at which all priests in our Diocese are invited to concelebrate followed by a meal and entertainment displaying the diverse cultures of the people living in our Diocese. If you would like to help with the diocesan celebration or know of someone who would be interested in performing, please contact me - Patti Gutiérrez, Coordinator of Justice for Immigrants Campaign, Catholic Charities of Owensboro; Cell: (270) 302-2782; E-mail: Patricia.Gutierrez@pastoral.org



**National Migration Week 2009
in the Diocese of Owensboro
"Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice"
May 31st - June 6th**

For more information contact Patti Gutierrez
(270) 302-2782 or patricia.gutierrez@pastoral.org

National Migration Week is an opportunity for us to celebrate the diversity of our roots and our unity as the Body of Christ in our parishes and as a diocese. Parishes are encouraged to hold activities on Pentecost and during the week and join others from around the Diocese for a celebration on June 6th.

**Diocesan Celebration
June 6th, 11am - 2pm
Christ the King, Madisonville**

*Multicultural Mass followed by a sharing of food,
fellowship and entertainment displaying the
unity in diversity of our Diocese.
All are invited to participate.*

You are invited to enjoy
Spring in Italy

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

Annual Dinner

Saturday, May 9, 2009

**Live Auction • Raffle • Italian Dinner including
Pasta Bar/Dessert Bar
Doors open at 6 p.m.**

Raffle prizes: \$1,000 • 42-inch T.V.

**• Wyndham Hotel Suites Weekend • Handmade Quilt
Only 2,000 raffle tickets will be sold at \$5 each.
You do not have to be present to win the raffle.**

Dinner tickets are \$50 per person or \$375 for a table of eight. All proceeds support the Center. For dinner or raffle tickets, contact Jennifer Byrd:

jbyrd@maplemount.org or call 270-229-0200



**Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center**

8001 Cummings Road
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St. Thomas More Welcoming Committee Hosts

Dinner to Honor New Parishioners

PADUCAH, Ky. - New parishioners were honored at a dinner hosted by the Welcoming Committee of St. Thomas More on Saturday, February 28, 2009 in the Parish Hall. Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds opened the dinner with a prayer, and Welcoming Committee members and parish staff were introduced along with each new family present.



From left, Gary Via, Barbara Weatherspoon, Mary Katherine Witherspoon enjoy the selection.



St. Thomas More pastor Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds begins the dinner with a prayer.



From left, St. Thomas More Parish new members Jay Page and Lauren Adams talk with long time parishioners Rich and Joanne Miller.



Committee members, L to R, Susan Grimm and Nancy Sturgis welcome parishioners at the door.



The Human Experience in Owensboro, KY The Meaning Of Life Is Discovered In The Experience

Come and meet the producer and one of the lead actors of "The Human Experience." Invest in the Experience!

Cost: \$2 - Tickets can be bought in advance or at the door.

Two showings: Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00pm

Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00pm

Taylor Lecture Hall - Brescia University, 717 Fredrica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Taylor Lecture Hall is located in the Science Building at Brescia University.

For more information call Josh McCarty at 270-985-8824.

This event is sponsored by the Mike Horn Foundation, the Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Owensboro, The Disciples Response Fund for the Diocese of Owensboro, Brescia University, St. Maximilian Books, and Gideon Productions.



Prayer after Meditation

We fly to your patronage, Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but free us from evils, ever glorious and blessed Virgin.

O Jesus living in Mary, come and live in your family, in the spirit of your holiness, in the fullness of your power, in the perfection of your ways, in the truth of your virtues, in the communion of your mysteries. Overcome all adversities with your power, in your Spirit to the glory of the Father. Amen.

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genitrix; nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus, sed a periculis cunctis liber nos semper Virgo gloriosa et benedicta.

O Jesu vivens in Maria, veni et vive in famulis tuis, in spiritu sanctitatis tuae, in plenitudine virtutis tuae in perfectione viarum tuarum, in veritate virtutum tuarum, in communione mysteriorum tuorum. Dominare omni adversae potestati, in spiritu tuo ad gloriam Patris. Amen

O Jesu, Vivens in Maria is a prayer written by Fr. Jean Jaques Olier, founder of the Company of Priests of St. Sulpice.

Bishops say Catholic institutions' use of Reiki therapy inappropriate

WASHINGTON—The U.S. bishops have issued guidelines that call Reiki therapy, an alternative medicine originating in Japan, unscientific and inappropriate for Catholic institutions. They outlined the position in "Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy." The guidelines were developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, chaired by Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut. They were approved by the USCCB Administrative Committee, March 24, during its spring meeting in Washington. The Administrative Committee is the authoritative body of the USCCB to approve committee statements.

The document can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/dpp/doctrine.htm>. The Guidelines describe Reiki as a healing technique "invented in Japan in the late 1800s by Mikao Usui, who was studying Buddhist texts." The guidelines state that "according to Reiki teaching, illness

is caused by some kind of disruption or imbalance in one's 'life energy.' A Reiki practitioner effects healing by placing his or her hands in certain positions on the patient's body in order to facilitate the flow of Reiki, the 'universal life energy,' from the Reiki practitioner to the patient."

The Guidelines state that "Reiki lacks scientific credibility" and "has not been accepted by the scientific and medical communities as an effective therapy."

"Reputable scientific studies attesting to the efficacy of Reiki are lacking, as is a plausible scientific explanation as to how it could possibly be efficacious," they state.

The Guidelines note that "Reiki is frequently described as a 'spiritual' kind of healing as opposed to the common medical procedures of healing using physical means." They assert, however, that there is a radical difference between Reiki therapy and the healing by divine power in which Christians believe: "for Christians the ac-

cess to divine healing is by prayer to Christ as Lord and Savior, while the essence of Reiki is not a prayer but a technique that is passed down from the 'Reiki Master' to the pupil, a technique that once mastered will reliably produce the anticipated results."

In sum, Reiki therapy "finds no support either in the findings of natural science or in Christian belief," the Guidelines state.

"For a Catholic to believe in Reiki therapy presents insoluble problems," the Guidelines state. "In terms of caring for one's physical health or the physical health of others, to employ a technique that has no scientific support (or even plausibility) is generally not prudent."

The guidelines warn that in using Reiki for one's spiritual health, "there are important dangers."

"To use Reiki one would have to accept at least in an implicit way central elements of the worldview that undergirds Reiki theory, elements that belong neither

to Christian faith nor to natural science. Without justification either from Christian faith or natural science, however, a Catholic who puts his or her trust in Reiki would be operating in the realm of superstition, the no-man's-land that is neither faith nor science," they state.

"Superstition corrupts one's worship of God by turning one's religious feeling and practice in a false direction," the Guidelines state. "While sometimes people fall into superstition through ignorance, it is the responsibility of all who teach in the name of the Church to eliminate such ignorance as much as possible."

"Since Reiki therapy is not compatible with either Christian teaching or scientific evidence, it would be inappropriate for Catholic institutions, such as Catholic health care facilities and retreat centers, or persons representing the Church, such as Catholic chaplains, to promote or to provide support for Reiki therapy," the Guidelines said.

Living the Sacraments: The Catholic's Role

"My Grandchildren 'Eastered' My Life"

By Pat S. Smith

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - In Fr. Jerry Riney's Easter Sunday homily he related how the word Easter could be used as a verb. When you easter something, you transform your life, perhaps giving it more meaning than you ever thought possible.

Two weeks ago, my four grandchildren helped to easter my life. Truly. My husband and I were on a weekend trip to Oxford, Mississippi (Ole Miss, his alma mater) to tour the campus, stay at the new Alumni House, and visit my youngest daughter, Misty. While there, my oldest daughter, Cindy, brought her two children to stay during spring break with their cousins. I couldn't believe it... all four of my grandchildren together in one spot. We breakfasted together, laughing about getting the girls' long hair in their pancake syrup and all of us eating and talking a mile a minute.

You know, life had gotten terribly "rote" for me....the daily routine, somehow so glum, and nearing age 60 myself, quite boring. An average day for me goes like this: up at 8.00 a.m., at work by 9.00 a.m., work until 6.00 p.m., come home, eat dinner, watch TV, pray the Rosary (never boring) and go to bed. Then the next day, get up, and do it all over again.

Seeing all my grandchildren together made me so happy and they eastered

their young happiness into my sometimes drab existence.

Lucas is age 11, and he can talk about game systems, and games, and basketball. His little sister Miriam is 5 and loves her Grandmoo (what my grandkids call me) - coloring pictures with her, getting down in the floor, and watching videos. She sings grace before meals, so sweet and special a prayer, sweet little child's voice. Cindy's children are Dylan, 9, and Grace, 6. Dylan's interests are much the same as Lucas's, and Grace loves to sing and do gymnastics; she also loves to talk and says to me over and over, "Guess what Grandmoo?" Just being amongst all the youthfulness and innocence of my grandchildren eastered my life away from the mundane and into some true peace and happiness. Because of me, they are here on earth! Wow! (Well, I mean I had a big part in their being born, as I began by birthing their mothers.

The humdrum of life can fall away when someone brings you a new outlook on your past life and helps recall when you were young and so innocent and happy. Yes, I am almost 60 years old, and looking forward in two years to retirement. I have lived probably 2/3 of my life, but I can see myself in my grandchildren's faces and remember with joy the birth of my daughters and the happi-

Grandmoo Pat with grandchildren Lucas Phillips, Dylan Shook, Caroline Shook, and Miriam Phillips. Submitted photo



ness (and sometimes the worry) of raising my own children. I have grown up, raised my children, seen my own parents grow old and die, lost good friends, lost wonderful pets, lost some of my own health. My graying hair and somewhat wrinkled face are a tribute to this. But I grow older now not with sadness, because as a Catholic living the sacraments, I can have "little Easters" and can have visits with my grandchildren as they easter joy back into my life.

How wonderful to be a Catholic woman, especially

one with children and grandchildren, and to have them bring happiness into our lives. Each night as I pray to the Blessed Mother, I thank her, through my prayers for my children and grandchildren and ask her to watch over them, keep them safe, and also to keep Jesus eastered into their little hearts.

Pat S. Smith, a parishioner at Holy Spirit, is the proud grandmother of four grandchildren.

The Blessed Bracelet

By Deb Hodskins

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Working in a hospital, caring for the sick and their families, allows me ample opportunities to love others and offer encouragement. One way Jesus led me to reach out to people is by a special bracelet I wear. I purchase the bracelets and have Father Maury Riney bless each one individually. People see the bracelet and comment on how beautiful it is. The bracelet has ten links with pictures of Jesus, Mary and the saints. I take the bracelet off and place it on their wrist as a testimony of my love and concern for them. I do the same, as I believe Christ would do. It is then that I hear their cries and the need for Jesus. The more bracelets I give away, the more I witness the ministry for the Lord building.

Different concerns come out. Most individuals need prayer, someone is sick, hurting. Some just need me to listen. They may have been stressed that day and receiving the bracelet seems to calm them. My heart grows full, because I know Jesus is working through me to encourage others and give them a hope. I realize that every time I reach out to others, I am also ministering to the Lord. I feel blessed that my actions are bringing honor to God.

I saw God's hand at work with a woman named Tami. I frequently saw Tami as she works at the hospital. One day she



A child's bracelet, blessed by Father Maury Riney, like the ones Deb Hodskins gives to people in her prayer ministry. Staff Photo

was admiring my bracelet and we struck up a conversation. Tami began to pour her heart out. I could tell by the grimace on her face and tears in her eyes that she was holding back something that was consuming her. I reassured her; "I will not disgrace you, I will listen to you, I'm right here, you can share with me." At that point, Tami began to pour out her heart in a whisper. Her deep dark secret had been tormenting her for over twenty years. Tami shared with me all about her divorce. They had started building a house together that she regrets she never got to see completed. She drove past the house from time to time, wondering what the finished project looked like. I encouraged Tami to go to confession to relieve her of this heavy burden. She thought that she couldn't return to church because of her divorce. It took many times of sharing with Tami to convince her it was okay to return to church and how important it was to receive grace from the Sacrament of Reconciliation. She gave multiple

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excuses and it would have been easy to give up, but I really felt the Lord telling me to press on.

One day, I called Tami and invited her to church and to my surprise, she agreed to meet me there. We sat in the back of the church and I could sense her nervousness. She was confused and scared worrying she couldn't receive the sacraments because she was an "awful" person. I told her to talk to Father and just be honest with him. I promised her that her heavy load would be lifted. Tami went in to the confessional and shared her heart. She came out crying, but I could see that God had changed her heart. She was relieved and exclaimed; "He was so kind to me!" "Yes." I replied, "That is the way Jesus is. He is kind and wants to take care of you and not degrade you."

We prayed for a while and I sensed Tami needed to talk some more. I invited her to my home to talk and share. When we arrived at my house, Tami got out of the car, pointed towards the house and her tears began to flow. "This is my house. This is my house!" she cried.

We both looked at each other in shock. "This is the house my husband and I started and I never got to see completed." I invited Tami in to see the completed home. I told her; "Come in, come in, come look at everything." Tami was tearful and joyful at the same time. I knew at that moment that over twenty years of pain and agony were healed in one day. I knew the Lord had brought us together for a reason, using the "blessed bracelet" as His healing link.

A Tribute To Bishop John McRaith's Ministry



Mary Virginia Willett at 26 remembers her Confirmation when she was in high school. "Confirmation was very memorable for me since it was the first time I felt touched by God. It has impacted my life forever and has drawn me closer to the Church and God. I honestly felt moved by the Spirit and since my Confirmation that feeling comes over me everytime I attend Church. It is such a wonderful feeling to feel so close to God and to look forward to sharing these experiences with my son." Photo by Jim Keeney

Personal Journey

Mr. Steve Hohman spoke with the Owensboro Catholic Middle School Religion classes about vocations. He discussed his personal journey on how he made the decision to be a priest. Mr. Hohman was a Religion teacher at OCMS prior to entering the seminary.

Sam Lily, an 8th grade student, juggled soccer ball with each ball representing a freedom that had to be let go as you go through life. You have to make choices and drop some things you can't do. Mr. Hohman had to make many decisions when he decided to become a priest. He had to let some things go. OCMS Photo



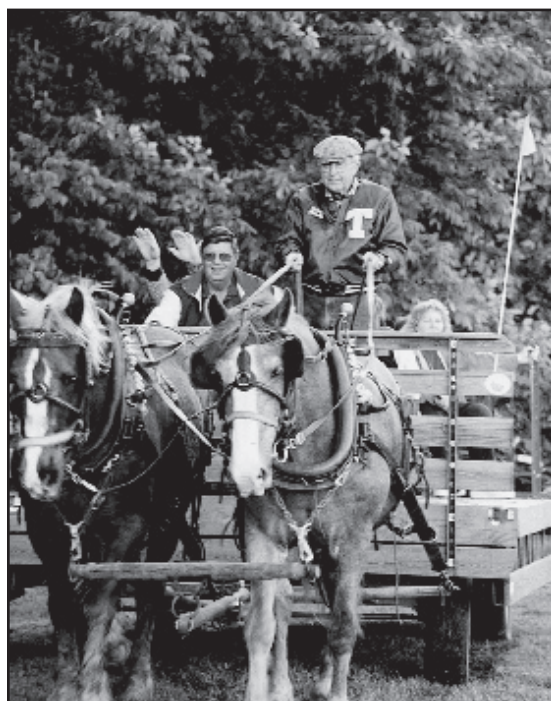
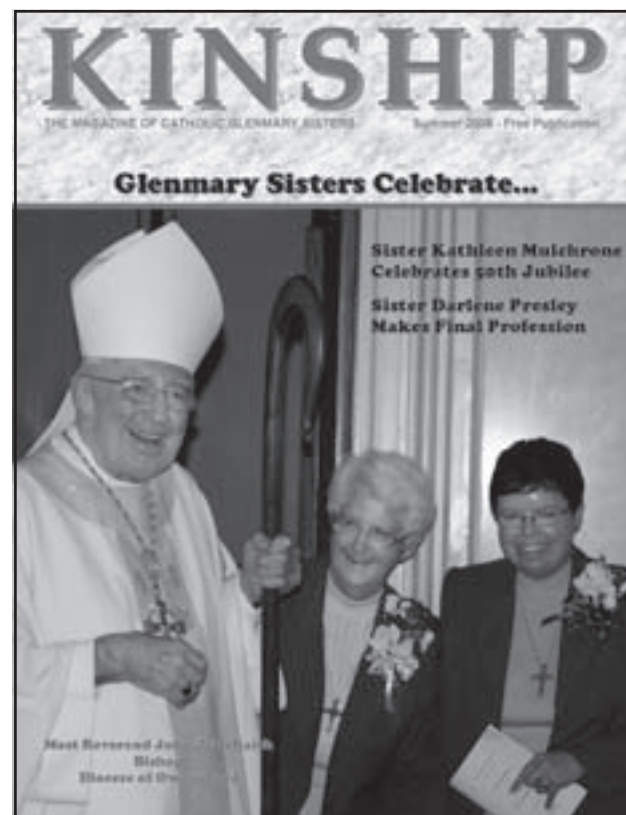
Glenmary Sisters Celebrate 18 Years of Ministry In Owensboro With Bishop John McRaith



The Glenmary Sisters' magazine, *Kinship*, posted this cover in 1991 showing Sister Chris Beckett and Bishop John McRaith in front of the congregation's Glenmary Center's administrative offices on Parrish Ave. in Owensboro, Ky. The Center was blessed and dedicated on Oct. 6, 1991. On that same day the Mass of Welcome to the Diocese and the closing of the Glenmary Sisters Congregation's 50th Anniversary of its founding took place in St. Stephen Cathedral. Glenmary Sisters Photo

The Home Mission Sisters of America community sold its Ohio property in Fayetteville and on Route 4 in Fairfield in 1967. In 1976, they sold the Mount Airy property and built a motherhouse in White Oak which was dedicated in 1978. In an extraordinary Chapter on Oct. 27, 1990, Sister Christine Beckett, President, conveyed to the Chapter the invitation of Bishop John McRaith to come to the Diocese of Owensboro. The Chapter voted to petition the Archbishop of Cincinnati for release as a religious community of diocesan right to transfer to the Diocese of Owensboro. The community bought property in Livermore, Ky. to be a formation center, and property in Owensboro to be an administrative center. The Home Mission Sisters of America were officially transferred to the Diocese of Owensboro on June 9, 1991. At that time, they had mission sites in Owingsville and Guthrie, Ky.; Waynesboro and Swainsboro, Ga., and were in the planning process for starting new missions in Smithland and Livermore, Ky., while expanding services in Eastern Kentucky.

Kinship, the magazine of the Catholic Glenmary Sisters, carried on its Summer, 2008 cover an image of Bishop John McRaith with two Glenmary Sisters. Sister Kathleen Mulchrone, center, was celebrating her 50th Jubilee, and Sister Darlene Presley was making her Final Profession as a Glenmary Sister. Glenmary Sisters Photo



Bishop John McRaith gave many hayrides during his years not only with a tractor but also with his horses, Mike and Maggie, shown in this 2002 photo pulling this wagon with Bishop John at the reins and Mike Thompson working the brake. Lois Rutigliano photo



In the picture at left, Sr. Darlene Presley, left, and Sister Sharon Miller, right with Bp. John at the altar in the Cathedral and Sr. Kathleen and Fr. Frank Ruff at back right, Bp. John is signing something as the two Sisters witness.

A Hayride For The Books!

By Joanne Moore

My lasting memory of Bishop John McRaith took place this last summer (2008) at the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic. My friend Doreen and I decided to go on the Bishop's hayride he offers at the picnic every year. We were very excited as we checked in with his assistants at the starting gate and we climbed aboard the wagon with many others. As we started out, the Bishop seemed to be in his glory driving his tractor with his flock on the wagon.

We were pattering along looking at all the beautiful farmland at the Mount. Suddenly, there was a small hill we started up, and either the Bishop or the tractor decided that we were in no hurry.

We all looked at each other and thought we would have to push it over the hill, but the Bishop was steadfast as he got us over the hill. That was our first sigh, but we had a few more.

I'm sure the Bishop wanted us to take in all the beautiful scenery and it was gorgeous. As we turned around to come back, we headed towards a lake. As we came closer to the lake, I wasn't sure if we were going for a swim or home.

Once again, the Bishop was in his glory and made the turn just in time, and another sigh: we were back on our way to the starting gate.

After the ride, the Bishop got off the tractor smiling as if to say, "Wasn't that fun?"

I gave a big donation.

inches from either side of his face. "She said, 'The doctor will be right in. We have good news for you,'" Steve added.

"The doctor came in and said he saw no sign of cancer in my body at all," Steve said. Although the doctor wanted Steve to continue with chemotherapy for a time to be on the safe side, the Carltons recognized the news for what it was – another miracle.

"Two miracles," Pam said. "I was dumbfounded. I felt a weight had been lifted and we got a new lease on life."

"I found it hard to believe," Steve admitted. "I wanted to know why."

"Sometimes I wonder why we got it (the miracle) and the other guy didn't," Pam said. "God wanted us to give him credit and to tell people that he really touched us and gave Steve more time," Pam explained.

Steve and Pam both credit his nearly full recovery from both diseases to the enormous amount of prayers that were said on Steve's behalf. "My brother got everybody praying for me, and our church was praying for me. It worked," Steve said. "Without a doubt, prayer helped. God answered our prayers."

Steve also believes the numerous times he was anointed contributed to his survival. "Every time I can recall that he (Fr. Thomas) anointed me, it almost floored me. A funny feeling came over me."

Because Steve had responded so clearly to being anointed, Fr. Thomas asked Steve a special favor. "Each year on Holy Thursday I ask different members of the parish to process to the altar, each carrying one of the oils blessed at the Chrism Mass," explained Fr. Thomas. "In 2007, Steve was clearly the perfect candidate to carry forth the oil for healing."



Steve and Pam Carlton, members of Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, Ky. Dawn Ligibel photo



ST. ANN TEENPOWER

St. Ann Middle School TEENPOWER teams hosted a TEENPOWER rally on March 13th. Officer Daren Harmen from Evansville, IN was the guest speaker. Officer Harmen spoke with the students about the dangers and affects of drug and alcohol use. He stressed the importance of good choices and how one bad choice could be fatal. "Tobacco companies and drug pushers target high school students, middle school students, and younger", stated Mr. Harmen.

The evidence-based TEENPOWER program has created a culture and a support system of drug-free young leaders since 1992 as the only youth-led leadership development and substance abuse prevention program of its kind in Southwestern Indiana and in the Tri-State area. With the majority of emphasis on positive youth development and substance abuse prevention, TEENPOWER also directly focuses on: community involvement, peer-mentoring, life skills, character building, positive body image, self-esteem, and other topics related to healthy adolescent development. TEENPOWER is sponsored by Youth Resources of Southwestern Indiana. For more information check out <http://www.youth-resources.org>

Hope and Forgiveness

WWW.Com Senior Citizen Retreat: Session II

There are still available dates for the Hope and Forgiveness Senior Retreat.

The day long retreat series is especially for senior citizens and centers around Jesus' teachings on Forgiveness and Hope.

The events of the day include prayer, reflection, stories, fun, sharing, lunch, fellowship with peer group, and community building. The day can be customized to fit your group. To schedule you own parish's Senior Retreat, please contact Ginny Knight-Simon at 270-683-1545 or Email: ginnys.knight-simon@pastoral.org

Pilgrims of Hope Meeting



Join Pilgrims of Hope in their efforts to facilitate the relationship between the Diocese of Owensboro and the Church in Jamaica.

Come for prayer, study, and reflection on missionary spirituality and contribute your enthusiasm for assisting the missions of Jamaica.

When: Saturday, May 9, 2009
Where: Christ the King Catholic Church
in Madisonville, Ky.
Time: 1-3 pm.

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: Ms. June Bell, Chair, Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Ms. Teresa Henry, Vice-Chair, Dr. Carroll Howard, Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Rev. Pat Reynolds, and Dr. Michele Thomas. Ms. Louanne Payne serves as the Diocesan liaison to the Review Board.

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

It is good for the people of the diocese to read some positive news about our Catholic Schools.

According to National Catholic Education Association over the last four years enrollment in Catholic Schools nationwide has declined by 7.8%.

The good news is that over the same time period, enrollment in the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools has increased by 1.8%.

- Mr. Jim Mattingly, Superintendent of Diocesan Schools

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Twenty Something
Grace for the graduate: a leap
of faith, a new beginning

By Christina Capecchi

Dear Graduate,

I know how you're feeling: light headed and faint hearted.

You're trying to process the culmination of four long years that flew by, trying to smile pretty and keep it straight – left hand takes diploma, right hand shakes, tassel flips from right to left.

You've managed to master biochemistry and the sociology of the cafeteria, Professor Martin and two inexorable roommates, and yet, these simple instructions have you feeling criss-crossed.

The hard part ought to be behind you, but you suspect the greatest challenge awaits: how to properly punctuate your college career.

You're treading in the deep end of emotion, torn between a weep and a cheer. Each goodbye you extend feels sorely inadequate.

I couldn't imagine life beyond college. I hated to leave the close quarters and the strong, sustaining circle of friendship I'd been living in. I was sure I would never again experience anything like it.

And I was right.

But I can assure you that the end of one good thing makes room for the beginning of another. You'll come to love your post-college life, with its new blessings and different rewards.

It, too, is deeply satisfying – perhaps more so, because you become a contributing member of society, not just a college student. You make your mark on a broader canvas.

So here is my summons to you: Instead of dreading this change, embrace it. Invite and absorb the grace of a new beginning.

"When the heart is ready for a fresh beginning," wrote the late Irish poet John O'Donohue, "unforeseen things can

emerge. And in a sense, this is exactly what a beginning does. It is an opening for surprises."

Heart-stopping, soul-stirring, life-giving surprises. They won't arrive immediately, though. You must be patient. As you wait for your future to unfold, take heart in this month's scripture readings. "Beloved," St. John writes, "we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed."

It will be, he promises. "We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

That is what we do know, and it is enough for today: Every change that brings an uncomfortable waiting period will result in clearer vision to see and mimic God.

St. John offers additional solace later in the month. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

What a stunning promise, to leap from childhood to adulthood, from being unready to unlocking "all truth."

As you prepare to graduate, remember St. Rita, whose feast day is this month. She is the patron of impossible causes, which your job search may feel like.

St. Rita faced a terrifying crossroads when her husband and sons died. The convent she yearned to enter refused her application. But she prayed fervently and its doors swung open.

Prayerful patience will open doors for you too.

Look beyond the obvious as you assess your current state: yes, you have a paper degree and deep debt to show for the last four years, but you've also developed a broader mind and a bigger heart, which the world desperately needs.

Keep your head up as you walk across that stage. You have so much to look forward to!

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Email her at christina@readchristina.com.

Sister M. Cordelia Spalding, OSU, 90, Died April 5, 2009

Maple Mount — Sister M. Cordelia Spalding, 90, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died April 5, 2009, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 73rd year of religious life. She was a native of Holy Cross.

An educator for 47 years, she was principal and teacher at St. Thomas More School, Paducah, 1952-57. She also taught in Louisville and Marion County. From 1957-60, she was director of novices at Mount Saint Joseph. A gifted seamstress, she was a quilter for her community and director of the Ursuline Quilt of the Month Club from 1988 until her retirement in 2002. She loved to garden and cook, and travel to visit her family.

Survivors include two sisters, Betty Bowling and Lucy Simpson, and one brother, Leo Spalding, all of Bardstown; nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

The funeral Mass was April 8 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery.

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

Gifts in memory of Sister M. Cordelia Spalding may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



Hello REC Warriors,

By Bob Cinnamond

I wanted to let you know that the men at DCDC are hanging in there. I meet with 14 of them every Thursday and they are still strong in the Holy Spirit. We pray together and for one another and for all of you. They have started prayer circles in their pods and they prayed for Sharrie and I during the last two weeks when we were starting TEC in Siuna, Nicaragua. It also was an awesome experience.

REC#1 for the women at Daviess County Dentention Center is coming up soon (May 29-31). Sharrie Cinnamond is the Lay Director. We would certainly appreciate some Wheat Letters. If you could write it and e-mail it to me I will give it to her. Also you can write letters to the men that made the men's REC. I will deliver them for you if you do not know their address.

I got the following letter from Di last week. Have a great week in Jesus' love,

"The REC Team was an awesome inspiration to all of us. All of you inspired us to grow stronger in the word and stay true to God. The weekend was amazingly full of love for everyone, understanding one another, and most of all it gave me an internal peace and comfort that I have never felt before.

"I learned so many things that I have been craving to learn. I came to the REC as a believer, but left the REC as a very strong believer. You have changed my outlook on life. Those wonderful three days gave all of us a fresh start.

"I never realized that the Holy Spirit could be so powerful. Now I am very anxious and eager to conquer the challenges that God gives me. You all have given me a heavenly wisdom of God. I am so excited now to be a Christian. You have made me a different man." – Di.

REC stands for Residents Encounter Christ.

OCMS Academic Team Places Third in Regional Meet

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The OCMS Aces academic team placed 3rd overall in Regional Governor's Cup competition on Feb. 21, 2009, in Ohio County.

The Quick Recall team placed 2nd and advanced to State competition in Louisville on March 15 – 16. The quick recall team members are Kevin Thompson, Martha Hughes, Chase Carrico, Justin Magnuson, Patrick Lasley, Brian Gross, Kyle Alvey, and Marty Crowe.

Also advancing to State in individual written assessment are: Kevin Thompson – 5th place, Social Studies; Sarah Beth Caudill – 3rd place, Composition; Chase Carrico – tied for 3rd place, Language Arts; and Justin Magnuson – 4th place, Math.

The Future Problem Solving Team earned 3rd place at Regional Governor's Cup. The team members are Kyle Alvey, Kelsey Conkright, Marty Crowe, Martha Hughes, and Andrew Riccio.

The students studied all year and practiced countless hours for this competition. Coaches are Mrs. Margie Ebelhar and Mrs. Julie Renshaw.

In the picture , left to right, Justin Magnuson, Patrick Lasley, Martha Hughes, Chase Carrico, Brian Gross, Kevin Thompson, Marty Crowe (standing). OCS photo



Happy Anniversary

**Marriage Celebrations for May
Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50
Years of Marriage**

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Jody & Jolene White, 25
Ray & Judy Taylor, 40
Charlie & LaVerne Speaks, 57
Bucky & Suzanne Coomes, 51

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

George & Shelby Webster, 53

Christ the King, Madisonville

Frank & Mary Defini, 25

Christ the King, Scottsville

William & Catherine Grapes, 40
Dennis & Martha Arterburn, 25

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Joseph & Kimmie Loeffler, 25
Richard & Sally Clements, 40
Gerald & Cathy Wischer, 40
William & Sheila Cardwell, 53
Casey & Norma Davis, 51
Marvin & Patricia Fulkerson, 54
Thomas & Delores Long, 53
Don & Ursula Metzger, 57
James & Beatrice Stanley, 60
Jackie & Gayle Sutton, 51
Doris & Barbara Wilson, 59

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Wayne & Mary Anne Powers, 25
Victor & Flora-Stuart Ianuzzi, 25
Tom & Mary Gaietto, 53
Richard & Joyce Wanta, 55
Richard & Cynthia Gensler, 53
John & Constance Barbalas, 54

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

George & Cheryl Gammon, 25

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Tim & Beth Dant, 25
William & Lillian Haynes, 54
William & Sheila Kyle, 40
Dale & Terri Lanham, 25
Tom & Barbara Norvell, 25
Thomas & Mary Riney, 62
Edward & Peggy Tichenor, 25
Bob & JoAnn Vessels, 56

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Fred Joseph & Helen Marie Meister, 40
Rose Ella & Thomas A. Curtsinger, 55
George Earl & Patricia Louise Elder, 52
James & Annette Rubsam, 58

Precious Blood, Owensboro

John & Clarice Kuegel, 54
Robert & Maxine Smith, 40

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Cliff & Pat Robinson, 55
John & Mary Piercefield, 61

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Marion & Mary Crowds, 59

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Lew & Martha Martin, 25

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

John & Wanda Fulkerson, 40

St. Ann, Morganfield

James Mike & Margaret Thompson, 25
William & Virginia Adams, 51
Billy Ray & Virginia Clements, 59
Thomas & Rose Danhauer, 60
Lawrence & Mary Frances Strehle, 63

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Ed & Donna Bassett, 40
Tom & Annie Mae Kingston, 25

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

George & Treacy Smith, 61

St. Augustine, Reed

Herman & Martha Miller, 53
Posey & Violet Newman, 59

St. Benedict, Wax

Damon & Antoinette Meredith, 52

St. Columba, Lewisport

Clyde & Georgene Poole, 52

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Julian & Donna Probus, 61
Edward & Alberta Morrison, 54

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Joe & Dora McCarty, 60

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

William & Karen Carlson, 40
Joseph E. & Mary Pat Blandford, 51
Lawrence #. & Nora Hayden, 54
Irvin S. & Margaret Nance, 71

St. Henry, Aurora

Warren & Martha Davis, 56
Joh & Bert Sells, 55
Joseph & Dorothy Sienkiewicz, 51

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Leon & Dorothy Carrico, 57
Thomas P. & Shirley Englert, 56
Fielding & Lettie French, 25
Greg & Carol Higdon, 40
Delbert & Lydia Hobbs, 57
Rick & Doris Locklier, 25

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Paul & Judy Hayes, 40
Donald & Dianne Mock, 40
Henry & Betty Englert, 58
George & Thelma Kaufman, 55
Joseph E. & Celeste Russell, 55
Paul & Dorothy Kaufman, 55
Joe & Dolores Reed, 52

St. Joseph, Central City

Harry & Mary Belle Gossett, 55

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Steve & Linda Jenkins, 40

St. Leo, Murray

Raymond & Klara Pawlowski, 53
Robert & Joan Herndon, 50
James & Susan O'Neill, 50
James & Sarah Delaney, 25

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Kenneth & Stansell Ebelhar, 61
Paul & Dorothy Knott, 55
John & Libby Medley, 52

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Tim & Margaret Jane Harley, 25
Robert C. & Doris Howard, 57

Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Junior College



2009 Alumnae Reunion May 16-17, 2009

Maple Mount, Ky.

Anniversary Classes Recognized • Banquet

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St. Mary Elementary Academic Team Competes at Governor's Cup

PADUCAH, Ky. - On March 17th, 2009 the St. Mary Elementary Academic Team competed in the Regional Governor's Cup Competition in the Future Problem Solving category. The team members were Houston Babbs, Nathan Hodges, Michael Largent, and Emily Hodges. The team placed 2nd.

On March 21st, 2009 the Academic Team competed in the following categories: Written Assessment, Written Composition, and Quick Recall at the Regional Governor's Cup Competition. The team members in Written Composition were Hannah Waltmon and Kelly Stewart. Kelly Stewart tied for 6th place. The team members in Written Assessment were Robert Bosh (Science); Kyle Johnson (Social Studies) 6th place; Matthew Poat (Language Arts) 9th place and Matthew Poat (Social Studies) tied for 5th place. In Quick Recall, participating members were Matthew Poat, Nathan Hodges, Ryan Ginithan, Emily Bowerman, Helena Icke, Karina Romero, Robert Bosh, Mark DeNeve, Cameron Crawley and Kyle Johnson. The team placed 6th.

Tony & Bernadine Dean, 53
Anselm & Elizabeth Bickett, 59
Joseph & Jean Ann Rearden, 59
Aloysius & Doris Knott, 55

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Loyd & Candas Milliner, 52
Rudolph & Garnet Meredith, 55

St. Paul, Princeton

Ronald & Sue Karst, 40

St. Peter, Stanley

George & Lee Ann Schrecker, 25

St. Peter, Waverly

Scott & Tina Moore, 25

J. W. & Wanda Berry, 58

St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City

John & Marilyn Brooks, 54
Bernie & Pat Fendler, 51
Lee & Irene Myers, 62

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Jeffery & Alisa Roberts, 25
Timothy & Janet Rehauer, 40
Charles & Norma Bivins, 53
Don & Agnes Powers, 55

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Johnny & Debbie Dubree, 25
David & Mary Alice Basham, 25

Willard & Lydia Aldridge, 51
Bob & Linda Rhodes, 52
Gerald & Rosemary Hinton, 65

St. Rose, Cloverport

William & Bonnie Hess, 54
Michael & Beverly Himmelhaver, 52

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Leon & Peggy Clark, 52
Ed & Betty Wedding, 40

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Bill & Verna Nurczyk, 50

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Paul & Julie McVarland, 25

Denny & Diane Potts, 40

Norbert & Amilda Schmitt, 56

Robert & Mary Riedfort, 61

St. William, Knottsville

Sam & Mary Frances Fulkerson, 66
J. Clemie & Jacqueline Cecil, 51

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Anthony & Donna Milauskas, 25
Samuel & Patricia Chestnut, 50
Charles & Mary Ann Keel, 50
Patrick & Joann Fields, 57
Marvin & June Mahoney, 52

By Robin Beatty

"Hey, how are you?"

"Great, thanks, and you?" Sounds like a typical greeting, and guess what, it is.

"Hey, how are you?" "Fine." Could be typical, but inside the head of the person who said fine, thoughts are twirling. Do they know? Am I acting any differently; I'm trying not to? What did they mean by how are you? And sometimes the person may want to scream "Is that a superficial how are you, or do you really want to know how I am?"

It's very odd how a person who lives with depression interprets a simple conversation. A simple "How are you?" can be torn to shreds to find out if something else was meant besides a simple hello. To a person who lives a "normal" life, that makes no sense; it's just a simple greeting (for lack of a better word I use "normal" here to mean people who don't live with depression). For those of us who do, everything is in question. We question everything because in our life nothing is stable or secure. What could happen one day could be very simple and easy-going to us, but the same thing could happen to us the next day and we turn it into 15 kinds of drama. We could be great screen writers.

We question our thoughts and our actions in all situations I think, for two reasons: one, being simply our insecurities; two, because a lot of times our empathy level is so high that we can feel other people's pain so easily. Well, and maybe a third: we would never hurt someone's feelings on purpose, so we rehash our conversations over and over to assure ourselves that we said or did nothing wrong.

It's interesting how God just lets our life happen. And it's interesting to recognize His hand in our situations. This writing, "Kindred spirits: Companions along the Journey," stems from one of those "God Moments." There are so many times that we feel so alone, even amid family and friends. We may even have therapists to guide us, and even with their years of experience, we feel as though they simply cannot get to the core of our souls. But every once in a blue moon, there's that one incident that changes your life, and God happens to place a single person in your life who simply gets you, who simply understands your every thought, every question, every ounce of your being. When that happens, it is just such a "wow" moment that only you and that person understand.

I've been blessed to have God's hand touch my life in that way recently. And "wow" it was. It was such an ordinary day, it started out as such an ordinary conversation. One thing led to another, and I think

Kindred Spirits: Companions Along The Journey



The people of the Beatty Household, Joey, Robin, Kristen, Molli, and Erin. Submitted photo

we were both in tears. I said how I feel about this, and she would shake her head in agreement. And I said, "Do you ever feel this way?" and she would shake her head again in agreement. My mind was saying "No way; this isn't happening; no one has ever been able to totally get what I'm thinking or feeling." And she would ask something, and I got it! It was exhilarating, exciting and a simple "I'm finally understood" emotion swept over me.

Most people don't understand that those who live with depression put their life under a microscope. Do we want to? No, it just happens. Sometimes it's totally unnecessary and sometimes it's just a plain and simple part of our survival. For me, I have to make sure I get plenty of rest. For me to lose a few hours of sleep is so different than my husband losing those same few hours. Some people tend to eat when they are depressed; I'm just the opposite, I don't eat. Neither is healthy. But I get headaches, I get weak and light headed and then I'm down for the count, which in turn, depletes my energy for anything that needs to be done. I have to keep a careful eye on the stress in my life, trying to keep it at a minimum. Which is hard at times with 3 daughters, a father with Alzheimer's and the state of the nation, among other life situations that simply occur for all people. Sometimes, life itself simply becomes just too much. My kindred spirit understands to the depth of her soul all of this and more. It's amazing the gifts that God gives us. Sometimes a simple breathless Thank You

doesn't seem adequate for something so grand.

Depression can occur to anyone at any time. Whether it is physiological, like mine, or situational (divorce, job loss, etc.), or SAD (seasonal affective disorder), or the blues of any sorts, it's tough. Through the years as I gain more and more knowledge of this, I've noticed different aspects. These are just my personal take on things. It can be across the board for everyone: men, women, and children. For a lot of people it still seems to appear as a weakness. There still is not enough education out there. Depression is a disease.

I think for men it seems to have an ego aspect. For one, men and women are created and wired totally different. Men don't seem to be able to articulate what's going on with them as well. Sometimes by choice, sometimes not. I think it's easier for them to pick up unhealthy habits such as drinking or drugs to cover it up or workaholicism or some other escape. And I think a lot of times they don't even realize why they pick up that drink or that drug. Men have this macho image that it's their place to take care of their family in all aspects. So to say something is wrong with them is just a blow to their ego. Too much for them to handle, so drinking or other things happen to cover that up. I've noticed that the depression gets covered up even more and gets even deeper for them.

Now for women, it's a new ballgame in some aspects, but not all. We have our cover-up actions also. The things above happen with women as well, but we have added factors that change so many things. Those evil little things called hormones; nasty little creatures, if you ask me. As I get older, they seem to creep about all the time. When you are younger, they don't seem too terrible. We want babies; we love babies. That maternal instinct is very strong for most. Then when it comes times to raise those precious little ones, the wow factor is addressed a little differently. Especially in my household: a husband, a wife, three daughters, two female dogs; all this adds up to our Beatty household - one highly estrogenated place to be! Does Joey really have a chance? I think his place in heaven may be guaranteed; what do you think?

Remembering back when I was a child, I felt different then. Kids should be carefree and happy. I didn't feel that way. I didn't feel gleeful and fun. I couldn't tell you then in words what was going on, but by the time I got to high school I just knew that I wasn't happy and couldn't explain why. I didn't feel like I belonged

anywhere, not at school or at home. I felt like a misfit, and an unhappy one at that. I had friends, but didn't feel like I could share my true self with them. Even I didn't know who this self was. I didn't feel good enough or adequate enough. That gray cloud appeared every day upon rising.

I tried to explain that cloud to someone recently. I said "have you ever just awakened with this dark gray cloud over your head, and you couldn't shake it?" He simply replied, "No, I don't have a clue what you are talking about, and I don't try to pretend to understand." I totally respected his response, because so many times when I've tried to reach out, I would get the response of Yes I Do Understand.

Hello, I'm not a rocket scientist, but you know when someone understands and when they are just saying what they think you want to hear. I feel there needs to be more education in our schools and in our communities, but getting things started is tough.

I am beginning to see some education on underage drinking. I personally feel we need to start way before drinking occurs. Why do we drink or do drugs, as an escape? Could there be some depression involved too? I feel if we can teach our young kids earlier in life how to deal with stress and anger and give them the tools and self knowledge of understanding who they are and their feelings, I think we'd be a step ahead and maybe, just maybe the underage drinking would slow down because kids would have higher confidence in themselves and could handle whatever situation arises or at least have a better direction to go in as far as reaching out for help. I think we are going about things like this all backwards. How do we begin educating our children? That's a tough question. We could present esteem classes, anger management classes, family issue classes in early education possibly. Again, just my personal insight.

(Editor's Note: See Article on page 20.)

I can sit back and watch people now and I can usually tell when someone lives with depression. I can watch mannerisms, actions, and social ability. Do people stand up tall or slouch, do they look ahead as they walk or with their head tilted toward the ground, do they look you in the eye when they talk to you, or look away or down? Do they avoid interaction with others or freely join in? Do they get involved with other interests or simply do what they have to do just to get by? Our actions speak louder than words. Depression robs a person of their entire being. It erases any sense of

Continued on page 21

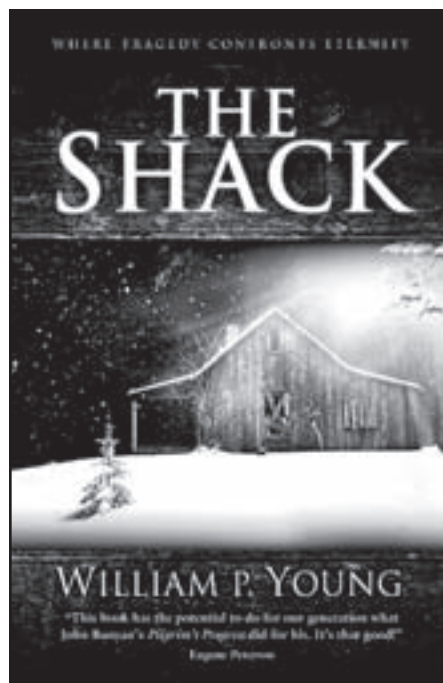
“The Shack” by Wm. Paul Young

By Pat S. Smith

“The Shack is the most absorbing work of fiction I’ve read in many years. My wife and I laughed, cried, and repented of our own lack of faith along the way. The Shack will leave you craving for the presence of God.” - Michael W. Smith, Christian recording artist

The Shack is one of the most inspirational fictional Christian books to come along in many years. The story begins when MacKenzie Phillips, his older sons, his teenage daughter, Kate, and the youngest daughter, Missy, go on a camping trip near the end of summer. On the last day of the trip, while helping Kate and her brothers right an overturned canoe, Missy is left in the tent alone. When they return to the tent, five-year-old Missy is gone, kidnapped. After many long days of searching, her little blood-stained dress is found in an old shack, but her body is never recovered.

Although over the next 3 1/2 years, everyone else, including Mom and Nan, has accepted Missy’s disappearance; Mack can not. In chapter four, he falls into what he describes “The Great Sadness.” Since Missy has been gone all these years, Mack has not been able to move on with his life



and is in a state of depression. One freezing cold morning he goes to retrieve the mail, finds a lone envelope in the mail box addressed to him, but no stamp, no return address, nothing. Inside there is a simple message “Meet me at the shack this weekend. Love Papa.” A lot of things run

Kindred Spirits *(Continued from page 20)*

balance, and it isolates you from the ones you love. It’s a social, emotional, physical and spiritual disease. It dissipates who you are and challenges you from being the person that God intended you to be.

We are meant to be where we are in every second of our lives, and we need to remember that God provides us with what we need to get through our challenging moments as He does our blessed moments. Depression even interferes with your relationship with Him.

All this must sound like “Why do I go on?” I’m sure. Well, to answer that honestly, sometimes it doesn’t seem worth it. Then on the other hand, when you learn to properly care for yourself, whatever way that may be (medicine, therapy, prayer, etc.) you learn to see why it is worth it to go on. God did intend for me to be happy. Like my Mom always says “God didn’t promise us an easy life, but He did promise us eternal life.” The wisdom that we learn from our parents - how good it is.

If we recognize depression in ourselves or others, whether it be situational or physiological, what steps do we need to take? First, recognizing it is very important. Talk to your health care provider, and talk about it with someone you trust. For me, being able to get thoughts outside of my head helps. If I keep them inside, that’s exactly where they stay, running in a vicious circle. Sometimes a good friend, a therapist, and even medication helps. Every person is different, and each one has to find what helps him or her best.

It seems appropriate for me to write this as our Lenten season comes to a close. There are so many times as though I feel like I live the Passion of Christ daily. I have that agony in the garden experience within my mind many times as I struggle with the “whys” and “what ifs,” with the “am I good enough” thoughts. There are so many times I feel like I have the Scourging at the Pillar in my constant self-defeat, negative talk and draining attitude, with the headaches and lack of energy. And that cross of depression is heavy, and I fall many times. I don’t want to appear as though my cross is any harder to bear than anyone else’s. I’ve watched my father battle cancer and now Alzheimer’s. I see others with alcoholism, drug addiction and many other diseases that

through Mack’s mind before he decides he will go to the shack...alone. Could this be the killer luring him back, could this be some mean prank, could Missy still be alive, and if he goes, should he tell Nan? Since it is winter and ice and snow on the ground, Mack asks to borrow his neighbor’s four wheel drive jeep, briefly shows him the note, and decides he will go alone and tell no one else. His neighbor suggests this is not a good idea, but Mack is compelled to return to the shack, almost like he is being pulled there.

Although it is bitter cold and freezing weather, when Mack enters the shack, suddenly everything is beautiful, warm and green and flowers bursting forth everywhere. At the shack he will meet three individuals, as well as a judge who asks him to give up another of his children. The individuals he meets at the shack are Papa (God in the form of a large African American woman), Jesus, a young carpenter, clad in jeans and tool belt, and the Holy Spirit, Sarayu, a wispy Asian man who “collects tears”. During his visit Mack believes he has met God and that God will have some answers as to why Missy had to be taken from him. He is angry with Papa and needs to know.

To quote an excerpt from the book, “*Living unloved is like clipping a bird’s wing and keeping us from being able to fly. That’s not what I want for you. (God speaking). Mack did not feel particularly loved at the moment. (God continues) ...Mack, pain has a way of clipping our wings and keeping us from being able to fly. And if it’s left unresolved for very long, you can almost forget that you were ever created to fly in the first place..... I’m not like you, Mack. It wasn’t a put-down; it was a simple statement of fact, but to Mack it felt like a splash of cold water. I am God. I am who I am. And unlike you, my wings can’t be clipped. (Mack replying)... Well that’s wonderful for you, but where does it leave me. (To which God replies) Right smack dab in the middle of my love. (“The Shack,” page 99-100)*

Throughout the “weekend,” Mack learns a lot from God as his anger starts to lift and his depression fades. He learns that God’s greatest desire for humans is to have us love Him without condition and for us to love Him back with undying faith... and to let Jesus physically live in our hearts.

are beyond our control humanly. I do realize though that no matter what our crosses are, mine or yours, we are in this journey together. And when you find that kindred spirit to walk hand in hand together, to share your deepest secrets with, you honestly have God’s presence walking with you in a tangible way. So what more can we ask for from this Lenten season? Yes, we endure His Passion, but, yes we also hope to share His Resurrection. Now that’s something worthwhile to go on living for.

The Western Kentucky Catholic, May, 2009 **21**

Mack does a lot of “normal” things on his “weekend” at the shack. He gardens with the Holy Spirit, lies on dock with Jesus and looks at the stars... and eventually walks across the lake with Jesus. Papa (God) is a great cook and Mack enjoys all the food that is prepared for him. On the last day “Sunday”, Mack comes back to the shack to find it like it had been originally 3 1/2 years earlier. There in the small living room, Papa has laid out a small meal of bread and wine. As the four eat their last meal together and Mack prepares to leave, he knows he has learned more than he ever thought he could about faith, and that he will be able to return home and his “great sadness” now lifted, he can cope with his life and enjoy his memories of Missy.

Returning on the road, now icy, Mack is in a near fatal car crash and wakes up in the hospital where his wife, Nan and children are all there, and his best friend who jokingly chastises him for destroying his jeep. Mack asks how long he has been out and is it Sunday night or Monday morning. Nan and the crowd in the room are puzzled. Mack had never made it to the shack, as the accident had occurred on Friday night on his way to the shack. However, he remembers Papa telling him that time is not real, so he could have really experienced the whole weekend. The next week, he is able to lead the police to Missy’s remains (as shown to him by the Holy Spirit) and she is given a proper burial and closure for the whole family. (The police who had helped in the original search, have no doubt that Mack’s experience was real and that he is definitely NOT a suspect).

Now it is up to the reader to decide... Did Mack meet the Holy Trinity at the shack to help him recover from Missy’s death and renew his faith? Or was it all a comatose dream. You decide.

“The Shack” is one of the few fictional spiritual books that has grabbed the attention of thousands of people, including myself, and I felt like I had met God myself and had my faith renewed. The book is a little over 200 pages and a quick, “can’t put it down” read. I encourage all of you to read “The Shack” and meet God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for yourself.

Reviewed by Pat S. Smith, Holy Spirit Parishioner.

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - The 40 days of Lent climaxing in Holy Week at St. Francis de Sales was a time to step back and remind ourselves of the wonderful gift of our faith and the redemption that comes to us through the sacrifice of Jesus. The Saturday Vigil Mass was especially meaningful as 19 individuals were fully initiated into the Catholic Church; 9 were baptized and along with 10 others who came into full communion. Five of these new Catholic members are children. Jeanine Cudd, the team member who coordinates the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) met with these young people and their young sponsors in the many weeks proceeding Easter. She describes RCIC as, "A process designed for children to learn about the Catholic faith through sacred scripture, tradition and liturgy. They come weekly to learn their prayers, the creeds, the sacraments, stories of the Bible and the beauty of the Mass. They are most eager to discover Jesus, His miracles, His parables but most of all His love for them. Music, skits and crafts enhance their understanding of God's word, the Bible and studying the lives of the saints show them a way to live as Christ would have them live in order to receive His promise of eternal life.

19 Enter the Church in St. Francis de Sales Parish



In this picture of the 19 newly initiated members of Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah are, front row from left, Dwain Smith, Claire York, Makayla York, Molly Mayhall, Daisy Mayhall; 2nd row - Jack Ballard, Krista Mayhall, Alexis Thomas, Carol Nielsen; 3rd row - Meshea Crysap, Amanda York, Patricia Menaugh, Zach Thomas, Janet Herzberg; back row - Zack Hayes, Chris Bradley, Baron Daniels, April Greenup, Kandice Skabo. Edie Keeney Photo

The children come to the weekly sessions knowing something special and ex-

citing is taking place in their lives. As one child said so beautifully, as she contributed

to the discussion, 'I'm getting pretty good at this!' What more can we ask?"

Several of the new Catholics spoke of what they felt was the best part of the Saturday Vigil Mass, Makayla York, age 9, and her sister Claire, age 7, both said that getting baptized and having the water poured on their heads was the best. Claire also said, "The wine tasted funny." Molly Mayhall, age 10, also thought being baptized was the best part and she added, "I was pretty nervous." Her sister, Daisy, age 7, said, "The best was when I got to take up the gifts." Alexis Thomas, age 11, remembered, "The special thing for me was getting the oil on my forehead." She added that she was looking forward to returning to St. Mary and telling all of her friends, "I'm Catholic, I'm Catholic." They all agreed that they learned a lot about Jesus and how to live like Him. Accompanying these children on their journey were their sponsors, Kikki Fuller, Leslie Nash, Leanna Thompson, and Olivia Warren. The relationship between these sponsors and the children is a bond that is special and gives the children a mentor and someone to be an example for them in living out this new Catholic life.



On Monday March 30th St. Vincent volunteers helped collect food bags. Manager Vickie Elliott along with Cindy Tilden, Roger Kaler, Jackie and Tammy Harris assisted with the loading of bags.

On Monday, March 23rd, Kim Breese, Christie and Chris Peters, Lori Doss, Loree Eckstein, Bill Ford, and Laura Todino helped transport bags of groceries from our area churches to Paducah cooperative Ministry. Heidi Suhrheinrich and her staff at PCM also helped collect bags from St. Francis de Sales. Submitted photos



Our sincerest thanks to the catechists, students and families of Faith Formation, and the parishes of St. Thomas More, St. Francis de Sales, St. John, and Rosary Chapel for your generous donations that enabled us to once again have a successful food drive this year. Through everyone's help and generosity we were able to collect a total of 789 bags!!

Thanks also to everyone who handed out bags at Masses, and to the students who spoke at the Masses to announce the food drive.

May the Lord richly bless you and your loved ones for your support and generosity!

- Laura Todino, Assistant Director, Paducah Catholic Community Faith Formation



Girl Scout Sunday at St. Thomas More

PADUCAH, Ky. - Members of St. Mary Elementary Brownie Troop #574 celebrated Girl Scout Sunday, March 8, 2009 by attending Mass together at St. Thomas More. The girls, wearing their brown vests with badges, were called forth to the front of the congregation for recognition and special blessing. Troop leaders, who guide regular meet-

ings and plan educational activities for the troop, are Kelly Veatch, Shelly Eason, and Heather Largent.

Front Row: Meredith Petter, Madelyn Lorch; **2nd Row:** Breanna Sisk, Georgia Eck, Bailey Ellingsworth, MacKenzie Bush, Hope Eason; **Back Row:** Caroline Veatch, Ashley Rich, Annalynn Hill, Kelly Black, Kaitlin Hrdlicka, Lakyn Largent



Summer Retreats for Women Religious

July 12-18, 2009



Journey of Faith

Retreat includes two daily conferences, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Anointing of the Sick.

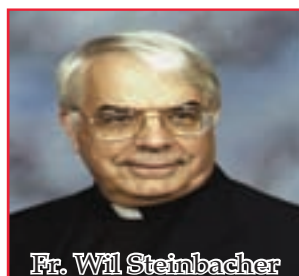
Retreat Director:
Fr. Wil Steinbacher

Participants in the Directed Retreat will meet each day with a spiritual guide:

Sister Mary Matthias Ward, OSU
Sister Helen O'Brien, OSU

Cost: \$450 residents or \$275 commuters

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



Fr. Wil Steinbacher



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

YEAR FOR PRIESTS

Pope Benedict XVI has established a year for priests in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests. The pope will open the special year with a vespers service at the Vatican June 19, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson) (April 7, 2009)



CUA to Celebrate "The Year for Priests"

Monday, April 06, 2009 - Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, president of The Catholic University of America, announced today that the university will celebrate "The Year for Priests" (June 19, 2009-June 19, 2010) with a two-day symposium titled "Ministerial Priesthood in the Third Millennium: 'Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests'" on Oct. 6-7, 2009. Pope Benedict XVI declared a year for priests in an effort to encourage a deepening of the spiritual life of those called to priestly ministry.

In remarks to the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy on March 16, 2009, the Holy Father observed that "as Church and as priests, we proclaim Jesus of Nazareth Lord and Christ, Crucified and Risen, Sovereign of time and of history, in the glad certainty that this truth coincides with the deepest expectations of the human heart ... The centrality of Christ brings with it the correct appreciation of the ministerial priesthood, without which there would be neither the Eucharist, nor even the mission nor the Church herself."

Responding to his message, CUA's School of Theology and Religious Studies, in collaboration with the university's national seminary Theological College, will co-sponsor this symposium in conjunction with Theological College's annual "Alumni Days" celebration. "All theology is pastoral," remarked Monsignor Kevin Irwin, dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies. "It is always a reflection on the life and mission of the Church. Our speakers will discuss the mystery of the priesthood in light of our rich theological and spiritual heritage." Entrusted with the formation of priests at Theological College, Rev. Melvin Blanchette, S.S., seminary rector, observed "The ministry of priests is crucial to society. The priest holds together what is at the heart of peoples' quest for God. He is the mediator between the hopes and fears of the present and the dreams and vision of the world to come."

According to Father O'Connell, "CUA has long contributed to the effective formation of priests in the United States and to their education after ordination in philosophy, social work, education, theology and canon law. It is fitting in this coming year — when we also commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of the beloved pastor St. John Vianney — that the university joins with the Church throughout the world in 'making the importance of the priest's role and mission in the Church and in contemporary society ever more clearly perceived' (Benedict XVI)."

Bishop urges priests to live simply to better serve parishioners

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (CNS) -- A Montana bishop told the priests in his diocese the country's current economic downturn offered a good opportunity to examine the meaning of "Gospel poverty" and "the notion of simplicity as it applies to our lifestyles as priests." "The lifestyles we live as priests say much to the people we serve," Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings wrote in a Lenten letter to priests. The bishop said that, although Montana had not been hit as hard with unemployment as other areas of the country, many people in local parishes are struggling to make house payments or finding it hard to buy basic necessities. Economic uncertainty amid the Lenten season provides an opportunity for priests to take a closer look at their lifestyles, he said. He noted that unless they are members of religious communities it is unlikely diocesan priests have taken vows of poverty. But even without these vows, he said, "to some degree, every priest is called to embrace a simple lifestyle."

Twelve Ursuline Sisters Celebrate Jubilees at Mount Saint Joseph

Maple Mount, Ky. - Twelve Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are celebrating jubilees of religious profession this summer. Altogether, these sisters have given 630 years of service to God.



Sister Jean Madeline Peake

Sister Jean Madeline Peake is celebrating 75 years of religious life. A native of Holy Cross, she taught at St. Joseph School, Owensboro (1937-46). She also taught and/or served as principal at St. Joseph School, Central City, 1946-50, at St. Benedict School, Wax, 1957-60, as well as in Calvary, Harrodsburg, and Louisville, and in Missouri. She was a parish minister for St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield, 1985-96. From 1996-2002, she served as director of the craft room at Mount Saint Joseph. She continues to use her gifts as a seamstress to make beautiful quilts for the support of the Ursuline community.



Sister M. deChantal Whelan

Sister M. deChantal Whelan is celebrating 75 years as an Ursuline Sister. A native of St. Joseph, she was a teacher for 61 years in Kentucky and Missouri. She

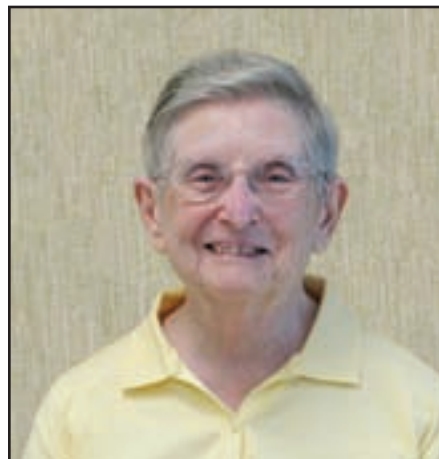
taught at St. Elizabeth School, Curdsville (1948-50), and at Brescia College/University. As professor of English at Brescia from 1958 to 1997, Sister deChantal established and/or directed a number of programs that became essential to the work of the institution, including Student Support Services and Weekend College. Under her direction, the Grants Office obtained funds for bringing significant speakers to campus, upgrading computer resources, and completing a number of building renovation projects. Sister deChantal is retired at the motherhouse, where she is devoted to the ministry of prayer.



Sister Clarentia Hutchins

Sister Clarentia Hutchins celebrates her 70th year of religious life. A native of Louisville, Sister Clarentia was an educator for 46 years. She taught at St. Lawrence School, Daviess County (1941-42), St. Elizabeth School, Curdsville (1950-54), St. Mary Magdalene School, Sorgho (1957-63), and Immaculate Conception School, Hawesville (1971-73). She taught in many other Kentucky schools. From 1987 until her retirement in 2005, she was engaged in outreach ministry in Louisville, including work with the Red Cross, and visiting nursing homes and hospitals. She is an active member of the Powerhouse of Prayer at the motherhouse.

Sister Miriam Medley is celebrating 70 years of religious life. A native of Loretto, she devoted 53 years of her life to education. She was the librarian at Brescia College (now Brescia University) in Owensboro from 1987-94. She taught at Cathedral School, Owensboro (1982-86) and Saint Anthony School, Peonia (1945-46). She served as principal of Mount



Sister Miriam Medley

Saint Joseph Academy, Maple Mount (1960-66). Sister Miriam was also a principal for schools in Louisville, Calvary, and Lebanon, and she taught at schools in Raywick, Louisville, Flaherty, and in Missouri. She was a pastoral minister in Princeton and Dawson Springs (1986-87) and in Aztec, N.M. She retired to the motherhouse in 1998, where she served as chapel sacristan for four years and was the community librarian until 2006. She is still active in prayer ministry.



Sister Helen Hermreck

Sister Helen Hermreck is celebrating 70 years of religious life. A native of Scipio, Kan., Sister Helen was an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan., until the merger of that community with Mount Saint Joseph in 2008. She taught in Paola and Kansas City, Kan., in Bartlesville, Okla., and at three locations in or near Sacramento, Calif. She was novice director for the Paola Ursulines from 1957-63, and served in pastoral ministry in Placerville, Calif., from 1980 until her retirement in 2005. She now lives at the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse.



Sister Celine Leeker

Sister Celine Leeker is celebrating 60 years of religious life. A native of Olathe, Kan., she was an educator for 41 years as an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan. She taught in the Kansas towns of Greeley, Bonner Springs, Overland Park, Paola, Shawnee Mission, and Garnett, as well as in Bartlesville, Okla. From 1975-79, Sister Celine was formation director for the Ursuline Sisters of Paola. Since retiring in 1996, she has helped in various ways at the Paola Motherhouse, including hospitality. She will be moving to Maple Mount in mid-May.



Sister Judith Osthoff

Sister Judith Osthoff is celebrating 60 years of religious life. Born in Lenora, Kan., Sister Judith was an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan., until the merger of that community in 2008. Sister Judith served as a teacher in Kansas for over 30 years. She also ministered at the Paola motherhouse and volunteered at homeless shelters. Since her retirement in 1992, Sister

Continued on page 25

Twelve Ursuline Sisters Celebrate Jubilees at Mount Saint Joseph

Judith has been active in the ministry of prayer.



Sister Rita Redmond

Sister Rita Redmond is celebrating 60 years as of religious life. A native of Fort Scott, Kan., she was an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan., until the merger of that community in 2008. She taught in Paola, Shawnee Mission, and Bonner Springs, Kan. She was coordinator of educational materials at the Lakemary Center from 1969-95 in Paola, and was librarian of the East Central Kansas Special Education Materials Center from 1974-2001. She has worked in internal ministry at the Paola Motherhouse since 2001. She will be moving to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse in Maple Mount, Ky., this spring.



Sister Helen Ann Stuart

Sister Helen Ann Stuart is celebrating 60 years of religious life. Born in Saint Raphael in Daviess County, she was an educator for 34 years. She taught at Precious Blood School, Owensboro, 1961-62; St. Joseph School, Leitchfield, 1962-66, and St. Alphonsus School, Saint Joseph, 1966-76. She also taught at St. Joseph School, Mayfield, 1955-60, and St. Romuald School, Hardinsburg, 1983-85. She served in the Brescia College curriculum library in Owensboro in 1983. Sister Helen Ann also taught in schools in Louisville, Jeffersontown, and Loretto. From 1985-2002, she ministered as the switchboard operator for the Ursuline Motherhouse. She is retired and is active in prayer ministry.



Sister Rosalin Thieneman

Sister Rosalin Thieneman, a native of Shively, is celebrating 60 years of religious life. She taught at Mount Saint Joseph Academy (1956-57), Immaculate School (1957-59), and St. Pius Tenth School (1959-61) in Daviess County. Sister Rosalin served at Brescia University from 1961-88. She also taught in schools in Vine Grove and Paducah, served as parish minister in Jefferson-town, and held many office positions at Mount Saint Joseph. Currently she is an information receptionist and volunteer in the business office at the Motherhouse.



Sister Clara Reid

Sister Clara Reid is celebrating 50 years of religious life. A native of Holy Cross, Sister Clara taught at Blessed Mother School in Owensboro from 1961-64, and was principal at St. Pius Tenth School from 1981-85. She ran the kindergarten and day care at St. Pius from 1980-81. Sister Clara also taught at St. Joseph School in Mayfield from 1964-71. She has spent more than 30 years in New Mexico, where she still teaches at St. Charles Borromeo School.

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



Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger

Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger is celebrating 50 years of religious life. A native of Glennonville, Mo., Sister Cecelia Joseph taught at Precious Blood School in Owensboro from 1961-63, at Immaculate Conception School in Hawesville from 1965-66, at St. Romuald School in Hardinsburg from 1966-73, and at Christ the King School in Madisonville from 1984-86. She was a pastoral associate at St. Jude Parish in Clinton from 1998-2003. She also taught in the Louisville Archdiocese, Missouri, and New Mexico. She is currently the parish life coordinator for the Tewa Missions in Espanola, N.M.



Pilgrimage to St Anne de Beaupre in Canada

Msgr. Bernard Powers will lead a pilgrimage to Montreal, Quebec and Saint Anne de Beaupre, North American Martyr Shrine and other great places of interest in Canada, July 7 to July 18, 2009.

Double occupancy \$1,770.00 For information, call Msgr. Powers, 270-233-3443, or Golden Frontier, 618-234-1445.

Msgr. Powers said, "It is a great trip and I feel those who make the trip will be enriched by the experience."

Parents Who Host -- Lose The Most

By Bev Howard, OCHS Counselor

OWENBORO, Ky. - Like many Americans, during my spring break, I decided to watch the final episode of ER simply because it was the end of a 15-year run for the show and it gave me time to reminisce over the years that I had watched the show.

One of the highlights of the 2 hour show was the incident involving a young teenage girl who was at a slumber party with several of her girlfriends and they decided to play the drinking game to see who could down the most drinks (vodka mixed with kool-aid). When she was brought into the emergency room unconscious, the parents in whose house the party had taken place came also. Her blood alcohol level was .42 (.08 is considered to be legally drunk for an adult). When the doctor asked where they had gotten the liquor, the other young girls looked directly at the parents and said from them. The parents response was: "We would rather they drink at home where we know they will be safe and not be driving." These parents were very surprised when the doctor called the police who came to the hospital to take the parents in for knowingly allowing the teens to drink in their home where they thought, "they would be safe." The young girl was in a coma for a good length of time and it was not disclosed as to whether she would recover due to the amount of alcohol poisoning in her body.

Many well-meaning parents think that it is enough to take away car keys at their teen's parties so the teen can't drink and drive. Parents provide the alcohol and allow alcohol to be consumed based on the false belief that it's a rite of passage especially at prom and graduation parties.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month and to bring awareness to the adults and parents in this community, a local group called CHAPS (Citizens Helping All People Succeed) which consists of students representing all the local high schools, is beginning a campaign called: Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Don't Be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law. This group in conjunction with River Valley Prevention Center is also working on a Social Host Ordinance for the community to further educate adults about their responsibility when it comes to underage drinking in Daviess County and help them to understand it is not a rite

Champions For A Drug-Free Whitesville Host Community Forum on Underage Drinking

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - Champions for a Drug-Free Whitesville presented a community forum on underage drinking April 16 in the Whitesville Senior Center. After an introductory talk by Daviess and McLean Counties MADD member Beverly Coke, panelists from Daviess County Fiscal Court, Daviess County Sheriff's Office, Whitesville City Government, the Daviess County area CHAPS group, and the River Valley Behavioral Health Regional Prevention Center fielded questions from moderator Mark Perez. Audience members also asked questions. People wanted to know facts about underage drinking, about drinking and driving dangers, and why underage drinking is a problem in the whole county area. They wanted to know about peer pressure. They asked about what local law enforcement is doing to stop underage drinking, and learned from Captain Jeff Jones of the Daviess Co. Sheriff's Office that law enforcement's goal #1 is to make the roads safe for everyone, that the officers are not trying to ruin kids' fun, but they will charge any offenders they catch: no simple pouring out beverages on the ground. Parents will be called. Other panelists explained the realities of this situation for the forum.

All panelists agreed that ending underage drinking is everyone's job, and everyone's problem; the message is that underage drinking is not okay, and that the discussion needs to start long before youth start thinking about drinking.



The Catholic High SCRUBS officers sitting on the golf cart that will be used by the group for DUI simulation around prom and graduation time as well as other things around the school. the golf cart was donated by the Michael Horn Foundation: from left to right: Kelsy Cash, Kathryn Dueker, Ben Helms, Ryan Knott and on top Trent Ackerman and Kaley Robertson. OCHS Photo

of passage for teens to drink.

The purpose of the campaign is to provide accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and the community to send a unified message at prom and graduation time that teen drinking is not acceptable. It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under 21 to drink.

Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their kids:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities for youth during prom and graduation season
- Refuse to supply alcohol to teens or allow drinking in your home/property.
- Be at home when your teen has a party
- Make sure your teen's friends' don't bring alcohol into your home

A lifetime of personal achievement

Mary Hilda McFarland has been selected as the



Mary Hilda McFarland

this award, which recognizes an alum who, through a lifetime of personal achievement, has personified the ideals of Brescia University as they were lived by Fr. Saffer. Service before self was a hallmark of Fr. Saffer. "Miss Mac" teaches Humanities and has been at OCHS 41 years, the past two as a half-time volunteer.

• Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events

• Report underage drinking to local law enforcement

Don't put yourself in the position the family did in the story in ER and think you are keeping your teens safe by allowing them to drink alcohol in your home. Don't break the law. Don't put your teens at risk. Do your part to make this prom and graduation season safe for everybody.

Reprinted with permission from Catholic High Parentlines, April 22, 2009



Mark Perez, moderator of the April 16, 2009 community forum on underage drinking in the Whitesville Senior Center, standing at left, addressed questions to panelists who spoke from their areas of experience in working with the problems of underage drinking and also drinking and driving. Panelists included students from Trinity High School in Whitesville and Owensboro Catholic High School. Staff Photo

Barbara Allen Brown
Holy Guardian Angels Parish
Irvington, Ky

I met Barbara Brown at a WWW.Com Senior retreat that Patty Blair and I were presenting in Irvington, Kentucky recently.

"I think these types of activities for seniors are very good. The senior population is just getting bigger and we just can't be ignored. An activity that will get seniors together to socialize and be spiritually involved is wonderful. I would recommend this retreat for everyone," Barbara said.

Barbara has been married to Theodore Brown for 51 years. "We met here in Irvington. I had seen him around and I thought he was cute but I was too shy to say anything to him. I waved to him one day while I was in a car. I thought I would be safe there! That night he came over to the house and asked me out for a date. We dated for 4 years and got married. I joined the Catholic Church in 1966. I knew I wanted to raise our children Catholic. We have two children - a boy and girl - and 4 grandchildren and one great grandchild," Barbara told me.

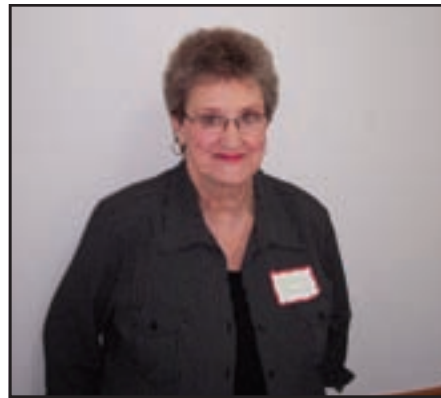
Wow, I guess the wave paid off!

Barbara said that she didn't do much at church, but I noticed how she pitched in at the retreat and helped out. She also knew where everything was stored. "I don't read or serve as a Eucharistic Minister. That would make me nervous, I think. I do help out in the office a couple of times a month with the bookwork when our secretary is gone," she said.

"I worked for 31 years at the First State Bank here in Irvington and retired in 2004. Now I can do what I want! I really

Wisdom

by Ginny Knight-Simon



Barbara Allen Brown

enjoy my life. I run around with my friends and my husband and I travel a lot. Last year for our 50th wedding anniversary we went to Hawaii. I don't like to fly though. But I really enjoyed it after we got on the ground. We are going on a cruise this year to the Baltic Sea. I think it will be a great trip."

"I think the greatest blessing in my life is how the Good Lord has watched over our family. He has been so good to us. We are all healthy. I just can't think how a person could profess to have no faith. Every morning, I say the Rosary and read in the Bible. Even when we travel, I read the Bible and I always have my rosary with me. Yes, the Good Lord has been very good to our family," Barbara concluded.

If your parish would like to schedule a WWW.Com (Wise Weavers of Wisdom in the community) please contact Ginny Knight-Simon 270-683-1545.

Sammie VanLahr Quiggins
Holy Guardian Angels
Irvington, KY

The first things I noticed about Sammie Quiggins, at the WWW.Com Senior Retreat at Holy Guardian Angels, was her humor and happy spirit.

Later when I talked with her she told me, "I've been a widow twice. I was married to my first husband 32 years and had one son, Lee Bramlett. In 1993, I joined the Church and married Don Quiggins and we were married 16 years when he died. I met Don through a mutual friend and we just clicked. I was already getting ready to join the Church in RCIA when I met Don, who was Catholic. My sister was Catholic and I had gone to church with her. I was so happy that Don and I were able to get married in the Church."

Sammie told me, "I was drawn to ritual of the Mass. The service, to me, is so much more sacred than others (religions) I had visited. There is no noise and laughing and talking during the Mass. I have never regretted joining the Catholic Church. My faith was a real source of help and healing during my husband's (Don) death. My parish community is like a family to me as well. I am on the Finance Committee, and I am a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. I will always cook when I'm asked to!

I love to cook and my friends love to eat! I have been writing a cooking column in the local paper, "Never Trust a Skinny Cook," for about six years. I'm trying to



Sammie VanLahr Quiggins

get a cookbook together to get it published, but I just haven't found enough time yet! You know how it goes!

I am a Senior Vice President at First State Bank where I have worked for about 53 years. I started working when I was 5! This is the only place I have ever worked and I love it here. I love the people I work with. They are like another family for me."

Sammie told me her name is really Sammie not Samantha. "I really didn't like the name when I was in school, but now I know it just fits me. I was named after my grandfather whose name was Samuel."

For fun Sammie likes to travel, cook, and entertain. "I think having programs for seniors in the parishes is a very important part of parish life. It's good to be able to get together as a group too.

My greatest gift is being able to enjoy life. God has been very good to me."

(Wisdom Day is Thursday May 28th at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Send in your \$5 registration now!)

Lifeteen at St. Thomas More Sends a Message to President Obama

By Missy Eckenberg

PADUCAH, Ky. - On Monday, March 30, 2009 St. Thomas More Lifeteen members gathered after school to prepare a very important message for our President. The group joined with people all across the country to prepare red envelopes to be mailed the next day. The red envelopes show President Obama and the world that there is moral outrage over abortion which is not acceptable. On the back of the red envelope the following message was written: "This envelope represents one child who died because of an abortion. It is empty because the life that was taken is now unable to be a part of our world." The effort seeks to oppose the signing of the (FOCA) Freedom of Choice Act.



Above, red envelopes addressed to President Obama.

In the picture at left, L to R, Sean Butterbaugh, Miso Kim, Katherine Shoulta, Jessica Sheer, Eric Butterbaugh, Michael Garrett, Sally Thompson, and Jessica Jones work with St. Mary Campus Minister Michael Chesnut and Youth Minister Danny Thomas (not shown) to prepare the envelopes. Photos by Danny Thomas

Summer Camp is Almost Here!

By Ben Warrell

The summer is rapidly approaching and will be here before you know it. Have you made plans for your family this summer? One way to save money and have an amazing week is to attend camp or to volunteer at camp this summer. The camp experience is like nothing else on earth. People who are complete strangers on Sunday will become life long friends by Friday. It really is a miracle, getting to see God work on people's hearts and minds during their stay at camp. Kids will learn about their faith in new and exciting ways and will grow in ways they never knew they could. Camp is a wonderful setting for young people to discover who God is calling them to be. Our theme for this summer is "Our Hope is in the Living God." Spots for camp are filling up rapidly so please don't wait to register. Everything you need for summer camp is on our website www.gasperiverretreatcenter.org on the Camps Link.

We also need volunteers for camp. One of the other amazing things about camp is that the adults who volunteer a week of their time receive blessings like they've never experienced before. It is a role that allows God to use you to make a difference in a child's life. Everyone who volunteered at Gasper River last year could not get over the amazing experience and how blessed they were by the kids they served. The camp experience, centered on Jesus and the Eucharist, is the perfect setting to be involved. It won't cost you anything to volunteer for week and make a difference in a young person's life.

The national average for a week long summer camp experience has surpassed \$520. Our cost for a week of camp is only \$250. It is a tremendous bargain, however, there are families that are struggling and may not be able to afford to send a child to camp. We ask that you prayerfully discern being a camp angel. A camp angel will pay for a child's week at camp and allow them to have an unbelievable encounter with God. In order to keep our costs as affordable as possible, we also ask that you examine our Wish List and help in way that you can. Thank you so much to those who have already given so much to help this wonderful ministry. If you have any questions about the summer, please contact our office at 270-781-2466. Thanks and God bless.



Saint Joseph School Students Rock

Fourth Grade students from St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, KY, had the opportunity to be junior geologists. Mrs. Terri Thornton, and Ms. Betty Anne Watt, 4th Grade teachers from St. Joseph School, took their students on a field trip to hunt for fossils. Dr. Michael May, a Professor of Geology from Western KY University in Bowling Green, visited the classroom, teaching the students about types of rocks found in KY, and about fossils found in the rocks. He brought several samples to the classroom, and allowed the students to identify the different types of fossils found in the samples. Dr. May, Mrs. Thornton, and Mrs. Watt, along with several parents, took the students to find the different types of rocks and fossils. Students wore safety goggles, brought rock hammers, and pounded the rocks, finding fossils hidden inside these rocks. The students learned a great deal about rocks and fossils, and enjoyed this wonderful opportunity! Submitted by Betty Anne Watt, St. Joseph School, Bowling Green, KY

Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center Wish List

- Prayers for the summer-for the campers, the staff, the volunteers and the program.
- Lumber-all kinds needed for bunk beds and other construction and maintenance before and during summer camp.
- Mattresses for new bunk beds.
- A tractor with front end loader for hayrides and maintenance at facility.
- An AED to ensure safety for our guests.
- Camp Angels-sponsors who will help cover the cost of camp for a deserving youth.
- Nurses, Doctors, EMT's to help serve as Camp Health Care Providers during summer camp.
- Volunteer counselors for camp: must complete Safe Environment training, please contact our office for more information.
- Catholic Items-statues of Saints, crucifixes, etc. to help with our Catholic Identity.
- Work Teams-many projects need to be completed here at camp and we need people to be involved.
- Adirondack Chairs, hammocks, picnic tables to help guest enjoy the outdoor beauty of camp.
- Hay wagon-large enough to carry 40 young adults.
- Sound system-speakers, 2 microphones, wireless microphone, speaker stands, etc.
- Electrical, plumbing and carpentry supplies are always in need.
- Financial donors or sponsors for summer camp.
- Lightbulbs-standard and 4' and 8' fluorescent.
- Batteries-D, AA, and 9 volt.
- Office supplies-copy paper, pens, pencils, paper clips, tape, stamps, post-its, scissors, etc.
- Landscaping/gardening work teams.
- Paper plates (heavy duty), plastic ware, napkins, paper towels.
- Mulch

2009 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Date	Camp	Grade	Cost
June 1 - June 5	Eucharistic Life Camp	18 and over	\$200
June 7 - June 12	Staff Training		
June 14 - June 19	Expedition Camp I	5th & 6th Grade	\$250
June 21 - June 26	Expedition Camp II	5th & 6th Grade	\$250
June 28 - July 3	Camp LIFE I	High School	\$250
July 5 - July 10	Quest Camp	7th & 8th Grade	\$250
July 12 - July 17	Camp LIFE II	High School	\$250
July 19 - July 22	Explorer Camp	3rd & 4th Grade	\$150
July 23 - July 24	Youth Serve	7th, 8th, & 9th grade	\$50
July 26 - July 31	Special Needs Camp	15 - 55 yr. Olds	\$250

The GREENing Western Kentucky Project
Discover Music, Discover Nature,
Discover Maple Mount
 Camp for 10 - 12-year-old Boys and Girls
 Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center
 Maple Mount, Ky.
June 8-13, 2009

Come join us for this exciting six-day camp to study nature and share your talents!

All week campers will attend a core curriculum course, gain an appreciation for planet Earth, be entertained nightly by artists, and participate in their choice of four different elective classes, such as Appalachian clogging, group songwriting, rhythm of the Earth, and wild edible plant walks.

Check out www.discovermaplemount.org or www.gasparriverretreatcenter.org for more information!

Catholic School Students Help Build Chapel in St. Joseph Parish, Gujranwala, Pakistan

By Martha Kauffeld

This is a letter sent to the Catholic School students of the Owensboro Catholic Schools System in October, 2008. OCS students donated over \$1,000 to help build a Catholic chapel in Eminabad, Pakistan.

We area couple of moms (more like your grandmas) with an aspiration and, what seems to be an impossible dream! Still, lest we forget, "For God ... all things are possible!" Believing this to be true, we solely are here to honor ... two priests! The priests in question are our own Fr. Pike Powell for his services of serving the Diocese of Owensboro for his 60+ years & still is going strong, and Father Patras Samuel who now serves his bishop as an diocesan priest in his native Diocese of Lahore, Pakistan! Father Powell deserves our recognition for his dedication and ser-



Father Patras Samuel is a diocesan priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lahore, Pakistan. Submitted Photo



Father Paul Pike Powell

vices in his priestly ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro in Western Kentucky for so many years. Fr. Patras has a dire need to build a Church where his poorest of people in Pakistan can worship!

Fr. Powell has a great love of anything connected with "Divine Mercy" and the devotion! A "yes" from our Pakistani priest, our Father Patras, in the naming of the Church, "The Chapel of Divine Mercy" has laid the "corner stone": a donation from a Catholic lady made on Fr. Powell's behalf has funded the corner stone and confirm in us the belief - this was God's work and not ours!

My dear ones, now this is where Catholic students can come into play - helping

to fund this project. We need your help! Those little sacrifices you make throughout the school year, be it this year or even next year, can become the mortar and bricks to be build this little "Chapel," God's House! Wow! Wouldn't that be just awesome or what! Just knowing your little sacrifices of giving up a soda or two a week, or perhaps even giving up something you really want knowing your dollars are helping to fund a little Chapel "built on your sacrifices" for these two men of God? Father Powell & Father Patras would be so proud of you!

Did you know that our Father Patras Samuel has had to suffer his entire life? The Muslims in his native land of Pakistan do not like Christians! Still, against all odds, he was ordained a priest almost two years ago. Father tells us that his only means of transportation is a broken-down motor bike. Oftentimes, he has to travel some 47 kilometers on that bike to say Mass. Can you imagine having to ride a two-wheeler 25 miles one way to say Mass outdoors? But these are his poorest; they need him, and the outdoors is the only means they have to worship God!

Dear Students, this is why our beloved priest in Pakistan finds himself desperately searching and praying to God to find a way for someone to build these people a House of Prayer! Our Father Patras says he is willing to die for his people in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Each day when he leaves the rectory, he tells us, he fears for his life! In spite of the untold sufferings & persecutions of these Christians, the Church and the "faith" is still very alive and well in the Diocese of Lahore! Praise Be To God!



Fr. Noel Mueller, O.S.B., a monk at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, has an MA in English Literature and a Master of Divinity. He has worked in hospital ministry, Marriage Encounter, seminarian formation, and with youth and disabled persons. He spent 10 years in the Peruvian Andes at Saint Meinrad's mission there and taught 13 years in the seminary college at Saint Meinrad. For 8 years he was Director of the Sabbatical Program at St. Meinrad School of Theology, and has been a popular retreat master and spiritual director over his 40 years of priesthood. Presently, he is the Archabbot's personal secretary.

RESCHEDULED

St Paul of Tarsus

Sts Joseph & Paul Parish Center, 609 E. Fourth Street, Owensboro, Kentucky

Saturday, May 16th 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Marian Shrine Committee

www.marianshrineky.org

For more information call:

Joy or Bill Bach at 270-685-3743

YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Celebrate with Word, Meditation, Reconciliation, Eucharist and the opportunity for a Plenary Indulgence
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fr. Noel Mueller, O.S.B.

Talks are: "Rabbi Paul: The Jewish Background"
"The Apostle Paul: Itinerant Missionary"
"Paul's Ecclesiology: The Body of Christ"
"Paul the Mystic"

Reconciliation Available; Mass at 4:30 p.m. at Sts Joseph & Paul Catholic Church

Registration Fee \$20.00 per person

Includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Registration Form

Please Duplicate for each attendee:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Fr., Sr., Deacon, or Br., _____

Must be Pre-paid by May 12

Number of people attending _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

No charge for Priests or Religious

Mail your tax deductible donation to:

Marian Shrine Committee

4213 Spring Bank Drive

Owensboro, KY 42303

Father Patras knows well this Chapel of Divine Mercy will have to be built by God; all that we two moms stateside can do is present his need, and then, pray, pray, and pray!

Thank you for listening! Pray about it! Then be at peace with your decision! God bless you all! In his Divine Mercy, We are... Martha J. Kauffeld & Sue O'Bryan (Both members of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Sorgho, Ky.)

Oh yes, Father Patras tells us such a chapel can be built in the neighborhood of \$10,000.00. What ever we can come up with, Fr. Patras will be forever grateful! He will never cease praying for you! Again, wouldn't this be such an awesome way to honor Father Powell, one of our own Owensboro diocesan priests, in this manner? To have a "Chapel of Divine Mercy" left in his honor, what a legacy! What a gift!

Prayer for the Selection of a Bishop for the Diocese of Owensboro

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, You are our eternal shepherd and guide. In your mercy, grant your Church in Western Kentucky a shepherd who will walk in your ways and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing. Send your Spirit of wisdom upon those who are to select a new Bishop of Owensboro. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your Name glorified. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Through Ups and Downs, St. Joseph Benedict Shelter Continues to Serve

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Saint Joseph Benedict Shelter has housed and fed hundreds of people over the past three years. Those without permanent housing have found shelter and care inside its walls. Those same walls have afforded volunteers the opportunity to give of their time and talent and others to give of their treasure. Just this year, around 300 volunteers from 20 different Christian and Catholic Churches helped run the shelter. Two sets of volunteer guardians help the shelter to run smoothly each night. These Volunteers receive training on operational rules and the Diocesan Safe Environment training. Two other volunteers work in the kitchen for a couple hours each evening to provide an evening meal for the guests.

As with any similar organization, the people who enter its doors are often in some kind of trouble or are themselves troubled. One such gentleman made a choice that affected many others on March 19th. A man closed himself in the kitchen of the shelter at about 11:00pm, where allegedly he began mixing up a batch of meth. One of the volunteer companions found the kitchen door shut and smelled something strange, so she called the police. Upon arrival, the police were tipped off by the smell of ether. They called the HazMat Team, who made all the guests take a shower and then sent them to the hospital for a more thorough check-up. After being released, the guests were relocated to either New Life Church or the Bulware Shelter for the night.

Many are asking, "Now what?" The Environmental Protection Agency came in to assess the damage and gave the shelter a tier-one rating of contamination, which is the lowest possible level of contamination. A contractor was subsequently was hired to decontaminate the premises. At present, the consequences of this action caused the shelter to be shut down almost two weeks before its scheduled date. The Saint Joseph Benedict Shelter is normally open from November 1st to March 31st each year. Although it is now technically safe to reopen, the board voted to keep it closed for the remainder of the season, since it already so close to April 1st.

Kim Jagoe, Coordinator of the Shelter, says this is the first time something like this has happened since the shelter opened three years ago. She confirmed that there was a high level of anxiety among the guests because they all knew it would be closing soon. Beginning next season, she will be implementing a couple new procedures, such as a security check point to search bags and coats and she will ask each resident to sign a waver releasing the shelter and the Diocese from liability.

According to Richard Murphy, Director of the Office of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Owensboro: "The St. Benedict Joseph Homeless Shelter seeks to provide help and hope to all God sends to the Shelter. We hope to continue in this important ministry as long as it is needed. The staff and Advisory Board will review the events of 3-19-09, learn how to prevent

this from happening again, and establish policies designed to ensure the safety of all, residents and volunteers alike. We appreciate the help and confidence shown

to us by our benefactors and residents to serve in this effort, and hope to show that this work can continue."



Father Tony Jones washes the feet of Michelle Norris while her daughter Kaylynn, Billy McElwain, Jr., Nick Boling, Zoe Meckhart, Mason Nofsinger, and Gary Kinswa wait Holy Thursday night at Immaculate Church, Owensboro. Dave McBride Photo

Holy Week Services Call Catholic Christians To Reflect on Jesus' Ministry and Passion



Father Tony Jones lights the Easter candle from the new fire while altar servers, catechumens, and candidates for Confirmation watch outside Immaculate Church on Holy Saturday night. Dave McBride Photo



Father Tony Jones with Zach Swift, altar server, prays the blessing over the water prior to Baptism. Those waiting for Baptism include, from left, Mason Nofsinger, Kaylynn Thomas, Caitlin Millay, Billy McElwain, Jr., Landon Nix, Logan Kinswa, and Evan Harvey. Dave McBride Photo

Mother's Day Novena

A Symbol of Love for All our Mothers



Living and Deceased

Let Us Pray for your Mother.

The Diocesan Shrine, Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of all Christians invites you to enroll you Mother and other loved one in our Solemn Novena to all Mothers. Beginning on Sunday, May 11th, all those enrolled will share nine days of remembrance

at the Holy Mass, and in prayers offered at our Marian Shrine. Your petitions will be placed at the foot of the statue of our Mother, Mary, during the Solemn Novena with a "Bouquet" of sentiments as hundreds of carnations will be used as a backdrop for our Mother's Day Novena. Each carnation represents a mother, living (red carnation) or deceased (white carnation). This flower at the Shrine will become a symbol of love, gratitude and joy that our mothers have brought into our lives.



Prayer for Mother's Day Novena

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, Gate of Heaven, Star of the Sea, assist your people who have fallen, as we strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

Mother of the Redeemer hold close to your heart all our mothers, living and deceased. Protect, bless and lead them to the joys of heaven now and forever. AMEN.

Dear Shrine Committee,

Enclosed is my donation. Please have _____ CARNATION(S) placed at the Diocesan Shrine, Mary, Mother of the Church/Model of All Christians, for the Mother's Day Novena, May 9-17, 2009. Please have the following person (s) remember during the Mother's Day Novena:

Please indicate if the person(s) is/are living or deceased.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Send this remembrance and donation to: Marian Shrine, c/o Jean Fulkerson, 526 E. 13th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101-2639

To have a carnation placed in the Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church/Model of All Christians, please send the name along with the coupon below and a donation of \$10.00 for each name. So that with each name a carnation will be placed near the statue of Our Blessed Mother along with your \$10.00 offering.



Pray With Us On "Mother's Day Saturday"

For An End To Abortion

Every Saturday morning, a small group of mostly Catholics and pro-life people of all faiths & persuasions pray and witness against abortion in front of the EMW Women's Surgical Center at 136-138 W. Market Street in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. Praying of the Rosary and other prayers are at 7:A.M. (EST), and are timed to coincide with the arrival of the day's customers, to hopefully change their minds. They rarely do, but it's a wonderful thing to see (or even hear about from others). On Saturdays, pro-choice escorts (deathscorts) are there to keep us from making our pleas for the young women to choose life.

Before the women even get out of their car, the deathscorts rush to form a protective zone around their car door, while our intercessors are looking for places to try and make their pleas. The car door opens and the woman becomes the center of a wriggling mass of people. Like a celebrity, she is hurried through traffic and herded into the slaughterhouse. The deathscorts laugh, curse, chant, and elbow people out of the way as they move along. The intercessors are trying to change the woman's mind, or the couple's mind, as there is an alternative right across the street. The Pregnancy Resource Center offers a free ultrasound and other help.

We prayer warriors are lined up in facing rows, leaving the center of the sidewalk unobstructed. A police officer is nearby to keep order. I've never seen anyone arrested, but sometimes tempers flare and voices get loud. It's a powerful thing to see.

EMW has killed tens of thousands of babies during its years of business, and during its office hours on Tuesday through Saturday, its slaughter continues.

Please join the Prayer Warriors in defense of life on the Saturday before Mother's Day (May 9, 2009). And join us any Saturday throughout the year as well. Pray any time you can for an end to abortion. For more information, call Philip Calvert at 270-617-0401 or call Raymond Wethington at 270-788-3962.

A Brush with Life and Death

By Tami Schneider

March 14, 2009

I didn't expect it to impact me that much. My roommate had been inviting me for months to join her for a weekend trip to Louisville where she had met a new group of Catholic, prolife friends while praying in front of the abortion clinic one Saturday morning. I had also been invited by Larena Lawson and Kelly Hedges who had made trips there as well. They shared their powerful experiences with me, but still I was unprepared. I really didn't expect it to affect me that deeply.

The morning began with Mass bright and early at 7:00am. Just the fact that so many were willing to get up at that hour on a Saturday impressed me. Strengthened by the Word of God and nourished by His Body and Blood, the faithful then walked in procession to the abortion clinic, praying the rosary and singing hymns in between each decade. We stood as a group across the street from the clinic for about half an hour, as we continued in prayer and then processed back to the Cathedral for Benediction.

Since my roommate and her friend had been to the abortion clinic before, they decided to cross the street, to be right in front of it, where another group was praying. We joined those lined up along the sidewalk where the women enter the clinic. Within a few seconds a young woman passed right in front of me, followed by her boyfriend. The escort volunteers, covered in florescent orange vests, swarmed around her to lead her into the clinic, supposedly to protect her from the pro-lifers. I caught a split second glimpse of her face and that was all it took. Her head was down and her eyes were sad. I said to myself, "She's going in there to kill her baby." Immediately a priest began leading the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and I fell to my knees on the cement sidewalk with tears in my eyes.

I could not fight off the image of those escorts who had their arms around her shoulders. I could just imagine a demon with a long black cape and long fingernails, luring her into his dark cave, or a pack of wolves surrounding their prey to bring the unlucky victim into their lair. I could not help thinking that that young woman really didn't know what she was doing. My heart was filled with indescribable sorrow and compassion.

After Benediction, my friends and I went over to a family's house for breakfast. The parents have welcomed 10 children into this world and make it a point to go the clinic each Saturday to pray. The mom served us egg, ham and cheese biscuits with grape juice and milk. The older ones teased each other mercilessly but also helped serve us and the younger ones cuddled with the more well-known visitors, telling them stories and extending tea party invitations. The youngest displayed a vibrant personality and walked around for hours sporting a grape juice mustache. Now ranging in ages from approximately 30 to 6, two of the children are married with kids of their own, one is a medical doctor, one a mechanical engineer, a couple are in college, and the rest in high school and grade school.

The stark contrast between the two realities struck me. One minute I witnessed the desperation of an unwed mother who wished to kill her child, and the next minute I watched another mother cook, hug, and converse with her many children. It was not hard to see which was happier. If only the whole world realized that true freedom is not the liberty to do whatever we want, but rather the ability to choose the good. I hope that through our prayers, the woman who entered the abortion clinic that morning decided to choose the good after all.

St. Romuald School Hleps Make Enduring Impression Among Iraqi Families

By Christi Hinton Tivitt

HARDINSBURG, Ky. - My husband, Taylor, volunteered to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for one year as an IT specialist in Baghdad, Iraq. He left last year on March 30, 2008, and just recently returned home to us on March 26, 2009. Taylor and I, along with our three daughters (Tonya Jo, 11; Abby, 9; Shelby, 6), have learned so much from this experience; we feel extremely blessed to have him safely back home with us again.

It was last September that Taylor informed me of the program, "Enduring Impressions," in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages Americans to reach out to those less fortunate, like the Iraqi children and their families that have very little and sometimes nothing. They request donations of new or "gently used" items of clothing, shoes, school supplies, toys, personal care items and food. They then oversee the distribution of donated items given out to the Iraqi children and their families.

After discussing a plan of action with Taylor, I felt very confident that St. Romuald School would want to participate in this wonderful opportunity. I took the Enduring Impressions brochure to our September board meeting and presented it to our school principal, Mr. Rob Cox, as well as to the other board members. Everyone agreed the program was an excellent way to reach out to those less fortunate and what better way to incorporate this idea of giving than right before Christmas. It was decided that St. Romuald School would collect donations from Dec. 1st until Dec. 19th. Meanwhile, parents, teachers and staff communicated to the children the importance of giving rather than receiving during the Christmas holiday season. Just a few days into it, I was already hearing such positive feedback. Many parents, including myself, were shocked when our middle school children voted not to exchange gifts with their classmates at Christmas, but instead, voted to take the money that they would have spent on one another and to buy something for a family in Iraq.

It wasn't until I was getting phone calls at work or emails from teachers requesting more boxes that I became concerned about packaging and shipping costs. Per the school board's discussion, I knew that shipping costs were going to be taken care of by our school's "out-of-uniform for charity" program. On the last Wednesday of every month, the children are encouraged to bring in \$1 to be placed



In photo at left and above, US servicemen hand out donated items to Iraqi youth as part of the Enduring Impressions. All their faces tell the story. Submitted photos



Taylor Tivitt as he presents Mr. Cox with a certificate that is signed by the 3-star general congratulating St. Romuald School on an outstanding job.

in a fund for charities. As an incentive, the children are allowed to wear clothes other than their usual uniforms for the day. The money collected for this fund has been used for many well-known charities, some of which include The Children's Diabetes Foundation, American Cancer Society, and the Angel Tree program. There have been a few cases where the funds have been shared with members in our own local community. Just knowing that we were going to use the funds on a charity that aided people on the other side of the world elated me. My only fear was that there may not be enough money in the account to cover the entire shipping costs. Our school's very reliable and generous PTO put my mind to

rest when they agreed to pay the difference in shipping costs. Everything was falling into place.

Taylor's mother and I began to make phone calls and by the end of the day had lined out a party of 10 volunteers to meet at the school's library on the 19th to prepare the boxes for shipment. Little did we expect or dream the generosity of children, parents, and parish families to be of such abundance. The library floor was completely covered! There was a multitude of donations: huge bags of clothing for all seasons; shoes of all types and sizes; a ton of school supplies; various personal care products (toothbrushes, hair care products, etc.) and an enormous assortment of balls, toys and stuffed animals. With amazement in our eyes and warmth in our hearts, we diligently began to sort, organize and box all donated items.

In the end, a total of 43 boxes were weighed, marked and labeled for shipment at the Post Office. The postal employees

were astounded at the number of boxes being shipped out at one time and from one organization. I will admit the \$712 in shipping costs did take me a little by surprise, but when reflecting back on everything that we stuffed into those 43 boxes, it was so worth it. No dollar figure is too high if we can ultimately bring smiles to the many faces of boys and girls in Iraq who have nothing. We are extremely proud of our children for placing others' needs before their own this past holiday season. I witnessed many selfless acts of giving, both in time and monetary value. Thank you all for making this a great learning experience for St. Romuald School and its community.

In addition, we are extremely grateful to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for being an ambassador for Enduring Impressions and we congratulate you on the success of your program. God bless all the women and men that serve this great country of ours.

Ursuline Associates & Sisters Day
Saturday, June 27, 2009



Mary-Cabrini Durkin

"Celebrating the Future"
with Mary-Cabrini Durkin, author of
"Angela Merici's Journey of the Heart"

Register online: www.ursulinesmsj.org/associates
or RSVP to the Office of Ursuline Partnerships.

Call 270-229-2006 or e-mail
associates@maplemount.org by June 1st



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Ky. 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
info@maplemount.org

St. Mary Student Selected to Represent JPEC in Frankfort and Washington, D.C.

PADUCAH, Ky. - Lesley Nash, a junior at St. Mary High School, has been selected to represent Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation in Frankfort, KY on April 15 and 16 as part of the Kentucky Rural Electric Youth Tour. While there, Miss Nash and other participants will tour the Governor's Mansion and the Capitol and meet with many of Kentucky's leading elected and appointed leaders. This trip to the state capitol is a precursor to the week-long Kentucky Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C. Twenty-two of Kentucky's twenty-four electric cooperatives participate in the Washington Youth Tour. Nationwide, electric co-ops from 46 states participate. In all, more than 1,500 young people from across the nation gather in Washington, D.C. each year for this event. Participants will visit Gettysburg, the Smithsonian Institute, Arlington National Cemetery, the FBI Building, the National Zoo, Library of Congress, U. S. Capitol, the White House, the Kennedy Center, plus a visit with Kentucky's congressional delegation and perhaps even the President of the United States.

To qualify, Miss Nash wrote an essay, completed an application form, received a favorable report from her guidance counselor and a high school teacher, and had to be involved in school and community activities.

Nikki Fuller is Marketing Coordinator for the St. Mary School System, Paducah. Contact her at nfuller@smss.org



Fr. James Walling presents a mission to the middle school students at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on March 17, 2009. The theme of his mission focused on being heroes and being saints. Photo by Dawn C. Ligibel

SPP Student Wins State Free Throw Contest

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Marlee Thomas, a seventh grade student from Sts. Peter and Paul, won first place honors in the 12-year-old division of the State Free Throw Championship held on Saturday, March 21 in Georgetown. She had also placed first at the regional level.

Fellow classmate at Sts. Peter and Paul School, Brooklyn Gardner, earned first place honors in the 13-year-old division at the regional level and placed second at the State Championship.

The annual Free Throw Competition is hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Council #7847 here in Hopkinsville hosted the local competition and the district competition at Sts. Peter and Paul on January 9. Six councils are part of this district.

According to Joe Schippers, the council member



Marlee Thomas, seventh grade student at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Hopkinsville, receives her first place trophy from Bill Hancock, the State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus, and Joe Schippers, the local organizer of the annual Free Throw Contest hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Thomas earned first place honors in the 12-year-old division at the State Free Throw Championship on March 21, 2009. Photo by Dawn C. Ligibel

who organizes the local competition each year at Sts. Peter and Paul, the Knights of Columbus offers this event each year for a specific reason. "We are trying to do something for the youth of the nation. We want them to be competitive in something they can all do," Schippers explained.

Mission Held for Middle School Students At Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Sts. Peter and Paul Middle School hosted a three-hour mission here for their middle school students on March 17, 2009. The mission, which was presented by Fr. James Walling, a past Associate Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul who is now assigned to the St. Ann's parish, was arranged by the seventh and eighth grade teachers at Sts. Peter and Paul.

"We wanted to present a specific message to the middle school students during Lent," explained eighth grade teacher Patrick Kinnare. "A lot of times missions are geared toward adults, but this one was specifically for the middle school students," he added.

With a theme of "Be Heroes, Be Saints," Fr. Walling quickly got the students' attention at the beginning of the mission. "He started off the mission with a fun skit that included a lot of student involvement," said Nicole Mowen, seventh grade teacher.

The message Fr. Walling presented to the children was straightforward. "He explained that being a saint requires doing heroic deeds day by day and minute by minute," Mowen explained. "He encouraged the kids to strive to do heroic deeds and that they needed to obey the commandments to be a hero," she added.

"He really stressed to the students the concept of every decision they make is heroic and virtuous," added Kinnare. "The next day after the mission was our school penance service so he also preached on the importance and power of the sacrament of confession," Kinnare added.

"The students really enjoyed the day," said Kinnare. While the early session was held in the school gym and was more playful and fun, the later session was held in the church and Fr. Walling gave a more serious approach to the theme, according to Kinnare.

Mowen specifically remembered one message Fr. Walling gave to the children. "He told them to take little steps and trust in God," Mowen said. "Most importantly, he told them not to worry about what others think," she concluded.

St. Agnes Church, Uniontown, Gets Roof To Last Parishioners For A Lifetime

By Mike Guillerman

The cornerstone for St. Agnes Church, Uniontown, was laid in 1892 and consecrated one year later, on October 11, 1893, by Rt. Rev. Bishop James Ryan of Illinois. (Bishop George McClosky of Louisville became ill and unable to attend the ceremonies.)

Throughout the years St. Agnes parishioners have maintained their beautiful church to the highest standards. For example, in 2006 all of the stained glass windows in the church, numbering forty-two, were removed and completely restored by Church Art Glass, Clinton, Kentucky, at a cost of nearly \$230,000. Generous parishioners paid off the note to the diocese in only two years!

It was decided last year, after continuing damage to the ceiling due to roof leakage, (a result of the many severe storms the past few years), to replace the asphalt-shingled roof with either metal or copper, even though it was only 15 years old. The parish had maintained a building fund, called the fruit jar fund, which was planned to be used for an extensive addition to the parish center. (Plans had already been drawn and approved by the parish.) However, it was decided by the parish to put this money towards a new copper roof, to rid ourselves once and for all, of the damage to our beautiful church caused by the leaking roof shingles.

After considerable research, cost analysis, and consultation, parish board members, with input from parishioners, decided to replace the roof with a mechanically folded, standing seam, copper roof. The decision to use copper was in great part due to copper's lowest price in years, selling for \$1.65 per pound at the time. (A nearby church paid over \$4.00 per pound only a couple years earlier.) We learned a copper roof actually never wears out, some known to be hundreds of years old and the older it gets, the more beautiful the patina becomes. After consultation with several roofing contractors, Artisan Sheet Metal, Evansville, Indiana, was awarded the contract, in no small part due to their expertise and stellar reputation in working with copper. Mike Embry, the highly knowledgeable owner of Artisan Sheet Metal, has been a pleasure to work with, doing all and more than he promised. The contract cost is around \$220,000 and provides for the installation of 135 squares of 96% pure, 16. oz. per square foot, by Hussey Copper, a company founded in 1848 and based in Leetsdale, Pennsylvania. This price also includes scaffolding

to the top of the bell tower, requiring the expertise of a company based in St. Louis, and replacing the composite slate shingles with Victorian-era styled 15 x 20 inch, 16. oz. stamped copper shingles and gilding the large cross with 24-carat gold, along with the installation of 300 heavy-duty solid bronze ice hooks, which weigh 3 lbs. each.

St. Agnes Parishioners feel they are receiving a terrific value for their dollar and will now have a roof that will last their lifetimes and, at the same time, greatly enhance the beauty of their church. Though there is no warranty per se on copper, it is expected to last a minimum 100 to 150 years. The warranty on workmanship is 10 years, with Artisan Sheet Metal covering 100% of the costs during this period. Knowing Artisan Sheet Metal like we do, we have no doubt they will honor their commitments and beyond. If anyone has questions about our copper roof, please feel free to contact me.

Mike Guillerman is a St. Agnes Parish board member and roof project coordinator. (270) 822-4440



The installation crew putting on the new St. Agnes Church Copper Roof are showing steady progress. On the morning of March 24, 2009, a crew from St. Louis arrived to begin installation of scaffolding to reach nearly the top of the bell tower, a three-day process.

Everything is going according to plan and everyone in the parish seems very pleased with the beautiful, high quality Hussey Copper roof and the professionalism and workmanship of the Artisan Sheet Metal crew. Photo by Mike Guillerman

Save the Date — Coming to Owensboro!

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY *for Teens* CURRICULUM TRAINING

WHEN:

Saturday, September 26th, 2009

Training - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Check-in from 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Friday, September 25th, 2009

Free Information Session - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

(For priests, parents, or others interested in learning more about Theology of the Body. There is no need to attend this information session if you are participating in Saturday's training.)

WHERE:

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center

4029 Frederica St

Owensboro, KY 42301

COST/REGISTRATION:

On or before September 16th \$50

Couples that are sharing materials \$60

After September 16th. \$55

(Includes \$40 for Mandatory Training Materials)

Lunch on your own | Scholarships available; request application

QUESTIONS/CONTACT:

Office of Faith Formation

donna.biggs@pastoral.org | 270-683-1545

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Priests, High School Teachers, Parish Catechetical Leaders/ DREs, Parish Youth Ministers or Youth Ministry Contacts, Campus Ministers, and anyone interested in working with teens.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Continues Their Journey To Parkside

By Art Kunkel

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - "Parkside" is the name that has been given to our thirty (30) acres of property, that is located adjacent to Basil Griffin Park in Bowling Green. Ten (10) of our acres will be set aside for future development as a Parish residential complex. Our "Journey To Parkside" has just begun the transitional phase as we conduct our last church Masses and functions at our current location. We plan to move into our Spirit I facilities (office, classrooms, fellowship hall, and kitchen spaces) during January and February, 2010. Spirit II, the Church, will be ready for us to enjoy the 2010 Advent season. We will dearly miss our church buildings which have been our spiritual harbor for the past 39 years. These sad feelings of saying our good byes are mixed with great expectations of what our new home will provide in increased space and efficiencies.

We are building for our future generations and not for us in the short term. Our vision is one of not ever having to move again. We are using high quality construction materials, the best construction practices, and embracing our Catholic faith in stewardship of energy and environmental conservation practices. Holy Spirit Catholic Church will be at least LEED certified. We will become the first Church in Kentucky and one of the very first Churches in the United States to become LEED certified. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the USGBC (United States Green Building Council) certification program. For more information about the USGBC and LEED please visit their website at www.usgbc.org.

The Spirit I scope of work is approximately 29,000 square feet with an approved not-to-exceed cost of \$6.04MM. The site rough grading of our Parkside property began last September and the Spirit I building effort is now placing concrete floor slabs. Steel wall studs are scheduled to begin April 20th with steel gable roof trusses to immediately follow. Brick work with precast appointments and a fifty (50) year steel roofing system (to look like slate) is scheduled to begin this June. Our Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning system (HVAC) will feature a Geo Thermal water to water heat transfer system. This HVAC system is supported by forty-nine (49) wells at 360 feet deep and is expected to provide a return on our investment of over 1 million dollars in 22 years.

The Spirit II scope of work is ap-



Holy Spirit Catholic Church (Spirit I - offices, catechetical space, parish hall & kitchen spaces) viewed on April 9, 2009, looking north with concrete slab on grade work in progress. Submitted Photo

proximately 24,000 square feet with an approved not to exceed cost of \$7.3MM. The Church will feature a large Narthex, Family room, Nave (850 seats), Sanctuary/choir (50 seats) and a Daily Chapel (75seats). The Church will begin construction in early June and should be substantially dried-in this year. The Church

design is completed through the design development phase and can be viewed on our web page.

Our website www.holyspiritcatholic.org has a link, Journey To Parkside, which directs you to our webpage that features a webcam that allows you to watch the construction progress in real time, any time.

Also you can see construction pictures that are posted daily, news articles, schedules & cost reports and design documents. We plan to have what we call "Sundays At Parkside" once a month starting May 3rd, so you can come out to Parkside and take a first hand look.

Happy Birthday, Father Brian Johnson

Submitted by Shelia Clemons

WAX, Ky. - The tri-parish communities of Sts. Anthony, Augustine & Benedict Churches of Grayson County, KY joined together to celebrate the birthday of a very deserving individual, their pastor Father Brian A. Johnson. This 40th birthday celebration was filled with an outpouring of love for a man who shows his expression of love, faith, and integrity through his many acts of kindness.

This very humble man was nearly speechless as he entered his surprise birthday dinner celebration on April 5th, a few days prior to his actual birthday on April 9th, to a room overflowing with many admiring parishioners and family members. The room was filled beyond capacity, but no one seemed to mind. Everyone wanted to be present to show their love and support to a man who gives unselfishly and generously to all.

In appreciation of his hard work and dedication to our three parishes and the entire community, he was presented a gift of a 2009 Ford Ranger truck along with another surprise gift. Father Brian's faithful companion, Simonetta, was not left out of this celebration; she too was remembered on this day with a "Happy Hound" car seat



Surprise! Grayson County parishes host birthday dinner April 5 for pastor Fr. Brian Johnson. Submitted photo

provided by one of his parishioners. May they both have many happy travels.

We cannot begin to express our appreciation and gratitude to Father Brian for all he has done for our parishes and the entire community. We thank him for being a man of service and may the Lord reward him for the sacrifices that he has made for us. The spiritual gifts that he has given to us all will be forever in our hearts.

St. Joseph Catholic Church celebrates its birthday

By JUSTIN STORY, The Daily News
jstory@bgdailynews.com/783-3256

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - One and a half centuries of history were honored Sunday at St. Joseph Catholic Church with a special Mass and reception celebrating its 150th anniversary. All the living pastors who formerly served at St. Joseph parish were invited to the celebration and five attended. Also in attendance were Stephen Fisher, great-great-nephew of founding pastor the Rev. Joseph DeVries, and Fisher's mother, Karen Fisher.

The Rev. Stan Puryear said that while names, faces and languages have changed at the church over the past 150 years, the parish on Church Street retains a strong presence in the community through educating children, feeding the poor, and welcoming new immigrants. "This building only has meaning because of the people who appear here and the milestones that are marked here and the stories that are started here," Puryear said. "All of those stories give meaning to our building because what happens here gives meaning to our lives."

The parish was founded by DeVries in 1859 and the first woodframe church was built by Irish and German immigrants on land donated to him.

A brick church was built to replace the wooden church and completed in 1862, with additions built in 1870 and an enlargement completed in 1889. The current building underwent restoration in 2006, which included replacing the slate roof, the floor, the electrical system and heating and cooling systems. Ruth Neal, who chaired the parish's 150th anniversary celebration committee, said the

March 22 event was a year in the making, with invitations sent during that time to living former pastors and to Father Mike Clark, the administrator of the Owensboro Diocese, which oversees the local parish.

Clark attended the celebration, as did former pastors Rev. Richard Powers, Msgr. Bernard Powers, the Rev. Richard Meredith and the Rev. Ray Clark.

"The building has seen a lot of changes, but the beauty of the church has never left," Neal said. A spread of light snacks and refreshments was waiting in the reception room for the nearly 200 people who attended the Mass. A special historical display of church artifacts over the past 150 years included programs, Mass books, robes, pictures and holy water bottles.

Church archivist Bonnie Gibson said several items were loaned from DeVries' descendants and others were from the collection of former archivist Kathryn Garrison. Gibson said Sunday was chosen by the church as the date of the anniversary celebration because it was the first Sunday after the Feast of St. Joseph, which is observed March 19.

Julian Durbin, 87, is one of the oldest parishioners. The father of nine children, Durbin occasionally gives tours of the church to interested groups. Durbin said the original brick church was designed by Francis Kister, a German builder who also designed the Trappist monastery at Gethsemane.

"This is a fantastic church," Durbin said, pointing out the new organ that was installed during the most recent restoration. "I have so many memories, so many stories, that it's hard to pick just one."



St. Joseph Catholic Church celebrates its 150th anniversary Sunday with a special Mass. Eleven priests, many former pastors at the church, attended the celebration. Photo by Joe Imel/Daily News



St. Joseph Catholic Church celebrates its 150th anniversary Sunday with a special Mass; Father Mike Clark presided. Photo by Joe Imel/Daily News

Save the date!! Save the date!! Save the date!! Save the date!!

Celebrate What's Right With the World

"If you believe it, you will see it."

Sponsored by the Offices of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and Lay Ministry and Formation.

When: Saturday, August 22, 2009

Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Where: Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

All parish catechetical leaders, parish life coordinators, youth ministers, catechists, and Catholic school teachers are encouraged to attend this retreat and celebrate all the blessings that God gives to us.

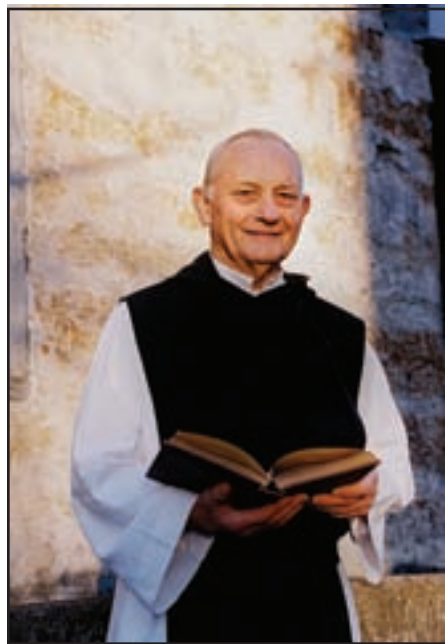
The Certification for Religious Educators of the Diocese of Owensboro (CREDO) requires that catechist take part in at least one spiritual formation piece a year. This retreat will fulfill that requirement.



To make your reservations, call or e-mail:
Donna Biggs
Phone: 270-683-1545
E-mail: donna.biggs@pastoral.org

My Story of a Life

By Brother Conrad Fleischmann, OCSO



Brother Conrad Fleischmann, OCSO, a native of the Owensboro Diocese, celebrated Sept. 6, 2008 with family and friends his life of 51 years as a Trappist Monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani. Trappist Photo

Let me begin this by telling you about a book I wrote, *Monastic Reflections*, 2005, which is doing quite well. It is on sale in the Gift/Book store at the Abbey of Gethsemani. When the book was finished and up for sale, I said, "If it only helps ONE PERSON get closer to God it (all the work that went into the book) is well worth the effort. And if it doesn't sell, that is okay too." The foreward is by Fr. Matthew Kely OCSO monk in residence here at the Abbey of Gethsemani. In short, the book begins with a short history of Abbey of Gethsemani and our foundations here in USA and in Chile. Other items include one of my Mother, The Old Oak, Struggle Struggle Struggle, (which numerous people have written and said they can identify with but have never seen in print before), two chapters on short prayers (which can be said any time and place), and other articles of keen interest. Brother says to appreciate the book you must read it! He adds he has been told "he should have been a car salesman"! The most frequent question asked: "When is your second book coming out"? He answers, "it's taken 49 years for the first one"! We will see. To purchase the book *Monastic Reflections* call 502-549-4142 or go on line at www.monks.org

My vocation I ascribe to my Mom &

Dad in the way they brought the family up in true Catholic values from babyhood forward sending us to Catholic schools taught by the Ursuline Nuns of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky. for all twelve years. In our family, to miss Mass on Sunday we had to really be sick. Confessions each Saturday, prayers before and after all meals, and the Rosary were a must at our house. And of course, living on a farm there was always work in the tobacco, feeding the cows, horses, and pigs, and helping in the garden and the many other chores that farm life entails. The Sisters instilled in pupils prayer for A VOCATION in whatever way the Lord guided us into. Father Aloysius Powers encouraged me to make a retreat at Gethsemani, and talk to the Novice Master and Abbot, and go from there. It was however in my senior year of high school when the senior class made a retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani that I really heard the call through Our Blessed Mother during the Monks singing the Salve Regina and the lights turned out in Church as a light came on behind the window showing Our Blessed Mother. It was ten years later on October 7, 1957 Feast of the Holy Rosary when Fr. Aloysius drove me up here.

What does a Monk do? Does he play basket ball, go fishing? Does he go the movies, does he smoke? How about going to the pub for a beer, or to a White Castle for a hamburger? To the above, the answer is NO. Our individual alarm awakes us monks at three AM, then we go wash our face to open our eye lids; some may get a quick cup of coffee or tea. This brother has a full glass of water and to Church to arrange Choir books for three AM Vigils which end at 3:45. Then it is time for meditation, reading, breakfast (help your self style) of coffee, tea, brown or white bread, milk, butter, peanut butter, apple, orange, banana, raisins, and choice of cereal or oat meal. The Office of Lauds begins at 5:45 AM, and is over by 6:16. Mass follows and is over by 7 and Thanksgiving till 7:30. Terce if over by 7:30, and work follows till 12 PM. At 12:15 PM is prayer or Sext (6th hour), followed by the Angeles at 12:30, then dinner. This is the only meal in which we hear a reading, and of course, we keep silence at all meals. In general, we all pitch in and clean the dishes. Free time then lasts until 2:15 PM which is None, the 9th hour. None being prayed, each monk then has some chores to do.

In general, there is work to be done. This is time for reading, private prayer and there is work for those who are so inclined till 5PM. Vespers is at 5:30 and over by 6 PM; supper and free time till 7:30; Compline, the Angeles, and to bed. One can stay up and read as long as he wants just

so he's at Vigils the following morning!

Various jobs that I've had includes Interior Cellarer, Food Service Supervisor, Making our famous Port du Salut Trappist cheese, farming, which included a Cow/Calf beef herd, selling herd bulls here on the farm, and various other jobs. I was appointed to Land Management in 2004 when another brother replaced me in making our cheese. There area total of 2,500 plus acres of which 400 are tillable and 200 are in hay; I coordinate the leasing

A Day of Celebration Of A Monk's Life



Brother Conrad with walking stick on the grounds of the Abbey of Gethsemani near New Haven, Ky. Trappist Photo

TRAPPIST, Ky. - On Saturday, September 6, 2008, in the main Church at the Abbey of Gethsemani, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Fr. Seamus Malvey, OCSO and Fr. Anton Rusnak, OCSO, for the many graces and blessings God, in His bounty, has bestowed on Brother Conrad Fleischmann, OCSO, during his 51 years as a Trappist Monk at Gethsemani, New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky. Master of Ceremonies was Br Aaron Schulte, OCSO.

Br. Luke Armour, NCSO, Gethsemani's Organist and Choir Director, provided inspiring music on the



Find another tale by Brother Conrad on next page, and a bit of his childhood memories. Time to turn the page now.

The Western Kentucky Catholic, May, 2009 **37**

of our lands with neighbor farmers. There is also the 6 miles of roads to maintain, the boundary lines to maintain. I do have a helper.

One may wonder to what do I attribute my perseverance in the life for 51 years? The continued encouragement of all these: prayers, the help of this community, my family and friends far and near, the Mercy of God, and intercession of all the Saints.

Abbey's new Letourneau organ, The Word of God was proclaimed by two of Brother Conrad's nieces. Cornelia Fleischmann read 1 Kings 8:55-61 - "Blessed is the Lord God who has granted rest to his people;" and Sister Lorena Fleischmann, SCN, read Psalm 145 - "I will praise your name for ever, Lord."

The Prayer Petitions were read by Brother Conrad's niece, Jeanette Smithberger, to which the congregation responded, "Lord hear Our Prayer." The Offertory Gifts were presented in procession by Lily Carstens, a grand niece, Nicholas Barnes, Jarred Warren and Eric Smithberger, grand nephews, Diane Shaver, 1st Cousin, Alexis Shaver, 2nd Cousin and Brother Conrad.

The Eucharistic Ministers were Br. Conrad's twin brother, Melvin Fleischmann, Br Conrad's nephews, Eugene Fleischmann, and David Fleischmann, Br Conrad's niece, Sister Lorena Fleischmann SCN, and Br Conrad's sister-in-law, Margaret Richeson.

The Abbey Church was filled to capacity by Br Conrad's family, friends and monks of Gethsemani. At the conclusion of the celebration, Brother Conrad expressed his thanks to God, to Our Blessed Mother, to his Mom and Dad, and to all his family, his community and friends for their continued prayers, encouragement, and support. Brother then concluded by saying he chose to speak at this time instead of asking one of his brothers, Paul or Melvin, "since none of us wanted to be here till 5 PM." ("This," he added, "is a family joke.") Brother Conrad then invited all present to pose for a group photo on the steps in front of the Church.

After Mass and taking pictures, the whole assembly gathered at the family guest house for a catered dinner in the spacious dining room and under a large tent. Brother Conrad said, "Melvin and I changed clothes, he into my house robe and scapular and I into his dress clothes. Each of us wore a large broad rimmed white straw hat. Wow, did we have some of the relatives confused! Next time we will give Mel a Monks haircut!"

Ursuline Sisters from Paola, Kan., move to Maple Mount this spring

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph will officially welcome their 23 new sisters from Paola, Kan., this spring and summer, 11 of who will be moving to Maple Mount in the next six weeks.

The Ursuline Sisters of Paola merged with their counterparts of Mount Saint Joseph on Oct. 21, the Feast of Saint Ursula. Eleven of those sisters will move to Maple Mount in three time periods – May 15, June 1, and June 15 – and join Sister Helen Hermreck, who was the first Paola Sister to move to the Motherhouse in January. Eight sisters will remain in their current ministries in the Paola area, near Kansas City, Kan., while three sisters are still discerning their next location.

On the dates the sisters depart Paola, a small prayer service will begin there, and be completed upon arrival in Maple Mount. A major celebration will occur July 8, during the annual Community Days in which most of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph return to Maple Mount from their distant ministries.

The 11 sisters who will be moving to Maple Mount are: (Arriving May 15) - Sister Emerentia Wiesner, Sister Kath-



Sister Rita Redmond



Sister Susanne Bauer



Sister Rita Lavigne



Sister Raymond Dieckman



Sister Kathleen Dueber



Sister Judith Osthoff



Sister Grace Swift



Sister Emerentia Wiesner

leen Dueber, Sister Celine Leeker, Sister Judith Osthoff, and Sister Grace Swift

(Arriving June 1) - Sister Raymond Dieckman, Sister Rita Redmond, and Sister Virginia Sturlich

(Arriving June 15) - Sister Rita Lavigne, Sister Susanne Bauer, Sister Marie William Blyth

To learn more about these sisters, visit the Mount Saint Joseph Web site at http://www.ursulinesmsj.org/news_archive.php, and click on "Meet the Paola Sisters."



Sister Marie William Blyth



Sister Celine Leeker



Sister Virginia Sturlich



New Chapter of National Elementary Honor Society Formed

St. Joseph Catholic School, in Mayfield, recently inducted 10 students into their new chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society. As quoted from the NEHS guidelines, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students are selected based on "outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility, to provide meaningful service to the school and community". One of the primary goals of the Society is to help in developing essential leadership skills of members by enhancing the culture of achievement within the whole school. Pictured above are the 2009 inductees and sponsors. From left to right, back row: Mrs. Nancy Wilson, Advisor, Christopher Vogt, Gregory Willett, Grayce Toon, Kacey Carrico, Ms. Susan Brinkely, principal, front row: Zachary Tyler, Christopher Toon, Isabella Russelburg, Landon Warner, Kylie Carrico, and Hannah Purcell. Photo taken by Shanda Purcell.

Right to Life of Owensboro Bi-Annual Membership Meeting

Owensboro Christian Church
Community Room
(backside of the church)

7:00 PM. May 7th,
Thursday

Our speaker is Cecil Blye, Jr. He is the president of the Louisville Right to Life and a pastor with More Grace Ministries. He is a very dynamic, motivational pro-life speaker.

A light snack will be provided.

Our Lady of Lourdes St. Patrick's Day Parade

Submitted by Fabyan Bridgmon

OWENSBORO, Ky. - March 17, 2009, Our Lady of Lourdes day care puts on a parade each year celebrating the Feast of St. Patrick. All parents, grandparents, etc. are invited to join us with our celebration and march around the day care, church, & school grounds as well as continuing the parade through the K-3 campus for the students & teachers to view all the pretty floats and possibly see a sibling, their parents, or grandparents.

Norm Hayden, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes, along with his daughter Charly representing St Patrick and Ms Ireland led the parade around the day care, church and K-3 campus grounds. This St Patrick's Day Parade was a special occasion this year for Norm and Charly since this was their last one. Charly will be leaving us and moving on to the K-3 campus this next school year where her sister is already enrolled. Norm and his wife Katina have never missed a parade as long as their children have been here at Lourdes day care which was from when they were infants up to school age. It was an honor having Norm represent St Patrick for us along with his daughter, Charly, representing Ms Ireland.



Norm Hayden, representing St. Patrick; his daughter Charly representing Ms. Ireland; Austin as Mr. Ireland; Nolan carrying the Irish Flag; Noah carrying the American Flag; Mia and friend carrying the banner pause in front of the Men's Club building across from the K-3 campus. Submitted by Fabyan Bridgmon



Mark your calendars for the third annual
GREENing Western Kentucky Expo
Saturday, July 25, 2009
Brescia University

Sponsored by Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

Learn about energy conservation,
renewable energy and more!

Booths • Workshops • Giveaways

www.greeningwesternkentucky.org

For sponsorship or booth information, contact Sister Amelia Stenger
270-229-0200 or astenger@maplemount.org



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Classes begin May 11.

Matthew Cissell '12



Contact the Registrar's
Office at (270) 686-4248.
www.brescia.edu

Making a Difference

**Next spinning day is
Saturday, May 9**

Whether you are an experienced spinner,
knitter, or a beginner, you are welcome to
attend the Arts at the Mount quarterly spinning
gatherings at Mount Saint Joseph
(15 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56).

Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate
this traditional skill. Sessions begin at 10 a.m.
Lunch is available for \$10. The group plans to
"spin, knit, and talk until we're done!"

Future dates are Aug. 8 and Nov. 14.
Contact Kathy McCarty to register:
270-229-0200 ext. 413



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42354-9999
270-229-0200
www.mscenter.org
mscenter@maplemount.org

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY - NOVEMBER 2009

May 2009

- 1-3 Retrouvaille Training Weekend
- 9 Yarn Spinners
- 9 MSJ Conference and Retreat Center Fund Raiser Dinner
- 16-17 MSJ Academy and Junior College Alumnae Reunion Weekend
- 29-31 Directed Retreatant

June 2009

- 6-8 Circle of Friends
- 8-13 Discover Music Discover Nature, Discover Maple Mount for children ages 10-12
- 14-19 Agri-Eco Camp for children ages 10-12
- 19-21 Bruner Family Reunion
- 21-26 Christian Leadership Institute
- 22-25 GRCC/ 4 day workshop
- 26-28 Associates Retreat Weekend
- 29-30 DCHS-Panther Leadership

July 2009

- 8-10 Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Community Days
- 11-17 St. John's Youth (Michigan) Habitat for Owensboro
- 12-18 Conference and Directed Retreat
- 19-26 Centering Prayer Retreat
- 25 GREENING Western Kentucky Expo at Brescia
- 27-31 Spiritual Direction Institute Week 4
- 31 Scrapbook Swarm

Center-sponsored programs in bold.

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

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

August 2009

- 7-9 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 8 Yarn Spinners
- 14-16 Retrouvaille
- 20-23 Spiritual Directors Retreat
- 21-23 Yoga & Meditation Retreat
- 22 DRE & Youth Ministers Retreat
- 28-29 Scrapbooking

September 2009

- 13 MSJ Annual Picnic Benefit
- 14-18 Glenmary Retreat Week
- 18-19 Leadership McClean County
- 22-25 Runaway Quilters
- 28-30 Home Missions Leadership

October 2009

- 2-4 T.O.P.S. Retreat
- 3 Wedding Reception
- 9-10 Grace Fellowship
- 9-11 Marian Retreat
- 12-16 Spiritual Directors Institute Week 5
- 16-18 Mount Hope Weekend
- 23-24 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 26-30 Priests Retreat Weekend
- 30-1 Regional Cursillo Encounter

November 2009

- 7-8 Academy for Young Leaders
- 13-15 Thomas Merton Retreat
- 14 Yarn Spinners



Midnight Madness At Paoli Peaks

On January 18-19, Fr. Terry Devine, St Agnes, Uniontown, took 16 of the High School Parish Religious Education students for a fun Midnight Madness ski trip to Paoli Peaks, IN. Chaperones Ken Mackin, Vickie Pierce, Cheryl Mills, Lark Buckman and bus driver Johnny Cambron deserve a special Thank You. Top: L-R, Tyler Buckmann, Jamie Pierce, and Brandon French are not bothered by the cold. Below: Crystal Mackin and Kristy Mills wait their turn. Photos by Lark Buckman



Do you have a passion to free and nurture women and children?

Learn how the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph help change lives in eight states and in Chile, South America. Call 270-229-4103 or e-mail acoomes@maplemount.org or visit www.ursulinesmsj.org



Vocation Director
Sister Alicia Coomes



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
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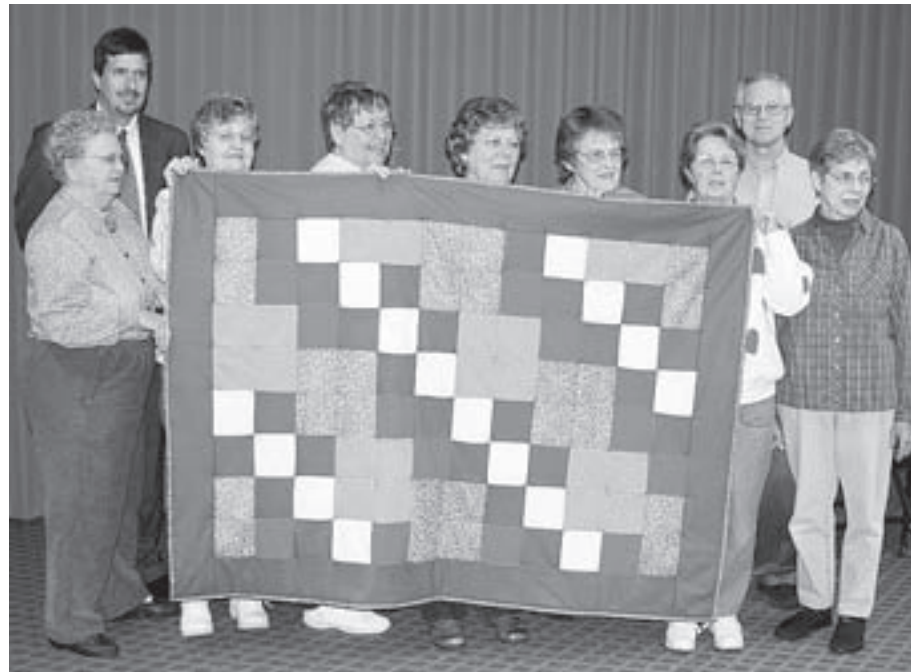
Quilters Group Finishes Their 500th Quilt For People in Need

The Western Kentucky Catholic, May, 2009 **41**

By Rita Elder

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Jean Vessels, a very talented and creative lady, has been a giver to others all her life. To the best of my knowledge, in 1994, at the request of Father Danny Goff, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, Joan organized a group of ladies to make cloth panels as a support for victims of AIDS. (Father Danny was a hemophiliac and had AIDS as a result of blood transfusions.) These panels were pieces of folk art, using textiles to reflect the lives of the AIDS victims. Soon, the panels were no longer made. The group began to make quilts out of polyester fabrics so they could be laundered often since these were also for AIDS or cancer victims, people nearing the end of their lives, people who needed to feel the love of other people in their lives. Some of these quilts were taken as far away as Chicago to a home called "The Children's Place," for children of AIDS victims and also children living with AIDS.

Now, it is 2009, some 15 years later. All these years, Jean has continued to give her time and talents to help others in need. In 2002, the quilts were given directly to Hospice and Palliative Care of the Ohio Valley, now known as Hospice of Western Kentucky. The quilts were distributed to the sick by Hospice nurses. Jean was the driving force behind this group of ladies who



On April 8, 2009, an Owensboro area quilting group posed with their 500th quilt made for those in need; they are in front, from left to right, Mary Lambert, Sue Thomas, Dorothy Wathen, Rita Elder, Florence McCarthy, Ruth McCarty, Magdalen McCarthy. Standing at back left is Hospice of Western Kentucky CEO Brian Jones, and at right back Richard Murphy, Director of the Office of Social Concerns. Not present for photo: Jean Vessels. Staff Photo

gave countless hours to this worthwhile project. She spent much time trying to keep a place where she and the ladies could store their fabrics and supplies needed to

do this work. She spent numerous hours in her home washing the donated knit fabrics, then countless more hours cutting the fabric into 5 1/4" squares. Jean devised

a system to create kits to make quilts. To make a kit, the blocks must be cut, then a quilt top designed using the blocks. After the top is designed and a border decided, a backing and binding must be chosen. Then the ladies sew the blocks together and sew on the border and have it ready to be put on a quilt stretcher to be tied. After it is tied, a binding is sewn on by machine, and then hand-sewn on the back. A red heart is sewn on the back to tell people the quilt is made with love, and everyone who worked on the quilt places her initials in the heart. Jean made these hearts and took care of all the paperwork to keep record of all the quilts made and donated to those in need.

Jean had the system "down pat," knowing the time would come when she would hand the responsibility over to another quilter; time has a way of stealing our youth, and she knew that. In the summer of 2008, Jean passed that torch to another with an assurance that her work would continue through other people she had recruited.

To date, Jean is responsible for making and giving over 490 quilts to people who needed to be wrapped in love. I am the person Jean chose to continue her mission.

Maggie Hagan Elected Secretary General 2010 Kentucky United Nations Assembly

HENDERSON, Ky. - Holy Name School's seventh and eighth grade students attended the Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA) in Louisville March 26-28, 2009. KUNA's purpose is to increase education in international affairs and to provide first-hand experience of the compromises and trade-offs necessary to reach an agreement on major issues.

KUNA also increases students' knowledge of countries other than the United States. Students learn a great deal about other countries' history, cultural traditions, and policies toward major international issues. Holy Name represented the countries of Honduras, Nepal, Niger, and Vietnam.

Each year candidates run a campaign during the assembly and the countries represented vote to see who will be the next Secretary General for KUNA for the following year. Eighth grader Maggie Hagan from Holy Name School ran a successful campaign and will serve as Secretary General at KUNA in 2010. Alex Wimber served as Maggie's campaign manager. Congratulations to Maggie and Alex!

Anna Vettiankal ran for Leadership



Maggie Hagan, center, being congratulated by two student ambassadors from another school after she won the election. HNS Photo

Team and also was successful in her bid to serve as chair for the South American Summit. Anna Dewey served as Parliamentarian. Congratulations to Anna Vettiankal and Anna Dewey!

Each country Holy Name represented created proposals for the assembly to consider. Our school was honored with the Best Proposal Packet. Thanks to students and the guidance of their teachers in creating great effective and timely proposals!

At the end of the three day assembly, awards were given

out and Holy Name students were recognized for their outstanding performances. In addition to the Best Proposal Packet Award, we also received Honorable Mention for the World Service Award. Vietnam received the Native Attire Award, and our students who participated in the International Stage performance received a standing ovation from the assembly!

Cameron Sartore was awarded an Outstanding Ambassador Award while Catherine Galbraith served in the Press Corp during the assembly. We want to thank the faculty who attended KUNA: Mrs. Cheri Phillips, KUNA advisor; Mrs. Phyllis Brown, Mr. Tom Twed-

dell, and Mrs. Tracey McGowan. Special thanks to Mrs. Jill Hagan for overseeing the medications during the conference. Holy Name is very proud of all the students who attended from our school, and we look forward to attending the Kentucky United Nations Assembly in 2010!



Isaac French from St. Ann School, Morganfield, left, and Cameron Sartore for Holy Name are named outstanding ambassadors at KUNA. HNS Photos

Sister Monica Seaton of Owensboro will take her final vows with the Ursuline Sisters June 28

Maple Mount - Sister Monica Seaton will make her final vows with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on June 28 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount.

Sister Monica, 34, a native of Owensboro, entered the postulancy in 2000, and became a novice with the Order of Saint Ursula in January 2002. She made her temporary vows in January 2004.

She is a graduate of Brescia University, and since January 2007, she has served as a special education teacher at Daviess County High School in Owensboro. Her mother and her five siblings live in Owensboro.



The RCIA group from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro met on March 22 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. MSJ Photo

Stop Demand For Human Trafficking

In early March, Sister Suzanne Sims, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, attended a board meeting of the nongovernmental organization UNANIMA International at the United Nations in New York City. She was a substitute representative of the Mount Saint Joseph Ursuline community, a UNANIMA member. The one particular item the board discussed was an evaluation survey of the Stop the Demand materials used during the last



year. UNANIMA International launched an international campaign to stop the demand against trafficking in women and children. The current 17 congregations represent about 17,000 women religious around the globe. Submitted by Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines.



Seminarians from St. Meinrad spent a week at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center March 27-April 3 during their Towards Jerusalem retreat." The seminarians were from six dioceses including the Diocese of Owensboro."

Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

Fr. Frank Ruff, a Glenmary priest serving in Todd County, KY is hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Oct. 12-22, 2009. For information and a free brochure, contact him at 364 Watts Rd, Trenton, KY 42286, 270-466-5457, or fruff@glenmary.org Fr. Frank promises this will be a "Journey of a Lifetime." This will be his seventh trip, so he is well experienced.



Fr. Frank Ruff

Spring Retreat

A group of Ursuline Sisters listen to Fr. Joseph Cox, OSB, in the Saint Ursula Room at the Motherhouse during their annual spring retreat on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17. The five-day retreat focused on "Transformation in Christ." Fr. Cox is from St. Meinrad, Ind. MSJ Photo



OWENSBORO, Ky. - Boulware Mission (BMI) is faced with declining donations, given the current economic crisis. Although money is continuously needed to support operating costs similar to those incurred by for-profit companies, we believe it is impossible to put a monetary value on the volunteers who unselfishly give their time and talents to help make a difference in the lives of the client.

Here are just a few of the many volunteers that we have been blessed with:

Co-owner of The Computer Guys LLC, Dennis Wilson, has taught basic computer skills to Boulware clients on Tuesday evenings since 2004. He recalls a former client, "Today, he tells me that if he hadn't taken the course, he would not have done as well in college." The former client is a May, 2009 candidate for an Associates degree at Owensboro Community College.



Kathy Williams

Kathy Williams has implemented the GED program at Boulware on Tuesday and Thursdays and has coordinated test



schedules since 2005. During 2008, 20 clients earned their GED, some of which have gone on to pursue college degrees.

Occasionally, ex-clients return to Boulware Mission to "give back." Susan, a former client of BMI, (We have changed her name to protect her privacy.) works two jobs, but still makes it a priority to volunteer twice a week, answering telephones and helping to train members of the Boulware Mission Resident Council. Having overcome substance abuse addiction, Susan sets a positive example for current

clients undergoing the same challenges she went through.

Boulware Mission board members, staff, and clients would like to thank all of our volunteers who help us serve the community; churches who cook and serve meals, various associations and clubs that helped provide labor during the Wing Avenue Campus Renovation project are just to name a few. Without them, we would not be where we are today, helping to end homelessness.



"...because someone cared about them."

On Holy Thursday evening, Jacqueline Pitino, daughter of U of L men's basketball coach Rick Pitino and Joanne Pitino of Louisville, Ky. came to the Daniel Pitino Shelter in Owensboro to volunteer some hours helping out with some of the shelter's activities that day. The time was a partial fulfillment of her school's requirement of service hours in order to enter her senior year. The Daniel Pitino Shelter was established in 1994 by Father Ed Bradley and Rick Pitino in memory of the Pitinos' son Daniel who died as an infant in 1987. The shelter was established to address the growing problem of homelessness in the

area and to make available additional emergency and transitional housing with essential services for the homeless. The Daniel Pitino Shelter also houses the Saint Stephen Cathedral Soup Kitchen, and The McAuley Clinic. In a 2007 news account, Father Bradley said of the Shelter, "Besides taking people off the street, the idea of shelter is to provide for people a place where they can find love, dignity, warmth, and acceptance... because someone cared about them." Photo submitted by the Daniel Pitino Shelter.



OCHS Students Named Kentucky Governor's Scholars

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Governor's Scholars Program is a five-week, residential summer program for outstanding Kentucky students completing their junior year in high school. The program will be held on the Bellarmine University campus, Centre College campus and on the Morehead State University campus. The academic program is designed for enrichment. The student will attend daily classes and participate fully in the academic and intellectual life of the community. Each student selects a Focus Area and participates in a General Studies and a Governor's Scholars Seminar.

Congratulations to the following OCHS students who were named KY Governor's Scholars: Kathryn Dueker, daughter of Karen Dueker, a member of Blessed Mother parish; Kaley Robertson, daughter of Ronald and Lanita Robertson, a member of Blessed Mother parish; Melinda Thompson, daughter of Al and Molly Thompson, a member of Blessed Mother parish; and Ellen Wright, daughter of Bill and Shannon Wright, a member of St. Stephen parish.

Prayers For A Hungry World

Rogation Days are three important designated days of prayer in the Diocese of Owensboro. In case you missed that April 25 was the traditional Major Rogation Day, the minor Rogation Days are the three days before (May 18-20, 2009) Ascension Thursday on May 21, 2009.

The outcome of planting and harvesting is really everyone's concern. Prayer for good crops is a prayer we can all say with conviction. It is the part we can all play to assist our farmers with their vital role of food production for us and for a hungry world.

You might want to again this year bring small containers to church with you on the weekend of the Rogation Days to fill with holy water. You may then take the holy water home along with the prayer included here and bless your seeds and seedlings.

Prayer for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

Lord of the harvest,
You placed the gifts of creation in our hands and called us to till the earth
and make it fruitful.

We ask your blessing as we prepare to place these seeds (seedlings) in the earth.
May the care we show these seeds (seedlings) remind us of your tender love for your people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Obispos Aplauden Introducción De La DREAM Act y Expresan su Apoyo a la Propuesta de Ley

WASHINGTON—En una carta fechada el tres de abril y dirigida a los promotores de esta legislación, el Obispo John C. Wester de Salt Lake City, presidente del Comité de Obispos sobre Migración, expresó el apoyo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB por sus siglas en inglés) a la propuesta de ley Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, también conocida como DREAM Act. Dicha legislación legalizaría el estatus migratorio de cientos de jóvenes sin documentos en los Estados Unidos.

La propuesta de ley (S. 729, H.R. 1751) afecta a jóvenes que entraron a Estados Unidos antes de cumplir los 15 años, han estado físicamente presentes en los Estados Unidos por al menos cinco años y se han graduado de la escuela preparatoria (high school). La ley también eliminaría las restricciones federales que limitan la capacidad de los estados de ofrecer a estos alumnos tarifas universitarias para residentes locales (in-state tuition).

Las cartas fueron enviadas a los senadores Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) y Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), principales promotores de la legislación en el Senado estadounidense, y a los representantes Howard Berman (D-California) y Lincoln Díaz-Balart (R-Florida), sus principales promotores en la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos.

“Esta legislación haría la diferencia en la vida de jóvenes indocumentados que fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos por sus padres y que ahora, debido a su falta de estatus legal, encuentran obstáculos a su futuro,” escribió el Obispo Wester en su carta.

La propuesta afectaría a estudiantes tanto en escuelas públicas como privadas, incluyendo las escuelas católicas. Estos jóvenes se convertirían en elegibles para el estatus de residentes legales permanentes tras completar dos años de universidad o dos años de servicio honorable en las fuerzas armadas. Aproximadamente, 65.000 jóvenes por año se podrían beneficiar de la DREAM Act.

“La DREAM Act representa una solución, práctica, justa y compasiva para miles de jóvenes que simplemente desean alcanzar el potencial que Dios les ha dado y contribuir al bienestar de nuestra nación. Instamos al Congreso a que apruebe esta medida tan pronto como sea posible”, dijo el Obispo Wester.

La traducción del texto completo de la correspondencia se ofrece a continuación.

3 de abril de 2009,

Estimado Senador Durbin:

En nombre de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), le escribo para expresar nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de ley S. 729, conocida como Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (o DREAM Act). Esta legislación haría la diferencia en la vida de jóvenes indocumentados que fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos por sus padres y que ahora, debido a su falta de estatus legal, encuentran obstáculos a su futuro. Al eliminar tales barreras, la DREAM Act permite a los estudiantes inmigrantes perseguir un futuro prometedor mediante la educación o el servicio militar.



El DREAM Act podría ofrecer a muchos alumnos inmigrantes como estos la oportunidad de ser elegibles para el estatus de residentes legales permanentes tras completar dos años de universidad o dos años de servicio honorable en las fuerzas armadas. CNS Foto.

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Aquellos que se beneficiarían de la DREAM Act son jóvenes con talento, inteligentes y dedicados que conocen a los Estados Unidos como su único hogar. Ellos pueden llegar a convertirse en futuros líderes de nuestro país, siempre que seamos lo suficientemente sabios para proporcionarles la oportunidad de perseguir sus sueños.

Según la propuesta de la DREAM Act, los jóvenes inmigrantes que lo merezcan podrán ajustar su estatus al de residentes permanentes, siempre que hayan entrado a los Estados Unidos antes de cumplir dieciséis años, hayan estado físicamente presentes en Estados Unidos por un periodo de no menos cinco años, hayan demostrado buen carácter moral, no tengan antecedentes criminales, no supongan una amenaza a la seguridad nacional y se hayan graduado de la escuela preparatoria. Esta propuesta de ley también ofrece a los estudiantes una oportunidad justa de obtener la ciudadanía estadounidense si se comprometen y completan al menos dos años de colegio universitario o dos años de servicio honorable en las fuerzas armadas.

También es importante resaltar que esta legislación afectará a estudiantes en escuelas públicas y privadas, incluyendo las escuelas católicas. También pondrá a su alcance un título universitario al rescindir las restricciones en la ley actual, la cual limita la capacidad de los estados para ofrecerles colegiaturas a precio de residentes estatales en los colegios y universidades públicas.

Debe notarse que estos jóvenes entraron a los Estados Unidos con sus padres a una edad temprana y, por tanto, no entraron sin inspección por su propia voluntad.

La DREAM Act representa una solución práctica, justa y compasiva para miles de jóvenes que desean simplemente alcanzar el potencial que Dios les ha dado y contribuir al bienestar de nuestra nación. Instamos al Congreso a que apruebe esta medida tan pronto como sea posible.

Gracias por introducir esta importante propuesta de ley. Deseamos trabajar con ustedes hasta que se convierta en ley.

Pidan al Gobierno que Mantenga Claúsulas de Conciencia para Trabajadores de Salud

WASHINGTON, USCCB—El Cardenal Francis George ha instado a los católicos de Estados Unidos a que pidan al gobierno del Presidente Obama que retenga las regulaciones del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (Health and Human Services) referentes a la protección de la objeción de conciencia por parte de los trabajadores de servicios de salud.

Esto es fundamental para evitar que el gobierno haga pasar a nuestro país “de la democracia al despotismo”, afirmó el Cardenal George, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos. El cardenal envió el mensaje mediante un video disponible en Internet en <http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection> y en YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NoCRwMqVzQ>.

Aquellos que deseen proteger el derecho a actuar según la propia conciencia pueden expresar su opinión a través de la alerta de acción que se encuentra en <http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection>.

“El respeto por la conciencia personal y la libertad religiosa, como tales, nos aseguran el derecho básico de ser protegidos contra la opresión gubernamental. Ningún gobierno debería meterse entre el individuo y Dios—se supone que ésta es una señal de identidad propia de los Estados Unidos de América”, dijo el Cardenal George. “[Esta] es verdaderamente un área de común acuerdo para nosotros como ciudadanos americanos. Por eso, necesitamos protecciones legislativas para la libertad de conciencia y de religión—incluyendo la libertad de las instituciones médicas para ser fieles a sus propios principios”.

El Cardenal George decidió grabar este mensaje después de que la Administración del Presidente Obama anunció a principios de marzo que pensaba rescindir las regulaciones que garantizan que los trabajadores de la salud no pueden ser forzados a proporcionar servicios que violan su conciencia, como los abortos.

El mensaje completo en español se transcribe a continuación:

“Hola. Soy el Cardenal Francis George, Arzobispo de Chicago y presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. Me gustaría tomar un poco de su tiempo para hablarles sobre dos principios o ideas que han sido fundamentales para la vida en nuestro país: la libertad religiosa y la libertad de conciencia personal.

“En la tarde del viernes, 27 de febrero, la Administración Obama publicó en una página Web del gobierno federal la noticia de que pretende derogar la normativa para la protección de conciencia del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Públicos. Esta normativa es parte de una serie de protecciones legales para los trabajadores de la salud—doctores, enfermeras y otros—que plantean una objeción de conciencia al hecho de verse involucrados en abortos y otros procedimientos que matan y que van en contra de cómo viven su fe en Dios.

“Como obispos católicos y ciudadanos americanos, estamos gravemente preocupados de que tal acción por parte del gobierno sea un primer paso para hacer pasar a nuestro país de la democracia al despotismo. El respeto por la conciencia personal y la libertad religiosa, como tales, nos aseguran el derecho básico de ser protegidos contra la opresión gubernamental. Ningún gobierno debería meterse entre el individuo y Dios—se supone que ésta es una señal de identidad propia de los Estados Unidos de América. Es verdaderamente un área de común acuerdo para nosotros como ciudadanos americanos. Por eso, necesitamos protecciones legislativas para la libertad de conciencia y de religión—incluyendo la libertad de las instituciones médicas para ser fieles a sus propios principios.

“La objeción de conciencia frente a numerosas acciones es parte de nuestra vida. Tenemos la objeción de conciencia contra la guerra para aquellos que no pueden luchar, aunque defender el propio país sea algo bueno. Tenemos objeción de conciencia para doctores que no desean participar en la administración de la pena de muerte. ¿Por qué no habría de permitir nuestro gobierno y nuestro sistema legal la objeción de conciencia a una acción moralmente mala como lo es matar a los niños en el vientre de sus madres? La gente entiende lo que sucede en un aborto y los procedimientos relacionados con éste—un miembro vivo de la familia humana es asesinado—eso es todo—y el gobierno no debería forzar a nadie a actuar como si el o ella fuesen ciegos a esta realidad.

“Les ruego que dejen saber al gobierno que desean que las protecciones de conciencia permanezcan en vigor. De modo particular, hagan saber al Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos en Washington que están a favor de la protección de conciencia y, especialmente en estos momentos, para aquellos que proveen los servicios de salud tan necesarios para el bien de la sociedad. Gracias y que Dios los bendiga.

Para la Iglesia Católica, la Pascua Trae el Gozo de Nuevos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo Resucitado

WASHINGTON, USCCB—Se espera que unas 150.000 personas, entre conversos y católicos alejados que regresan, se sumen a la Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos durante el 2009. La mayoría de ellos lo hará durante la Vigilia Pascual, el 11 de abril, en parroquias de todo el país.

En algunos casos, los números muestran el crecimiento y la vitalidad de la Iglesia Católica en lugares donde ésta ha sido tradicionalmente una minoría. Por ejemplo, la Arquidiócesis de Atlanta estima que 513 catecúmenos y 2.195 candidatos ingresarán a las filas de la Arquidiócesis en 2009. Unos 1.800 de éstos lo harán durante la Pascua. Estos números no incluyen bautismos de bebés, los cuales son registrados de forma separada.

Los catecúmenos son personas que nunca han sido bautizadas. Los candidatos son aquellos han recibido el bautismo en otra comunidad cristiana y han decidido entrar en comunión con la Iglesia Católica.

“La Arquidiócesis de Atlanta se encuentra en una parte del país con una gran población no católica y ha sido bendecida en años recientes con un auténtico dinamismo, el cual quizá se ve mejor reflejado en nuestro Congreso Eucarístico anual, que atrae a unos 30,000 participantes. Una de las grandes bendiciones que hemos recibido del Señor es el gran número de personas que está ingresando a la Iglesia”, dijo el Padre Theodore Book, director de la Oficina de Culto Divino de la Arquidiócesis.

Y parece que no son los únicos. En el lado opuesto del país, la Archidiócesis de Seattle dará la bienvenida a 736 catecúmenos y 506 candidatos, con un total de 1.242 nuevos miembros; y la Diócesis de San Diego bautizará a 305 personas y dará la bienvenida a otros 920 cristianos ya bautizados, añadiendo así un total de 1,225 adultos a sus filas.

En la Diócesis de Birmingham, Alabama, cuyo territorio es mayoritariamente rural, la Catedral de Saint Paul no pudo acomodar en una sola ceremonia el Rito de Elección, donde se presentó a todos los que decidieron ingresar este año—445 personas en total— y a los familiares que los acompañan. Los ritos tuvieron que celebrarse en tres ceremonias separadas, dos en la catedral durante el primer domingo de Cuaresma y otra en Huntsville el sábado anterior. Desafiando al clima, algunas parroquias condujeron 80 millas con nieve para participar. El Rito de Elección, generalmente realizado al principio de la Cuaresma, marca el inicio de la cuenta atrás para la iniciación u admisión oficial a la Iglesia.

El Sacramento del Bautismo también tendrá un significado especial para Heidi Sierras, de Ceres (cerca de Modesto), California, así como para su familia, padrinos y comunidad de fe. Sierras estará representando a los pueblos de Norteamérica en la Vigilia Pascual en la Basílica de San Pedro en el Vaticano y recibirá el bautismo de manos del Papa Benedicto XVI.

Por todo el país, numerosas parroquias en diócesis pequeñas y grandes, rurales y urbanas, se preparan para las liturgias especiales de la Pascua que cargadas de simbolismo harán pasar a los neófitos (o “recién bautizados”) y a aquellos recibidos en comunión plena, a su nueva comunidad de fe y a la Iglesia entera de la oscuridad a la luz.

Una muestra de los números proporcionados por algunas diócesis que respondieron a un sondeo informal se puede encontrar en http://www.usccb.org/mr/mediatalk/catholic_church_new_members.shtml.

A nivel nacional, el Official Catholic Directory de 2008, menciona que en 2007 hubo 49.415 bautismos de adultos y que 87.363 cristianos adultos completaron su iniciación y entraron en comunión plena con la Iglesia Católica.

Horario de Actividades: Stos. José y Pablo, Owensboro

14 de Junio

-Solemnidad del Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo, Primeras Comuniones, Posibles Altares Eucarísticos

10 de Octubre

-Posible Recibimiento de la Convención Nacional de Seminaristas Hispanos (Más detalles a futuro.)

Conferencia de la Campaña de Justicia para los Inmigrantes Toma Lugar en Ohio



Hubo una representación bastante grande de la Diócesis de Owensboro en la conferencia regional sobre la inmigración que tomó lugar en Ohio. En el centro se ve la a Hermana Adelina Rito, que trabaja en Mayfield, y Patti Gutiérrez, Coordinadora local para la Campaña de Justicia para los Inmigrantes.



El Padre Fid Levri, un sacerdote Glenmary, comparte un comentario con los de su mesa. Paul Witte, Ministro Hispano en Elkton y Guthrie está sentado a su mano izquierda. Fotos sometidos por Patti Gutiérrez.



El Ministerio Hispano de la parroquia de Santos José y Pablo llevó acabo el Via Crucis bilingue el Viernes Santo. Tanto Hispanos como Anglos siguieron a los actores por las calles de la ciudad. Fotos por Tami Schneider.



La Diócesis de Owensboro Celebrará La Semana Nacional De Migración del 31 de Mayo al 6 de Junio

*Motivamos a las parroquias que celebren como parroquia a lo largo de la semana.

**Comuníquense con Patti Gutiérrez si desean un paquete informativo.

Celebración Diocesana el 6 de Junio.

Llevando a Cristo por las Calles El Via Crucis Vivo en Owensboro



El Viernes Santo, unos miembros de la Iglesia de Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro llevaron acabo el Via Crucis vivientes. Arriba, María encuentra a su Hijo, Jesús con dolor y lágrimas. En el fondo se puede ver que los vecinos se interesaron y nos miraron pasar por las calles. Fotos por Tami Schneider.

¡Sé un José para Ella!

Por Tom Mealey del USCCB

Cuando recién nos casamos, mi esposa Misty y yo éramos la típica pareja de laicos. Confiábamos en la anticoncepción hormonal. Pero por sus malos efectos secundarios, eso no duró mucho. Misty se enteró de la Planificación Familiar Natural (PFN) por medio de una amiga católica. Reconozco que desconfié de todo ese “abracadabra” con termómetros en las oscuras horas del amanecer y observaciones que se anotaban con símbolos enigmáticos en la gráfica de la PFN. Todo eso cambiaría de forma sorprendente una vez que nos acostumbramos al estilo de vida de la PFN.

Antes de tener hijos, Misty había sido atea y yo un agnóstico. Con nuestro primer hijo, el milagro de la vida nos produjo un despertar espiritual. Nos dimos cuenta de que el Espíritu Santo ya nos había guiado a una vida católica. Sin embargo, incluso después de nuestra conversión, la PFN enriqueció la relación entre nosotros y con Dios de maneras que nunca habíamos esperado.

Estudiamos la “teología del cuerpo” en la catequesis de Juan Pablo II y nos entusiasmos por vivir nuestra fe y compartirla. Fue emocionante aprender las razones poderosas en las que se basan las hermosas enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre el sexo y el matrimonio.

Para mi gran sorpresa, también aprendí que mi esposa agradecía enormemente mi deseo de entender cómo funcionaba su cuerpo. Compartí la responsabilidad de planificar nuestra familia y también encontré formas diferentes para expresarle mi afecto e intimidad cuando teníamos buenos motivos para postergar un embarazo. Esto fortaleció nuestro matrimonio y me hizo un mejor marido y padre.

Cuando nos hicimos católicos, supe que quería ser el guía espiritual de nuestra familia, pero no comprendía qué implicaba eso además de llevar a nuestros hijos a misa los domingos. Por medio de la PFN y la Sagrada Escritura, descubrí que tenía la posibilidad de elegir qué tipo de hombre quería ser.

Con frecuencia culpamos a Eva por comer la fruta prohibida. Pero en el Génesis aprendemos que después de comer un bocado, ella le ofreció el fruto a Adán que estaba con ella. Adán no la frenó y le dijo: “Esto es una mala idea, vayámonos de aquí”. No protegió a su esposa, sino que se quedó quieto y callado mientras la serpiente la convenció de que renunciara al estado de santidad y quebrantara su relación con Dios.

Pero también existió San José. Cuando José obedeció al ángel que le dijo que llevara a María a su casa, aceptó la deshonra pública y la vergüenza de una prometida embarazada. Sacrificó su honor personal y su buena fama para obedecer a Dios y proteger a María y a Jesús.

Un marido tiene una opción clara: puede ser un Adán para su esposa o puede ser un José. El hombre puede quedarse quieto y callado y permitir que su esposa sufra las consecuencias físicas y espirituales de la anticoncepción. O puede defender la virtud, el cuerpo y el alma de ella usando la PFN. Hoy en día, se acepta la anticoncepción y es lo que se espera. Cualquier hombre que se prive de ella y prefiera la PFN corre el riesgo de caer en el ridículo y ser criticado. Pero como nos enseñó San José, hay cosas más importantes que la opinión de los demás. ¡Ojalá que los maridoselijamos ser un José para nuestras esposas!

Los Miembros del Comité de Revisión Diocesano Están Listos para Contestar Llamadas

Los miembros del Comité quienes tratan las alegaciones de abuso sexual abuse en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Ms. June Bell, Chair, Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Ms. Teresa Henry, Vice-Chair, Dr. Carroll Howard, Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Rev. Pat Reynolds, and Dr. Michele Thomas. Ms. Louanne Payne sirve como enlace Diocesano al Comité de Revisión.

A cualquier persona que quiera comunicar con el Comité de Revisión Diocesano se le pide que llame al Centro Pastoral Católico al 1-270-683-1545 y pregunte por un miembro del Comité de Revisión. Si quiere hablar con un miembro particular del Comité, lo puede mencionar a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso, la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico entregará la información de la persona que llamó al Comité de Revisión para seguimiento. Los que llaman pueden escoger mantenerse anónimos para la primera llamada a la recepcionista del Centro Pastoral Católico. No se harán públicos los números telefónicos de los miembros del Comité.

También pueden comunicarse con el Comité por email al: reviewboard@pastoral.org. Asegúrense de incluir su información personal. No les contestaremos directamente por email porque nunca se puede garantizar la confidencialidad al usar email. Nos comunicaremos con ustedes por teléfono.

Todd County Celebra el Domingo de Ramos



La Congregación de la Parroquia de Santos María y Santiago en Guthrie participa en la procesión del Domingo de Ramos. 40 personas asistieron en la Misa, el sábado, 11 de abril. Foto sometido por Paul Witte.



El Padre José Carmelo bendice los ramos afuera de la Iglesia de Santa Susana en Elkton como parte de la liturgia de Domingo de Ramos. 85 personas asistieron a Misa a las 12:30 de la tarde. Foto sometido por Paul Witte.

Calendario de Actividades del Ministerio Hispano

9 de mayo

- Tercer curso de Sacramentos: La Eucaristía

26-28 de mayo

- Conferencia de Justicia para Inmigrantes en Cincinnati, Ohio

30 de mayo

- Consulado Mexicano Mobil en Sto. Tomás Moro, Paducah de 8:30-4:00 (se requiere cita)

31 de mayo - 6 de junio

- Celebración de la Semana Nacional de Migración

The Western Kentucky Catholic
600 Locust Street
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Católico

de Kentucky Occidental

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Las Comunidades Hispanas Participan en un Curso de los Siete Sacramentos



Parroquia de Santa Susana, Elkton



Parroquia de San Miguel, Sebree



Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro



Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green



Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville



Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah



Parroquia de San José, Mayfield



El P. Ken Mikulcik toca y canta con un miembro de la parroquia en el Curso.