

The Western Kentucky

Catholic

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A Special Edition
Welcoming Our New Shepherd,
Bishop-elect William F. Medley

Photo by Patrick L. Pfister/pfoto.com

“ Holy is God’s Name.” *Luke 1:49*



Holy is God's Name.
Luke 1:49



With pride, affection, and love

Archbishop
Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.

Archbishop Emeritus
Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.

and the Catholic faithful
of the
Archdiocese of Louisville

send congratulations
and
prayerful best wishes
to

Bishop William Francis Medley
on his ordination and installation
as Bishop of Owensboro



Bishop-Elect William F. Medley To Be Ordained As Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro Feb. 10, 2010

Father William Francis Medley, a pastor from the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed as the fourth Bishop of Owensboro, Ky. He succeeds Bishop John J. McRaith who resigned January 5, 2009 after 27 years as the shepherd of the Owensboro Diocese.

“As a native Kentuckian, my own faith has been shaped by the practice of Catholicism in this commonwealth since pioneer days. It is now a privilege to be the shepherd and servant of others molded in this holy and rich tradition,” said Bishop-elect Medley.

Bishop-elect Medley’s ordination will take place at 2 p.m. Feb. 10, 2010, at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

Founded in 1937, the Diocese of Owensboro extends through 32 counties in Western Kentucky. With 51,780 Catholics, the diocese hosts 79 parishes, 19 schools, including one university, and one hospital. It is part of the same province that includes all the dioceses of Kentucky and Tennessee, including Nashville.

Bishop-elect Medley was born on Sept 17, 1952 in Marion County, Ky. to Dorothy C. Hayden Medley and the late James Werner Medley. He was baptized at St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Francis, Kentucky and attended elementary school there. After attending St. Thomas Seminary High School, Bishop-elect Medley received a bachelor of arts in philosophy and



Bishop-elect William F. Medley

psychology from Bellarmine University in Louisville and a master of divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind. Before his ordination in 1982, Medley served as a social worker for the Kentucky Department of Human Resources from 1974 to 1978. Bishop-elect Medley was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1982, at the Cathedral of the Assumption by the Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., Archbishop Emeritus of Louisville. After ordination Medley became associate pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Louisville from 1982-1985 while serving as chaplain at Assumption High School. In June 1985 he was assigned as associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, where he served until 1988. In June of 1988, he was assigned as administrator of Saint Benedict Parish, St Charles Borromeo Parish and Holy Cross Parish, Louisville, and

in 1989, Bishop-elect Medley was appointed director of the Office of Clergy Personnel. In 1990 he became the establishing pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, which was formed through the merger of the former parishes of St Charles Borromeo, St. Benedict, and Holy Cross.

In September 1993, Bishop-elect Medley was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky., the original See of the Archdiocese of Louisville. During his tenure at St. Joseph, the church was designated a minor Basilica. During this time, he also served as the administrator of St. Monica Parish in Bardstown.

In June 2005 Bishop-elect Medley was appointed pastor of

Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Louisville, and in 2007 he became pastor of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Goshen, Ky. He also served as pastor of St. Bernadette Parish, which was created when those two parishes merged, and oversaw the construction of a new school.

Bishop-elect Medley has served in a variety of positions in the Louisville Archdiocese, including on the College of Consultors, the Priests’ Council, the Planning Commission of the Archdiocese, the Priests’ Health Panel, and Priests’ Personnel Board. He also has served as president of the Bardstown/ Nelson County Ministerial Association and on the Nelson County Human Rights Commission.

Welcome To Bishop William F. Medley



Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, D.D.

By Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, D.D.

I write this message with much joy and a grateful heart to God for calling Bishop Medley to be the fourth Bishop of the great Diocese of Owensboro, the Church of Western Kentucky, and for his saying yes to the call to be our Bishop.

I am grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, for having called and appointed Bishop Medley to be the Shepherd of the Diocese of Owensboro.

This gratitude is translated into a warm welcome on my part to Bishop Medley and a promise to support him in every way possible. We have just celebrated the great Feast of


Christmas — a time when we remembered that we have received the greatest gift ever — Jesus becoming one of us. He came to show us God’s great love for us, and ultimately He suffered, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead for the salvation of all of God’s children. With the appointment of a new Shepherd, Bishop Medley, Christ continues to shower us with gifts and evidence of his great love. Indeed, our new Shepherd is a real gift to the Diocese of Owensboro, and we are so very thankful to God.

I can also say that Bishop Medley is receiving a great gift by being called to shepherd over 60,000 Catholics in Western Kentucky. He is receiving the gift of a diocese that has a deep faith, a true commitment to the Church, and a great love for God and for all of God’s people. I can say this, based on my own experience of being blessed to serve the Diocese of Owensboro for over 26 years as the bishop. These have been wonderful years for me, and I am most grateful to all the Faithful — the religious, laity, and priests — who have committed themselves to carrying out the mission of the Church. During my time here, I have enjoyed and been humbled by their support and cooperation.


Now, with a Church full of faith and love and with a new Shepherd who is pastoral in every way, the Diocese of Owensboro will continue to grow ever closer to God and find new and exciting ways to share the Good News of God’s love with all of Western Kentucky and beyond.

As I celebrate Bishop Medley’s coming among us, I offer my brother bishop a typical Irish greeting: “A thousand welcomes!” And as I now become another member of Bishop Medley’s flock, I say one final thanks to all of the Church of Western Kentucky for your kindness and support over these past years.

Bishop Medley, you are going to love the people of this diocese, and they will love you. May all our prayers and good wishes warm and sustain you as you enter into your new ministry. God be with you as you begin your new role as Shepherd of the Diocese of Owensboro!



**The people
in the
Diocese of
Owensboro
offer sincere thanks
and appreciation to
Very Rev. J. Michael
Clark, JCL, and the
College of Consultors,
Fr. Tony Bickett,
Fr. Jerry Calhoun,
Fr. Andy Garner,
Fr. Bruce McCarty,
Fr. Jerry Riney,
Fr. Darrell Venters,
and Fr. Mike Williams
for their dedicated
service
during this year of
sede vacante.**



THANK YOU



Bill Medley, 1974, graduation from Bellarmine University, Louisville, Ky.



Fr. Bill Medley, 2009, pastor, Saint Bernadette Parish, Prospect, Ky.



Father Bill Medley, Ordination to Priesthood by Archbishop Thomas Kelly, 1982

Father Bill Medley, center, First Mass, 1982. Louisville Archdiocesan Archives photos



WITH THANKS AND PRAISE TO ALMIGHTY GOD THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN WESTERN KENTUCKY CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM FRANCIS MEDLEY AS THE FOURTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

TO BE CONFERRED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH E. KURTZ, DD ARCHBISHOP OF LOUISVILLE PRINCIPAL CONSECRATOR

THE MOST REVEREND JOHN J. MCRAITH, DD BISHOP EMERITUS OF OWENSBORO AND THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS C. KELLY, OP, JCD ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS OF LOUISVILLE CO-CONSECRATORS

IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST REVEREND PIETRO SAMBI, STD, JCD APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES

WEDNESDAY, THE TENTH OF FEBRUARY TWO THOUSAND TEN TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON, CST

OWENSBORO SPORTSCENTER 1215 HICKMAN AVENUE OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

RECEPTION FOLLOWING CEREMONY THE HINES CENTER 1 WELLNESS DRIVE, PHILPOT, KY

"HOLY IS GOD'S NAME" Luke 1:49



Above Bill Medley posing with his mother and father, Werner (Curley) and Dorothy Medley near the date of his leaving Saint Thomas Seminary in 1970. Submitted photo



First Acts

At left, the first act which Bishop-elect Bill Medley performed upon his first visit to the diocese Dec. 15, 2009, was to go into St. Stephen Cathedral to venerate the altar. Photo by Father Joshua McCarty, Parochial Vicar at St. Stephen Cathedral Paris, Owensboro, Ky

This picture is from a family album in the home of Dorothy Medley, Bishop-elect Bill Medley's mother. Mrs. Medley said that Father John T. Spalding, pastor of Saint Francis Church, Loretto, Ky. shown here with Bill Medley, had a great impact encouraging young Bill Medley to pray about being a priest. Fr. Spalding taught the Medley to pray before and after meals, "May it be Your will to bless our family with a religious vocation. Submitted photo

Our Founding Fathers of Faith: The First Three Bishops Of Owensboro 5

By Tina Kasey

There have been three bishops of the Diocese of Owensboro since its foundation in 1937. The first bishop, one of three children, Francis Cotton, was born in Bardstown, Ky. to Charles and Mary (née Moore) Cotton. After attending St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, he studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md. He studied at the Sulpician Seminary at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. from 1919 to 1920. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1920.



**Most Rev. Francis R. Cotton,
First Bishop of Owensboro**

Bishop Cotton completed his graduate studies at the Pontifical Athenaeum S. Apollinare in Rome. Following his return to Kentucky, he served as a curate at St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, St. Cecilia Church in Louisville, and St. Francis de Sales Church in Paducah (1922-1926). He also served as assistant chancellor (1926-1931) and chancellor (1931-1937) of the diocese.

On December 16, 1937, Father Francis R. Cotton was appointed the first Bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Owensboro by Pope Pius XI. He received his episcopal consecration on February 24, 1938 from Archbishop John A. Floersch, with Bishops Theodore M. Reverman and Moses E. Kiley serving as co-consecrators. He remained as bishop until his death at age 65.

Bishop Cotton was known for expanding Catholic education in the Diocese of Owensboro. While he was bishop here, 23 parochial schools were either opened or expanded. Catholic higher education was also important to him. He convinced the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph to move their junior college from Maple Mount to Owensboro, and in 1950, Brescia College was founded. Bishop Cotton also gave special attention to a Catholic health care system for the diocese. The Carmel Home was built in Owensboro to offer care to the retired and ill. Bishop Cotton died in 1960. The two words used to describe him during the eulogies were "builder" and "organizer."

In 1961, the Most Rev. Henry J. Soenneker was named the second bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, which consisted of 67 parishes.

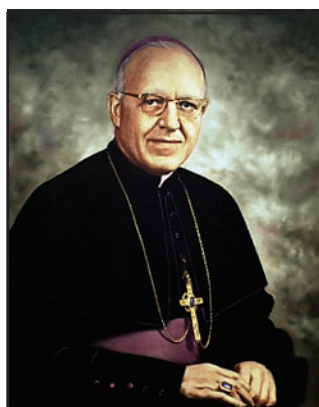
Henry Soenneker was born May 27, 1907, in Melrose, Mn. as the seventh of nine children of Henry and Mary (Wessel) Soenneker.

He began his education in a small country public school, District #164, and then he went to St. Boniface School for eighth grade; from there, to Pontifical College Josephinum, Preparatory School; Pontifical College Josephinum; School of Theology, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; Canon Law School, 1948-1950. Henry Soenneker was ordained on May 26, 1934.

His priestly ministry: St. Anthony's Church, St. Cloud, Mn., and Chaplain at St. Cloud Veterans Hospital; Chaplain of the Motherhouse of the Franciscans of Immaculate Conception, Little Falls, Mn. (1940-1948); Spiritual Director at St. John's Seminary, Collegetown, Mn. (1950-1961); Director of Diocesan Matrimonial Relations Office, 1950; Director of Vocations, Diocese of St. Cloud, Mn., 1956; Officialis of the Diocesan Court, dealing with approx. 25 Marriage Cases per year - 1959.

His Consecration as Bishop: was April 2, 1961, at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud, Mn., Most Rev. Peter W. Bartholome, Presider His Installation as Bishop was May 9, 1961, in St. Stephen's Cathedral, Owensboro, Archbishop John A. Floresch, Presider.

Bishop Henry Soenneker died on September 24, 1987, and is buried in Resurrection Cemetery, Philpot, Ky. Bishop Soenneker was considered a "people's bishop" and one who would listen to the people's concerns. It was during his time as bishop that the Catholic bishops of the world met at the Second Vatican Council. Bishop Soenneker was instrumental in helping the diocese acclimate to the changes that Vatican II was implementing. It was during his term that communication across the diocese was improved with the monthly publication in 1974 of the Diocese of Owensboro *News-*



**Most Rev. Henry J. Soenneker,
Second Bishop of Owensboro**

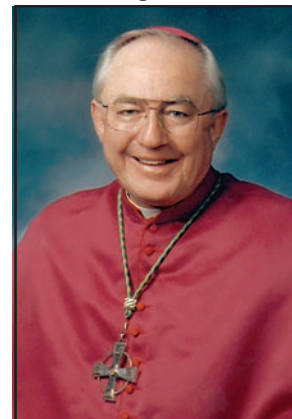
letter. Three Christian-based organizations began during Bishop Henry J. Soenneker's administration: Right to Life, Birthright, and the Serra Club. In 1982, Bishop Soenneker announced his resignation on his 75th birthday with plans to pursue his hobby of gardening.

In 1982, the Most Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith was named the third bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, which by then had 74 parishes.

John Jeremiah McRaith was born on December 6, 1934 in Hutchinson, Mn. His parents were Arthur and Marie McRaith. He began his education in a one room Elementary School, District #46, in Hutchinson. From there, he went to St. John's Preparatory School, Collegetown, Mn.; then to Loras College, Dubuque, Ia. His Seminary Education began at St. Bernard's Seminary in Dubuque, Ia.

He was ordained a priest on February 21, 1960 by the Most Rev. Alphonse J. Schladweiler, Retired Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm, Mn. Father McRaith's priestly ministry began with the assignment as Assistant Pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Sleepy Eye, Mn. (1960-1964); then Pastor at St. Michael's Parish, Milroy, Mn. (1964-1967); Pastor at St. Leo's Parish, St. Leo, Mn. (1967-1968); and Pastor at St. Mary's Parish, Sleepy Eye, Mn. (1968-1971). He served the national church as Director of National Catholic Rural Life Conference, headquarters in Des Moines, Ia. (1971-1978). Then he was appointed as Vicar General for the Diocese of New Ulm, Mn. (1978-1982), and as Personnel Director of the Diocese of New Ulm, Mn. (1979-1982)

Father John J. McRaith was appointed as bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro on October 26, 1982. His Episcopal Ordination and Installation as the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro was December 15, 1982 in the Sportscenter. Bishop McRaith was known for being a listener and one who had the needs and concerns of the people at heart. Bishop McRaith established the Office of Lay Ministry and Renew. This office was to help bring the diocese through a three-year program of renewal in which Catholics were encouraged to develop their leadership roles in parish settings. Some of Bishop McRaith's priorities as bishop included spiritual renewal, evangelization, and planning. In 1985, Bishop McRaith requested the diocesan communication be a newspaper version called the Western Kentucky Catholic. On Jan. 5, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Bishop McRaith. He continues to serve on numerous boards including Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Shelter, the McAuley Free Clinic in Owensboro, and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.



**Most Rev. John J. McRaith,
Third Bishop of Owensboro**

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"HOLY IS GOD'S NAME" Luke 1:49

The Call: “Father, Do You Accept? ...Father?”

By Mel Howard

PROSPECT, Ky. - Bishop-elect Bill Medley was scheduled to be in a regional meeting for priests of the Archdiocese of Louisville on December 3, 2009, but he knew the work on his desk and email inbox was piling up, and something just told him that he needed to be at work that day in his office at Saint Bernadette South parish located just outside of Prospect, Ky.

So, Bishop-elect Medley stayed in the parish office, and in his hard-earned efficient manner, made an effort to handle each piece of paper and email message only once.

Fit for day-dreaming, Bishop-elect Medley's corner office on the second floor of the Parish Center at Saint Bernadette South has a great view of the new Saint Mary's Academy on the parish campus, as well as a grassy lot where the parish church will be built soon, God willing. The rest of the view from his office windows shows corn fields lining both sides of Chamberlain Drive in front. A step outside into any of the spacious parking lots around the parish buildings opens up a view of a pretty pond in a field, and all around are more corn fields. All the buildings are brand new; weekend liturgies are celebrated in the school gym at present. After an arduous time of consolidating two parishes into Saint Bernadette Parish, what a marvelous beginning for a hard-working priest. This day, Bishop-elect Medley was looking forward to reaching a plateau, a leveling off period to let go of some of the stresses of the past few months' filled with the nitty-gritty of a campaign to build the new Saint Bernadette Campus.

Bishop-elect Medley was really looking forward to a 10-day vacation with brother priest, Father Wayne Jenkins, in January, 2010. They'd already bought their tickets aboard a cruise ship for some R&R in the Pacific Ocean, through the Panama Canal, and back through the Caribbean to Miami, Fl.

Bishop-elect Medley had talked to Archbishop Kurtz this day on the phone, and he remembered saying to the Archbishop, “Whatever 2010 had in store, it couldn't be more stressful (than the past few months).” Bishop-elect Medley smiled at this point, saying, “Don't dare God!”

On December 3, 2009, that surname, Bishop-elect Medley, was not even on Father Bill Medley's radar. The 12:30 p.m. phone call came right out of the blue. The receptionist downstairs called him on the PA and said he had a call from an Archbishop Pietro Sambini, the Papal Nuncio to the United States.

“I knew who Archbishop Sambini is,” Bishop-elect Medley told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in a December 22, 2009 interview in his pastor's office at Saint Bernadette South, “and as he spoke, I was listening and not really expecting anything at all. I had no reason to talk with him.”

Bishop-elect Medley said that Archbishop Sambini talked about standing by the Sea of Galilee, and he noted that the apostles had to submit to the will of Jesus. Now, I'd never talked to Archbishop,” he said, “and then he told me that ‘we're all called to aban-

don ourselves to the will of the Father, to the will of the Lord.”

The Bishop-elect was wondering where this was heading. That little light bulb in his mind had not yet come on.

Then Archbishop Sambini said to him, “Father, the Pope is asking you to accept an appointment as the Bishop of Owensboro. Do you accept?”

Silence on the phone line. Archbishop Sambini waited for a few moments.

“Father, do you accept?” the Archbishop said again.

Bishop-elect Medley said to the Archbishop, I've never said no to anything the church has asked me to do,” the bishop-elect said. “So yes, I accept.”

It was the proverbial bolt out of the blue, Bishop-elect Medley noted.

The WKC interview continued. “This phone call,” said Bishop-elect Medley, “has changed my life.” He continued, “Over the past 27 years, I've had people say to me that I'd make a good bishop. I really never gave it a thought.”

What were these people thinking of? What do they see in Bishop-elect William Francis Medley, a Loretto, Ky.



Byron Macias, left, a seminarian from Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville, and serving in his pastoral year at Saint Pius Tenth Parish, Owensboro, was anxious to meet Bishop-elect Bill Medley to offer him his respect and fidelity in studying for the diocesan priesthood. Bishop-elect Medley graciously welcomed Byron, speaking with him as if he were the only other person in the room. Mel Howard photo

native, trying hard only to be the best parish priest he can be that leads them to say to him he'd be a good bishop?

In this special edition of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, we will try to show you Bishop-elect Medley through the eyes of people who know him.

Welcome Bishop Medley



Owensboro Catholic Cemeteries

Resurrection and Mater Dolorosa Cemetery

Owensboro, KY 42303

5404 KY 54

Phone: 270-926-8097

*St. Ann Parish,
Morganfield, Ky.,*



*proudly
welcomes
our new
bishop,
William
Medley.*

*May God bless him
for many years to come.*

Father Bill Medley Named Bishop of Owensboro

Friends Told Him He'd Make a Good Bishop

Pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Louisville will be ordained and installed on Feb. 10

This article is excerpted from The Louisville Record front page account by Glenn Rutherford, December 17, 2009.

Father William F. Medley, currently pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Eastern Jefferson County, has been named by Pope Benedict XVI to be the next bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.

And no one could be more surprised about it than Bishop-elect Medley.

The announcement of the papal appointment was made Tuesday, Dec. 15, in Owensboro, where Bishop-elect Medley appeared at a news conference with retired Owensboro Bishop John J. McRaith and with Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz and Archbishop Emeritus Thomas C. Kelly, both of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Bishop-elect Medley, 57, will be ordained and installed as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro at 2 p.m. CST on Feb. 10, 2010, at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

In a brief interview at his office at St. Bernadette parish earlier this week, Bishop-elect Medley said he received a call about the appointment on Dec. 3. On the other end of the phone line was Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the Vatican's Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

(See The Call, article on page 12 of this edition)

All of a sudden, he said, his life as a pastor in the Archdiocese of Louisville had taken a remarkably surprising turn.

"I realize that my life has changed dramatically in the past 11 days," he said. "It's one thing if you see changes on the horizon and can kind of plan for them. But when it's a total blind-side, well, I don't know what to tell you."

Bishop-elect Medley said that, over the years, he'd been fortunate enough to have friends and colleagues, parishioners, and fellow priests tell him from time to time that he'd make a good bishop.

"I took them as being sincere, and I took that as the wonderful affirmation that it was," he said. "But it never seriously crossed my mind that it could happen, because there are so many good and wonderful and talented priests. ... I could make you a long list of those right here in the Archdiocese of Louisville



Bishop-elect William Francis Medley, at right, received a standing ovation as he took the podium during a Dec. 15, 2009 press conference at Brescia University. Archbishop Thomas Kelly, O.P, is at left; Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Owensboro Diocesan Administrator Very Rev. Michael Clark, Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, diocesan staff members, priests, seminarians, sisters, members of the media, and Bishop-elect Medley's family members attended to greet Bishop-elect Medley. Photo by Marnie McAllister for The Louisville Record.

that I would have proposed for this position long before myself.

"So while people saying that was very affirming, it was never a realistic consideration on my part," he acknowledged.

Self-effacing and affable, the bishop-elect will bring to his new position a wealth of pastoral experience gleaned from service to a panoply of Archdiocese of Louisville parishes.

"If I have a strength, I suppose what I bring is a broad pastoral experience," he said. "When I was first a pastor it was in the West End (of Louisville) and involved bringing together three churches to create St. Martin de Porres Church. Then I was at St. Joseph (the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral) in Bardstown, a large rural parish with a large school and a high school. And here I'm part of a new parish (St. Bernadette) straddling the line between Oldham and Jefferson Counties.

"I bring a love for being a pastor of the people," he added. "As a pastor I think I've been a competent administrator, though I

don't know what that means on a diocesan level."

The bishop-elect has told both Archbishop Kurtz and Archbishop Kelly that he intends to make use of their expertise and experience.

"I've said I'll be calling on them a great deal," Bishop-elect Medley said. "They will be my mentors."

When the shock of the new appointment wore off a bit — the bishop-elect contended during the interview that it still hasn't faded completely — Bishop-elect Medley began considering what he might do to plan for his new position.

"I was in a fog for a couple of days; I have to admit it," he said. "I received the call on Thursday, and by Saturday morning I got around to trying to make a list of things to do. I'm a great guy for making lists and the like, but I just couldn't think."

So he decided to find a copy of the rite of ordination of bishops — something he found in a book he had on hand — and that has helped, he said, to bring his

thoughts together.

"I began to spend time reading that and praying over that," he said, "and it was a great solace. The church rituals are rich and wonderful and tell you a lot of theology. So virtually every day I sit and read that over again, and I consider (what) the prayer and that ritual entail.

"Prayer is the only definitive preparation that I know of," the bishop-elect admitted. "I'm going to be on a pretty steep learning curve, I suspect."

As for early plans as the new bishop, Bishop-elect Medley said his learning curve will be "a process of listening and praying, of getting to know the sisters and priests and lay people. It's a healthy diocese; there are no skeletons in the closet. There's a healthy presbyterate and a healthy people. So I'll go there and strive to do what we as a church do — be more evangelizing and work to bring the charity and love of Christ to more people."

Colleagues, friends are thrilled for Bishop-elect

By Glenn Rutherford,
The Record

Those who know him in Louisville and Bardstown say Bishop-elect Medley will serve Owensboro well.

When news spread that Father William F. Medley had been named bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., his friends, colleagues, and parishioners were shocked. But they were not surprised.

Throughout his tenure as a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Bishop-elect Medley — now pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Eastern Jefferson County — has built a reputation as both a warm and genuine priest and a direct and effective administrator.

With Bishop-elect Medley, what you see is a personality that is straightforward and unfettered, said Father Dale Cieslik, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Louisville. Father Cieslik became a priest with then-Father William Medley in 1982, two of the four priests ordained at the Cathedral of the Assumption that spring by Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly.

“To put it mildly, I’m ecstatic,” Father Cieslik said of his reaction to the news. “He is such a great person and a great priest; he’s going to make a great bishop.”

Father Cieslik said the bishop-elect has long impressed those who know him best with his genuine personality, one that’s devoid of pretense.

“He’s an excellent listener,” Father Cieslik noted. “He’ll consider something, whatever the subject matter is, from every possible angle. And once he draws a conclusion, he has the courage to act upon it — and I know him to pass all of that, the consideration and the decision-making, through prayer.”

Both the bishop-elect and Father Cieslik were born in Marion County; Bishop-elect Medley was raised there, while his friend Father Cieslik moved to and spent his childhood in Louisville. They’ve known each other since 1978, Father Cieslik said, adding that he’s observed the bishop-elect “and been along with him” in many of the assignments throughout Bishop-elect Medley’s career.

“Being the head of the Priest Personnel Board (in 1989) is one of the best jobs he’s had to prepare him for what he’s going to do,” Father Cieslik said. “I was on the board when he was the director, and he met people at all levels in that job and went about it in a very logical and confidential way. It was a good training ground for what he’ll have to do as a bishop.”

The bishop-elect’s most recent assignment in the Archdiocese of Louisville has been as pastor of St. Bernadette Church, created just two years ago from the merger of Mother of Good Counsel and Transfiguration of Our Lord churches. And as if that wasn’t task enough, Bishop-elect Medley also led the creation of the new St. Mary Academy, which sits on property near the Jefferson-Oldham county line where a new St. Bernadette Church will be built.

The bishop-elect’s guidance was instrumental in the creation of both of those new archdiocesan entities. Gary Montgomery and his wife, Judy, were members of Mother of Good Counsel for about three decades, and they value the gifts and leadership that Bishop-elect Medley brought to those trying days of closure and merger.

“It was a challenging period, and we were blessed to have him when we did,” Gary Montgomery said. “He’s very, very highly thought of. He’s a no-nonsense individual who makes it comfortable to transform and adjust. He goes about orchestrating all this in a way that says, ‘This is where God is leading us.’ That makes it more comfortable for people who are challenged by the adjustments.”

Father J. Mark Spalding, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in LaGrange, Ky., and judicial vicar and director of the Archdiocese of Louisville Metropolitan Tribunal, shares Father Cieslik’s enthusiasm for the news of Bishop-elect Medley’s forthcoming assignment.

“I truly greeted the news with profound joy,” he said on Tuesday. “I have profound joy for the Diocese of Owensboro, where I know a number of priests and where I have two aunts who are Ursuline Sisters there. They are extremely happy as well.”

“And this is great news for the Archdiocese of Louisville, too,” he added. “We’ve received an early Christmas present from Pope Benedict. It is a great thing for our priests that one of our own — who we see as gifted and blessed by God — has now been brought forth by the church universal.”

It’s especially uplifting, Father Spalding said, that, in this “Year for Priests,” the Louisville presbytery would see one of its own tapped by the Vatican for such a vital and prestigious role in the church.

“This says something (about) the gifts and abilities of Father Bill Medley, but it also says something about the priests of Louisville,” he

noted. “They’re good pastors who work hard and preach the Good News and serve at the altar of the Lord each day. Bill is one of us, and one of the shining stars of the group.”

Father Spalding also noted that he’d served with the bishop-elect when then-Father Medley was pastor at the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown. “So I was blessed to observe many of his

gifts up close and personally — the gifts of wisdom and courage and the presence of the Lord are all very apparent in this man,” he explained.

“The key thing that I’ve seen in various activities at the pastoral or archdiocesan level is that he brings great insight,” he continued. “He has the mind and heart of a pastor — as a bishop should. He has leadership that exhorts, affirms and animates those he has responsibility for and with.”

The bishop-elect of Owensboro also is “good at sifting through information and bringing out the core thought or point that needs to be emphasized,” Father Spalding added. “That’s the gift of his listening. He can sit in a meeting where everybody pours out information, and then at the end he’ll say, ‘Here is the key issue we must address.’”

Father William Hammer, who followed Bishop-elect Medley as pastor at St. Joseph in Bardstown, said that the town in the midst of the state’s Catholic Holy Land was abuzz with news of the appointment Tuesday morning.

“It was very exciting here as the town heard about it and the news spread — the social network here is really something,” said Father Hammer. “He was here during a time of growth, and he did a lot of the transitioning work back then — he oversaw the renovation of Flaget Hall, and most significantly, he was here when the church received the designation as a basilica.”

Father Hammer said the bishop-elect was also especially appreciated for his preaching skills and noted that “that’s a gift he’ll be bringing to the Diocese of Owensboro.”

“He also has a great ability to organize people, and he has administrative skills that empower people to serve the local community,” he said. He noted that as pastor in Bardstown, the bishop-elect was also very active in local civic affairs.



Bishop-elect Bill Medley at Saint Bernadette Parish Center, Dec. 2009. Mel Howard photo

“His deep commitment of service to the poor marked his time here as well,” Father Hammer added.

When he decided to retire a few years ago, Father Charles J. Batchelor was invited by then-Father Medley to live at St. Joseph in Bardstown. “I love it here, and I kind of owe my years of retirement here in Bardstown to him. That was his gift to me,” he said.

And Bishop-elect Medley will also be a gift to the people of Owensboro, Father Batchelor added.

“I’m really excited that the church would select somebody of his caliber to be a bishop, because he is a great leader,” he noted. “He has a real good vision of church. Of course, at first I was kind of disappointed that Louisville is going to lose such a good pastor, but then I realized that I was thinking selfishly.”

“He has a really good pastoral sense and has a history of bringing really good people around him as his support staff,” Father Batchelor said. “As a person, he’s just a good, warm individual who cares about people, and that’s what I mean when I say he has a real good sense of Church. It’s hard to see him go; he’s been a real buddy to me. But Owensboro is getting someone who will be a really good bishop.”

Father Batchelor’s brief touch of melancholy was shared by Vivian Schepker, an administrative assistant at St. Joseph.

“When he first came to St. Joe parish, we could all see that he was a very exciting person, very quick witted,” she explained. “We just thoroughly enjoyed having him as our pastor and as exciting and wonderful as it is to know he’s going to be a bishop, it’s also a little bittersweet to think that he’ll no longer be in our diocese.”

“In a sense I’m a little jealous of the people of Owensboro.”

10 News of a New Bishop Draws Quite a Crowd From Owensboro Diocese

By Marnie McAllister
The Record

Press conference introduces Bishop-elect William F. Medley to people of the Diocese of Owensboro

OWENSBORO, Ky. — A press conference held Tuesday, Dec. 15, to announce the appointment of a Louisville priest as the next bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro drew officials from that city, including its mayor, a host of women religious, priests and laypeople.

There were religious leaders from the Archdiocese of Louisville in attendance at the Brescia University press conference site as well.

Father Michael Clark, a priest of the Owensboro diocese who has served as its diocesan administrator for the past 11 months, said the church of Western Kentucky has been waiting and preparing — just as in the season of Advent — for a new bishop during the past year.

“Our wait draws to a close,” he noted before he introduced Father William F. Medley to the crowd of supporters and media. “It’s exciting for us to receive a new spiritual father. We are honored and blessed to announce you this day. And we welcome you with great joy,” Father Clark said.

When he took the podium, Bishop-elect Medley received standing applause from a crowd that also included Archbishop of Louisville Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop Emeritus of Louisville Thomas C. Kelly and Bishop John J. McRaith, the recently retired Bishop of Owensboro.

Poised and smiling, the bishop-elect greeted the crowd with a bit of humor and a great deal of warmth.

“This is all too new for me to grasp why the Holy Spirit, the light of God in the church, has chosen me to be bishop of this wonderful church of Owensboro,” he said. “But throughout my life I have admired and known so many priests more worthy and more capable than I. With profound trust, I know God, in time, will reveal to me — and I hope to you — why I have been chosen.”

He noted, “As a native Kentuckian, I have always cherished the history of the Catholic Church in Kentucky and I am an heir of that rich history. Virtually every line of my ancestry came to the frontier more than 200 years ago. That is the Catholic tradition



Dorothy Medley, at center, mother of Bishop-elect William F. Medley, stood to acknowledge the greetings and applause from those attending a Dec 15, 2009 press conference at Brescia University. Surrounded by her children, she marveled

of faith that has shaped me, and it’s a great joy now to be shepherd to that church continuing to thrive here in Western Kentucky.”

The bishop-elect said he plans to look to retired Bishop McRaith as a mentor and guide as he begins his ministry as Bishop of Owensboro. And, he said, he would continue to turn to Archbishop Kurtz and Archbishop Kelly, who has been his spiritual mentor since the retired archbishop ordained him to the priesthood in 1982.

Bishop-elect Medley also spoke about his family. His mother Dorothy Medley, and his four siblings attended the press conference.

“I am so glad my family is here today. My debt to them is one that can never be paid in full,” he said. “It’s a blessing that at this moment in my life that my mother is still here to support me and pray for me.”

He said he has remembered his late father, James Medley, “more than usual lately. He was taken from us all too long ago, to go home to heaven.”

“If I were an artist, and could paint a picture of faith, that’s what it would look like,” he said of his family.

During an interview prior to the conference, his mother said she was overwhelmed when the bishop-elect told her he would be a bishop.

“It’s a wonderful thing that’s happened,” she said, noting that he told her the news in person. “I knew he was wonderful; I just didn’t know if everyone else knew it. It’s unbelievable.”

Phil Medley, the bishop-elect’s younger brother by five years, said he and his siblings are “overwhelmed with pride.”

He was only in the fourth grade when the bishop-elect left home to attend St. Thomas Seminary High School as an eighth-grader. But Phil Medley said, it was clear that “anything (his brother) put his mind to, he could do. And he did his best at it. I think he’s very deserving.”

David Ferriell, the eldest of the family’s children,

at the wonder of her son being selected as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Photo by Marnie McAllister for The Louisville Record.

said Bishop-elect Medley “has always been good at anything he did. And he’s always wanted to be a priest. (As children), when we used to play horses and cowboys, he would go down to the grotto in the side yard and say Mass.”

His older sister, Betty Howell, said the family was “pretty much speechless” when they heard their brother would become a bishop. But, she said, it shouldn’t come as a shock, “he’s always wanted to be a priest. I don’t remember another ambition.”

In fact, his sister, Julie Franklin, and his mother recalled, Bishop-elect Medley was quite young when he found his vocation.

“He got in the car from making his First Communion and said he wanted to be a priest,” said Dorothy Medley.

Following the press conference, the bishop-elect greeted his guests, including a handful of seminarians from the Diocese of Owensboro. The diocese currently has 16 seminarians, and three are set to be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop-elect Medley in May.

The bishop-elect noted that he has much to learn about being a bishop. But it was the same when he was ordained a priest. He credits his successes as a pastor to the many faithful with whom he’s served over the years.

“If I have been a good pastor, it’s because they have taught me what that means,” he said.

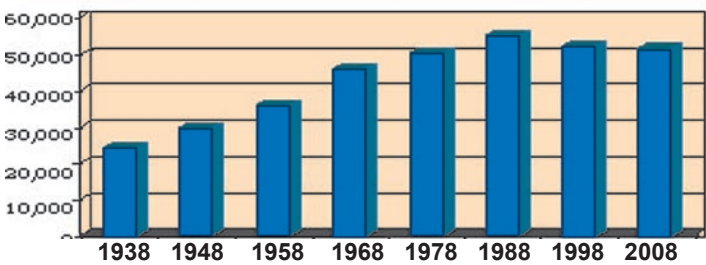
The bishop-elect also said he looked forward to getting to know the priests of the Diocese of Owensboro and the women religious of the diocese. He noted that the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph have always played an important role in his life as educators in his grade school. He said the sisters not only educated him and his siblings, but his parents and at least one grandparent, too.

By Elaine Robertson, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation

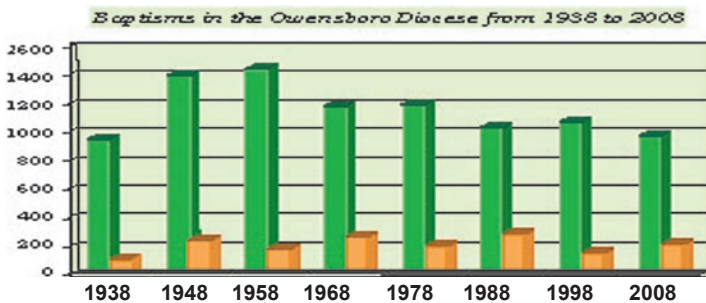
On December 9, 1937 Pope Pius XI announced the creation of the Diocese of Owensboro, composed of 32 counties of Western Kentucky. The counties separated from the Diocese of Louisville which was elevated to an Archdiocese at the same time. By December 16, 1937 the Pope appointed the Most Reverend Francis R. Cotton, a Bardstown native, as the first bishop of the diocese. He served until his death in 1960. The second bishop, the Most Reverend Henry J. Soenneker, was appointed in March of 1961. After 22 years, Bishop Soenneker resigned and our third bishop, the Most Reverend John Jeremiah McRaith, was installed as the third bishop of Owensboro. With the appointment of our fourth bishop, it is an appropriate time to look at where we started and how we have grown over the past 72 years. The following information was obtained from The Official Catholic Directory.

The following graph shows the growth of the Catholic population in the Diocese of Owensboro. At present Catholics comprise 6% of the population in the 32 western Kentucky counties.

Catholic Population Growth in the Owensboro Diocese from 1938 to 2008

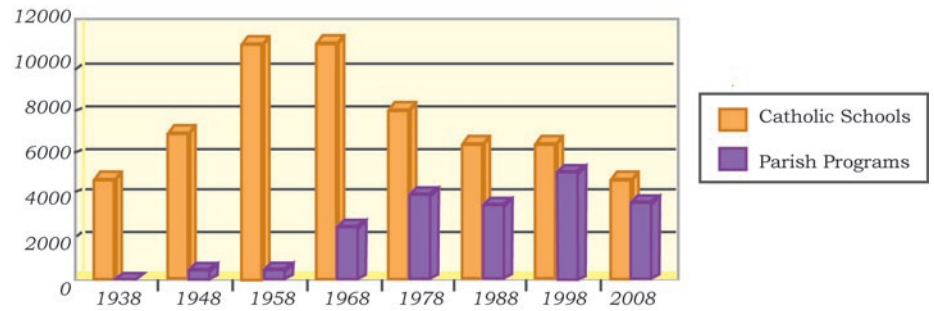


Baptism is the sacrament that begins the initiation process into our faith tradition. The graph below shows the number of baptisms in the diocese. The green bar shows infant baptisms; orange bar shows other age persons' baptisms.



Passing on the faith to our children is one of the most important ministries in our church. In the beginning this was done in the home and by attendance at a parochial school. In 1938, the Diocese claimed 29 parochial schools, 7 parochial high schools, 4 academies, and 1 college taking care of 7,734 Catholic youth. In 2008, the diocese sponsors 16 elementary schools (both diocesan and parish), 3 high schools and 1 Catholic university with a total enrollment of 4,740 students. In addition to the schools, most parishes offer formal faith formation through parish programs to 819 high school students and 2, 873 elementary children. In 2008, there were 8,445 youth reported to be under formal Catholic instruction. The graph shows the dynamics of formal faith

Dynamics of Faith Formation (Owensboro Diocese)



formation in the Diocese of Owensboro.

In 1938 there were 56 churches with 33 having resident priests. Today there are 79 parishes with 48 having resident priests. In the following chart we follow the number of priests, seminarians and vowed religious women in the diocese. (No statistics are available in the Directory for 1938, in regards to seminarians and religious

Priests, Seminarians, & Vowed Women Religious from 1938 to 2008

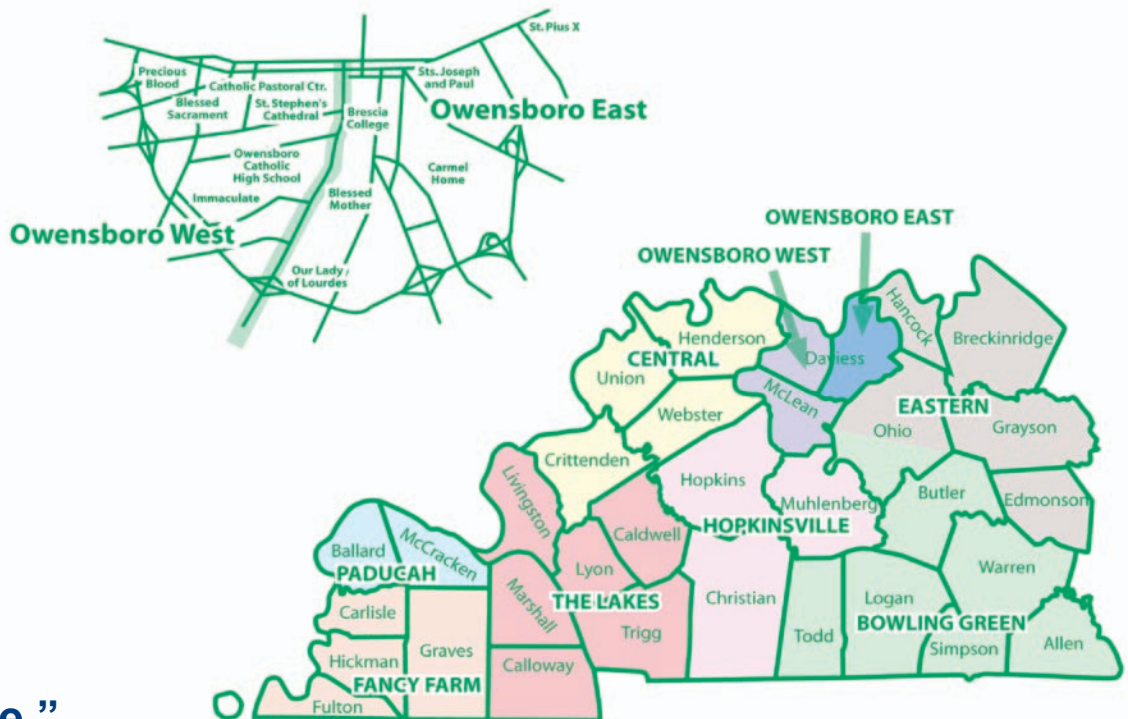
	1938	1948	1958	1968	1978	1988	1998	2008
Priests	46	56	76	83	105	92	84	101
Seminarians	No info	31	41	65	32	No info	12	13
Vowed Women Religious	No info	438	463	654	460	312	239	185

sisters.)

Someone once said, "To know your future, you must know your past." At this time of transition in our diocese it is good to look at where we have been and continue to plan for the future. As we continue to build, it is important to know what our foundation is.

KY Counties by Deanery

- **Bowling Green Deanery** - Warren, Allen, Simpson, Logan, Todd, Butler, South Ohio
- **Hopkinsville Deanery** - Christian, Muhlenberg, Hopkins
- **The Lakes** - Calloway, Trigg, Marshall, Lyon, Caldwell, Livingston
- **Fancy Farm** - Graves, Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle
- **Paducah** - McCracken, Ballard
- **Central** - Crittenden, Webster, Union, Henderson
- **Owensboro West** - from Frederica St., West Daviess County, McLean
- **Owensboro East** - from Frederica St., East Daviess County
- **Eastern** - Hancock, Breckinridge, North Ohio, Grayson, Edmonson.



"Holy is God's Name."
Luke 1:49

12 Bishop-Elect Medley's Teacher/Confessor at Saint Thomas Seminary Posts Good News on School Alumni's Social Network, LostboysofSTS.com



By Father Vincent DePaul McMurry, S.S.

Dec. 15, 2009: William F. Medley, class president of the last STS class to graduate from high school, librarian, on the staff of the *Casual Observer*, from the Kentucky Holy Land, from Loretto, former pastor of Flaget's old cathedral, St. Joseph's in Bardstown, present pastor of St. Bernadette's on Westport Lane, member of the

College of Consultants, went to Bellarmine and St. Meinrad, and, as of February 10, 2010, will be the Fourth Bishop of Owensboro.


The bishop-elect called me yesterday with the news; but I was restricted until today when the announcement is to be made. I offered Mass for him today. He is a pastoral person who has spent all of his priesthood in a parish. He will be pastor now of the thirty-two counties that comprise the Diocese of Owensboro and looks upon himself in that way.



Father William S. Griner, Archdiocesan Vocation Director taught senior religion in the years Bishop-elect Bill Medley was at St. Thomas Saminary. lostboysof STS photo




Father Bill Griner is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, but has served as Parochial Vicar at Saint Bernadette Parish with pastor Father Bill Medley. Father Griner declined to write about his friend, but did send several of his pictures for this special edition. In this photo, Father Bill Medley knows he is in the eye of Father Griner's candid camera, and seems to be giving one of those looks that says "I see you, and turn-about is fair play, Father Bill!" Photo by Fr Bill Griner



Fr. Pete Hughes and Fr. Pike Powell
and the staff of St. Martin Parish
welcome our new bishop.

Welcome

Bishop Medley



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of St. Paul and St. Elizabeth

Leitchfield, KY Rev. Martin E. Hayes, Pastor

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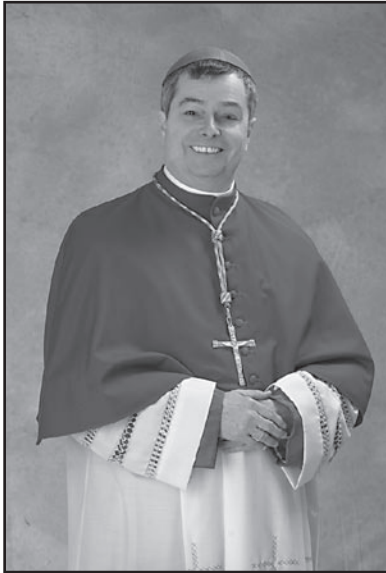
to **Bishop William Francis Medley**

on the occasion of your

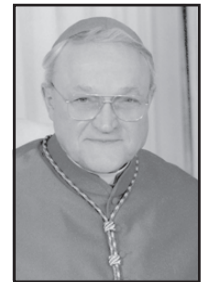
ORDINATION

and **INSTALLATION**

as **Bishop of Owensboro**



from **Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger**
and the People
of the
Diocese of Evansville



The Catholic Church in Southwestern Indiana



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Barbeque Festival - May 7 & 8

Parish Picnic - June 12

Reid's Apple Festival - October 16 & 17

Please come and enjoy our hospitality.

Visit us soon.

The Gift of Faith

By Stephen Lega, newseditor@lebanonenterpdse.com

Dec. 3, the Rev. Bill Medley received a life-altering phone call. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, had a request from the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI wanted to know if Medley would accept an appointment to become the next Bishop of Owensboro.

"I've never said no to anything the Church has called me to do, and yes, I humbly accept," Medley said he told Sambi.

Medley has been a priest since 1982, and a pastor since 1988. Over the years, he said parishioners and fellow priests had told him he would make a good bishop.

While he appreciated the compliment, he never dreamed it would actually happen.

And now, he is scheduled to be installed as the next bishop of Owensboro at 2 p.m. (Central time) Feb. 10 at the Owensboro Sportscenter. Medley will succeed Bishop John McRaith, who is retiring.

Loretto native will be the next Bishop of Owensboro

www.lebanonenterprise.com

Medley's spiritual journey started in Loretto under the guidance of his parents, Dorothy Medley and the late James Werner Medley.

"My mother and father deserve the credit for bringing God in my life, as did my grandparents," he said.

Medley was the third of five children. He was baptized at St. Francis of Assisi Church and attended St. Francis School, where he was taught by the Ursuline Sisters of Mt. St. Joseph.

According to Medley, the nuns encouraged young Catholic boys and girls to consider religious

life. That sentiment was reinforced at home by Medley's family. "We said grace before meals and we prayed for religious vocations," he said.

Dorothy Medley said it was a common prayer for Catholics at the time. "It was a great blessing to have a son in the priesthood," she said. And Medley's thoughts of being a priest go back quite a few years, according to his mother.

"The day he came out of church after making his First Communion, he got in the car and said, 'I want to be a priest,'" she said.

Medley was also influenced by the parish priests he knew growing up. Fr. Joseph T. Spalding was the pastor of St. Francis from Medley's birth until he started high school, and Fr. William Spalding succeeded him. Both priests had a sense of service and love for their parish. At that time, Loretto did not have a city government, and parish priests were held in high regard.

"In Loretto and St. Francis, they were the community leaders," Medley said.

In high school, Medley attended Louisville's St. Thomas Seminary, which has since closed, and he wasn't the only local kid who was there.

"We probably had seven or eight boys from Marion County considering the priesthood at that time," he said.

After high school, Medley went to Bellarmine College (now Bellarmine University), where he received a bachelor of arts in philosophy and psychology. He then continued his studies at St. Meinrad School of Theology, where he completed a master of divinity.

Instead of continuing on the path to the priesthood, Medley returned to central Kentucky, where he accepted a position with the Kentucky Department of Human Resources.

He was a social worker for four years before he decided that he would become a priest. Eventually, however, the Holy Spirit led him back to a religious vocation, according to Medley.

"I came to realize the gift that God had

bestowed upon me," he said.

In 1982, Medley was ordained along with three other priests at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville by Archbishop Thomas Kelly. The week after his ordination, he enjoyed a homecoming by celebrating a Mass at St. Francis. "The whole parish had a big party," he said.

Medley's first assignment was as an associate pastor at St. Pius X. He became a pastor in 1988, when he was assigned to administer three parishes in the west end of Louisville.

In 1990, those parishes were later combined into St. Martin de Porres Parish. Most recently, Medley has served as the pastor of St. Bernadette in Prospect.

The Rev. Chuck Walker, the pastor of St. James in Elizabethtown, grew up down the road from Medley.

"He was just a good guy," Walker said. "Where I would get in trouble, he would not."

Walker did not go to the seminary for high school, but he was ordained the year before Medley. They were later assigned to the same priest support group, and they have been in that group together for the past 27 years.

Walker is convinced that Medley has qualities that will make him a good bishop. He's prayerful. He prays about every decision, and he's not afraid to make a decision," Walker said.

Likewise, he said Medley is concerned about Justice, which means seeing that the church, the people in the pews and he are doing the right things. That also means making people aware of the bigger picture and not just on their own little corner of the world, according to Walker.

"Bishop means shepherd," Walker said. "A shepherd needs to know where we are going and keep us on track, and I think Bill Medley will do that very well." Nevertheless, Medley and his mother both admitted they were surprised when he received the call.

"I never dreamed such a thing," Dorothy Medley said.

Fr. Medley said he still isn't sure how the decision was made. "It's all very confidential," but he understands that the Vatican gets input from local bishops about possible appointees.

"You do not apply for it. You do not seek it," he said.

But as he has done throughout his career, Medley has accepted the responsibility asked of him by his Church.

As the pastor of St. Bernadette, he has overseen a parish with 1,300 households. As bishop of Owensboro, he'll have responsibility over 32 counties.

In the meantime, Medley said he'll be doing a lot of reading and a lot of praying as he prepares for the next stage of his career.

"I'm going to continue, I hope, to be a good pastor," he said.

For The Elderly



Carmel Home

"A HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

**Carmel Home Priests,
Residents, Sisters and Staff
give a "homey" welcome to
Bishop William F. Medley!**

16 Congratulations, Diocese of Owensboro. I know you will find your Bishop-elect approachable and unpretentious.



Sherry Ice

By Sherry Ice

BARDSTOWN, Ky. - Father C. Patrick Creed made an announcement to his Finance Council at St. Joseph Parish here in August, 1993, that came as a surprise to all those present and, in following weeks, to his staff and parishioners. He announced his intention to retire. Archbishop Thomas Kelly reported the news to his Director of Priest Personnel, who replied "I'll get to work on that right away." Archbishop made his own announcement that his intention was not to have him recommend someone else, rather to move to Bardstown and accept the assignment himself. To this,

the now Bishop-elect Bill Medley replied, "Archbishop, I've never said no to anything the church has asked me to do, so yes, I accept." History does indeed repeat itself.

Father Pat was busy leading a meeting with his pastoral staff on the day that his successor as pastor rang the rectory (which also served as parish office) doorbell. I was the lucky receptionist who greeted a smiling, polite man wearing plaid shorts and a striped shirt. I invited him into the hallway and he asked to see Father Pat. I asked if he had an appointment and was Father expecting him. To that, the polite man grinned from ear to ear and said, "I think he'll see me, I'm Bill Medley, your next pastor." A flustered, red-faced receptionist/secretary led him immediately downstairs to the staff meeting. That story grew by leaps and bounds over the years as Father Pat enjoyed telling how I'd offered an apparently homeless person food and shelter at the door.

The respect and admiration that grew over the next 12 years and continues to grow today is immeasurable. I believe one of the strongest attributes of Owensboro's Bishop-elect is an inherent ability to recognize and assemble good people who work well together, are committed to the parish

community and, very importantly, can laugh together.

St. Joseph's, with a roster of as many as 1,800 families, is one of the larger parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville. That means there's never a shortage of meetings, or weddings, or funerals, or fundraising, or work! Laughter and enjoyment in accomplishment among a staff willing to work beyond their job descriptions creates a bond that transcends tired minds and bodies.

Early in his tenure as St. Joseph's pastor, Bishop-elect Medley decided the Proto-Cathedral should have a professional Music Director. That vision to recognize the benefit of good, liturgical music has taught our congregation that our singing is one of the greatest gifts we can bring to the Mass. Our liturgies continue to reflect the benefit of music and song to allow us to share the joy we feel in God's presence. The consecration of a new altar fashioned from marble taken from the original communion rail and the celebration of the conferral of the Title and Dignity of Minor Basilica on August 10, 2002 was, in Archbishop Kelly's words, "a grand celebration." The


music set that mood and the commitment to and appreciation of the music were linked to our pastor.

One of the greatest benefits of working so closely with priests in Parish Ministry is getting to know the individuals behind the collar and their families. An observation I've taken from my experience is that all the priests I've known well have a very special relationship with their mothers. Mrs. Dorothy Medley and the Bishop-elect are no exception.

Congratulations Owensboro, you're in for a treat. I know you will find your Bishop-elect approachable and unpretentious. Many times, I'd burst into his office to see that left forefinger flying across his keyboard. I'd apologize for interrupting the process as he looked over his words murmuring he could have been a lawyer. Then he'd humbly describe himself as a mere introvert from Loretto, Kentucky.

Thank you, God, the Holy Spirit, for leading him to be a priest and now a bishop instead!

Sherry Ice is Parish Business Manager, Retired, Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, Bardstown, Kentucky.



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Congratulations Bishop William F. Medley
Thank you for your 12 years as our pastor (1993-2005)

Our prayers and best wishes accompany you in your future ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro

The Parish Community of the Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral, Bardstown, Kentucky



Reflection on Bishop William F. Medley

By Father R. Dale Cieslik, Classmate of Bishop-elect Medley

William F. Medley and I first met as we both prepared ourselves for our first year at St. Meinrad School of Theology in the fall of 1978. At the time, most of us were new to one another and, of course, on our best behavior. During the course of those years of education and camaraderie, we got to know one another better because we got to get to know ourselves better. While prayer and academics were our work, we always knew to answer the question: is priesthood what God wants me to do with my life? In the spring of 1982, we felt the answer to be a resounding "yes," and four of us were ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Louisville on Saturday, May 22, 1982 by the then new archbishop of Louisville, 51-year old Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.

As rookies, we all tried very hard to practice what we had been taught in school. Needless to say, ordained life has been an adventure, and I have been fortunate enough to have shared this with someone I like and admire. In school, I think people were always drawn toward Bill by his quick and clever wit and



Priesthood ordination reception on May 22, 1982. (L to R): Fr. William F. Medley, Archbishop Kelly, OP, Fr. R. Dale Cieslik.

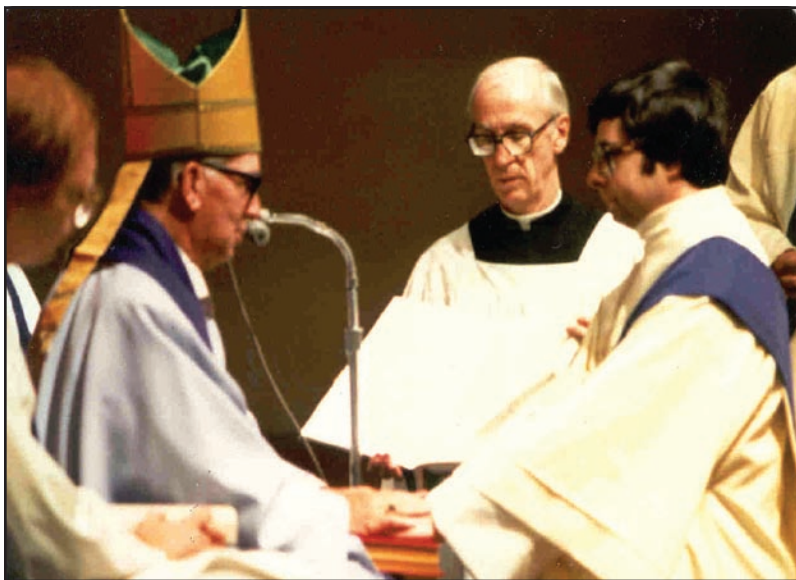
his astute awareness of all that was going on around us and the world. We learned, as Holy Father Benedict XVI instructs, we are to be all about prayer and work. It is in that context that I grew up along side of my classmates and have continued to grow as time marches onward. I've been fortunate to have shared this way of discerning with the new bishop.

As the good people of the diocese of Owensboro will come to know, Bishop Bill Medley has

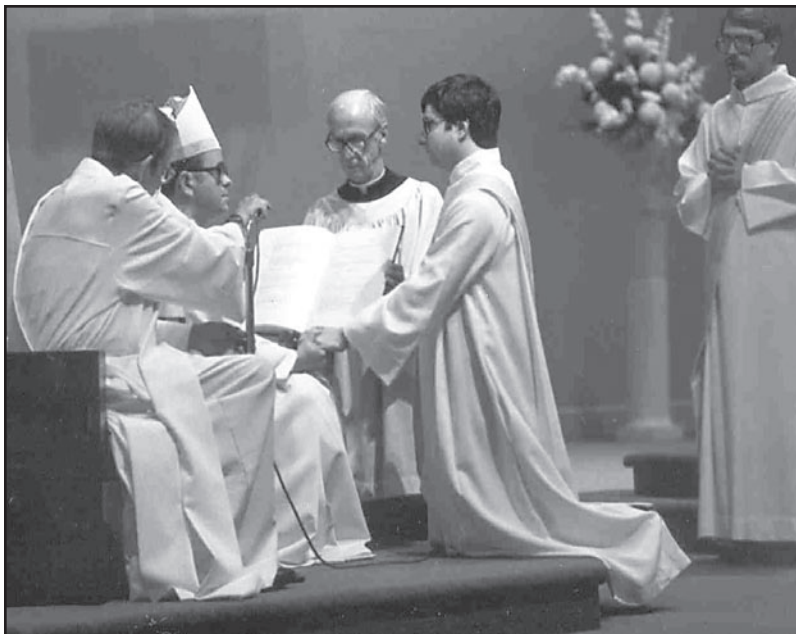
Continued on page 19



First Theology (the Class of 1982) on retreat at the Sarto House in Evansville, IN. Picture dates in the Lenten season, 1979. The director of the retreat was Bishop Lawrence J. McNamara of Grand Island, Nebraska (pictured here). William Medley is in the middle of the front row.



Diaconate ordination in April, 1981 at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville. William Medley was ordained deacon by Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough, Archbishop of Louisville.



Promises made by Deacon William Medley at priesthood ordination [May 22, 1982] to Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, OP. Photos courtesy of the Archdiocese of Louisville Archives



The Passionist Nuns

*of St. Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, KY
(cloistered contemplative)*

welcome our new bishop,

William Francis Medley,

*and promise our prayerful support
in his pastoral ministry.*

*"A contemplative monastery is a gift
for the local Church to which it belongs.*

As the prayerful face of the Church...

*a monastery represents what is most intimate
to a local Church—its heart,*

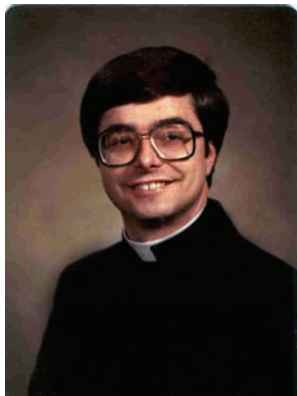
where the Spirit always groans in supplication...."

(Vatican Instruction on Contemplative Life)

Reflection on Bishop William F. Medley

By Father R. Dale Cieslik, Classmate of Bishop-elect Medley

(Continued from page 18)



an openness and compassion about himself that is driven by the Gospel's message. He is a spiritual person in the sense that he is aware of how God works through him to other people and how other people reflect God's Will to him. As Archbishop Kelly said of himself in February of 1982 while being installed as Louisville's new ordinary, he came to be a "servant of our faith". I believe Bill Medley will do the same for the Church of Owensboro.

When I began my journey in AA in

Rev. Mr. William F. Medley, Saint Meinrad School of Theology Photo, 1982.

1998, William Medley not only supported my decision to seek guidance but he continues the follow-up of affirmation that is needed to succeed from day to day. Through his work as Director of Priests' Personnel, and more importantly, as pastor of a parish community at the same time; Bill would be aware of the needs of the church as well as the needs of the priest himself. He is very thorough in his homework and it shows. I believe he learned that as a kid growing up in Kentucky's "Holy Land." And he is very proud of those roots. The new bishop has a deep sense of history and is proud

to speak about it to others. He really believes that "past is prologue."

With that in mind, if his future is anything like his past, Bishop Medley will continue to be an effective leader of prayer, a wise steward of time, talent and treasure and, above all, a servant of the faith. The Diocese of Owensboro has been blessed again.

Fr. Dale Cieslik is pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Louisville, and archivist of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

In This Year For Priests 'One Of Our Own' To Be New Bishop Of Owensboro

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D, Archbishop of Louisville, greeted seminarians from the Diocese of Owensboro, December 15, 2009, at Brescia University after the press conference announcing Bishop-elect William Medley as the fourth Bishop of Owensboro. From left are Deacon Brandon Williams, Ryan Harpole, Byron Macias, and Jamie Dennis. Photo by Larena Lawson



Statement from Archbishop Kurtz Upon The Appointment of William F. Medley as Fourth Bishop of Owensboro

With deep gratitude to almighty God, I welcome the wonderful news that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has appointed one of our own as the new bishop of Owensboro. While I have known of Father William Medley for ten years, it has been my privilege in the last two years to come to know more deeply the gifts of holiness and leadership that God has bestowed upon him.

Raised in the Catholic "Holy Land" of Kentucky, Bishop-elect Medley served with distinction in many pastoral settings during his 27 years as a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville. Caring for the faithful in rural, urban and suburban settings, he has consistently shown to all a pastoral charity that combines the rare qualities of humble listening and courageous leadership. Highly respected among his brothers in the presbyterate as well as among the faithful, he is well prepared for the task and privilege of becoming the fourth bishop of Owensboro. Bishop-elect Medley will be greatly missed in the Archdiocese of Louisville, but he journeys west

with the pride, affection and love of his "Louisville family."

As Metropolitan of the Province of Louisville, which includes the dioceses in Kentucky and Tennessee, I also acknowledge with deep gratitude the faithful service of Father Michael Clark, who ably administered the diocese of Owensboro during this transition. I rejoice with him, with Bishop emeritus John McRaith, and with all the faithful of Owensboro. How blessed that this announcement occurs today on Bishop John McRaith's 27th anniversary as a bishop.

It is especially fitting during this "Year for Priests," that almighty God bestows such a sterling priest as the new bishop of Owensboro. May Bishop-elect Medley's episcopal leadership and service abound in the grace of Jesus Christ, whose coming we await during these Advent days of hope. May our Blessed Mother Mary, the diocesan patron St. Stephen Martyr and all the saints intercede for him.

+ **Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D, Archbishop of Louisville, December 15, 2009**





At the December 15, 2009 press conference at Brescia University, Bishop-elect Bill Medley expressed his surprise at being appointed Bishop by Pope Benedict XVI, and pledged his loyalty and fidelity to the Pope and the Church. Larena Lawson Photo



On Dec. 15, 2009 at Brescia University, Bishop-elect Bill Medley greeted an Ursuline Sister who later became the new Congregational Leader for the Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines, Sister Sharon Sullivan. O.S.U. Marnie McAllister Photo for The Record, Louisville, Ky.



Father Bill Griner's camera caught a pensive Father Bill Medley during the closing of Mother of God Counsel Parish in Louisville...

Bishop-elect Bill Medley met several diocesan priests and seminarians at Brescia University after the Dec. 15, 2009 press conference announcing him as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. At right, Bishop-elect Bill Medley greeted Brandon Williams who was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop-emeritus John McRaith on January 9, 2010 at Saints Joseph and Paul Church, Owensboro. Marnie McAllister Photo for the Louisville Record



... And, again, Father Bill Griner clicked his camera shutter at the moment an expression of listening concern crosses Bishop-elect Bill Medley's face as he listens to Mother of Good Counsel parishioners



Bishop Bill Medley's family applauds his announcement as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro on December 15, 2009 at Brescia University during a press conference. Of this group, Bishop-elect Bill said, "I'm not an artist, but if I were, and I could paint a picture of faith, that's what it would look like." Marnie McAllister Photo for the Louisville Record

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A Story Of Two Parishes Becoming One, Led By A Peacemaker

By Chris Hovan

I am honored to be asked to write to the people of the Owensboro Diocese about Fr. Bill. Let me start with the question, “What do the kids think of Fr. Bill?”

Consider this tale about two brothers (about 8 and 10) who are altar boys, and always served together. Transfiguration of Our Lord’s (TOOL) configuration of the altar in the center put them on the left side, usually by themselves.

One day, the younger boy got tickled about something, and soon he and his brother were in a full-on giggle. Of course, the older boy was trying not to look like he was involved. Their high spirits earned them amused looks from the congregation – they are cute as buttons; well, except from their parents who were sitting in the front row of the congregation.

Fr. Bill gave them a glance. The older boy caught “the look.” In trying to maintain a proper demeanor, he said something to his younger brother. Whatever it was, the youngster went from shaking with laughter to shaking with sobs. At this point, Mom and Dad stepped in, and the younger boy was taken out of the worship space. The liturgy continued without further incident.

Fr. Bill always greets folks before and after Mass. He was standing outside, saying goodnight to each of us. The youngster’s mother strongly encouraged the young one to apologize to Fr. Bill. This little guy had been disruptive, and was taken out. What was Fr. Bill’s response to his shy apology?

Fr. Bill put his arm around him and told him “You’ll do better next time.” Some months later, this altar server is prepared, smart, and teaching his fellow servers. When he holds the Sacramentary for Fr. Bill, you can see how this boy loves and respects Fr. Bill. As he has done for all of us, Fr. Bill just made his expectations clear – even this young boy understood. Oh, and he did not serve with his brother for a while!

I’m sure that the people of the Owensboro diocese want to know what are Father Bill Medley’s strengths as a priest, as a pastor, as a friend? Let me tell you our experience with Father Bill.

Fr. Bill was named our pastor when our parish, Transfiguration of Our Lord (TOOL) in Oldham County was merged with Mother of Good Counsel (MGC) in Jefferson County. Our congregations had gone through over a year of strategic planning with the Archdiocese, and our formation as a new parish was the result. We were decidedly an unhappy, sometimes angry congregation. It was certainly not a case of not liking the folks at MGC, we didn’t know them. We did not want to go from a parish of about 325 families to over 1,300 families. Since our inception 25 years earlier, our pastors had been members of our families. How could that be possible now? Our churches would be closed, MGC after 50 years, TOOL after 25 years.

During his first homily at TOOL, Fr. Bill made it clear that the Archdiocese’s decision would be implemented. The congregations were out of options. And don’t think that Fr. Bill was brought in to merge the parishes – he had been MGC’s pastor for 2 years already. He acknowledged our pain, our anger and our grief. He told us that it would take us time to work through the emotional part



Fr. Bill Medley at Saint Bernadette blessing, above; at right, Italian dinner in 2009.

of the changes. And, he told us we would pray and work through it.

I could not help but be impressed with his presence, carefully chosen words, and true compassion for what we all faced. And the truth – he told us the truth. Didn’t sugar coat it, either. He gave us time. He reminded us often that MGC members were our brothers and sisters. We prayed for each other every week. Soon we knew our name – we were now St. Bernadette.

More sadness, as our communities became St. Bernadette North and South. We still worshipped separately in our churches – we did not have anywhere to go yet. It sometimes felt like we were dying in inches.

Through it all, Fr. Bill, experiencing the same emotions we were, encouraged us to pray, to plan, and to pray some more.

Then one day, we had two functions. It was a Saturday, a holy day. Liturgy was held at MGC, because it was the larger church. Liturgical ministers were drawn from both congregations. And, as would always happen, we shared half and half, not one-quarter, three-quarters according to population. Fr. Bill made us always feel equal, not smaller, not swallowed up. Members of MGC thanked us for our service in ministry, and we shared prayer and a sign of peace.

That evening was TOOL’s annual Italian Dinner and auction, continuing fifteen years of fun, great food, and fellowship. We welcomed 30-some members of MGC to our church basement, a pretty good contingent since we held 160. We had a blast! And, of course, Fr. Bill was there. We found out that he has a real sweet tooth.

We stayed in our individual



churches until September, 2009. Without opportunities to worship together, to pray together, Fr. Bill encouraged us to form small faith communities. We dove right in – he expected us to. We had, as an objective, to mix up the groups so that we could continue getting to know each other. The response was amazing – we had almost 20 groups meeting every week for prayer, scripture study and discussion. Leaders for the groups were drawn from the congregation and trained by Archdiocesan personnel. Fr. Bill was at those meetings. Feedback was positive. Some of the groups have stayed together, continuing to pray and study together. Of course, friendships have formed.

And, we needed that background in prayer to sustain us during the actual closing of our church buildings. We worship in the gymnasium of the regional school that was completed last summer. Do we like it? Not at all. So why have we stayed? My family lives closer to another Catholic Church now than we do to St. Bernadette. A big part of the answer is Fr. Bill. His reverence, joy, intelligence, humor, energy and leadership make him someone you want to get to know. And over all that is reliance on prayer.

Diocese of Owensboro, you are fortunate that Fr. Bill was chosen for you.

A short one: The night of the most recent Italian Dinner, I was in the sacristy with Fr. Bill. He asked if I was going to the Italian Dinner. My husband was at home, finishing preparation of the dish we would share. I told Fr. Bill I had to go home and pick up Ed and the meatballs. “Sounds like a rock group” was his reply.

My husband and I were members of Transfiguration of Our Lord (TOOL) parish when Fr. Bill was named our pastor in 2007. We had been members for over 20 years, and loved our small faith community. We have served on the parish council and many committees. Currently, I am co-chair of lectors. We had about 325 families when Fr. Bill came to TOOL. We were very unhappy with the changes made by the Archdiocese.

About the same time, we decided to sell our home – dealing with aging parents has caused some significant changes for us. So, I wasn’t going to invest too much time in getting to know the new pastor – we were leaving. Well, here we still are, house not sold, parents still with us, and so happy that we had this time with Fr. Bill!

22 A Saint Thomas Seminary Friend and Classmate Offers Insights About Bishop-elect Bill Medley

By Ed Hodskins

The voice on the line sounded frantic and upset. "I'm stuck on the side of the expressway in New Albany, Indiana. My car has died!" exclaimed Stephanie, my little sister. "Do you know anyone who can help?" she pleaded. "My car will have to be towed to a repair shop."

It was a hot, sultry and humid summer day. I asked Stephanie to check the mile marker for location. Then I telephoned a good friend to help who, at the time, lived in the west end of Louisville. I advised my sister to just "hold tight" because assistance was on the way.

Within a short while Bill, my friend, located Stephanie stranded at the edge of the road and effectively came to the rescue. Bill arrived to render aid dressed in khakis and a plaid shirt. After thanking him, Stephanie proceeded to decry her misfortune with a veritable litany of most colorful verbiage. She then asked Bill how it was that he knew her brother. Bill explained that we attended seminary together and that he was presently pastor at St. Martin de Porres Parish.

Suddenly, it dawned on Stephanie that "Bill" was "Father Bill," a classmate from St. Thomas Seminary days of whom I had often spoken. Immediately, she became apologetic about her word choice. Bill laughed and responded, "I've heard much worse and at times used some of the same. Don't worry."

The good Samaritan in my story is Bill Medley, or more appropriately, Most Rev. Bill Medley, soon to be the next bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. We first became friends in the fall of 1966 when Bill, of Loretto, Marion County, Kentucky, and I, from Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky, were part of an entering class of 31 high school freshmen, all beginning a new life away from family and home at St. Thomas Seminary, then located on Old Brownsboro Road in Louisville, Kentucky.

Though I left the seminary after three years, we have remained friends ever since. Bill also left the seminary for a time spending four years as a social worker near his hometown. However, he eventually returned and was ordained. Two members of that original class of 31 were ordained, but only Bill remains a priest today. If a secret ballot had been taken of the class at St. Thomas as to which individual was most likely to become a priest, I submit that Bill's name would clearly have had the most ballots. It was evident early on that Bill was a "special"



Bishop-elect Bill Medley posed with Owensboro friends Ed and Karen Hoskins Dec. 15, 2009, after a press conference introducing him as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Mel Howard Photo

individual possessing leadership skills, compassion, and an uncanny knack for carving through a morass of information to get to the core of a problem.

Bill's priestly assignments have not been easy. When given the assignment to consolidate certain African-American churches in the west end of Louisville, he found himself at the epicenter of a storm of protests. However, he handled the job with dignity and understanding. I vividly recall watching Bill on the television news surrounded by individuals holding signs protesting the closure of certain churches. It was a difficult job, but Archbishop Kelly entrusted the task to Bill.

For many years, Bill handled the unenviable task of overseeing the Archdiocesan assignment of priests to various parishes, a genuinely thankless job. Again, Bill was selected for a reason. He possessed the necessary administrative skills, the right people skills, and the ability to make a decision, and stick

with it.

Bill also has administrative experience in dealing with the scandal of sexual abuse of the laity. He has been at the forefront of the battle to restore faith by parishioners in clergy, and to take prompt action with respect to any person who would abuse others, especially children.

In the summer of 2000, many from our original class at St. Thomas Seminary gathered for a 30th class reunion in Bardstown. Bill was then pastor at St. Joseph's Cathedral, a beautiful and historic church. Bill presided at Mass and a wonderful meal was prepared and served in St. Catherine's Hall by some parishioners. It was evident to Karen, my wife, and me, that Bill was very highly regarded by those in the parish. They spoke of him not just as a priest but as a friend and a part of the family.

While in Bardstown, Bill worked closely with the Bethlehem Catholic Schools. More recently, he supervised construction of a new Catholic school at St. Bernadette's Parish in the Louisville suburb of Prospect, Kentucky.

What kind of person is Bill Medley and what type of Bishop will he be for Owensboro? I submit that Bishop William Francis Medley will be many things. He will be a friend to those in need, a problem solver, and a spiritual leader who possesses not one ounce of pretense. Though Bill's life journey prepared him well for the duties he is about to undertake, it is significant to note that the role of Bishop is not a position that he longed to possess or aspired to attain. Bill is, in a word, a "real" person.

Garrison Keillor recently wrote that, "There is a countervailing faith that says that God is in and of the world and has bestowed vast gifts to be shared with others, and that our understanding of God is faint and incomplete and so we should walk softly and not assume too much."

I suspect that soon-to-be Bishop Medley would agree with Garrison Keillor's statement. He will make a great Bishop for Owensboro, but is also excellent in a pinch at helping stranded motorists when a good Samaritan is needed.



Saint Thomas Seminary High School juniors, 1969, from left to right, Alvin Guenther, Eddie Smith, Ted Elsesser, Mike Boarman, Gus Miles, Ken Murr, Mike Mulloy, Pat McKune, Tim Schoenbachler, Frankie Mattingly, Tony

Wimpsett, Mike Brennan, Bill Medley, George Ferry, Dave Browne, Mike Riggs, Nick Eve, Mike Brohm, Eddie Hodskins, Julius Craig, Rick Vessels. Bill Kinney (STS, '63-'69) photo from Saint Thomas Seminary Yearbook, *Reflections*-'69.

A Young Catholic Family Knows Bishop-Elect Bill Medley As Friend, 23 Pastor, and Forward Moving Priest-Leader

Father Bill, My Friend

By Caitlyn Roberts

My first impression of Father Medley was probably different than most adults. I was about eight and I had just started going to Transfiguration of Our Lord. We had just moved to Goshen and it just so happened that my second mass at T.O.O.L was Father's first. I was kind of young then, and thought most masses were "boring." Not this one though.

I listened to everything Father Medley said. From when he said "Good morning," all the way to when he said, "This mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Father Medley's homily especially interested me.

Sure, I may have fidgeted a little and my eyes may have wandered from Father some, but I liked it. I could tell a great deal of things from that first homily.

First, I learned that Father Medley told good stories. This is important to me in a

priest. I've always been able to listen better if a good story is added in to back up an important point in a homily.

Second, I learned Father was organized. He had a schedule and he was going to stick to it. This helped later when we joined with Mother of Good Counsel to make St. Bernadette Parish.

Lastly, and most importantly, Father Medley knew what he was talking about. He spoke confidently and smiled as he talked. I got the feeling he knew what he was going to say and knew it well.

All of these things helped me to learn to respect Father Medley and they may have helped him to be chosen as a bishop.

I will be sorry to see Father go. He is smart, funny, friendly, and good with kids. He is also my friend.



Sean and Cindy Roberts with their children, Caitlyn and Hayden, are members of Saint Bernadette Parish in Prospect, Ky. Submitted photo

Father Bill Medley Helped Mold Us Into One Church

By Sean Roberts

The first Sunday I set foot in Transfiguration of Our Lord Church in Goshen, Ky., I knew up front we were merging with some other parish. In fact, my family timed it so well, our first mass was the previous priest's last mass. I still heard a lot of grumbling about the conjoining of the two parishes. There were many threats early on that people were leaving. They were going to find another parish and go there. I didn't know these people, so I grinned and bore it.

I started to listen to the new priests. We had two, and much to my chagrin, they were both Father Bill. After a bit, I figured out that Bill Medley was our pastor. He was as new to Transfiguration as we were. Still, he delivered a good

homily.

I'm a cradle Catholic and this is a sticking point with me. Poor homilies can spoil Mass. Father Medley however had a sense of humor. He always made a good point. His sermons were concise and didn't wander to the far ends of the earth and back before he finished.

Within a year, my wife entered the RCIA. It was a combined group from both the old parishes. I found the same grumbling there. No one wanted to leave their old church and start a new one. Very few were actually leaving though. Our family made friends in both parishes, and I found myself lecturing again. My daughter started serving at the altar.

Suddenly, we were talking of building a church. We needed one to house the members

of both the old parishes. We had a site, but we lacked a building. A regional Catholic school was built onsite first; more conjoining. Now we needed the church.

Somehow, I found myself serving on the building committee. I grew to know Father Medley better. I would think leading a building committee would be like herding cats, yet we never even had raised voices. We arrived at a design that was both functional and beautiful with a minimum of fuss. I noticed that most of Father Medley's interactions worked this way. He has an acute eye for detail. He also seems to delegate without imposing. He does a very good job of having time for everyone without letting it bog him down. With his leadership, we moved forward with certainty.

Suddenly, though, I found it was time to close the old churches and take up residence in the school gym. The church in my childhood parish, St. Columba in Lewisport, Ky, had burned when I was a teenager. My family was also at Immaculate Conception in Lagrange, KY, when the new sanctuary was built there. I had done the folding-chair-in-the-gym bit. Here, I thought, was where we would start losing members. Instead I found we started gaining them. We were a church. Albeit, with basketball goals hovering overhead, but we were a church.

I know it's said that the building is just the structure, and the church is the people. But the Holy Spirit did a lot of its molding of our parish through Father William Medley. When I heard he was leaving to become Owensboro's bishop, I was a little disappointed, but not really all that surprised at all. The disappointment was selfishness. The lack of surprise comes from having seen and worked with the man who took our two stubborn parishes and helped mold them into one church. I guess someone else noticed too.



**Congratulations
Bishop Medley!**

from
**St. Francis of Assisi and
Holy Cross Parishes
in Marion County**



William Francis Medley, a first portrait as a child. From Medley Family photos.



William Francis Medley as an infant dressed in the Penn Baptismal gown which his grandmother, mother, and all his siblings wore at their baptism. From Medley Family photos



Baptism of William Francis Medley by Father John T Spalding at St. Francis Church, near Loretto, Ky. 1953. From Medley Family photos



A proud pastro, Fr. John T. Spalding, posed with Wernre and Dorothy Medley after the baptism of their son, William Francis Medley, future priest and bishop. From Medley Family photos

Portraits of Our Bishop-elect As A Young Man



Young Bill Medley, left, posing with older brother David and sister Betty. From Meldey Family Photos



William Francis Medley with his parents, Werner (Curley) and Dorothy Medley in their home posing on the occasion of Bill's First Communion.



Standing in the familiar, popular pose among Catholic School children, with prayer book in folded hands to commemorate their First Communion, William Francis Medley had a priestly bearing about him even as a child. From Medley Family photos



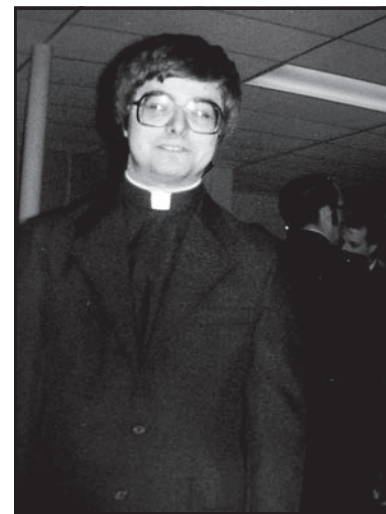
William Francis Medley, early grade school photo. In these years he was taught by Ursuline Sisters who molded their students to pray and live for the greater glory of God (A.M.D.G.) From Meldey Family Photos



At left, Bill Medley getting ready to go back tfrom home to St. Thomas Seminary.

At lower right, Bill Medley sitting in chair at an outdoor outing.

From Medley Family and Louisville Archdiocesan Archives photos



Father Bill Medley as a young priest, ready to start his priestly ministry. From Medley Family photos

How a bishop gets chosen

By Dan Heckel, Contributing Writer

Most Catholics know that ultimately the pope chooses a bishop, but how does he know whom to select? The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops prepared a step by step explanation of the process used before the pope makes his final decision.

Stage 1: Bishops' Recommendations

Every bishop may submit to the archbishop of his province – in this case, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of the Archdiocese of Louisville – the names of priests he thinks would make good bishops. The dioceses in the Metropolitan Province of Louisville, other than the Archdiocese of Louisville, are Owensboro, Lexington and Covington, Ky., and Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville, Tenn.

Prior to the annual province meeting, the archbishop distributes to all the bishops of the province the names and curricula vitae of priests which have been submitted to him. Following a discussion among the bishops at the province meeting, a vote is taken on which names to recommend. The number of names on this provincial list may vary.

The vote tally, together with the minutes of the meeting, is then forwarded by the archbishop to the apostolic nuncio in Washington. The list is also submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Stage 2: The Apostolic Nuncio

The pope's representative to both the government and to the hierarchy of a given nation is the apostolic nuncio. He is a key person in deciding what names are recommended to the Congregation for Bishops for possible episcopal appointment. The apostolic nuncio for the United States is Pietro Sambi.

By overseeing the final list of names forwarded to Rome, the apostolic nuncio plays a decisive role in the selection process. He not only gathers facts and information about potential can-

didates, but also interprets that information for the Congregation. Great weight is given to the nuncio's recommendations, but it does not mean that his recommendations are always followed.

For Diocesan Bishops

- After receiving the list of candidates forwarded by a province, the apostolic nuncio conducts his own investigation into the suitability of the candidates.

- A report is requested from the current bishop or the administrator of a diocese on the conditions and needs of the diocese. If the appointment is a replacement for a diocesan bishop or archbishop about to retire, consideration will be given to the incumbent's recommendations. Broad consultation within the diocese is encouraged with regard to the needs of the diocese, but not the names of candidates.

- The report is to include the names of individuals in the diocese with whom the nuncio might consult and how to contact them.

1. Previous bishops of the diocese are consulted.
2. Bishops of the province are consulted
3. The president and vice president of the U.S. Conference of Bishops are consulted.

- At this point, the nuncio narrows his list and a questionnaire is sent to 20 or 30 people who know each of the candidates for their input.

- All material is collected and reviewed by the nuncio, and a report (approximately 20 pages) is prepared. Three candidates – called the terna – are listed alphabetically with the nuncio's preference noted. All materials are then forwarded to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome.

Stage 3: Congregation for Bishops

The Congregation for Bishops is a department of the Roman Curia, headed by a Cardinal, known as the "prefect." The current prefect is Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re of Italy. Its membership consists of approximately 35 cardinals and archbishops from around the world.

Once all the documentation from the nuncio is complete, and the prefect approves, the process moves forward. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being promoted or transferred, the matter



Bishop-elect Bill Medley is shown here at St. Bernadette Parish in the spring of 2009 at the blessing of the new parish campus. Bishop-elect Medley was pastor of Saint Bernadette at this time. Photo by Father Bill Griner

may be handled by the prefect and the staff. If the appointment is of a priest to the episcopacy, the full congregation is ordinarily involved.

A cardinal relator is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays. After hearing the cardinal relator's report, the congregation discusses the appointment and then votes. The Congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, choose another of the candidates on the terna, or even ask that another terna be prepared.

Stage 4: The Pope Decides

At a private audience with the pope, usually on a Saturday, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the Congregation to the Holy Father. A few days later, the pope informs the Congregation of his decision. The Congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is "yes," the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement.

As was the case in the Diocese of Owensboro, it often takes at least six to eight months from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed.

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Why Bishops?

By Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Every Sunday all over the world, Catholics profess their faith in “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.” Within the Catholic tradition, bishops have been essential in the development and preservation of the reality expressed in this article of the Creed. A brief reflection on the nature of the Church helps make that essential link more apparent.

What Is the Church?

For Catholics, the Church is the Body of Christ; the People of God; the Sacrament of Salvation; a Priestly, Prophetic, and Royal People; and a Communion. In some way, each of these images expresses the incarnational and sacramental nature of Catholic Christianity: that God comes to us in created realities, whether that’s in the humanity of Jesus; the water, bread, wine, and oil of the sacraments; or the governmental structures of the Church. The Church is thus both a visible, public institution and a spiritual reality vivified by God’s Holy Spirit.

Why Bishops?

Every group or organization, especially if it is to survive long-term, needs both leaders and various offices that work toward the good of the whole. The roots of the Church’s governance are found in the New Testament. We see in Jesus’ selection of “the Twelve” and Peter’s pre-eminence in that group, in Paul’s claim to apostolic authority and his ranking of various gifts within the Christian community, and in the late New Testament references to a more structured Church governance, the first flowerings of organized leadership. However, it would take centuries of interaction between these New Testament foundations and the official structures of the Roman Empire and medieval world before the system of government we now recognize as “Catholic” would emerge in its present form.

In the introduction to its “Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church,” Vatican II described the spiritual foundation of Church government in these words:

The bishops themselves, having been appointed by the Holy Spirit, are successors of the Apostles as pastors of souls. Together with the supreme pontiff and under his authority they are sent to continue throughout the ages the work of Christ, the eternal pastor. Christ gave the Apostles and their successors the command and the power to teach all nations, to hallow [human beings] in the truth, and to feed them. Bishops, therefore, have been made true and authentic teachers of the faith, pontiffs, and pastors through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to them. (§2b)

This hierarchical system, in which a group or “college” of bishops in communion with and led by the pope governs the Church, serves the Church’s unity and apostolicity.

The Church Is One:

The hierarchy serves the Church’s unity in at least two ways. First, the system of officially installed designated leaders in each local Church provides an organic structural unity to the universal Church, linking each diocese to the whole through its bishop. Second, this process of official ordination or installation helps guarantee unity of faith and practice, as individual bishops lead their own designated people in living out



On the morning of Dec. 15, 2009, in the Catholic Pastoral Center chapel, Bishop-elect William Francis Medley, after presiding at his first celebration of the Mass in the diocese, spoke with diocesan staff. Bishop-emeritus John J. McRaith joined Diocesan Administrator Very Rev. Michael Clark, and diocesan priests, to concelebrate the Mass. Mel Howard Photo

the same Catholic life and faith shared by other dioceses all over the world. The symbol and effective agent of this unity is the pope, who must approve and officially appoint each individual bishop.

The Church Is Apostolic:

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “in the Church there are established bodies which Tradition, not without a basis in Sacred Scripture, has since ancient times called ordines” or “orders.” Rather early in the Church, three of these “orders”—bishop, priest, and deacon—gained special prominence and were ultimately encapsulated into one of the Church’s sacraments. Holy Orders is, in the words of the Catechism, “the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry.”

In his book, *Priest and Bishop: Biblical Reflections*, preeminent Catholic biblical scholar Raymond Brown, S.S., explained the relationship of bishops to this ‘apostolic ministry’: “In its basic meaning apostolicity expresses the Church’s fidelity to the apostles’ proclamation of the Gospel and its continuation of their mission to bring [people] under God’s rule as heralded by Jesus. An episcopacy that, at least in a limited way, is historically traceable to the apostolic period can function as a clear sign of apostolicity and as an effective means of preserving the continuity of apostolic proclamation and mission.”

The doctrine of apostolic succession, then, by which each Catholic bishop traces his ordination back through the centuries to the apostolic period of the Church, ensures that the Catholic faith we profess today is at its core the same faith that the first apostles received from Jesus and the Holy Spirit after Pentecost. In this way, apostolicity also serves the Church’s unity across time.

The Role of the Bishop:

Bishops serve a two-fold function in the Church, as explained both in the documents of Vatican II and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. As part of the episcopal college, “bish-

ops, successors of the apostles, who together with Peter’s successor, the Vicar of Christ and the visible head of the whole Church, direct the house of the living God.” Together with the pope, “they have supreme and full authority over the universal Church,” and “by virtue of their apostolic office, all of them jointly are responsible for the Church.” Within the college of bishops, individual bishops “exercise their own proper authority for the good of their faithful, indeed even for the good of the whole Church, the organic structure and harmony of which are strengthened by the continued influence of the Holy Spirit.” The episcopal college, composed as it is of many members from all over the world, expresses the great diversity and “universality of the People of God,” and at the same time, united as it is under one head, it expresses “the unity of the flock of Christ.”

Within their own dioceses, bishops share in Christ’s own offices of prophet, priest, and king. In the words of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, “a bishop is given the grace to teach in the name of Christ; to sanctify the Church through the celebration of the Sacraments; to guide, govern, and defend the Church; and to be a sign of the unity of the Church.”

In the practice of this dual role, although they exercise their office always in communion with the pope and under his jurisdiction, bishops are not papal delegates within their dioceses. (Officers in the Curia in Rome serve as papal delegates.) Rather, they serve their people and the universal Church with authority directly from Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. In reflecting on episcopal service recently, Pope Benedict XVI pointed to Jesus as the model: “Serving, and in so doing giving oneself; existing not for oneself but for others on behalf of God and in view of God... Thus he made the term servant his highest title of honor.” Each individual bishop, then, becomes the spiritual pastor and servant of the local Church to whom he is bound, devoting his energy and skills to the building up of the Body of Christ in holiness, truth, and love.

Bishop-elect Bill Medley's Mother Proud of All Her Children, Prays For Them Daily

By Mel Howard

LORETTO, Ky. - Dorothy Medley has the Penn Christening gown framed and hanging in a prominent place in her house. It was made for her mother Mary Frances Therese (Mudd) Allen baptism in 1902. Dorothy also wore the Penn christening gown at her Baptism, as did all of her children, David, Betty Kay, Bill, Phil, and Julie Ann. Like the Penn gown, the Catholic Faith has been handed on from generation to generation in Dorothy Medley's family. And now, something cleanly unexpected and powerfully marvelous has happened to Dorothy Medley. Her second son, Father Billy Medley, has been asked to be the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. The passing on of the Faith will continue in the Medley family, but now they all will have a closer connection to the twelve Apostles of Jesus when their son and brother, Bishop-elect Bill Medley is ordained and installed as Bishop of Owensboro, and becoming one of the successors of the original twelve Apostles of Jesus.

The Western Kentucky Catholic reporter came to Dorothy Medley's home in Loretto on Dec. 22, 2009, with camera and notebook in hand, and Mrs. Medley still had not gotten used to the idea of her son being a bishop or of this reporter's camera winking at her. She was cooking her Christmas turkey this day, and her house had that great smell and feel of Christmas at Mom's.

"When you called, I wondered," she said, "why in the world you'd be wanting to talk with me!" A bishop's mother is a very special person in the diocese, we explained, and she is to be held in high honor by all the people, and the diocese wants to get to know more about Bishop-elect Bill Medley's Mom.

Dorothy Medley smiled a little and waited for the questions, ready and gracious, accepting the camera's shutter clicks and the scratching of the reporter's pen on notebook as just a part of it now.

Asked how she felt about her son being asked to be a bishop, Dorothy Medley said, "I still can't believe it. Not one of us ever thought about him being a bishop." She said that she found out the news from Bishop-elect Bill on Dec. 15, 2009, after the press conference in Owensboro, and that when she has awakened in the days since that she thinks of her son being a bishop first off, and it still seems hard to



Dorothy Medley looks at a crib scene which her son, Father Bill Medley, brought back from a Holy Land pilgrimage for her. Her house is filled with pictures and memories of her family. More memories are in the making! Mel Howard Photo

take in. But she accepts it, adjusts, starts her day, but she still has to stop every now and then and let the news settle in.

"When I wake up, it's like a dream," she said. "I'd never dream anything like that! I just hope you all (the Diocese of Owensboro) will take care of him. He's taking on a big job."

Dorothy Medley speaks quietly about most things, but when she speaks about any of her family members, no matter which one, her voice fills with happiness and pride. She smiles in spite of herself, her mother's heart seeing that person as she speaks from her earliest memory of him or her until now, sees it all, holds it all close, ponders it, and only lets some of that heart story out when she sees it is good for the listener to share a little of who the family member is. This is how she spoke with us about her son, Bishop-elect Bill Medley.

True to her intuition that

hers is not the real story here, Dorothy Medley moved the interview away from herself and we talked about her children and their father. She spoke of her husband, Werner (Curley) Medley, and the store, and of how the kids helped out in the family business. When Curley died in May, 1975, she said that was when Bill came out of the seminary, lived at home for about 4 years, and helped out with the store until they sold it a year later.

"I felt that God let him have those four years out of a seminary," she said, "to come home and take care of me after Curley died in 1975. He had a stroke in May, 1974, and died in May, 1975. It was a time for me to adjust to being alone."

Mrs. Medley spoke with fascination about that December 3, 2009 phone call her son received from Archbishop Pietro Sambi. "I think that he was as shocked as any of us," she said, "they just called him on the telephone. He couldn't

say anything for a while! Are you still there, Father? What is your answer? Bill said 'I've never said no to anything the Church has asked me to do,' is what he told me he said."

That kind of phone call doesn't happen much in Loretto, or even in Kentucky. It does take some adjustment; but looking at reality square in the face, and waiting for God to lead her to find a way to live with whatever comes her way is Dorothy Medley's way, and is how she taught her children.

Dorothy Medley shared a little insight into her way of accepting God's will in her life as she spoke of some of the people who influenced her son to become a priest.

"Father John T. Spalding probably had as much as anyone to do with Bill's vocation," she said. "Father Spalding came to Saint Francis in 1949, and Curley and I were the first couple her married here. He was still pastor at our parish, Saint Francis, when Bill was a boy. Bill was one of his altar servers then. Father Spalding taught us to say a special prayer after our grace before meals: 'May it be Your will to bless our family with a religious vocation.' If anyone had anything to do with Bill having avocation, it was Father Spalding." Mrs. Medley said that several other families from the Loretto area had members who were priests: The Petersons, the Hamiltons, the McAuleys, the Halls.

Another Loretto native son, Joseph Scott Murphy, was recently ordained a priest for the Legionnaires of Christ in Rime, Italy, on Dec. 12, 2009. He is the son of J.R. and Judy Murphy of Loretto, Ky.

With her whole family, Mrs. Medley came to Owensboro on Dec. 15, 2009, for a press conference in which her son, Bishop-elect Bill Medley was introduced to the diocesan area media as the fourth bishop of Owensboro. She said that after the press conference they drove around town looking for the Sportscenter. "We never did find it," she said, and asked for directions how to get there. She said that she noticed in the news that Archbishop Joseph Kurtz's mother moved to Louisville to be near her son. "I won't be moving to Owensboro," she said, "I live right here in Loretto."

She concluded the interview, "Please keep him in your prayers, and take care of him. I won't be around there much."

28 Bishop-elect Bill Medley Embraced Challenges And Kept His Congregation Informed With Courage And Humility



By Judy Beaven

BARDSTOWN, Ky. - Bishop-elect Bill Medley served as pastor of the Basilica of St. Joseph in Bardstown for twelve years, between 1993 and 2005. During that time, many newly ordained priests and seminarians were sent there to serve with him. His reputation as mentor and guide made St. Joseph's a good first assignment. St. Joseph's was declared a minor Basilica during his tenure, and he was instrumental in the lengthy process of application and gathering of information.

As a parishioner, I experienced his dedication and devotion to the priesthood as well as his sensitivity to giving spiritual direction to a large congregation with diverse needs, including an elementary school and high school. He embraced challenges and kept his congregation informed with courage and humility. His homilies were clear, insightful, and from the heart, and always rooted in the Gospel.

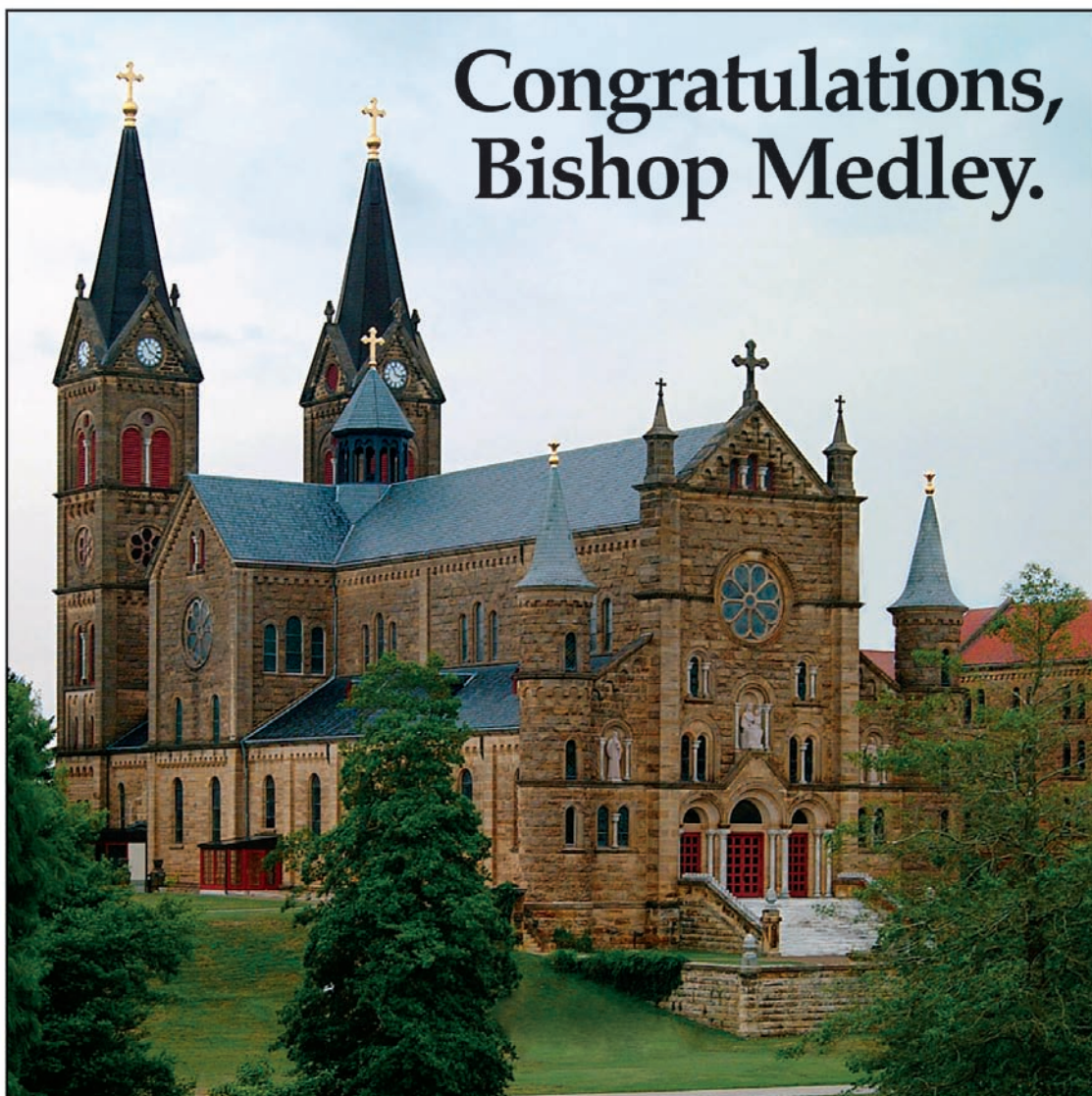
I had the opportunity to serve on the Parish council for a three year term, and during his last six years at St. Joseph's, I had the privilege of working on the staff at St. Joseph's as Pastoral Associate. Fr. Bill's sensitivity to outreach to those who are poor, disadvantaged, sick and elderly, was an obvious priority. In many situations his insight and experience as well as his example of prayer and discernment were helpful to me in my role. As an administrator, he oversaw a large staff, and was very supportive and accessible. His approach was positive and just, and he was considerate of the opinion of others. His door was always open to staff and parishioners alike.

One of many challenges in the priesthood must come when one uproots from a home of many years, near family, to begin all over again in a new parish. Still, he accepted it as an opportunity for growth and trust that the Holy Spirit would guide him in shepherding his "new flock". My husband and I have stayed in contact with him since he left St. Joseph's, and always look forward to sharing a meal and catching up.

I am elated that Bishop-elect Medley has been chosen to fill such an honorable role. I believe he will continue to shepherd his people with enthusiasm and trust in the Holy Spirit to give him the wisdom and endurance he needs. But I am saddened, perhaps selfishly, because distance and an increasing demand on his focus and time will make it more difficult to stay in touch. We will continue to keep him in prayer as he begins this new chapter in his life.



Bishop-elect Bill Medley preaching at the celebration of the conferral of the Title and Dignity of Minor Basilica upon Saint Joseph Church in Bardstown, Ky. on August 10, 2002. Photo reprinted from *The Carpenter's Journal*, newsletter for Saint Joseph parish.



Congratulations, Bishop Medley.

*We are happy to congratulate
Saint Meinrad alumnus
Bishop William Medley on his
episcopal ordination and
appointment to the
Diocese of Owensboro.*

**Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB,
and the students, faculty and staff
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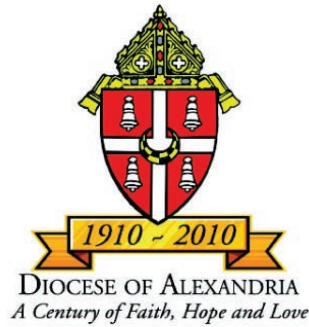
Holy Is God's Name

Luke 1:49

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to

*Bishop Elect William F. Medley
on the occasion of your installation as fourth
Bishop of Owensboro*

May God bless you in your new ministry



*Most Reverend Ronald P. Herzog, Bishop
and the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana*

Thank you

The following people worked on this
special edition

of The Western Kentucky Catholic:

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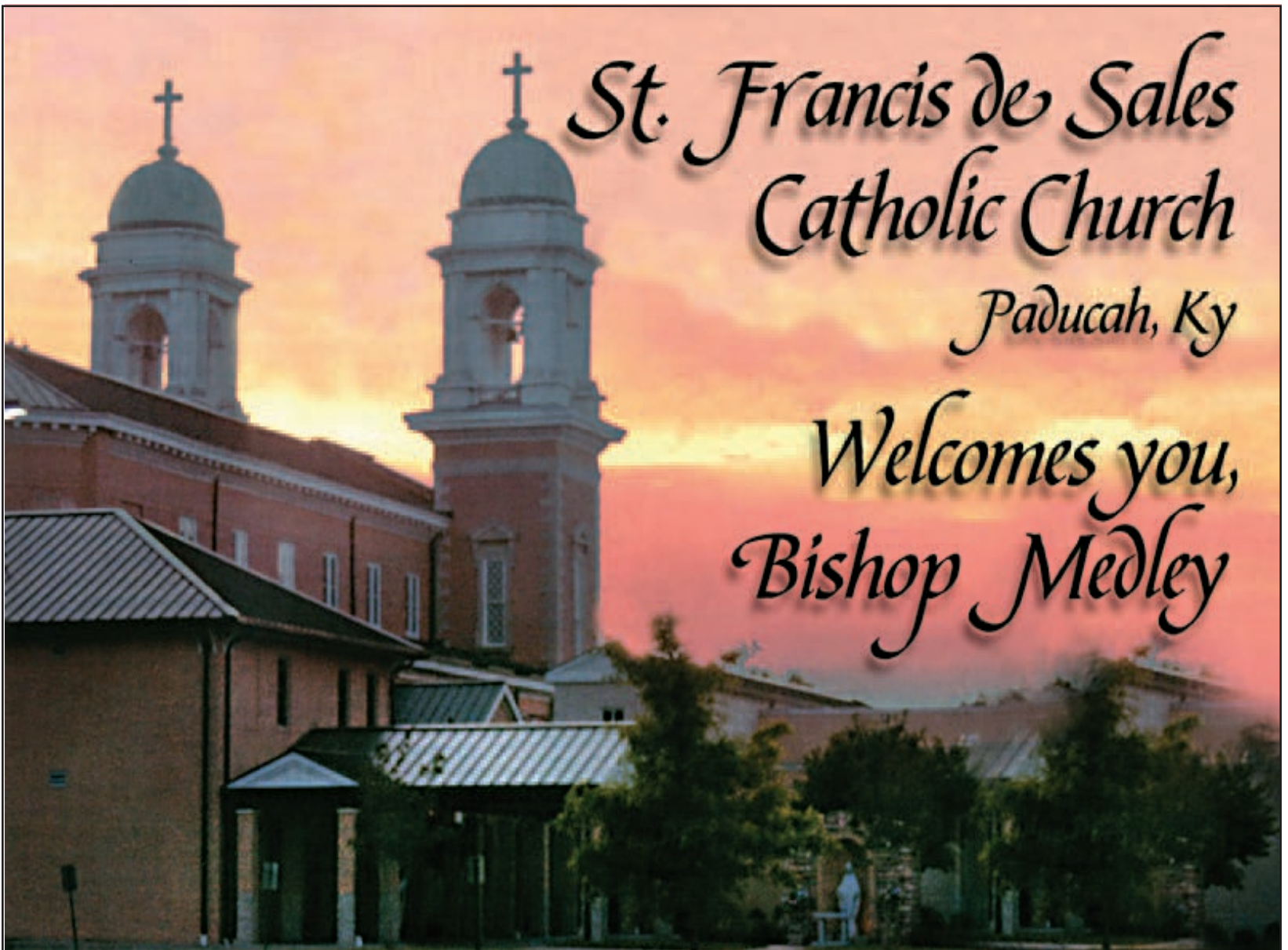
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*St. Francis de Sales
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*Welcomes you,
Bishop Medley*

Bishop-elect Bill Medley's Thoughtful And Sincere Leadership Places Best Interest Of The Church As Highest Priority.



J. David Zorn

By **J. David Zorn**

Director of Worship and Music, Saint Bernadette Catholic Church

I first met Fr. Bill Medley in 2007, shortly after he was named the third pastor of Transfiguration of Our Lord, where I was the director of liturgy and music. The parish was about twenty-four years old and only months earlier it had been announced that it was to be merged with Mother of Good Counsel parish, where Fr. Medley was the pastor. Shortly thereafter, Fr. Bill Medley became pastor of both parishes and, a little less than a year later, of the newly-formed parish of Saint Bernadette.

Stepping into that situation would have been a difficult task for any pastor, but Fr. Bill handled it more gracefully than I think anyone could have expected. With Transfiguration being a young parish and home to a number of founding members, for many, the prospect of being merged with another parish and eventually moving was the source of much pain. Fr. Bill recognized and acknowledged the grief many were feeling and, at the same time, set the community's sights on a new beginning of sorts. Not everyone gave him an easy way to go, but over the course of several months, I believe the majority of parishioners came to recognize Fr. Bill as an excellent pastor and one with the best interest of the Church as his highest priority.

Fr. Bill's genuine concern for what his parishioners were going through was especially evident during the preparation for the final Masses at the two locations. He spent a great amount of time prayerfully considering the best way to bid the old locations farewell and did a bit of research on what other parishes had done in similar situations. He also involved staff members from each location in the planning process. The end result was a week of beautiful liturgies that culminated in a final Mass at each of the two locations that expressed the individuality of the communities while maintaining good liturgy and still a sense of unity. The next week, we began Masses at our new location, in the Saint Mary Academy gym, and, a couple

of months after that, launched our capital campaign.

Through all of this, Fr. Bill's thoughtful and sincere leadership has borne great fruit. I have been very impressed at just how much prayer and thought he puts into all of this. He also makes the staff a part of the process and, while providing guidance when needed, doesn't just dictate what he wants done. He inspires and empowers his staff.

As a musician and liturgist, working for Fr. Bill has been

a pleasure. He clearly believes in following the rites as laid out by the Church but is very pastoral in his approach to this. It is also evident that he sees the great beauty in the Church's liturgy and strives to let that come out. I am very grateful for the guidance and support he has given me during our time working together and am especially thankful for the love he has shown for this community. He is a great pastor and administrator and I believe deeply that he will make an excellent bishop and be well loved in the Diocese of Owensboro.



Easter Vigil 2009 at St. Bernadette. Father Bill Griner photo

Welcome

**Bishop William
Francis Medley**

OCS

Owensboro Catholic Schools

Faith
IN EDUCATION



By Dan Heckel

Bishop-elect Bill Medley may be coming to serve a new diocese, but there is a group of women religious here ready to remind him of home.

“The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have been a part of my life as far back as I can remember,” Bishop-elect Medley said at the news conference Dec. 15 announcing his selection as the Diocese of Owensboro’s fourth bishop. “They staffed the school of my home parish, St. Francis of Assisi, in Marion County. They taught me, they taught my brothers and sisters, they taught my mother, they taught my father, and they taught at least one of my grandparents.”

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are the largest community of women religious serving the Owensboro Diocese, with 129 of their 173 sisters residing in the diocese. The Ursulines opened St. Francis of Assisi in 1912, staffing the school until 1988.

“We would write on our papers, ‘AMDG,’ – ‘Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,’ which means ‘To the greater glory of God,’” Bishop-elect Medley said. “The simplicity of their lifestyles, how they evidenced

their vows, what a lesson in the way they lived.

“They always held before us the idea of priestly and religious vocations,” he said. “There’s no doubt that had an effect on me. That’s one thing that’s missed now, with not as many sisters in the schools.”

Another student from his school also became a priest, Fr. Chuck Walker, pastor at St. James Church in Elizabethtown, where Ursuline Sister Michael Marie Friedman is principal of the school.

The only remaining Ursuline teacher of Bishop-elect Medley is Sister Catherine Therese Barber, who lives at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Maple Mount and volunteers in the Mission Advancement office.

“I always remember Bill having a twinkle in his eye,” Sister Catherine said. “He looked just like he does now. He was very eager to learn, and an excellent student. He would be uncomfortable with anything except his best.”

The bishop-elect got his strong sense of Catholicism from his family, Sister Catherine said. “He came from wonderful parents. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hayden, were well-known and respected.



The only Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph teacher of Bishop-elect Medley who is still living is Sister Catherine Therese Barber. She taught him at St. Francis School in Saint Francis, Ky. Sister Catherine also taught or was a principal at schools in Owensboro, Louisville, Paducah, and Radcliff. She currently volunteers in the Office of Mission Advancement at the Motherhouse. MSJ Photo

“It’s not surprising to me that he became such an important member of the church,” she said.

Sister Catherine taught five years at St. Francis, 1959-64, her second mission. She joined the convent the year Bishop-elect Medley was born, 1952. He is her only former student to become a bishop.

“It’s an honor to have taught a priest – and then to learn of his appointment as bishop was quite exciting,” she said.

Ursuline Sister Maura Buckler taught Bishop-elect Medley in first grade, but she left the community in 1973 and later got married. She and her husband ran a store in Bardstown when Bishop-elect Medley was pastor at St. Joseph there, he said. When her husband died, the bishop-elect was touched that six Ursuline Sisters came to the funeral, although she’d left the community so many years earlier.

“They never forget a sister,” he said.

Other Ursulines who taught him were Sister Mary Damien Abell, who was the principal and his 8th grade teacher (she died in 2001), and Sister Theresa Margaret Hite (who died in 2009), who taught him in the sixth grade. Sister Charles Joseph Eberhard, who left the community in 1975, also taught him.

“We’ve been so blessed in Kentucky,” Bishop-elect Medley said. “We have the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters of Loretto, the Dominican Sisters, and the two Ursuline communities (including the Ursulines of Louisville). When I look at how many sisters are serv-

ing in parish ministry all across the diocese, what a blessing.

“I was talking with Bishop (John) McRaith, he said while the declining number of priests may be more visible, the declining number of sisters will have an equal affect on the schools and parish offices.”

Women religious will need to continue to inspire others in whatever their ministries are in the future, Bishop-elect Medley said.


“So many have moved to hospitals, pastoral care and parish ministry,” he said. “They are doing more to empower our laity to take their places, to get the education and certification to take over their ministry.”

Ursuline Sisters have continued to cross Bishop-elect Medley’s path professionally through the years. Sister Amelia Stenger met Bishop-elect Medley when she was superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville in the mid-1990s, and he was pastor at St. Joseph in Bardstown. Her reaction to his selection was “joy and celebration.”


“He’s a wonderful pastoral person, he cares about people,” she said. “He comes with so many experiences that will benefit the diocese. He’s a good holy man.”

Bishop-elect Medley also called it a blessing to have Brescia University in the diocese, begun by the Ursulines in 1950.

“I have a feeling the more I travel across the diocese, the more I will appreciate how many lives Brescia has touched,” he said.



With great joy, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph herald the ordination of our former student Bishop-elect William F. Medley



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

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“Holy is God’s Name”
– Luke 1:49



B

ishop Roger J. Foys and
the priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful of
the Diocese of Covington send congratulations
and prayerful best wishes to Most Reverend
William Francis Medley on the occasion of his
ordination and installation as Bishop of the
Diocese of Owensboro.

L

et your light shine.

Matthew 5:16



Welcome Bishop Medley!

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Bishop-Elect Bill Medley Gentle But Confident Assurance Wins Hearts and Souls for God

By Gary Montgomery

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - My wife and I teach Baptism preparation at our parish, formerly Mother of Good Counsel, now St. Bernadette. It's a time when parents share their stories about why they are having their children baptized and an opportunity for them to understand they are the first Catholic Christian educators of their children.

As the young parents one by one shared their faith story one young lady said she was a member of Mother of Good Counsel because of Father Bill Medley. She indicated it was his gentle but confident assurance that influenced her to take the steps to enter the Preparation and bring her child to Jesus Christ in Baptism. That young mom is now an active member of St. Bernadette and shares her beautiful talents as a Cantor during Mass.

When Fr. Bill arrived at Mother of Good Counsel I remember someone telling me that he was "bishop material." I wasn't sure then what that meant but I have learned that he truly has what it takes to lead others in our Catholic Faith.

Bishop-elect Medley displayed special abilities as he brought two parishes together to form St. Bernadette. It's been no easy challenge but he always made the difficult decision in a comfortable manner, both in the pulpit and face to face. Fr. Bill has been a trusted leader in the formation process. The parish was invited in planning and decision-making. Individuals looked to him for counsel and direction and St. Bernadette is now growing in numbers as we move forward to build a new church and a new church community. We have Fr. Bill to thank for putting us on the correct path to success.

It is with sadness and joy we see him depart and move to Owensboro to become Bishop of the Diocese. Sad because we lose a holy man who helped us experience Christ in worship, work and play. But we celebrate sharing our pastor as he continues God's work with you, his new 'parish.' You will quickly see by his holy ways, his kindness, and his focus on the

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L. & the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Lexington send
Prayers, Blessings and Congratulations



to

The Most Reverend William Francis Medley, D.D. & the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Owensboro



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Bishop-elect Bill Medley's Motto speaks volumes: "Holy is God's Name."



Louis Hellmueller

By Louis Hellmueller

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Western Kentucky Catholics, please allow me to share some thoughts with you about Bishop-elect (Fr. Bill) Medley.

When Fr. Bill first came to my then home parish of Mother of Good Counsel, I thought he was a little timid and unsure of himself. Little did I know just how far from the truth that proved to be. He arrived at a time of great dissension and turmoil among the parishioners. This centered around the previous Pastor, whom I loved and supported, and the split loyalties of the parish. Fr. Bill met the challenge head-on, and never backed off. He tackled this daunting task with a single-minded goal - to unite the parish as one body in Christ. And, as far as I'm concerned, he

never deviated from that goal. He was successful in steadying the parish, bringing back former members and laying the groundwork for our future merger with Transfiguration of Our Lord.

Fr. Bill is an excellent administrator, as demonstrated while guiding the merger of our two parishes into St. Bernadette. He is also a very devout Priest, a holy man with an attitude of gratitude. His love for the poor and needy is second only to his love for Christ and the Eucharist. Fr. Bill has borne many crosses these past few years, and never once did he back away from his obligations or ask someone else to take up the cross for him. His role as Pastor and Shepherd in all his Priestly assignments has molded and prepared him for his new role as Bishop. Though we will miss him, we are happy for the people of the Owensboro Diocese, for they are getting a real jewel of the Catholic Church.

The motto Fr. Bill chose as Bishop, "Holy is God's Name," speaks volumes for this man of God.

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William Francis Medley



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**Rev. Ken Mikulcik,
parish staff,
and parishioners of St. Joseph in Mayfield
warmly welcome our new Bishop,**

William F. Medley



**Welcome,
Bishop William Francis Medley**



**We Give Thanks
To God For You!**

**Blessed Mother Parish
Owensboro, KY**



Sister Sara Butler, M.S.B.T.

By Sister Sara Butler, M.S.B.T.

In the diocesan seminaries where I have taught there are photos of each ordination class, or even of each individual priest in the class, hanging on the walls. It is a permanent record. The class photo remains there even if the priest dies, becomes a bishop,

transfers to a religious order, or leaves the active ministry. Like the indelible mark he receives at his priestly ordination, his photo stays in place.

When visitors come, they invariably notice the photos, and then begin looking for “their” priests. If they come individually, they may be quite solemn and pensive. If they are in a parish group, they can be seen searching together. When they find the pastor, or the parochial vicar, there is often good-natured laughter. “Father was much thinner!” “And so young and good-looking!” Some visitors are relatives, who are looking for an uncle, or brother, or son, or nephew. Some are recalling priests who have died. Invariably, there are smiles of recognition and an acknowledgement of the priest’s influence. Watching visitors look at the “rogues’ gallery” in the hallway is one way to discover how people love their priests.

Although each priest as an individual has his own strengths and weaknesses, as a public person and member of the diocesan presbyterate, he is unavoidably tied to his brother priests and to the bishop. As a group, they are subject to all sorts of positive and negative evaluations: they are thought to be well-educated and urbane, enterprising and unselfish, good homilists and liturgists; or, “pastoral” to the point of being unorthodox, men of very low morale, guilty of high-handed “clericalism,” and so on. Diocesan priests have a corporate reputation; the esteem enjoyed by one spills over onto the others, and the disgrace suffered by one falls on the rest of them.

Priests who visit the seminary also review the ordination photos. They, too, comment with pride, or sadness, or a joke about an event from their shared past. As members of the priestly fraternity, they know each other and are likely to evaluate one another’s “success.” They are not necessarily hard on each other; in fact, very often they are wonderfully sympathetic and loyal.

At the funeral of a diocesan priest, one comes to know how and why his friends and classmates valued him. But, apart from their funerals, periodic changes to a new parish or assignment, and perhaps a jubilee celebration announced—with another photo—in the diocesan paper, diocesan priests may never come to the attention of the wider Church or the general public. The rest of us tend to take for granted their life-long service, with its moments of triumph

and tragedy, its hidden sacrifices and consolations.

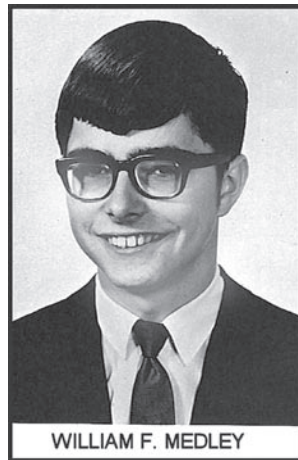
If they are wise, those approaching ordination know that the life for which they are signing on will probably not bring them public acclaim. They accept the call to priesthood not to embark on a career path, but to follow Our Lord and become the ministers of his grace and mercy. They know that the priestly ministry is “not about them,” but about Jesus Christ. They are only his instruments. They put their lives at his service in order to carry out his ministry in the Church. They desire, in fact, to efface themselves before the Lord, so that those who encounter them will be led to know him. Seminary mottos express this desire: “For to me, to live is Christ” (Phil 1:21) or “The love of Christ impels us” (2 Cor 5:14).

Supposing every face in the ordination photos was replaced with an image of Our Lord, then we would know the burden and the dignity of the priestly vocation.

Sister Sara Butler, of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, is professor of dogmatic theology at St. Joseph’s



Seminary (“Dunwoodie”), Yonkers, NY. Since 2004, she is a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Doctrine and a member of the International Theological Commission.



WILLIAM F. MEDLEY

Bill Medley, Saint Thomas Seminary senior, 1970.

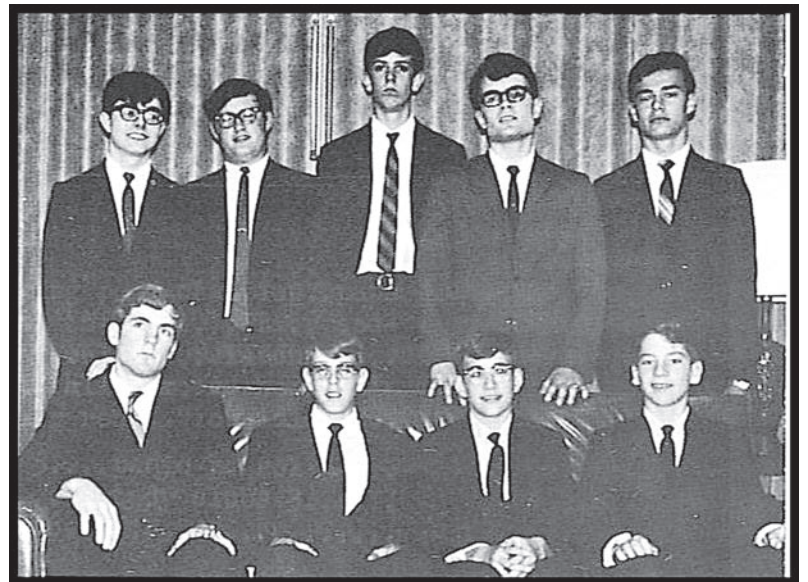
Lostboys of STS Posts Offer Insight Into Bishop-elect Bill Medley

By Mel Howard, Editor

Many of his friends from Saint Thomas Seminary days who post messages on the social network website, lostboysofsts@yahoo.com, offered some congratulatory messages to our new Bishop.

Admittedly, a few had to do some head-scratching to come up with memories from 40 years ago. Many of the posts about Bill Medley remember his quick smile, his quiet demeanor, and recall that Bill was always a good man in a pinch, whether it was in sports, classwork help, being a buddy, or whatever. Bill was just a good friend to have around; many of the lostboys of STS reminiscences recalled that characteristic about Bishop-elect Bill Medley.

A priest friend stationed in posted this December 15, 2009:



Saint Thomas Seminary, Louisville, Ky. 1969 Glee Club, from left to right, standing: Bill Medley, President Bill Pierce, Larry Osborne, Mikre Rhodes, Nick Eve; seated: Secretary Dave Donahue, John Bayans, Bill Ebelhar, Gary Roth. Photo from *Reflections* - '69, St. Thomas Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

“Woohoo! I just got the letter from the chancery that Bill Medley has been named fourth bishop of Owensboro, announced today in Rome! Way to go, Bill! Proud of ya!”
- Father Charlie Dittmeier

And another posted this December 15, 2009:

“William F. Medley, class president of the last STS class to graduate from high school, librarian, on the staff of the *Casual Observer*, from the Kentucky Little Holy Land, from Loretto, former pastor of Flaget’s old cathedral, St. Joseph’s in Bardstown, present pastor of St. Bernadette on Westport Lane, member of the College of Consultors, went to Bellarmine and St. Meinrad, and, as of February 10, 2010, will be the Fourth Bishop of Owensboro.

- Steve Meyer, STS ‘60-’66; MSM ‘66-’72

And this editor recalls Bill Medley from my own Saint Thomas days of 1963-1969. Bill was a quiet, calm guy, smart as a whip, but un-



Bill Medley and Tony Wimpsett 3-legged race at St. Thomas Seminary field day event.

like some of the rest of us lostboys of STS, he never showed off, did not call attention to himself. But Bill was always in the middle of it, ready to work, play, pray, listen, and support any who needed help.

St. Ann School Christ the King School Holy Name School Mary Carrico Memorial School Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus Owensboro Catholic High School Owensboro Catholic Middle School St. Joseph School, Bowling Green St. Joseph School, Mayfield St. Mary Elementary School St. Mary Middle School St. Mary High School St. Mary of the Woods School St. Paul School St.

Romuald School Paul School, School St. Ann the King School School MaryCar-School Owens-Elementary K-3 Owensboro Catho-4-6 Campus Ow-lic High School Catholic Mid-Joseph School,

**The Diocese of Owensboro
Catholic Schools
welcome**

**Most Reverend
William F. Medley**

**as Fourth Bishop of the
Diocese of Owensboro**

Sts. Peter & Trinity High School Christ Holy Name rico Memorial boro Catholic Campus Ow-lic Elementary Owensboro Catho- Middle School St. Bowling Green

St. Joseph School, Mayfield St. Mary Elementary School St. Mary Middle School St. Mary High School St. Mary of the Woods School St. Paul School St. Romuald School Sts. Peter & Paul School, Trinity High School St. Ann School Christ the King School Holy Name School Mary Carrico Memorial School Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus Owensboro Catholic High School Owensboro Catholic Middle School St. Joseph School, Bowling Green St. Joseph School, Mayfield St. Mary Elementary School St. Mary Middle School St. Mary High School St. Mary of the Woods School St. Paul School St. Romuald School Sts. Peter & Paul School, Trinity High School

By Dan Heckel,

Contributing Writer

While most people in the Diocese of Owensboro are focused on Bishop-elect Bill Medley's ministry as a priest the past 28 years, it was his first career as a social worker that caught the attention of some Brescia University professors.

"I was very excited to see the background of our new bishop, especially since I retired from state government in the same general area," said Keith Hudson, assistant professor of social work at Brescia. "He worked social services at a time when you truly had to be expansive in your skills working a very generic caseload in which you had a lot of people with a great variety of needs. I think the Catholic mission of social justice will be greatly aided by a bishop who has worked the front lines of state government in social services."

Before his ordination in 1982, Bishop-elect Medley served as a social worker for the Kentucky Department of Human Resources from 1974 to 1978.

"I graduated from Bellarmine in 1974. I was affiliated with the seminary formation, but decided not to pursue the priesthood," the bishop-elect said. "I went to Frankfort and took a series of tests for jobs. Social work interested me, I was a psychology major in college.

"Most of our training was on-the-job," he said. "It's far more professionally oriented today. Most of my colleagues were history or English majors, most did social work for two, four, or six years, then moved on to another profession, as I did."

Bishop-elect Medley worked in Washington



Nancy Keeton, a Brescia University professor of social work, standing at right center, asked the bishop-elect about his social work career during the news conference announcing his selection as the fourth Bishop of Owensboro. Mel Howard photo

County, the neighboring county of his native Marion, and handled cases dealing with juvenile delinquency, adoptions, foster care, and aid to families.

"It peeled back the cover of poverty that was right in our midst," he said. "I saw how difficult it was to break out of that cycle of poverty."

When he became a priest, Bishop-elect Medley served in a predominantly African-American parish in Louisville's impoverished west end. His social work training "equipped me to know some resources to help people that perhaps some other priests at the time wouldn't have known," he said.

Hudson said the bishop-elect would have seen

"the great need and response of our government to try to assist individuals with problems of mental illness, mental retardation, substance abuse, domestic violence and some of the devastation that is caused by poverty. Through this experience, he will have seen that services offered by other agencies are not enough and the Catholic Church will always need to be involved and aware of the needs of the community."

Nancy Keeton, another professor of social work, asked the bishop-elect about his social work career during the news conference announcing his selection.

"I was happy to know that Bishop (elect) Medley had been a social worker and I anticipate recognizing in him the same down to earth, caring qualities that I see in Bishop McRaith," Keeton said. "I believe the mission of social work fits nicely with the mission of the university and it's good to know that our new bishop has firsthand knowledge of the barriers faced by parish families in distress due to such social issues as unemployment and poor or nonexistent health care."

Susan Cecil, director of the social work program at Brescia, said she was elated to learn of Bishop-elect Medley's background in social work.

"I think that will give him a unique perspective when serving the people in the Diocese of Owensboro," Cecil said. "Social work is a profession that is built on a specific set of values set forth in our Code of Ethics. These values include: service to others, the dignity and worth of every human being, social justice, integrity, competency, the importance of human relationships

"I believe these values go hand in hand with Catholic social teaching," Cecil said.

Welcome Bishop Medley

The St. Vincent de Paul Society's
Diocesan Council of Owensboro

welcomes you as our spiritual
leader and looks forward
to your support and guidance
as we strive to serve the needy
of the diocese.



38 A Father's Ways Are Mirrored in His Son, Bishop-elect Bill Medley



Bob Gardner

the Foodland grocery.

Donnie Miles owns the Foodland in Loretto, a popular grocery for people who live in Marion, Taylor, Nelson, and Washington counties. *The Western Kentucky Catholic* stopped in at the Loretto Foodland on Dec 22. Donnie was busy cutting some of the expected 3,500 Mannsville, Ky. Penn Hams for sale during the holidays, but he was not too busy to talk about Father Bill Medley; store workers and patrons alike knew there was a reporter around only minutes into the interview. All were ready to talk about Loretto native Father Bill Medley, but Donnie knew that one Loretto man would be the best person for us to interview. And that was really all right with the others to let Bob Gardner do the talking. So Donnie got on his cell phone and called Bob Gardner, himself one of 17 kids, a former '62-'63 Saint Thomas (Louisville) seminarian, and a 1968 Brescia University graduate who used to drive a Bambi Diapers truck around Owensboro while a student at Brescia College (University).

Let's get it straight from the start: Loretto is UK Wildcat country. Bob showed up at the Loretto Foodland within

By Mel Howard

LORETTO, Ky. - Each of the 623 people of Loretto, Ky. most likely knows Loretto native Bishop-elect Bill Medley. They know his Mom, Dorothy, and his late father, Werner (Curley) Medley, as well as all his brothers and sisters, David Ferriell, Betty Kay Howell, Phil Medley, and Julie Medley. Most of them know about the Log Cabin restaurant operated by Curley Medley, which was located at the stop light in Loretto close to

minutes, and said, "We all saw a strange car just now in the parking lot with a UK hat on the dash, and we knew right away this must be the reporter from Owensboro and he is a UK fan, and it's going to be all right!"

Bob started telling about when Bishop-elect Bill Medley's father, Curley Medley died in May, 1975, and he bought the Log Cabin restaurant. Together with his father-in-law Grover (Duck) Mattingly, they ran the place for a year until it closed.

Bob told us some things about our fourth bishop, Bishop-elect Bill Medley. "I can see a lot of Curley in him," said Bob. "Father Bill is straight forward. When he talks, he cuts to the chase. He does not hurt people's feelings."

Gardner said that Curley Medley ran the Log Cabin restaurant and bar and "wouldn't let people get out of hand. Billy was always very business-like, too. When he got out of Saint Thomas Seminary, he was looking for work, and he went to the Kentucky Department of Human Resources - that was in 1975, I think. He was like his Dad; Curley was soft-hearted, but he was a good business man, too. Billy walks just like Curley; he holds his head up a little bit just like his Dad, has that quick smile for people, but you know he means it when he talks."

Cut to the chase, business-like, straight-forward, but always with a care



Donnie Miles, owner of the Loretto Foodland, calling to find people in Loretto for interviews about Bishop-Elect Bill Medley Dec 22. Mel Howard Photos

for the other guy's best interests, too - that was some of Curley Medley's ways, and he passed it on to his children, including Bishop-elect Bill Medley.

Wonder if Curley Medley was a UK Wildcat fan, too?

Fr. Bill,

We are so excited for you. You have been a wonderful pastor to us and now have the opportunity to be that for so many others.

We wish you many, many blessings as you begin your ministry as Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro.

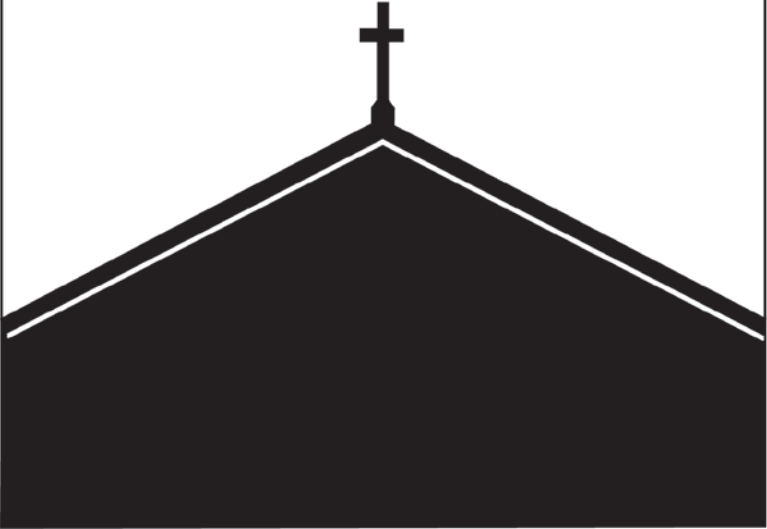
We will miss you!

"Holy is God's name"
(Luke 1:49)

With Love & Blessings,
Saint Bernadette Staff & Parish

Rev. Mark A. Buckner
and the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene,

Warmly welcome
Reverend William Francis Medley
as the fourth Bishop of our Diocese.



Bishop-elect William F. Medley First Meets Diocesan Priests in Convocation



Bishop Elect William Medley greets many Owensboro priests for the first time.



Fr. Mike Clark speaks to the priests at the convocation about the status of Bishop Elect Medley's transition.



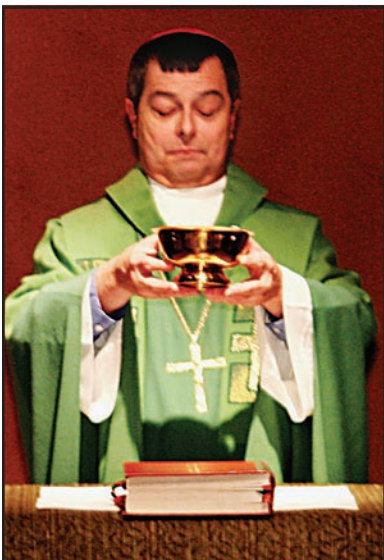
Father Bruce McCarty embraces Bishop-elect Bill Medley at Sign of Peace.



Fr. Gladstone Stevens, S.S. presents to the priests at the convocation



"...through Him, with Him, and in Him ..."



Bishop-elect Bill Medley offers the bread.



Bishop Emeritus John McRaith concelebrates with diocesan clergy and Bishop-elect Medley: "through Him, With Him, and in Him ..."



Bishop Elect William Medley preaches at Mass about the call to be a bishop. Photos this page by Father Joshua McCarty

St. Bernadette Church Has Been A Parish Familiar With Change

By GLENN RUTHERFORD
Record Assistant Editor

Nothing endures but change. That's one of the leftovers of high school philosophy class that some may remember, even if we don't always recall the statement's author, Heraclitus, who recorded his thoughts some 500 years before the birth of Christ.

He also said "all is flux; nothing stands still."

The people of St. Bernadette parish might testify to the veracity of the philosopher's statements. The new church community was created two years ago with the combining of Transfiguration of Our Lord Church in Goshen with Mother of Good Counsel Church on Westport Road.

Along with the joining of parishes, the people of the former Mother of Good Counsel Church also persevered — along with the people of Immaculate Conception Church in LaGrange, Ky., — through the closing of their parish schools and the creation of the new regional St. Mary Academy. St. Mary is located just north of the Norton Commons community on property it will share with a yet-to-be-built St. Bernadette Church.

In other words, the people of the new St. Bernadette parish have been through more than their fair share of change. For them in recent years, the changes have come in waves.

Through it all they were led by the pastoral presence of Father William F. Medley, pastor of St. Bernadette since the new parish was established in 2008.

On Dec 15, 2009, time's inexorable transformation revealed itself again. It was announced that Pope Benedict XVI had named St. Bernadette's pastor to be bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky.

It represents a remarkable opportunity for the bishop-elect as well as an acknowledgment of his grace, skill and effectiveness as a pastoral leader. That is something the people of St. Bernadette have known all along.

The bishop-elect will now face his own set of new challenges, and so, too, will the people of the parish he has served so well.

"We were blessed to have had him for the period of time we had him," said Gary Montgomery, a St. Bernadette member who was also part of Mother of Good Counsel parish for more than 30 years. "He made it comfortable for us to accept new ideas, new challenges, and we'll get through this challenge, too."

Michelle Seiffert-Hoopengardner



Fr. Bill Medley sharing a funny moment with a Saint Bernadette parishioner during the Italian dinner 2009. Photo by Father Bill Griner

gardner is president of the St. Bernadette parish council, and she also believes the latest wave of change in store for the people of the parish will, be taken in stride.

"I feel about this the way everyone else does," she said in a recent telephone interview. "It's a wonderful opportunity for him, and it shows his continued dedication not only to the people of the parish but his dedication to being obedient to what the pope wants him to do. He is continuing to follow his calling from God, and he's a wonderful example of what serving others is all about."

Like others who discussed Dec. 15, 2009's news, Seiffert-Hoopengardner often used the word "challenge" when talking about her parish's future: "That's the best way to put it, because it is a challenge," she said. "I didn't understand how everything was going to happen with all the changes we had in the past, how it would all fall into place but it has, wonderfully."

"Everything will work out the way it's supposed to," she added. "We'll all continue to have faith and continue to pray. But we have the knowledge of what's been done in the past, and it's amazing how well everything has come together."

"We have church in a gymnasium (at St. Mary Academy), and we all wondered how well that would work," she noted. "And it's working. It's well attended."

The challenges in St. Bernadette parish's future will "help us realize just how badly we want this thing," Seiffert-Hoopengardner said. "But we'll find a way, with prayer and with faith, to make it work."

Kathy Easley is pastoral associate at St. Bernadette Church, a person familiar with the challenges faced by the parish in times past under Bishop-elect Medley's leadership. Like others in the par-



Saint Bernadette parishioners posing with pastor Father Bill Medley after the Easter Vigil, 2009. Photo by Father Bill Griner

ish, Easley is sad to see her pastor leave, but excited for the people of Owensboro.

"He brought such strong leadership to our parish at a time of one transition after another," she said. "He has the wisdom of mergers and change; he's right on the cutting edge of all of that. And he's good at knowing people and will connect quickly with the people of Owensboro."

As for the parish Bishop-elect Medley is leaving, Easley believes he has left them in good stead.

"He's really empowered the staff in the ministries where they serve here," she explained. "He affirms them and develops them around that notion. He was there when something needed to be done, but he didn't get his hands in on all of what those in ministry were trying to do."

The parish will do just fine, she said, though there will be some adjustment.

"We were thinking we'd all be right here through his retirement," she said with a hint of a laugh. "We thought that he'd be right here with us as we go on down the road. We're so excited for him and so proud of him."

Judy Montgomery, director of children's faith formation at St. Bernadette, said many at the parish were shocked, but not surprised, at the appointment of the bishop-elect. "We've recognized his leadership qualities," she said. "His gift of leadership and vision and pastoral

care were just a few of the gifts he brought to us, and will take with him to Owensboro. There are tears of sadness for his departure, but tears of joy, too. He is a holy man."

Montgomery said the future of St. Bernadette is solid because of the base Bishop-elect Medley helped parish leaders to establish.

"I think the foundation has been laid because of Father Bill's leadership with us," she noted. "He places trust and authority in his staff and pastoral council. And because of him, because he empowered his parish, this parish will be ready for the next transition that we have to face."

In addition to guiding the merger of Transfiguration and Mother of Good Counsel churches, Bishop-elect Medley was also at the helm during the creation of St. Mary Academy, formed from the combining of Mother of Good Counsel School and Immaculate Conception School in LaGrange.

The new school has a student population of more than 500, and Mary Alice Zettel, the principal, said the bishop-elect's leadership was instrumental in getting the school off to such a positive start.

"He did-a-lot-of great work in bringing Transfiguration and Mother of Good Counsel together," she said. "Everything has fallen into place, and this is such a good place with such a good feeling" as a result of Bishop-elect Medley's guidance and leadership.

St. Stephen Cathedral

Welcomes

Bishop William Medley



-From the stained glass window in the apse of St. Stephen Cathedral

The Catholic Community of St. Stephen Cathedral serves as the Mother Church for the Diocese of Owensboro to welcome, evangelize and worship in the name of Jesus Christ.

From The Lebanon Enterprise,
12 23 2009

Bishop-elect William Medley third local man appointed bishop

LEBANON, Ky. - The Rev. Bill Medley will become the third Marion County native to be appointed as a bishop when he is ordained at the Bishop of Owensboro Feb. 10, 2010 in the Owensboro Sportscenter at 2:00 P.M. CST.

The first Marion Countiah to become a bishop was Martin John Spalding.

Martin John Spalding, who was born in May 23, 1810, was appointed Bishop of Louisville In 1850. In 1864, he became the Archbishop of

We welcome
Bishop William Francis Medley

from



James H. Davis
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www.davisfuneralhome.com



Baltimore. He died Feb. 7, 1872.

John Lancaster Spalding was the second local citizen to attain the rank of bishop. He was born June 2, 1840, in Lebanon. He was ordained

Bishop of Peoria, Ill., May 1, 1877. He held that position until he resigned Sept. 11, 1908, which was the same day he was named the Titular Bishop of Scythopolis. He died Aug. 25, 1916.



The People of
Saints Joseph &
Paul Catholic
Church
joyfully welcome
our new Bishop,
William Francis
Medley,
to the Diocese
of Owensboro.

“We give our hearts to God, and our talents to His People.”



HOLY SPIRIT
Catholic Church

Welcomes Bishop William Francis Medley

The Spirit Is Moving Us
On February 28, 2010

4754 Smallhouse Rd
Bowling Green, KY 42104
270.842.7777

www.holyspiritcatholic.org

Check website for more information

Bishop-elect William Medley is Second Louisville Priest To Be a Bishop of Owensboro

The Archdiocese of Louisville and the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., share somewhat of a common heritage. And this connection continued with the appointment Dec. 15 of Father William F. Medley as the fourth Bishop of Owensboro.

Bishop-elect Medley, pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Eastern Jefferson County, is the second native and priest of the Louisville archdiocese to be named a Bishop of Owensboro.

Owensboro's first bishop, Francis Cotton, also was a native and priest of Louisville who had been a chancellor to Louisville Archbishop John A. Floersch. Bishop Cotton was consecrated Bishop of Owensboro on Feb. 24, 1938, and died Sept. 25, 1960.

Bishop-elect Medley will be ordained and installed Bishop of Owensboro at 2 p.m. CST Feb. 10 at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

There also is another Owensboro-Louisville connection.

The Diocese of Owensboro was established 72 years ago on Dec. 9, 1937 — the day before the Louisville Diocese was elevated to an archdiocese.

The former Louisville Diocese had included the 32 counties in the western part of Kentucky that became the Diocese of Owensboro.

Today, the Owensboro Diocese — which covers a 12,502 square-mile area — has



Owensboro's first bishop, Francis Cotton, also a native and priest of Louisville, is shown here greeting ladies from the Diocese of Owensboro in 1947. Diocesan Archives photo

a Catholic population of 49,909, about 6 percent of the area's total population of 865,416, according to the 2009 Official Catholic Directory.

The Owensboro diocese



Bishop-elect Bill Medley celebrated Mass with the priests of the Owensboro Diocese on Jan. 13, 2010 at Lake Barkley Convention Center during the priests annual convocation. Photo by Father Joshua McCarty

has 79 parishes; 18 Catholic elementary and high schools and one Catholic university, Brescia University.

The other two bishops of Owensboro, the late Bishop Henry J. Soenneker (1961-1982) and Bishop John J. McRaith (1982-2009) were natives of Minnesota. Bishop McRaith retired last January and resides in Owensboro.

Louisville and Owensboro are two of the four Catholic dioceses in Kentucky, the others being Covington and Lexington.

- Reprinted from *The Louisville Record*, December 17, 2009

On behalf of Fr. Bruce Fogle and the parishioners of Holy Cross in Providence, Immaculate Conception in Earlington, and Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs,



We want to warmly welcome our new Bishop, William Medley.

Every Service We Provide
Is Designed With
Your Comfort In Mind.

We Believe That Business
Principles Should Conform
To The Teachings
of Christ.



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and
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(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

January 13, 2010

Greetings Bishop William Medley:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I congratulate you on the recent achievement of being named Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. I am honored to express my appreciation of your service to your community and to your church.

You have dedicated your life to ministering to others and have created a legacy in the church that has grown and strengthened under your leadership. You are a pillar in your community and a shining example for many.

I commend you for your service and dedication to your church and community. Congratulations, again, on this special achievement and best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Beshear



Holy Is God's Name

Luke 1:49

The Diocesan Staff first met the Most Reverend William Francis Medley at Mass on Dec. 15, 2009 in the Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel, and welcomed him as our fourth Bishop. During his homily for the Mass, he said, "Twelve days ago, (Dec 3, 2009) I sat in my office, minding my own business. At 12:40 p.m. I got a phone call. The receptionist told me it was Archbishop Sambhi calling from Washington, D.C. He said that the Holy Father had asked him to call me and ask if I would accept this new ministry as Bishop of Owensboro. It was like my life flashing before my eyes. I said "Yes, I have never said no to anything that the Church has asked me to do." Later, during the Communion Song, Bishop-elect Medley was moved to tears as the staff sang his motto, "Holy Is God's Name." Mel Howard Photo

“Holy is God’s Name” Episcopal Motto of the New Bishop-Elect Of the Diocese of Owensboro, Reverend William Francis Medley

“Santo es el Nombre de Dios” Lema Episcopal del Nuevo Obispo Electo de la Diócesis de Owensboro, El Reverendo William Francis Medley

By Luis Ajú (Translated by Tami Schneider)

Because everything continues to change with the times, we present a new column called: *In God’s Name*

Throughout the past year many signs of God have been apparent in the life of faith at the heart of the diocese.

First: Retirement of Bishop John J. McRaith

As Bishop John J. McRaith neared retirement age, the Holy See accepted his request to leave his mission as Bishop of Owensboro. Although the faithful rejoiced with him to see that he had finished the race of his Episcopal Ministry, they were also sad to see him go. It would be remiss to fail to mention that he planted many seeds in many lives through his humility, his pastoral vision, his dedication to the respect of human life, and above all, his openness to face the difficult challenge of change whenever the present or the future of the Church called for it. Many grateful hearts give thanks to beloved Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith for sharing all his virtues and talents with the faithful and for opening the doors of the diocese to the Hispanic immigrants to make them feel at home by creating a multicultural and multilingual Church through the Office for Hispanic Ministry, which opened in 1997. As they say in Castilian “con el corazón en la mano, le decimos gracias” (with our heart in our hand, we say thank you).

Second: Election of a Diocesan Administrator

A few days after Bishop McRaith retired, the Diocesan College of Consultors named the Very Reverend John Michael Clark as the Diocesan Administrator until the Holy See named a new bishop. The Diocese extends its profound gratitude to Fr. Clark for his example, his life, and his unconditional surrender in accepting to lead and accompany us as Diocesan Administrator. May God bless him and the College of Consultors for their guidance.

Third: The Announcement of a New Bishop

A little over a year later, Rome named the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. The faithful of Western Kentucky now marches onward with a new leader who begins a new role, united with him in his Episcopal motto, “Holy is God’s Name.” In His Name and for His Name the people of the diocese will begin to walk forward together on February 10, 2010 and in the Name of the holy Name of God, will reach as far as God desires.

The Hispanic Community would like to extend a very warm welcome to Bishop-elect Medley. There are approximately 12,000 Hispanics in the diocese, 67% of whom are Catholic. The rest belong to other denominations or are simply unaffiliated with a specific community although they were baptized Catholic in their native countries. But the presence of Latin Americans at the Spanish Masses in our diocese speaks louder than these statistics, since they were taken from the 2000 census. In the past years, the Hispanic population has increased significantly. Updated information will not be available until after the 2010 census.

On two occasions, Bishop-elect Medley expressed his intention to learn Spanish in order to better serve the Spanish-speaking community. Perhaps that prophesies his interest to enter into the world of the Hispanic culture and see from there the vibrant faith of these communities in order to join with the other Bishops of this country to affirm that the presence and the faith of the Hispanics is a blessing for the Church in the United States. The Hispanic Community welcomes him and places itself in his service to follow his pastoral guidance and help in whatever way possible. They are ready to serve and be an active part of the vision and mission of the Church that Jesus began saying: “Go and teach all about the Kingdom of God.”

Many thanks to Bishop-elect Medley for saying yes to the call of Episcopal Ministry, for leaving everything behind in order to begin this new page in his life and in the life of the Diocese of Owensboro. This is a great responsibility indeed, but he is not alone. He is accompanied by all of our prayers.

Por Luis Ajú



Luis Ajú

Porque todo va Cambiando en Torno al Tiempo Presentamos una Nueva Columna Llamado: *En Nombre de Dios*.

Se han encontrado muchos signos de Dios en nuestras vidas de Fe en el seno de nuestra diócesis desde el año pasado hasta el día actual.

Primero: Jubilación del Obispo John J. McRaith

Se nos informó que el Señor Obispo John J. McRaith alcanzó la edad de retirarse como Pastor, y que la Santa Sede había aceptado su petición! De nuestra parte, nos causó alegría de verlo realizado en su vida como Obispo, pero también tristeza por verlo dejar su Ministerio como Obispo. Hay que mencionar que él dejó mucha siembra en la vida de todos con su humildad, su visión pastoral y su preocupación por la vida humana, pero sobretodo su apertura a los cambios que el presente y el futuro de la Iglesia exige, que son retos profundos. Le agradecemos al querido Obispo Retirado John J. McRaith por compartir todos sus virtudes y talentos al pueblo católico y por abrir las puertas de la Diócesis para que los Inmigrantes Hispanos nos sintiéramos en casa, creando así una Iglesia Multicultural y Multilingüe, abriendo así una oficina Diocesana para el Ministerio Hispano en el año 1997. Diríamos en buen castellano “con el corazón en la mano, le decimos gracias.”

Segundo: Elección del Administrador Diocesano

Pocos días después de la jubilación del Obispo McRaith, el Colegio de Consultores de la Diócesis nombró al Muy Reverendo Padre John Michael Clark, como el Administrador Diocesano, mientras la Santa Sede nombraba a un nuevo obispo. Le extendemos nuestro profundo agradecimiento al P. Clark por su ejemplo, vida y entrega incondicional en aceptar dirigirnos y acompañarnos en su calidad de Administrador Diocesano. Esperamos que haya disfrutado su tiempo como Administrador. Dios lo bendiga y a su Colegio de Consultores, mil gracias.

Tercero: Nombramiento de un Nuevo Obispo

Esperamos el nombramiento del cuarto Obispo de esta noble Diócesis de Owensboro un poco más de un año, pero ahora volvemos a caminar con nuevos zapatos, para toda la Diócesis como para el nuevo Señor Obispo Elegido. Nos hacemos parte de su lema, Santo es el Nombre de Dios. En Su Nombre y para Su Nombre iniciaremos a caminar juntos el día 10 de Febrero 2010, y en nombre del Santo Nombre de Dios llegaremos donde Dios quiere que lleguemos.

El Ministerio Hispano le extiende al Señor Obispo-electo Medley una calurosa bienvenida. Aquí en la diócesis en números aproximados, somos 12 mil hispanos y el 67% son Católicos. El resto pertenece a otras nominaciones o sencillamente no se identifica con ninguna comunidad en específico aunque son bautizados en nuestra Iglesia Católica de otros países. Pero la presencia en las parroquias de nuestra diócesis en las Misas en español, dice más que estos datos, ya que las mismas son tomadas del censo del 2000. Pero ahora vemos el significativo aumento de personas. No tendremos los datos actuales hasta después del censo nacional de este año.

En dos ocasiones el Obispo-electo Medley expresó su disponibilidad de aprender el español, para poder servir a los de habla hispana. Creo que esta es una voz profética, para expresar su interés por entrar en el mundo de la cultura hispana y ver desde allí, la fe vibrante de estas comunidades y decir con los Obispos de este país, que la presencia y la fe de los hispanos es una bendición para la Iglesia en Estados Unidos. Le damos la bienvenida y nos ponemos a sus ordenes para seguir sus direcciones pastorales y en lo que podamos ayudar estamos listos para servir y ser parte viva de la visión y misión de la Iglesia que Jesús nos dejó: “Id y enseñad a todos el Reino de Dios.”

A usted, Obispo Electo Medley, gracias por decir el Sí al llamado a su Ministerio Episcopal y dejar todo para iniciar esta nueva página de su vida y en la vida de la Diócesis. Esto significa para usted una tremenda responsabilidad, pero que no esta solo. Le acompañamos con nuestras oraciones.

El Obispo-Electo William F. Medley Será Ordenado Cuarto Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro el 10 de Febrero, 2010

El Padre William Francis Medley, un pastor de la Archidiócesis de Louisville, ha sido nombrado el cuarto Obispo de Owensboro, Kentucky. Toma el puesto del Obispo John J. McRaith, que se jubiló el 5 de Enero, 2009 después de 27 años como el pastor de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

“Como nativo de Kentucky, mi propia fe ha sido forjado por la practica del catolicismo en este estado desde los días de los pioneros. Ahora es un privilegio ser el pastor y el siervo de otros que también han sido forjados en esta tradición santa y rica,” dijo el Obispo-electo Medley.

La ordenación del Obispo-electo Medley tomará lugar a las 2:00 p.m. el 10 de febrero, 2010, en el Sportscenter de Owensboro.

Fundado en el 1937, la Diócesis de Owensboro se extiende a través de 32 condados en Kentucky Occidental. Con 51,780 católicos, la diócesis tiene 79 parroquias, 19 escuelas, incluyendo una universidad, y un hospital. Es parte de la misma provincia que incluye a todas las diócesis de Kentucky y Tennessee, incluyendo a Nashville.

El Obispo-electo nació el 17 de septiembre del 1952, en el condado Marion, Kentucky, hijo de Dorothy C. Hayden Medley y James Werner Medley (quien ya falleció). Fue bautizado en la iglesia de San Francisco de Asís en St. Francis, Kentucky y asistió la primaria allí mismo. Después de asistir a la preparatoria en el Seminario de Santo Tomás, el Obispo-electo Medley recibió un Bachillerato de Artes en filosofía y psicología de Bellarmine University en Louisville y una Maestría de Divinidad de Saint Meinrad School of Theology en Saint Mein-



Bishop-Elect William F. Medley

rad, Indiana. Antes de su ordenación en el 1982, Medley sirvió como trabajador social para el Kentucky Department of Human Resources (departamento de recursos humanos) de 1974 a 1978. El Obispo-electo Medley fue ordenado al sacerdocio el 22 de mayo, 1982, en la Catedral de la Asunción por el Arzobispo Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., ahora Arzobispo Emeritus de Louisville. Después de su ordenación, Medley era pastor asociado en la parroquia de San Pío X en Louisville de 1982-1985 mientras servía como capellán en la preparatoria de la Asunción. En junio del 1985, fue asignado como pastor asociado en la Catedral de la Asunción, Louisville, donde sirvió hasta el 1988. En junio del 1988, fue asignado como el administrador de las Parroquias de San Benedicto, San Carlos Borromeo y La Santa Cruz en Louisville, y en 1989, el Obispo-electo Medley fue asignado director de la Oficina del Personal Clerical. En 1990 llegó a ser pastor de la Parroquia de San Martín de Porres, la cual se estableció al combinar las parroquias de San Benedicto, San Carlos Borromeo y La Santa Cruz. En septiembre del 1993, el Obispo-

electo Medley fue asignado pastor del Proto-Catedral de San José en Bardstown, Kentucky, la Sede original de la Arquidiócesis de Louisville. Durante su tiempo sirviendo en San José, la iglesia fue designada como una basílica menor. Durante ese tiempo, también sirvió como administrador de la Parroquia de Santa Mónica en Bardstown.

En junio del 2005, el Obispo-electo Medley fue asignado pastor de la Parroquia de La Madre del Buen Consejo en Louisville, y en 2007 llegó a ser pastor de la Parroquia de la Transfiguración de Nuestro Señor en Goshen, Kentucky. También sirvió como pastor de la Parroquia de

Santa Bernadette, la cual fue creada al combinar las dos parroquias, y supervisó la construcción de una nueva escuela.

El Obispo-electo Medley ha servido en una variedad de posiciones en la Arquidiócesis de Louisville, incluyendo el Colegio de Consultores, el Concilio Sacerdotal, la Comisión de Planificación de la Arquidiócesis, el Panel de la Salud Sacerdotal, y el Consejo del Personal Sacerdotal. También ha servido como presidente de la Asociación Ministerial de los condados de Bardstown/ Nelson y en la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Condado Nelson.

Bienvenido al Obispo William F. Medley



Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith, D.D.

Por el Obispo Emeritus John J. McRaith, D.D.

Escribo este mensaje con mucha alegría y con un corazón lleno de gratitud a Dios por llamarle al Obispo Medley a ser el cuarto Obispo de esa gran Diócesis de Owensboro, la Iglesia de Kentucky Occidental, y por dar su ‘sí’ al llamado a ser nuestro Obispo.

Estoy muy agradecido a nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Benedicto XVI, por haberle llamado y nombrado al Obispo Medley a ser el Pastor de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Esta gratitud se traduce en una calida bienvenida de mi parte al Obispo Medley y en una promesa de apoyarle en todo las maneras que me sean posibles. Acabamos de celebrar la gran fiesta de la Navidad — una temporada cuando recordamos que hemos recibido el don más grande

— Jesús que se hizo uno de nosotros. Vino a demostrarnos el amor tan grande que Dios nos tiene, y al final, sufrió, murió y resucitó de la muerte para la salvación de todos los hijos de Dios. Con el nombramiento de un nuevo Pastor, el Obispo Medley, Cristo sigue derramando sus dones sobre nosotros, y dándonos pruebas de su gran amor. Ciertamente, nuestro nuevo Pastor es un gran don a la Diócesis de Owensboro, y estamos muy agradecidos a Dios.

También puedo decir que el Obispo Medley está recibiendo un gran don al ser llamado a pastorear más de 60,000 Católicos en Kentucky Occidental. Está recibiendo el don de una diócesis que tiene una fe profunda, un compromiso verdadero a la Iglesia, y un gran amor a Dios y a todo el pueblo de Dios. Puedo afirmar eso, basado en mi propia experiencia de tener la bendición de servir a la Diócesis de Owensboro como obispo por más de 26 años. Me han sido años maravillosos, y estoy muy agradecido a todos los feligreses — los religiosos, los laicos, y los sacerdotes — quienes se han comprometido a llevar acabo la misión de la Iglesia. Durante los años que he pasado aquí, he disfrutado y he sido edificado por su apoyo y su cooperación.

Ahora, con una Iglesia llena de fe y amor y con un nuevo Pastor quien es pastoral en todo sentido, la Diócesis de Owensboro va a seguir creciendo aun más cerca a Dios y va a encontrar maneras nuevas e emocionantes de compartir la Buena Nueva del amor de Dios con todo Kentucky Occidental e incluso más allá.

Mientras celebro la llegada del Obispo Medley entre nosotros, le ofrezco a mi hermano obispo un saludo irlandés típico: “¡Miles de bienvenidas!” Y ahora que yo también vuelvo a ser otro miembro del rebaño del Obispo Medley, extiendo una última palabra de agradecimiento a toda la Iglesia de Kentucky Occidental por su bondad y su apoyo a través de los años pasados.

Obispo Medley, usted va a llegar a querer al pueblo de esta diócesis, y ellos le querrán a usted. Que todas nuestras oraciones y buenos deseos le sostengan mientras entre en su nuevo ministerio. Que Dios esté con usted mientras inicia su nuevo rol como Pastor de la Diócesis de Owensboro!



THANK YOU



El pueblo de la Diócesis de Owensboro extiende su gratitud sincera y su apreciación al Muy Rev. J. Michael Clark y al Colegio de Consultores:
P. Tony Bickett,
P. Jerry Calhoun,
P. Andy Garner,
P. Bruce McCarty,
P. Jerry Riney,
P. Darrell Venters,
P. Mike Williams,
por su servicio dedicado durante este año de sede vacante.

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*Congratulates
Bishop William Medley
on his appointment to the
Diocese of Owensboro.*



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**Most Reverend William Francis Medley,
the Diocese of Owensboro Welcomes You
as Our Fourth Bishop**

Behold.

I am with you always.



*"May the Lord bless and keep you. As he chose to set you as a Bishop
over his people, so may he give you happiness in this present life
and a share in the joy that lasts forever. Amen!"*

- From the "Rite of Ordination of a Bishop"