

The Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

Western Kentucky Catholic, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

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Soon to be found online at <http://www.rcdok.org/>

Bp. Emeritus John J. McRaith Given Rural Life Committee's Lifetime Achievement Award

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Since his retirement Jan. 5, 2009, Bishop Emeritus John McRaith has been performing his priestly duties daily, and hearing many good messages about his time among us as our third Bishop from the people of the Diocese of Owensboro. The theme for the Diocese's Seventh Annual Rural Life Celebration August 9 in the Sportscenter, "A Heritage of Service to a Hungry World," seems to have been written with Bishop Emeritus John in mind. The theme of feeding the hungry has been one of his most

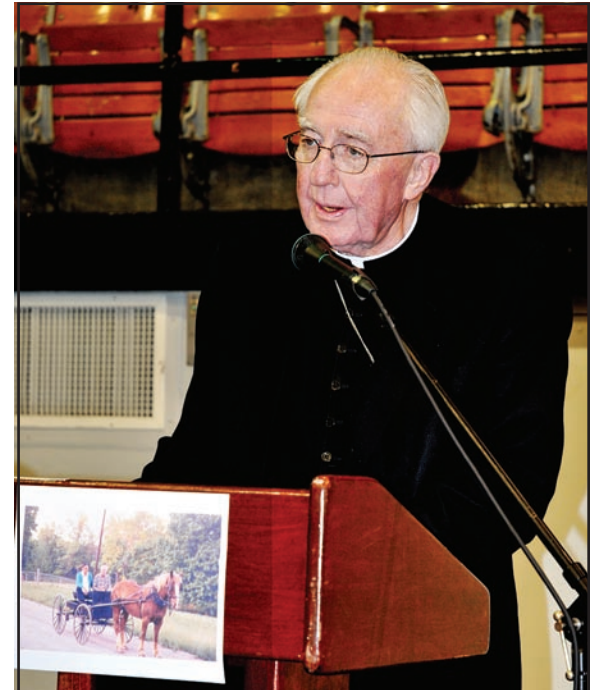
persistent topics in speaking and teaching. The evening's speeches and presentations of awards for him shared common threads as one after another rose to speak to the gathering of 350+ people who had just finished a barbecue chicken dinner prepared by volunteers.

Fourteen people spoke about shared and individual experiences with Bishop John. Emcee Rick Kamuf, who described himself as a "fish out of water" speaking from a podium, started off the reminiscences with his recollection of getting a call to come to a "Night With The Bishop" at Mount Saint Joseph Center years back. Then about 8 years ago, he got a call from Dick Murphy of the CPC saying that the Bishop wanted him to get involved with the diocese's Rural Life Committee. He said Bishop John was the one who originally thought up this annual diocesan Rural Life Celebration, and "how do you say no to the Bishop?"

Father Ed Bradley helped people recall how Bishop John was portrayed in a newspaper's front page photograph shortly after his ordination in 1982: pictured in a straw hat, driving a tractor, and in overalls, "a most humble servant leader." He brought congratulations from Rick Pitino, the University of Louisville Men's basketball coach, and shared some of the coach's memories of being with Bishop John. For example, one time Coach Pitino asked Father Bradley if Bishop John's coat pocket might not be on fire. There was so much pipe smoke swirling around him as Bishop John put his pipe in his coat pocket.

Sister Fran Wilhelm outlined for the crowd the Bishop's history of service as our third Bishop, and thanked him especially for giving birth to Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. "We love you, Bishop John, with all our hearts." This refrain was repeated many times by speakers from the podium and people on the floor who came up afterwards to congratulate Bishop Emeritus John McRaith, many with hugs and handshakes. Daviess County farmer Joe Elliott, a founding member of the Rural Life Committee and ever-present worker for the Rural Life Celebration with his wife, ended his tribute to Bishop Emeritus John, "You made us feel at home. You're willing to sit and listen. It'll be hard to replace you as Bishop."

Bishop John's friends, Chuck and Kathy Spaeth drove 13 hours from Hutchison, Minnesota, to be present for the award celebration. They shared memories from their childhood of "Father John," a tall priest in dark glasses and dark hair who loved to cook "lots of chicken soup he made for the family." Kathy described him from her memories as "just an ordinary guy, not bishop material, really, as we looked at him, a pious man, a humble man, and a generous man. That ordinary guy was far from ordinary though!" A farmer himself, Chuck Spa-

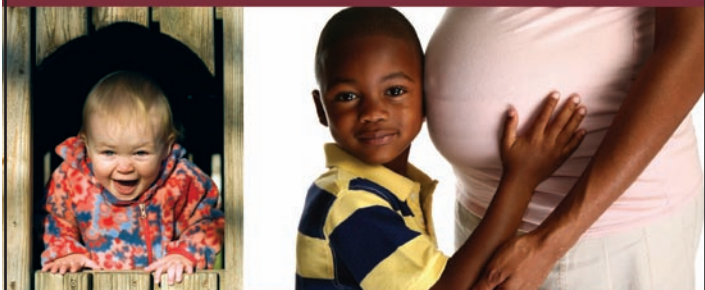


Over 350 people came to the Diocesan Rural Life Committee's celebration of rural life and family farm culture August 9 in the Owensboro Sportscenter to give their highest award to "a most humble servant leader," Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, shown thanking the people for their continued work to develop a more just society in which everyone is treated with dignity. Photo by Mel Howard



EVERY CHILD
BRINGS US GOD'S SMILE

POPE BENEDICT XVI



RESPECT LIFE

"We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence."

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, November 2001

The Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events.

Continued on page 21

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Visit Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join Father John M. Thomas & Father Jose Carmelo for an amazing trip to Mexico to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe!

The Shrine at Guadalupe is considered the holiest place in the Western Hemisphere. Highlights of our five night journey include:

Pyramids Of The Sun And Moon, Temple Of Quetzalcoatl, Tulpetlac Church, Basilica Of Our Lady Of Guadalupe, Tilma Of Juan Diego, Blessed First Martyrs Shrine, Church Of San Francisco, San Miguel Del Milagro Shrine, Our Lady Of Ocotlan Shrine, Mexico City, Cholula, National Palace, Anthropology Museum, Coyoacan Famous Market, Casa Azul & Our Lady Of Guadalupe Shrine. Also, we will enjoy some shopping, a live mariachi band, and fine Mexican dining!

Monday, February 8, 2010

Sunday, February 13, 2010

\$1,799.00, includes air, 4 star hotels, 12 meals, & transportation

Call Kenny: 270-389-1002



Catholic Engaged Encounter

Participants in the Catholic Engaged Encounter prepare to begin a session during their weekend encounter at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center Aug. 7-9. MSJ Photo



GREENING Western Ky. Expo

Attendees visit booths during the third annual GREENING Western KY Expo held at Brescia University on July 25. The event was sponsored by Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Knox Technologies, Brescia, Greenworks and Resource Recycling, Independence Bank, Swedish Match, and Greenwell Chisholm Printing Company. MSJ Photo

What Would You Like To Ask A New Bishop for the Diocese of Owensboro?

By Mel Howard

Several committees in the diocese are already preparing to welcome our next Bishop when he is appointed. The Special Edition Committee for the Western Kentucky Catholic would like to know from WKC readers what questions they would like to ask the new bishop. The reason for asking is so that the group can get a sense of what's important to people across the diocese. This will help in the planning of publications, brochures, flyers, advertisements, and other media projects surrounding the introduction and welcoming of our diocese's fourth Bishop.

Please email your replies to mel.howard@pastoral.org, or write a note to Mel Howard, *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301



Yarn Spinners Day

Several ladies enjoyed a day of spinning wool and making shawls at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center during a spinning day Aug. 8. The gatherings are held quarterly at the Center and are open to all. The next spinning day will take place Nov. 14. MSJ Photo

39th Annual Mount Saint Joseph

Barbecue PICNIC



Sunday, Sept. 13

15 miles west of Owensboro
Maple Mount, Ky.

**BBQ Chicken, Mutton
Pork, Burgoo**

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

Grand Raffle Prizes include \$3,000

Tickets available for \$2 each

Booths - Silent Auction - Crafts - Games

For the Benefit of the retired Ursuline Sisters

To volunteer or to order raffle tickets,
contact Tiffany

270-229-4103 ext. 278

www.ursulinesmsj.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

License #0290



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

WHEN DOES THE HURTING STOP?

The journey through grief is difficult...and painful. We are forever changed by a major loss experience. Clearly, we will never be the same person we were before this loss became part of our lives. The real struggle occurs when we consciously or subconsciously resist the change that must take place if we are to survive and learn to live with our loss. (It is difficult to get to know and accept this new person who is emerging.)

Grief is a complex process, unique to each individual, based on personality type, circumstances of death, and our relationship with the person who died. There are, however, emotions common to almost all bereaved persons.

Understanding is the KEY to the tolerance and patience necessary to accept and integrate loss into our lives.

There will be a bereavement support group for anyone who has experienced a death at any time of his/her life. This group will run the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month beginning September 9th at 3:30 pm – 5:00pm in the afternoon and is open to the public at no charge.

This will be held in the lounge at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St. For more information you may contact Betty Medley at (270) 683-1545 ext 357

Correction
In the August issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, we used the phrase "Catholic Diocese of Western Kentucky." Just for the record, our diocese has one authorized official name, the *Diocese of Owensboro*. This was an inadvertent error. We regret any confusion this may have caused.
- Editor

PRE-CANA: A ONE DAY MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

For Catholic Engaged Couples preparing for marriage

Saturday-September 19, 2009: 8:30am – 4:00pm

Catholic Pastoral Center Basement,

600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

For more information contact: (270) 683-1545 ext. 357

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.

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

Catholic Students Pitch In To Help Build Chapel of Divine Mercy in Pakistani Village

By Mel Howard

Students of Catholic Schools can have a powerful effect on people and events when they get behind an idea which they come to know as being God's work. Catholic School students can help make things happen, like helping to build a small chapel in a poor village on the other side of the world.

Committee. However, Mrs. Kauffeld said, "We are still about \$6,000 shy. This is the Chapel that God is building."

Mrs. Kauffeld explained that she feels that God is collecting many people to get this chapel built, not only to give some of the poorest of the poor people of this world a place to pray and worship indoors, but also to help people see how



At the end of last school year in May, 2009, students of Owensboro Catholic Middle School made a \$900 donation to Martha Kauffeld & Sue O'Bryan toward the Chapel of Divine Mercy that is now under construction in the Chapel in St. Joseph Parish, Gujranwala, Pakistan.

At the end of last school year in May, 2009, students of Owensboro Catholic Middle School made a \$900 donation to Martha Kauffeld & Sue O'Bryan toward the Chapel of Divine Mercy that is now under construction in St. Joseph Parish, Gujranwala, Pakistan. The Western Kentucky Catholic (WKC) first reported about this chapel in the May, 2009 edition.

Mrs. Kauffeld said that she was inspired to ask Catholic School students for help by WKC stories about Catholic School students who worked together to raise money to help buy water wells in countries in Africa.

As of press time, Mrs. Kauffeld, a member of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, and her niece Sue O'Bryan have collected \$4,000 coming from the students of OCHS, OCMS and some outside donations. A check was sent to Father Patras Samuel in Pakistan with the help of Fr. Darrell Venters of the Priests Personnel

important the work of a Catholic priest is. "In this year of the priest," she said, "the Church wants us to honor our priests more openly. Fr. Patras contacted us with his need for help in building a chapel in his poor village. Father Pike Powell has been such an inspiration for me and this whole diocese in his priestly life, and we are so grateful for his encouragement of us getting out and asking for money for this chapel construction. Father Darrell Venters has helped us so much by being a connection between our diocese and the Diocese of Lahore, Pakistan. How can this chapel of Divine Mercy in Pakistan help but be God's work? Not ours, surely, but God's work, we believe."

In September and October this fall, Mrs. Kauffeld will again be contacting schools in the diocese asking them for help. She said that donations from people other than Catholic School students are always welcome as well.



Two workmen posed in the middle of the bricks and mortar which when completely laid will be a Catholic Chapel dedicated to the Divine Mercy in the village of Gujranwala, Pakistan. Photo submitted by Fr. Petras Samuel

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.

ONCE MORE WITH LOVE

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

Saturday-November 21, 2009, 8:30am - 6:00pm
Catholic Pastoral Center Basement, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY
42301 270-683-1545 ext. 357

The 2009 Diocesan Directory

is now found online at http://www.rcdok.org/the_diocesan_directory/. You may access the Directory online and/or print a copy by opening the document and using your computer's print command. The Directory can be downloaded in its entirety, or the sections of the Diocesan Directory can be downloaded separately. Each will be updated quarterly based on the latest information provided to the diocese.

If you are unable to access the Directory online, a printed copy is available upon request. To request a printed copy or to make changes to Directory content, please email Rita Hayden at rita.hayden@pastoral.org or call her at 270-683-1545.

El Manantial Hogar Provides A Home for People with Special Needs in Juarez, Mexico



By Sister Lisa Marie Pottinger, A.D.

August 10, 2009 - I have been working in our mission in Juarez, Mexico, for 3 years now, where we have built a center for children and youth with special needs. We have been building this center since 2004 and this

with special needs have different capabilities. We are teaching them to read and write, and other academic subjects. We also have art and exercise. Later when the center is in full operation which should be happening soon, they will learn simple cooking, laundry, and other activities to help them become as independent as possible. As you know, the Mexican people are joy-filled and love to celebrate. We have many types of celebrations year round at the center—religious, holidays, birthdays, and fund raisers. This year, we had the joy of one of our 11 year old girls making her First Communion at the center. We have about 50 members now enrolled and are continually growing.

What is very good is that students in other schools come to earn credit at our center for their courses in psychology and sociology. The other plus of this center is that it brings out the talents of the local people and offers them work. To provide salaries for our otherwise volunteers is a goal of this year's fund raiser.

The dormitories have now been completed which means we need to start hiring staff and raising the money to pay them. Our goal for this year is to raise \$10,000. We do not receive any help from the government so we depend on the aid of generous people like you. Please, if you can, make a financial gift for El Manantial Hogar. Make checks payable to SISTERS OF THE LAMB OF GOD, and send them to 2063 Wyandotte Ave. Owensboro, KY 42301.



Sr. M. Carmen, left, Jazmin and Sr. Lisa Marie at the Christmas Party at the center.

would not have been possible without the help of volunteers and people like you.

It has been a long and worthwhile project. There are no homes for people with special needs in the entire state of Chihuahua. Sr. Mary Carmen founded the center when she heard from mothers wondering what would happen to their child if they should die. Sometimes the father leaves the family when a child with special needs is born, leaving the mother alone, and it is a hard job. We have one mother who has five children, the first four with special needs. She is raising the children alone now. One of her children with special needs is now able to hold down a part time job and help the family. Although his work is slow he does a good job. This is just one of the many examples of the needs we face here.

The center called "El Manantial Hogar" has been running for 3 hours in the afternoon 5 days a week while we were waiting for the construction of the dormitories to be finished. We have 2 teachers, one of whom works as a volunteer. We also have a bus driver who picks up those who have no means of transportation. We have a psychologist, a neurologist and a few therapists who donate their time, once a week. Our children, youth, and adults



Two groups of children and youth who attend El Manantial Hogar's Campamento Asociación. Photos from <http://hogareلمانantial.spaces.live.com/>



Sr Lisa Marie, second from left, with Sisters at a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Lamb of God Sisters' presence in Juarez. At left, Rubi is 11 yrs. old and the youngest of our youth. She made her 1st Communion during mass at the Kermes, our biggest event of the year. Another one of our youth, Luis Carlos, is serving mass with Fr. Miguel, the priest at Nuestra Señora del Pilar where Sr. M. Carmen and Sr. Lisa Marie attend Mass. Photos from [http://hogareلمانantial.spaces.live.com.](http://hogareلمانantial.spaces.live.com/)



There was a lot of musical entertainment at the Kermes. Sr. M. Carmen is dancing with Catalina.

If you would like more information about the center you can go to our website: <http://hogareلمانantial.spaces.live.com>. The page can be translated into English.

Thank you for your generosity, and prayers.



Body Language:

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West



God First Loved Us

A friend of mine – I’ll call him “Joe” – recently came to me in distress asking me to help him process the counsel he had been receiving from a Catholic therapist. “You need to love God more,”

was his therapist’s repeated advice. Sounds fine. Don’t we all? But as Joe shared more, I began to understand why his stomach was in knots.

Joe is a man profoundly in touch with that deep “ache” in his soul, that human desire for happiness, love, fulfillment. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, this yearning “is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it” (CCC 1718). Like most of us, though, Joe, at his own admission, has looked to fulfill that desire in wrong ways. One of his goals in going to a Catholic therapist was to learn how to direct his desire rightly.

Over several sessions, the impression Joe got from the therapist was that his hunger, his “need” itself was the problem, and somehow it needed to be annihilated. His therapist said he was being self-centered; he shouldn’t be thinking about his desire at all, but should focus on serving God more, on loving God more. Of course, we often are self-centered and need to focus more on God. Acknowledging that, Joe tried dutifully to put his therapist’s counsel into practice.

It didn’t work. And the more his therapist insisted that he “love God more,” the more Joe felt like a failure, until one day Joe erupted: “I can’t love God more! I try and try but I don’t have it in me.”

Joe is right. In and of ourselves, we aren’t able to love God. Our loving God can only be a return of the love He pours out on us. “This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us” (1 Jn 4:10). As the Catechism states, “God’s initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response” (CCC 2567).

My point here is not to pounce on Joe’s therapist. There may well be more to the story. Rather, Joe’s situation presents the opportunity to reflect on a widespread

“trap” we’re prone to in the spiritual life – the trap of thinking it’s up to us to “be good,” to “be holy,” to “love God more.” When we think this way we’re actually forgetting our basic status as creatures.

In his book “Faith, Hope, Love” (1997, Ignatius Press), Catholic philosopher Josef Pieper put it this way: “Need-love, whose goal is its own fulfillment, is also the nucleus and the beginning in all our loving. It is ... set in motion by the act that created us. Hence, it is fundamentally impossible for us to control it, let alone annul it.”

Pieper continues: “The call for an utterly disinterested, unmotivated ... love that wishes to receive nothing ... simply rests upon a misunderstanding of man as he really is. The error, it must be noted, consists not so much in mistaking man’s empirical imperfection as in failing to recognize that the human condition is that of a created being.”

In other words, this deep need that Joe experiences is not the result of some stubborn imperfection that he must strive to overcome. It’s something God put there to lead Joe to heaven: that is, to invite Joe to open himself to divine love, the one and only thing that satisfies the ache.

We have nothing to offer God (or anyone else for that matter) that we have not first received. This is why, in the biblical analogy of spousal love, we are always the “bride” (even men!) and God is always the Bridegroom. For, according to the theology of our bodies, the bride is the one who receives the gift of the bridegroom and conceives life within. As John Paul II put it in his “Theology of the Body” (Pauline), “the husband is above all the one who loves and the wife ... is the one who is loved” (92:6).

So, how can we love God more? By letting him first love us more. How can we serve God more? By letting him first serve us more. For Christ came not to be served, but to serve (see Mt 20:28). We must let him serve us. We must let him “wash our feet” or we can have “no part in him” (Jn 13:8). Mary is the one who shows us how to receive this kind of love, this kind of service. Mary, Mother of God, pray for my friend Joe that he would learn how to open his desire to the One alone who can satisfy it, just as you did. Amen.

Surfing The Internet?

Have you visited

www.rcdok.org yet?



Pilgrims of Hope Meetings

Pilgrims of Hope meet the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Become a stateside missionary to Jamaica! Join us for prayer and study; contribute your enthusiasm for assisting the missions of Jamaica.

When: September 12

Where: Conference room of Christ the King Catholic Church in Madisonville, Ky.

Time: 1-3 pm.



Saint Mary School System
Paducah, Kentucky

St. Mary Students Receive 4-H Honors

PADUCAH, Ky. - Four St. Mary students received high honors at the 4-H State Communications Day Contest held at the University of Kentucky in July. These students qualified for state-level competition by performing well in either speeches or demonstration at both the county and area Communications Day Contests earlier in the year. The following students from St. Mary received honors:

Speeches: 9-Year-Old Division 1st Place – Lauren Tashjian; 11-Year-Old Division 2nd Place – Hannah Waltman; 13-Year-Old Division 2nd Place – Katie Stewart; 14-Year-Old Division 2nd Place – Maddie West. Demonstrations: Senior Level Runner-Up – Maddie West



Maddie West



Katie Stewart, above at right, receiving her ribbon; At right, Lauren Tashjian. Submitted photos



Sister Jo Ann Mark, ASC celebrates 50th Anniversary

Sister Jo Ann Mark, ASC, was born in Platte Center, NE to Gilbert and Evelyn (Schroeder) Mark. She entered the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in 1958 in Wichita, KS and made her first profession of vows in 1959. She received a BA from Kansas Newman College, and an MS and Ed. D. from Oklahoma State University.

Sister Jo Ann's ministry in academics began by teaching upper grades at St. Joseph School in McPherson, KS and then the St. Paul District School in Angelus, Kansas. Beginning in 1968, Sister served in several positions over 18 years at Kansas Newman University including: math instructor, associate professor of math, Chair of the Natural Science and Math Department, Academic Dean, and Vice President. In 1985 she served for one year as the Computer Information Systems Coordinator at Mt. St. Clare College in Clinton, Iowa, before becoming the Academic Dean at Brescia College in Owensboro, KY. In 1989 she became the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean at Brescia, a position she held until 1999 when she established the Office for Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese of Omaha. In 2000 she was elected Provincial Councilor for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region.

In 2007 Sister Jo Ann spent a year in Tanzania, Africa teaching English and is currently back at Newman University serving as Director of Institutional Research and Transfer Activities.



Sister Theresa Marie Wilkerson, OSU, 89 Died July 27

Maple Mount, Ky.— Sister Theresa Marie Wilkerson, 89, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died July 27th at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 69th year of religious life. She was a native of Owensboro.

She was born Mary Louise Wilkerson, the daughter of James Wallace Wilkerson and Earlina Catherine Hay Wilkerson. She was received into the novitiate in 1940 and made temporary profession in 1942 and perpetual profession in 1945.

Sister Theresa Marie was an outgoing and caring person who loved to share her gift of singing. An educator for 37 years, she taught at St. Paul School, Leitchfield (1957-58), St. Joseph School, Central City (1958-60), St. William School, Knottsville (1962-67), Trinity High School, Whitesville (1969-70), Owensboro Catholic High School (1970-73), and Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Maple Mount (1973-80).

She served as Director of Refugees for the Diocese of Owensboro (1980-94) and as parish minister at St. Stephen Cathedral (1987-97). A hospital chaplain (1994-96), she continued to serve as a Eucharistic minister at Owensboro Medical Health System after her retirement in 1994.

Survivors include two brothers, Robert Louis, and John Owen Wilkerson, both of Owensboro; nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was July 30th at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Theresa Marie Wilkerson may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



MARIAN RETREAT



OCT. 9-11
"THE ROSARY"

RETREAT DIRECTOR
MSGR. BERNARD POWERS

Pope John Paul II looked at the individual, the family and the world. In light of the issues he saw, he handed us an Apostolic Letter on the Rosary. Here we find wisdom, courage, and strength to deal with these issues in our life. Msgr. Bernard Powers will lead us through this prayerful weekend.

Fee: \$175 includes retreat, meals, accommodations.

Commuter: \$120 includes retreat and meals.

Take 10% off total if paid by Sept. 9.

Contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200 ext. 413

kmccarty@maplemount.org

Find a flyer at www.mscenter.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-0200



Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph 2009-2010 Quilt Club tickets now available!

You get 12 chances to win a handmade quilt with our Quilt Club annual memberships, available for only \$20 each.

Buy one for yourself and one for a friend!

A new quilt is raffled each month.

For details, visit www.ursulinesmsj.org



Sister Eva Boone

License No. 0290

New Quilt Club drawings begin Oct. 2, 2009.
Order your tickets today! Call Tiffany
270-229-4103 ext. 278



Groundbreaking for new Parish Hall at St. Peter, Stanley

STANLEY, Ky. - Parishioners of the church of St. Pater Alacantha, and Fr. Ray Goetz led the group in breaking the ground Sunday, February 1st, 2009 after the 9:30 AM mass. All who wanted to come out to help were there, about 50 people; pictures were taken, and everyone was happy and excited about the upcoming building.

The hall is 120 feet by 60 feet with an open area of 60 feet by 70 feet. Also inside are 2 offices, 1 meeting room, 1 kitchen, and 4 bathrooms. The parish has been talking about having a hall for about 15 years, and now by God's grace, it has

finally happened.

The main entrance is straight across from the church; when you come out of the church front doors you are looking straight at it. The cost of the building is estimated at approximately half a million dollars. The parish has received almost \$500,000.00 in pledges so far.

The Ladies Auxiliary hosted a Tea Party on May 17, 2009. This was the first function and the proceeds went towards the Hall. There was a breakfast for the outgoing Priest, Fr. Ray Goetz, and one for the incoming Priest Fr. Suresh Bakka. There was a wedding party for Bruce Shrecker on July 25, 2009.



Once completed, the Saint Peter, Stanley, Parish Hall will host meals for funerals and other functions that will be celebrated. There is a dedication for the Hall that is being discussed.

Sister Dianna Ortiz speaks at April rally to end war in Iraq



While President Obama was holding a nationally televised press conference to mark the 100th day of his administration, hundreds of Christians gathered outside the White House risking arrest as they pressed the president for a quicker end to the war in Iraq.

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, a coalition of more than 20 faith-based peace groups, participated in a public act of repentance for the war and asked the president to join them in beginning the work of reconciliation and rebuilding in Iraq.

On April 29, CPWI held a worship service and repented together of U.S. actions in Iraq, and insisted that the war be brought to an immediate end. Events included an opening convocation at National City Christian Church (featuring Noah Baker Merrill and Kathy Kelly), worship at the church (featuring Elizabeth McAlister, Tony Campolo, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, and Sister Dianna Ortiz), and direct action in front of the White House.

To see a video of Sister Dianna's speech, visit YouTube online: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzMuIscTydQ>

For more information, visit www.christianpeacewitness.org.

In related news, on June 25, Sister Dianna joined Demissie Abebe, from Ethiopia, and human rights advocates from a dozen organizations at a noon rally to call on Attorney General Eric Holder to name a special prosecutor to investigate the justification and practice of torture by the United States during the Bush administration. Sister Dianna and Abebe, past and current TASSC presidents, joined two other survivors to testify before the Congressional Human Rights Commission, chaired by Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA).

The next day, June 26, more than 100 people gathered at the Columbus Law School on the Catholic University of America campus to commemorate the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. They heard the testimony of survivors from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Source: Christian Peace Witness press release issued April 27, 2009 and a TASSC newsletter issued Aug. 12, 2009.



From left, Saint Michael, Sebree, Relay For Life Team Members: Dan Edwards, Carla Edwards, Eli Walker, Gracia Alvey, Patti Gutierrez, Rosie Edwards, Valeria Franklin, Sandy Harpole, Michael Zemby and Rachel Alvey.

Sebree Parish Supports Relay For Life

St. Michael's Catholic Church of Sebree raised \$3,418.00 for Webster County's Relay for Life in June, 2009. This was the third consecutive year that they have been the team to raise the most money.



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 alicia.coomes@maplemount.org. Visit www.ursulinesmsj.org



Vocation Director
Sister Alicia Coomes



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999
270-229-4103 • Fax 270-229-4953
www.ursulinesmsj.org • info.ms@maplemount.org

Bishop John J. McRaith Named Scholar in Residence at Brescia University

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University is honored to have named Bishop McRaith a Scholar in Residence on our campus upon his resignation as Ordinary of the Diocese of Owensboro. We are so grateful for the tremendous leadership, devotion, and support he has provided to the University for over 25 years.

It is because of Bishop McRaith that Brescia University was able to establish the first accredited undergraduate Ministry Formation program in the U.S., producing dozens of lay ecclesial ministers who now serve in a variety of positions in the Church around the world. He has faithfully served as a member of the Board of Trustees and been a voice of great wisdom during times of major decision making. His love for Brescia is clearly rooted in its students as he has always been keenly interested in their basic pastoral needs. As a Scholar in Residence, his presence will continue to be a positive force on our campus as he furthers his studies, reflections, and writings on the subject he loves most, Stewardship.

We welcome with loving and open arms Bishop McRaith as he begins the next phase of his journey and ministry.



Right to Life

of OWENSBORO

30th Annual Walk for Life Fundraiser

Collect money for this 3 mile event to help support vital work for the Dignity of Human Life!

Saturday, September 12, 2009

beginning at Our Lady of Lourdes Parking Lot
(On Placid Place off South Frederica St.)

- Individuals raising more than \$ 50.00 will receive a free T-shirt.
 - Youth are invited to create a pro-life t-shirt and wear it to the event. One will be chosen and used as our organization's t-shirt for the next year.
 - Awards and prizes will be given away after the walk.
- Sign-in, muffins, & juice will begin at 9:00 am. Walk begins at 10:00 sharp (break at midpoint).

The 2009 Diocesan Directory

The 2009 Diocesan Directory is now available online in Portable Document Format (PDF). The Directory can be downloaded in its entirety, or in individual sections. Each will be updated quarterly based on the latest information provided to the diocese.

Please note that you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer in order to access the PDF version of the online Directory. Most computers come with this program pre-installed. If you need to download a free copy of the program, you may do so at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=BUIGO>

PDF's can be searched (Ctl + F on a PC; Cmd + F on a Mac) and can be printed by using the print function of your Adobe Reader program. The link to the online Diocesan Directory: http://www.rcdok.org/the_diocese/diocesan_directory/

Diocese of Owensboro

Sophia Award Mass

Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Name Church,

511 Second Street, Henderson, Ky.

Sponsored by the Office of Wisdom
of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.

19th Diocesan Marian Congress

Sunday, October 18 1:30 - 5:00 pm

Diocesan Marian Shrine: "Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of All Christians" located at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 434 Church St., Bowling Green

- Theme: "Mary, Cause of Our Joy"
- In the Parish Center: Address by Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, D.D.

Music, Crowning of Statue of Mary

• Speaker, Dr. Kelly Bowring, STD
Refreshments, Display of Religious Articles, Chaplet of Divine Mercy

- Outdoor Procession: Our Lady of Fatima Statue, Porters, Knights of Columbus, Rosary, Hymn
- Church: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Homily, Eucharistic Procession with Blessing of Sick, Reposition of Blessed Sacrament
 - Confessions: Heard Throughout

Everyone Welcome!! Visit the Beautiful Shrine.

For Info: Call Joann Bradford 270-586-5926



Have you visited www.rcdok.org yet?

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

September 2009

- 13 MSJ Annual Picnic
- 14-18 Glenmary Retreat Week
- 18-19 Leadership McLean County
- 18-20 Yoga Retreat
- 22-25 Runaway Quilters
- 28 McLean County Coalition

October 2009

- 2 Owensboro Community and Technical College
- 2-4 T.O.P.S. Retreat
- 9-11 Marian Retreat focused on the Rosary with Msgr. Bernard Powers
- 12-16 Spiritual Directors Institute Week 5
- 16-18 Mount Hope Weekend
- 23-25 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 26-30 Priests Retreat Weekend
- 30-1 Regional Cursillo Encounter

November 2009

- 7-8 Academy for Young Leaders
- 12 Watershed Watch
- 13-14 First Presbyterian Church
- 14 Yarn Spinners

December 2009

- 8 Advent Day Retreat
- 12 Private Wedding Reception
- 27-31 Sisters' Elections



Center-sponsored programs in bold.

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

The Center is located 15 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

Celebration Of The 7th Annual Blessing Of Seeds

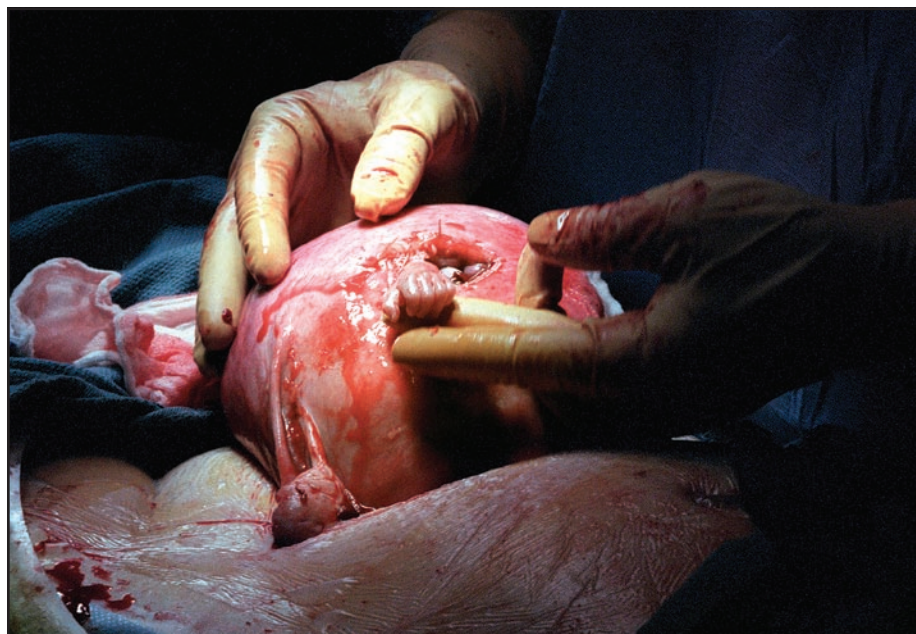
By Sr. Eula Johnson, S.C.N.

On May 17, 2009, parishioners of St Lawrence and St. William gathered at the Tony/Kay Johnson Family Farm for the 7th annual blessing of seed, land, and water. This celebration takes place around the Rogation days, major or minor and the feast of St. Isidore, the patron of farmers.

One of the blessings from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference prayers led by Fr. Tony Stevenson follows: "Let us bless God for the land, the good earth that feeds and sustains us. From the beginning, God has provided the sower with seed and the human family with the food and drink we need. God has called us to till the earth and make it good to care for all living creatures, as companions and helpers. God has given us people like Isidore and Maria, teaching us to care for the earth, and to share its, fruits with all who are in need. God looked at every thing that had been made, and God saw that it was good.

Following the blessings of water and seeds/plants brought by participants, there was a feast of barbecued pork and chicken, potluck dishes, and luscious desserts and friendly fellowship. Participants departed with the hope of a future productive harvest of field and gardens and with deep gratitude to the Creator, source of all blessings.

Photographer to Speak at Sts. Peter and Paul



By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Michael Clancy, a veteran photojournalist from Nashville, Tennessee, took a photograph in 1999 that became known as "The Hand That Touched The World."

Clancy describes the moment he took this photograph on his website (www.michaelclancy.com) using these words:

"During a spina bifida corrective procedure at twenty-one weeks in utero, Samuel thrusts his tiny hand out of the surgical opening of his mother's uterus. As the doctor lifts his hand, Samuel reacts to the touch and squeezes the doctor's finger. As if testing for strength, the doctor shakes the tiny fist. Samuel held firm. At that

moment, I took this "Fetal Hand Grasp" photo.

"As a photojournalist, my job is to tell stories through pictures. The experience of taking this photograph has had a profound effect on me, and I'm proud to share this moment with you."

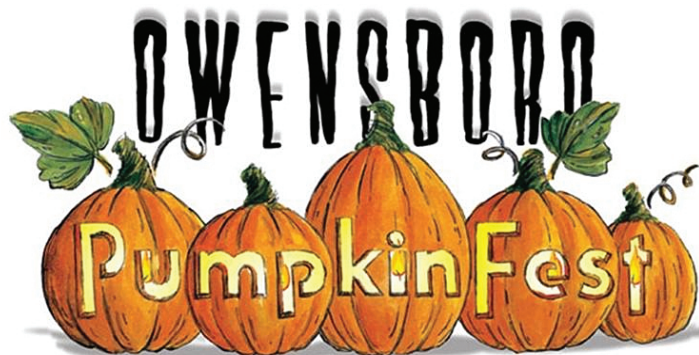
You can join the retelling of this phenomenal story on October 12, 2009, at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville. Michael Clancy will meet with those gathered in the parish hall beginning at 7 p.m. There is no charge to attend and there will be a question and answer period following his talk. For more information, please call Sts. Peter and Paul at 270-885-8522.



Some participants at the annual Blessing of Seeds among the people of the Saint Lawrence/Saint Williams parishes, left front: David Wimsatt, Joe Elliott, Mary Sue Elliott, James Haynes, Joan Hayden, and Martin Hayden. Photo by Sr. Eula Johnson, S.C.N.



The Fr. Joseph Saffer Council #6897 of Murray Sponsored a "Right to Life" float in the 4th of July Parade in Murray. They tied for 2nd place in most original float and won "Best in Show"! Pictured left to right is James Mathieu of Marion and Darryl Rezac of Murray.



September 25 - 27

Sportscenter Complex - Owensboro, KY

www.OwensboroPumpkinFest.org

*Honorable mention among 2009 Fall Top 10 Festivals & Events
by the Kentucky Tourism Council!!*

Help And Hope In Time Of Need (Part II)

By: David Galloway, VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), Owensboro Catholic Charities of Owensboro

The Western Kentucky Catholic, September, 2009 11

Hope in action is falling down and getting up time and again. Does falling in debt or poverty have the final say in our lives? Many of us may find ourselves in debt or poverty, so what are we supposed to do? The first and most important thing is to keep our faith in Jesus Christ. We may not have prayed in quite some time or even forgotten how to pray. But know that He loves us and wants to hear from us and help us, but we must keep Him first in our lives.

Secondly, take inventory of all your options, such as: friends and family who may offer you a place to stay while you are getting on your feet. Of course, you need to help pay some of the added expenses to the household and not expect a free ride. Identify any skills you may have that you can convert into a part time income, such as mowing lawns, handyman, painter, carpenter, etc. Learn about every government program, especially the ones that teach you how to overcome your challenge. Co-op with your neighbors by purchasing in bulk and dividing the purchase based on money put in.

Thirdly, cut all unnecessary expenses. Only you know what is necessary and what isn't. If something is financed and you can't pay it off, sell it. It is better to owe a portion of the debt instead of the full amount. The important thing is to create a positive cash flow, keeping more money in the home through savings. Giving is important also. "Let not your hand be open to receive and clenched when it is time to give". Sirach 5:31 Remember the widow of the Bible? She gave out of her need instead of her excess. God knows your situation, and He will bless you when you give as long as you do not give in anticipation of receiving. To give and make ends meet may mean taking a second job.

Next, immerse yourself in the world of financial literacy, learning everything about how money works and grows. There are many programs available to help you understand the way the economic world works. The very best one I have found and use is Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). He teaches you how to get out of debt, meet your needs, build wealth, and finally to share your wealth with others. This is totally contrary to the way the world thinks, but it is God's plan and Dave teaches the program that way.

Know that the government is not going to get you out of poverty. Since the War on Poverty started we have proportionally more of it today. The government under President Roosevelt created temporary

programs like social security, the W.P.A., and the C.C.C. to mention a few to help people out of financial trouble created by the greed of Wall Street and people dabbling in the stock market on margin. The Great Depression lasted as long as it did because of government interference. Unfortunately, it took World War II to get the economy going again due to the immense war machine we had to create.

Under every Congress of memory overspending has created the mess we are in today. The government has pawned our country to foreign interest. Most of those countries do not have our best interest at heart. The old saying, when you play with snakes you will get bitten pertains to this scenario quite nicely. They have borrowed from the World Bank from which China and other countries invest. A large part of our gross national product is owned by foreigners. We have become a nation of debtors instead of producers. The government and we as individuals have to realize we cannot spend ourselves into prosperity. We need to stop digging the debt hole deeper.

If the government truly wanted to help

people in poverty they would offer a hand up instead of a hand out. Most government programs are based on 1950-60's calculations. The poverty level for a family of four then may have been \$20,000. Today, a minimum of \$40,000 is considered low with the high prices of everything. Most government programs penalize families if they try to work their way out of poverty. If they earn one dollar more than allowed they will be removed from assistance. The catch 22 is that their new income doesn't support them without that help. They are in a perpetual state of despair with no way out.

The Christians of all denominations need to assist the government in the war on poverty. We as individuals in a Church need to become debt free, to build wealth, and then to help others. Offer scholarships to F.P.U. to those in the community that cannot afford the cost of the program. Volunteer your time and talents at a homeless shelter. Plant a little more garden than you need and then give the food away to those needing food. Sign up to be an active member of the social concerns committee in your church, or start one if it doesn't

Where In The Diocese Can You Have Pets Blessed On or Near St. Francis' Feast Day?

Would you like to know where people around Western Kentucky can have their pets blessed? *The Western Kentucky Catholic* asked parishes to let us know if there will be a Pet Blessing on or near October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis.

- **Brescia University** will be hosting a Pet Blessing on Monday, October 5, at 5 pm. It will be located in the Quad. Our contact person is Josh Clary, Alumni Relations Director, and he can be reached at 270-686-2111. All animals are welcome!

- **St. Francis de Sales Church** in Paducah will have a pet blessing on Saturday, October 3, at 10:00 a.m. We are having a pet washing in coordination with it. Douglas P. Arnold is the contact person for this at 270-442-1923.

- At **Saints Peter and Paul** in Hopkinsville, we have our Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 4, at 12:00-Noon in Mary's Garden. The local Humane Society comes and provides "doggy" bags of treats for all who participate. If folks need more information they can call Libby Downs at the parish office at (270) 885-8522.

- In Owensboro, the parish of **Sts. Joseph & Paul** will have a pet blessing on Sunday Oct 4, in the Church Parking lot at 4:00 pm

- At the parish of **St. Joseph in Mayfield, Ky.**, the Pet Blessing is Sunday, Oct. 4, at 5 pm in the church parking lot. Contact the church office at 270-247-2843

- In the parish of **St. Joseph in Bowling Green**, a Pet Blessing will be on Friday, October 2, at 8:00 am on the school playground.

- At **St. Romuald** parish, Hardinsburg, short Pet Blessing Service will be held on Sunday, September 27, at 8:30 am with our children in Religious Ed. K-6, and also on Friday, October 2, at the 9:00 am School Mass. Contact: Fr. Tony Bickett, 270/756-2356.

- **St. Anthony's, Axtel** will have a pet blessings on Wednesday Oct. 7, at 6.30pm after the Mass at. 1654 Hwy 79 S, Hardinsburg. Contact Fr Maxwell Okello at 270-257-2132.

The St. Anthony Messenger Press hosts a web site service each year so that people across the nation can know where they can have their pets blessed. This information is avail-



exist. Contribute money to nonprofit organizations purposed to helping the poor.

In short, become as Christ to the man or woman that fell prey to poverty.

I have written every Catholic Church in the Diocese of Owensboro to offer to help them set up a Financial Peace University program. Contact your church pastor, administrator, or finance committee to see what you can do to start a F.P.U. Also you may contact me at my email address: david.galloway@pastoral.org and I will be available to answer your questions and help you get started. Extend a hand to our Protestant brothers by sharing this article with them. You may be the one to keep them out of poverty

Our Bible contains God's inspired word. There are one hundred and fifty psalms and thirty one proverbs. He has given them to us for His glory and praise, and our help in time of trouble through His wisdom, if we will only listen to that still small voice within us.

PRE-CANA:

A ONE DAY MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$100 and the deadline to register is Friday, September 11, 2009. Registration can be completed and submitted online from the diocesan web site, www.rcdok.org. Click on Ministries and then go to Family Life under the Topical Index. Click on Pre-Cana under the Online Registration Forms found on the Family Services Home Page. Receipt of registration fee confirms your registration.

able on the AmericanCatholic.org Web site beginning in mid-September. Visitors can go online to www.AmericanCatholic.org/Webmasters/seasonal/petblessing.asp which has listings of Pet Blessing services by state.

When you see the two graphics at www.AmericanCatholic.org/Webmasters/seasonal/petblessing.asp shown here, click on one to find your state and locations for Pet Blessing Services.



Sister Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, “We maintain Catholic Education to nurture the Church, direct children toward the worshipping of God.”

By Mel Howard

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - Superintendent of Catholic Schools Jim Mattingly is really getting used to his role as leader of the diocesan Catholic educators. Mr. Mattingly convened the 2009 Professional Development Day for Diocesan Catholic Educators in the St. Mary's Parish Center July 24 with this call, “It's 9 o'clock, so let's settle down and get started. Good morning, and thank you for being here. The shortest summer in recorded history has come to an end and welcome to school year 2009-2010!”

In his opening remarks, Mr. Mattingly noted that across the nation Catholic School enrollment has declined 7.2% over the last five years. By contrast, in that same time period, enrollment in the Owensboro Diocesan Schools has increased by 1.8%. He thanked the Catholic educators for their roles in educating their students excellently and helping recruit other students and families into the diocesan schools.



School Sister of Notre Dame Clare Fitzgerald



Trinity High School teacher Ray Montgomery held the Sacramentary Book as Father Mike Clark proclaimed the prayer before the readings July 22 at St. Mary of the Woods Church.



Led by Joe Bland, left, as cantor and David Morris, right, playing violin and guitar, students in the group were Charlotte Morris and Mercedes Varble (at podium), cantors; JT Payne, Chris Hamilton, and Isaac Rhodes played rhythm, lead, and bass guitars; Caty Gerteisen played keyboard. Photos for this story by Mel Howard

The day began with Mass in St. Mary of the Woods Church at which Father Mike Clark, Diocesan Administrator, presided. The music ministry was provided by a group of Saint Mary/Trinity High School students and teachers. Led by Joe Bland as cantor and David Morris playing violin and guitar, students in the group were Charlotte Morris and Mercedes Varble, cantors; JT Payne, Chris Hamilton, and Isaac Rhodes played rhythm, lead, and bass guitars; Caty Gerteisen played keyboard.

Interestingly, when Mr. Jim Mattingly re-convened the educators after Mass, he echoed an unanimous feeling among the educators as he quipped, “If I had a glass of sweet tea and a lawn chair, I could listen to their music all afternoon!”

Father Mike Clark's homily this day centered on the reading from Exodus 20:1-17 about the Ten Commandments. He spoke about how youth in his parish of St. Anthony in Browns Valley which he has pastored the past seven years pantomime the Ten Commandments.

“How do you demonstrate honoring God,” he asked, and then described how the youth group “steps into a sense of mystery and awe” about Who God is as they share in this exercise. He said, “It is hard for us to espouse these readings (of the Ten Commandments) if not in the Word of God. As educators, you know that those who are called to teach and to serve observe every one of these Commandments. You not only have the capacity but also the commission to teach through your Christian action. If the Word which is Christ is truly animating us, we understand the freedom of God's guidance (in His Com-

mandments). When we grasp that, our lives are transformed. We blossom! May God's Word also dwell within you, bring life to you and those whom you touch with tender care.”

The day's keynote speaker, School Sister of Notre Dame Clare Fitzgerald whose field of expertise is Government, Politics, and Constitutional Law (She has 3 Ph.D.s) has taught on every level of education and was awarded in 2006 the Mother Seton Award as outstanding Catholic Educator in the USA by the National Catholic Educational Association. She teaches at two Jesuit Universities, Fairfield University in Connecticut where she chairs the Department of American Studies, and Boston College where she founded and directs The Catholic School Leadership Program.

In her two-part presentation, Sister Clare addressed two questions with diocesan Catholic educators: 1 - Why did they put up Catholic Schools in the first place? and 2 - Why do Catholic people want to keep Catholic Schools going?

After a brief history of Catholic Schools in the USA and the social and political adversity they endured in the USA during their early years (1884-1920), she described how Catholic School students changed during the years

1945 to 1975: “The students seem to challenge teachers - ‘tell me something I don't know, they told teachers. I'm gonna be a banker, a lawyer, a doctor, a CEO, and the only way is to get a good education.’ No more menial jobs for these kids! And so, educational communities looked at Catholic Schools and said,



Trinity High School principal Bill Hagan presented Sister Michele Mudd, OSU, principal of St. Paul School, with a certificate recognizing her 40 years of service in diocesan Catholic Schools.

Continued on
page 13

Speaker To Diocesan Catholic Educators: “You Were Meant To Be For This Teaching Moment In This Time.”

(Continued from page 12)

‘Get qualified, get the schools accredited,’” she said.

“The greatest success story of Catholic Education in the USA has been that our schools educated 6.2 million students who quickly climbed the social ladder because we (Catholic Schools) became academically adept. However, by 1975, 1980, 1990, into our own time, from the 6.5 million students in education in those 1970-1980s, we lost 4 million students! In 2009, we have 2.7 million students in Catholic schools nationally.

“In our souls and in our homes,” Sister Clare warned the educators, as she spoke and asked questions in her walking-about teaching style, “we (Catholic educators) are riding the razor’s edge of chaos and disorder. We don’t know what will happen in this 21st century!”

Sister Clare said that in the face of this future, Catholic Schools’ purpose remains the same as ever: A Catholic School is a place where everyone can encounter God in our Catholic story. By the end of this century Sister Clare said, non-whites will be a majority in the USA, which will experience much more non-Western thinking (Eastern and pagan), and will probably be a non-Christian world. “The purpose of Catholic Education in this environment is to help everyone encounter God. “Our schools, Sister Clare said, “MUST be a place where children and teachers can meet God, to pray. If not, nothing happens! We must provide for the encounter.

“There has to be an eternal significance to Catholic Education. If we lose our sense and our significance that we help kids encounter God, then we are in trouble. Parents send their children to Catholic schools for academics, safety, and discipline,” she said. “To be Catholic is to get a good education. Catholic is intellectual; it is a disciplining of the mind. The intellect is a gift of God. You and I have to hone it, sharpen it. To be Catholic is to be an intellectual.”

Because of this purpose, Sister Clare warned the educators, “To walk into a classroom unprepared is a violation of social justice. All life is a journey back to God, and we live in some of the most atheistic times. In the face of this culture, these times, We must give our students an alternative view of reality, that real-

ity has something to do with eternal life.”

Too many students in US Catholic Schools, Sister Clare said, “are uncalled (to holiness, discipleship, sacrifice), unaware (of the presence of God in their lives, that God loves us), and unreached by the real truth (Jesus said that if we follow Him, we will never die, and we live forever.”

“Who can do that?” Sister Clare asked. “Who can give you that deal? This is the real truth and Jesus said it. We are in a ministry of hope - we’re going Home some day! God is with us on our way Home. That’s the whole significance about Catholic Education. We are maintaining Catholic Education to nurture the Church, direct children toward the worshipping of God. We’re needed now more than we were ever needed. God has entrusted us with this moment in Salvation History. God put you in these kids’ way; you were meant to be for this teaching moment in this time.”

Sister Clare assured Diocesan Catholic educators that by their presence this day to worship, pray, and learn more about their career and ministry in Catholic education, they show their commitment to keep Catholic Schools going, and to make Catholic Schools places where students and families can encounter God. She remarked that our diocesan schools’ 1.8% increase in enrollment in the recent years is praiseworthy



Diocesan Schools Superintendent of Schools Jim Matingly with the 2009 Catholic Educator of the Year Mary Ann Wolfram, sixth grade teacher at Saint Joseph Elementary in Bowling green, Ky.

and “Keep up the good work.”

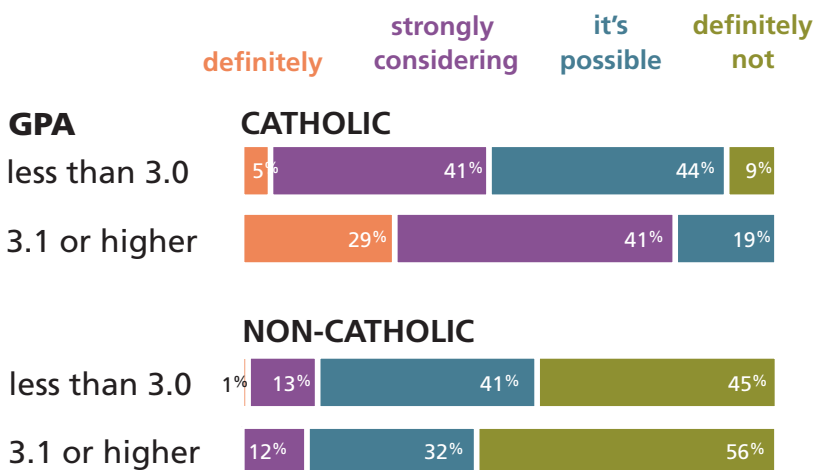
Sister Clare ended her talks that day with a story about the cost of being a disciple of Jesus. Sr. Clare shared about asking a cloistered Carmelite nun if her living apart from society in such need of social justice was in fact a waste. The aged nun paused silently and said, “When Mary Magdalene took that perfume that was so expensive to bathe and anoint the feet of Jesus, all about her said it was such a waste. But He never did!”

A life given in perfuming the Way of Jesus into children’s lives is not wasted; Sister Clare had not the slightest doubt. Leaving the center of the room, her final remark: “Goodbye, dearies! I’ll see you all in Heaven!”

Audience reaction? The diocesan Catholic Educators gave Sister Clare a standing ovation and prayed their commitment to Catholic Education with her.

HIGH-SKILL STUDENTS were less interested in Catholic education than their lower-skilled peers.

Are you considering attending a Catholic institution of higher education?



The questionnaire was taken between Nov. and Dec. 2008 by 4,300 prospective college students on lists provided by 13 colleges, 11 of which were Catholic institutions.

Source: Eduventures, Inc.

©2009 CNS

INTEREST IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

High-skill students were less interested in Catholic education than their lower-skilled peers, according to a survey conducted by Eduventures Inc., a Boston-based higher education research and consulting firm. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson) (July 6, 2009)

Really Good News

By Kurt Osborne, Assistant Principal, Owensboro Catholic High School

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Owensboro Catholic High School ACT scores are out for this past year’s graduating class. And the news is really, really good.

Last year’s seniors broke the all-time school record for ACT scores with an average of 22.6, eclipsing the previous high of 22.4 set by the class of 2006. We also outpaced the state by over 3 whole points. All but three members of the class of 2009 took the ACT.

This is a testament to the hard work and dedication that the faculty and staff put in on a daily basis, to their tireless efforts in the classroom, and to the curriculum mapping process. We are doing great things at OCHS to prepare our students for college, and beyond, as well as offer all the OCHS family experiences in daily faith formation, simply by the way we live.

Scores	OCHS	STATE
ENGLISH	23.4	18.8
MATH	21.7	19.0
READING	23.1	19.8
SCIENCE	21.9	19.7
COMPOSITE	22.6	19.4

Blessing of Instruments at Saint Jerome Church

FANCY FARM, Ky. - On June 28th, 2009, St. Jerome Church proudly blessed the newly renovated Kilgen Pipe Organ, New Baldwin Artist Grand Piano, and Miller Sanctuary Pipe Organ. Although plans for the project had been in process for years, work officially began on January 12th, 2009 with the removal of the old Kilgen Pipe Organ for restoration, and was completed in a timely manner through the effort of our previous pastor, Fr. David Willett. Project heads included the talented crew at Miller Pipe Organ Company in Louisville, Ky.

We celebrated not only our musical instruments, but also the fresh look the inside of the Church received from a complete repainting. Denis Wilson graciously agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to the wonders of Ray Black and Son Construction, M & M Painting, and some of our own parishioners, such as Gayla Elliott and Steve O'Guinn, we were able to complete this project by the Friday before Holy Week. On the day of the blessing many people were offered the opportunity to speak on behalf of their work or financial contributions. Jim Miller from Miller Pipe Organ Company offered some information about the two pipe organs and some of the work that went into making them. Bill Barras of Baldwin Piano and Organ Company in Herrin, Il. explained the making and construction of the new Baldwin Artist Grand Piano.

The contributions of some of the important people in the history of St. Jerome Parish were recognized. We dedicated the piano to the many years of dedicated service by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who had served our parish, school, and community in many ministries for close to 100 years. We were pleased to have several of the Sisters with us on the day of the blessing so that we could offer our appreciation for their service to our community, and Sr. Mary Elizabeth Miller spoke on behalf of the Sisters of Charity.

The Miller Pipe Organ was dedicated to the memory of Mary Christine Willett, who served Fancy Farm community as Postmaster for 30 years. The renovated Kilgen Pipe Organ was dedicated to the memory of Ethel Willett Hayden, who was the organist at St. Jerome for 30 years and was dedicated to teaching her many pupils and helping wherever needed in the church and school. Jerry Willett spoke in memory of his mother, Mary Christine Willett, and his aunt, Ethel Willett Hayden. We were pleased to have Very Reverend Michael Clark lead us in blessing the organs and



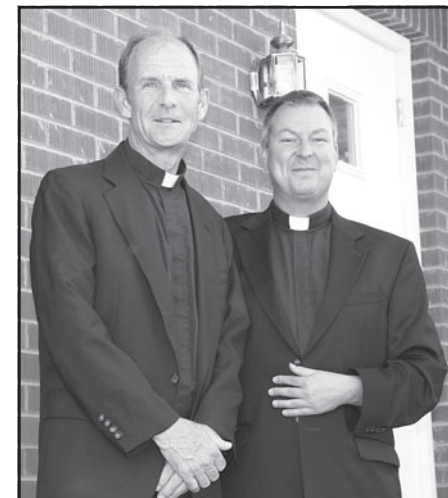
Kilgen Pipe Organ (restored)

piano with the help of our current parish administrator, Fr. Darrell Venters.



Console to Miller Pipe Organ

Music was led by several music directors in our diocese. Jim Hess, Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Thomas More in Paducah, performed several amazing organ compositions that truly made the organs speak. Angela Thome, Director of Music



Fr. Darrell Venters & Very Rev. J. Michael Clark



Baldwin Artist Grand Piano

Bishop Emeritus John McRaith Designated as Fancy Farm Picnic's Lifelong EmCee



Mark Wilson, the chair of the political component of the St. Jerome picnic, second from right, gave Bishop Emeritus John McRaith a plaque designating him as a Lifelong Master of Ceremonies for the St. Jerome Fancy Farm Picnic. In the picture is Fr. Darrell Venters, Bishop John and Lori Wilson. Submitted Photo

and Liturgy at St. Henry in Aurora and St. Stephen in Cadiz, also performed wonderfully on the piano. The author, Lacy Riddle, Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Jerome, sang with the accompaniment of Angela Thome. This was truly a blessed and historical occasion. For many years to come, we will be able to look at the church with pride and feel blessed to know that because of all of these people and God's wonderful blessings we are able to worship in such beauty and awe. We will continue to offer our many praises to God from whom all blessings truly flow forth.

Article written and submitted by Lacy Riddle, Director of Music and Liturgy- Fancy Farm, Ky. Pictures submitted by Jeanie Stamper

New Priests, Families, And Our Local Church Share The Joy of Fr. Daniel and Fr. Josh Entering Priestly Service

Editor's Note: The Western Kentucky Catholic asked Diocesan Serra Club members Larena Lawson and Lois Rutigliano to share with us a Serran's view of the May 30 ordinations for the Diocese of Owensboro.

By Larena Lawson

The Diocese of Owensboro has reason to be excited. On Saturday morning, May 30, two young deacons, Daniel Dillard and Josh McCarty, were ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith. It has been six long years since a priest has been ordained for the diocese and the joy that permeated every moment of that day and was witnessed by the hundreds who came from all over the diocese and beyond, and filled St. Stephen's Cathedral to capacity, doesn't stop there. These two young priests have now entered into their priestly service, a vocation that they have long sought, discerned, prayed for, and followed. All those years of formation have come to an end, but it is really just the beginning of their new life in Christ, as His priests, now anointed, and given power by the Holy Spirit, to be another Christ to others.

That excitement could be seen in the faces of all the families, friends, priests, deacons, and seminarians who came to see Deacons Daniel and Josh receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. For some, it was the very first ordination they've ever attended. For others who have attended several throughout the years, it still held high significance and cause for celebration. To be there among the faithful who came to support these men who have given of themselves so heroically, was very special. It was indeed an historic day for the Church of Western Kentucky.

The day broke with bright sunshine that helped fill people with emotion. As the time for the Ordination Mass approached, many people arrived in great anticipation of the grand and holy celebration. A big charter bus came and parked in front of the Cathedral. It had come a long way, from the home parish of Deacon Josh McCarty, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. Deacon Josh could be seen proudly greeting every single passenger with a hello and a hug as they unloaded. The overwhelming support that his parish gave him was inspiring, and could be seen in the smiles they wore for the occasion and the loving embraces that each gave Deacon Josh.

The joy just couldn't be suppressed. As the families of the deacons arrived, to the triumphant sound of the choir practicing their singing in full harmony, they



Bishop John McRaith laid hands on Deacon Josh McCarty, above left, Deacon Daniel Dillard, center, in the Ordination Rite May 30, 2009 in St. Stephen Cathedral. At top right, Fr. Josh McCarty's sister, Sr. Martina McCarty, prayed the Rosary just before the Ordination Mass started. At lower right, Deacons Josh and Daniel prostrated themselves on the Cathedral floor during the singing of the Litany of the Saints. Below at right, Father Josh McCarty hugs Bishop John McRaith shortly after the vesting part of the Ordination Rite. Below at left, Father Daniel Dillard hugs Bishop John McRaith who seems very joyful and in awe as he greets the diocese's newest priests. Photos by Lois Rutigliano



took their reserved seats of honor in the front pews. Deacon Daniel, a native of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, greeted his mother, Ranni Dillard, with a warm, tender hug, as his father, James Dillard awaited his turn. The glow of her motherly love radiated into beautiful smiling eyes that clearly expressed how proud she must have been at that very moment. The night before, at a potluck gathering held before a Eucharistic holy hour of prayer for the deacons, Ranni asked Deacon Daniel what side of the church their family would be sitting on. He told her, "on Mary's side." She responded with happiness and pointed out that they would be seated on the 'bride's side' (the statue of Mary's side). Just as a bride commits to her bridegroom in the wedding rite, her son was going to be ordained, and committing himself to Jesus, the greatest of bridegrooms, and His bride, the Church, in the Rite of Ordination. And what a day



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Entering Priestly Service *(Continued from page 15)*

of celebration it turned out to be!

The entrance procession of the Holy Mass began with the glorious singing of "O God Beyond All Praising." The powerful crescendo gave you goose bumps as you watched the two young deacons enter the church, just ahead of the some sixty priests and Bishop John who came to support their soon-to-be brother priests. It was all happening because of a co-operation with God's will in the lives of two young men, and God was giving the Diocese of Owensboro a very special gift.

The Rite of Ordination called forth the two candidates for ordination to come before Bishop John McRaith. After Father Andy Garner, Owensboro Diocesan Vocation Director, presented them and answered all of the Bishop's questions affirmatively, Bishop John said, "Relying on the help of the Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ, we choose these, our brothers, for the Order of Priesthood." All the people then consented with a lively approval of applause.

Then Bishop John gave his homily and reminded Deacons Daniel and Josh that God had called them forth on a mission of ministry and they don't go out by themselves. He assured them, "We gathered here to let you know we will pray for you and love you." After listening to Bishop John's proud and encouraging words, the deacons knelt before him to promise their individual obedience to the bishop and his successors.

The elect then prostrated themselves before the altar as a Litany was sung. As they lay in reverent stillness and in total, humble submission before the Lord, a beautiful song of rejoicing filled the air. The ordination program described this moment, "In the Communion of Saints, all members of Christ's Body, of all times, nations, peoples and languages, in heaven and on earth, cry out in one voice. The Church asks the Father to pour out upon the elect the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the power of priestly grace," a very powerful and emotionally moving supplication.

After the Litany of the Saints, came time for the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination. Just as during the time of the Apostles, Bishop John laid his hands upon the elect and called upon the Holy Spirit. All of the priests present joined the Bishop in laying their hands upon the elect, as a sign of unity and encouragement. Bishop John then prayed the prayer of consecration and the candidates were ordained.

The Rite of Ordination continued with the Investiture. The new priests, Father Daniel Dillard and Father Josh McCarty



were vested with stoles and chasubles. Father Daniel's mother, Ranni, lovingly made his chasuble for him, taking care to make it extra special, embellishing it with a golden Marian crown, star and leafy stems on the breast of the beautiful blue and cream material. Father Josh's chasuble was given to him by John and Charlotte Sterrett, family members from Augusta, Georgia. The chasuble has blue and cream colors as well, with an image of

In the above pictures are some of our diocesan seminarians who served the May 30 ordination Mass: from left, Will Thompson, Steve Hohman, Brandon Williams, and at right, Uwem Enoh.

The facial expressions of Fr. Josh's sister, Sr. Martina McCarty, and his brother, Justin McCarty, below, show their pride in their brother on his day of Ordination. Photos by Lois Rutigliano



Our Lady of Guadalupe gracing its back. It has a label stitched to the inside with their names written on it. Someone said that the reason was so Father Josh would keep them close to his heart in prayer. These were the new priests' first worn vestments, saturated with symbolism, adorning the new priests, clothing them in the attire of the Sacred Order of Holy Priesthood. One could not help but feel so proud of them. The priests who vested them were chosen for the special significance they had in their lives and their formation. Father Ken Mikulcik vested Father Daniel and Father Richard Cash and Father John Thomas had the honor to vest Father Josh.

Following the Investiture was the Anointing of Hands. "Throughout the Old Testament and into the New Testament, the rite of anointing has symbolized the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. As a sign of their commission to serve within the community of the baptized, the priests' hands are anointed on the palms with Holy Chrism," stated the program. After the joyful singing of Alleluias, the handing over of the Bread and Wine took place. The gifts were brought to the altar by the parents of Father Daniel and Father Josh; James and Ranni Dillard and Greg and Cynthia McCarty.

Bishop John then presented the newly ordained with the chalice filled with wine and the paten filled with bread. After this solemn segment of the Rite of Ordination, the ceremonial rite concluded with a Kiss of Peace. Bishop John gave each newly ordained a fraternal kiss of peace, followed by all of the priests doing the same. It seemed to be a special time of a spiritual bonding of the clergy that welcomed the new priests into their brotherhood. At the conclusion of the Rite of Ordination within the Mass, the rest of the Holy Mass resumed with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Every detail of the Mass stood out. This was the first Mass that Father Daniel and Father Josh concelebrated as priests. From the point of their ordination everything they did, they would do as priests. They had been transformed into another Christ for others. Their hands had been anointed; they had received the Sacrament of Holy Orders. They were now priests and would be priests forever. It was a great blessing to see them stand behind the altar with Bishop John and all the other priests, as priests themselves. When they prayed their part of the Eucharistic prayer, surely the heavens, with all the angels and saints, were rejoicing with all those there, that God called these two young priests forward to continue His work on earth.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop

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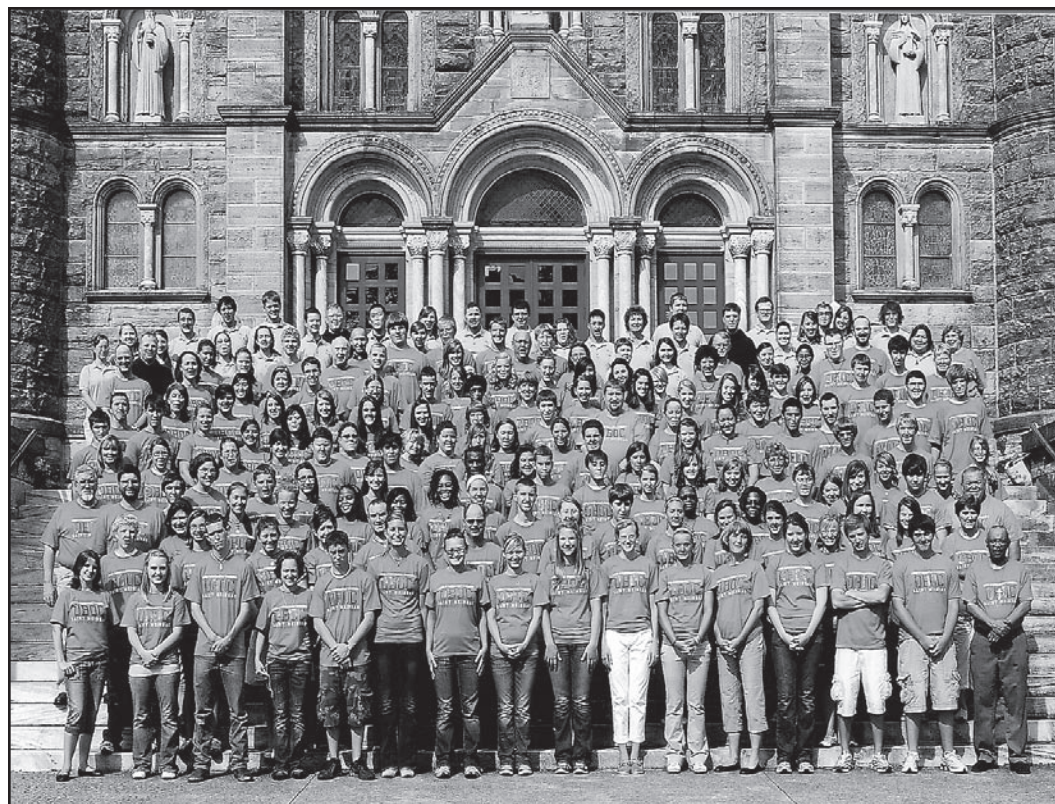
Submitted by Tom Malewitz

Youth from St. Anthony the Abbot, St. Mary of the Woods, and St. Romuald parishes in Breckinridge County attended the “One Bread, One Cup” Summer Liturgical Leadership Conferences for High School Youth and Campus and Youth Ministers on the campus of Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, IN, this past July 6th through 10th.

During the five-day conference, the youth learned about their Catholic faith through sessions of catechesis, liturgical and spiritual formation, and participation in liturgies. They also trained in liturgical ministries, such as lector, Eucharistic minister, and cantor, learning skills that they can use in their parishes and high schools.

During our week at One Bread, One Cup we were among over 150 participants through the US (including: California, Hawaii, Wyoming...) and Mexico, who lived in the dorms and prayed with the monks of St. Meinrad. Throughout the week, we had formation in prayer, theology classes, community activities (including: ultimate frisbee, a variety show), and more. The theme was: Word - Sacrament - Mission. The conference focused on our need to be more Christ-like, not just by going to church, but taking Christ to the world at the conclusion of Mass. The conference helped the youth become familiar with: Eucharistic adoration, lectio divina, the Liturgy of the Hours, and an in-depth understanding of the prayers of the Mass.

The “One Bread, One Cup” conference is held three times each summer as a program of Saint Meinrad School of Theology. The school is operated by the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and offers initial and continuing education for priests, permanent deacons, and lay ministers. For more information, visit the Web site: oboc.saintmeinrad.edu.



Entering Priestly Service *(Continued from page 16)*

John McRaith had a long list of thank yous. He offered special gratitude to the parents and families of the new priests, asking them to stand to be duly recognized. All were then invited to a reception in the basement of the Pastoral Center, sponsored by the Owensboro Serra Club, with the help of the Knights of Columbus. There the celebration continued, with good food, fellowship, many offerings of congratulations and gifts, with laughter, smiles, and tears of joy galore.

Oh, what a glorious day! You could even receive a special first blessing from the new priests, an ordination tradition, if you wanted to wait in the long receiving lines. It was worth the wait, to witness these young priests already entering their priestly service by spreading the message of God’s love through their prayers and holy blessings.

Certification For Religious Educators Of The Diocese Of Owensboro

From the Owensboro Diocesan Office of Faith Formation

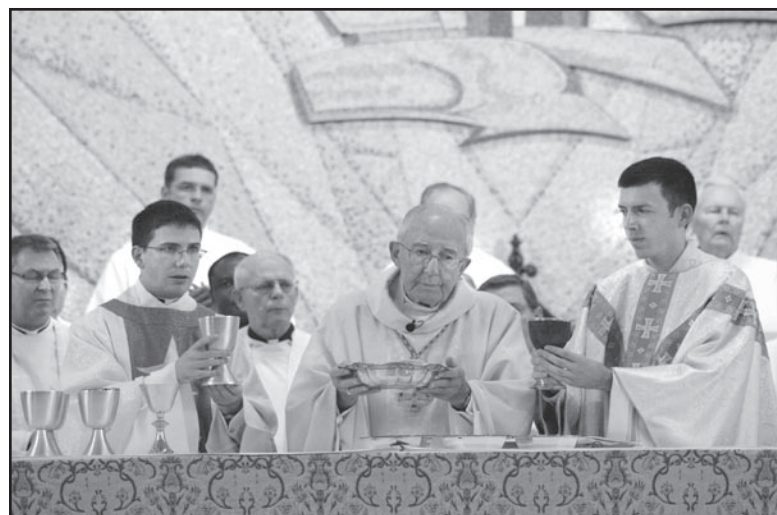
Catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith and, for this reason, are called to ongoing spiritual formation. The catechist should continue his or her own spiritual formation through frequent reception of the sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Penance and Reconciliation, through spiritual direction, and through continued study of the faith. The catechist should also be provided with opportunities for spiritual growth such as retreats, conferences, etc. In addition to spiritual formation, the catechist is also in need of pedagogical formation especially as society, teaching methods, and culture change.
NDC Ch 8, C

The certification process exists to certify persons in their catechetical ministries to adults, youth or children in the Diocese of Owensboro. This process fosters the acquisition of appropriate applied knowledge and skills, and the continued faith formation of catechists. The Office of Faith Formation assists the Bishop in his responsibility “to see to it that catechists are duly prepared to fulfill their tasks correctly, namely, that continuing formation is made available to them, that they acquire a proper knowledge of the Church’s teaching, and that they learn in theory and in practice the norms proper to the pedagogical disciplines.” (Canon 780)

In order to help enhance the Catechetical Ministry within the diocese, the Owensboro Diocesan Office of Faith Formation will be offering classes that will lead toward Entry Level and Basic Level certification at St. John’s in Paducah. According to diocesan guidelines, the Entry Level is required for Parish Catechist and those beginning ministry in the Catholic schools as formal and informal catechists. It is also required for those coming into the diocese with certification from another diocese. It is highly recommended that all catechists of adults, youth, children and RCIA attain the Basic Level of Certification. Catholic school (formal) catechists are required to attain this level within two years of employment.

The Intermediate Level will be offered in Owensboro at the Catholic Pastoral Center and also at St. Joseph’s in Mayfield, KY. This level focuses on development in various areas of theology.

We are requesting that you pre-register so that we will have plenty of materials. Cost is \$5 per class. Please send in the form or contact Donna Biggs at 683-1545 or donna.biggs@pastoral.org.



Fathers Daniel Dillard, left, and Josh McCarty elevated the cup at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer during the Ordination Mass May 30, 2009 in St. Stephen Cathedral. Photo by Larena Lawson

Owensboro Man Receives \$20,500 Grant To Pursue Vocation

Organization Assumes Student Debts for Individuals Entering Religious Formation

The *Mater Ecclesiae Fund* for Vocations (MEFV) announced August 1, 2009 that Charles D. DeLacey of Owensboro has been awarded a St. Joseph Student Debt Relief Grant. Mr. DeLacey will begin his formation with the Discalced Carmelite Friars in San Jose, CA on September 1, the Feast of the Carmelite Saint, St. Teresa Margaret Redi of the Most Sacred Heart.

Known in his Catholic elementary and high school years in Owensboro as "Dusty," Mr. DeLacey studied theology for two years at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he realized that God was calling him to the Priesthood and to the Carmelite Friars. The only obstacle to his entry was his student loan.

The MEFV will make monthly payments on Mr. DeLacey's student loan throughout his years of formation, with a guarantee that the debt will be fully paid by the fifth anniversary of his solemn vows.

The MEFV is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, founded in 2006 to remove the serious obstacles that student loans present to individuals who seek to answer God's call to consecrate themselves in the priesthood or religious life.

Because of the vow of poverty, people entering religious life must be free of all debt. However, the high cost of a college education means that many young people



Charles (Dusty) DeLacey photo by Fr. James Geoghegan, OCD during his first visit to San Jose.

must take student loans to attend college, and the difficulty of paying off these loans -- often tens of thousands of dollars -- can delay or in some cases prevent many qualified individuals from responding to their vocation to religious life.

For its summer 2009 application period, the MEFV received 28 applications, but was able to issue only eight grants, due

to limited funds. "We wish we could have awarded grants to all our candidates. The Church needs these young men and women serving in the priesthood and religious life," said Corey Huber, executive director of the MEFV. "Unfortunately, there were not enough funds available for all."

Additional information about the program can be obtained by visiting the Fund for Vocations' website at <http://fund-forvocations.org/>.

Ed.Note: Dusty wrote to us, "Please beg the readers to storm Heaven with a deluge of prayers for me, I certainly need all the prayer I can get. I will be entering the Postulancy on August 22nd, the Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary and will receive the Holy Habit and begin my Novitiate on February 2nd, the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For more information on the Order of Discalced Carmelites, the web sites are www.discalcedcarmelites.com and www.ocdwest.org.

MEFV spokesperson Katherine Huber added, "We hope that The Western Kentucky Catholic readers will pray for us, as well. We pray every day that God will send us the resources we need to do the work He has given us to do.



Dusty DeLacey carrying the Cross as he was preparing to serve Holy Mass at the Summer Conferences at Franciscan University.

Vacation Bible School Celebrates Life, Teachings of Saint Paul

Submitted by Ellen Frances Lenihan

Monday, June 29, 2009, marked the end of the Pauline year--a special year set aside by Benedict XVI to honor St. Paul. To celebrate the life and teachings of this great apostle to the Gentiles, the Parishes of St. Denis (Fancy Farm) and St. Charles (Bardwell) conducted a joint Vacation Bible School based on the later years of St. Paul. Paul's fervent love for Jesus and his commitment to the good news were influential in the phenomenal growth of the early church in Asia Minor. The words of his teachings carry on speaking to us today...and we hope to our children.

St. Paul (played faithfully by Fr. Masi) sat in his prison in the very shadow of the Roman guard and sword. Even though he was imprisoned, he was able to communicate with those families who risked visiting him. He shared with

the children the message of the great love of God.

The children also got to experience the underground Church--with emphasis on the Eucharist and the early persecution of Christians...as well as a Roman Marketplace and crafts.

Pope Benedict, in his opening remarks for the Pauline year, stated: "In the Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul...reveals what was the most intimate drive of his life: 'I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.' (Gal 2:20) All Paul's actions begin from this center. His faith is the experience of being loved by Jesus Christ in a very personal way...Paul's faith is being struck by the love of Jesus Christ, a love that overwhelms him to his depths and transforms him."

Our prayer for each child who attended this VBS is they will, with Paul, be able to say: "I have kept the faith." (2Tim 4:7)



Two Youth Awarded for Christian Leadership

Submitted by Steven Reine

The Student Leader in Ministry Award (SLIM) is given to outstanding juniors or seniors who demonstrate leadership in their community, school, parish, and diocese. Candidates are nominated from



Father Chrispin Oneko, pastor of St. Columba, Lewisport, and Immaculate Conception, Hawesville, presented SLIM awards to Tyler Powers, at left, and Jaclyn Long, above. Submitted photos

each parish and 2 from each deanery are chosen. This year we in the Hancock County Catholic parishes have the honor to present the awards to Tyler Powers and Jaclyn Long. Below is a short synopsis of their nominations naming only some of their activities.

Tyler Powers, a junior, has been active in ministry for several years. He is involved in his parish by serving as a Eucharistic Minister and choir member. He is the first to volunteer with VBS, is actively involved in our local youth group and the activities and fundraisers they do. He helps with church picnics, fundraisers and participates in other parish events. He sings in the Diocesan Choir, works the Mt. St. Joseph Picnic, volunteers yearly with the Diocesan Middle School Lock-in, and has been to our Diocesan summer camps, NCYC, and World Youth Day.

Jaclyn Long, also a junior, has been

active in ministry for several years. She is involved in her school as a class officer and a member of the basketball and track teams. In her parish, she serves as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. She volunteers with VBS and is involved in our local youth group and their activities and fundraisers. She volunteers for the church picnic, Relay for Life, and Repair Affair. She has attended our Diocesan summer camps, NCYC, and our Diocesan World Youth Day events.

Both candidates are active members of their school, parish and diocese. Our youth are alive and a part of our parish. They all have gifts to contribute and we adults must nurture them and encourage them to use their gifts now in the present. We are proud of all our youth and we congratulate Tyler and Jaclyn on receiving this prestigious award.

Immaculate Conception/St. Columba Vacation Bible School - Crocodile Dock

Hawesville & Lewisport, Ky. - The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School was Crocodile Dock. From July 27 to the 30th, as many as 50 children from both Immaculate Conception and St Columba attended. They enjoyed making crafts, singing songs, playing games, eating snacks, and performing skits.



Above, totally Catholic Crawfish Crafts and Missions. Above and at right, Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School. Submitted photos

Stand Up for Life

On Sunday, October 4, 2009, (Respect Life Sunday) please come join many others from the Owensboro area by "Standing Up for Life." Participants will pray and display posters with Pro-Life messages along Frederica Street in Owensboro from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. as part of LIFE CHAIN 2009 which will be taking place in over 1000 cities and towns across the USA and Canada that day.

You will be standing to pray for an end to abortion and for the babies, women and men who are victims of abortion. The posters will be available on that day at 2:00 p.m. in the Right to Life of Owensboro office located at 1115 Tamarack, Suite 200, across from the back parking lot of Boardwalk (formerly Texas Gas).

Locations for various groups will be given to them when picking up the signs or by calling Gerry Fanning at (270) 683-1760.



Catholic by Grace

Back To School

By Denise Bossert

My husband John was pushing forty when he entered the Church. His Uncle Carl made the same faith journey a few years earlier, when he was nearly seventy. Both the uncle and the nephew had Catholic wives, but that wasn't the reason they converted. If that had been their reason, they would have done it much sooner. The real fact of the matter is that Carl and John entered the Church because they had teachable hearts, which eventually gave grace an open door.

Both men are intelligent and highly educated. Without exaggeration, they are the brightest men I know. When I asked John why he finally decided to become Catholic, this is what he said:

"I realized that I was thinking about it all wrong. There I was, studying for my doctorate degree, going to class, and listening to professors, and I trusted that these men and women were able to teach me what I need to know. I put faith in the university's ability to confer degrees on those who attend their institution. It never crossed my mind to ask myself if the



St. Mary's, Mary Carrico, and Trinity High School faculty and staff attended a retreat day on August 6 at Gasper River. We spent the day in prayer and participating in team building activities to help get the new school year started. Above, the 2009-10 Staff of THS, MCMS, and SMS. Submitted by Allison Brant.

instructors were qualified and whether or not I should believe they have the credentials to teach. My job was to show up for class and to be teachable."

Then John summarized his epiphany by saying, "The Catholic Church is over 2,000 years old. The men and women who passed on the faith have

been at this faith-thing a long time. The least I can do is trust that they are qualified to hand on the faith to me. I simply needed to show up and be teachable."

John's uncle is a man of few words. When asked why he finally became Catholic, he just said, "Don't you think it's about time?"

That kind of midlife (or end-of-life) change in direction requires humility. There's no room for self-satisfaction. There's no room for complacency. One must reclaim that childlike hunger for learning. But the challenge isn't just for those outside the faith. Even

the faithful within the Church sometimes lose the joy of learning. All too often, Catholics stop studying their faith once they are confirmed. I've heard some non-practicing Catholics say they just stopped going to Mass as a family after the youngest child received First Communion or went through Confirmation.

That is a tragedy. Shortly after being sealed with the Holy Spirit, they put their books on a shelf and let their faith atrophy. The parents proclaimed mission accomplished and the children said that's cool.

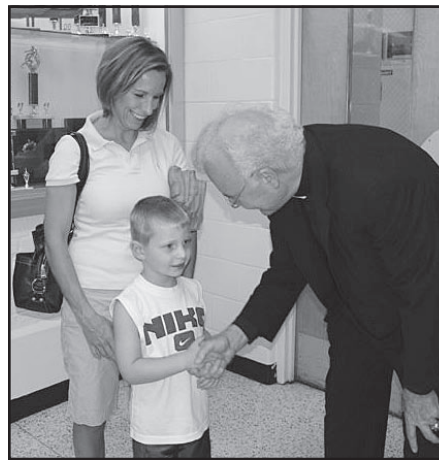
Maybe you have kept the faith better than that. Maybe that doesn't accurately describe your situation. Great. Even so, there is almost always room for growth.

When was the last time you came to Mass and entered into the Liturgy with deep longing? When was the last time you showed up at Holy Hour and quietly listened for Our Lord's voice, confident that He was glad to see you and wanted to commune with you? When did you last pause for quiet time, pick up a spiritual book, read the life of a Saint, or join a Bible study? When was the last time you did any of those things with the words on your lips, "Today, I want to learn more. I will be teachable. I will become like a little child."

You are never too old to become a student of the faith. What do you think? Visit catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.



Opening Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Elementary, Hopkinsville, August 7. Marley Thomas and Joseph Whitfill are two eighth grade lectors; the priests seated at right are, LtoR: Fr. Anthoni Ottagon, Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Fr. John M Thomas. Photo courtesy of Jim Mattingly.



Coming to Orientation! Father Bradley, Pastor of Holy Name Church and School, greets kindergarten student Sloan French and his mom, Kim. Sloan attended the school last year in the school's new pre-K facility. HNS Photo

Rural Life Award given to “a most humble servant leader”

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eth remembered how Father John taught him and many others in their hometown “a respect for the land; he really teaches us that.”

Daviess County farmer Bill Kuegel recounted times serving on the Brescia University Board of Directors with Bishop John. “He talks a lot about the family farm. I remember when my wife died, he called me to ask how I was doing: ‘Bill, are you hurting?’ he asked me. I said ‘Yes, a lot.’ He said, ‘Well, if you’re hurting, I’m hurting.’” As with most of the other speakers this night, Mr. Kuegel is not given to exaggeration or showing much emotion in public, but pulled out the stops to talk about Bishop John: “We appreciate everything you have done for us in western Kentucky. If we can do anything for you, just call on us. You’re my friend. I love you like a brother!”

Another Daviess County farmer, Billy Joe Miles, a man very accustomed to speaking in public in the media and from podiums around the world, said Emcee Rick Kamuf, recounted how Bishop John has influenced many people’s lives. He shared that Bishop John is “so sneaky when he is asking you something. And you agree even before knowing what it is you’re agreeing with!” Miles said that there are at least 50 more people a year being saved at the Owensboro Mercy Health System’s heart unit which Bishop John encouraged be advanced and improved from his time on that hospital’s board. “He’s brought many different religions together,” Miles shared. “He said one time that we all can be going to heaven if we live right and do the right things, but we all don’t have to ride the same buses.” Miles concluded, “I feel blessed that I got to know him. He was one of those people who helped things along from the background; he was not in the headlines.”

Father Brad Whistle shared how priests of our diocese back in 1982 wondered if this priest from the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, soon to be our third bishop, could understand the ways of life in rural Western Kentucky. We all here have family and live by family values, many of us on farms or from farming backgrounds. Would someone from up North, from Minnesota, understand us? Fr. Brad said, “We soon found that this man from Hutchison, Mn. could be very much at home among us in Western Kentucky. Ours was also his way of life in Hutchison. He has a trailer at St. Raphael’s. He has a garden under the weeds! He doesn’t like anyone to take his first tomato of the year. Fr. Brad shared Bishop John’s love



Father Ed Bradley, pastor of Holy Name Church in Henderson, brought many smiles to people’s faces during his talk about Bishop Emeritus John McRaith and pictured him wearing a straw hat working in his garden, driving a tractor, and in overalls, “a most humble servant leader.” Photo by Mel Howard

of horses, particularly his Clydesdales bought at an Amish auction, and which pulled many wagonloads of visitors to the farm at St. Raphael’s - people of all ages, intellects, physical and emotional abilities, all faiths, and all careers. Fr. Brad spoke of how Bishop John loved to cook for visitors and for many deserving fund raisers. He encouraged Bishop John who is revered for his dinners served on the back porch of his trailer at St. Raphael’s to think about cooking something other than chicken! Father Brad recounted a little known story about Bishop John’s compassion for people. It became a commonplace among diocesan priests who would be visiting him late into the night to hear knocks on the back door. “Bishop John,” Fr. Brad said, “could tell you who it was at the door just from the time and from the sound of the knock. He was that used to receiving people at his door coming to see him about a need.”

Fr. Brad Whistle ended his time at the podium saying, “Bishop John has taught us to be good stewards of all that God our Creator has given us, the land, the dirt,

for these past 27 years.”

Bishop John’s good friend and farm helper at St. Raphael’s, Mike Thompson, with his wife, Chloa, said that he met Bishop John through the process of the consolidation of the Catholic Schools of Owensboro: “Through his insistence and his support, we have a strong, vibrant Catholic School system in the City of Owensboro today.” Mike recounted that they bought Mike the horse at an Amish auction and together cared for Mike and two other horses, Nosy, and Maggie; only Maggie is still at the farm. On another topic, Thompson said, “He (Bishop John) would never say anything bad about any other person; he truly loved his enemies. Thompson shared how Bishop John’s sister Janey once said to him, “Isn’t he just the perfect guy?” And then Bishop John’s mother also said to Thompson, “Isn’t Johnny such a great guy?” Thompson looked at Bishop Emeritus John and said, “Bishop, that’s a lifetime achievement in itself!” He shared a few other stories about their friendship as being tested by fire, for

example of the time when Thompson told Bishop John an electric fence was off and it wasn’t: “Bishop, I have to tell you that was a funny sight! But I honestly didn’t know the fence was on.”

Perhaps echoing the thoughts of many in the Sportscenter this night, Mike Thompson ended saying, “Bishop John, you’re a man I look up, admire, try to emulate. You will always stand tall, Bishop John, scholar, farmer and friend. Cloa and I love you. We all love you.”

An OCHS graduate and son of a family farmer, Houston Kamuf was the night’s final speaker. Houston thanked Bishop John for all he did for him, and for all in the rural life community. Houston spoke of how the Bishop liked to bring his tractor to OCHS tractor day, and even when he didn’t, he liked to make that day just to see the tractors and talk to the OCHS student driver-operators. “He liked to get in the cab of the tractor I drove to school and see how it operated. So, Bishop John, here’s a tractor like that one, just for you.” He then drove a remote-controlled John Deere

Continued on page 23

Adopted by Orphans

By Tami Schneider

July began with a bang. No, not the bang of 4th of July fireworks, but the bang of luggage thrown onto a conveyor belt as we boarded the plane to Arizona. The great southwest awaited us. Several hours later, my roommate, Katie Riney and I, landed in Tucson, AZ, and headed by car for the great divide, the US/Mexico border. We were going on a Mission Trip with Singles Serving Orphans. I found out about this organization through a friend up in Michigan, who saw them advertised at the National Catholic Young Adult Conference in Chicago last fall. After taking a look at their website, Katie and I decided to go.

Everything about the southwest was so different! The endless miles of dirt, cactus and minimal vegetation. All was dry and brown. As we crossed the border, no one seemed to care. We showed no passport, no ID, and didn't even get stopped. Immediately, the scenery changed again. Tin and wooden shanties dotted the hillside. Stray dogs roamed the streets. Laundry hung out to dry. Vendors approached stopped vehicles. How can life be so different because of a country's name?? For these people, a few yards difference means a world of difference.

As soon as we arrived at Casa de Elizabeth orphanage in Imuris, Mexico, one of the missionaries called us out to the shaded dirt to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Several of the children accompanied us, sitting on our laps and listening quietly. The next few days were full of scraping, painting, soccer, basketball, meal preparation and serving, and lots and lots of hugs. It was hot. There were bugs. We sweated. We toiled. We gave. We received. We loved. Singles Serving Orphans has one thing right: single people need children too. We need to experience the embrace of tiny arms with big hearts. We are all called to be mothers and fathers in some way.

Katie and I felt at home right away with the other missionaries, and the children picked their favorites. It seems each of us had a "shadow" for the weekend. Banki for Dave, Delia for Katie, María de Jesús for me, Jaime for Judy. They would follow us around and ask us questions and offer to help with whatever we were doing. Dave Sloan, co-founder of Singles Serving Orphans, says: "Orphans and singles, singles and orphans, you bring the two together and it's like a nuclear bomb of love, a miracle potion. Orphans and singles are like two sides of the same coin, two halves of the same whole, a perfect fit. When we meet for the first time it's more like we're finding each other again after a long separation, a type of homecoming."

As our time together came to an end, we shared our experiences back at the hotel in Tucson. No, not of the two hours it took to cross the border back into the land of the free and the home of the brave. Not of waving down an ice cream man for one last fruit popsicle. Not of tacos and tamarind drinks. No, we shared how the experience affected our hearts and impacted our lives. Dave Sloan, co-founder of Singles Serving Orphans, said it best: "I'm not worried about the kids. They have each other. I'm worried about each of you, who when you go back home will be all alone."

This mission trip was proof to me that the best things truly do come in small packages. These children were small in so many ways. Perhaps they did not have family or an abundance of clothing and toys. They didn't have princess canopy beds or the latest versions of Nintendo. They had worn-out soccer balls and rode in big plastic cars whose wheels were bent every which way and barely rolled. But their hearts were huge, their bodies were active, and their minds wandered. They were happy... perhaps much happier than many of us. Their needs are provided for and as Dave said, they have each other.

They say it is more blessed to give than to receive, and that once you do give, you often receive more than you give. I also found this to be true. Sure, I spent several hours scraping and painting and sweeping in the heat, but the smiles and the hugs of the abandoned were worth so much more. Dave has it right. We singles feel the same way. So often we feel alone or abandoned and the love we were able to give these children was given right back to us. "This is the greatest miracle of the Singles Serving Orphans missions: The love we find in our encounters with the orphans is a love that binds us to one another with an eternal force," Dave says. "We are not alone. We belong to one another, and we belong to the children. This is what it means to be adopted by orphans."

For more information or to participate in a mission trip, take a look at www.godsfamily.net or check out Dave's blog on www.catholicthrive.com.

Have you visited www.rcdok.org yet?



Katie Riney and I played soccer with the children for over two hours. Final score: 30-29! The next day they won first place in a soccer tournament! Photo by Tami Schneider.



Delia became Katie Riney's "shadow" for the mission trip, always wanting to be by her and spend time with her. Photo submitted by Katie Riney.



2-year-old Natan was the youngest of the bunch, here pictured on the author's lap. Katie Riney photo.



During the mission trip, Katie Riney (left), Fabiola Leyva, and the author (right), together with 8 other missionaries, from Texas, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, and Minnesota renovated one of the children's classrooms. We scraped and repainted the ceiling and walls. Another missionary group present was busy gutting and redoing the entire kitchen. After sanitizing and sealing the walls, floors, and ceiling, they will bring in all new appliances. With each of these projects, the missionaries hope for a better quality of life for the 70 children at Casa de Elizabeth. T.S. photo.

Taking a break around 3:00pm, the missionaries prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy right on the job site. The children who were helping with our projects or just happened to be around, came in and prayed with us. We prayed half in English and half in Spanish so they could follow along, since most of them did not speak any English. A few moments later and it was back to work again! We were able to finish the room in less than a day! Photo by Tami Schneider.



Rural Life Award *Continued from page 21*

a tractor like that one, just for you.” He then drove a remote-controlled John Deere dual-wheel 4WD tractor to the Bishop’s table.

Bishop John thanked the rural life community for their friendship, their support for him, their love, and assured them of his continuing love, prayers, support, and friendship.

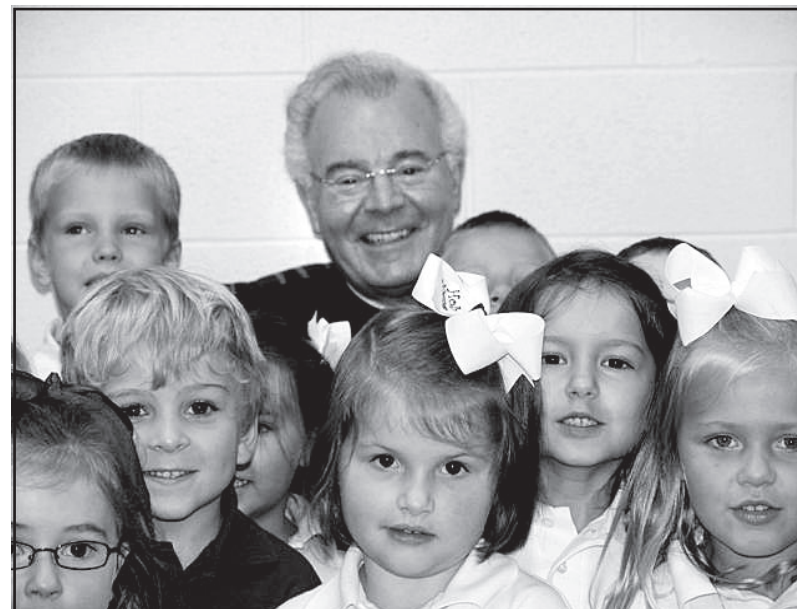
Mike and Cloa Thompson presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith as EmCee Rick Kamuf looked on at back. In photo at far right, Joe Elliott and Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, spoke of Bishop John’s accomplishments as our diocese’s third bishop. The OCHS FFA Chapter gave Bishop John



honorary Chapter membership. The Daviess County HS and OCHS FFA groups shared the tasks of serving the banquet. Mel Howard Photos



Seated in the picture above, are from left, Johnathan Howard(DC), Desirae Peacock (DC), Brian Welch (DC), Joenelle Futrell (DC) Kaylee Murphy (OC) Matthew Franey (OC) and Matt Jacobs (OC) Photos by Mel Howard



Where’s Father Bradley?

Holy Name’s new kindergarten students in Mrs. Kim’s class surrounds Father Bradley on the first day of school to get their picture made with him. Father Bradley visited the school on the first day to welcome all the students to the new year! Holy Name School Photo

Top Ten Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools

In challenging economic times, why should parents choose a Catholic education for their children? NCEA President Karen Ristau asked the 60 members of NCEA’s department executive committees to give their responses. Here are their top ten reasons.

Catholic elementary and high schools offer:

1. Catholic tradition and academic excellence in a community grounded in a common faith.
2. Balanced curriculum including art, music and fitness.
3. Emphasis on moral development, service to others and leadership skills.
4. A 99 percent graduation rate in Catholic high schools.
5. Strong preparation for further education.
6. Safe and disciplined environment.
7. Exceptional faculty who help students reach their highest potential.
8. Individual attention in a caring community.
9. Commitment to technology use to enhance education.
10. Good stewardship of resources.

A Teacher’s Prayer

Father,
bless the children
placed under my care.
Help me to instill in them
the joy of learning
and a love for others,
and help me to respect
their spirit in doing so.
Brother Jesus,
help me to allow for
their giggles and laughter,
signs of the love You
have given me
to share with them.
And Holy Spirit,
inspire me with ways
to teach them of Your love,
a love higher than the stars
above the grass of the fields.
Oh, and yes...please.

Source: <http://www.ncea.org/>



Getting Ready for School!

Administrative Assistant Kamille Stich and Principal Daryl Hagan work on forms to make sure all parents are registered for the coming school year! Holy Name welcomed over 510 students to the 2009-2010 school year. Holy Name School Photo

St. Joseph Community Apartments Provide More Safe, Affordable Housing in Henderson

By Mel Howard

HENDERSON, Ky. - Sometimes when a need is obvious to everyone, someone just has to "take the bull by the horns," so to speak, and find people to pitch in and get a job done, especially when the job benefits others more than oneself.

This is how the Saint Joseph Community Apartments came to be. Some call it philanthropy. People of good will and strong community spirit help one another in any kind of need, and step up to help, recognizing the spirit which calls for pitching in and working for the common good, and from Whom it comes. This describes the good folks of Henderson and other towns in Kentucky who worked together to build St. Joseph Community Apartments.

The 34 residents of the new \$4.7 million Saint Joseph Community Apartments on 530 Third St. behind Holy Name of Jesus Church know whom to thank for their new homes. They came to a ribbon cutting ceremony July 22, 2009 to thank the Catholic community of Henderson County, their local elected officials, a host of financial experts from the state and local Henderson area, and a construction company from Grayson County. The happy Saint Joseph residents also knew whom to thank for thinking of the idea, talking about it among local business people, and giving the project his blessing and persistent care; they know it was Holy Name Pastor Father Ed Bradley who "took the bull by the horns" and inspired the enthusiasm in all who worked together to build the St Joseph Community Apartments.

Many hands made light work to build these apartments. The July 22 ribbon-cutting ceremony featured speakers who are a who's who of area Henderson and Kentucky leaders: Fr. Bradley; Richard McQuady, Kentucky Housing Corp.; Jay Pannier, Ohio Capital Corp. for Housing.; Judy Rose, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati; Chris Melton, Ohio Valley Financial Group; Tom Davis, Henderson's Mayor; Sandy Watkins, Henderson Co. Judge Executive; Jamie Powell, Project Superintendent, Clayton Watkins Construction; and Garry Watkins, President, Wabuck Development Co. who emceed the day's activities.

Many of these people rose to speak to a crowd of about 100 residents, project cooperators, friends, and Holy Name parishioners during the ribbon-cutting program and to praise the idea of helping people find good, safe, comfortable, affordable housing,



Pastor Father Ed Bradley and Holy Name parishioner Mary Louise Raleigh cut the ribbon for the opening of the new St. Joseph Community Apartments at 502 Third St. in Henderson July 22, 2009. At left back is Garry Watkins, President, Wabuck Development Company in Leitchfield, Ky. who helped put the project together. Photo by Mel Howard

a crying need in today's society. To a person, they also spoke highly of Father Ed Bradley's insight, compassion for all, and especially his persuasive abilities to help people see a need, discern God's will to address the need, and to say Yes to a call to help out one's fellow citizens in need.

Now, with the naming of these new community apartments after Saint Joseph, the father of Jesus will always be a visible part of the City of Henderson. Saint Joseph is frequently invoked by believers looking to find or sell a new home.

Henderson County Judge Executive Sandy Watkins closed his remarks this day by addressing Fr. Bradley: "I know in my heart you truly are the rare man of God who affects people's hearts and we appreciate you." Jamie Powell, Project Superintendent, thanked the area businesses for pitching in to help with their good will and materials. He spoke of how many business people went out of their way to help him find building materials when the project needed them.

One resident, Karen Rapier, rose to speak, perhaps putting in words what all the residents felt. She said, "God has answered my prayers. Two years ago, my life fell apart in South Carolina. I asked, 'Lord, where do I go from here?' I felt I had to get back on my feet, get back to work, and had it all to do myself. By God's will, I found a church family in Belleview Methodist, and my fiddle for playing bluegrass music. Secondly, I found a job in Americorps helping people get back to work in this community. I love my new Kentucky Home. I am thrilled to be back home here in Henderson."

Mary Louise Raleigh a former member of the Holy Name parish staff, was the first one to sign up for one of the new apartments. She spoke of how she grew up just across the street from the apartments, how the new complex was a great asset for the City of Henderson, herself, and all the new residents of



Fr. Ed Bradley spoke briefly before the St. Joseph Community Apartments ribbon-cutting ceremony July 22 with Hughes Farmer, a Henderson County native who came to congratulate the Henderson community and share the ceremony. Photo by Mel Howard

St. Joseph's which already has a waiting list. She wanted to especially thank Father Bradley for his continuing friendship with her, his support for her involvement in the parish and diocesan ministries she shared, and for her new home. She said, "Father, it is just like living next door to heaven." In an advance news story about the St Joseph Community apartments, Victoria Grabner, staff writer for The Henderson Gleaner, reported, "We were just really happy to be the sponsor for this project because it has done a lot for this community and the people who live there are very

Continued on page 25



The sign for the St. Joseph Apartments in Henderson has an image of Holy Name Church as an inset. Photo by Mel Howard



John Prough, at left, a candidate in the diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program and a Holy Name parishioner, visited July 22 with some of the residents at the new St. Joseph Community Apartments in Henderson just before the ribbon cutting. Also in this photo are Holy Name parishioners Lt. Clark Nash, Henderson PD at back, and Mary Louise Raleigh seated at right. Photo by Mel Howard

happy, and that makes us feel real good,” he (Fr. Bradley) said. “We have 34 really good neighbors.”

“The structure is not owned or run by Holy Name, but Bradley has taken a leadership role in the project.

“He wrote the grant that was funded by the Kentucky Housing Corporation, for instance. Clayton Watkins Construction out

of Leitchfield, Ky., built the building, which is managed by Homeland Inc. “Allison Powell, regional manager with Homeland Inc., said each apartment is 670 square feet with washer and dryer hook-ups. There is a laundry facility on site, a small computer lab, and a small library.

“The residents have a parking lot behind the building, and visitors can



park on the street or in the Holy Name Church parking lot.

“I think they (the residents) really like it,” she said, adding that her company rented the last apartment this week and there is a small waiting list.”

Father Bradley reflected on the new St. Joseph Community Apartments, “Just to know that you can do things like this

to make housing affordable for those who need it helps us all know the presence of God acting in our lives. All the honor for this whole project is God’s. It all starts and comes from God. God’s loving care comes alive in people who come to know that our place as God’s children is to say Yes when He calls us.”

Philadelphia Cardinal criticizes abortion provisions in House health reform bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Although amendments to a House health care reform bill made some “helpful improvements” in protecting life and conscience, some “unacceptable features” remain that must be removed, the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee told House members Aug. 11.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, who heads the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the health reform bill approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee July 31 would make a “radical change” in U.S. abortion policy by making abortion a mandated benefit in the public health insurance plan that would compete with private insurers and by allowing the expanded use of federal funds to pay for abortions.

He said the committee “created a legal fiction, a paper separation between federal funding and abortion” through which those in the public plan and in private insurance plans that cover abortion would pay an out-of-pocket premium of at least \$1 a month to cover abortions beyond those eligible for federal funds under the Hyde amendment. The Hyde amendment, enacted into law in various forms since 1976, prohibits federal funding of abortions except in cases of rape, incest and danger to the mother’s life.

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 | Limited 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.

Youth Raise Money For St. Gerard Life Home



These are pictures of a youth group from St. Rose (Cloverport) and Immaculate Conception (Hawesville) who worked at St. Gerard Life Home May 9. They mulched and pulled weeds ...



...they also had a donut sale and made a financial donation (\$153) to St Gerard. Seated on the front porch of the St. Gerard Life Home are Kayla Snyder, Shelby Stokes, Ethan Reine, and Luke Booty. Around back of St. Gerard Home is a patio area which has been created and landscaped by volunteers such as these from St. Rose (Cloverport) and Immaculate Conception (Hawesville): Yvonne Booty, Shelby Stokes, Ethan Reine, Luke Booty, and Kayla Snyder. Submitted by Rita Heinz for Diocese of Owensboro



**Sotomayor
sworn in;
becomes
first Latina,
sixth
Catholic on
court**

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Sworn in Aug. 8 to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor becomes the first Hispanic member of the high court. In a ceremony at the court building, Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office while the newest justice's mother, Celina, held the Bible on which her daughter placed her hand. It was the first time the oath had been administered on live television. Sotomayor will be formally invested in the court Sept. 8, the afternoon before the court convenes to hear a campaign finance case in an unusual session being held prior to the beginning of the court term Oct. 3. Sotomayor, 55, was confirmed by the Senate Aug. 6 by a 68-31 vote. She is the sixth Catholic on the nine-member court, the most ever at one time. A New York native and daughter of Puerto Ricans who struggled to be sure their two children were well-educated, Sotomayor is President Barack Obama's first Supreme Court nominee. She will take the place of Justice David Souter, who retired at the end of the term in June.

Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

Carol Wheat
Christ The King Parish, Scottsville, KY
2009 Sophia Award winner

I talked with Carol Wheat at a Senior's Day program sponsored by the Office of Wisdom, recently at Christ the King in Scottsville. I had to grab her as helped prepare lunch and helped get the room set up.

Carol told me it was hard coming to Scottsville 45 years ago and being one of only a few Catholics. "I grew up in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Our whole neighborhood was Catholic and we all went to Catholic schools and church together and were involved in all kinds of parish related activities. So, it was quite hard to adjust when I got here. We went to Mass at St. Mary's in Franklin, which was good, but it wasn't our community parish like I had grown up with, but our parish grew and last year we dedicated a brand new church. It was wonderful being able to worship in a church atmosphere again. Our old church was actually a house and very small. There was no room for funerals or weddings. We are all so proud of this church because we all came together as a Catholic community to get it built. We all have worked so hard on it. Since before the dedication I have been busy here at church doing something everyday. It has taken up most of my spare time, I'm not complaining at all. I enjoy what I do for the church. We've come a long way in the community since I first moved here. There is a Ladies' Faith Group here in town that meets monthly with ladies from all other religions; just recently we have been invited. So that says a lot about the community and us as Catholics. We have always tried to set a good example in the community and



people are realizing we aren't different.

"Since I have retired, I am able to do more things that I like to do. My husband Jimmy still farms, but we enjoy doing things with our family. We have three children and five grandchildren.

"The rule I try to live by is that each day is a gift. Especially after I've reached age 65 I realize it more each day. Take care of today and tomorrow will take care of itself. I am thankful for every day I have."

Joan Perry: Missioned to Catholic High

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Joan Perry never played Aces football and she never taught a Humanities class, but she has attended more than 350 of the team's games and she could teach those Fine Arts students something about the sculpture and culture of Rome after several visits to Europe.

There is little else going on at Catholic High that Joan Perry hasn't had her hand in. Interviewing her for this article is like taking a trip through Aces history over the past 41 years.

Joan's part of the history starts in Wakefield, Massachusetts, with her graduation from Our Lady of Nazareth Academy in 1962. She left the northeast permanently that year when she entered the religious community of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Nazareth, Kentucky. Having earned a BS in Medical Technology from Nazareth College in 1968, she asked if she could use her science background to teach and was missioned to Catholic High to be a full-time chemistry teacher.

Among the very first involvements for Joan (few people call her Miss Perry) were helping with the '69 Prom and working with diocesan Teens Encounter Christ retreats. In 1971 Joan's decision to not profess permanent vows in the Sisters of Charity led her to request employment as a lay teacher in the school she had come to love. And there begins the rest of the story.

Take a deep breath. Just reading about all that she has accomplished will wear you out!

Joan has been the class sponsor for the



Ms Joan Perry

classes of '73, '76, '80, '82, '85, '89, and 2005 usually with dear friend and fellow sponsor Bruce Embry. The highlight of each of the junior years was her sponsorship of Prom. She created the Advanced Human Biology class in 1971 and continued to teach it as Anatomy & Physiology along with Chemistry until block scheduling came along in 1999. During the early 1990s Joan co-wrote a chemistry lab book with fellow teacher Barbara Hill, and still uses labs from that book in her chemistry class to this day. Along with Mrs. Hill Joan

sponsored the Math-Science League and was on the board of directors for the Kentucky Science Teachers Association. The two of them were presenters at a couple of yearly KSTA conventions and it was at one of them that the Conceptual Physics class was created. Joan still teaches this out-comes based class.

Joan has worked on retreat teams for the Diocese of Owensboro and for OCHS for the past 40 years. During the late 70s and early 80s Joan sponsored the Pep Club and has been the sponsor for the past three years. Joan began the SWISS (Seniors With Incredible School Spirit) Guard and directed many small and large pep rallies and dances from the "Rev Bev" and Cone-Head themes all the way to Hogwarts with a Harry Potter theme.

During the years when class trips were made overnight, Joan took students to Windsor, Ontario, Canada; the Smoky Mountains; Atlanta, Georgia; and Washington, D.C. Day class trips included visits to Opryland, Santa Claus Land, Six Flags Cincinnati, Six Flags-St. Louis and Blue River canoeing.

Joan began and has coordinated OCHS blood drives since 1980, holding two or three drives each year. Because of their experience while at the school some students have become life-long blood donors. One, after an accident, received her

own blood. Hundreds of other lives have been affected by Joan's commitment to this project.

For about 20 years Joan coordinated the graduation ceremonies, helping students with their last project at Catholic High. Joan sponsored a Chess Club when some students asked her to do so. In 2008 she was named Diocesan Teacher of the Year. In the same year the football program was dedicated to her. She has taught Environmental Science at Brescia University and is presently on the Teacher Educator Advisory Committee there and is a part of a panel of judges for the Innovative Teaching Award at the University.

As Joan says, "That's about it. I am still teaching after 41 years and I am very proud of my students. Some of them are taking care of and guiding me these days as financial advisors, contractors for home improvements, dentists, hygienists, medical doctors, surgeons, nurses, pharmacists, and dozens of other helpers. Although I am slowing down some, God just keeps showering the blessings on my life."

And for all that, we who know and love her can say, "Thank God!"

Reprinted with permission from *Catholic High Phonelines*, a special Phonathan edition of *Parentlines*, July, 2009, page 2.

Wisdom Bus Trip!



Come to Kentucky's Little Holy Land

Thursday October 8th 2009.

Enjoy the day with your friends as we travel to the Bardstown area where we will have a tour guide take us to Gethsemane, St. Thomas Church, Nazareth convent and St. Joseph Proto Cathedral. We will have lunch in the famous Wickland house and

museum.

The bus will leave the parking lot off Cedar Street behind the Catholic Pastoral Center at 7:00 a.m. (Bardstown is one hour ahead of us) There will also be a pick up available at the Western KY truck and auto center rest area - exit 77 from Bowling Green.

The cost per person for the day is \$40 which includes lunch and gratuities and admissions.

For Reservations call Ginny Knight-Simon at 270-683-1545.



Good Times

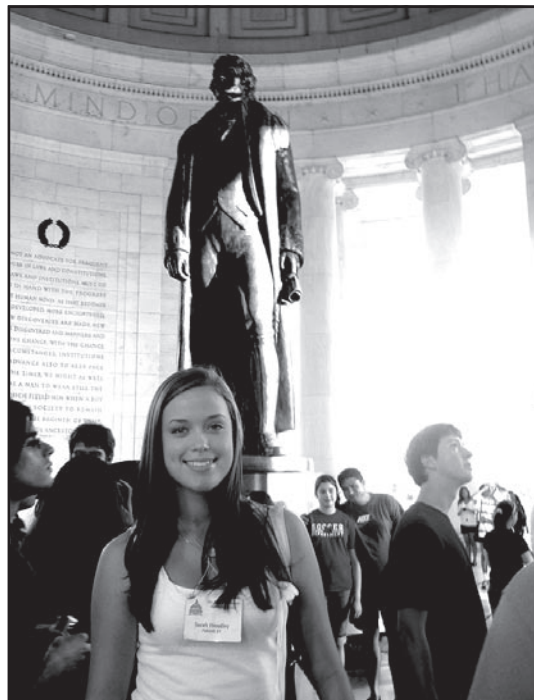
The Saint Ann Seniors, Morganfield, held their annual summer picnic on June 9 at the Barkley Lake home of Tom and Rose Danhauer. This year's special guest was Father Freddie Byrd, pastor of Saint Peter Church, Waverly. Fr. Freddie celebrated Mass with us outdoors before lunch. After lunch, there were games and a boat ride. The weather was beautiful. A good time was had by all. Submitted by Marion Crowdus

Sarah Hendley Selected as US Senate Page

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Mary High School will be without one of last year's soccer team captains this fall and the Vikings' basketball team will be without their top rebounder until late January. Junior Sarah Hendley will be heading to Washington, D.C. to work as a United States Senate Page under the sponsorship of Senator Mitch McConnell.

This will be the third time she has been to Washington in the last seven months. She attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in February and completed the three-week Junior Statesman Summer School on the campus of Georgetown University, studying Advanced Placement United States Government July 12 - August 2, 2009.

Selected by her teachers, Sarah also attended the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Conference at Transylvania University from June 4th - 7th and participated in the "Colors of Community Leadership Art Project" in Lexington while there. Through her participation in Youth Ministry at St. Thomas More she was chosen to attend Lifeteen Notre Dame Leadership



Sarah Hendley tours the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. with classmates the evening before Junior Statesmen Summer School graduation.

Conference June 28th - July 3rd.

She reports to the United States Senate Page Program on Monday, September 7, 2009 and will return to St. Mary High School on Monday, January 25, 2010.

Let Us Celebrate The Year Of The Priest Let Us Adopt-a-priest



The Serra Club of Owensboro has a program to provide prayerful support for the priests of our Diocese. 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

2009 Directory of the Diocese of Owensboro

Find Out Who Does What, Where, When, Why, and How in the Diocese.
Check out http://www.rcdok.org/the_diocese/diocesan_directory/

Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

Dell Hall, Christ the King Parish Scottsville, KY

When Dell Hall moved to Scottsville with her husband, Dr. John Hall, in 1961 there were scarcely any Catholics in town. In fact, Dell wasn't Catholic either, but John was.

"John and I met at college in Danville our senior year. We got married and he went on to medical school. Later he was in the Army Medical Corp. and we moved to Georgia. After that John was looking for a place to start a practice and we settled on Scottsville and we moved here in 1961. I would take our children to the Baptist church for Bible School but would always go to the Catholic church for the 'church' part. I joined the Church 10 years ago. I just didn't want to be different from my family. My children and husband are Catholic and I wanted to be as well. After going to church with them I felt I was Catholic anyway! We have 5 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

"I remember teaching out of Baptist Sunday School books to the children here at the parish because we didn't have books for them at that time. It turned out okay. Our parish is growing and the community is more accepting of 'the Catholics.' I think our new church has shown them we are here to stay."

Dell said that the only job she had outside the home was that of Mayor of Scottsville, for nine years. "I still do all types of volunteer work and am on several



boards."

Dell and John received the Sophia Award from their parish in 2004 for being outstanding senior citizens. Both are still very active in working with the parish. Dell said, "It was really great to be rewarded when you don't expect it. It's nice to know that you have made a difference.

"How to leave a faith legacy to my children, I think, is to instill in them the importance of Catholic Faith. I have that obligation as a parent to teach them that something is missing without faith. My husband and I have tried to do that all our lives."

Dell told me she was sure her greatest blessing is her family.

Emily Marshall Wins State Title in 4-H Speech Contest

Emily Marshall, who is entering 6th grade at the OCS Elementary 4-6 Campus, won the State 4-H Speech Contest for the 11 year old division. Her speech was titled, 'Germs, Germs, Germs.'

The competition was held on July 11 at the University of Kentucky. To get to state, she won first place at three College View Elementary School competitions to win District. This was a contest that began at the 4-6 Campus while in the 5th grade this past year.

She gave her speech at the state fair in Louisville on August 29.

Emily, the daughter of Kim and David Marshall, is a member of Blessed Mother parish.



“Spiritual Ecumenism – the Soul of the Ecumenical Movement”

By Fr. Tony Bickett, Ecumenical Officer,
Diocese of Owensboro

The Decree on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) states that spiritual ecumenism “should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement”. The Council defined spiritual ecumenism as a “change of heart and holiness of life.” In other words if Christians truly seek unity in Christ there needs to be a conversion of minds and hearts. The Council also says that spiritual ecumenism must include both “public and private prayer for the unity of Christians” (Decree on Ecumenism, 8).

Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican’s chief ecumenist, recently told members of the study group working on the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches, “The first place in spiritual ecumenism belongs to prayer, which joins Jesus’ own prayer on the eve of his death “that all may be one” (John 17:21). Christian unity cannot be the fruit of human effort; we cannot as humans make or organize it. We can only receive it as a gift of the Spirit.”

Our journey toward unity depends on the generosity of the Holy Spirit. Only God has the gift of unity which Jesus prayed for on the eve of his death on the cross. Our work is first of all spiritual work, participating in this fervent prayer of Jesus. Spiritual ecumenism is the center of the hope and work of all Christians if we are to fulfill Jesus’ prayer “that all may be one” (John 17:21).

All our prayer, private and communal must be for conversion, for a sincere repentance, and for growth in holiness. Our prayer is never secondary to the real work of ecumenism. What a remarkable difference every member in all the churches can make when they pray with Christ for Christian unity.

In *A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism*, Cardinal Kasper explains: “The quest for Christian unity is, above all, a desire that must be kept alive and a prayer that must be nourished.” Prayer makes a difference first of all in the one who prays. Prayer must always precede all our efforts to realize visible unity.

This conversion begins with us, our ways of stereotyping others, our sense of superiority, our lack of interest in the changing understandings taking place between our church and others through dialogue.

In the service of unity, every Christian is called to discern his or her conscience through examination, self-criticism, and repentance. The Second Vatican Council refocused our journey from an “ecumenism of return” to the Catholic Church for an “ecumenism of common return” or conversion to Jesus Christ. There can be no ecumenism without conversion and church renewal.

Spiritual ecumenism is also a mutual sharing of spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit has given us many different gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ. These spiritual gifts are meant to be shared with others.

The ecumenical movement is not only an exchange of ideas and documents, nor only a matter of working side by side to overcome poverty and racism; it is also

Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

The Western Kentucky Catholic, September, 2009 29

Seniors Day Out - Scottsville, KY

On August 12th twenty two seniors, including Fr. Dennis Holly, enjoyed a day together at a Seniors Day Out program sponsored by the Office of Wisdom at Christ the King Parish in Scottsville.

Presenters Patty Blair, from the Office For Lay Ministry and Formation, and Ginny Knight-Simon, Office of Wisdom, talked about Hope and Forgiveness with the group as it fits in our daily lives. The program, or seminar gives the seniors the chance to come together as a peer group and learn more about their faith and share ideas with each other.

If your parish or senior group would like to schedule a Senior Day



Frank Heil, left, and Gail Kelly with Fr. Dennis Holly in background, from St. Mary parish, Franklin, at right, listening to a participant sharing her faith. GKS Photos



Out please contact Ginny Knight-Simon @ 270-683-1545.



Barbara White selecting her answers for the Catholic IQ quiz, part of the Seniors Day Out program.



Bob and Sandy Blencoe, front, attend to Patty Blair’s presentation. GKS Photos

an exchange of spiritual gifts and spiritual experiences.

Cardinal Kasper in speaking of spiritual ecumenism says, “It no longer starts with what divides us but with what we have in common. It starts with common Christian experiences and with common Christian challenges”.

Spiritual ecumenism is also incarnational, addressing questions of justice and peace and the responsible stewardship of all creation. May our prayer and sincere sharing turn us more fully toward Christ so that in drawing closer to Christ, we may at the same time come closer to one another.

Fr. Tony Bickett, St. Romuald Church, 394 N Hwy 259, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 270/756-2356

Diocese of Owensboro Sophia Award Mass

Sunday, September 27,
2009 at 2:30 p.m. at
Holy Name Church,
511 Second Street,
Henderson, Ky.



Sponsored by
the Office of Wisdom
of the Diocese
of Owensboro, Ky.

Happy Anniversary

Marriage Celebrations for September Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 & over 50 Years of Marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Joseph & Linda Iuliucci, 25
Ben & Thelma Crump, 60
Vincent & Jeanette Dick, 55

Holy Name, Henderson

Israel & Ana Marrero, 25
Harold & Lucy Hargis, 40
Ronald & Joan Hockey, 50
Carl & Dorothy Snider, 62

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Terry & Eleonora Hays, 25
Kimberly & Mark Adams, 25
Donna & Dan White, 40

Robert & Mary Graham, 50

Robert & Frances Fiore, 52

Barbara & Kenneth Burch, 53

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

J. Huston & Betty Brickey, 62

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Carl & Rosa Lee Coffey, 53

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Barney & Pat Dickens, 50

James & Marilyn Kurz, 53

Bill & Jeanne O'Bryan, 59

Charles & Ruby Wayne, 2

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Charles & Donna Cecil, 25

Joseph Bernard & Mollie Bissmeyer, 53

Joseph & Dorothy Alice Bowlds, 54

Don & Hallie Clark, 53

Joseph William & Sherma Josephine Clark, 54

Paul & Marnette Clark, 61

Alfred Emmanuel & Genevieve Marie Galloway, 54

William & Bettye Mullican, 59

Joe & Sue Riney, 65

Eugene Martin & Anna Jane Scheidegger, 51

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jeff & Linda Moss, 25

Lawrence & Mary Murphy, 56

Sacred Heart, Hickman

John B. & Mary Jo Lattus, 57

Sacred Heart, Waverly

John & Ruby Hancock, 58

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Tim & Kelly Joiner, 25

St. Ann, Morganfield

Jerry & Barbara Houston, 25

Paul P. & Bernice Chandler, 57

Earl G. & Emma Jean Duncan, 53

Charles R. & Catherine Dyer, 57

Leon & Eva Clara Hendrickson, 53

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Albert & Blanche Werne, 58

St. Anthony, Peonia

Bob & Lynn Gambrell, 56

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Charles H. & Lillian White, 56

St. Benedict, Wax

Ron & Karen Tyrer, 50

St. Columba, Lewisport

James & Pattie Toler, 60

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Thomas & Rose Marie Weitlauf, 61

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Howard & Jackie Elliott, 50

Martin & Wanda Painter, 51

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Paul & Jerri Durbin, 57

Paul & Ellen Carrico, 51

Vernon & Dot Neihoff, 54

William C. & Barbara Hayden, 53

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

William & Susan Wedding, 40

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Mark & Julie Diel, 25

Ed & Hilda Bazzell, 57

W. B. & Juanita Hutchins, 63

St. Leo, Murray

John & Claire Resig, 61

Elwyn & Ellen Frazier, 60

Byron & Mary Cates, 58

Tomas & Sara Royal, 56

St. Mark, Eddyville

Richard & Bonnie Wiening, 51

St. Martin, Rome

John & Josie Hayden, 53

St. Mary, Franklin

John & Gail Kelly, 51

St. Mary, LaCenter

Sylvio & Rita Mayolo, 50

Bernard & Helen Anselm, 64

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Steve & Lee Ann Blandford, 25

Danny & Sharon Ebelhar, 40

Bobby & Terri Knott, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Robert & Barbara Hodskins, 40

Owen & Majella Mills, 40

Bernard & Dorothy Crisp, 52

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Louis & Rose Monrose, 25

St. Paul, Princeton

Achille & Helen Biagi, 50

St. Peter, Waverly

Carl Ray & Kim Wolfe, 25

St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City

Chuck & Diane Fischer, 54

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Douglas & Sandra Langdon, 25

Robert E. & Peggy Castlen, 40

James E. & Betty Alvey, 58

L. K. & Gloria Burcham, 59

James E. & Barbara Coomes, 55

Gilbert & Mary Ann Lindsey, 51

Clarence & Helen Merritt, 59

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Tim & Jackie La Tondress, 25

Phillip & Pat Payne, 25

Donald & Alice Bland, 50

Pat & Ruby Wheatley, 59

St. Rose, Cloverport

Thomas & Leigh Flood, 62

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

John & Brenda Pinkston, 40

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Richard & Sally Gust, 50

Jim & Betty McVey, 53

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

John & Kathy Wright, 25

Russel & Betty Ebelhar, 63

Jimmy & Linda Richeson, 25

John & Patsy Clayton, 52

Charles & Margaret Payne, 66

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Leo & Marilyn Wurth, 55

St. William, Knottsville

James & Lorene Mattingly 52

Charles O. & Joyce Mills, 52

Stanley & Doris Fulkerson, 59

Lawrence & Dortha Johnson, 58

Darrell & Mary Lou Payne, 40

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

James L. & Theresa Clouse, 52

John & Nancy Grimes, 52

Jack & Rose King, 56

James & Imogene Loyd, 56

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Mark & Kim Doss, 25

James & Marie Creighton, 40

Gregory & Anita Jones, 40

Robert & Joann Spader, 40

Andrew & Annette Mongeon, 57

Editor's Note: We find it easy to take them for granted, these Catholic couple witnesses, both believers in commitment, models of faith, hope, and charity. Let us praise them, be at play with them, imitate them, honor their memories when they recount their joys and trials for us as they tell their stories and share their photographs. Honor how they lived in their time, and that they are now in their silver and golden years, still loving, still faithful, still our best living models of answering God's call to the vocation of married life. For many, their prayer is their main work each day, and they work to please God alone. For these reasons and for yours, The Western Kentucky Catholic regularly honors in this Happy Anniversary column their names, their years of marriage, and their Catholic parish which sustains their family and spiritual life.



Fr. Robert Barron Enters Year for Priests with Online Mission

Chicago, July 31, 2009 – Fr. Robert Barron is one of the world's great and innovative teachers of Catholicism. Chicago's Cardinal George calls him one of the Church's best messengers. He is a prominent theologian, author and sought-after speaker, and now the priest from the Archdiocese of Chicago is using today's technology to evangelize the culture. Barron founded Word On Fire Catholic Ministries, a global media organization, and hopes to attract millions into or back to the Catholic faith.

At the hub of Word On Fire is an interactive website (www.WordOnFire.org) with newly launched features which invite visitors on a journey and into a conversation about faith and life. "Our website is incredibly dynamic," raved Fr. Barron. "Every day, everywhere, visitors can visit our site to deepen their faith and bring the peace of Christ to their otherwise chaotic worlds."

Resources can be found in a variety of formats from articles and books, to CDs and DVDs, as well as YouTube videos, radio sermons, and television programs. Visitors to the Word On Fire website can take a virtual pilgrimage with Fr. Barron as he films his most ambitious venture, The CATHOLICISM Project. A landmark epic series about the Catholic faith, The CATHOLICISM Project takes visitors to Rome, the Holy Land, Mexico, France, Poland, Germany, and Spain.

"People spend a mammoth amount of time at their computers every day," stated Barron. "And just as Christ took the message of the Gospel to the people of his time, we have harnessed the use of emerging technologies to go out into the four corners of the globe."

The mission of Word On Fire is to draw people into the Body of Christ, which is the Church, and thereby gives them access to all the gifts that Jesus wants his people to enjoy. "We have designed an interactive site where people can gain knowledge about the faith from not only our content, but they can also learn from one another," said Fr. Barron. "New content is being developed and produced every day and we invite people to visit WordOnFire.org and explore everything it has to offer."



Right to Life

of OWENSBORO

17th Annual Banquet October 1st - Sportscenter



Scott Klusendorf
President, Life Training
Institute

Doors Open: 6:00 p.m. Dinner at: 6:30 p.m.

Scott travels throughout the United States and Canada training pro-life advocates to persuasively defend their views in the public square. He contends that the pro-life message can compete in the marketplace of ideas if properly understood and properly articulated.

The Life Training Institute is all about training others to save lives. The LTI messagethose trained are not only challenged to defend the sanctity of human life, but are also adequately prepared to answer the arguments of abortion advocates. Logical, compassionate presentations produce life-changing, life-saving results.

For Banquet tickets, please contact the Right to Life office at 270-685-4922 or call Cathy Graham at 270-316-6253 for more information.

Endorsement

"Scott's 'Pro-Life 101' seminar TOTALLY made an astounding difference to my life and my ability to argue persuasively against abortion. As a result of the amazing training Scott provides, I have been able to share the pro-life message numerous times to others, young and old."

- **Stephanie Gray, Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform**

Blessed Mother Church Celebrates With Fr. Mike Crump

OWENSBORO, Ky. - It was with great joy that Blessed Mother Church gathered at the 5:30 PM Mass July 26, 2009 and gave thanks to God for the gift of Fr. Mike's Ordination. Fr. Mike, son of Ben and Thelma Crump, grew up in Blessed Mother Parish. Fr. Mike thanked our community for the role in his vocation. He recalled coming to church as a child while the birds flew through the open rafters during Sunday Mass. He recalled serving on the Altar of the Lord under Fr. Richard Clements and his days in Blessed Mother School while Sr. Mary Damien was principal.

All these fed into his vocation into the priesthood.



Father Mike Crump celebrated Mass July 26 at Blessed Mother Church. Shown here concelebrating are from left Fr. Phil Riney, Fr. Andy Garner, Fr. Ray Clark, and Fr. Dave Johnson. Submitted photo

Fr. Mike also challenged us, the parishioners, to search for God's calling in our life. He knows that among us are vocations to the priesthood, and religious life, as well as vocations among the laity to become

lay ministers and youth ministers. We, as a parish, are very proud of Fr. Mike and are very thankful that he answered that call to be a servant of many. We pray for him and we ask him to pray for us!

Submitted by Jan Storm

Sugarplum Christmas Bazaar

St. Sebastian Church
180 Hwy 136 West
Calhoun, Ky.

Saturday, December 5, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

10' x 10' Booths Available

Contact Betty Abrams 270-273-3262 or

email babrams142@aol.com

Elaine Fulkerson 270-273-5441

Handmade items, Famous baked goods,
Homemade candy, Christmas decorations
and Other great gift items!

Please fill out form and mail along with booth rental fee of \$25 by November 15.
Booth rental **must** accompany form to reserve booth space.
Betty Abrams, P O Box 189, Calhoun, KY 42327

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Type of Booth: _____



"DeColores, and so must all love be of every bright color to make our hearts cry!"

The Encounter ended a day early so all in attendance could go to the IV World Ultreya on Saturday in Anaheim, CA, put on by the OMCC (World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity). The theme on the world Ultreya was "The Beauty of Being a Christian and the joy of communicating it." The day was filled with prayer, witness talks and song. Professor Dr. Guzman who is from Uruguay was the keynote speaker. Dr. Guzman is a close collaborator of His Holiness Paul VI, John Paul II and now Benedict XVI. He is Pontifical Council of the Laity.

We also heard (or read) those that did not have an interpreter we were able to read their talk as they gave it) in six different languages about how the Cursillo has improved the lives of many people.

What Can You Get For A Penny?

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Several St. Francis de Sales parish high school teens spent several hours one Saturday afternoon learning the value of a penny. Zach Ault, the Director of Youth Ministry, had heard of an activity for youth called "The Value of a Penny," and after he explained it to the youth group, they wanted it to be their first activity of the new school year. It clearly shows how even something as small as a penny can be multiplied through the giving of the time of the teens and the generosity of the parishioners.

The teens are sent to several parishioners' homes to first trade a penny for something that would be worth a bit more. Then that object is given in trade for something of more value at the next home visited and continued on until the final trade. The last item is then donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store for sale. The money gained from the sale is then used to aid someone who comes to St. Vincent for help.

On August 15th, 7 high schoolers, two adults, and Zach met at the church for lunch and to have the activity explained and to get organized. The teens were divided into 2 teams led by an adult; each team was given a penny and then sent off with a list of names and addresses of St. Francis parishioners who had agreed to participate. The group later met back at the church for a short meeting to share their experiences and to attend the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening Mass together. The trades varied from fresh garden produce, candles, two George Forman's Lean Mean Grilling Machines, two toasters, two UK foot lockers, a camera, three piece luggage set, a box of toys, a storage chest, a hose reeler, a small air compressor, a musical instrument and an assortment of other things. At the end, instead of two items to be donated to St. Vincent dePaul, there were several items. The teens were




From left, back row: Korey Ladd, Everett Davis, Scott Newman, Zack Hayes., Evan Bickerstaff; front row: Jessica Higgins, Lesley Nash, Cindy Wilbourn, Olivia Warren, Zach Ault. Submitted Photo

amazed at the generosity of the people they visited. All of the things that were collected were taken to the St. Vincent Store to be sold and the money used to help others. Vicky Elliott, store manager, said she would let the group know just how much the two pennies had gained in value and the help that was possible through their efforts that Saturday afternoon.

There was a lot of laughter, camaraderie and teasing as the teens practiced their sales pitches. All the teens said that they had a good time and were glad that they had participated. The families they visited were happy to see them and were very welcoming; even the family pets who received lots of extra attention and pats.


The activity had benefits other than the donation to the St. Vincent Store. Several teens attend St. Mary High School, one teen attends Heath High School, and one Reidland High School; one is being home schooled. There were seniors, juniors, and a freshman. This activity gave them an opportunity to get to know each other better, to work together to accomplish a goal and to meet some St. Francis parishioners that they didn't know.



Glenmary Sisters
Pilgrimage/European Cruise




12 Night Mediterranean Greek Isles
From Barcelona, Spain
aboard *Brilliance of the Seas*
June 20 - July 2, 2010

Day	Ports of Call	Arrive	Depart




Fr. John Vaughan, Spiritual Director

For information and reservations contact:
GLENMARY SISTERS
Richard Remp-Morris, Business Manager
P.O. Box 22264
Owensboro, KY 42304
270/686-8401 or 800/301-2689
email: Richard@glenmarysisters.org

Watch our website for more details: www.glenmarysisters.org



A Scout is Reverent

This year's Boy Scout retreat will be at St. Meinrad on the weekend of October 2-4.

Please see the diocesan website (under Youth Ministry) at

<http://www.owensborodio.org/ActiveFaith/RelEd/youthmin.htm>

For details or Call Fr. Ken Mikulcik at (270)247-2843.

On Tuesday, September 08 at 6:30 pm,

Please join Fr. John Vaughan, Spiritual Director for the Glenmary Sisters Pilgrimage/European Cruise 2010: PRE CRUISE INFORMATION PROGRAM will be held in the undercroft of the Cathedral on Tuesday, September 08 at 6:30 pm. More information about this awe-inspiring 12 Night Cruise with Royal Caribbean is available online from the Glenmary Sisters web site, www.glenmarysisters.org & www.faihtintravel.com, or by calling 1-877-389-1002.

Working paper outlines information being sought from religious orders

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Orders of women religious in the United States will be asked to complete a comprehensive questionnaire that looks at six areas of religious life in preparation for a series of apostolic visits set to begin in January. Topics to be considered are outlined in a working document distributed July 28 to the 341 leaders of the religious congregations to share with their members.

The topics are related to the life and operation of the orders: identity; governance; vocation promotion, admission and formation policies; spiritual life and common life; mission and ministry; and finances. Members of the orders are being asked to reflect on the working document. A separate questionnaire based on the working document will be distributed to superiors general Sept. 1.

Distribution of the questionnaire Sept. 1 will open the second phase of a comprehensive study of U.S. institutes of women religious announced in January and ordered by the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life under its prefect, Cardinal Franc Rode. Known in Latin as an "instrumentum laboris," the July 28 working document will help the orders prepare to answer the Sept. 1 questionnaire, said Mother Mary Clare Millea, superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the apostolic visitor charged by the Vatican with directing the study.

Visitation Plan

Early this year the Vatican announced the start of an apostolic visitation examining U.S. orders of women religious. There are four phases to the study.

COMPLETED	Initial meetings and communication with religious superiors
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2009	Religious congregations respond to questionnaire seeking empirical data and information about identity, mission, governance, finances, spiritual life and activities to promote vocations
JANUARY 2010-JANUARY 2011	Visitation teams meet with selected religious communities
MID-2010-MID-2011	Compilation and delivery of report with recommendations to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

Source: Apostolic Visitation of Institutes of Women Religious in the United States

©2009 CNS

LCWR says Vatican has not fully disclosed reasons for US visitation

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Leaders representing 59,000 women religious are questioning what they say is a lack of full disclosure about what is motivating the Vatican's apostolic visitation that will study the contemporary practices of U.S. women's religious orders. In an Aug. 17 press statement, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious also said the leaders "object to the fact that their orders will not be permitted to see the investigative reports about them" when they are submitted in 2011 to the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and its prefect, Cardinal Franc Rode. In addition, the women religious expressed concern about secrecy they say is surrounding the funding of the study, said Sister Annmarie Sanders, director of communications for LCWR. No details on funding the study have been released by the office of the Apostolic Visitation of Institutes of Women Religious in the United States. "Part of the conversation revolved around the fact that at a time when congregations of religious women are financially strapped they are concerned about being asked to pay for an investigation they did not ask for," Sister Annmarie said.

Wicked Show in Nashville

Join fellow Brescia alumni for a music and stage experience of a lifetime at Wicked, playing at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center on Sunday, September 20, 2009. An evening of dining and the theatre await you in downtown Nashville. Showtime is 6:30 pm.

Seating is orchestra level and at a great discount for Brescia alumni. Tickets are \$90 a person and cover transportation costs to Nashville.

Tickets will be sold at a first come, first serve basis. For ticket information and reservation, please contact Josh Clary, Director of Alumni Relations, at 270-686-2111 or josh.clary@brescia.edu



Brescia University - "A Best In The Southeast" College - By The Princeton Review

Owensboro, KY – For the third year in a row, Brescia University was named as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast according to The Princeton Review. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 141 institutions it recommends in its "Best in the Southeast" section on its website feature 2010 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

The Princeton Review selects colleges and universities based on institutional data, visits to the campuses, opinions of high school college advisors, and information received from a survey given to current Brescia students.

Brescia's students said in these surveys that Brescia "respects all of its students" and "there is a modest, open-minded emphasis on Catholic faith with a subtle, gentle evangelistic tone."

The United States has 2,500 four-year colleges. Only 640 of them were named "regional best(s)."



The Beauty Of The Church

"I was in Louisville today and had dinner at the Little Sisters of the Poor. The moral beauty of the place, the authentic beauty of Christianity, which has no equal. The beauty of the Church is the charity of her daughters.

"The good Mother Superior, whom I shall never forget. Her transparency, unearthliness, simplicity, of no age, a child, a mother, like the Blessed Virgin - as if no name could apply to her, that is, no name known to anyone but God. And yet more real than all the unreal people in the rest of the world."

--August 16, 1960, IV.31-32.

From *A Year With Thomas Merton: Daily Meditations From His Journals*, 2004, HarperOne, page 235.

2009 Owensboro

Life Chain

Stand up for Life and Make a Difference

Sunday, October 4, 2009

2:30 — 3:30

People will be standing to pray for an end to abortion and for the babies, women and men who are victims of Abortion. PLEASE join us for this time of prayer!!!



Be a part of Life Chain 2009!! Don't let it break because YOU are not there!

Posters will be available on October 4th at 2:00 pm in the Right to Life of Owensboro office located at 1115 Tamarack, Suite 200, across from the back parking lot of Boardwalk (formerly Texas Gas).



A Helping Hand

Four-year-old Luke Frey shovels beaver mulch into his dump truck as his Mom, Stephanie Frey, dumps mulch on the Cathedral Pre-School playground Aug 14. School starts for Luke in two weeks. The family attends Blessed Mother Church in Owensboro. Mel Howard Photo

Bishops' new Web site offers background on health reform views

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a Web site that seeks to clarify its position on the health care reform debate and to help Catholics add their voices to the discussions. The Web site at www.usccb.org/healthcare features videos addressing various aspects of the health reform debate, answers to several frequently asked questions, copies of bishops' documents and letters to Congress, facts and statistics about Catholic health care in the United States, and links to send messages to members of Congress.

The bishops also plan to offer specific "action alerts" on the site when Congress returns to work on health reform legislation in September. The site urges Catholics to tell Congress that "health care reform should: include health care coverage for all people from conception until natural death, and continue the federal ban on funding for abortions; include access for all with a special concern for the poor; pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience; and restrain costs and apply costs equitably among payers."

Visit the bishops online at www.usccb.org/healthcare



Sharing God's Abundant Blessings

St Pius Tenth, Owensboro, (SPX) Vacation Bible School (VBS) raised \$1,109.43 in four days to send to the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica for the Daughters of Mercy to use to help educate children and youth at St. Margaret Mary Basic and Prep School in Lionel Town Clarendon, Jamaica. Sister Beatrice, D.M. promised to send pictures of the children who will receive help from the children of SPX VBS. Mel Howard photo



First Communion 2009 At St. Alphonsus Church

Pastor Jason McClure with DRE Sr. George Mary Hagan and teachers Maggie Yeckering (far right) and Martha Dant (far left); First Communicants: from left to right, Peyton Coomes, Tristan Schartung, Alexis Schartung, Austin O'Bryan, Brooklyn Lanham, Aaron Clements and Lacy Gunter. Submitted by Carol Ramage

On April 5, 2008 the Holy Father addressed the Pontifical Council of the Family on Grandparents: Their Witness and Presence in the Family, "I was blessed to know all four of my grandparents, the Irish set and the Italian set, as well as my maternal great-grandparents from Italy. My own experience taught me that grandparents have an integral role in family life. Many of the things I cherish most in life were transmitted to me by my grandparents."

Grandparents of the Lord - In seventeenth century France devotion to the Holy Family became a mark of the renewal that, following the Council of Trent, blew through the Church like a refreshing breeze, a mystical invasion. The Holy Family was understood, at that time, to refer to the entire extended family of Jesus, including his grandparents, Joachim and Anne.

The Vocation of Grandparents - Saint Anne and Saint Joachim have a special message for the grandparents among us. Grandmothers and grandfathers have a particular vocation in the order of grace. Grandparents are called to foster the supernatural life of their grandchildren, to pray for them, to pray with them, and to model holiness for them. Grandparents can reach places in a child's heart that no one else can reach. Grandparents can introduce their grandchildren to the joy of living with the saints.

Eucharistic Intercession - In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, heaven descends to earth and earth is assumed into heaven. In the Most Holy Eucharist there is infinitely more than what meets the eye. Saints Joachim and Anne are present to us; their most holy Daughter, the Virgin Mary, is present to us. Let us ask them to join their intercession to ours, imploring peace for the whole world, and blessings upon our families. This too is the communion of the saints: the Holy Sacrifice offered here can bring peace and blessings to thousands of hearts and places. Live then, as if you were seeing the invisible! There is nothing more real than that.



Grandparents mean ready encouragement, prayer, support, and unconditional love for their grandchildren. Owensboro Diocesan seminarian Brandon Williams posing with his grandparents Norman and Mildred Harriington. WKC file photo

energy characterized by the foundations of hundreds of new religious communities of women; many of these nineteenth century foundations were dedicated to the Holy Family and, again, the grandparents of the Lord were not excluded. Some of these French communities came, in turn, to America where they taught generations of Catholics to reverence the human family of Christ and to live in communion with the saints.

Article Source: Vultus Christi, <http://vultus.stblogs.org>, Father Mark's web blog. His Excellency, Bishop Edward J. Slattery of the Diocese of Tulsa, OK., has given Father Mark a special mandate to live in adoration before the Eucharistic Face of Jesus, offering thanksgiving, intercession, and reparation for all his brothers in Holy Orders.

The Communion of the Saints - We live in the company of the saints. We are in communion with them, and communion implies communication. There is, at every moment, a mysterious exchange taking place between us and the saints who surround us. The Letter to the Hebrews says that we are "watched from above by such a cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12:1).

The Patronage of the Holy Family - After the French Revolution, the Church enjoyed an extraordinary burst of

Pope speaks of gift of priesthood, gift of grandparents

By Catholic News Service
LES COMBES, Italy (CNS) -- Praying the Angelus with thousands of people gathered in an Alpine meadow, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the gift of the priesthood and the gift of grandparents.

The midday prayer July 26 was the last public appointment the pope was scheduled to hold in the Italian Alps, where he has been vacationing since July 13. He was scheduled to leave the evening of July 29 and transfer to the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Pope Benedict told the crowd he was grateful to God for giving him "these days marked by true relaxation - - despite the small accident you all know about," a reference to the fact that he broke his right wrist July 17 after slipping in the bathroom. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said that doctors used a portable X-ray machine brought to the pope's Alpine chalet July 25 to determine that the wrist was healing well.

In his Angelus address, the pope commented on the day's Gospel reading about the multiplication of the loaves and fish, saying priests can see themselves in the disciples who wonder what they can do to feed such a huge crowd. When they ask Jesus how five loaves and two fish could possibly make a difference, they basically are asking, "Who am I? With my limits, how can I help Jesus in his mission?" the pope said.

"The Lord gives the response; precisely by placing the little that they are in his holy and venerable hands, priests become instruments of salvation for many, for all," Pope Benedict said. The pope also noted that July 26 is the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, "the parents of the mother of God and, therefore, the grandparents of Jesus." The feast, he said, "invites us to pray for grandparents, who are the depositories and often witnesses of the basic values of life within the family. The educational role of grandparents is always very important," especially in situations where one or both parents are frequently absent.

Aloha!

On October 11, 2009, in St. Peter's Square, our Holy Father will canonize five new saints, among them Hawaii's own Blessed Father Damien DeVeuster, S.S.C.C. (1840-1889). Father Damien is known the world over as the simple but determined priest who dedicated the last sixteen years of his life to the Native Hawaiians and others who had been exiled to the tiny, isolated peninsula on the island of Molokai because they had been diagnosed with leprosy.

It is my hope that Father Damien's story will be widely told, especially during this Year of the Priest. It is my pleasure to introduce a new website launched by the Diocese of Honolulu: www.fatherdamien.com. There can be found a short biography of Father Damien in various languages, a bibliography, a list of videos and plays about him, and information about the celebrations surrounding the canonization in his native Belgium, in Rome, and in Hawaii.

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu, where Father Damien was ordained a priest in 1864, will receive a relic of Father Damien to be permanently enshrined there. Before it arrives, however, it will be taken to Detroit on October 14, San Francisco on October 15, and Oakland on October 16. From there it will be taken to our five Neighbor Islands, the last of which will be Molokai on October 30 and October 31. It will finally arrive at the Cathedral on Sunday, November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints. The website will have details about the pilgrimage of the relic as we receive them.

Please encourage your priests and deacons, Catholic schools, faith formation programs, RCIA groups, youth and young adult groups, health care agents, and others to use the resources on the website, so that they can come to know this holy and inspiring priest. Consider making a pilgrimage to Hawaii yourself and bringing a group with you from your diocese. May Father Damien's canonization help us all to grow in holiness and in our desire to serve the most needy and neglected among us.

Blessings upon you and all the people of your diocese!

- Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu

Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH To Celebrate 50 Years Service at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah

By Sister Patricia Froning, OSF

On September 19, 2009, the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH, will have served at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah, Ky. (and in the Diocese of Owensboro) for 50 years. Currently Sister Lucy Bonifas, OSF, and Sister Margaret Ann Seasley, OSF, are serving at Lourdes Hospital and Sister Kateri Kaufman, OSF, is working in childcare in Paducah. The Sisters are also assisting (volunteering) in ministry at St. Thomas More Parish.

On September 19, 1959, Riverside Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky became Lourdes Hospital under the auspices of the Diocese of Owensboro. On this day the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH assumed management of the hospital for the diocese. Sister Eleanor Rahrig, became the administrator. Sisters Helen (Gerard) Linder, Helen (Luke) Schill, Aquinas Makin, Elizabeth Jean (Leo) Siebenaler, Marilyn Keller, and Malachy Kux became the first Sister staff members. Relying on "God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength," the Sisters ventured into new territory - Southern Bible Belt territory where Roman Catholics were and continue to be in the minority.

Overt discrimination was still taken for granted. The hospital had two nurseries, two dining areas, two bathrooms, etc., one for white patients, staff, and visitors and one for black patients, staff, and visitors. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Medicare Act of 1965 changed the face of healthcare.

The hospital has moved through various stages of ownership: from the Diocese of Owensboro to the Sisters of St. Francis, back to the Diocese of Owensboro, then to Mercy Health System, and finally to Catholic Health Partners. Throughout these changes, the Sisters of St. Francis have continued to minister there.

Now, 50 golden years later, Sisters Lucy Bonifas and Margaret Ann Seasley continue to serve in Lourdes Hospital. They have a combined total of 79 years of ministry to the patients, staff and visitors of the hospital. Today it is not unusual to hear: "Is Sister ... still living?" "Where is Sister...?" "I remember when you cared for my father in 1972..." "You bring a sense of peace into my room.: "there is something different about this hospital. God shows."

2009 also is the 140th Anniversary of the Congregation of the Tiffin Franciscans (full title: the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Penance and of Charity.)



From left, Sr. Kateri Kaufman, Childcare Paducah--Sr. Margaret Ann Seasley, LPN, Surgical Services--Sr. Lucy Bonifas, RN, Spiritual Services. Photo courtesy of Lourdes Hospital

Franciscan Sisters: Women Responding to a Need and a Call

By Sr. Maureen Studer, OSF

One hundred forty years ago, Elizabeth Schaefer's sister-in-law Mary and another St. Joseph parishioner, Cunigunda Schmidt, joined Elizabeth and her daughters in the new work she and Father Bihn and Elizabeth were establishing, caring for the few orphans and aged persons who had already been admitted. When Elizabeth and her older daughter, Mary Ann, took the first steps of becoming Sisters of St. Francis, the two joined them.

From the small beginning of these few women responding to a need and a call, emerged the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Charity. While never large, it has been the destination of many over these years. Why did Mary and Cunigunda come? Why did those who joined them come? Why have women over the years come? Why do they come today? Sister Pat Froning found her heart "drawn to a love and goodness that was God loving me and everybody else." Sister Marie Reinhart has "a burning love to bring Jesus' healing, comfort, affirmation, and a deepening in holiness to those suffering physically, mentally, psychologically, spiritually." In Sister Virginia Welsh is a "longing to love God and contribute to making a better world." These few words articulate for many the essence of why they have committed their lives to God, to following the Gospel after St. Francis and St. Clare.

From its beginnings, the Sisters have followed the Rule of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. With Father Bihn and

God's Spirit moves where it will

By Sr. Antonia Rode, OSF

Although the congregation was founded to care for elderly persons and orphans, a call came already in 1871 requesting teachers for the new St. Nicholas School in Frenchtown, Ohio. Father Bihn granted this request by sending the two Sisters he considered best-trained, Sisters Alacoque and Bonaventure, both daughters of Elizabeth Schaeffer. An additional two teachers were sent the next year to teach at St. Patrick Settlement near Bascom, Ohio.

By the end of 1882 the community had 14 teachers in six schools in what is now the Diocese of Toledo. They continued to staff schools in rural areas, following the wishes of Father Bihn, who specified teaching "especially in poorer congregations and in the country." All teaching was at the elementary level until September 1930, when Sister M. Baptista Wingerling was assigned to Central Catholic High School in Toledo, Ohio.

Forty years later, Tiffin Franciscans were teaching in five high schools and twenty elementary schools. Soon after this, however, especially with the influence of the Second Vatican Council, new forms of ministry began to evolve, and teaching became more diversified.

Diversity in education continues. While currently one Sister and five Associates are classroom teachers and a Sister is a high school librarian, others teach in other ways. These include directing parish religious education programs and RCIA sessions and leading Bible study at the jail. One Sister volunteers each afternoon at the parish school, another manages an educational sponsorship program in Cuernavaca, Mexico, yet another has created an inner-city tutoring program. Sisters and Associates are directing and assisting with environmental education at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, one Sister teaches pottery classes at a studio on the motherhouse campus. They are teaching peace-making, servant leadership, parish organization, and yoga. One finds them giving music lessons and directing choirs, working with elementary and adult ESL (English as a second language) students, teaching Spanish as a foreign language, and helping students get their GED diplomas. The ways are many.

There is no harnessing the Spirit of God.

Elizabeth and Mary Schaefer being long-time Third Order Secular Franciscans, it was natural for the new religious congregation to be Franciscan.

Hard work, poverty, and hardship were no strangers especially to the early Sisters, who had to feed and clothe, at times, up to 215 children, elderly persons, and themselves. Father Bihn wanted the new institution to support itself. Not all the Sisters came from a farm background, but, of necessity, they had to work in the gardens and fields. The years of the Depression were especially difficult years for the institution.

As well as the difficulties over the 140 years, the community has seen many changes, to name a few: German, the common

Sisters: Continued on page 38

The 2009 Multicultural Festival in Owensboro

If culture can be thought of as how a people lives, and the things they make and use for living, then a multicultural festival can be thought of as a big party for all cultures to share how the people live and what their art and home furnishings look like.

There was a big party on the grounds of Cumberland Presbyterian Church Aug. 15 in Owensboro that brought together many cultures and faith expressions to share food, music, art, games, and dress in clothing from one's home culture - the 2009 Multicultural Festival



People representing Middle Eastern countries dancing to music from an American Latino band.



Luis Aju beats his drum for Guatemala



Above, Our Lady of Lourdes Youth Group was one of many food vendors in the food court.



Winnie Lin opens the 2009 Multicultural Festival August 15 sponsored by the Owensboro Presbyterian Church.



A man from Africa asks a American Indian woman renactor about cooking on a rock.



At left, an American bluegrassband,Blackberry Jam performed for the festival, from left, Quinton Pence, Alexis Roby, Kateri Young, and Emily Wills on violins.

At lower right, a Latino band from Sebree performed for the festival: from left, Cruz Arroyo, Juan Arroyo, Chris Guitierrez, Victor Cruz, and Moises Arroyo on the biuela.

Photos by Mel Howard



Yongshang (Sunny) Lu listens to a ring tone from Mitchell Seeber's cell phone, Kenny Lin is at right



American Indian art for sale at the festival



Religious Sisters Called to Intimate Prayer, Selfless Giving

STEBENVILLE, OHIO— Many people think that for religious sisters, prayer is easy. Effortless. But distractions, temptations, dryness, anxiety, and other difficulties can plague even those who have dedicated their lives to prayer. That's why sisters from over 20 different religious orders gathered to hear about overcoming obstacles and coming closer to God in prayer July 14-16 at Franciscan University's Religious Sisters Conference.

Basing his talks on his recent book, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* (Emmaus Road, 2006), which compiles wisdom from the doctors of the Church, renowned Catholic speaker and author Ralph Martin offered the sisters practical advice for deepening their relationship with God.

Martin encouraged the audience not to let worries about sickness cloud their prayers, quoting St. Teresa of Avila, who said, "If the devil begins to frighten us about losing our health, we'll never do anything."

Martin also told the sisters that their call to holiness is meant as a gift for others. "[When] people come and visit [you], rather than just letting them ask about you and your life, ask about them and their lives, with an eye for: What's the Holy Spirit doing? How can I help them come closer [to God]? How can I help them fall in love with Jesus?" Martin said. "You're not just full-time religious for yourself; you're full-time religious to equip the saints for the work of ministry."

Sister Virginia Maria Klonowski, CSSF, a Felician sister from Coraopolis, PA, found Martin's talk particularly timely for use in her own ministry. "I'm scheduled to do sessions with our novices this October, and the topic is the spiritual masters," she said.

In a talk titled "Intimacy in Prayer," Sister Therese Marie Iglesias, TOR, shared personal anecdotes to explain the lessons



Sisters from over 20 different religious orders gathered to hear about overcoming obstacles and coming closer to God in prayer July 14-16 at Franciscan University's Religious Sisters Conference.

God has taught her about persevering in prayer.

One time when she was sick and awake in the middle of the night, Sister Therese Marie said she looked out the convent window and saw a solitary deer in the winter snow. If she had been asleep she would have missed this exquisite scene, she said, pointing out the marvels that await those who don't "sleep" through their prayer lives.

Like Martin, Sister Therese Marie also emphasized the importance of living for others. "I didn't become a sister to proclaim to the world that I'm special," she said. "I became a sister to announce to the world that God is in love with you. And when the world sees me, I want them to say, 'I have a God who is head over heels in love with me.'"

Father Michael Higgins, TOR, minis-

ter general of the worldwide Third Order Regular Franciscans, celebrated Mass for the sisters on the second day of the conference. In his homily, Father Higgins told the sisters that after serving in Vietnam in the 1970s, he lost faith in God, until a life-changing moment when he received an answer to a desperate prayer.

"From that moment on, I understood very deeply that the only sure thing in life, the only sure thing that is part and parcel of who we are in our very essence, the only sure thing that will last for all eternity, is our relationship with God."

On the final day of the conference, Steubenville Bishop R. Daniel Conlon celebrated Mass for the sisters, reinforcing in his homily the importance of bringing others to Christ.

"To be able to help others, that is our task; to help others to understand what it



Ralph Martin offered the Sisters practical advice for deepening their relationship with God.

means to love Christ," he said.

This year, for the first time, the Franciscan Sisters, TOR, of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, from Toronto, Ohio, planned and hosted the conference.

"My hope is that the conference will give the sisters participating an opportunity to be nourished by the Word of God, by the wisdom of the Doctors of the Church, and by encouragement and fellowship with one another," said Reverend Mother Katherine Caldwell, TOR. "The conference has a nice blend of content, practical application, and opportunities to experience deeper prayer with the Lord."

Sister Caldwell said many of the sisters maintain friendships with other participants by returning to the conference year after year. This was a highlight for Sister Virginia Maria Klonowski.

"I enjoy being with the sisters of the different communities," she said. "It's not only a social experience, but it's a very spiritual experience, to be with them and see the commonality of our desire to come here."

Sister Mary Helen Forney of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Erie, PA, has been coming to workshops and conferences at Franciscan University for over three decades. "I've gone every chance I could," she said. "The desire to become a true religious, the desire to know what God is asking, brought me here."

For returnees and first-time participants alike, this year's conference offered new and unique experiences.

"The Religious Sisters Conference usually gets me fired up and ready to go out until 365 days later when I come on back," said Sister Mary Michael Mackey of the Doors of St. Dominic in Steubenville.

Sisters: *Continued from page 36*

language at the beginning, then prayers in Latin, then in English; different habits, modified habits, to no habits worn; updated Rules, from the one of 1521, to 1927's, to 1982's; Constitutions, from Father Bihn's handwritten Rule of Life, rewritten from time to time, to the Constitution just approved by Rome. Through all the difficulties, the disasters, and the changes, the Sisters were guided by strong leaders; for the first 25 years, by Mother Francis Schaefer, then by Mother Clara Bork. The current community minister, Sister Jacquelyn Doepker, is the 17th Sister in 140 years, to have answered the community's call to serve in congregational leadership.

One of the always important responsibilities of leadership is the education and training of the Sisters. In the early years, the orphans needed teachers. Pastors requested teachers for their parish schools. The Sisters then and now need to be formed in religious life, as well as, in academic excellence. From 1934 to 1970, teens answering the call to religious life as Sisters of St. Francis, received their early formation at St. Francis High School. Summer school was the common way to complete degrees. Today, while not formal as in earlier years, educational opportunities are available.

Fewer women are entering religious life now, but they hear and answer the same call to which Elizabeth, Mary Ann, and Mary Schaefer, and Cunigunda Schmidt responded by dedicating their lives 140 years ago. Lay women and men, for the last 36 years, are also hearing and answering the call to serve God in the unique way of the Tiffin Franciscan charism by becoming Associates of the Sisters.

God's call to love and serve has not waned, nor has the response to the call.



Vocation

The Western Kentucky Catholic, August, 2009 39

Mission, as a witness of divine love, becomes particularly effective when it is shared in a communitarian way, so that the world may believe.

Five Men Ordained to the Priesthood from the Diocese of Owensboro



Fr. Josh McCarty elevates the Body and Blood of Christ during the doxology at his first Mass, a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving offered at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville on May 31st. Larena Laswon photo.



Newly ordained Fr. Thomas Petri, O.P., extends his priestly blessing to diocesan seminarian Basilio Az Cuc and Larena Lawson after his Mass of Thanksgiving at Christ the King in Madisonville on June 7th. Tami Schneider foto.



Fr. Daniel Dillard distributes Communion during his Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving offered at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson on May 31st. This was the first Mass he celebrated, the day after his ordination. Tami Schneider photo.



At left, Fr. John Luke Stahr, CSJ, prays the Eucharistic Prayer during a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Jude Parish in Clinton on July 19th. He was ordained with the Community of St. John on June 27th in France. Photo by Robyn Bachmann.



At right, Fr. Michael Crump, SOLT, (center) a newly ordained member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Blessed Mother in Owensboro on July 26th. His father, Ben Crump, constructed the altar he celebrated the Eucharist on. Fr. Phil Riney (left), Fr. Andy Garner, Fr. Ray Clark and Fr. Dave Johnson concelebrated with him. Photo submitted by the Crump family.

Honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States

Editor's Note: The U.S. House of Representatives honored the historical contributions of Catholic Sisters in the United States through a resolution on May 14, 2009. Attached please find the resolution and comments made by Representative Marcy Kaptur of the 9th Congressional District of Ohio.

May 14, 2009 - Madame Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Mother's Day and the women who have enriched our lives, I would like to recognize a group of women who may not receive cards or flowers this week, but who act as mothers to the world.

Regardless of religious affiliation or conviction, Catholic sisters have not only nurtured countless hearts, minds, and souls throughout our nation's history, but they have played a vital role in shaping American life. The humble sacrifices, the heartfelt dedication, and the tremendous contributions of these women are in earnest need of recognition.

For this reason I have introduced a resolution today honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States.

Since 1727, Catholic sisters have fearlessly and often sacrificially committed their personal lives to teaching, healing, and social action. Joined in unique forms of intentional communal life dedicated to prayer and service, these women have participated in the opening of the West, nursed soldiers during the Civil War, and cared for afflicted populations during the epidemics of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Catholic sisters established the nation's largest private school system and founded more than 110 U.S. colleges and universities, through which they have educated millions of young Americans.

Moreover, managing organizations long before such positions were even open to women, the bold passion of Catholic sisters established hospitals, orphanages, and charitable institutions. They were among the first to stand with the underprivileged, to educate or to work among the poor and underserved, and to facilitate leadership through opportunity and example.

Since 1980 alone, at least nine American sisters have been martyred. Maura Clark, MM, Ita Ford, MM and Dorothy Kazel, OSU were martyred in El Salvador in 1980. Joel Kolmer, ASC, Shirley Kolmer, ASC, Kathleen McGuire, ASC, Agnes Mueller, ASC and Barbara Ann Muttra, ASC were martyred

in Liberia in 1992. And, Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN was martyred in Brazil in 2005. Despite such a horrifying reality, Catholic sisters remain dedicated and courageously spirited.

Across the globe, Catholic sisters continue to provide shelter, food, and basic human needs to the economically or socially disadvantaged and advocate relentlessly for the fair and equal treatment of all persons. They work for the eradication of poverty and racism and for the promotion of nonviolence, equality, and democracy both in principle and in action. The humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis and refugees throughout the world positions them as activists and diplomats of peace and justice for those most-at-risk populations.

These women have offered so much to the world yet their stories have rarely been narrated or honored in our history. Though long overdue, the lives, works and legacies of Catholic sisters will finally be recounted.

I am happy to announce that on May 16th, 2009, a traveling exhibit called "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" will open in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with Cincinnati Museum Center, it will tour multiple cities over the next few years.

In continued celebration of the women who have shaped our lives and cultivated our potential, I stand to recognize the Catholic sisters not only for the personal impact they have had within our own lives, but for the extraordinary contributions they have made to the history of the United States.



Theresa Murphy, SCN, 82, Died June 12, 2009

Theresa Murphy, SCN, 82, formerly Sister Joseph Theresa Murphy, a native of St. Joseph, Ky., and a former member of St. Alphonsus Parish, died at Nazareth Home, Louisville, on June 12, 2009. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 62 years.

Sister served in the apostolate of education in Kentucky, Ohio, and Maryland.

Sister Theresa served as both teacher and principal at St. Agnes School in Uniontown, Ky. From 1986-1991 she served as Pastoral Associate in St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown. Sister Theresa later served as Office Assistant in the Office of Congregational Advancement at Nazareth, Ky. Sister became a resident at Nazareth Home in October 2003.

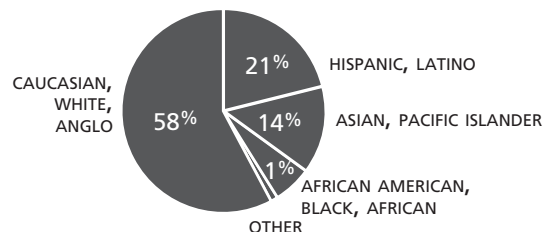
Survivors include a brother, Murray Murphy of Owensboro, Ky., and several nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, with burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.

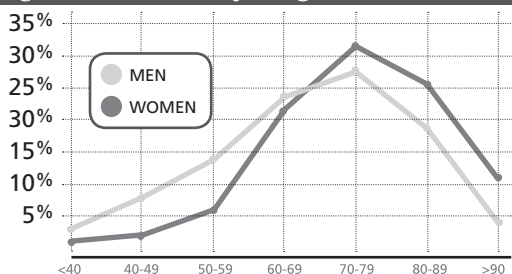
State of Vocations

A recent survey gives a profile of U.S. men and women religious and what their attraction was to religious life.

Racial/ethnic background

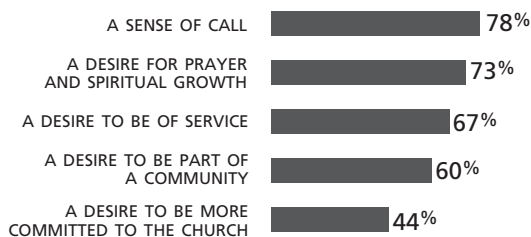


Age distribution of religious



Attraction to religious life

Percent who said the following "very much" attracted them to religious life



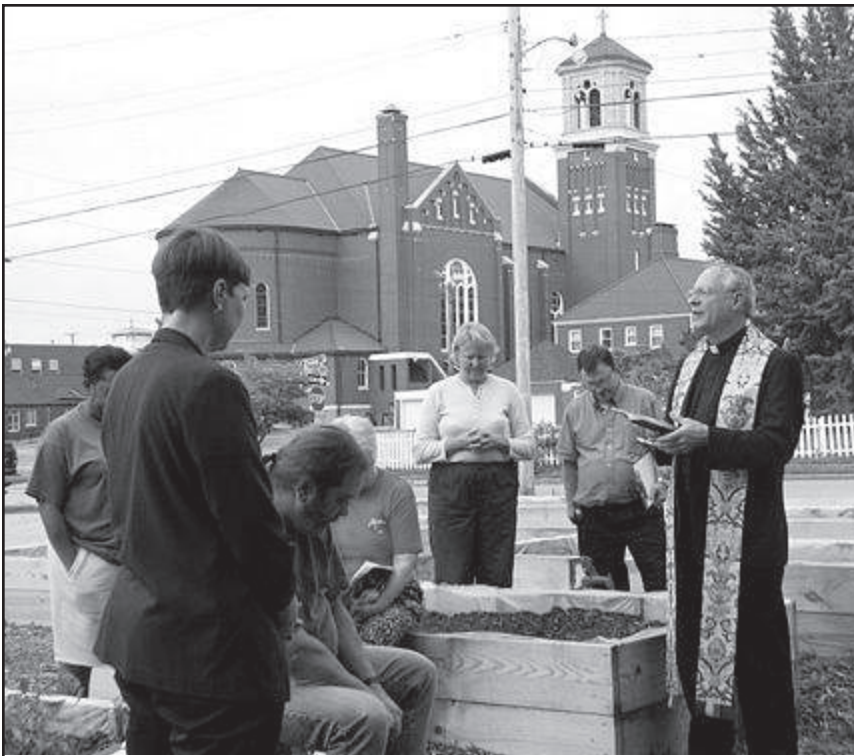
Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate ©2009 CNS

(CNS graphic/Emily Thompson) (Aug. 11, 2009)

US women religious should be proud of their ministries, says speaker

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) -- Facing an apostolic visitation by the Vatican in January 2010, women religious in the U.S. should point proudly to their history of service in schools, hospitals, and other ministries as signs of their vibrant "quality of life," broadcaster Cokie Roberts said Aug. 12.

The news analyst for National Public Radio and political commentator for ABC News was a keynote speaker during the Aug. 11-14 gathering of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in New Orleans. "Point to your works," said Roberts, who was educated in elementary school and high school by the Religious of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans and Washington. She is the daughter of Lindy Boggs, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. During LCWR's four-day meeting, representatives of religious communities discussed the Vatican's upcoming apostolic visitation and a separate "doctrinal assessment" of the LCWR authorized by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.



Blessing of Community Garden

Father John Vaughan blesses the new Cathedral Community Garden on May 5, 2009 at the corner of Cedar and 7th Streets, Owensboro. The gardens were built by members of St. Stephen Parish including Fr. Vaughan. Information about the gardens was given to all the people in the neighborhood, and they were asked if they wanted to adopt one of the raised bed gardens. Within a few weeks all the raised beds were claimed, and people began planting.



OUTDOOR MASS: During the summer, parishioners of Holy Name Parish, Henderson, had the option of attending an outdoor Mass at St. Margaret Chapel on Wednesday evening followed by an ice cream social. Neal Biggers, choir director of Holy Name leads the cogregational singing with his accordian.. Submitted Photo

Surfing The Internet? Have you visited www.rcdok.org yet?

Challenges in religious life should prompt recommitment, speakers say

ST. LOUIS (CNS) -- Challenges faced by men's religious orders -- including the impact of the clergy sex abuse scandals and decline in vocations -- should inspire a renewed commitment to proclaim the Gospel message, said speakers at an annual conference. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, told more than 130 superiors of men religious Aug. 6 that the church should not be "a prisoner of the sex scandals" nor should it be "a prisoner of the crisis of religious life." He urged participants at the annual assembly of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in St. Louis Aug. 5-8, to return to their roots, noting that early religious communities in the United States had "a leading role in the growth of the church in this country" through their work in education and caring for those in need. Archbishop Sambi noted that the theme chosen for this year's gathering, "Called to Proclaim the Gospel," and the meeting's timing, coming at the close of the Pauline year and at the opening of the Year for Priests, "is needed by the church in the United States just as rain is needed in the desert."

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Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

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



American Cancer Society Cancer Resource Network Helps Ease the Burden of Cancer Patients, Survivors, Caregivers

Information, Day-to-Day Help, Emotional Support Available Free, 24 Hours a Day

PADUCAH, Ky. – August, 3, 2009 – For the estimated 24,060 people in Kentucky who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, there will be many questions and emotions. A newly diagnosed patient may have questions about how to tell his or her family, what treatment options are available, or may need help understanding the complex medical system. There will be many practical considerations as well, such as what treatment will be like, how to handle financial concerns, or how to get to and from appointments. The American Cancer Society understands that dealing with cancer is difficult, and makes help easy to find and easy to use to lessen the impact of the disease.

Through its Cancer Resource Network, the Society offers programs and services that address the needs of those touched by cancer. “We do everything we can to improve quality of life for patients, caregivers, and survivors during and after diagnosis and treatment,” said Ellen Dunning, area director for the American Cancer Society Paducah office.

Many different forms of support are available, both online and in person. The Society provides many ways for patients and caregivers to connect with survivors and other volunteers – one on one or in groups – to share experiences, learn about cancer, and gain encouragement. Volunteer drivers provide transportation for patients to and from treatment appointments (Road to RecoverySM). American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® facilities across the U.S. offer free, temporary lodging to patients and their caregivers who have to travel far from home to receive treatment. American Cancer Society patient navigators at more than 80 hospitals across the country guide patients and their families through every step of the cancer experience, helping them understand the range of options and make the most out of the complex health care system. Cancer Resource Network programs and services meet needs that may arise from the day of a diagnosis through years after completing treatment.


All American Cancer Society services are offered free of charge, and information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone seeking information can find it at cancer.org, or can speak to a trained Cancer Information Specialist at the Society’s National Cancer Information Center anytime by calling 1-800-227-2345. Paducah also offers patient services like Look Good...Feel Better wig and cosmetic assistance, Road to Recovery transportation assistance, and Reach to Recovery breast cancer support. For more information on local programs, please call (270) 444-0384.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering, and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 13 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States.

For more information anytime, call toll free 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Women religious praised for efforts to rebuild schools after Katrina

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) -- Sister Suzanne Hall praised “the strength and the courage” of women religious who have worked hard to rebuild schools and other institutions in New Orleans damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. “I am overwhelmed by the faith, the goodness, the strength and the courage of these women,” she told leaders of U.S. orders of women religious attending the Aug. 11-14 assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in New Orleans. Sister Suzanne, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur and coordinator of the New Orleans Recovery Project, said more than \$7 million was raised through Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, known as FADICA, and Catholic Charities USA to help eight communities of women religious in the Archdiocese of New Orleans make capital repairs to schools and institutions damaged by Katrina. The project had just 1.8 percent overhead. “I can’t tell you how many times I was told by hard-nosed bankers and crusty construction workers: ‘Sister Suzanne, if it weren’t for the nuns in this city, we would not be rebuilding as quickly as we are,’” she said. The assembly theme, “Women of Spirit: Creating in Chaos,” reflected Katrina’s devastation, the restoration of Louisiana’s coastal wetlands and climate change.





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Justice starts at home: Vatican job norms reflect church teaching

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his new encyclical that efficiency and profit cannot be the only things motivating an ethical employer, he was speaking for himself as well. The Vatican published the encyclical “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”) July 7, the same day the pope signed the new statutes of the Labor Office of the Holy See. The office was established 20 years ago, at a time when Vatican lay employees publicized labor grievances and threatened work stoppages. New salary structures were introduced and the Labor Office functioned as an arbitration and mediation service for employees with grievances. In the first few years of its existence, the office handled about 400 cases each year, said Massimo Bufacchi, who recently was named director of the Labor Office. Bufacchi told the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, that the serious complaints have all but ended, so the statutes have the office focusing more on promoting the professional and spiritual development of the employees and creating a work environment marked by justice, equality and “authentic respect for the human dignity of each collaborator.”

Obispos Católicos Urgen A La Participación En El Censo 2010

WASHINGTON, USCCB—Por medio del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos se ha unido a los esfuerzos de la Oficina del Censo estadounidense para alentar a la participación de todos en el Censo 2010, en especial de aquellas comunidades tradicionalmente más difíciles de contar.

“Llevando este mensaje a más de 25.000 parroquias y misiones [en Estados Unidos], esperamos resaltar la importancia de hacerse contar además de canalizar a personas interesadas a solicitar empleo como trabajadores del Censo”, dijo Beverly Carroll, subdirectora para Asuntos Afroamericanos del Secretariado.

Asimismo, el Arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio, presidente del Comité de Obispos para la Diversidad Cultural animó a parroquias y diócesis a alentar localmente a las personas para que participen.

“Es importante correr la voz porque algunas de las poblaciones a las que servimos normalmente tienden a no ser contadas apropiadamente”, dijo el Arzobispo Gómez. “Los párrocos tienen la responsabilidad de conocer a su rebaño. La Iglesia encomienda a obispos, sacerdotes y a sus muchos colaboradores el cuidado de todos los católicos en sus diócesis y parroquias. El Censo de Estados Unidos es una herramienta útil para aprender más sobre el pueblo de Dios, quiénes son y dónde están, y muchos otros datos que nos dan pistas sobre sus vidas, posibilidades y luchas. Una Iglesia que busca evangelizar se caracteriza su alcance comunitario. El Censo nos proporciona información importante para poder hacer eso”.

La información recopilada por el Censo es confidencial y sólo se comparte de forma agregada (en forma de estadísticas) una vez se ha juntado la información de todos los cuestionarios.

El padre jesuita Allan Figueroa Deck, director ejecutivo del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural hizo hincapié en la importancia social y política de hacerse contar.

“Es en beneficio de la gente el que sean contados”, dijo el Padre Deck. “Esta es la manera en que nuestro país toma decisiones con respecto a la asignación de recursos y a la representación local, independientemente de la raza o el estatus migratorio de las personas. Su participación es vital para asegurar que su comunidad obtiene una porción justa de los fondos federales destinados a escuelas, transporte público, parques y otros servicios.”

Los esfuerzos preparatorios del Censo 2010 ya han comenzado mediante la verificación de direcciones y la búsqueda de apoyos y enlaces comunitarios.

Aproximadamente unos 140,000 trabajadores del Censo, personal contratado de entre las mismas comunidades locales, recorrerán inicialmente la mayoría de los vecindarios para identificar cada domicilio residencial. Esto ayudará a asegurarse de que todas las personas que residen en Estados Unidos reciban un cuestionario del Censo 2010. Añadido esto al uso de nuevas tecnologías, los organizadores esperan que el resultado de este esfuerzo inicial sea la lista de direcciones en Estados Unidos más completa que jamás ha existido.

La Oficina del Censo ha expresado la importancia de la ayuda comunitaria para crear concienciación e incrementar la participación, con la esperanza de recopilar una información más completa y ofrecer una imagen más cercana a la realidad de cada vecindario de Estados Unidos.

“Es fácil y seguro, además de importante, el participar”, afirmó Cecile Motus, subdirectora para Asuntos Asiáticos y de las Islas del Pacífico del Secretariado. “Hemos unido nuestros esfuerzos a los de otras iglesias y grupos comunitarios para alentar a la participación de todos en el Censo 2010 por el bien de nuestras comunidades”.

“Urgimos a los Hispanos/Latinos asegurarse de que se hacen contar”, añadió igualmente Alejandro Aguilera, subdirector para Asuntos Hispanos del Secretariado. “Están en juego la representación en el Congreso así como la asignación de más de \$300 billones anualmente en fondos federales. Queremos asegurarnos de que los barrios en que vivimos obtengan la parte que les corresponde. También es de vital importancia el obtener una imagen más exacta de la diversidad presente en la población estadounidense”, afirmó.

Un número creciente de diócesis católicas ya ha comenzado a colaborar con la Oficina del Censo en este esfuerzo.

¡Tengan Cuidado Ustedes Que Pagan Impuestos!

Por Susan E. Wills



Debería llamarse el Paquete de Incentivos Económicos para la Paternidad Planificada de 2009. Sin embargo, los copatrocinadores, Tim Ryan (Demócrata de Ohio) y Rosa DeLauro (Demócrata de Connecticut) le han dado a su “nueva” (aunque mayormente reciclada) propuesta de ley el promisorio título “Propuesta para la prevención de embarazos indeseados, reducción de la necesidad de abortos y apoyo a los padres”. Los patrocinadores describen la propuesta de ley como un “terreno común” para reducir los embarazos indeseados y los abortos, uno que debería ser atractivo a los diversos grupos en el debate sobre el aborto.

Por supuesto, la propuesta ha sido adornada con subsidios a los estados para financiar programas postescolares, y algunos esfuerzos (no muy bien elaborados), para apoyar a estudiantes embarazadas. Pero no se equivoquen. Esta propuesta es “sobre el acceso al control de la natalidad”, según el Congresista Ryan (en el programa “Hardball” de MSNBC el 19 de mayo de 2009). En la misma entrevista, Ryan explicó: “Necesitamos ofrecer control de la natalidad y anticonceptivos a esas mujeres pobres que no tienen acceso a los anticonceptivos; tan simple como eso. Punto. No otra manera de reducir los [abortos]”. Eso es lo que se esperaría de una propuesta de ley cuyos co-patrocinadores disfrutaron de un índice del 100% de aprobación por parte de NARA (Organización nacional que apoya la pro elección) por su posición pro elección.

Es así como, su propuesta de ley pide subsidios para educación sexual completa (¡educadores que enseñan sobre la abstinencia solamente no se molesten en hacer solicitudes). Aumenta sustancialmente los fondos bajo el Título Federal X para el Programa de Planificación Familiar. Niega a los estados la posibilidad de tener opciones diferentes, hace que los servicios de planificación familiar sean un derecho obligatorio a los recipientes de Medicaid en todos los estados, y extiende ampliamente la elegibilidad para la planificación familiar bajo Medicaid a todas las mujeres que son elegibles bajo las leyes estatales para recibir servicios de cuidado prenatal, de trabajo de parto y alumbramiento.

Algunos podrían pensar que esto es una solución sensata. Pero ellos ignoran por lo menos dos cosas. Primero, desde por lo menos 1980, los contribuyentes han estado financiando “servicios para la planificación familiar” al son de más de mil millones de dólares al año. En el 2006 esos gastos públicos sumaron \$1.85 mil millones. Y por consecuencia, se puede decir que todos los adolescentes que están activos sexualmente y no quieren tener embarazos están ya usando anticonceptivos. Solamente un 7% no los están usando, según el Instituto Guttmacher.

Segundo, los anticonceptivos no son muy efectivos en la vida real. En los primeros 12 meses de uso de anticonceptivos, 16.4% de adolescentes (1 en 6) se volverá a embarazar. Entre los adolescentes de bajos ingresos que cohabitan, el índice de fallos (embarazos) después de 12 meses es de 48.4% para la píldora y de 71.7% para los condones.

Numerosos estudios en los Estados Unidos y Europa han encontrado que un mayor acceso a los anticonceptivos no reduce los embarazos y abortos indeseados. Una reciente intervención de \$10 millones en Inglaterra dando a los adolescente en riesgo educación sexual completa y acceso a anticonceptivos sirve de un ejemplo perfecto. Los adolescentes tuvieron un índice de embarazos 2.5 más alto que un grupo similar de adolescentes con los mismos riesgos (16 vs. 6 por ciento).

¿Por qué un aumento a los anticonceptivos fracasa con la población en general? Porque al pensar que están protegidos de los embarazos y las enfermedades, más jóvenes se vuelven activos sexualmente y tienen más parejas, contrarrestando así cualquier reducción en los embarazos en individuos causados por el uso de anticonceptivos. Y el aumento en la actividad sexual eleva enormemente los índices de ETS. En los EE. UU., 1 en 4 de las jóvenes tiene al menos una ETS, y muchas de estas son incurables y algunas, fatales.

La disminución más marcada en embarazos indeseados y abortos desde 1990 ha ocurrido entre los menores de 18 años, debido no a la educación sexual completa ni a los anticonceptivos, pero principalmente, al número creciente de jóvenes que ha venido escogiendo la abstinencia. Visite el sitio en Internet del Secretariado para más información sobre los datos y extractos sobre anticonceptivos en www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception/index.shtml, y déjele saber a sus congresistas que la propuesta de ley Ryan/DeLauro no puede cumplir la promesa de su título. El proyecto de ley que realmente reducirá los abortos, que ya está en el Congreso, es el Apoyo a las Mujeres Embarazadas (S.1032, H.R. 2035) [Pregnant Women Support Act] y ese necesita nuestro apoyo.

Susan Wills es Subdirectora de Educación y Difusión, Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos. Visite www.usccb.org/prolife para más información sobre las actividades pro vida de los obispos.

Servicio Sacerdotal Continuado de la página 4

pueblos e idiomas, en los cielos y en la tierra cantan con una sola voz. La Iglesia le pide al Padre que derrame sobre los elegidos la bendición del Espíritu Santo y el poder de la gracia sacerdotal.” – una súplica poderosa y conmovedora.

Al terminar la Letanía de los Santos, era hora para la imposición de las manos y la Oración de Ordenación. Igual que en los tiempos de los Apóstoles, el Obispo John puso sus manos sobre las cabezas de los elegidos e invocó al Espíritu Santo. Después del Obispo, todos los sacerdotes presentes también impusieron sus manos en los elegidos, como signo de unidad y ánimo. El Obispo John rezó la oración de consagración y los candidatos quedaron ordenados.

En el Rito de la Ordenación seguía la investidura de los ornamentos sacerdotales. Los neo-sacerdotes, P. Daniel Dillard y P. Josh McCarty se vistieron de estolas y casullas. La mamá del P. Daniel, Ranni, hizo su casulla con mucho amor, tomando el tiempo de coserlo de manera muy especial, embelleciéndolo con una corona Mariana dorada, una estrella y tallos de hojas en el pecho del material de color azul y crema. La familia de John y Charlotte Sterrett, parientes de Augusta, GA le regalaron su casulla al P. Josh. También era de colores azul y crema con una imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la parte de atrás. Tenía una etiqueta por dentro alistando los miembros de la familia. Alguien dijo que era para que el P. Josh los encomendara en sus oraciones y guardarlos cerca de su corazón. Aquellos eran las primeras vestimentas que se pusieron los neo-sacerdotes, llenos de simbolismo, adornando a los recién ordenados, vistiéndolos de la ropa del Orden Sagrado del Santo Sacerdocio. Nos sentimos tan orgullosos de ellos. Los hermanos sacerdotes que les vistieron eran elegidos por los candidatos a causa del papel especial que tenían en sus vidas y en su formación. El P. Ken Mikulcik vistió al P. Daniel y el P. Richard Cash y el P. John Thomas tuvieron el honor de vestirle al P. Josh.

Después de vestirlos de sacerdotes por primera vez, seguía la unción de las manos. “A lo largo del Antiguo Testamento e incluyendo el Nuevo Testamento, el rito de ungir ha sido símbolo del poder transformador del Espíritu Santo. Como signo de su comisión a servir adentro de la comunidad de los bautizados, ungimos las palmas de las manos de los sacerdotes con la santa crisma,” nos explicó el programa. Cantamos Aleluyas con júbilo y presentaron el pan y el vino. Los padres del P. Daniel y del P. Josh llevaron las ofrendas al altar: James y Ranni Dillard y Greg y Cynthia McCarty.

Luego, el Obispo John entregó a los recién ordenados el cáliz lleno de vino y la patena de pan. Después de esa parte solemne del Rito de Ordenación, el rito ceremonial se concluyó con el signo de la paz. El Obispo John les dio a los recién ordenados un beso fraterno de la paz, y todos los sacerdotes hicieron lo mismo. Pareció ser un tiempo especial de hermandad dentro del clero mientras les dieron la bienvenida a los nuevos sacerdotes. Al concluir el Rito de la Ordenación dentro de la Misa, el resto de la Santa Misa procedió con la Liturgia de la Eucaristía.

Cada detalle de la Misa se destacó. Era la primera Misa donde el P. Daniel y el P. Josh concelebraron como sacerdotes. Desde este momento en adelante, todo lo que hicieran lo harían como sacerdote. Habían sido transformados en otro Cristo para los demás. Sus manos habían sido ungidas, habían recibido el Sacramento de los Ordenes Sagrados. Ahora eran sacerdotes e iban a ser sacerdotes por siempre. Era una gran bendición verlos parados atrás del altar como sacerdotes juntos con el Obispo John y todos los demás sacerdotes. Cuando rezaron en voz alto su parte en la Oración de la Plegaria, consto que los cielos, junto con los ángeles y todos los santos estaban regocijando con todos los presentes, que Dios había llamado a estos dos sacerdotes a seguir su trabajo en la tierra.

Al concluir la Misa, el Obispo John McRaith empezó a dar las gracias a una lista larga de personas. Ofreció agradecimiento especial a los padres y las familias de los neo-sacerdotes, pidiéndoles que se pararan para que los reconocieramos. Luego invitaron a todos a una recepción en la planta baja del Centro Pastoral, patrocinado por el Club Serra de Owensboro, con la ayuda de los Knights of Columbus. Allí continuamos la celebración con comida deliciosa, convivencia y muchas palabras y regalos de felicitación, risas, sonrisas y lagrimas de alegría por todos lados.

Oh, ¡que día tan glorioso! Incluso tuvimos la oportunidad de recibir una primera bendición, una tradición después de las ordenaciones, si no le importaba esperar en una fila larga. Valió la pena esperar para ser testigo de que estos sacerdotes ya entraban en el servicio sacerdotal derramando el mensaje del amor de Dios a través de sus oraciones y sus bendiciones santas.



Diácono Josh McCarty le prometa fidelidad y obediencia al Obispo y sus sucesores durante la Misa de Ordenación Sacerdotal el 30 de mayo en la Catedral de San Esteban. Foto por Mel Howard.



Los Diáconos Daniel y Josh se postraron ante el altar mientras cantaron la Letanía de Todos los Santos para invocar su intercesión. Foto por Jeffrey Estacio.



Los recién ordenados, P. Daniel y P. Josh dan su primera bendición a la congregación. Foto por Larena Lawson.



Arriba, El P. Andy Garner, Director de Vocaciones y Seminaristas para la Diócesis se sienta al lado de los dos diáconos, que unos momentos después, se ordenaron sacerdotes. Estos jóvenes que antes eran sus hijos, se volvieron en sus hermanos.

A la izquierda, el Obispo Emeritus, John J. McRaith impone las manos en el Diácono Daniel Dillard durante el Rito de la Ordenación.

Abajo, el P. Daniel Dillard y el P. Josh McCarty paran en frente de la Catedral de San Esteban para distribuir la Eucaristía por primera vez como sacerdotes. Primero recibieron sus padres y sus familiares de sus manos recién ungidos. Fotos por Mel Howard.



El Servicio Sacerdotal

Por Larena Lawson, Traducido por Tami Schneider

La Diócesis de Owensboro debe estar muy alegre en estos días, porque el sábado, 30 de mayo, dos diáconos jóvenes, Daniel Dillard y Josh McCarty, recibieron los sagrados ordenes sacerdotales a manos del Obispo Emeritus, John J. McRaith. Hace seis largos años desde las últimas ordenaciones sacerdotales para la diócesis y se sintió la alegría en cada momento de ese día y eran testigos los cientos de personas quienes llegaron de todos los rincones de la diócesis y más allá, completamente llenando el Catedral de San Esteban. Estos dos sacerdotes jóvenes han entrado en el servicio sacerdotal, una vocación que han buscado, discernido, orado y seguido por muchos años. Todos esos años de formación han llegado a su fin, pero en verdad es el inicio de su vida nueva en Cristo como Sus sacerdotes, ahora ungidos y llenos del poder del Espíritu Santo para ser otro Cristo a los demás.

La emoción que todos sintieron era evidente en las caras de los miembros de las familias, los amigos, los sacerdotes, los diáconos y los seminaristas quienes vinieron a ver a Daniel y a Josh recibir el Sacramento de los Ordenes Sagrados. Para algunos, era la primera vez que asistieron a una ordenación. Otros ya habían visto algunas ordenaciones a lo largo de los años, pero el día era todavía muy significativo y una causa para celebrar. Era muy especial estar allí entre los fieles quienes vinieron a apoyar a estos hombres que dieron a sí mismos tan heroicamente. Verdaderamente era un día heroico para la Iglesia de Kentucky del Occidente.

El día amaneció con un sol brillante que levantó el espíritu de todos. Mientras se acercó la hora de la Misa de Ordenación muchas personas llegaron con mucha anticipación para la celebración grande y santa. Un autobús muy grande llegó y se estacionó en frente del Catedral. Había llegado de muy lejos, desde la parroquia del Diacono Josh McCarty, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish en Hopkinsville. El Diácono Josh orgullosamente saludó a cada pasajero que bajó del bus con “hola” y abrazo. Era inspirador el apoyo abrumante que le extendió su parroquia y se vio en las sonrisas que llevaban y los abrazos que le dieron al Diacono Josh para la ocasión.

No era posible extinguir la alegría. Mientras llegaron las familias de los diáconos y tomaron sus asientos reservados en las primeras bancas, se escuchaba el son triunfante del coro ensayando en armonía. El Diácono Daniel, de la Parroquia de Holy Name of Jesus en Henderson, saludó a su mamá, Ranni Dillard, con un abrazo cálido y lleno de ternura, mientras su papá, James Dillard esperaba su turno. El amor de madre alumbraba ojos bellos y sonrientes que claramente expresaron el orgullo que sentía en ese momento. La noche anterior, en la cena antes de la Hora Santa de oración para los diáconos con la Eucaristía expuesta, Ranni le preguntó en cual lado de la iglesia la familia se iba a sentar. Le dijo, “en el lado de Virgen María.” Su mamá le respondió con alegría y notó que estarían en el lado de la Novia. Sí, su hijo se iba a casar; casarse con el mayor de todos los novios. Y ¡que día de bodas tan bello era!

La procesión de entrada de la Santa Misa empezó con el canto glorioso de “O God Beyond All Praising.” El crescendo poderoso daba piel de gallina mientras miramos a los dos diáconos jóvenes entrar a la iglesia, en frente de unos sesenta sacerdotes y el Obispo John quienes vinieron a apoyar a sus hermanos que pronto se ordenaban sacerdotes. Todo pasaba a causa de una gran cooperación con la voluntad de Dios en las vidas de los dos jóvenes, y Dios le estaba dando a la Diócesis un regalo muy especial.

Usando el Rito de Ordenación, Obispo John McRaith llamó a los dos candidatos a que se acercaran. Después, el Padre Andy Garner, Director Diocesano de Vocaciones, los presentó y respondió positivamente a las respuestas del Obispo. El Obispo John declaró, “Contando con la ayuda del Señor, nuestro Salvador Jesucristo, elegimos a estos, nuestros hermanos para el Orden del Sacerdocio.” Todos los presentes demostraron su acuerdo con aplausos fuertes.

Después el Obispo John dio su homilía y les recordó a los Diáconos Daniel y Josh que Dios les había llamado a una misión de ser ministros y que no están solos. Les aseguró, “Nos reunimos aquí para hacerles saber que oramos por ustedes y los queremos.” Después de escuchar las palabras motivadoras y del Obispo John, los Diáconos se hincaron en frente suyo para prometer su obediencia al obispo y sus sucesores.

Seguidamente, los elegidos se postraron en frente del altar mientras cantaron la Letanía de los Santos. Se quedaron allí en el piso, reverentemente quietos y en sumisión humilde y completa ante el Señor, mientras el aire se llenaba con un canto de gozo bellissimo. La hoja del programa para la Misa describió el momento: “En la Comunión de los Santos, todos los miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo, de todas las

Continuado en la página 5

Adoptado por los Huérfanos

Por Tami Schneider

El mes de julio empezó espectacularmente. No, no fue el espectáculo de los cuetes del 4 de julio, sino el espectáculo de las maletas que tiraban a la cinta transportadora mientras subimos al avión que nos llevaba para Arizona. El gran suroeste de los EEUU nos esperaba. Varias horas después, mi amiga, Katie Riney y yo nos aterrizamos en Tucson, AZ, y salimos en carro para la frontera Mexicana. Íbamos de misiones con un grupo llamado Solteros Sirviendo a Huérfanos ("Singles Serving Orphans"). Me enteré de esa organización a través de una amiga que vive en Michigan, quien vio un anuncio en la Conferencia Nacional para Adultos Jóvenes Católicos en Chicago el otoño pasado. Después de mirar a su página en el Internet, Katie y yo decidimos irnos.

Muchos aspectos del suroeste eran tan diferentes! Las millas sin fin de polvo, los cactus y casi ninguna planta. Todo era seco y de color tierra. Cruzando la frontera, no le importó a nadie. No mostramos ni pasaporte ni identificación y no nos pararon. Inmediatamente la vista cambió de nuevo. Casuchas de estaño y madera llenaron los cerros. Perros callejeros caminaron por todos lados. Ropa colgaba afuera secándose. Vendedores se acercaron a los carros parados. ¿Cómo puede ser que la vida sea tan diferente a causa del nombre de un país? Pero para ese pueblo, unos metros de diferencia significan un mundo de diferencia.

Una vez que llegamos a la casa hogar Casa de Elizabet en Imuris, México, una de las misioneras nos llamó a la sombra a que nos sentáramos en el polvo para rezar. Varios de los huérfanos nos acompañaron, sentándose bien calladitos en nuestras piernas. Durante los próximos días, nos dedicamos a quitar pintura vieja, pintar paredes y techos, jugar fútbol y basquetbol, preparar y servir comidas y dar muchos, muchos abrazos. Hacía mucho calor. Habían muchos bichos. Sudamos mucho. Trabajamos mucho. Dimos mucho. Recibimos mucho. Amamos mucho. Singles Serving Orphans entiende una cosa muy bien... la gente soltera necesita a los hijos también. Necesitamos sentir los abrazos de brazos pequeños con corazones grandes. Todos somos llamados a ser mamás y papás de alguna manera.

Katie y yo nos sentimos en casa casi inmediatamente con los otros misioneros y los niños escogieron a su misionero favorito. Parecía que cada uno de nosotros tenía un "angelito" por el fin de semana. Banki se apegó a Dave, Delia a Katie, María de Jesús a mí, Jaime a Judy, etc. Nos siguieron por todos lados, haciéndonos preguntas y ofreciéndose a ayudar con lo que estábamos haciendo. Dave Sloan, Cofundador de Singles Serving Orphans, dice: "Huérfanos y solteros, solteros y huérfanos, juntas a los dos y es como una bomba nuclear de amor, una poción milagrosa. Huérfanos y solteros son como los dos lados de una misma moneda, dos mitades de una sola cosa, juntos, quedan perfectamente. Cuando nos conocemos por primera vez parece que nos estamos encontrando de nuevo después de un largo tiempo, uno siente que está llegando a casa."

Después de que terminamos la misión, compartimos nuestras experiencias en el patio del hotel en Tucson. No, no hablamos de las dos horas que tardamos cruzando la frontera para reentrar a EEUU, ni de buscar desesperadamente a un paletero para comprarnos la última paleta, ni de tacos al pastor y refrescos de tamarindo. No. Pero sí compartimos como la experiencia había afectado a nuestros corazones e impactado a nuestras vidas. Dave Sloan lo dijo mejor cuando expresó: "No me preocupo por los niños. Allí están todos juntos como una familia. Pero sí me preocupo de cada uno de ustedes, porque cuando lleguen a sus casas de nuevo, estarán solos."

Esa misión me comprobó que por cierto las mejores cosas vienen en paquetes pequeños. Estos niños eran pequeños en muchos aspectos. A lo mejor no tenían familia ni abundancia de ropa y juguetes. No tenían camas con baldaquines de princesa ni la versión más reciente de Nintendo. Jugaban con pelotas viejas y sucias y se subieron a carritos de plástico con llantas chuecas que casi ni caminaban. Pero sus corazones eran enormes, sus cuerpos eran activos y sus mentes cuestionaban. Eran felices... a lo mejor mucho más felices que cualquiera de nosotros. Tienen todo lo que necesitan y como dijo Dave, tiene el uno al otro.

Dicen que es más bendecido dar que recibir, y que una vez que des, la mayoría de las veces, recibes más de lo que des. También comprobé la certeza de ese dicho. Sí que pasé varias horas quitando pintura, pintando y barriendo en medio de un calor tremendo, pero las sonrisas y los abrazos de los abandonados valió la pena y hasta valían muchísimo más. Es cierto, los solteros sentimos lo mismo. Muchas veces nos sentimos solos o abandonados y el amor que dimos a estos niños recibimos de regreso de ellos. "Ese es el milagro más grande de las misiones de Singles Serving Orphans: El amor que encontramos en los encuentros con los huérfanos es un amor que nos une el uno al otro con una fuerza eterna," dice Dave. "No estamos solos. Nos pertenecemos el uno al otro, y pertenecemos a los niños. Eso es lo que significa ser adoptado por los huérfanos."

Para mayor información o para participar en una misión, vea la página del Internet www.godsfamily.net o el blog de Dave en www.catholicthrive.com.



Katie Riney y yo jugamos fútbol con los niños por más de dos horas. Marcador final: 30-29! El día siguiente los niños ganaron primer lugar en un torneo de fútbol! Foto por Tami Schneider.



Delia era la "angelita" de Katie Riney durante la misión. Siempre quiso estar a su lado y pasar tiempo con ella. Foto sometido por Katie Riney.



Natan, de tan solo dos años, era el más joven de los niños. Aquí está sentado en mis piernas. Foto por Katie Riney.



Durante la misión, Katie Riney (izq.), Fabiola Leyva (centro), y yo (der.), junto con ocho misioneros más, de Texas, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, y Minnesota renovamos uno de los salones de clases. Quitamos la pintura vieja y repintamos el techo y los paredes. Otro grupo misionero allí presente se ocupó vaciando y rehaciendo por completo la cocina. Después de desinfectar y sellar los pisos, las paredes y el techo, trajeron maquinas nuevas. Con estos proyectos, los misioneros esperan lograr una cualidad de vida mejor para los 70 niños que viven en Casa de Elizabet. Foto por Tami Schneider.

Tomamos un descanso en la tarde para rezar. Los niños que nos estaban ayudando con los proyectos y los que se encontraban por allí vinieron a rezar con nosotros. Rezamos la mitad en inglés y la mitad en español para que pudieran responder a las oraciones, como la mayoría no hablaban inglés. Unos momentos después y al ataque de nuevo para seguir trabajando! Terminamos el cuarto en un solo día! Foto por Tami Schneider.



Ideas Para Hacer La Lectura De La Biblia Más Fructífera



Las sugerencias de Sperry, disponibles en el portal de Internet http://www.usccb.org/mr/mediatalk/bible_catholics_sp.shtml incluyen el saber qué es la Biblia y qué no es. “La Biblia es el relato de la relación de Dios con el pueblo que Él ha llamado para sí. No está escrita para ser leída como un libro de historia, ni de ciencia, ni como un manifiesto político”, escribe Sperry. También menciona la importancia del contexto, por ejemplo cómo se relacionan el Antiguo y el Nuevo Testamento y cómo la Biblia se debe leer dentro de la tradición de la Iglesia y en la comunidad de los creyentes. Los diez puntos abarcados por Sperry incluyen:

1. Leer la Biblia sí es para los católicos. La Iglesia alienta a los católicos a que hagan la lectura de la Biblia parte de su vida diaria de oración. Al leer estas palabras inspiradas, las personas profundizan en su relación con Dios y llegan a entender su lugar en la comunidad de aquellos que Dios ha llamado para sí.
2. Orar al principio y al final. Leer la Biblia no es como leer una novela o un libro de historia. Deberíamos comenzar con una oración pidiendo al Espíritu Santo que abra nuestro corazón y nuestra mente a la Palabra de Dios. La lectura de la Sagrada Escritura debería terminar también con una oración para que esta Palabra dé fruto en nuestra vida, ayudándonos a ser personas más santas y más fieles.
3. ¡Entérese de toda la historia! Al escoger una Biblia, busque una edición católica. La edición católica incluye la lista completa de los libros que la Iglesia considera sagrados, así como introducciones y notas para comprender el texto. Toda edición católica incluye una nota de imprimatur en el reverso de la página del título. El imprimatur indica que el libro está libre de errores doctrinales según la enseñanza católica.
4. La Biblia no es un libro; es una biblioteca. La Biblia es una colección de 73 libros escritos en el curso de muchos siglos. Los libros incluyen historia de los reyes, profecías, poesía, cartas que retan a nuevas comunidades de creyentes en dificultades, y relatos de la predicación y la pasión de Jesús transmitida por parte de los creyentes. El conocimiento del género literario del libro que se está leyendo le ayudará a entender las herramientas literarias que usa el autor y el significado que éste trata de transmitir.
5. Sepa qué es la Biblia —y también lo que no es. La Biblia es el relato de la relación de Dios con el pueblo que Él ha escogido para sí. No está escrita para ser leída como un libro de historia, ni de ciencia, ni como un manifiesto político. En la Biblia, Dios nos enseña aquellas verdades que necesitamos para el bien de nuestra salvación.
6. La suma es mayor que las partes. Lea la Biblia en su contexto. Lo que sucede antes y después—incluso en otros libros—nos ayuda a entender el verdadero significado del texto.
7. Lo antiguo tiene relación con lo nuevo. El Antiguo Testamento y el Nuevo Testamento se iluminan el uno al otro. Aunque leamos el Antiguo Testamento a la luz de la muerte y resurrección de Cristo, éste tiene también su valor propio. Juntos, estos testamentos nos ayudan a entender el plan de Dios para la humanidad.
8. No están leyendo solos. Al leer y reflexionar sobre la Sagrada Escritura, los católicos se unen a aquellos hombres y mujeres fieles que han tomado en serio la Palabra de Dios y la han puesto en práctica en su vida. Leemos la Biblia en la tradición de la Iglesia para beneficiarnos de la santidad y sabiduría de todos los fieles.
9. ¿Qué me está diciendo Dios? La Biblia no se dirige sólo a gente que murió hace mucho tiempo en un lugar lejano. También se dirige a cada uno de nosotros en sus propias circunstancias. Cuando leemos, debemos entender lo que dice el texto y cómo han entendido los fieles su significado en el pasado. A la luz de este entendimiento, entonces nos preguntamos: ¿qué me dice Dios a mí?
10. Leer no es suficiente. Si la Sagrada Escritura se queda sólo en palabras en una página, nuestra tarea no ha terminado. Necesitamos meditar sobre el mensaje y ponerlo en práctica en nuestra vida. Sólo entonces puede la Palabra ser “viva y eficaz” (Hebreos 4:12).

WASHINGTON, USCCB

— Para leer la Biblia deberíamos comenzar con una oración para abrir nuestro corazón y nuestra mente a la Palabra de Dios y terminar “con una oración para que esta Palabra dé fruto en nuestra vida, ayudándonos a ser personas más santas y más fieles”. La noción de comenzar y acabar de leer la Biblia orando es una de diez sugerencias para hacer fructífera la lectura de la Biblia para los católicos ofrecidas por Mary Elizabeth Sperry, directora asociada para el uso de la New American Bible en la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB).

Nueva Encíclica Papal

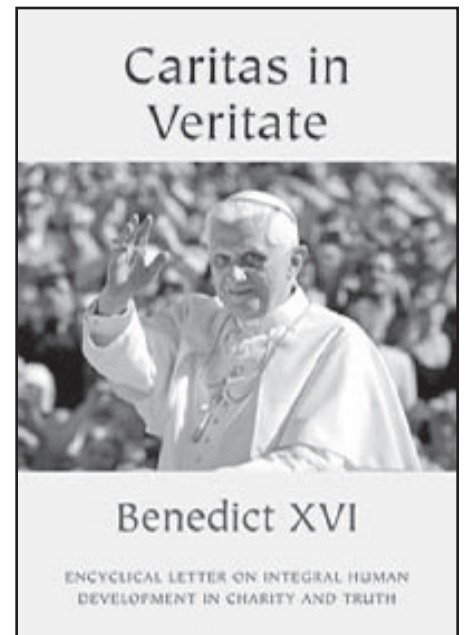
WASHINGTON, USCCB— “La caridad en la verdad” (Caritas in veritate), la tercera encíclica del Papa Benedicto XVI, se pondrá a la venta como libro, en inglés y español, el próximo 20 de julio, según anunció la oficina de publicaciones de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB).

John Carr, director ejecutivo del Departamento de Justicia, Paz y Desarrollo Humano de la conferencia de obispos declaró que la encíclica papal “ofrece un análisis ético muy necesario de la crisis económica global y un marco esencial de referencia moral sobre cómo seguir hacia delante como una familia humana”.

“El Santo Padre insiste en que la ética y la atención prioritaria a los pobres necesitan estar en el centro de la vida económica”, dijo Carr. “El papa nos reta a cada uno de nosotros a poner la caridad y la verdad, la justicia y el bien común en el corazón de nuestras opciones económicas y de nuestra vida diaria”.

Caritas in veritate abarca varios de los temas esenciales de la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia. El papa ubica la caridad en el centro de la enseñanza social de la Iglesia. También hace un llamado a encontrar una nueva forma de llevar los negocios para asegurar la estabilidad y el bienestar de todas las partes interesadas, incluyendo los trabajadores y la sociedad en general. La economía global, los problemas con las fuentes de energía no renovables y la necesidad de una nueva autoridad política mundial son otros de los asuntos que el papa trata en la encíclica.

La publicación “La verdad en la caridad” (Caritas in veritate), tiene un costo de \$6.95 por copia. Pueden hacerse los pedidos vía Internet en <http://www.usccb-publishing.org>. El número de publicación es 7-049, en inglés, y 7-806, en español.



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.

Calendario de Actividades del Ministerio Hispano

6 y 27 de septiembre

- Reuniones de planeación para el retiro de jóvenes, Stos. Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville, 4:30 pm

12 de septiembre

- Curso de Sacramentos: El Sacerdocio, (lugar por determinar) 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

20-21 de noviembre

- Retiro Juvenil, Centro de Retiros de Gasper River, Bowling Green

The Western Kentucky Catholic
600 Locust Street
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Católico

de Kentucky Occidental

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Seminarista Ryan Harpole (centro) se para para recibir el Ministerio de lector en la capilla del Seminario de St. Meinrad, como parte de su formación continuo. El hecho de ir a Guatemala para estudiar el español también era un paso importante en su formación en preparación para el sacerdocio.



Esfuerzos Interculturales de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Por Luis Ajú

En los meses pasados, desde los comienzos de mayo, junio y parte de julio si no todo, los seminaristas mayores habían terminado su año escolar como se suele decir, dos de ellos muy conocidos les tocó seguir la escuela de diferente forma, que vino siendo parte de su anhelo de servir a la gente de Dios que viven en las parroquias.

Estamos hablando de Basilio Az y de Ryan Harpole.

En el caso de Basilio, pasó todo el año estudiando la Filosofía en México, como parte de su educación, lo mas lógico habría sido tomar las vacaciones e ir a Guatemala, disfrutar la compañía de sus Padres, amigos y familiares e incluso pasar un buen tiempo en Guatemala, disfrutando de la belleza de su clima y de las otras cosas muy hermosas del país. El punto es que vino a los Estados Unidos no de vacaciones, sino para aprender el idioma inglés para luego servir a la nación multicultural después de que se ordene como Sacerdote, que es la meta donde él quiere llegar, con la ayuda de Dios. Desde el inicio se nota la búsqueda que él siente por querer servir a la gente de esta Diócesis, en este país, no solo el idioma sino los diferentes y varios valores culturales que una nación implica. Apreciamos y esperamos que su experiencia haya sido motivo de enriquecimiento a su vocación. Dios lo bendiga en sus estudios este año.

En el caso de Ryan, pasó 10 semanas en la bella ciudad de la Antigua Guatemala, lo propio y lo común en esos países como Guatemala, seguramente fue para él motivo de sorpresa, ya que no hablaba español que por tal razón paso sus vacaciones estudiando el idioma. Diríamos lo mismo para él, pudo haber pasado sus vacaciones aquí en su país, pero no lo hizo, con el afán de prepararse ya que en el futuro como Sacerdote, él se encontrará con las personas de las parroquias, donde también no solo el Ingles se habla sino también el español, con este esfuerzo personal, fuera de su propia comunidad debió de ser difícil, porque vivir en la cultura que no es la propia suele ser bien difícil. Mi esposa y yo, tuvimos la oportunidad de visitar a Ryan en Antigua Guatemala, era el inicio de sus primeras oraciones en español, lo cual era muy agradable saber que sus esfuerzos empezaban a dar fruto.

Ryan y Basilio, gracias por darnos ese ejemplo de construir para el futuro, preparándose sin poner obstáculo a su proceso para llegar a ser realidad su vocación sacerdotal. Les deseamos lo mejor para este año.



Seminarista Basilio Az Cuc da unas palabras a la comunidad de San José en Mayfield el 19 de julio. Fotos por Larena Lawson.



Aquí Ryan compartió un momento con los niños durante un día de descanso para las madres de la Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro durante su año Pastoral. Foto por Missy Eckenberg.



Ryan disfruta una Coca Cola con un hermano seminarista de St. Meinrad y un amigo Guatemalteco durante su tiempo en Guatemala cuando estaba estudiando el español este verano. Foto sometida por la Ryan Harpole.



Basilio saluda a la Hermana Rose Maria en el Monasterio de las Pasionistas en Whitesville. Ella acaba de entrar el noviciado el 29 de mayo.



Basilio monta caballo por primera vez en la granja de Marty y Debbie Rhodes en Ohio County.