

Diocese of Owensboro

St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Campus Center

World Youth Day

Pilgrimage

Madrid, Spain Travel Dates -

August 13-23, 2011

Estimated Cost- \$2,500 per person,

Open to young adults, ages 18-30.

Registration Deadline and
\$500 deposit.

For questions and registration,
contact Mary Reding, 270-872-7818
reding.mary@yahoo.com



Our Lady of the Crossroads
The Paducah St. Mary High School Drama Class presented "Our Lady of the Crossroads" on December 1. Mary Farrell portrayed Mary. See photos and story on page 3, this edition.

Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green, Rejoices at Dedication of New Church, Parish Center, and Offices Campus

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - "Go within these gates giving thanks, enter God's courts with songs of praise," Bishop William Medley said Dec. 12, 2010 at the new Holy Spirit Catholic Church at 4754 Smallhouse Road, signaling the opening of the doors, and nearly 1,200 people entered the new building, getting in out of the cold, blowing wind and snow and 22 degree temperature singing "Let Us Go Rejoicing."

The Rite of Dedication had begun just outside the front doors with several presentations to Bishop Medley, such as the keys to the church from Art Kunkle, who oversaw the building project for the church. The building's design plans were presented by Beringer, Ciaccio, Dennell and Mabrey Architects and lists of everyone involved in the construction of the building were delivered as well.

"From early times, 'church' has been given as the name of the building Christian people have gathered to serve god. The church is a physical building ... reflects the church dwelling in heaven. The word altar came to signify a place of sacrifice ... the style not as important as its meaning, because the meeting place between God and the person is the altar; it is a sign of divine presence," Bishop Medley said. "The altar itself represents God's presence ... where we encounter the living God."

"What we do today isn't about bricks and mortar. It's about God and us; us and Him becoming one. What we dedicate - rededicate - is one another. It is us that are being dedicated. What we do here today doesn't end at the walls of this building. What we do here is to be extended to the ends of the earth ... the church is holy, it is favored. The church is

exalted."

Holy Spirit pastor Father Jerry Riney was quoted in a local newspaper Dec. 13, saying, "Like building a house, imagine building a house with a thousand families. It is not about the brick and mortar. It's about living stones, and you are the living stones. ... Today, we certainly have melted the frozen and warmed the chilled with God's spirit."

Father Riney said the church established a strategic plan and contracted Scott, Murphy and Daniel to build the church and BCDM Architects to design it. He said they needed someone inside the church to help facilitate church construction, which was Kunkle. During the service, Kunkle was presented with an original rendering of the church done in watercolor. The second print was given to John and Lynn Knepler, who headed up the Torch Committee.

Father Riney, also during the service, thanked Bishop Medley for coming to dedicate the church building and altar; former Holy Spirit priests, The Rev. Jerry Calhoun and The Rev. Joe Mills, for being in attendance and clergy from the Warren County-Bowling Green Ministerial Association for being there. He also said he was thankful to the pastoral team for putting the dedication ceremony together.

"Holy Spirit has a lot of history," said Bowling Green resident Bonnie Broenneke, who was raised in the church. "And we are a close church, and I think this brought us closer as a congregation. Although we didn't physically put the brick in the building, we took the journey together."

"The only world that comes to mind to describe today is overwhelming. It's a day we will remember."



Bishop William Medley accepts the keys to the new Holy Spirit Catholic church from Art Kunkle, a parishioner who oversaw the building project for the church.
Mel Howard Photo

Are you looking to be involved this year?

By Ben Warrell

It's that time of year again when we make resolutions to change something about ourselves or add something to our lives. Are you struggling with coming up with something new this year? Take a chance and get involved with Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center. We need your help! We're looking for groups to help with landscaping at each of the buildings and several sites on camp. We'd love for a men's group, women's group, youth group, a family or any group of people who could help serve. Our staff is very small and we don't have the resources or time to help the camp be as beautiful as it can be. Often, it's all we can do to get the buildings cleaned and the sign changed before the next group arrives. We simply don't have time to weed, plant or develop the landscaping around camp. That's where we need you. We hope to have a group adopt each area and come out monthly to check on it and take care of any needs that arise.

Area's of need: Bishop McRaith Lodge, Cabin Lodge, Stage Area, Cabin/Pool Area, Banquet Hall, Low Elements Course, Rosary Walk, Shrine of Mary, Front Sign Area and the Crucifix area.

If you could help in any way, please contact our office at 270.781.2466. If you'd like to come out and look at the areas to see what would interest you the most, just give us a call. If you'd like to help in other ways, please contact us and we'll try to make the very most of your gifts and talents. We tell every group that comes out here, "This place belongs to you. Help make it something amazing for you and others to grow closer to God." Maybe this could be your New Year's resolution!

2 A New Year is always a new promise

As a new year begins, many of us look ahead to reserve dates for time away, time for reunions, time for retreats. Those who may not plan so well may find themselves facing New Years Day 2012 and many of the important things they wanted to do and accomplish undone.

A child born in 2011 will not graduate from high school before 2029; from college in 2033 or after. That child will not retire and collect Social Security (if such survives) until 2081. Given our advances in healthcare, a significant percentage of children born in 2011 will live to see the 22nd century.

Time marches on! Though these words are a cliché we all realize that time does not stand still. But in every moment and every year God remains the still point in our changing world and our evolving lives. Technology continues to change our lives but we are all called to relate to an unchangeable God, who always was, is, and always will be.

Before another New Years Day our many families will experience hopes and dreams accomplished, and disappointments and losses --- and combinations of all these. Illness may strike, financial hardship may present itself; but also new babies will be born and graduations will happen, couples will get married, and successes will be many. The constant is that our God will be present to every one of these moments and occasions.

This month I will travel to Washington, D.C. along with youth and adults from throughout the diocese to participate in the annual March for Life. Each year hundreds of thousands of citizens converge on our nation's capital to remind our lawmakers and elected leaders that there is a grave stain on our nation's conscience as abortion on demand remains the law of the land. Though you may not be able to travel to Washington to join in this march, you can by prayer and action assure that the voices of faith-filled people are heard.

ple are heard.

Catholic Schools Week will be observed January 30 – February 5. The theme this year is: Catholic Schools: A+ for America. We accentuate the great contributions that our Catholic schools have made to our nation. I will be visiting several of our Catholic schools during this time. In the course of the year I will visit and celebrate Mass at every one of our eighteen Catholic schools, as well as the Catholic Campus Ministries at Brescia University, Western Kentucky University and Murray State University.

Being with these young people brings me great joy. Bringing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to them is an act of faith that God will continue to fill their lives and through their goodness and witness the Holy Spirit will continue to renew the face of the earth.

God bless you,

+ Most Reverend William F. Medley
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Bishop of Owensboro, Ky.

Official Diocesan Appointment

Rev. Charles Zmudzinski, CPM, JCL has been appointed Adjutant Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Owensboro effective Feb. 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010.

Bishop Medley's Calendar for January 2011

January 2-6		Annual Retreat for Bishop's
January 8	9 - 12 am	KY Catholic Citizens Forum, Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
January 9	8:00 am.	Mass, St. Stephen, Cadiz
January 10-13		Priest Convocation, Lake Barkley
January 15	9am - 12pm	Catholics @ the Capitol Regional Gatherings, St. Pius X, Owensboro
January 16	11:15 a.m.	Mass, Holy Trinity, Morgantown
January 18	9:00 a.m.	Staff Mass and Meeting, CPC
	11:00 a.m.	Priest Personnel Board
	1:30 p.m.	Priests' Council Meeting
January 19	8:30 a.m.	Administration/Finance Committee Meeting, CPC
January 20	8:00 a.m.	School Mass, Trinity High School, Whitesville
January 22	9 - 12	KY Catholic Citizen Forum, Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
	5:00 p.m.	Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
January 23	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass for Life, Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington DC
January 25	11 - 4	Paducah Office, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital
January 26	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation, St. Joseph, Mayfield
January 31	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Schools Week Mass, Holy Name Henderson

Bishop Medley Visits OCS Elementary K-3 Campus

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Bishop William Francis Medley visited the OCS Elementary K-3 Campus on December 17, 2010. He was scheduled to say Mass the day prior, but inclement weather cancelled school. He then visited their school the next day for their Christmas program. As a gift to the bishop, a special song was written by music teacher, Heather Hayden, and sung by the student body.

Lyrics:

"Bishop Medley's here today we're glad to say.
Our song is our gift to you, we'll sing it our way.
We'll clap our hands (x x x) and stomp our feet (x x x)
To show you that we think you're neat!
But that is not all we have for you today.
We ask for God to bless you and so we pray:

(spoken) "Dear God, please smile down upon our bishop.

Bless him with wisdom this day
and help him to know of our love.
Amen

(sung) "May God bless and keep you.
May God's face shine on you.
May God be kind to you and give you peace."



Above, students singing Bishop William Medley's song at Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 on Dec.17.

At left, Bishop Medley thanking the children.

Larena Lawson Photos





Mrs. Laura Lambert posing with Mary Farrell.



Our Lady of the Crossroads cast members. Photos submitted by Cecelia Farrell.

PADUCAH, Ky. - The St. Mary High School Drama Class presented “Our Lady of the Crossroads” on December 1. It is a wonderful story reminding us that the little gifts in life are the most impor-

tant. The play was directed by Mrs. Laura Lambert. Mrs. Lambert remembered the play from her school days at St. Mary

Academy. We appreciate Mrs. Lambert and thank her for sharing her memories!

Thanks For Your Tremendous Support!

My Dear Friends of the Diocese of Owensboro,

I hope that you had a joyful Christmas and that the New Year will be filled with many Blessings. This is just a note to thank all who were so kind in sending me cards and prayers for my Anniversary, Birthday, Get Well cards and Christmas cards.

I was not able to thank you each one, but I want you to know how much I appreciated hearing from you and especially for all your prayers.

Know that all of you are remembered in my prayers each day and I find myself ever more grateful to you for the joy I had in serving you over these past many years.

We are now blessed with a new and great Bishop. He is a great gift to the Diocese of Owensboro.

With much gratitude to God and to all of you, I remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bishop John Jeremiah McRaith
Bishop-emeritus of the Diocese of Owensboro.



Bishop John Jeremiah McRaith
Bishop-emeritus of
the Diocese of Owensboro.

In the photo at right, Mary Farrell, left, and Chloe Wallace during the performance of “Our Lady of the Crossroads” on December 1.



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Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic must be signed and with contact information, may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Please let us know politely if you find proofing or factual errors in items of this publication.



Western Kentucky Catholic Graphic by Jennifer Farley Hunt

4 St. Paul Youth Group ODYC Adventure

Submitted By Gina Sims

SAINT PAUL, Ky. - On November 19, 2010 a group of 15 students, grades 7-12, traveled to Bowling Green for the Owensboro Diocesan Youth Conference. Many had not attended a retreat such as this. Parents and teachers highly encouraged students to go. Most of the teens thought it would be nice to go on a road trip with friends, but some admitted they thought it would be boring. It turned out to be so much more. Even the adults, getting bogged down with all the paperwork of going on a trip, wondered if it was really going to be worth all the trouble. They had already run into several roadblocks in the planning. The hotel was overbooked, paperwork filled out incorrectly, not enough paperwork, students canceling, students wanting to go after deadline, etc. "This better be really good!" was the final comment from the sponsors before the trip began.

When friends from Holy Spirit Catholic Church heard of the St. Paul group's accommodation problems they did not hesitate to lend a hand. The friends provided the evening meal and breakfast the following morning. That is no small feat to feed 15 teens and 4 adults. In addition provided a place for the group to stay for the night. (Already the group felt the presence of the Holy Spirit before they even got to the conference in the kindness shown by these special friends.)

Once at the conference, the teens rocked with music and laughed at the skits and performance of guest speaker, Mike Patin. The group was given the opportunity to go to confession, of which an overwhelming majority took advantage. They listened intently and prayed with Bishop Medley as he celebrated mass with them. The Holy Spirit was definitely felt that evening. Preconceived attitudes about the trip were beginning to change.

Upon their return to the conference on Saturday, they did a lot more laughing, talking, singing, and praying. Mr. Patin had a way of luring the crowd in with humor and then driving home that spiritual message. He reminded the group, "No one is more or less important than you, no matter what kind of freak you think you are. Afterall, they thought Jesus was a freak!" After those words were spoken a silence went throughout the crowd as all began to realize Mr. Patin was right. He seemed to identify and understand how everyone felt. How could this shrimpy, Yogi Bear



-Loving, man understand how the teenagers of today feel and express himself in such a way that captivated a crowd of over 400 young people and a group of adults? He is truly a gifted speaker and motivator for our youth.

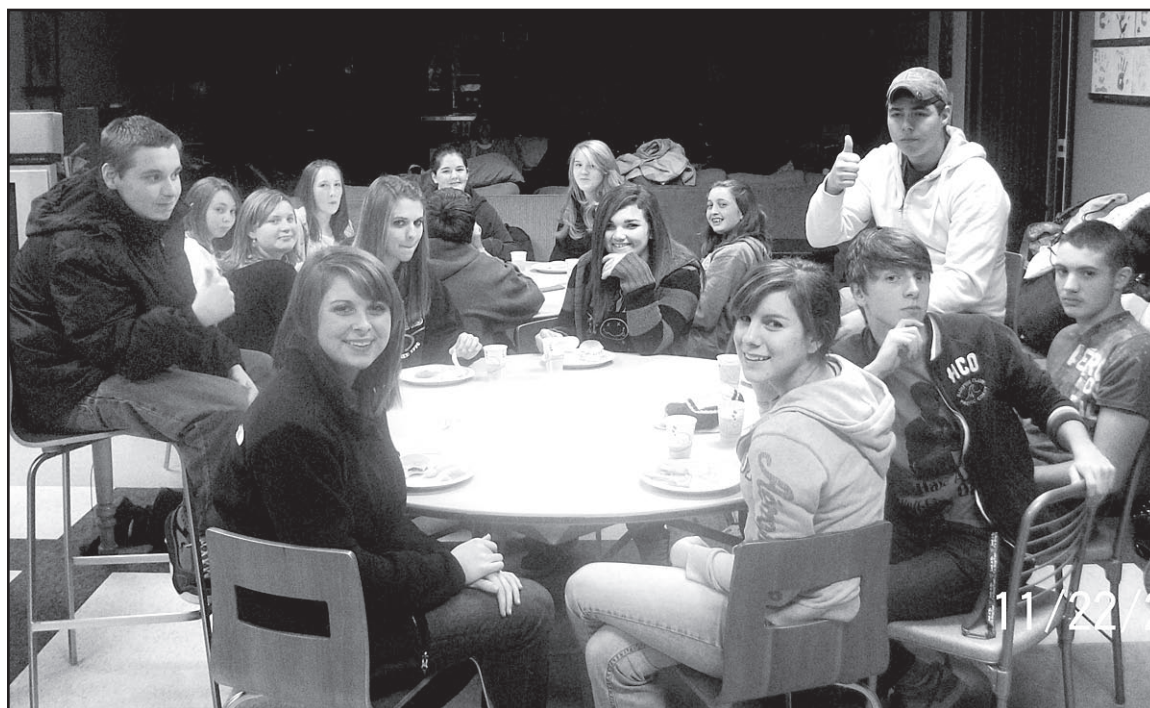
Some of the comments made by the St. Paul teens that were overheard were, "It was nothing like I expected!" "It was like a pep rally for God!" "How soon can we do this again?" "I liked the unity of the other schools; they seemed like a family." "Can we get together more often?" "I love the music; I didn't know we'd be jammin'!"

Some of the adult comments were,

"I didn't think the Holy Spirit could be felt in a setting like this with all the loud music and screaming, but it really happened!" "I'm so glad we came to this conference! It was definitely worth all the work." I think it has really brought our kids closer together and deepened their faith, along with my own. I just want to have a big group hug!" "I'm so happy everything worked out, and we got to come! It's been a wonderful experience!"

At the close of the conference the St. Paul teens headed back to their small community amidst talking, laughter, and yes, more singing. As they said their goodbyes on that cold, dark night in the middle of their church parking lot, they joined hands and said one more prayer of thanks for all they had experienced. After the conference was over it ultimately accomplished its goals, to deepen the faith of our youth, to become more unified through Christ, to make clear the importance of each individual, and "to leave them wanting more!"

Those in attendance from St. Paul were Jessica Robinson, Kristen Tilford, Rebecca Higdon, Megan Mudd, Maggie Lush, Haley Hensel, Stephanie Bryan, Megan Sims, Kevin Portman, Zack Robinson, Becca Crawford, Amber Smith, Adam Thomas, Cody Penny, and Blake Meredith. Sponsors (photo below) attending were Dale and Yvonne DePoyster, Gina Sims, and Cathy Meredith.



St. Paul Catholic School of Grayson Co. Hosts Annual Friendship Meal

On November 23, 2010 the families and friends of St. Paul School gathered for a meal of Thanksgiving. Over 100 people came to share a meal with loved ones. The school has hosted the friendship meal for several years now. Some made the comment that it was the biggest one yet. It is a special time for the children, parents, younger brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends to come, break bread together and give thanks to God for all the wonderful gifts He gives us. In the spirit of the holiday, the children dressed as pilgrims and Indians. It was a joyous and blessed event.



Some of the younger students getting ready to join their families at the Friendship Meal: Luke Milliner, Shelby Davis, Harley Tilford, Keegan Sharp, & Josh Milliner.



The Higdon family come together to enjoy time with loved ones: Left side of the table are Erica and her sister Laura; the right side of the table are Connie (mother of the family) & daughter Rebecca.

With Christian Charity, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Father Joseph Rhodes

The Reverend Joseph Rhodes, age 95, passed away at the Carmel Home on December 6. He was born in Knottsville, Kentucky, the son of the late Edwin Joseph and Alma Aull Rhodes. He was a graduate of St. Frances Academy in Owensboro, and attended St. Mary College, St. Mary, Kentucky. He received philosophy and theology training at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana. He was ordained by the Most Reverend Francis R. Cotton at Stephen's Cathedral on June 7, 1941.

His assignments include Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Church, Owensboro, Holy Name Henderson, St. Joseph, Bowling Green, St. Francis de Sales and Rosary Chapel, Paducah. Father Rhodes was Pastor at St. Peter's, Waverly from 1955 – 1965, Holy Name, Henderson 1965- 1969, pastor and rector at St. Stephen's Cathedral from 1996 – 1985; St. Anthony, Browns Valley 1985 – 1989. He served as Dean for the Owensboro Deanery for 16 years. Father Rhodes Retired to the Cotton Apartments

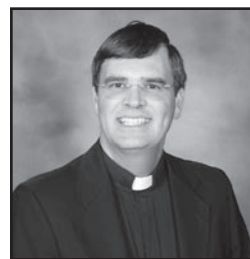


Father Joseph Rhodes
and served as Chaplain for Carmel home till to 2004.

Handing on the Faith

5

By Fr. Tony Bickett, Ecumenical Officer



In November, 2010, I distributed to the priests of the diocese copies of a DVD program for the promotion of Christian unity. The program is entitled, "Handing on the Faith in an Ecumenical World". The program was first given in the diocese of Richmond, Virginia in January, 2009 by Brother Jeffery Gros, FSC.

Brother Jeffery is well-known in the ecumenical movement. He has written widely in theological periodicals, has edited numerous books on ecumenism, and has spoken on the subject to various groups throughout the world. He served for 14 years as the associated director of the office for ecumenical and interreligious affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Included in this DVD program is first a brief history of the ecumenical movement. Next Br. Jeffery explains the Catholic principles of ecumenism which guide Catholics in working with other Christians. The Church calls for the formation of all Catholics in these ecumenical principles all the way from grade school to seminaries. It was Pope John Paul II who reminded us that, "at the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church committed herself irrevocably to following the path of the ecumenical venture." Ut Unum Sint, 20.

The purpose of this DVD program is to give Catholics in our parishes a tool to use in learning about the importance of Christian unity and what they can do to help promote this prayer of Jesus for his Church. Those who are baptized in the name of Christ are, by that very act, called to commit themselves to the search for unity. One important way to do this is by becoming a parish ecumenical advocate. Parish ecumenical advocates are designated by the pastor to assist him in communicating and coordinating local ecumenical activity. The desire to have parish ecumenical advocates appointed in each parish receives support from the Vatican Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism. "A great task for the parish is to educate its members in the ecumenical spirit. This calls for a pastoral program which involves someone charged with promoting and planning ecumenical activity, working in close harmony with the parish priest." (67)

Some of the tasks of a parish ecumenical advocate would include assisting the pastor in fostering a deeper ecumenical awareness among parishioners. Parish advocates also encourage and facilitate parish participation in local ecumenical activities. Advocates can serve their parish by representing the parish on local ecumenical organizations, for example the local ministerial association in their town or county. Ecumenical advocates pray daily "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe" (John 17:21), since private and public prayer for the unity of Christians is regarded by Vatican II as the soul of the ecumenical movement. Advocates are encouraged to deepen their knowledge of the ecumenical movement in the Church. Parish ecumenical advocates are very important to the growth of ecumenical relations throughout the diocese and can be of great assistance to pastors in their ecumenical ministry.

Are you interested in working for Christian unity? Then consider becoming an ecumenical advocate for your parish. Some parishes already have two or three parishioners serving as advocates. You can join this movement by contacting your pastor or me by calling (270) 756-2356 or by emailing me at ftonyb@yahoo.com. Together may the unity Christ desires, for his Church, become more and more a reality.

Father Rhodes was a member and Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council # 817. They named their building Rhodes Hall in appreciation of his many years of service.

Father Rhodes loved to travel and led many pilgrimage trips to Europe. He was also a friend of the poor. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Dorothy Capelle, and Angela Kerrick.

Father Rhodes is survived by his brother Thomas Anthony Rhodes (wife, Kay) of Owensboro, Nieces Barbara Horn, Midland, Texas, Dottie Brian

(Dave), Louisville, Kentucky Bettye Rouse (Jerry), Paula Fisher (Jerry), Ann Simon, Owensboro, Anne Rhodes Miller (Don), Morristown, N.J. and a nephew Dudley Capelle, Corydon, Indiana.

Funeral was at St. Stephens Cathedral on Friday, December 10; burial at Resurrection Cemetery, Philpot, Ky.

Expression of Sympathy may take the form of donations to the St. Stephens Cathedral Renovation Fund or to the Elderly Priest's Care Fund 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301.

6 OFL Ministry Affords Pro-Life Volunteers To Serve From Their Homes

By Brenda Thomson

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The priests of the Owensboro Diocese gathered recently for their annual Presbyteral Day. Fr. Richard Meredith invited me to speak to the priests about the Opportunities For Life (OFL) Ministry. I have been appointed by Bishop William Medley as the Regional Program Coordinator for OFL, a pastoral outreach ministry of the Bishops of Kentucky, offering hope, encouragement and referrals to persons experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

The Nov. 23 Presbyteral Day at the Catholic Pastoral Center was a wonderful opportunity to convey the message of what the OFL Ministry offers to women who find themselves in need of support and encouragement related to an unplanned pregnancy. I was able to communicate with our priests information about the volunteer opportunities this ministry offers. The OFL ministry is unique in that it offers volunteers the ability to volunteer from their homes.

Prior to my appointment as Regional Program Coordinator for OFL, I had been a volunteer with OFL for 10 years. In 2000, when I began volunteering with OFL, my children were 4 years and one year old. (Now my children are 14, 11, 9 and 6 years old.) I was looking for a way to volunteer in a pro-life ministry but had not been able to find an opportunity that would work with my family schedule. One day, I saw a brochure for OFL at church and was intrigued by the opportunity to volunteer from home.

I completed the training process and became a help line volunteer. Being a volunteer with OFL has profoundly impacted my own life. Through listening and offering assistance to callers in time of crisis, I have been able to see the work of the Holy Spirit in this life-affirming ministry.

Recently, the Catholic Conference of Kentucky established an "Ad Hoc Committee on the Pastoral Care of Women in Crisis Pregnancies" to determine what form of services OFL should take in the future in order to continue to serve abortion vulnerable men and women to encourage life affirming choices. Based on the research and recommendations of this committee, OFL has been restructured to have two regional offices, under the direction of Catholic Charities of Kentucky. The service of this ministry remains unchanged; however, the establishment of regional offices gives this ministry opportunity for future growth.

Regional offices will give coordinators the ability to establish closer relationships with current volunteers. We will also be able to establish closer relationships with local parishes and people of the Diocese which will enable this ministry to establish a broader volunteer base. I am excited about the new structure of OFL because it will offer the people of the Owensboro Diocese the opportunity to become involved with this life-affirming ministry that has so much to offer those in need, as well as those who are seeking a volunteer opportunity.



On Nov. 23, 2010, Brenda Thomson, Regional Program Coordinator for Opportunities For Life, spoke at the Catholic Pastoral Center to the priests of the diocese about the Opportunities for Life Ministry. Mel Howard photo

OFL will offer training workshops in the Owensboro Diocese in Spring, 2011, to prepare volunteers for service in this life affirming ministry. If you are interested in a volunteer opportunity or

want to learn more about Opportunities for Life, contact Brenda Thomson, Regional Program Coordinator, at 1-888-496-3638, or email brenda.thomson@pastoral.org.

Mass For Life In Cathedral Jan 22, 2011

All are invited to the annual Diocesan ProLife Mass. This year the Mass for Life will be celebrated by Bishop Medley on Saturday, 1-22-11 at 5:00 P.M. at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. This is the thirty-eighth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion in our country, and since that time over 53 million children have lost their lives. Please come and express your belief in the sanctity of life at all stages and pray for the conversion of our nation to value all human life.

Rosary Rally in Bardwell

Submitted by Judy Willett

BARDWELL, KY. - For centuries the rosary has been one of the cherished private devotions in the Church. Mary has offered special protection and graces to all those who recite the rosary. I remember my grandmother reciting her nightly rosary because she firmly believed she would obtain answers from requested prayers for her children and friends by the recitation of the rosary.

October 16 St. Charles Catholic church parishioners attended a 2010 Public Square Rosary in Carlisle County at the Thomasville Crossroads of 121 and 307. Those attending the Rosary Rally are hoping and praying that praying in a public place will inspire non-practicing Catholics to be moved to become better Christians. That the act of public prayer will act as reparation for public sin that is flaunted on our public airwave, and not let our light (praying the rosary) be hid under a basket, but will be a light to shine showing our love for God and our fellow man.



Owensboro Site for 2010 Priests' Council Provincial Meeting



Visiting Bishops and priests from the Kentucky/Tennessee Province concelebrated with presiding Bishop William Medley in St. Stephen Cathedral Dec 1, 2010 as they closed their 2010 Priests Council Provincial Meeting hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro. Mel Howard Photo

Special to the Western Kentucky Catholic

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Diocese of Owensboro was the host to the annual meeting of the bishops of Kentucky and Tennessee, along with representatives of the priests' councils from each of the seven dioceses that comprise what is known as the Province of Louisville. The meeting took place at the Comfort Suites in Owensboro from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. In addition to Bishop William Medley, the bishops attending were Archbishop Kurtz of Louisville, Bishop Gainer of Lexington, Bishop Foys of Covington, Bishop Choby of Nashville and Bishop Stika of Knoxville. (Bishop Steib of Memphis was the only bishop from the province who was unable to attend.)

The bishops met among themselves on the afternoon of the 29th and enjoyed a meal together at the home of Bishop Medley that evening. Bishop-emeritus John McRaith joined his brother bishops for the dinner. The bishops celebrated Mass and continued their meeting on Tuesday morning as approximately thirty-five priests arrived and assembled on Tuesday afternoon. Fr. Ken Mikulcik, the chair of the Owensboro Presbyteral Council, welcomed the guests and facilitated the meeting. The bishops and priests were addressed by the president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils, Fr. Richard Vega, of Los Angeles. Fr. Vega told us of the various projects and initiatives of the NFPC whose mission is to foster collaboration, communication, formation and advocacy on behalf of priests and priests' councils throughout the country.

Following the dialogue with Fr. Vega, the chairs of the various priests' councils gave a report on the activity of their various councils in the past year. The topics mentioned were concerns shared by most of the priests of the province. They included the care and support of retired priests, the welcome and reception given to international priests coming to minister with us, collaboration with deacons and lay ministers, fostering priestly vocations etc... The discussion and dialogue on these topics served to strengthen the bonds of fraternity and community among the priests and dioceses. After praying evening prayer together, the bishops and priests migrated to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall for an excellent dinner catered by Moonlite Barbecue Inn of Owensboro

One of the highlights of this annual gathering is the Wednesday morning panel discussion between the bishops and priests. Archbishop Kurtz chaired this dialogue during which the bishops spoke of some of the issues that had recently been discussed and debated at the meeting of the United States Conference of Conference of Catholic Bishops that took place in Baltimore in early November. The priests raised several questions regarding the new translation of the Roman Missal, the defense of marriage, the care and status of priests on administrative leave, dealing with the secular media, and the election of new officers of the USCCB. (Archbishop Kurtz was elected as the vice-president of the bishops' conference for the next three years.) Such an open and frank dialogue is an exception in our country. Only two other provinces in the US have such meetings between all the bishops and priests' councils.

The meeting formally concluded with a concelebrated Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral, presided by Bishop Medley. A light lunch was offered to all the guests in the Cathedral undercroft. The bishops and priests departed grateful for the time together and even more committed to continue in a spirit of collaboration and friendship in service to the Church. The meeting next year will be hosted by the Diocese of Covington.

2010-2011 TIP

7

Qualifiers (7th Graders) from Holy Name School

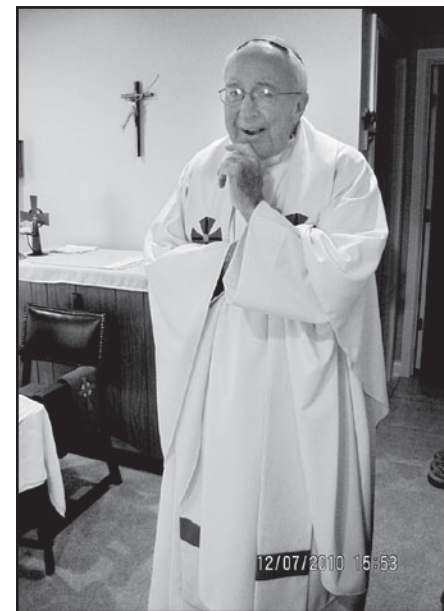


The qualifiers, in the front row, l to r: Amanda Marlin, Melinda Thomas, Madison Krampe, Brooke Vowels, Miranda Phipps, Grace Hodge, Ashley Shires; middle row, l to r: Cassidy Riley, Aaron Caton, Davis Mitchell, Matthew Beaven, Jacob O'Nan, Renner Wehr; back row, l to r: Spencer Johnson, Kaleb Cherry, Justin Darr, Eli Hummel, Grant Wilson, Mason Clement, Wil Johnson. Not pictured: Cheyenne Warren. Submitted by Connie McFarland.

HENDERSON, Ky. - Twenty Holy Name School seventh graders have qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) by scoring at or above the 95th National Percentile on specific sub-tests of their CAT6 tests. Through the TIP program, these students have been offered the opportunity to take either the SAT or the ACT as seventh graders. In addition, they receive educational journals and academic camp guides, as well as recognition for their outstanding performance.

Bishop McRaith's New Home at 529 Cedar St.

In the picture at right, on December 7, 2010, Bishop-emeritus John Jeremiah McRaith stood in the chapel of his new residence at 529 Cedar Street, Owensboro, Ky 42301. Several Diocesan staff members gathered with Bishop-emeritus John this day for the Vigil Mass of the Feast of The Immaculate Conception.



Mel Howard Photo

Posadas Add Joy and Meaning, Help Build Community

Every Christmas season, thousands of Catholics in the United States and Mexico participate in the celebration of las posadas. And at many Glenmary missions, this mid-December custom has become another important, popular Christmas tradition. St. Jude mission in Waldron, Ark., is a prime example, says pastoral associate Kathy O'Brien.

Las posadas—which literally means “the inns”—are rooted in a 16th-century Mexican tradition developed by Spanish missionaries to communicate the Christmas story to native peoples and involve them in the story. Over the centuries, posadas have become an expression of faith.

Posadas, held Dec. 16-24, involve everyone from children to adults. Usually, on each of the first eight nights, a different parish family hosts a posada in their home—with the ninth posada ending at the Catholic church on Christmas Eve. Two groups of singers participate in a posada. One group travels with the Holy Couple—represented by two parish members carrying statues of Joseph and Mary—as they go to various parishioners' houses seeking a place to stay. The other group of singers moves from house to house, stationing themselves inside each one.

With both groups singing in Spanish, the outdoor pilgrims ask homeowners for hospitality but are repeatedly turned away by the indoor group. The evening's host family finally recognizes the Holy Couple and invites them in. Then all burst out singing, “Come in, Holy Pilgrims, accept this humble place. Not of this poor house, my house, but of my heart.” And each night concludes with participants gathering inside to enjoy the hospitality, refreshments and company.

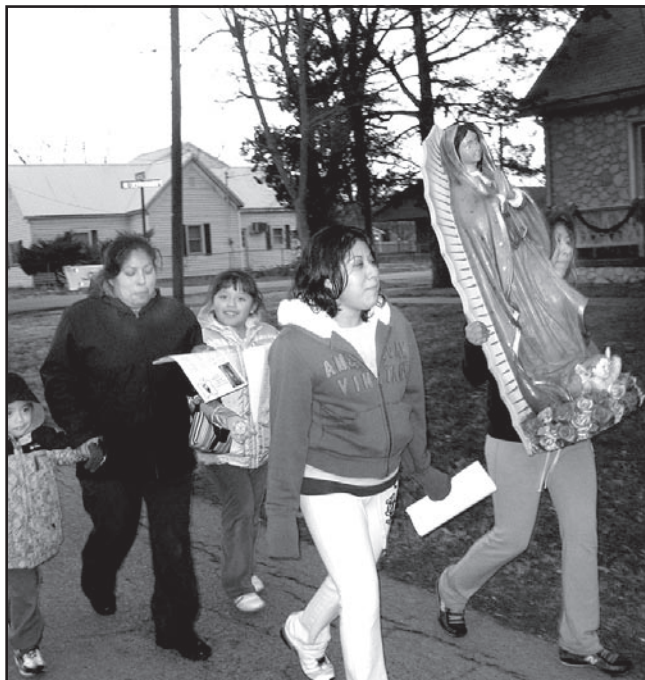
Glenmary Father Neil Pezzulo first came to Waldron and Danville, Ark., in 2003 to pastor missions there. And Kathy took on her pastoral associate role in Waldron soon after. Following discussions with Father Neil and parishioners, she introduced posadas as part of the Christmas celebration starting in 2004. (Danville Catholics held posadas before Glenmary's arrival, and those celebrations have grown since then.)

“I hadn't ever experienced posadas, but I knew about them,” says Kathy. “We wanted to have them in Waldron for a few reasons: First, we thought they'd add more joy and meaning to our Christmas celebrations. Second, posadas would help make our Spanish-speaking parishioners feel like they are really part of the mission. And third, they could be an evangelizing tool to reach unchurched Spanish-speaking Catholics in the larger community.”

From the start, St. Jude parishioners were receptive, but none had experience with posadas, so Kathy organized them. Today there are 25-50 participants at each of the nine posada nights, and many families volunteer to be hosts. Some English-speaking mission members participate too.

“The Spanish-speaking parishioners who host posadas have also invited their own friends, including some unchurched Hispanic Catholics,” she says. “The posadas have been a good way for

Posadas (the inns) ... “We wanted to have them for a few reasons: First, we thought they'd add more joy and meaning to our Christmas celebrations. Second, posadas would help make our Spanish-speaking parishioners feel like they are really part of the mission. And third, they could be an evangelizing tool to reach unchurched Spanish-speaking Catholics in the larger community.”



In Sebree, Ky., St. Michael parishioners participate in a procession during the parish's novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe Photo by Patti Gutierrez

them to get to know and connect with St. Jude and our mission members.” These new friendships—usually nurtured by Kathy and mission kids—have led some of the non-parishio-

ners to get involved with the mission.

The most striking examples of this trend are the new young people. They often begin by attending vacation Bible school or youth group meetings with encouragement from school or family friends who are parishioners. “They also join our religious education classes,” says Kathy. “Sometimes their parents join the church, too. But even when parents don't join, they trust us enough to let their children be part of the mission.”

Since Kathy arrived, religious education enrollment has increased from about 20 to more than 100. (Almost all catechists are English-speaking parishioners, and the Hispanic kids are bilingual.) In addition, the youth group is thriving, with members taking on ministry roles. “The real miracle—even diocesan staff say this—is that the kids want to be here and ask their parents to bring them!” She says they also associate the church with fun, community and total acceptance as Hispanics.

Spanish-speaking mission members were a minority in 2003. But because of the new Hispanic members joining over the years, about half the current mission families are Spanish-speaking and half English-speaking. “The posadas have been a contributing factor in all the positive changes,” says Kathy.

On Christmas Eve, the Holy Couple statues are brought to the St. Jude Church doors and placed in the Nativity scene with the baby Jesus. Then the bilingual Christmas Mass is celebrated. Other St. Jude Christmas traditions include a party for all mission members; children's Christmas pageant; and entry—most years—of a parish float in the town's Christmas parade.

But posadas remain a central part of the mission's celebration. “They reconnect Spanish-speaking parishioners and participants with their heritage,” Kathy says. “They also build community and remind people of the Holy Family's experience on the first Christmas Eve—and how being welcomed made all the difference.”

This article originally appeared in the December 2010 Boost-A-Month Club Newsletter

Commemorative Mass for Life

Saturday, January 22, 2011

5:00 pm

St. Stephen Cathedral

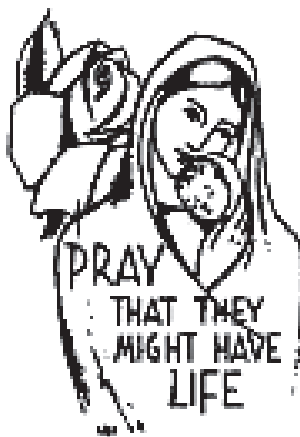
Join Bishop William Medley as we mark the 38th year since the U.S. Supreme Court decision took away all legal protection for the life of the unborn child. Now 53 million children have died.

All are invited to remember these children as we pray for their mothers, fathers, families and our nation.

*Gospel of Life Committee,
Diocese of Owensboro*

Prayer to Christ Unborn

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



Whitesville Lions Club Teams With Angels for Ashley Foundation To Buy Pedia Vision Camera For Schools 9

Submitted by Gerald Wedding, District Governor, Lions Clubs District 43-E

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - In 2009, when the idea for the home for the Scott and Charlotte Johnson family was born, Jerry Morris & Michelle Payne asked me if the Whitesville Lions Club would be involved in the collecting of the money for the "Angels for Ashley" project. Our involvement was to be to receive monies & disperse funds to the Angels for Ashley project as needed to build the home.

It was agreed, at that time, that any surplus funds would be used for another local project to help another child or children. Both the "Angels for Ashley" committee & the Whitesville Lions Club

would have to be consulted to disperse any funds for such a project.

The two signers for the account were to be Patricia Burch & myself, Gerald Wedding, as we were pretty easily available if money was needed quickly & were both Lions Club members.

The Lions Club had history with the Johnson family since about 2 years before we had paid \$8,000.00 to help purchase a handicap van for them. There was a little over \$9,400.00 left over from the building of their new home from the donations and from fund raisers.

On October 7, 2010, we contacted Michelle Payne to see if they would agree to let the Whitesville Lions Club use \$4,587.50 of this money toward



Left to right Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, principal at St Mary Catholic School, Lions Pat Burch, Ray Hamilton, & Charlotte Arnett watch while Lions Lewis Jean & Lois Thompson screen the Kindergarten class. Submitted by Gerald Wedding

the purchase of a Pedia Vision camera & equipment if we could get the Lions Clubs in the Region 1 area of District 43-E to match these funds. The total cost of the equipment was \$9,175.00.

Ms. Payne asked for whom and where this equipment would be used. I told her it would be used in the Region 1 area to screen children under the age of six for eye diseases that were curable if caught at early ages. It would be used in preschool programs, day cares, and kindergartens. Region 1 is an area covered by the following clubs; Daviess County, Knottsville, Owensboro, Owensboro Evening, Cloverport, Fordsville, Hawesville, Leitchfield, Lewisport, & Whitesville. Michelle asked me how much money was left in the account, and I told her. She said it sounded like the kind of project they would like to be involved with, and as far as she was concerned she would like to purchase the whole thing with these funds. She said she would check with Jerry and get back with me.

Michelle called me back within 10 minutes and told me they would like to use the money to purchase the whole thing if we would let them. I told her I thought that was very generous and I sure

wouldn't turn them down. She put only two provision on their donation. First, they didn't want us to overlook the Catholic schools in doing our screening. I told her I didn't plan to and was planning to start with St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School. Second, they wanted to let folks know where the funds came from for this purchase so those who donated would know what the surplus money was used for. She said, "In that case, we will donate the money to the Whitesville Lions Club to make this purchase."

On October 8, I ordered the equipment through the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation. On November 16, six members of the Whitesville Lions Club took our new equipment to Louisville to the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation for the training to use it. The members in attendance were Lewis Jean, Charlotte Arnett, Ray Hamilton, Lois Thompson, Pat Burch, and myself. On December 2, we had our first screening at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School & on December 7 at Whitesville Elementary School.

On December 15 we had a training session scheduled for other Lions Clubs in our area.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2011

- 7 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 8 Yarn Spinners Day
- 14-16 Retrouvaille
- 17-21 Spiritual Direction-Week 2

February 2011

- 4 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 4-6 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 5 Yarn Spinners Day
- 11-13 Women's Prayer Group
- 21-24 MSJ Center Quilter Friends

March 2011

- 4 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 5 Connect, Awake & Share
- 11-13 Yarn Spinners Weekend
- 14 Lenten Midday Prayer
- 15-18 Paducah Quilt Guild
- 20 Precious Blood RCIA
- 21 Lenten Midday Prayer

- 25-27 Women's Retreat
- 28 Lenten Midday Prayer

April 2011

- 1 Reflection Day of Prayer
- 1 Reitz Memorial Juniors Retreat
- 2-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 4 Lenten Midday Prayer
- 5-7 Theological Reflection
- 8-15 St. Meinrad Retreat Week
- 11 Lenten Midday Prayer
- 15-17 Christian Women's Retreat
- 16 Sts. Joe and Paul RCIA
- 18 Lenten Midday Prayer
- 20 Reitz Memorial Seniors Retreat
- 25 Easter Midday Prayer
- 27 Administrative Secretary Prayer Day
- 30 Annual Fundraising Dinner/Auction/Sale

Bible Study - "Everything You Wanted to Know About the Catholic Church But Were Afraid to Ask" (Suit your schedule - come when you can!)

Day Sessions 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6

Evening Sessions 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7



Center-sponsored programs are in bold type. Please call to register.



**Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center**

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.msjcenter.org
msj.center@maplemount.org

To register or to schedule your event, call Kathy McCarty
270-229-4103 ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
The Center is located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.
www.msjcenter.org

10 Saint Mary Of The Woods Catholic School A Sign Of Deeply Rooted Faith For Generations



Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, principal of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School in Whitesville, Ky., addressed the parish during the weekend liturgies Dec 4-5 about the state of the school, asking all Catholic families of the parish to support the Catholic School whether they have children in the school or not. Mel Howard Photo

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a talk by Sr. Suzanne Sims, OSU, principal of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School, given prior to each Mass in the parish on December 4-5, 2010.

"Good morning! Happy Advent!

"Advent waiting for Jesus is not in a crib, but on the road, in the places where we live and work each day in our personal journey of faith, hoping/waiting for Jesus' Third and final coming. In his writings, the great St. Bernard suggests a Second Coming of Jesus that is found in our daily awareness of the Savior's presence and our continuing conversion toward Jesus as we await His glorious coming.

Purpose and Hope

"My daily advent for the last thirteen months has been totally immersed and intertwined in relationship with your Catholic school here at St. Mary of the Woods. I am grateful for your parish's trust in me to lead its most significant ministry next to the sacramental life. Jesus is present to me each day, most of all, through the children. Personally, it is truly A-W-E-some (inspiring reverence) to experience this important teaching ministry again in my life. It is also a great challenge as you may suspect.

"My purpose for speaking with you this weekend is twofold: to provide you with a short report on our school, a mini annual report if you will, and secondly, to issue an invitation and a challenge.

Building on the Past

"Our faith tells us that God does indeed "write straight with crooked lines." I want to assure you that God is bringing good out of the crisis that shattered the morale last year. Healing takes time, God's time, and a lot of compassion. We continue to pray and ask your prayers for ever deeper healing. Meanwhile, the school staff and I move forward in faith, hope and charity because of our love for God and our utmost concern for the Catholic education of your children.

"A few years ago, my home parish in Daviess County celebrated a 50th anniversary. I was 9 years old at the time that school opened. A few years ago the school closed. Some parishioners said then that the parish would never be the same in vitality or membership without a Catholic school. Well, that's really for God to judge. What I realize now, though, is really how "young" the school and parish was at 50 years old.

"Did you know that St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School will celebrate a 125th anniversary in 2012? What a sign of a deeply rooted faith for many generations. Such a legacy deserves celebrating. It also challenges us to a renewed commitment to the teaching mission of Jesus and the Church. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops affirms over and over again that the Catholic School is the best means available for parents and the Church to prepare children in faith. Certainly, Bishop Medley's presence in our two schools three times in his first year as our bishop, and his wish to gather all eighteen diocesan schools for the Rainbow Mass, are indicative of his great support of Catholic schools.

"One of our diocesan priests, now deceased, used to say that "it takes only one generation for the faith to be lost in



Sister Karla Kaelin, O.S.U., Frank Hagan, and Darlene Dickens bring out a fresh batch of sausage gravy for the parish breakfast at Saint Mary of the Woods Parish Center Dec. 5, 2010. The breakfast paired with a Christmas bazaar which went from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mel Howard photo

a family." Now that I am older, I have a better idea of what he meant. His wisdom speaks loudly when we admit the facts today that indicate some cultural reasons for family disintegration, especially in the practice of the faith and moral example to our children: 1. We all notice more empty pews and miss whole families when church membership and attendance continues to decline; 2. A recent CARA report revealed that a third of the couples asking for the Sacrament of Marriage in the U.S. today are already co-habiting, an moral act of defiance of God's law and Catholic teaching. 3. And fifty percent of even these couples' marriages end in divorce. That seasoned priest was speaking out of his experience and, I suspect, his fear that the Church would lose many families for generations because the decline in strong adult moral life and in the broken promises that parents made to their children at Baptism.

"For 125 years, St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School (and the high school for a few more years than that) served as partners to you parents and your ancestors in the faith of this parish. We want to strengthen that bond and invite even more of the parish families to entrust us with that precious partnership again for the sake of the children and for the future of our faith. I invite you to seriously pray and consider the trade-offs you may be making for your family's faith in the next generation.

A Present Challenge and Achievement

"Please allow me to give you a simple time comparison to express my concern. (There are many other comparisons we might make if we had more time today.)

Continued on page 11

YOUTH 2000

Owensboro, Kentucky

14TH ANNUAL

A EUCHARISTIC CENTERED RETREAT

MARCH 11, 12 AND 13, 2011

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

SPONSORED BY MARIAN SHRINE COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICES OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

ALL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS AGES 13-30 ARE INVITED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 270-683-6769 OR 270-683-1545

Saint Mary Of The Woods Catholic School Passes Faith Legacy On To Next Generations 11

(Continued from page 10)

“To keep it short, St. Mary of the Woods School staff consists of certified catechists who are also certified professional educators, some with master’s degrees and higher. These catechists provide approximately 1,100 hours faith formation per year to our current 145 students, not including time in Vacation Bible School and home instruction.

“Sr. Karla’s (Kaelin, OSU, St. Mary’s Director of Religious Education, shown in the picture below) professional degrees and experiences in Catholic schools and parishes is a great gift to your parish and to our school as a DRE. She approximates the instructional hours and faith development for now 157 students in the parish religious education program to be about 33 hours per year with additional hours for those children preparing for sacraments and for summer Bible school. Yes, that’s thirty-three hours. How much faith are these children learning? Is it all that they need or deserve? Are we fully aware of our choices and their consequences for the future of our parish and the children we are preparing to send out into the world?

“Of course, the time spent is only one factor. The quality use of that time is just as important. Your own home is the primary center for quality faith formation and it is impossible to measure the spiritual benefits children receive in any family over a lifetime.

“It is difficult to measure results of formation of the human spirit. However, each year the students in our Catholic schools in grades six and eight take the ACRE test, an instrument to test their faith knowledge. It is a national exam normed with other Catholic school students of those two grades. In 2009, our students scored well above the national norm and very high within our diocesan school system. Their knowledge and growth can be measured to a certain extent. We know that this achievement does not happen in one year but in a continuous catechetical cycle also complemented by growth in the spiritual relationship of the child with Jesus. This latter can never be measured; we can see evidence of it in a child’s faith and behavior, just as we see a child learn to read and compute, analyze and discover.

A Future of Faith in Education

“Our staff and school board of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School want to make our school better in faith formation, academics, extra-curricular activities and service to the parish and to the wider community. As we plan for that, I

invite you to consider a few of the ways we hope to improve our ministry:

“1. In our Catholic school, in addition to the 1,100 hours of immersion in the faith, our staff pledges to continue our own adult faith development. Catechists annually choose courses and retreat times with God and prayer together to deepen the quality of these hours spent teaching our faith and integrating it into the entire day;

“2. In our Catholic school, parents, grandparents, volunteers and others help us to create a faith environment for learning, a culture that supports student self-discipline, and the same Kentucky curriculum and standards in core subjects offered in a public school (granted, without all of the resources). Last academic year, in spite of the crisis, middle school faculty from one of the local public schools asked to observe our teachers for a day to discover ways to help their students excel like ours on the Explore academic tests. Our eighth graders scored above the local middle schools on that pre-ACT exam. We were genuinely proud of our students and humbled by the visitors’ request. We want to maintain that kind of recognition and work toward excellence in every area of the curriculum.

“3. (If you are a teacher in a public school, you know that all Kentucky teachers are expected to learn and implement new ways to meet the individual needs of the child’s learning.) In our Catholic school, the faculty and I are engaged in smarter planning and more collaboration to fulfill this goal significantly in the next three years. Every child who desires Catholic education deserves no less. The faculty spends many hours per year in professional development to offer more service to students with special needs. In addition, they are expected to learn more from one another in frequent after school professional learning teams using the data available to analyze how best to maximize every child’s growth. We are committed to this level of excellence as well.

“4. In our Catholic School, we are implementing other ways to collaborate with other schools in the area and the diocese, to improve our local community relations, and to create more opportunities for service from our students to the parish. This is an essential learning for our students to know what it means to build community and to share their time and learning with others. “*Communio*” is the special mark of our faith in the Eucharist. Without the Eucharist, we are not Catholic. Without serving one another with the

gifts God has given us, we fail in our responsibility to teach the faith to these precious children. We are the Body of Christ; Jesus is our Head, our Master Teacher.

“Thank you for allowing me these few moments to share some of the fruits of your good stewardship as a parish. You are so generous and committed in faith to use the gifts you have to support your school. When Jesus appears in that Third glorious coming, He will judge us on our stewardship of the gifts God has given us, especially to the least ones. Our children

love Jesus and want to grow in that love until they too can pass it on. They are our future Church. What legacy will they have to provide to the next generations of this parish?

“As we continue the Advent waiting, may your parish celebration of the Eucharist and the Birth of Jesus continue to empower you to say to God: “All is yours; you gave all to me; I open my heart to return all that I am to you by sharing all with these, our most precious of gifts, our little ones. ‘Come, Lord Jesus, Come.’”

Vaccines: A Blessing & A Curse?

By Father Fid Levri

Vaccines are a blessing. This suspension of weakened or killed micro-organisms is capable of defending the body against specific infectious diseases. Today, the work of science has eliminated small pox and nearly eliminated polio and measles. According to the Merck Manual: “no vaccine is 100% effective and 100% safe. A few develop side effects and some children fail to become immunized.”

An accursed aspect of some vaccines is that many childhood vaccines are manufactured from cell lines of aborted babies. These include vaccines against polio, measles mumps and rubella, rabies, hepatitis A and chicken pox. The good news is that most of these vaccines have alternatives whose cell lines are derived from other than fetal tissue according to Debra L. Vinnedge, Executive director for the Children of God for Life, whose purpose is three fold:

- to support the rights of parents to refuse aborted fetal cell lines vaccines and obtain information on ethical alternatives;
- to support the efforts to bring ethical alternatives to the public; and
- to unite in a cohesive manner with other faiths to effectively end this injustice.

After the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks, the Children of God for Life with the backing of the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops succeeded in obtaining ethical small pox vaccines. Negotiations are in progress to bring an ethical alternative for the abortion-tainted rubella vaccine in the USA. In January, 2005, the Children of God for Life introduced the Fair Labeling and Informed Consent Act to Congress. This legislation requires that the pharmaceuticals provide full disclosure in the labeling of all products that use aborted fetal or embryonic cell lines. In June 2005, the Cogforlife received an official Vatican letter and eight-page document that overwhelmingly supports these efforts under the direction of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) the Pontifical Academy for Life clearly defined medical and parental obligations to use ethical alternatives if at all possible.

Public schools demand that from preschoolers on up to those bound for college are required to receive the appropriate vaccines before acceptance. The public school is obliged to honor this request. As Catholics, we have a moral obligation to oppose vaccines that have no ethical alternative on moral and religious grounds. Catholic parents may allow their children to receive these tainted vaccines provided there are no ethical alternatives, but they should express their displeasure.

Isn’t it shocking that for the past 40 years the general public is unaware that these required vaccines are derived from embryonic tissues? Illustrating the demand for fetal tissue to use for research on biologics and cosmetics, Dr. Theresa Deisher at the 79th annual Catholic Medical Association conference said that there were 4,400 requests for fetal tissue in one year. This represents just one medical school: The University of Washington in Seattle. There are over 400 medical schools in the USA with similar research facilities. This could mean, says Dr. Deisher, nearly 2 million requests for fetal tissue and cell lines from aborted babies each year to be used for medical research.

Could it be that the moral issues predicted in A. Huxley’s “Brave New World” in 1932 have come to pass? Now it is up to morally concerned Christians to come together as a united front and expose this outrageous act on the unsuspecting public by use of a boycott. One positive note is that on September 21, 2009, the FDA approved four new swine flu vaccines, none which were from aborted fetal cell lines. To join the campaign for Ethical Vaccines, please log onto: www.cogforlife.org.

12 Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School Continuously Passing on the Faith Since 1882



St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School in Whitesville, KY held a mission carnival on November 23rd. Part of the proceeds will go to assist an orphanage of children in Uganda whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS. The director of the orphanage, Ms. Faith Kunihiro, came to talk at the school recently and the students decided they wanted to help these children. Sr. Suzanne Sims met Faith in 2008 when she was sponsored by Rotary International to visit and set up a committee for water projects in the area where Faith runs "Hope for the Family," a non-profit clinic and orphanage in rural Uganda. Pictured in the photo starting in the lower left is Cassidy Morris, Blake Laney, Abby Howard, Maria Rhodes, Lane Ballard, Landon Hall, Erin Beatty, and Faith Kunihiro. Photo submitted by Cindy Ward



St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School in Whitesville, KY received their first bench made of recycled plastic tops. SMCS partnered with the After School Program and Trinity High School students and some staff of the following companies to assist them in top collections: U.S. Bank, OMHS departments, and Whitesville Drug Store. Each bench consists of 250 pounds of plastic and costs \$150 to produce at Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, IN. The money was paid from the aluminum can collection donated by the Whitesville community. Students in the photo from left to right are Lucas Howard, Abby Howard, Isaac Howard, and Kristopher Howard. Photo submitted by Cindy Ward



Middle school age students at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School received training on drug prevention as their peers practiced their teaching skills. Fourteen students from grades 6, 7, and 8 attended a full day of training with other middle school students in the region. During Red Ribbon Week these student leaders (Daniel Hardesty and Sierra Valdez) had the opportunity to conduct the training for others. Photo submitted by Cindy Ward



Tracy Howard and her mother Paula Ward, participated in the First Trunk O Treat at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School. They are pictured with trick or treaters Aaron Howard, Brittany Booker, and Katelyn Coomes. Photo submitted by Cindy Ward

In photo at right, seventh grader Noah Cox practices his left-handed guitar. Noah is a new student of the instrument and is tutored by Mrs. Mary E. Haycraft, Liturgy Coordinator for St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School, to learn some of the sacred music the students will sing at school Masses. Photo submitted by Cindy Ward



Welcoming the Roman Missal third edition

Embracing Our Biblical Roots

On Sunday, November 27, 2011, all Catholic parishes across the United States will begin using a new translation of the Roman Missal.

There are many biblical references used in liturgical prayer. For example, as we begin Mass, the priest says "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." This is based on St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. (2 Cor 13:13). At the Holy, Holy, we say "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." This is found in the gospel of St. Mark (Mark 11:9-10) in the account of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem before his death. The new translation of the Roman Missal will make the biblical references in our prayers at Mass even more obvious.

As we currently begin the Holy, Holy, we say "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might." The new translation will become "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts". In the book of Isaiah, the vision is recalled in which the Lord is seated on a throne with the Seraphim above him. "'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!' they cried one to the other. 'All the earth is filled with his glory!'" (Isaiah 6: 1-3). God is the God of the hosts of angels. We are familiar with the host of heavenly angels. We remember hymns which declare the song of the angels: "With th'angelic hosts proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem" from Hark! the Herald Angels Sing and "Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia!" from Silent Night, Holy Night.

In the new translation of Eucharistic Prayer III we will say: "you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name." We hear these words of Scripture in the book of Malachi (1:11): "For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; And everywhere they bring sacrifice to

my name, and a pure offering." Even before Christ's coming, the people of God offered praise so that their offering may be pure. In the book of Malachi, we are reminded of the long tradition of offering sacrifice. We Christians have the perfect offering, Jesus Christ, who we know is acceptable and pleasing to God the Father.

At the Lamb of God, we say "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed." The new translation reminds us of the story of faith demonstrated by the Centurion soldier. He sends a message to the elder Jews imploring them to ask Jesus to save the life of his slave who is dying. As Jesus makes his way to the centurion's house, the centurion sends friends to intercept Jesus with these words: "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed" (Luke 7:6-7). What trust the Centurion had to believe that Jesus could simply say the word, and his servant would be healed! We, too, mirror that faith and trust that God will heal us so that we may worthily receive the Body and Blood of Christ as we will say "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

As we continue to study the changes in the texts of the new Roman Missal, let us be open to the many ways the changes draw us closer to God, our biblical roots and faith tradition.

Questions or comments may be directed to: Fr. Larry McBride (fatherlarry@bellsouth.net) or Martha Hagan (martha.hagan@pastoral.org) in the Office of Worship.

Thanks For Your Tremendous Support!



I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Owensboro Catholic fans for their tremendous support during this past football season, and in particular during our run to the Class 2A state championship game. Our fans outnumbered our opponent's fans 2 to 1 and sometimes 3 to 1 in the last 3 playoff games. The players and coaches really appreciated the support of the citizens of Owensboro/Daviess County community. May God bless all of you during the Christmas season.

- John Edge, Head Football Coach, Owensboro Catholic High School

ANNUAL COLLECTION January 15-16, 2011



A ministry under the direction of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky



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888-496-3638

*Donations can be made through your parish's Opportunities for Life collection or mail to:
Opportunities for Life • 600 Locust Street • Owensboro, KY 42301*



OCMS Mechatronics Club

Advances to State Competition

Congratulations to the OCMS Mechatronics Club. They received the Judge's award at the Regional First Lego League Competition. The award advances them to the State FLL Championship at Western Kentucky University on January 29, 2011. The award also signifies that the OCMS Mechatronics team was standout among all other teams and placed in the top three in half of their competitions over the weekend.

The team has worked hard since August and truly deserves the recognition this award gives them. The Mechatronics team members are Mason Jackson, Sam Booth, Jack Padgett, Alex Hayden, Rex Berry, Daniel Teets, Evan Christodoulou, Joey Phillips, Nick Jackson, Jackson Bittel, Jack Hayden. The faculty advisor is Mrs. Jennifer Payne. OCS Photo

Owensboro Catholic Middle School EXPLORE Test Scores Exceed National Averages Again!

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The current 8th grade took the EXOLORE test in October 2010. The scores have just been released. Once again, OCMS scores exceed national averages in composite scores and in all subject areas. See the chart at right.

English

OCMS (Grade 8) 17.4 ... National 14.2

Math

OCMS (Grade 8) 16.3 ... National 15.1
0.4 increase from 2009 results

Reading

OCMS (Grade 8) 16.9 ... National 13.8

Science

OCMS (Grade 8) 18.5 ... National 15.9
0.3 increase from 2009 results

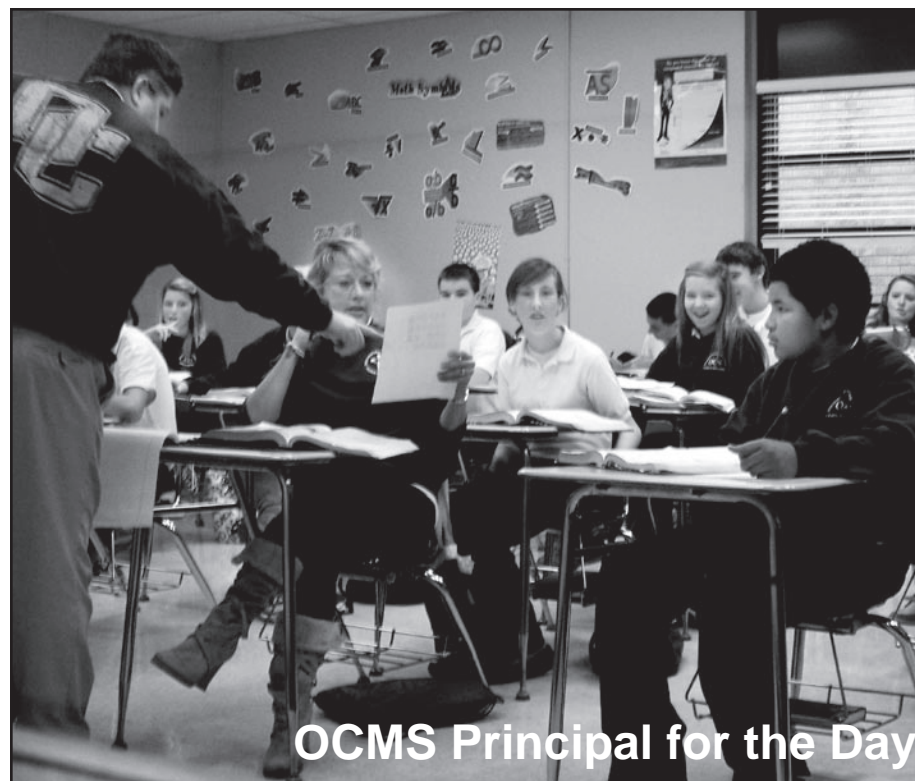
Composite

OCMS (Grade 8) 17.4 ... National 14.9
0.2 increase from 2009 results

Some More Facts:

When Catholic Schools offices of the Diocese say Owensboro Catholic Schools are academically excellent, they have many measures on which to stake this claim. First of all, Owensboro Catholic Schools are certified by standards of academic excellence. A second way to judge the academic excellence of a school has traditionally been student performance on national testing.

For a complete overview of OCS academic test scores, refer to this link: http://owensborocatholic.org/about_us/academic_scores



OCMS Principal for the Day



On December 2nd, Jennifer Withers was "Principal for the Day" at Owensboro Catholic Middle School. She was chosen through a drawing of students who had sold more than 20 items during the recent school fund raiser. Jennifer is an 8th grader. While Jennifer was being principal, Mrs. Flaherty had to attend all of her classes. Mrs. Flaherty even had to take Jennifer's Algebra class with Mr. Hank Harvey.

Above, Mrs. Ann Flaherty asks a question to Mr. Harvey in Algebra; At left, Jennifer Withers prepares for her day as Principal at OCMS. OCS photos



The next Spinning Day is Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011

Whether you are an experienced spinner, knitter, crocheter, or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the "Arts at the Mount" spinning gatherings at Mount Saint Joseph (12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56). Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill. **Sessions begin at 10 a.m.** and usually end around 4 p.m. Lunch is \$12. The group plans to "spin, knit, and talk until we're done!" **Next date: Feb. 5, 2011**

Contact Kathy McCarty to register:
270-229-4103 ext. 802
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph

Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.msjcenter.org

Jolly 'Ol Saint Nicholas Visits Holy Name School

15

HENDERSON, Ky. - On December 6, the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, students of Holy Name School were met at the door by Jolly 'Ol Saint Nick himself.

In the photo at near right, Mrs. Phyllis Brown, the Religion teacher, offers St. Nick her shoe to receive a peppermint candy. Mrs. Audrey Young's first graders arrived at School surprised to discover one of their shoes already there containing a small treat.

In the photo at far right, Saint Nicholas paid a visit to Mrs. Donna Jo Bugg's Pre-Kindergarten room to make sure the children had been good throughout the year. Photos submitted by Kamille Stich



Ice Fun

St. Thomas More hosted an evening full of ice skating in downtown Paducah. The temperatures were frigid, but about 100 youth and adults braved the elements! Several youth are pictured enjoying the skating, and several adults are pictured watching from the slightly warmer snack building making sure the hot chocolate was safe! Submitted by Lori Meredith



A Literary Halloween

Ms. Sandy Jones English AP class at Owensboro Catholic High School dressed as their favorite literary character for Halloween, 2010

The Students and their cast of characters are: front row, from left, Alex Dotsey as Chaucer's Knight in The Canterbury Tales, Anne-Claude Rakotoniaina as the Cheshire cat from Alice in Wonderland; middle row, from left, Danielle Carrico, as Emily Elizabeth from Clifford, Megan Berry as Holly Golightly from Breakfast at Tiffany's, Jessica Bradshaw as Juliet from Romeo and Juliet, Lindsey Whitehouse as Thing2 from Dr. Seuss, Chase Kauffeld as Valdemont from Harry Potter, Sabrina Storm as Arwen from Lord of the Rings, Josh Hayden as Luke Skywalker from Star Wars; back row, from left, student teacher Nathan West as Hannibal Lector, Ben Franey as St. Thomas Becket from Murder in the Cathedral, Luke Robertson as Ahab from Moby Dick, Matt Jacobs as Robin Hood, Sam Thompson as Hagrid in Harry Potter, and OCHS AP teacher Sandra Jones as Molly Weasley in Harry Potter.

Mel Howard Photo

16 Bishop Soenneker Home - Where Life Is Beautiful When Shared With Friends Of All Ages



Hoedown Musical Magic at Bishop Soenneker Home

On November 9th the Hoedowners did their musical magic in Rainbow Hall for Bishop Soenneker Home residents and for 5th-6th-7th and 8th grades from Mary Carrico Memorial School. The school children first entertained us with their square dancing talents taught by Sister Mary Celine. Then our residents showed them some of their moves in dancing. What a sharing of each others gifts. It is definitely true that "music is ageless" and we are here to tell you life is beautiful when shared with friends of all ages.



A Message From Bishop Soenneker Home's Administrator

Bishop Soenneker Home is a Personal Care Home providing 24 hour nursing supervision. We are unique in that we offer onsite religious services. We believe in a God loving approach to both care and everyday living. We strive to work with the family of a resident to help the resident remain close to his/her family here at the Bishop Soenneker Home and cherish each person's individuality. We believe it is by such love and acceptance, along with good care that each resident will find their happiness here.

Bishop Soenneker Home is located at: 9545 KY 144 Knottsville, KY 42366 next to St. Williams Catholic Church 10 miles East of Owensboro, KY. Administrator: Paula Hazel. Phone # 270-281-4881; fax #270-281-5804.



Life Is Beautiful When Shared With Friends Of All Ages. Photos by Arlene cecil

Thanksgiving Dessert Social

On Sunday November 21st, we here at Bishop Soenneker Home in Knottsville, Ky. hosted a families and friends social in thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received this year. It truly turned out to be one of our biggest blessings yet. Music was provided by Donnie Christian, Randall Cecil, Dane Roberts, Martin Cecil and Doris Willis.

To our residents families and friends, we thank you for coming and sharing this wonderful fun filled time with us. God has truly blessed us abundantly this year and we are looking forward to another year shared with all of you.

May God keep you safe through the Christmas season and the New Year's Holidays.



Catholics @ the Capitol Bowling Green Region Saturday, January 8, 2011 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church in the Paris hall, Bowling Green, Ky.

Issues to be discussed:

- the Sanctity of Life,
- Economic Justice,
- Criminal Justice,
- Education Issues,
- Immigration.

Light refreshments will be served, and childcare can be provided with advance notice. Organized by The Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

Habitat For Humanity Brings People Together To Give Shelter, Self-respect, And The Hope Of A Better Life 17

Submitted by Diane Willis,
Parish of the Immaculate

"Unless the Lord built the house, its builders labor in vain." --Psalms 127:1.
as posted on the website for Habitat for Humanity – Owensboro-Daviess County

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization working to provide housing for those living in substandard housing. Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity believed that "All of God's people should have at least a simple, decent place to live." Working from that motto, Habitat now has built over 350,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Recently, Immaculate Parish of Owensboro helped landscape the newly built house at 916 Graves Street through a program called Apostle's Build.

Virginia Braswell, the Athena Awarded winning Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Owensboro, Daviess County, commented, "Apos-



Above, Bill Boehm with rake, and Gabe Hardy with shovel are helping do the landscaping of a new Habitat for Humanity house in Owensboro.

In the group photo at top right, are (L-r) Bill Boehm, Gabe Hardy, Dorothy Reid, Susan Zogg, Janet Reid, Jacob Reid, Mike Mischel, Dennis Rennie (Habitat) on porch

Pausing a moment from raking the newly-sown front lawn are at right, Susan Zogg, and at far right, Janet Reid and Gabe Hardy.



Join us for a Women's Retreat

**We Are The Body of Christ:
The Spirituality of Caryl Houselander**

March 25-27, 2011

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Houselander, an unlikely "saint" who lived through two world wars, offers profoundly simple advice on becoming holy in the midst of ordinary daily life. Her mystical experiences rooted in her the truth first experienced by Saint Paul on the road to Damascus: Jesus is present in every person.

Fee: \$175 for residents (Includes retreat, materials, meals, and accommodations).

Commuters can attend for \$120 (Includes retreat, materials, meals).

Deduct 10% if paid in full by Feb. 25, 2011.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
(270) 229-4103 ext. 802



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.msjecenter.org



*Have you considered deepening your spirituality as a woman religious?
For information, contact Sister Martha Keller, OSU: 270-229-4103 ext. 212*

tles Build and Building on Faith are two ventures of Habitat for Humanity International which allows churches to get involved in ministry in action. Owensboro has participated in Building on Faith in the past, and now organizes Apostles Build. The idea behind Apostles Build is to have 12 churches come together to serve as the apostles of Jesus served by building a home. Members of these 12 churches offer their time and a financial commitment to see that others have a decent place to live. These churches work together to build a house, each church taking on a specific task. Those churches instrumental in the building of this year's Apostle Build were Immaculate Parish, Bellvue Baptist, First Presbyterian, Century Christian, First Christian, Fourth Street Baptist, Settlement Memorial Methodist, Zion United Church of Christ, Masonville Baptist, Trinity Episcopal, Zion Baptist and Cross Roads Mission, and many other individuals."

The Apostles Build house located at 916 Graves Street was dedicated Saturday, December 4, and was ready for new owner, Michelle Nash and her three children to move into the following Monday.

For more information, look online at <http://www.habitatowensboro.org/>

18 St. Thomas More Choir Holds Annual Fall Concert

PADUCAH, Ky. - Saint Thomas More Choir presented their annual Fall Concert on Sunday afternoon, November 21 at 4 pm, with over 150 in attendance. The theme of this year's program was "The Psalms of David" – the program being choral, brass and organ music inspired by texts of the Book of Psalms. Works by Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells and the Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar were highlights of the program.

A fundraiser dinner supporting future choir activity followed immediately afterward in the Parish Hall.



Photos, from top left, Stephen Incata and Tyler Morris sound the trumpet; top right, Fr. Pat Reynolds welcomes all to the concert; middle left, Jacob Hein conducts the choir; middle right, Jim Hess, Director of Music, fills the room with sacred organ music; at left, Dave Krueger, Bunny Strauss, Eleanor Crayne, and Ernie Mitchell enjoy sharing a meal after the concert in the Parish Hall; at lower right, The St. Thomas More Choir rejoices in song. Photos by Missy Eckenberg



Imaging America Through Song



The Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus "Singing Aces" performed a program entitled "A Picture of America Through Song" at St. John Methodist Church on November 13 for the Saturday Musicale Club. The 'Singing Aces' are led by Mrs. Virginia Blandford. OCS Photo



Owensboro Catholic Elementary 1st Graders Learn about Exercise

In the picture at right, Thekla Panayi, an OCS parent, taught the 1st grade students in Ms. Krystal Smith's class stretching and fun exercises to help keep them in good cardiovascular health. OCS Photo



St. Frances of Rome is the Patron of the Holy Name Class of 2011!

19

By Phyllis Brown

HENDERSON,Ky. - The Holy Name Class of 2011 recently completed the 13th annual Patron Saint Contest. The saints competing this year were: St. Dismas, Michael the Archangel, St. Frances of Rome, St. Catherine of Siena, the Holy Innocents, St. Therese the Little Flower, St. Anthony of Padua, St. John the Evangelist and St. Jude. The competition consisted of a bulletin board and a skit. St. Catherine of Siena won the bulletin board portion St. Frances of Rome won the skit. Thanks to our judges: Fr. Bradley, Fr. Shonis, Mrs. Rose Wheeler, Mr. Charlie Hardesty, Mrs. Sandy Fleming, Mrs. Mary Caton, Mrs. Connie McFarland, Mrs. Sabrina Farley, Mrs. Janet Barkley and Mrs. Julie Eadens. Students in grades 5-7 also influenced the outcome by voting for their favorite saint with a canned good. This yearly celebration on All Saints Day kicks off the Co-Ed Y Club Thanksgiving Food Drive. Canned good votes resulted in St. Frances of Rome and St. John receiving bonus points. St. Frances of Rome founded an order for charitable women called the Oblates of Mary who were dedicated to helping the poor. Her feast day is March 9.

In the picture at right, Members of the "St. Frances Team" are: front row: Hencye Sights, Brett Lewis, Emily Fulkerson, Jayla Burgess, back row: Bailey Maloney, Courtney Morris and Conner Shea.

Some of the Fall 2010 Activities of the St. Sebastian Church Youth Group



Submitted by Bernis Miller-Wells

CALHOUN,Ky. - On Sunday, November 7, 2010, the St. Sebastian Church Youth Group went to Sacramento, Ky. and had fun ranking a community members yard.

In the picture above are Miranda Miller, Justus Hayden, David Scott, Laurine Scott, Felicia Miller, Chloe Dempsey, Karissa Miller Not Pictured: Jesse Hayden, Jordan Wilson, Morgan Farley, Philip Wilson, and Morgan Scott

In the picture below are some of the St. Sebastian Church Youth Group playing a tug-of-war of the Saints verses sinners on October 24, 2010.



St. Sebastian Church Youth Group Hayride, October 24, 2010

Patricia Hayden, Bernis Miller-Wells, Linda Dempsey, Laurie Scott, Miranda Miller, Morgan Farley, Laurine Scott, Karissa Miller, Jesse Hayden, Chloe Dempsey, Jordan Wilson, David Scott, and Justus Hayden Not Pictured: Philip Wilson and Morgan Scott.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Marriage Celebrations for January 2011

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Keith & Sharon Tipmore, 25
Phillip & June D. Bell, 50
Joseph Raymond & Sara Tomas, 50
David E. & Anita H. McBride, 50
Edward H. & Wanda Powers, 58
Henry & Mary Jean Hodskins, 59
Melvin & Lois Connor, 54
Charles & Mary Bonnie Gray, 54
Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 62
Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 54
Precious Blood, Owensboro
Arnold Toby Boarman, 58
Charles & Ann Connor, 53
James & Shirley Ellis, 53
Doug & Betty Howard, 56
James & Evelyn Mattingly, 58
Mike & Cloa Thompson, 51
St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Francis & Thomasine Clouse, 58
St. Ann, Morganfield
Larry and Gail Brown, 50;
married on Dec. 29, 1960
St. Anthony, Browns Valley
Norbert & Helen Rose Smith, 53
St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
Joseph & Margie Merimee, 56
St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro
Michael & Valerie Thomas, 25
Don & Sylvia Hamilton, 52
Francis L. & Mary Lee Howard, 58
Wilsie & Marjorie Ward, 58
Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Charles C. & Bonnie Gray, 54
Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
John & Phyllis Brown, 40
Scott & Mary Anne Chapman, 25
Forwood & Ann Hargis, 68
Jeff & Lori Nally, 25
Leonard & Anna Patterson, 55
James & Elizabeth Thomas, 58

Steve & Pattye Tweddell, 40
Jerry & Charlotte Hopf, 52
Immaculate Conception, Earlington
Bobby & Theresa May, 57
Rosary Chapel, Paducah
David & Linda Stiles, 51
Sacred Heart, Russellville
Dale & Cindy Vincent, 25
Sacred Heart, Waverly
Roy & Carolyn Rowley, 53
St. Agnes Uniontown
Hamel & Rose Floyd, 58
St. Ann, Morganfield
Adrian & Mary Frances Wolfe, 64
Donald & Peggy French, 60
Jack & Theresa Davis, 69
Parvin & Mildred Moore, 66
St. Edward, Fulton
Bobby Joe & Lea Ann Hobbs, 25
St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
Keith & Judy Walker, 51
Michael J. & Esther Shoulta, 51
W. J. & Norma Word, 60
St. Henry, Aurora
Ray & Betty Jerge, 52

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Norman & Ginny Elliott, 56
Joseph & Alma Stahr, 54
Charles & Shirley Rowe, 53
Conrad & Rozella Spalding, 56
St. John the Baptist, Fordsville
Irlan & Christine Payne, 63
St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Albert & Joyce Wurth, 51
St. Joseph, Mayfield
Jackie & Judy Roberts, 51
James & Wanda Warner, 51
James & Frankie Riley, 54
St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence
James & Frances Payne, 61
James N. & Connie Nalley, 40
St. Martin, Rome
Donald & Vivian Fischer, 58
St. Mary, Franklin
A. V. & Kay Wilwayco, 53
Frank & Marie Farmer, 51
St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Bill & Katie Christian, 51
Elmer & Marcella Schepers, 55
Joseph & Jackie Head, 54
Charles & Catherine Hamilton, 54

Food Safety

By Christy Ramey, Daviess County Extension Agent, for Family and Consumer Sciences

Foodborne illness is not a pleasant experience and one most of us would prefer to avoid. The Centers for Disease Control data suggests that 76 million Americans become sick from foodborne illness each year. Of these, 300,000 are hospitalized and 5000 die. With a little forethought and planning, we have the ability to stop foodborne illness before it starts.

- Wash your hands! Always wash hands with soap and hot water before and after handling food. Teach your children to wash their hands as well with this simple song: The Happy Finger, Happy Hands Song (sing to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star); Happy fingers, happy hands,; Making bubbles is my plan. Just add water, soap, then rub. Make it fun, sing while you scrub. If you want the germs away, You must wash your hands this way. It is recommended to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, which is about the length of this song.

- Cook food to the proper internal temperatures. To be safe, the internal temperature of meat should reach 165 degrees. For accuracy, use a good meat thermometer and cook until the juices run clear. Be especially careful with leftovers. Store soup, stew, or chili in shallow containers while they are still warm. This will help the food pass through the danger zone (140 – 40 degrees) as quickly as possible. And speaking of leftovers, refrigerate them within two hours of cooking or serving. Germs will start to multiply rapidly after that amount of time. Throw away food that has been left out too long.

- Don't cross-contaminate! Use separate cutting boards and utensils when preparing meat and veg-

etables. Never let fresh veggies come in contact with the juices of raw meat. Also, never use the dish that has held the raw meat for the cooked meat unless it has been thoroughly cleaned with soap and warm water. Store thawing meat in a pan on the lowest shelf of your refrigerator. Your counter or sink is not the place for defrosting meat. By thawing at room temperature, you are inviting bacteria into the product as it will stay in the danger zone (140 – 40 degrees) much too long.

- Clean and sanitize your surfaces, utensils, and equipment often during prep and cleanup. A solution of two capfuls of household bleach per gallon of water is all it takes to keep your kitchen a safe place to prepare and eat great family meals.

- Purchase food from reputable dealers. Avoid buying dented cans as they may have tiny cracks that would allow foods to become contaminated. Pack meat and frozen food in an insulated container for the trip home. When at home, put cold and frozen food away first. Remember to store fresh meats on the lowest shelf of the refrigerator. Wash produce before eating it. Check eggs for cleanliness and cracks. Frozen foods should be firm and free of ice crystals.

Following these few simple steps will help keep you and your family free of foodborne illness, giving you the peace of mind that your family dinner will be a fun and pleasant experience, both during and after the meal.

For more information, contact Christy Ramey, Daviess County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, at 685-8480 or chramey@uky.edu.

Catholics @ the Capitol Owensboro Region

Saturday, January 15, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

St. Pius Tenth Catholic Church,
in the Parish Hall, Owensboro, Ky.

Issues to be discussed:

- the Sanctity of Life,
- Economic Justice,
- Criminal Justice,
- Education Issues,
- Immigration.

Light refreshments will be served, and child-care can be provided with advance notice. Organized by The Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

Chili Cook-Off to Become Annual Event

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - When one thinks of making chili for dinner, most likely the same recipe probably comes to mind over and over again. As evidenced by the Chili Cook-Off at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish on Saturday, December 4, however, chili can come in many styles, consistencies and even colors.

Sponsored by the parish stewardship committee, the Chili Cook-Off was planned for one reason and one reason only: to gather parishioners together in a fun and relaxed environment. Touted as a "fun raiser, not a fund raiser," all were welcome to attend and sample the plethora of chili for just \$1 per person. Those brave enough to cook their own version of chili and enter it into the contest paid a mere \$5 per entry. The money collected was simply used to cover the expenses of providing soft drinks, crackers, cheese and sour cream.

With 23 entries to sample, the more than 100 people gathered began in earnest tasting all the varieties immediately after the opening prayer. Gene Pniewski, who eventually tasted all 23 varieties, enjoyed discerning the differences among the selections. "You can almost taste some of the things in them," he said. "There's coffee in that one and bar-be-que in that one," he said pointing to two different crock pots.

"Some are sweet, some are thick, some are thin," explained Pam Carlton. "None were real hot," added Pam's husband, Steve. "This one doesn't have ground beef, it has chuck," Pam commented. When asked if they had found a winner, without hesitation Steve patted his wife on the back and said "Right here, 50 years ago!"

Scott Audet, who entered his own version of chili, had also found a winner in his opinion. When asked if it was his own chili, he admitted that it was not.

Without question, the group who gathered to sample the variety of chili and fellowship with other parishioners enjoyed their evening. "This was a wonderful idea," said Levi Peterson, who entered a chili but chose not to sample any. "This is what the apostle Paul talked about, this community. He said, 'Where two or three gather in my name.' Look at this," Peterson said waving his hand around indicating all the people in attendance.

Although initially organized and sponsored by the stewardship committee, committee member Pat Puckett handled most of the organization and planning for the event. The plan was to have three judges from outside the parish attend and



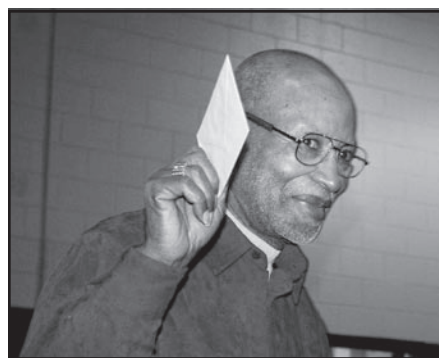
Pam and Steve Carlton enjoyed tasting the 23 different chili recipes entered into the Sts. Peter and Paul Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, December 4. Although Pam Carlton's chili didn't come in first, her chili did receive the second most votes for crowd favorite. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

sample all the chili to determine an overall winner. In addition, each attendee was given one vote to select the crowd favorite.

Unfortunately only two of the three judges were able to attend. Bishop William Medley, who readily agreed to attend and judge the chili when asked back in September, was stranded in Chicago on the day of the cook-off and was unable to attend. The other two judges who were asked to participate chose stand-ins for themselves. Cheryl Cook, the Executive Director for Convention and Tourism in Hopkinsville, attended but asked her husband Terry to act as judge since chili does not agree with her. Ken Bond, who works at a local mortuary, asked his son, also named Ken, to attend and judge because he was otherwise committed for the evening.

When all the judging had been done and the tallies totaled, there was no clear winner. Each of the two judges selected their top four favorite chilies, and none of the four were the same. Both judges tasted each others' four favorites in hopes of coming to a consensus, but still they could not agree on a winner. Since Puckett had gathered several prizes donated by local merchants, the top choice for each judge was given a prize as was the winner of the crowd favorite vote.

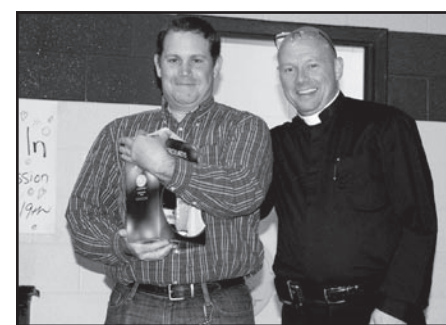
The two individuals winning according to the judges' preferences were Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, and Oscar Johnson, parishioner. The crowd favorite winner was Kelly King. In addition, Puckett awarded ten of



Levi Peterson, who entered his version of chili in the Chili Cook-Off at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on Saturday, December 4, shows off the gift certificate he won during a drawing at the end of the evening for those who participated in the cook-off. Photo taken by Jim Creighton.

the remaining 20 entries with gift certificates also gathered from local merchants.

Fr. Thomas got up at 5 a.m. on the Wednesday before the cook-off to prepare his chili because it was the only time his schedule would allow for the three hours it took to prepare the winning selection. When asked why he thought it won, he said, "It was sweet. It has honey and carrots in the recipe." Known as "Fusion Chili," Fr. Thomas said the recipe can be found on any internet site listing recipes. "I modified the recipe," he admitted. "I never follow a recipe exactly. I added Holy Water in mine," he said with a laugh. "But seriously, I cut the honey in half because I thought it was too sweet the first time I made it, and I added a few



Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, and Oscar Johnson, parishioner, show off the prizes they won for cooking the best chili according to the judges at the Chili Cook-Off held at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on Saturday, December 4. The Chili Cook-Off was sponsored by the parish stewardship committee. Photo taken by Jim Creighton.



Carly Chadouin, six years old, enjoyed tasting several different types of chili during the Chili Cook-Off held on Saturday, December 4, at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. The Chili Cook-Off was sponsored by the parish stewardship committee. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

other ingredients that I'm not willing to reveal," he added with a smile.

While some followed recipes for their entries, Johnson, the other winner according to the judges, created his own recipe. "It's kind of a combination of theories I have on chili," he explained. "I call it 'Triple Threat Chili' because it has three forms of chili: powdered, fresh and canned," he stated. Both recipes chosen as the judges' favorites can be found on the Sts. Peter and Paul page on Facebook.

The winner of the crowd favorite vote was pleased that so many people liked his chili. "There's no secret, I just make it," claimed King. "The kids like it and I like it. It makes me feel good that the people liked it too," he added.

While the results for the best chili were highly disputable, given individual tastes, one thing was clearly indisputable: everyone in attendance hopes the chili cook-off becomes an annual event for Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.

Saints Peter and Paul Parish Begins New Adult Catechesis Program

22

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Sts. Peter and Paul Parish has begun a new adult catechesis program to introduce daily scripture study into the lives of its adult parishioners. Known as "Foundations in Faith" the new study program will kick-off the week of January 24, 2011.

Coordinated by Dr. William Sweet, a deacon candidate and member of the parish, the catechesis program is intended to be an on-going effort. Initially, the study will begin by using the Little Rock Scripture Study program to train small group facilitators. In addition, the Little Rock course on the "Passion and Resurrection of Jesus" will be the first course offered beginning in January.

To prepare for implementation of the program, a core leadership team, which includes Sweet, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, Missy Craft and Dawn C. Ligibel, began a leadership training course on November 29, 2010. The leadership training was held for four consecutive Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to train individuals who were willing to consider leading small group discussions on a weekly basis.



Dr. William Sweet, coordinator of a new adult catechesis program at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, addressed the gathering of individuals who may choose to be small group facilitators for the new scripture study program. 58 parishioners attended the initial training session on November 29, 2010. The scripture study program is scheduled to kick-off the week of January 24, 2011. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.



Members of a small group, formed during a leadership training session on December 6, 2010, at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, discussed questions about conversational prayer. Parishioners attended four training sessions to discern whether or not they are being called to act as small group facilitators for a new scripture study program being introduced in the parish. Participants pictured from left to right are: Roger Westfall, Rochelle Dickerson, Chris Westfall and Chris Stevens. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

From the 139 individuals who were personally invited to attend the leadership training, 58 adults attended the first session on November 29. This greatly pleased the members of the core leadership team. "I think it just shows how ready our parish is for scripture study," said Sweet. "There is a thirst in our parish for the scriptures. We hope to quench that thirst with this on-going program," he added.

"I am very excited about this opportunity," exclaimed Sheila Burton, a parishioner who attended the leadership training sessions. "I've been studying scripture with my Baptist friends, but I'm so excited to be able to study scripture with my parish family," she added.

"I think it's going to be wonderful," stated Levi Peterson, who also attended the training sessions.

"The study of scripture is very important for personal faith development," explained Fr. Thomas. "When an individual takes time to read the Word of God, reflect on the Word of God, pray over the Word of God, and share their thoughts about the Word of God, how can their faith not be strengthened?" he asked.

In addition to the individual study of scripture, the program will include weekly small group discussions. "Each individual is asked to study the weekly lessons for about 20 minutes a day," explained Sweet. "At the end of that week, each small group will meet to discuss the scripture studied during the week. Discussion questions are provided and should be answered throughout the week," he added.

The small groups are intended to have no more than ten participants and will be hosted in parishioners' homes. Some small group facilitators will host the weekly discussions, while some parishioners may choose to host but not facilitate. Each of these groups will be formed before the weekly study begins in January. The day and time that each small group meets will be established by each small group leader. Groups will most likely meet every day at differing times throughout the day to meet the needs of all parishioners.

"We are very excited to offer this program to our parish community," commented Sweet. "As the program grows,

we will continue to train individuals who would like to be small group facilitators. We don't expect the same people to facilitate from now until the end of time," he added with a chuckle.

While the first study is scheduled to last seven weeks, the second study has already been selected and materials ordered. "We had to make some plans initially and have materials available," said Sweet. "Once this first seven-week series begins, we will begin asking for feedback from the participants to help us plan for future sessions," he added.

In addition to the personal study and the weekly discussion groups, the program will also include a wrap-up session at the end of each series. "We hope to have guest speakers come to talk about the scriptures studied during each period," explained Sweet. "Hopefully it will be an enjoyable gathering, maybe including a potluck dinner," he added.

When Sweet first approached Fr. Thomas with the idea of a parish-wide scripture study, Sweet was concerned whether or not the community would embrace the idea. "I just kept reminding myself that Jesus said 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also,'" Sweet paraphrased. Needless to say, the initial showing at the first training session reinforced Sweet's commitment to the program.

Keeping in mind the true author of the program, Sweet concludes each communication he sends to all the participants of the program with a simple statement. "May God bring to completion the good work He has begun in you."



Three members of the core leadership team forming a new scripture study program at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville pause for a photo during a leadership training session on Monday, December 6, 2010. Team members from left to right are Missy Craft, Dr. William Sweet, coordinator of the program, and Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

Kentucky Catholic Bishops Announce New Executive CCK Director

(Frankfort, KY) The Roman Catholic Bishops of Kentucky have appointed Rev. Patrick D. Delahanty as the Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky. Father Delahanty has been serving as Acting Director after the retirement of Robert Castagna in September of 2010.

Ordained in 1969, Father Delahanty has more than 30 years experience in pastoral ministry, social services, and advocacy. He served as associate pastor, pastor, or sacramental moderator for 12 parishes in the Archdiocese and as director of the Migration and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities from 1988 – 2000. Most recently Fr. Delahanty was the associate director for Catholic Conference of Kentucky, and he is the chair and one of the original founders of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Fr. Delahanty, 67, is a native of Louisville who attended Trinity High School before transferring to St. Thomas Seminary on Brownsboro Road. He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and a master's degree in community development from the University of Louisville.

Fr. Delahanty has won many awards for his advocacy and commitment for social justice, among them the 1998 Abolitionist of the Year by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the Rights Enforcer Award by the Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Rosa Parks Award from the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy.

In announcing the appointment on behalf of the bishops of Kentucky, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz said, "Fr. Delahanty has worked tirelessly to advocate for the social and moral issues that are consistent with Catholic social teaching and critical to the common good. His experience in Frankfort is a valuable asset. We appreciate Fr. Delahanty's generosity in accepting this appointment and look forward to working with him to continue to keep the Church's positions before the Commonwealth." Father Delahanty will continue to serve as sacramental moderator for St. Augustine and St. Martin de Porres parishes in Louisville.

Three Haire Siblings Received Diocese's Servant Leaders In Ministry Award

Submitted by Danny May

OWENSBORO, Ky. - A couple of days ago I found a photo on my desk that a mom of one of our students sent to me. It shows me with our 2 SLIM award recipients from this past May. Then it dawned on me that there is really something unique about this....

Every year, the Office of Youth Ministry gives out the SLIM (Servant Leaders in Ministry) award to 12 high school youth around the diocese who show great leadership at school, in their community, at their parish, and the diocesan level. This year Our Lady of Lourdes nominated Grant Tichenor and Logan Haire, and they both received the award.

But the interesting thing is that Logan is the third in his family to receive this award, which means ALL three Haire "youth" got this award. Logan's older sister Amy received the award in 2005 when she was a senior at OCHS. Just a few years before that, their older brother Andrew received the award for his participation with the late Christian



Danny May, Youth Minister for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro, center, posed with Logan Haire, left, and Grant Tichenor, 2010 Servant Leaders in Ministry Award winners from Our Lady of Lourdes. Submitted photo

Brother Ken Grondin at St. Alphonsus.

This may not be the first time this has happened in our diocese, but I definitely think it's worth celebrating. The fact that all three siblings received this award their senior year of high school says a lot about the faith that Kim (Clemons) and Phil Haire have demonstrated to their children. The entire Haire family has contributed to our parish in so many ways that I could not list them all, but I know they wouldn't want me to do that anyway.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is focusing a

Redemptorist Priest to Lead Mission

23

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - "Gather Us In" is the theme for the upcoming mission to be held at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville from January 16 through 19. Sponsored by the parish stewardship committee, the mission will be led by Fr. Tony Judge, a Redemptorist priest from Chicago, Illinois.

Scheduled to arrive in Hopkinsville on Saturday, January 15, Fr. Judge will preside at all of the weekend Masses in preparation for the mission. The mission will officially begin Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to conducting the mission every evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday, Fr. Judge will also preside at the daily morning Masses Monday through Wednesday. Light refreshments will be offered after each morning Mass and after each evening mission session.

Topics for the evening sessions will include "God's plan of salvation and our response," "Who is Jesus for us?," "Sin, reconciliation and healing," and "Our mission to share in the work of Jesus and the Church."

In order to prepare for the mission, the stewardship committee formed a new committee. As outlined in the materials provided by the Redemptorist Parish Mission Team, the mission is intended to be organized and led by parishioners. They strongly urge that the pastor, staff members, or parish pastoral council members not lead the mission committee. While it is advantageous to have such members on the committee, lay people should be leading other lay people to the mission.

The newly formed committee, led by co-chairs Franco Cincotti and Jane Irwin, is comprised of sub-chair people over concerns such as promotion and publicity, child care, transportation, refreshments and phone calling. Each sub-chair is responsible for recruiting the help needed from other parishioners to fulfill their responsibilities.

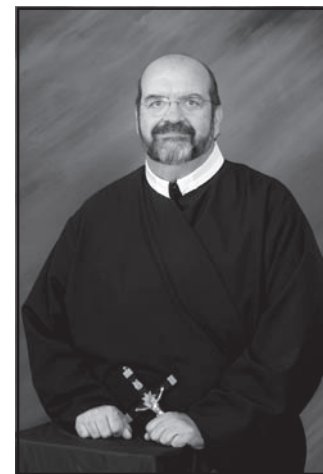
"I am very excited about this mission coming to our parish," said Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. "It will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to renew our faith."

"Renew your faith, reconnect with your community, recommit to following our Lord," is part of the advertising campaign used for the mission. In addition, a prayer was written by the mission committee and is now being said at the conclusion of every Mass and at the beginning of every meeting held throughout the parish in preparation for the mission. The prayer reads:

"We praise you, Lord for you are so good. As we gather together, our prayer is...Send your spirit and truth that it may abound in our community. Bring your children, your people, home. May we all enter your house and praise you forever. Lead us, Lord....to remember you in everything we say and do. Amen."

Everyone is welcome to attend this parish-wide mission. In addition to gathering parishioners who regularly attend Mass, the mission committee hopes to draw in parish family members who have not been attending regularly, or possibly have not attended for quite some time. Any members of the community or from other parishes are also welcome to attend.

Come one, come all and "gather us in" to hear God's word as we pray it will renew our soul and refresh our commitment to His Word.



Fr. Tony Judge, Redemptorist priest from Chicago, Illinois, will be leading a mission at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish from Sunday, January 16 through Wednesday, January 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The theme for the mission is "Gather Us In" and all are welcome to attend any or all nights of the mission. Come and renew your faith, reconnect with your community and recommit to following our Lord. File photo.

lot on stewardship lately, so I could not miss this opportunity to acknowledge the Haire family for being such great stewards. Phil, Kim, Andrew, Amy, and Logan truly are servant leaders.

24 Blessed Sacrament Chapel's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Community

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL - Just how do you prepare a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings for over 200 people? Ask the elders at Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro and they will tell you that you do it with faith, love, and a lot of prayer. Throw in 8-10 turkeys, a couple of hams, lots of homegrown veggies, community support and the grace of God for a complete recipe. (We always have enough)

This small Owensboro inner-city parish has been serving Free Community Thanksgiving Dinners on the Sunday before Thanksgiving for 10 years now and the crowd gets larger and more diverse each year. What started as an outreach project to the neighborhood has grown into a community dinner of thanksgiving and fellowship for people of all walks of life and all circumstances. There are regulars who come each year for the food and the friendly warmth that is so much a part of this small parish's flavor.

OK, this is part of the secret: fresh collard and mixed greens from the gardens of Hugh Cecil and David Atkinson, cooked by Frances Johnson, Jean Higgs and David himself; fresh yams cooked by Wonet Taylor, Joyce Moorman, Jean Higgs and Veronica Wilhite; turkeys and dressing cooked by Gloria Adams, Marcia Allen, Kitty Board, Rebacca Coles and Anthony Hagan; macaroni and cheese cooked by Georgia Holland and Barbara Hammond; fresh green beans by Lori Carman, Joni Butler and other parishioners; gravy and mashed potatoes, fresh corn from the Mayfield family, Homemade Chess pie, pumpkin roll, pineapple upside down cake, pecan pie, chocolate and yellow cake, sweet potato, pumpkin, apple pie and, cornbread by Bernice Williams, Betty Clark, Cindi Clark, Marcia Wilhite, Frances Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson, Jill Mueller Carol Hatchet, Kitty Board and Louise Johnson. Many other parishioners and friends of Blessed Sacrament brought food for this dinner that we want to thank for their support.

Evangelized by the late Fr. Robert Connor in the 1940's, Blessed Sacrament Parish was initially a mission of St. Stephen Cathedral for Black Catholics. One of the founding families who helped build the current church in 1948 were the Haydens who were Catholics from slavery. The school, which housed the chapel until the church was erected was a center of neighborhood activity and outreach throughout the 1940's and until its closure in the early 1960's. Many non-catholic blacks sent their children to the small Catholic school, run by the Sisters



"Welcome to Blessed Sacrament Chapel's Community Thanksgiving Dinner." Mel Howard photos



Fr. Brandon Williams prays a prayer of Thanksgiving for the fellowship of this day... at back: Eddie and Dennis Mayfield; front: Muriel Gillim, Fr. Brandon Williams, Veronica Wilhite, Guy and Faye Connor, Martine Edge ...



"We honor our elders by asking them to lead the serving line." Left to right: Nadija Hanley serving, Brianna Hanley, Sr. Joseph Angela, and Les Bumm

of Charity of Nazareth, for what they believed to be a better education. Some of the black Catholic families who were a

part of that original parish, such as the Hagans, Hamiltons, Haydens, Meadows, Moormans, Wilhites and others have re-



"Servers are ready!" Left to right: Lori Carman, Rebecca Coble, Marcia Allen, Gloria Adams, Charlene Meadows, Nadija Hanley, Wonet Johnson.



...and Fr. Brandon asks for God's blessings on the special meal that awaits."

turned to the parish since its reopening in the late 1970's, along with some of the convert families such as the Hatchetts and the Leachmans.

Many from the neighborhood who remain Protestant but appreciate the ministry of Blessed Sacrament, attended the dinner.

This 2010 Thanksgiving dinner was typical of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel tradition. Catholics and Protestants in the neighborhood and the community provide additional support for this dinner by attending and by donation. This is truly an ecumenical event!

The haves, the have-nots, the homeless, the unemployed, the handicapped, the mentally ill, the lost, the forgotten, the unloved, the addicted, the alone, all of God's children are welcome and gather here on this day in Christian fellowship. How wonderful to celebrate the spirit of the loving Saviour, Jesus Christ and to give thanks for the grace of God which sustains our ministry.

Continued on page 25

Blessed Sacrament Chapel's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Community 25

(Continued from page 24)

We are especially thankful that we have families which extend up to 7 generations from our founders in Black Catholic Tradition and from slavery. The last picture captures the last 5 generations of this legacy in the Hayden family in our parish! Our pictured servers at the dinner includes 3rd, 4th 5th and 6th generations of the Hayden family and a 4th generation of the Meadows family. We are also grateful for our diversity which is a part of our heritage.

The people of Blessed Sacrament Chapel are not just a church, but living witness to God's plan for acceptance and inclusion to all of his people in the Universal Catholic Church.

This article was submitted by F. Veronica Wilhite, Parish Life Coordinator, Blessed Sacrament Parish, 4th Generation Blessed Sacrament, and 5th Generation Catholic from slavery.



Enjoying fellowship with community guests are Frances Johnson, Marcia Wilhite, Vivian Higgs, Anthony Hagan, Mrs. Robert Hagan, Celena Hagan, and Ms. Anthony Hagan.



WELCOME! "Let us fill your plate."



Frances Johnson (left) and Georgia Holland (right) enjoy the dinner that they helped prepare. Also pictured are Marcia Wilhite and Barbara Hammond.



Bishop William Medley chats with several community guests.



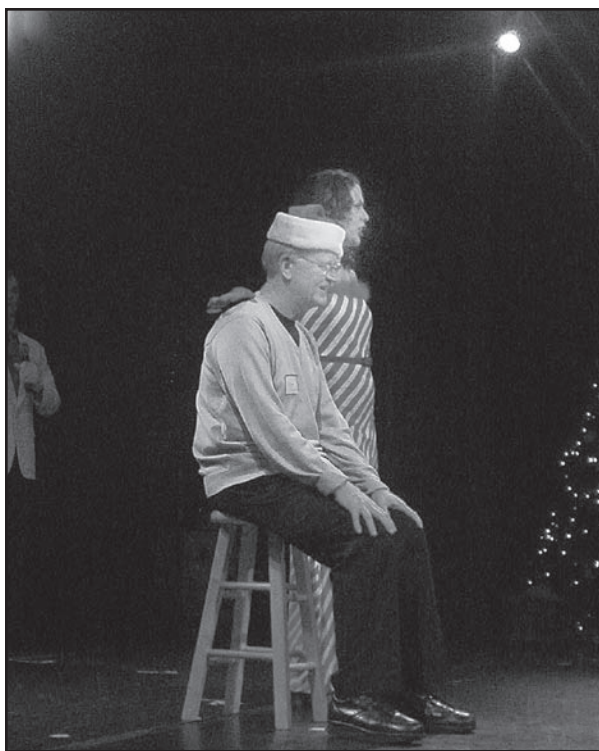
Five generations of the Hayden family servers from Blessed Sacrament Chapel - left to right: Bernice Williams, Wonet Johnson, Kamya Morton, Nadja Hanley, Gloria Adams. Photos by Mel Howard

Wisdom

by Ginny Knight-Simon

On Saturday, December 4th, the Office of Wisdom sponsored a bus trip to The Badgett Playhouse in Grand Rivers, Ky. for the Christmas Spectacular Variety Show. If this show didn't get you in the Christmas Spirit, I don't think anything would. The show was filled with beautiful music, costumes and lots of talent.

We boarded the Canjen bus tours bus and headed for Grand Rivers at 9:30 a.m. We stopped for lunch at Kuttawa and on to Badgett Playhouse for the matinee performance. The performance covered every aspect of Christmas including the true meaning of Christmas with many beautiful Christmas songs, to honoring our troops past and present with songs by the Andrew sisters' and videos of homecomings from Iraq and Afghanistan, and all things Christmas in between.



Gary Trodgen got the good sport award on the bus for his efforts on stage with co-owner, and entertainer Sara Minihan, who sang "Santa Baby" to him during the last segment of the show.

In the photo at left, friends Mary Lou Blandford and Jonell Richeson, enjoyed a chat during the intermission at the Christmas Variety Show. Photos submitted by Ginny Knight-Simon



Hazel Aud posed in front of the Christmas tree at our lunch stop. Her travel partner Wilma Baird didn't quite make it in the picture.



Bernice Bertke traveled with her friend Wilma Howard to their first Christmas Show in Grand Rivers. "We loved it!" They said back on the bus headed for home.



Julia and Larry Jennings, of Owensboro, have attended other performances at the Badgett Variety Playhouse. "The 50's Variety show was especially good." Julia told me.



At right, Rose Cecil and friend Pat Hamilton both of Owensboro, smile for the camera during intermission.

The Office of Wisdom will sponsor a one day bus trip to the Variety Theater for the 50's Variety Show in July 2011. Watch your bulletins, and this paper for more information.

O, D. Youth Often Do Jingles, Skits Songs, and Acts At Christmastime?



On December 6, the Owensboro Deanery Youth Outing (ODYO) had JingleFest at Brescia University's Science Lecture Hall. JingleFest is a variety/talent show in which the youth can perform different skits, acts, and songs. All of the youth were invited to come gather on the stage while Santa read the true meaning of Christmas from Scripture (Matthew 1:18-23). ODYO 65-70 youth in attendance. This picture is of Aaron Carrico as Santa reading scripture to the youth. Photo by Crissy Stevenson, St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho, Youth Minister

Catholics @ the Capitol Paducah Region

Saturday, January 22, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Lourdes Hospital,

1530 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, Ky.

Issues to be discussed:

- the Sanctity of Life,
- Economic Justice,
- Criminal Justice,
- Education Issues,
- Immigration.

Light refreshments will be served, and childcare can be provided with advance notice. Organized by The Catholic Conference of Kentucky.



Lourdes Day Care Annual Christmas Program

The children involved are: Gracie Dukate – Mary; Emma Goins – Angel Gabriel; AJ Hamilton – Joseph; Lily Hoagland & Makayla Rowan – Shepherds; Molly Fuqua & Addison Beg – Sheep; and Parker Hayden & Cale Pate – Kings

The program this year was December 15th. All

of the children had a chance to sing a special song for Jesus. There was a packed house of parents anxiously waiting with video and digital cameras to catch their rising stars perform. It was a huge success as always and the children enjoyed birthday cake on behalf of Jesus.

Submitted by Drew Hardesty, DRE, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro, Ky.

Contemporary Woman Program Announces Programs for Winter 2011

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

- Women Doctors of the Church, exploring the life and writings of the three women doctors of the Catholic Church: Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux, is presented on five Thursday afternoons, beginning on February 3 from 1:30-2:30.
- The Canticle Group, exploring materials that develop issues of spirituality, peace, and justice, meets on Friday mornings from 10 till noon, beginning on April 1.
- The Partnership Group, in its 22nd year, continues its study and discussion of the book, *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See* by Richard Rohr on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., beginning January 12 and continuing through May. Registration is closed for this winter session.
- Soul Gardening during Springtime, a special opportunity for four Tuesday afternoons in April from 1:30-2:30, consists of guided reflections, journaling, and silence.
- Spirituality in a Quantum Universe, which begins February 2 from 10:30-11:30, continues for four Wednesday mornings in February. A second session of this program is offered on four Saturday mornings from 10:30-11:30 on February 5 and 19 and March 5 and 19.
- Learning to See as the Mystics See, a program based on a book written by Richard Rohr, begins on February 11 and continues through March 11 from 10:30-11:30 on five Friday mornings.
- Tolerant Oppression, a program of four evening sessions which begins on March 31 from 6:30-7:30, explores the insights of Dr. Scott Hampton, author of the book "Tolerant Oppression."
- The Several-Storied Merton, exploring the life and writings of Thomas Merton, is presented from 10:30-11:30 on four Tuesday mornings beginning on February 15.

For a brochure and/or more information regarding programs, dates, and costs, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301; 270-686-4275; rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu. Participants are asked to pre-register at least two weeks in advance for each program.



Ursuline Associates Fall Commitments

On Nov. 16, Father Jerry Riney of Bowling Green, Mrs. Judy Sims of Belton, and Father Carl McCarthy of Owensboro, made their lifetime commitments as Associates of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, while Randy Shelby of Owensboro made his initial commitment. The event took place in the Motherhouse Chapel at Maple Mount. Pictured, from left, Randy Shelby and his contact sister, Sister Pam Mueller; Father Carl McCarthy, Sister Rose Karen Johnson, Sister Suzanne Sims, Judy Sims, and Sister Marie Goretti Browning, contact sister for Father Jerry Riney, far right. Sister Rose Karen is Judy's contact sister, while Sister Suzanne is Father Carl's contact sister. The mission of Ursuline Associates is to "proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through the actions of our everyday lives. We commit ourselves to living the charism of Saint Angela Merici in union with and in support of the Ursuline community of Mount Saint Joseph."

I liked Judy Mitchell immediately when I met her because she has a Sheltie dog named Abby that she adopted. "I adopted Abby's brother, too, but he has since died," Judy said when I recently visited with her.

"I'm originally from rural Reed, Kentucky," Judy said. "We moved to Evansville, Indiana when I was a child and that's where I grew up and went into nursing. I worked at Welborn's Hospital for many years until I quit to stay home with my mother who was in poor health the last few years of her life." Judy and her mom lived together in the house where Judy lives now since the 1970's. Mother and daughter were able to enjoy each other's friendship and travel together until her mom died in 2005. Judy had a travel trailer and she and her mom would travel around, mostly to state parks. They would always have dogs and kids with them, Judy said. She has one sister and several nieces and nephews that she is very close to. "My sister who lives in Elizabethtown, and I talk and play games on our cell



phones everyday! We put them on speaker mode and we play hidden object games. "Oh Modern technology!"

Judy told me that she is a cancer survivor, times 3. She has experienced three different kinds of cancer over several decades, and survived them all. "I think my faith has helped me during these times. I didn't worry about it and I didn't get too upset. Somewhere in my heart I knew I would be okay," Judy told me.

"I go to Mass about three days per week. I don't pray to God I just talk to Him. I know He is always there." Judy shared that she volunteers as a substitute bus driver for the Little Sisters nursing home in Evansville, Indiana. She helps the handicapped at the Mass and she volunteers for St. Vincent de Paul.

She also hopes to make a pilgrimage to Mandeville, Jamaica this year, if possible. Judy took a student flight trip at a local airstrip and flew a plane. "I don't have plans on becoming a pilot!" she said, "I saw the ad and thought it would be fun."

Judy says her Catholic Faith and Catholic Education are two very important things to her. "I am very thankful for my health," she said.

Judy Mitchell, Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson, Ky. Judy is pictured with her 14 year old Sheltie Abby at her home in Henderson. GK-S Photo

St. Paul Students Commemorate All Souls Day



Submitted by Gina Sims

SAINT PAUL, Ky. - In November the students and staff of St. Paul Catholic School of Grayson county went on a journey to the St. Paul Cemetery in honor of all the faithful departed. The group had a beautiful day for the round trip walk that was just over two miles. Once they finally arrived, they gathered round, joined hands, and began to pray, **as the picture just above shows.** They then observed a moment of silence. After their prayers had been said, they took a few moments to visit the grave sites of those they had known. Several students and teachers had many friends and family that had been laid to rest in the cemetery. Some of the students also visited the monument that had been placed where the first church in St. Paul had been erected. A short time later the group departed to return to school. Those making the journey were, Luke Milliner, Shelby Davis, Keegan Sharp, Karley Tilford, Josh Milliner, Lydia Mudd, Isaac DePoyster, Garrett Angus, Spencer Sharp, Laura Higdon, Gabriel Mudd, Kenneth Angus, Jarrett Crawford, Jacob Clark, Olivia Saltsman, Madison Hensel, Kristen Tilford, Jessica Robinson, Rebecca Higdon, Michael Ward, Megan Mudd, Maggie Lush, Gina Sims, Michelle Robinson, Janice Darst, & Renee Milliner.

Father Charles Nerinckx, shown in the drawing at right, was a Belgian Roman Catholic priest who came to the United States in 1804, and served the church vigorously in pioneer Kentucky, establishing parishes and building churches in that State, and founding one of the earliest teaching orders of Sisters in North America. Very much like Daniel Boone, at the end of his life, he moved to Missouri where he died in 1824.



Above Are Five Saint Paul School students: Maggie Lush, Megan Mudd, Kristin Tilford, Rebecca Higdon, and kneeling is Michael Ward.

The cemetery is in Grayson County, KY and is about 1 1/2 miles from St. Paul Catholic School. The first Catholic church in St. Paul was erected in 1811, led by Father Charles Nerinckx.

Father had led services even before the church was built. Each person donated logs to build the small 20 x 20 ft. church. This church stood until 1890. The site of this first church is located in the older part of the cemetery.

We recited the "Our Father," "Hail Mary," and shared a moment of silence in memory of the faithful departed.



How does OCHS impact my life? And what does this school mean to me?

Sarah Sterling, Class of 2010 at Owensboro Catholic High School, spoke at the Catholic School's Grandparents' Day this past fall. Here is what Sarah said:

"Good Afternoon, my name is Sarah Sterling, and I am a senior here at Catholic High. I'm happy to have the privilege to be with all of you today.

"When Mr. Osborne told me I was to write a speech and talk after grandparents mass ... I'm not gonna lie ... I was stressing a bit and had no due what to say exactly. Well the big question is... How does OCHS impact my life? And what does this school mean to me? It doesn't seem so hard to answer right off the bat, but it definitely got me thinking! I knew I wanted to talk about something different and put this in my own perspective so I immediately related my life to my volleyball team. Three things you need are: practice, support, and belief.

"As a member of the team, I have to put in a lot of hard work through the years. I have **practices** daily and it takes time and continuous amounts of effort. In order to be focused, your mind has to only be thinking about the task you are trying to accomplish. Same as our tradition here at Catholic High, you as grandparents help create this and keep this going. Most of us wouldn't be in this building if it wasn't for you all. To be a member of a team you must attend practices to get better just as we attend school to make progress.

"Next, you need, **support**. Have you ever been to any sporting event for Catholic and not seen a crowd? It amazes me how big our fan base is. You see everybody there - teachers, students, alumni, and even people who don't have kids who play sports here. Friends from other schools always ask me, "Why does your school always have the best student section; when our school is triple your size?" The best answer for that is because of our "closeness." We know every member on every team, and we love to support each other! I even had a friend on another school's football team tell me, "No matter how good we may be, I wish we always had a student section like ya'll's!" Hearing that from friends from other schools and knowing what it's like having a big crowd to come support me and my team makes me realize what a true blessing it is to be here! There might only be 6 on the court to rely on play by play, but there will always 500 other familiar faces to count on! I could tell you almost everybody's name here at this school and I can say that



Sarah Sterling, at right, with her grandmother June Bell in front of the St. Joseph Peace Mission Nov 7, 2010. Photo by OCHS Counselor Bev Howard

I have talked to them at least once. To me that's like having around 500 friends! That bond is so special that nothing could ever come close to it! No matter who they might be, teammates, teachers, students, coaches, and whoever else... they will always be supporting Owensboro Catholic High School.

"Last, but not least is **belief**. Our Faith is the reason for this school, and we let it be known! Praying in school does make a difference, and I couldn't imagine not being allowed to do so. Before and after every game, we pray as a team! Same for school, we stop what we are doing and pray together everyday. Sometimes this opportunity gets taken for granted, but when we are reminded, we immediately are grateful! Everybody wants to be winners in the game, but one thing our school community shares in common is reaching for one goal and that one goal is getting to heaven!

"It took many years to know what it means to **"BE A TEAM"** but it was worth every minute. It took a lot of time and patience, but I learned that it's not all about getting noticed or being the best one. It's about getting the job done, expressing yourself, and achieving our goals! Throughout our lives we strive to be role models and it all starts from you guys as our grandparents! You truly mean a lot to this OCHS family. I hope you continue to keep us in your prayers. You will always be in mine along with your grandchildren! Thank you for your help making this possible in our lives and letting us understand that it is a gift to be here. May God continue to watch over you and bless you!"



Ben Onstott
WKC File Photo

Tree Reminds Friends To Pray for the Soul of Ben Onstott, Gone But Never Forgotten

On November 7, 2010, students from Trinity High School, Whitesville, and Owensboro Catholic High School Classes of 2011 gathered in front of the Saint Joseph Peace Mission on Third Street in Owensboro to plant a Dogwood tree in the front yard of the property. They set the tree in place to grow in memory of their classmate Ben Onstott who died on Nov.6, 2008 at his home. Ben had a wonderful sense of humor, loved life, and had a tender, warm, affectionate heart, with a strong defense of his Catholic Faith. The Classes of 2011 from both Daviess County Catholic High Schools shared many experiences with Ben, and so they gathered to plant a tree in his memory. Father John Meredith gave an invocation and a blessing of the tree. Ben's Mom, Julie Murphy, greeted the assembly of about 50 young people and faculty members, thanked them for helping plant the tree and for loving Ben with her and her family in his lifetime, and asked them all to keep Ben in their prayers. Photo by OCHS Counselor Bev Howard.

Retrouvaille™ ... a lifeline for Marriages

What is a Married Singles Lifestyle?

The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are now living more like roommates. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing any level of difficulty in their marriage from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the January program beginning on Jan.14-16 call 270-683-1545 ext 346 or email: sherryvincent@insightbb.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org. Find us on Facebook; search Retrouvaille of Owensboro.





Stocking The Parish Pantry Shelves

Holy Name Student Y Members Harley Engle and Katie Armstrong help Holy Name Outreach Worker Gary Cola stock the pantry at church following a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive at school. HNS Photo

Catholic Extension Calls Catholics Across the Country to Join its Work in Response to 2011 Driehaus Challenge Grant

Chicago, Ill. – Father Jack Wall, President of Catholic Extension, announced Nov. 30, that Richard Driehaus, well-known Chicago philanthropist and founder of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, is issuing a second \$500,000 Challenge Grant for 2011 to supporters of the Catholic Extension Society which helps Catholic communities across America flourish by providing support for their faith-building initiatives and ministries. Mr. Driehaus explained that his challenge grant is meant to encourage new donors to give while also motivating current donors to increase their level of giving.

“The challenge grant I announced last year was one of the most successful I have ever made, and I am humbled and inspired by the exceptional response,” Mr. Driehaus said. “In fact, I am so inspired, that I am going to repeat it again next year. I encourage anyone who can to join me in supporting this compassionate and effective organization.”

Mr. Driehaus’s 2010 Challenge, which attracted an unprecedented number of new donors in 2010, raised \$3,750,000 for Catholic Extension, enabling the organization to increase its support for under-resourced communities in more than 80 dioceses by nearly 20 percent to almost \$18 million. Meeting the new 2011 challenge will enable Catholic Extension to keep pace with the tremendous needs of growing Catholic communities in 33 states.

“Contrary to what we often hear in the news, we at Catholic Extension are witnessing a Catholic community that is growing and thriving in many places across the country. Richard Driehaus’ generosity is fueled by his belief that fellow Catholics can ignite change in areas where the faith is strong and the needs continue to grow,” said Father Wall. “We believe every Catholic is meant to take part in this exciting movement called ‘Catholic Extension.’ We hope Richard Driehaus’ gift will motivate the Catholic community around the country to contribute during this season of giving.”

To learn more about Catholic Extension and the 2011 Driehaus Challenge, or to contribute, contact the Development Office at catholicextension.org or 1-800-842-7804. All contributions to Catholic Extension helped fund more than 1,000 grant requests this year from under-resourced and isolated communities across the U.S. and its territories. Last year the organization invested in America’s 86 “mission dioceses,” geographic regions of the country where 11 million Catholics do not have ready access to the Catholic Church and its many ministries. Catholic Extension was able to do so through contributions from 47,000 individual donors who share its commitment to strengthen communities and sustain the Catholic faith throughout the country.

Junior Beta Food Drive Benefits HELP

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Bishop Medley Chapter of Junior Beta Club at OCMS conducted a Thanksgiving Food Drive November 15th-22nd to benefit the Help Office.

As a school, OCMS collected between 400-500 food and personal care items. With the assistance of the Beta Club officers, Meredith Bickett, Lesley Harney, Leslie Kuntz, Madeline Rafferty, and Alex Hayden, everything collected was delivered to the Help Office on November 23, 2010.



Madeline Rafferty and Lesley Harney carry in boxes at the Help Office.



(L-R) Lesley Harney, Leslie Kuntz, Meredith Bickett, Madeline Rafferty, Ms. Cheshire (Club Sponsor), and Alex Hayden with everything OCMS donated to the Help Office. OCS Photos

Brescia University Accrediting Update

A Note from Father Larry Hostetter, President, Brescia University

Blessings to all of you during this Advent/Christmas season. You may remember in January, 2010 when Brescia University received a warning from our accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) that we had not demonstrated compliance with a few of their standards. This fall, we submitted our progress report and this past week we received word from SACS with an updated status.

I’m happy to report that SACS found Brescia in compliance with our academic assessment and college level competencies. Special thanks go to Tracy Naylor, Sr. Cheryl Clemons, Sr. Sharon Sullivan, and the Liberal Arts committee for bringing our assessment data together into a coherent plan that was acceptable to our reviewers. It is important that we continue this effort at the same level of excellence so that we are always in compliance with these SACS standards and requirements, but more importantly so that we always understand the effectiveness of our programs and make improvements as needed.

As we expected, the warning continues regarding the financial stability requirements. This isn’t a surprise. It was noted that we’ve made improvements but they want to see what we do in the current fiscal year. Because of our advances in enrollment and the success of our fund raising efforts, I have every confidence that we will be found in compliance with these requirements next December. We have come a long way since 2007, and this is yet another indicator that we are moving in the right direction.

It is also important to note that, like last year, the warning does not impact our accreditation. We remain fully accredited with SACS.

Lourdes Employees Give Back

PADUCAH, Ky. - When Natalie Miller was a twenty-something single working mom, she struggled to make ends meet. "Maybe that's why I enjoy giving to others so much - because I know what it's like to be at the end of your rope," she stated.

Miller, patient experience coordinator for Lourdes Hospital, along with 333 Lourdes employees pledged over \$80,000 in support of Lourdes Foundation's annual Harvest of Healing Campaign. The annual employee giving drive offers associates the opportunity to give to various special purpose funds within Lourdes Foundation through payroll deduction, cash contributions and unused vacation time.

Miller referred 30 fellow associates to contribute to the Foundation and won \$200 for her efforts - which she immediately donated back to Lourdes Foundation.

"It's a great feeling, knowing that my co-workers and I are making a difference for our organization, because that's what we're all about at Lourdes, helping those who are under-served," Miller said.

Associates allocate their donations to

support various programs and services at Lourdes. Funds like the Associate Mission Fund assist employees in times of financial hardship, providing aid with housing, utilities and food. The Patient Mission Fund offers support to indigent patients who may need medications, clothing or a ride home. Other campaign options included heart and vascular care, Hospice, nursing scholarships, women's services, the Lourdes Childcare Center, and upgrades to technology and facilities.

"The generosity of our Associates provides vital support for the assistance Lourdes Foundation can provide to our patients and co-workers, and further enhances quality healthcare at Lourdes," said Tara Miller, Foundation Executive Director. "Every dollar truly makes a difference."

According to Miller, an associate who donates even \$1 per pay period provides enough funding to buy one week's worth of medication for three patients who otherwise could not afford it.

Though no longer a struggling single parent, Natalie Miller emphasizes the



Natalie Miller, at left, presents check from Lourdes Associates to Foundation Executive Director, Tara Miller. Lourdes Foundation Photo

blessings that come from giving back. "During those hard times, I remember thinking, 'When I can, I'm going to do my part to help others.' Giving to the Lourdes Foundation is one more blessing I give to myself and the people it helps."

Lourdes Helps Those Less Fortunate During This Holiday Season

PADUCAH, Ky. - On December 9, 2010, Lourdes Hospital teamed up with Paducah Power System this holiday season and participated in a "Stuff the Truck" canned food drive to fight hunger. The drive was held in the hospital parking lot from 7 am - 7 pm on Thursday, December 9. Lourdes' Associates, along with the help of the community, donated food and money. The canned goods will go to area food pantries. The "Stuff the Truck" food drive supports Paducah Power Systems' Christmas in the Park event. Lourdes is a corporate sponsor of Christmas in the Park.



The students in the two pictures above and at left, are from Mrs. Shellie Turner's 2nd grade class at Lone Oak Elementary, along with some of our Lourdes volunteers. Submitted by Suzanne Farmer for Lourdes Hospital

By: Dawn C. Ligibel

International Priests Sacrifice Willingly

Like many parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro, Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville has been blessed by having several international priests serve its parish. The ones who have served, or are currently serving, have come from many locations and under many circumstances. One constant among them, however, is their willingness to serve God and the Church in any capacity and in most any location.

Although they come from very diverse cultures, backgrounds and life experiences, each of the ones having served at Sts. Peter and Paul share one thing in common: a single-mindedness when it comes to their vocation. "I felt it was my call to be a missionary," explained Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara, a native of India who is now pastor over St. Jude Parish in Clinton, Sacred Heart Parish in Hickman and St. Edward Parish in Fulton where he resides. "It didn't come at one point in time," he continued. "I had time to reflect on it. In the heart of my heart, it was the feeling I had."

After serving as a missionary priest in two different dioceses in Mexico, Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Associate Pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul and Spiritual Director for the Hispanic Community for the Diocese of Owensboro, asked his Bishop to send him somewhere other than his native Mexico. "I know Mexico needs priests," Fr. Jimenez admitted, "but our diocese is now growing the vocation little by little. When I asked to be a missionary priest, I wanted to learn more cultures and customs."

Fr. Chrispin Oneko, Pastor of St. Columba Parish in Lewisport and Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville, was first influenced by an American missionary priest who worked in his diocese in Kenya. "He was so good. I saw him every day pacing up and down praying the rosary. I thought to myself, 'If this man can leave his country and come help us here, why can't I do the same?'" Fr. Oneko recalled.

Although Fr. Uwem Enoch, Associate Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, is not technically a missionary priest, he was also first influenced by missionaries. When the Glenmary Home Missioners visited Fr. Enoch's native home of Nigeria, they invited many young men to come to the United States and check out what they do in the U.S. After staying with them for nearly two years, Fr. Enoch did decide to become a priest, however, he decided to become a diocesan priest in Kentucky. "There are many young men seeking to be priests in the diocese in Nigeria," explained Fr. Enoch. "And in Nigeria, there are many rural areas. This part of Kentucky reminded me of that. I was comfortable in Kentucky," he added.

While staying with the Glenmary Home Missioners, Fr. Enoch had the opportunity to stay on the Mt. St. Joseph property near Owensboro. Knowing he needed to be attached to a diocese before he could be admitted to a seminary, Fr. Enoch sought an audience with Bishop McRaith while in the area. "I didn't have an appointment (with Bishop McRaith)," Fr. Enoch recalled. "I just walked into his office and we met for 35 to 40 minutes. That really impressed me," he said. As recent history has proven, Fr. Enoch was accepted into the Diocese of Owensboro and was ordained a priest on May 29 of this year.

Fr. Anthoni Ottagon, currently pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Grand Rivers and St. Pius Tenth Parish in Calvert City, where he resides, responded to the call to be a missionary priest due to the lack of priests throughout the world. While he believes there is a need to evangelize in his native India, with only 2.5 percent of the population being Catholic, there is a much greater need for priests elsewhere. Under a six-year contract to the Diocese of Owensboro, Fr. Anthoni says his contract could be extended. However, as a missionary priest, he is ready to serve wherever he may be called. "Because we are missionary



Several priests gathered together in the rectory at Sts. Peter and Paul in August of this year to welcome Bishop Jose Mendoza who was visiting from Mexico. Two of the priests pictured here are international priests who have served at Sts. Peter and Paul in the past and two are currently serving here. Pictured from left to right in the back row are Fr. Frank Ruff, Fr. Anthoni Ottagon, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, Fr. Uwem Enoch and Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara. Sitting are Bishop Mendoza and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

priests, we should be ready to move at any time," Fr. Anthoni explained. "I will continue to be a missionary priest until my death," he added, reaffirming his vocation.

Whatever path they chose, or was chosen for them, that brought them to Sts. Peter and Paul, the international priests serving here have become members of this parish family. "When I came to Hopkinsville, it was a very welcoming community. It was a family. Fr. John (Thomas) is the leader of a family," explained Fr. Ottagon. "I miss Sts. Peter and Paul very much. Every day people from there are calling me to stay in touch. I'm still part of the family," he added.

"The people of Sts. Peter and Paul and of St. Michael's (where Fr. Oneko also served while at Sts. Peter and Paul), they all accepted me," Fr. Oneko fondly recalls. "It gives me much happiness that people have accepted me. It makes me feel at home," he added.

"I give much thanks to the people of Hopkinsville," exclaimed Fr. Vadakumkara. "They welcomed me and were loving and kind. Their faith inspired me and increased my faith," he added.

For Fr. Jimenez, it's the parishioners whom he likes the most about being a missionary priest. "The people, they accept me," he stated simply. Although his primary responsibility may be to minister to the Hispanic community both in Hopkinsville and Elkton, Fr. Jimenez never loses sight of his responsibilities. "I am the Associate Pastor, not just for the Hispanic people, but for all

of the parish," he clarified.

While feeling totally committed to their vocations, either as missionary priests or diocesan priests, these priests give a lot to serve the Church so far away from their native homes. One example of this sacrifice happened earlier this summer when Fr. Ottagon's father suddenly died. "I cannot express how hard it was," he admitted. "I lost my mother when I was little (just seven years old) and I am an only child. Not being there for the funeral was very hard," Fr. Ottagon said explaining how quickly the dead are buried in India. Although Fr. Ottagon visited home shortly after the funeral, it wasn't the same. "It was very hard not being there for him."

Similarly, Fr. Oneko has lost three family members while serving as a missionary priest. First his sister died of malaria while he was serving in Jamaica. Two years ago during the elections in Kenya, his brother was murdered and his parents' home was burned to the ground. Although he wanted to return home immediately, his family cautioned him to wait because they felt it was too dangerous for him to visit home at that time. By time he did arrive home, another brother had died due to anemia. "They knew, but didn't want to tell me. I found out when I reached home," recalled Fr. Oneko.

Even though the distance between home and Kentucky looms rather large, particularly during times of tragedy, these priests also feel close to home most of the time due to modern technology. "I don't feel that I'm far away from home," claimed Fr. Ottagon. "I've never felt that I'm so far from them," he added citing the internet and cell phones as his primary methods for keeping in touch with family members.

Continued on page 33

International Priests Sacrifice Willingly

(Continued from page 32)

"My dad wants me to talk to him every day," Fr. Oneko said with a laugh. "I told him that I will talk to him twice a week."

"Yes, I miss them sometimes. When I miss them I call them," Fr. Vadakumkara simply stated. "They are so far away, but also so close," he added.

"If I don't call within the week, someone will call and see what's happening," Fr. Enoch said with a laugh. "All of them have cell phones and they want me to talk to them," he added.

"I talk to them by phone every week," Fr. Jimenez said referring to his brothers and sisters. His father died 30 years ago and his mother just ten years ago.

Although three of these priests fully expect to move elsewhere some day, two are now permanently assigned to the Diocese of Owensboro. Fr. Enoch, as an

ordained priest of this diocese, will most likely serve his priesthood in this area. "I can be transferred to a different diocese if the Bishop sees a need," Fr. Enoch explained. Regardless of where he could be transferred, his allegiance will always remain with the Bishop of Owensboro.

Likewise, Fr. Oneko is now considered a priest of this diocese. Although he came here as a missionary priest, his status has recently changed. "Because there are so many priests in Kenya, I asked him (his Bishop) since we have so many priests and I am comfortable here, could I stay," Fr. Oneko explained. "He didn't want to let me go, but after we talked he agreed."

By the time Fr. Oneko received permission from his Bishop, Bishop McRaith had announced his retirement. Therefore, Fr. Oneko had to wait until Bishop Medley was ordained before the process could

be completed. "Bishop Medley was very happy to accept me," Fr. Oneko recalled.

Two of the three priests who feel they will be transferred elsewhere eventually, have not given much thought to where they might serve next. "I could be sent to a seminary to teach or to another country," explained Fr. Ottagon adding that his six-year contract could be extended to stay here longer.

Fr. Vadakumkara, who claims his contract will not be extended beyond 2012, has no idea where he may next be assigned. "Maybe back to India," he speculated.

Fr. Jimenez, however, has a clear idea of where he would like to serve next. "I want to go to the parishes where other priests don't want to go," said Fr. Jimenez. "Many priests look for a better place. When some priests are in good places, they think it's a punishment to go to a small parish. I want to go to the parish that is farthest away," he explained. "When I see someone who needs help, I

am there," he further explained.

Regardless of their future plans, or their current status, the international priests who have served at Sts. Peter and Paul remain committed to their vocation and downplay the sacrifice required. "I am happy for what I have chosen for my life. I am thankful to God that he chose me to work in his vineyard. I'm happy with my vocation. I'm happy with my ministry," said Fr. Ottagon.

"I just lay in bed at the end of each day and think about the things I did that day. And I think, yes, I made the right decision. Just looking at my folks and to see how proud they are, that's enough to say I am doing the right thing," explained Fr. Enoch.

"No, I don't have any regrets, I am very happy," agreed Fr. Vadakumkara.

"I don't feel sacrifice. I feel opportunity to learn more," claimed Fr. Jimenez.

"Is it a sacrifice? No, it is a privilege," concluded Fr. Enoch.

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Community Connect

The area's first Community Connect event will be held at the National Guard Armory on Parish Avenue, January 27, 2011 beginning at 9:00 AM. The event is open to the public and will provide services ranging from financial planning, childcare, utility assistance, adult education, legal assistance, employment and work training, medical and dental services, information on Social Security Retirement and Disability benefits, and much more. The purpose of the event is to gather as many service providers and the people who need their help under one roof in one day as possible. Again, the event is open to everyone and will be held between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Thursday, January 27, 2011 at the National Guard Armory, Parish Avenue, Owensboro Kentucky.

Trinity High School Sports Spirited Halls and Doors

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - On December 1st Trinity's Y Club decorated the school to get into the holiday spirit. Freshmen-Senior members stayed after school to help with the cause.

In the picture at near right, Senior Katelyn Howard hangs a snowman flag in the hallway.

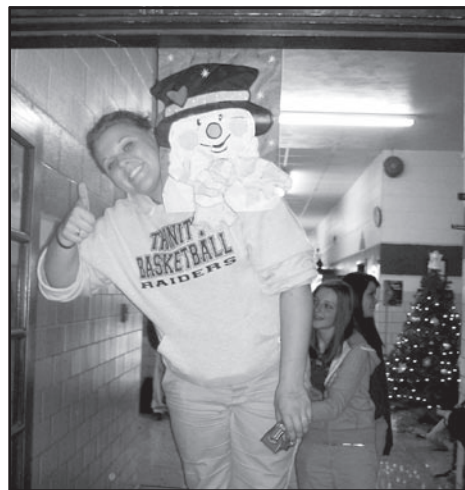
In the picture with the tree at right, Juniors Kalie Winkler, Jesse Rhinerson and Kasey Gilmore decorating the school tree.

In the picture at center right, Seniors Tara Medcalf and Mercedes Varble posing with their decorated door.



In the picture at left, junior Jill Graham puts the finishing touches on her classroom door

Submitted by Lisa Armes



34 Bishop Medley Anoints Ursulines at Saint Joseph Villa

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - The Most Rev. William Medley, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, joined Father Ray Goetz, chaplain at the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse, on Oct. 21, the feast of Saint Ursula, to administer the sacrament of anointing to the sisters who live in Saint Joseph Villa in Maple Mount, Ky.

At Near right, Bishop Medley anoints Sister Jean Gertrude Mudd.

At far right, Sister Mary Evelyn Mudd is anointed by the bishop.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations at St. Leo Church, Murray

Submitted by John Krieb

Since mid-July the parishioners of St. Leo Church in Murray, KY have been celebrating Mass in their Parish Hall while the church is expanded and renovated. Fr. Jason McClure wanted to use this advent season to offer catechesis about the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe since she will be the only image of Mary in their new worship space. Most non-Hispanic parishioners do not have a very deep understanding of this mystery, so our seminarian, Julio Barrera offered several opportunities to participate in such catechesis in the days leading up to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A novena started on December 3rd with a bilingual Rosary, which was prayed again on several other days of the novena. On Sunday evening, December 5th, Julio presented the movie "Guadalupe" explaining the story of Our Lady, and then offered additional commentary and answered questions from the attendees. On Wednesday he presented another movie "Mary"/"Maria" and included popcorn and refreshments for all! Thursday was the final Rosary prayer and also included a commemoration of the feast of St. Juan Diego; Julio also presented us with a "tilma" sent to him by his parents in Mexico so that parishioners could see and touch fabric similar to what Juan Diego wore; this "tilma" was then placed under the statue of Juan Diego next to Mary's image. On Friday Julio presented the movie "Guadalupe: A Living Image" in English and again offered comments and explanations afterwards. He then showed the same movie in the Spanish version.

Saturday evening began the main events of this novena. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was enshrined with flowers by members of our Hispanic community, assisted by non-Hispanic members. Flower vases and candles were ar-



Shrine photo above by John Krieb.
Below, Hispanic and Anglo community sharing a meal together.
Photos by Antonio Siqueiros.

anged beneath her image. The candles were lit and additional flowers and fruit offerings were added prior to the evening's Spanish Mass. Following the Mass, Mananitas were sung and then the Hispanic community enjoyed a dinner at the Newman House across from the Parish Hall, followed by more singing of Mananitas. Sunday morning Mass was preceded by another session of Mananitas. Tamales and Atole were offered to the parish after the Mass. Several pictures of these celebrations are included with this article.

The events of this novena really helped those in attendance gain a deeper understanding of the importance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to all Catholic communities in the Americas, especially our Hispanic members. Julio will also help lead nine nights of posadas at St. Leo Church, beginning December 16th.

St. Leo Church is truly blessed to have Julio Barrera as our seminarian as he is working very



hard to help our non-Hispanic members and our Hispanic members to better understand each other as members of the One Holy Catholic Church.

St. Thomas More Parish Hosts St. Mary High School Christmas Concert

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PADUCAH, Ky. - Hundreds of classmates, teachers, family members, and friends gathered to enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by the St. Mary Middle and High School orchestras and choirs Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Under the direction of Patty Story, the 6th grade orchestra played selections including an Israeli Folk Song, Mozart, and Beethoven, the middle school orchestra played Robert Frost and Tchaikovsky, and the advanced orchestra played Sing We Now of Christmas, Ave Maria, and A Christmas Festival.

The Middle School Choir sang "The First Noel," "Still, Still, Bring Them Home," and "I Want You Back." The High School Choir entertained with the "Shepherd's Echo Carol," "African Noel," "Carol of the Bells," "Believe," and "Bridge Over Troubled Water" under the direction of Brant Veal.

Mrs. Mary Grinnell, pianist, accompanied the choirs, and a reception was held in the Gathering Space following the concert.



6th Grade Orchestra



Middle School Orchestra



Middle School Choir



High School Choir



Advanced Orchestra

In Your Charity, Please Pray For The Repose of the Soul of Sister Agnes Cecilia Speak, OSU, Who Died Dec.15



MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Sister Agnes Cecilia Speak, 100, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Dec. 15 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 80th year of religious life. She was a native of Irvington.

She was a housekeeper much of her life, beginning in 1932. She was a wonderful cook and baker, and a deeply prayerful woman. She served at St. Charles Convent, Bardwell (1932-33), St. Anthony Convent, Browns Valley (1937-39), St. Mary Home, Owensboro (1950-52), St. William Convent, Knottsville, (1952-53), and Blessed Mother Convent, Owensboro, (1972-1995). She served at Mount Saint Joseph in the dairy (1946-47), and laundry (1948-50). She also ministered in the Louisville Archdiocese, and in New Mexico. She retired to the Motherhouse in 1995.

Survivors include nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 18 at Mount Saint Joseph. Burial was in the Motherhouse cemetery.

Glenn Funeral Home and Crematorium, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Gifts in memory of Sister Agnes Cecilia may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

The Immaculate Parishioners Bible Study Learning More About The Story of Salvation

Submitted by Diane Willis, Director of Faith Formation

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Individuals from 6 parishes look forward to weekly Bible study at the Parish of the Immaculate in Owensboro. When completed, these 42 individuals will have invested 24 weeks of study to the program entitled The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation. Participants meet Monday morning or evening for 2 hours to discuss questions about 14 narrative books of the bible and trace the history of salvation. After the hour discussion, an hour presentation from DVD summarizes the lesson.

Pictured is the morning group watching the DVD of Jeff Cavins discussing the book of Joshua. The DVD series and projector used were purchased thanks to a grant through the Disciples Response Fund of the Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky. Submitted Photo



36 Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration at St. Thomas More

La Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Santo Tomas Moro



Sr. Imelda Quechol leads the group in prayer and song.

La Hermana Imelda Quechol guía el grupo en oración y canciones.

PADUCAH, Ky. - Several hundred Hispanic parishioners and guests gathered to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 11, 2010. A procession began outside and ended in the worship space followed by praying a novena and the rosary.

Next, a play depicting the apparitions of our Lady of Guadalupe and featuring dancers, told the story of Juan Diego as he walked to church. At a hill called Tepeyac, a young Native American maiden dressed like an Aztec princess appeared to him and sent him to the bishop to ask that a chapel be built where she had appeared.

The Bishop asked Juan Diego to give him a sign and the Lady provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape. When Juan opened his cape in front of the Bishop, there was an image of Mary exactly as she appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. The date was December 12, 1531.

In the photo at right, the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe is surrounded with flowers and the cape with her image.

La estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se rodea con flores y el manto con su imagen.



Our Lady of Guadalupe appears to Juan Diego. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe aparece a Juan Diego.

Photos by Missy Eckenberg



Juan Diego talks with the bishop. Juan Diego habla con el Obispo.



PADUCAH, Ky. - Cientos de parroquianos y visitantes hispanos se juntaron para honrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el Sábado, 11 de Diciembre del 2010. Una procesión empezó afuera y terminó en el santuario seguida por una novena donde todos rezaron el rosario.

Después, hicieron una obra de teatro donde contaron la historia de Juan Diego mientras caminaba a la Iglesia. En un cerro llamado Tepeyac, una señorita indígena con la ropa de una princesa azteca le apareció y lo envió al Obispo para pedir que se construyera una capilla donde se había aparecido.

El Obispo le pidió a Juan Diego una señal y la Señorita proveyó rosas para que Juan los lleve al Obispo en su ayate. Cuando Juan abrió su ayate en frente del Obispo, apareció una imagen de María exactamente como se había aparecido en el cerro de Tepeyac. La fecha fue el 12 de Diciembre del 1531.



Juan Diego opens his cape and drops the roses to reveal the image of Mary. Juan Diego abre su ayate y se caen las rosas para revelar la imagen de María.



The audience watches as the dancers arrive to pay homage. La audiencia mira cuando llegan los danzantes para dar homenaje.

St. Romuald Parish Religious Education

37

• **On Friday, November 19**, following school, 16 children attended their First Reconciliation Prayer Day at the St. Romuald Parish Hall. On Sunday, November 21st, the children celebrated their First Reconciliation at St. Romuald Catholic Church. Fr. Tony Bickett and Fr. Dan Kreutzer presided over the Prayer Service. Holly Gedling and Carol Smith are the children's Catechist.

• **On Sunday, December 5**, 27 students and 13 adults from the St. Romuald K-6th Religious Education program traveled to the Medco Center in Hardinsburg to sing Christmas carols for the residents.

In the near photo at center, Singing Christmas carols are the following children: Hunter Barr, Jillian Kennedy, Gracie Roach, Austin Carwile, Jackson Faircloth, Mariah Critchelow, Brandon Simpson, Madison Gedling, Shane Paschal and Mariah Critchelow.

In the photo at far right, center, The K-6th Religious Education students concentrate on their song books as they sing Frosty the Snowman.

In the photo below, third grader, Halle Barr played "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" on her fiddle.



Following her First Reconciliation, Brianna Poole received a blessing of the sign of the cross on her forehead from her parents, David & Gayle Poole as her brother, Jordan watches.



• **On December 4 and 5**, the BCHS Choral Department proudly presented Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* under the direction of Kathy Tabor. It was an amazing presentation from start to end with many talented teenagers and children.

In the photo at bottom left, Curtis Carwile portrays Elvis singing Song of the King while Brenna Lucas dances along side him. Both are members of St. Romuald Catholic Church.

Photos submitted by Kim Brumfield



1st row from left, Nate Pennington, Matthew Loughran, Susan Shalosky and Xavier Perks; 2nd row from left, Tori Lucas, Brianna Poole, Eve Taylor and Emma Taylor; 3rd row from left, Hope Lucas, Sydney Board, Shelby Walz, Shelby Tivitt, Eric Barr, Landon Bratcher, Andrew Tate and Sydney Carwile.



Posing for the camera following their school performance on December 6th are students that attend St. Romuald Interparochial School and/or St. Romuald Catholic Church. Shown in the photo are: front row left side: Julia Mattingly, Halle Barr, Katie Kannapel, Brenna Lucas, Sadie Carwile, Meredith Lucas and Amelia Barr. 2nd row left side: Sarah Eskridge, Mariah Critchelow, Hope Lucas, Jada Critchelow, Deanna Arnold and Mason Bennett. Back row left side: Cameron Howard, Curtis Carwile, Jackson Brown, Paige Mingus, Jacob Whitfill, Robbie Alexander, Rebecca Garrett, Tyler Mercer and Clint Jarboe.

38 At The Mount: A Confirmation Retreat ...



St. JOSEPH, Ky. - St. Mary of LaCenter students held their Confirmation retreat Oct. 15-17 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.

Ursuline Associate Elaine Wood, in the photo at far right, brought the confirmation class to visit with Sister M. Clarentia Hutchins, OSU, in Saint Joseph Villa.

Above, center photo, Confirmation students from St. Mary look at a clay sculpture of the Virgin Mary while visiting the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel.

Above, left, St. Mary of LaCenter students sit in the lobby of Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center as they begin their Confirmation retreat the weekend of Oct. 15. MSJ Photos

... A "Mount Hope" Weekend ...



Women affected by breast cancer came together for a "Mount Hope" Weekend Oct. 15-17 at Maple Mount. They shared stories and inspiration during a retreat weekend sponsored by the Kentucky Cancer Program.

In the photo above, The Mount Hope participants enjoy a meal in the dining room at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center during their Oct. 15-17 retreat.



In photo above, The Mount Hope group participated in a crafts activity in a meeting room at Mount Saint Joseph. MSJ Photos

... And All Souls Day

Ursuline Sisters, Associates, and employees gathered in the chapel of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Nov. 2 to remember loved ones who have passed on All Souls Day.

Sister Ann McGrew, Center director, led the prayer remembrance, and invited those in attendance to light a candle in honor of those who they miss and remember fondly. A Prayer for November was read aloud, which included this verse:

"When I am sad at the death of those who were close to me, may my sadness be firmly supported by my faith that life is merely changed not ended, that those I love are still with me though unseen. O Lord, increase my faith in the great mystery of eternal life. Teach me to live each day knowing that all here passes and that when we leave we will travel very lightly."

In photo at right, Elaine Foster lights a candle of remembrance. (Photo flipped horizontally in Photoshop)

At left, Sister Teresa Riley takes a turn lighting a candle in remembrance of those who have died. Behind her is Sister Alfreda Malone. MSJ Photos



2010-2011

**Pray for
our Priests,
Consecrated
Religious, and
Seminarians.**

The Diocese of Owensboro is blessed to have 18 young men in seminary formation.

These young men pray for you and they count on your prayers for them, as they actively seek God's will in their lives.

You can let our seminarians know of your prayerful support by writing to them at the following addresses:

St. Meinrad Seminary
rharpole@saintmeinrad.edu
jbarrera@saintmeinrad.edu
wthompson@saintmeinrad.edu
eudoh@saintmeinrad.edu
gclark@saintmeinrad.edu
majigo@saintmeinrad.edu
dennis_lines_rr@hotmail.com

**Theology Students Studying
Language**

lope7534@stthomas.edu
azcu9515@stthomas.edu
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**St. John Vianney College
Seminary**

jmkaelin@stthomas.edu
mark6959@stthomas.edu
higd5991@stthomas.edu
fren7867@stthomas.edu
elle0012@go.century.edu
benn4316@stthomas.edu
gril6202@stthomas.edu
sant1993@stthomas.edu

For more information about vocations or supporting one of our seminarians in a particular way, contact Fr. D. Andrew Garner, Director of Vocations at 270-683-1545 or fr.andy.garner@pastoral.org.

Seminarians of the Diocese of Owensboro



Rev. Mr. Ryan Harpole
St. Meinrad Seminary



Julio Barrera
St. Meinrad Seminary



Will Thompson
St. Meinrad Seminary



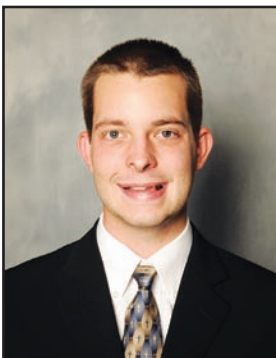
Emmanuel Udoh
St. Meinrad Seminary



Gary Clark
St. Meinrad Seminary



Michael Charles Ajigo
St. Meinrad Seminary



James Dennis
St. Meinrad Seminary



Jesús López Méndez
St. John Vianney
College Seminary



Basilio Az Cuc
St. John Vianney
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Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc
St. John Vianney
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Jared Kaelin
St. John Vianney
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Joseph Markin
St. John Vianney
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Robert Ellegood
St. John Vianney
College Seminary



Ethan Bennett
St. John Vianney
College Seminary

Prayer For
Vocations

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



Nick Higdon
St. John Vianney
College Seminary



Alex French
St. John Vianney
College Seminary



Dustin Grillon
St. John Vianney
College Seminary



Ronnie Santana
St. John Vianney
College Seminary

Greetings from Bani.

By Father Stan Puryear

Greetings from Bani.

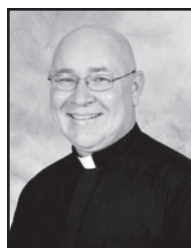
One of the difficulties with writing a monthly column is that sometimes life events and publication deadlines do not always coincide. Because of upcoming scheduled activities, this column is being written the week after Thanksgiving; it will not be in your homes until after the first of the New Year. So, as I'm still recovering from the realization that pollo criollo and mangu do not make an appropriate substitute for turkey and dressing, I'm imagining you having had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The year 2011 is going to be an exciting time on the island of Hispaniola. We are all praying that Haitian presidential elections will provide semi-legitimate leadership for the beleaguered nation and the cholera epidemic will be contained. Last January, I was in the city of Santiago when the earthquake practically leveled the city of Port-au-Prince and killed an estimated 200,000 persons. Rebuilding has been very slow indeed, but Haitians are a hopeful and resilient group of people. May the year 2011 be kinder to them than was the previous year.

In the Catholic Church in the Dominican Republic, we are looking forward to this new year with special anticipation. On 8 August 2011, we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the founding of three dioceses in the New World: Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), La Vega (Dominican Republic), and San Juan (Puerto Rico). The Diocese of Bani was a part of the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo until 1986, when it was established as a separate see.

As I mentioned in a previous article, an experience at one of the Holy Father's General Audiences led me to understand how we Catholics are members of something that is so much greater than ourselves. Not only are we a Church that reaches out over six continents, we are a Church that reaches over 20 centuries. The celebration of that history is important to give us a sense of our place in God's plan for our world.

Kentucky, of course, has its own proud Catholic history that has spanned a couple of centuries. Two years ago, the Church in the commonwealth celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Bardstown. Bardstown became one of the first five Roman Catholic dioceses of the United States of America when it and Dioceses of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were created out of the territory of the Diocese of Bal-



timore. Eventually, Bishop Flaget and the diocesan structure were moved to Louisville, and it was out of that archdiocese that our own Diocese of Owensboro was created. The Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral (i.e., former cathedral) still stands in Bardstown and is an incred-

ible building of colonial Catholic history of which we should all be aware. If you should have any questions about the Diocese of Bardstown or the Basilica of Saint Joseph, I'm certain that Bishop Medley will be able to answer them, given that he spent 12 years as pastor of Saint Joseph.

In my study of the history of the Church in the Dominican Republic, I have the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a missionary in a foreign land. The first missionaries who came to this land with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage faced many difficulties, far more than the oft-failing electricity grid that has proven itself my greatest nemesis. As a missionary on the same island, I quite literally live in the shadow of trees planted by missionaries from other countries. The Scarboro Missionary Priests from Scarborough, Ontario, were active in the provinces of Peravia and Ocoa for many years, including in the parish at Paya. Fortunately, the trees that Scarboro missionary priests planted in the front and back yard of the parish house today produce oranges, limes, mangos, guavas, and avocados.

A great opportunity to reflect on being a missionary priest in this land was offered at the end of November by retreats offered for priests working in the country. Rather than retreat by diocese, three retreats are held at three different times in three different locations with the same retreat director for all the priests in the republic. This year, the retreat was directed by Bishop Valentin Reynoso,



Street procession with Our Lady of Regla.

Procesion por las calles con Nuestra Señora de la Regla.

Photos by Fr Stan Puryear



Bishop Freddy Breton of the Diocese of Bani.

Monseñor Freddy Bretón, Obispo de Bani.

auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Santiago.

Bishop Reynoso opened the retreat by saying quite clearly: "Priesthood is not a profession: priesthood is a life." The life of priesthood is one of encounter with Christ: in the Eucharist, in Scripture, in the Church, in the poor, and in prayer. These encounters lead the priest to true joy and peace that he is able to share with others as a sacramental presence. To share that presence with others, priesthood and life in Christ is by its very nature missionary.

I found this to be in stark contrast to so much of what I have heard of the expectations of priests over the past 15 years. In the United States, often priests are expected to be one profession among many, such as doctors, lawyers, architects, and administrators. One of the harshest and most hurtful criticisms that priests throw at other priests is the accusation of being "unprofessional". Now being removed from that situation, I can see that such an accusation comes from an incomplete understanding of priesthood.

As was made clear during the retreat, the difference between priesthood as a profession instead of a life in Christ is the difference of simply carrying Jesus to another person instead of bringing a personal encounter with Jesus to the life and soul of another person so that the person knows Jesus' love, mercy, goodness, and sacrifice. The priest's life is a revela-

Continued on page 6 Catolico

Dec. 12 Mass Commemorates Our Lady of Guadalupe's Message About Hope In Jesus



Mañanitas cantadas en honor a la Virgen Maria de Guadalupe, en la madrugada del día 12 de Diciembre por los Coros de San Miguel Sebree y Santos José y Pablo.



Los fieles Católicos de la Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo, devotamente en la Misa del día 12 de Diciembre, celebrando el día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.



Todos los fieles saludando a la Virgen de Guadalupe con su canto y alegría por ser la Madre de todos los fieles de la Comunidad Hispana.



Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe en San Leo, Murray

(Continued from page 2)

ñoil. Se tuvo un tiempo para comentarios, preguntas y respuestas.

La tarde del sábado 11 de diciembre se iniciaron los eventos preparados para la fiesta. La imagen de la virgen de Guadalupe fue adornada con un arco de flores, que tanto miembros de la comunidad hispana y americana arreglaron para la virgen. Se preparo un altar con flores y velas a los pies de la virgen. Se encendieron las velas, y más flores junto con fruta se ofrecieron a la virgen como ofrenda antes de la Misa en Español que la parroquia ofrece a las 8:00 pm. Al terminar la Santa Misa, se tocaron y cantaron las tradicionales Mañanitas por un grupo local de Murray de nombre "Los Mensajeros". Al terminar las mañanitas tuvimos una cena ofrecida por la comunidad

americana a los hispanos en la Newman House, la casa de los universitarios que está cruzando la calle, donde hubo mucha alegría. El domingo 12 de diciembre por la mañana se volvieron a cantar otra vez las tradicionales mañanitas, esta vez con dos grupos, el mismo de la noche anterior y otro grupo invitado. Al terminar las mañanitas se procedió a celebrar la Misa dominical; al terminar la Misa la comunidad hispana ofreció un desayuno para la comunidad americana donde hubo tamales, atole, ponche, arroz con leche, pozole, menudo y pastel.

Los eventos que se ofrecieron durante la novena realmente ayudaron a todos aquellos que asistieron a entender y a apreciar más la importancia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en todas las comu-



Después de cantarle a la Reina de las Américas, era necesario tomar algo caliente, ya que esa noche amanecimos con la blanca nieve, típico de esta estación, se ofreció a la comunidad, café caliente, chocolate y pan, eran alrededor de 6:00 AM l día 12 de Diciembre. (fotos por L.A)

Los fieles Católicos atentos a la Celebración de la Misa el día 12 de Diciembre en la Iglesia Católica de San José y Pablo.



nidades Católicas de los Estados Unidos. Julio también a preparado otro evento que conduce a la Navidad y que se conocen como "Las Posadas" en la parroquia de san Leo iniciando el día 16 de diciembre.

Dios verdaderamente a bendecido a la parroquia de San Leo al mandar a Julio Barrera, nuestro seminarista, él está trabajando incansablemente en desarrollar un mejor ambiente de unidad y amor entre los miembros de la comunidad de la parroquia que hablan Inglés y Español ya que de esta manera nos entenderemos más entre nosotros como miembros de una Santa Iglesia Católica.



Celebrating Mass in the community of Saint Anthony of Padua.
Celebrando la Misa en la comunidad de San Antonio de Padua.

Greetings from Bani *(Continued from page 42)*

By Father Stan Puryear

tion of the life and love of Christ.

Jesus gave specific instructions: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” [Matthew 28:19] He did not say, “Stay in your office and wait for people to come to you.” Being missionary means going outside of our familiar space and even going outside of accepted norms of behavior. There are even times when we must be “unprofessional”, just as Jesus was when he ran the money changers out of the Temple [Mark 11:15ff, Matthew 21:12ff, Luke 19:45ff, John 2:13ff], when he spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well [John 4:5ff], or when he associated with a tax collector named Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), among many other examples.

In the rural areas of the Dominican Republic, the encounter with Christ is often fleeting and brief out of necessity. For numerous reasons – lack of good roads, lack of security, lack of priests, demands of work, etc. – Mass attendance for many here is a luxury that they cannot afford. As missionary priests, we become aware that we don’t simply carry Christ to the world, but instead we ARE Christ to the world. I must admit, it is an awesome responsibility.

Everyone in my parish has quickly learned who I am. Being the only slightly overweight bald white man within a 30 miles radius has that result. Celebrating

Mass in 11 separate locations means that I am on the road quite a bit. And on the unpaved roads, I have to drive exceptionally slowly because the old truck I drive protests any perceived abuse, leaving me without headlights and a horn in the most precarious of conditions. As even the most aggravating weakness can be used for the glory of God, driving slowly (with the window down because the air conditioning on the truck quit working several thousand kilometers earlier) means that everyone can see who is driving past, and I am often greeted with, “Hola, mi Padre.” From that experience, I now see the Gospels in a new light, as I note that many people saw Jesus not in the Temple or the local synagogue, but instead on the road, at the well, on the mountainside, at the shore of the lake, or in the homes of the poor or despised.

(Thanks to Adveniat of Germany and the Knights of Columbus council of Bowling Green, the old truck should be replaced by the time you read this article, but now that I have started something, I’ll probably keep driving slowly on the old non-paved roads).

To be a missionary does not necessarily mean travelling to foreign lands with strange foods and a different language and people who do not look like me. Perhaps one of the best examples of a diocesan priest being a missionary in his own diocese would be the late Fr. Lucian Hayden. Always with a holy card bearing the image of Christ – often the Divine Mercy image – Father Hayden

Saludos de Bani

(Continued from page 6 Catolico)

Por Padre Stan Puryear

cambiado por uno nuevo, uno que no protesta tanto. Pero voy a seguir manejando lentamente en los caminos no pavimentados).

Ser misionero no significa necesariamente que uno tiene que ir a tierras extranjeras con sus alimentos extraños y idioma diferente. Uno de los mejores ejemplos de un sacerdote diocesano de la Diócesis de Owensboro que vivía el espíritu misionero era el Padre Luciano Hayden. Siempre con una tarjeta con la imagen de Cristo, el Padre Hayden encontraba a todos los desconocidos con una tarjeta en la mano, ofreciéndoles la imagen de “alguien que te ama”. Esas tarjetas aparecieron en todas partes, incluyendo cabinas de cobro en el Western Kentucky Parkway, y estoy convencido de que el padre gastó tanto de su dinero personal en aquellas tarjetas durante los años que envió a los hijos de los editores a las mejores universidades.

Al comenzar este nuevo año, les invito a todos que visiten la República Dominicana en una peregrinación al lugar donde el cristianismo católico echó sus primeros raíces en el hemisferio occidental de nuestro mundo. Pero si no puede hacer el viaje a esta hermosa isla, pido que haga una resolución este año de convertirse en misionero, llevando el amor y la misericordia de Cristo a la vida de alguien que falta esa experiencia personal de alguien que lo ama.

would great strangers with a card, offering them a picture of “someone who loves you”. Those cards showed up everywhere, including toll booths on the Western Kentucky Parkway, and I am convinced that Father spent so much of his personal money on those cards over the years that he sent the children of the publishers to the finest universities.

As we begin this new year, you are all welcome to journey to the Dominican Republic in a pilgrimage to the place where Catholic Christianity first took root in the western hemisphere of our world. Yet even if you are unable to make the journey to this beautiful isle, please make it a resolution to this year become a missionary, taking Christ’s love and mercy to someone who might not otherwise have such a personal experience of someone who loves them.

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



Los miembros del Comité quienes tratan las alegaciones de abuso sexual abuse en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kay Castlen, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Mike Flaherty, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, (Chairperson), Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, y Rev. Pat Reynolds. Ms. Louanne Payne sirve como enlace del obispo al Comité de Revisión.

A cualquier persona que quiera comunicar con el Comité de Revisión Diocesano se le pide que llame al Centro Pastoral Católico al 1-270-683-1545 y pregunte por un miembro del Comité de Revisión. Si quiere hablar con un miembro particular del Comité, lo puede mencionar a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso, la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico entregará la información de la persona que llamó al Comité de Revisión para seguimiento. Los que llaman pueden escoger mantenerse anónimos para la primera llamada a la recepcionista del Centro Pastoral Católico. No se harán públicos los números telefónicos de los miembros del Comité.

También pueden comunicarse con el Comité por email al: reviewboard@pastoral.org. Asegúrense de incluir su información personal. No les contestaremos directamente por email porque nunca se puede garantizar la confidencialidad al usar email. Nos comunicaremos con ustedes por teléfono.

Saludos de Baní.

Por Padre Stan Puryear

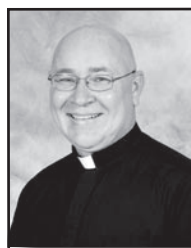
Una de las dificultades con la escritura de una columna mensual es que a veces los eventos de la vida no coinciden con los plazos de publicación. Debido a unas actividades planeadas para las próximas semanas, se escribe esta columna la semana después del Día de Acción de Gracias; pero, no será en sus casas hasta la semana después del Año Nuevo. Yo todavía estoy recuperando de la realización de que el pollo criollo y mangú no son sustitutos adecuados para pavo y relleno, y los que leen esto quizás todavía están sufriendo los efectos de celebrar demasiado la Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo.

El año 2011 va a ser un tiempo emocionante en la Isla Española. Todos estamos rezando que las elecciones presidenciales haitianas traigan nuevo liderazgo legítimo a aquella nación que se pare la epidemia de cólera. Durante el enero de 2010, yo andaba en la ciudad de Santiago de la República Dominicana cuando el terremoto prácticamente destruyó la ciudad de Puerto Príncipe y mató a unos 200,000 personas. La reconstrucción ha sido muy lenta, pero los haitianos son un grupo de personas esperanzador y resistente. Que les pase mejor el año 2011.

La Iglesia Católica en la República Dominicana esperamos a este nuevo año con anticipación especial. El 8 de agosto de 2011, celebramos el 500º Aniversario de la fundación de tres diócesis en el Nuevo Mundo: Santo Domingo (República Dominicana), La Vega (República Dominicana) y San Juan (Puerto Rico). La Diócesis de Baní fue parte de la Arquidiócesis de Santo Domingo hasta 1986, cuando se estableció como una sede independiente.

Como mencioné en un artículo anterior, una experiencia en una de las audiencias generales del Santo Padre me llevó a comprender que los católicos somos miembros de algo que es mucho mayor que nosotros mismos. No sólo somos una iglesia que llega a más de seis continentes, somos una iglesia que llega a más de 20 siglos de historia. La celebración de esa historia es importante para que nosotros tengamos sentido de nuestro lugar en el plan de Dios para nuestro mundo.

El estado de Kentucky tiene su propia historia Católica orgulloso que ha abarcado un par de siglos. Hace dos años, la Iglesia en el estado celebró el 200º Aniversario de la fundación de la Diócesis de Bardstown. Bardstown se convirtió en uno de los primeros cinco Diócesis de los Estados Unidos de América cuando ella y



las diócesis de Boston, Nueva York y Filadelfia fueron creadas del territorio de la Diócesis de Baltimore. Después de unos años, el Monseñor Flaget y la estructura diocesana fueron trasladados a Louisville, y era de esa arquidiócesis que nuestra propia diócesis de Owensboro fue creado. La Basílica de San José Proto-Catedral (es decir, antigua catedral) todavía se encuentra en Bardstown y es un edificio increíble de la historia colonial Católica de la que todos deberíamos ser conscientes. Si uno tiene preguntas acerca de la Diócesis de Bardstown o la Basílica de San José, estoy seguro de que Monseñor Medley será capaz de contestarlas: el pasó 12 años como pastor de San José.

En mi estudio de la historia de la Iglesia Católica en la República Dominicana, he aprovechado de la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre lo que significa ser un misionero en una tierra extranjera. Los primeros misioneros que llegaron a esta tierra con Cristóbal Colón en su segundo viaje enfrentaron muchas dificultades, mucho más que la cuadrícula de electricidad y sus fallas frecuentes que es mi enemigo mayor. Como misionero en la misma isla, literalmente vivo en la sombra de los árboles plantados por los misioneros de otros países. Los sacerdotes misioneros Scarborough, de la ciudad Scarborough de Ontario en Canadá, trabajaban muchos años en las provincias de Peravia y Ocoa, hasta en la Parroquia Santiago Apóstol en Paya. Afortunadamente, los árboles que los sacerdotes misioneros Scarborough plantaron en el patio de la casa parroquial hoy producen naranjas chinas, limones, mangos, guayabas y aguacates.

Otra gran oportunidad para reflexionar sobre lo que es ser sacerdote misionero en esta tierra se ofreció a finales de mes de noviembre en un retiro ofrecido para los sacerdotes que trabajan en el país. En lugar de retiro por diócesis, tres retiros se celebran en tres momentos diferentes en tres lugares diferentes con el mismo director. Este año, el retiro dirigido por el Monseñor Valentín Reynoso, obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Santiago.

El Monseñor Reynoso abrió el retiro diciendo claramente: “el sacerdocio no es una profesión: el sacerdocio es una vida.” La vida de sacerdocio es uno de encuentro con Cristo: en la Eucaristía, en las Escrituras, en la Iglesia, en los pobres y en la oración. Estos encuentros le llevan al sacerdote a la verdadera alegría y paz que es compartido con otros como presencia sacramental. Compartiendo esa presencia con otros, el sacerdocio y la vida en Cristo son por sus propias naturalezas misioneros.

Todo eso que oí no estuvo de acuerdo con lo que había escuchado de las expectativas de los sacerdotes en los últimos 15 años. En los Estados Unidos, muchas personas consideran que el sacerdote en un profesional entre otros, tales como médicos, abogados, arquitectos y administradores. Hasta unos sacerdotes piensan eso también. Una de las críticas más duras que unos sacerdotes tiran en contra de otros sacerdotes es la acusación de ser “poco profesional”. Después de estar quitado de esa situación, veo que tal acusación sale de una comprensión incompleta de sacerdocio.

Como se quedó claro durante el retiro, la diferencia entre el sacerdocio como una profesión en lugar de una vida en Cristo es la diferencia entre simplemente llevando Jesús a otra persona en lugar de llevar un encuentro personal con Jesús a la vida y el alma de otra



Two of the twenty four children baptized in one Mass at Saint Anthony of Padua.

Dos de los 24 niños bautizados en una Misa en la comunidad de San Antonio de Padua.

persona para que la persona sepa del amor, misericordia, bondad y sacrificio de Cristo. La vida del sacerdote es una revelación de la vida y el amor de Cristo.

Jesucristo dio instrucciones específicas: “Vayan, pues, y hagan que todos los pueblos sean mis discípulos. Bautícenlos en el Nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, y enséñeles a cumplir todo lo que yo les he encomendado a ustedes.” [Mateo 28:19] No dijo, “Quédense en sus oficinas esperando que las personas vengan a ti.” Ser misionero significa ir fuera de nuestro espacio familiar y a veces ir fuera de las normas aceptadas. Hay veces cuando debemos ser “poco profesionales”, igual que Jesús era cuando corrió los cambistas del Templo [Marcos 11:15ff, Mateo 21:12ff, Lucas 19:45ff, Juan 2:13ff], cuando habló con la Samaritana en el pozo [Juan 4:5ff], o cuando se asoció a un publicano nombrado Zaqueo (Lucas 19: 1-10), entre muchos otros ejemplos.

En las zonas rurales de la República Dominicana, el encuentro con Cristo es breve por necesidad. La asistencia en la Misa es un lujo de que muchos no pueden aprovechar. Eso es la resulta de varias razones: falta de buenas carreteras, falta de seguridad, falta de sacerdotes, demandas del trabajo, etc. Sacerdotes misioneros somos conscientes de que no simplemente llevamos Cristo al mundo sino que somos Cristo al mundo. Es una responsabilidad pesada. La mayoría de las personas en la parroquia de Santiago Apóstol de Paya ya saben quien soy. Siendo el único hombre blanco, calvo, y gordito en la área tiene ese resultado. Celebrando la Misa en 11 localidades significa que estoy en el camino con mucha frecuencia. Y en las carreteras sin pavimento, tengo que manejar excepcionalmente lentamente debido a que la camioneta vieja protesta cualquier abuso, dejándome sin luces en la noche. Esa debilidad se ha convertido en una bendición para la gloria de Dios, porque conduciendo lentamente (con la ventana baja porque el aire acondicionado no funciona) significa que todo el mundo puede ver que está pasando, y yo recibo muchos saludos de “Hola, mi Padre.”

(Gracias a las donaciones de Adveniat de Alemania y los Camioneros de Colón de Bowling Green, la camioneta vieja pronto será

Continued on page 7 Catolico

Las Novenas celebradas en Honor a la Santísima Virgen Maria de Guadalupe, obedece al profundo y gran amor a la Madre de Jesús, Patrona y Protectora de toda la America Latina. Aparece a uno de los miembros de la Comunidad original (San Juan Diego) de este continente. Desde ahí, su aparición fue y es la esperanza de un pueblo que sufrió las atrocidades de los colonizadores en aquel tiempo. Es la voz del cielo bajado para decirnos, Hijo acaso no estoy yo aquí como tu Madre? A todos nos sigue llamando, para llevar el amor maternal de ella a todos los hombres y mujeres del mundo, para conocerla como Madre de Jesús nuestro Salvador y Madre de todos nosotros los seres humanos que creemos en su Reino. La novena es una oportunidad para nosotros, juntarnos y brindarle una gran celebración en casa, donde la familia vive, donde se experimenta los diferentes situaciones de la vida, así como la alegría, la pena, la esperanza, pero también el miedo del que vendrá? Pero la Virgen nos llama otra vez, nos busca para acercarnos a ella porque para ella somos de mucho valor. El día 12 de Diciembre, nos juntamos todos en fiesta para celebrar el día de la Madre, cantándole las mañanitas, comida especial para ese día. Feliz día Madre del Cielo.

Posadas Celebraciones con oraciones especiales, la comunidad se divide en 2, la mitad se queda afuera del hogar anfitrión, que representa a Maria y José, pidiendo y rogando que le den posada para nacer el Hijo de Dios, oración tradicional cantado, aún en el frío de la noche con velas, mostrando así, que el que pide posada lleva la luz del mundo.

La otra mitad esta adentro de la casa, imitando los dueños de casa que no tienen y niegan un lugar para José y Maria próximo a dar a luz, no les abren hasta mas tarde. Al entrar en la casa significa darle lugar a la Sagrada familia hoy en día, toda esta historia, se refleja a los extranjeros que piden una oportunidad de trabajo, pero que aún no pasa, la Sagrada Familia es Inmigrante, paso muchas penas, como los Inmigrantes del siglo XXI, que no solo no hay lugar para ellos sino, también son despreciados por ser extranjeros.

La posada que celebramos será momento para orar, hacer conciencia, de nuestra apertura a Dios y a los demás, como dice la canción, “no basta rezar” Dios es Acción. Todos debemos de decir, Ven Señor Jesús, bienvenido a mi casa(corazón) que esta Navidad sea de Paz, amor y justicia en todos los rincones de la tierra.

Navidad: es una fiesta muy grande en la familia, llevar a los niños a la Iglesia, si no fue posible ir a misa en la media noche los llevamos el día 25 participando en la Eucaristía del día, mostrarles los diferentes nacimientos de las parroquias con alusión Navideña. Cada país latino tiene su propia comida regional para la Navidad, todo es celebración por conmemorar el Nacimiento del Niño Jesús. En nuestro caso particular, existen hombres y mujeres que han dejado sus padres, esposa(o) hijos en tierras lejanas, es una nostalgia no estar juntos, pero la fuerza de la fe, ayuda para seguir adelante con la ayuda de la comunidad y no caer en la soledad. También en la comunidad oramos por todas las personas que sufren soledad, ya que esto se da en todas las culturas del mundo, por diversas circunstancias y razones, pero estamos para acompañar a todos quienes podemos.

Año Nuevo, en la cultura hispana se despiden al Año viejo y se le da la bienvenida al año Nuevo, con una convivencia familiar. Aquí en varias familias se hace un recuento de las cosas positivas como bendiciones recibidas en el año, pero también los errores cometidos, prometiendo que en el año Nuevo, las cosas cambian con esfuerzo y buena voluntad de mejorar. Feliz Navidad y Mucha alegría en el Año Nuevo, 2011.



Luis Aju

The novenas celebrated in Honor of the Most Holy Virgin Mary of Guadalupe stem from profound and great love for the Mother of Jesus, Patroness and Protector of all America. She appeared to one of the members of the original community of this continent (St. Juan Diego). Since then her apparition was and is the hope of a people who suffered the atrocities of the colonizers of that time. It is the voice come down from heaven to tell us, “My little son, am I not here, your Mother?” She continues to call all of us, to bring her maternal love to all the men and women of the world, that they may know her as the Mother of Jesus our Savior and Mother of all of us human beings that believe in his Kingdom. The novena is an opportunity for us to offer her a grand celebration in our home, where the family lives, where one experiences the different situations of life, like joy, pain, hope and also the fear of what may come. But the Virgin calls us again; she looks for us to come closer to her because for her we are very valuable. The day of the 12 of December, we all come together to celebrate the day of our Mother, singing to her mañanitas, and with special food for this day. Happy Feast Day Mother of Heaven.

Posadas are celebrations with special prayers. The community is divided into two, half stay outside of the host home, which represents Mary and Joseph asking and begging for a place in the inn for the Son of God to be born. There is a traditional prayer that is sung, even in the cold of the night with candles, showing in this way, that the one who asks for hospitality brings light to the world. The other half is inside of the house, imitating the owners of the inn that does not have room and denies Joseph and Mary, about to give birth, not letting them in until later. Entering the house signifies giving hospitality to the Holy Family today. This entire story is reflected in the strangers that ask for an opportunity to work, but have yet to receive it. The Holy Family is an immigrant family, going through many trials, but just like the immigrants of the 21st century, not only is there not a place for them, but they are looked down upon for being foreigners. The posada that we celebrate will be a moment to pray and make ourselves aware of our openness to God and others. Like the song says, “it’s not enough to pray”. God is Action. All of us should say, “Come Lord Jesus, welcome to my home (my heart).” May this Christmas be one of Peace, love and justice in all the corners of the earth.

Christmas: is a very large celebration in the family. We bring the children to Church, if it wasn’t possible to bring them at midnight we bring them to participate in the Eucharist during the day on the 25th. We show them the different manger scenes in the parishes with allusions of Christmas. Each country in Latin America has their own typical food for Christmas, which is all in celebration of and to commemorate the Birth of the Child Jesus. In our particular case, we are men and women who have left behind their parents, spouses, and/or children in faraway lands. It is not nostalgia that brings us together, but rather the strength of the faith which helps us keep going with the help of the community and keep us from falling into loneliness. Also in the community we pray for all of the people who are suffering from loneliness, since this happens in all cultures around the world, for many different circumstances and reasons, but we are here to accompany the ones we can.

New Years in the Hispanic culture is to say goodbye to the Old Year and welcome the New Year with a family gathering. Here in many families there is a retelling of positive things like blessings that were received during the year or even mistakes that were made, promising that in the New Year, the things will change for the better with hard work and good will. Merry Christmas and much joy in the New Year 2011.



La imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con el arbol de la Navidad en nuestras casas nos inspira una oracion en accion de gracias por el nacimiento de nuestro Señor Jesus. Foto por Luis Aju

A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe placed with a Christmas tree in our homes inspires thankful prayer to Our Lady for giving birth to Our Lord, Jesus.

4 Celebrando la Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe en la Diócesis

Celebrations of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Throughout The Diocese



En esta ocasión, a la derecha, Luis Aju, comparte una reflexión con la comunidad de San Miguel de Sebree, el día 9 de Diciembre en la novena celebrada ese día. Foto tomada por Patti



A la izquierda Alma García; Baile típico Mexicano en celebración del aniversario de las apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe.



A la izquierda, Representación de Juan Diego extendiendo la imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

A la derecha, Representación de Juan Diego frente a la Virgen de Guadalupe, en la primera aparición en el monte del Tepeyac.



En la misma fecha la familia y la comunidad con la Coordinadora Parroquial Patricia Gutiérrez, al finalizar el rezo del Santo Rosario en la Novena para la Virgen de Guadalupe en aquella Parroquia.

A la derecha, Katia, Isaac, acompañando a sus padres Alma y Enrique Peña que están usando los trajes Mexicanos representativos de Jalisco.





Padre Carmelo quien ha dirigido el retiro, saluda y da la bienvenida a estas dos damas que parecen en la fotografía.



El Padre Carmelo, inicia la Misas con una pequeña actividad que nos hizo entrar en espíritu de la Misa.

OWENSBORO, Ky. - La comunidad Hispana de Santos José y Pablo, bajo la coordinación de Cristóbal G. y el P. Jane Rene, han organizado un retiro por motivo a Iniciarse el tiempo del Adviento

que la Liturgia de la Iglesia Católica ofrece a todos sus miembros a prepararse para la Conmemoración del Nacimiento de Jesús, el Hijo de Dios.



En medio de las charlas que se nos ofreció, tomamos unos minutos para descansar y alrededor de la mesa se encuentran los miembros de la comunidad que participaron en el retiro.



P. Carmelo, convive con los niños de la comunidad de Santos José y Pablo, durante el retiro que se desarrollo en el salón parroquial.



El P. José Carmelo en uno de sus exposiciones a la comunidad, se aprecia la atención de los presentes durante la platica del P. Carmelo.



Hermana Panchita, acompañada, de dos mujeres jóvenes de la misma Parroquia y en el mismo retiro. Felices compartiendo con ella algunos momentos.



El P. Carmelo, en plena Celebración de la Misa al finalizar el Retiro, que fue de mucho provecho para todos siendo el inicio del tiempo maravilloso del Adviento.

2 Un Año Nuevo es Siempre una Promesa Nueva

Al comenzar un año nuevo muchos de nosotros vemos al futuro intentando apartar ya algunas fechas para ya sea descansar, tiempo para reuniones, tiempo para retiros. Aquellos que quizás no planeen tan bien, podrían encontrarse con un Nuevo Año 2012 con muchas cosas importantes que quisieron haber hecho o logrado aún no terminadas.

Un niño nacido en el 2011 no se graduará del bachillerato antes del 2029; de la universidad en el 2033 o después. Ese niño no se retirará ni coleccionará del seguro social (si sobreviviese) hasta en el 2081. Dados nuestros avances en el cuidado de la salud un porcentaje de niños nacidos en el 2011 vivirán para ver el siglo XXII.

El tiempo sigue su curso. Y aunque estas palabras son un decir, todos sabemos que el tiempo no se detiene. Sin embargo, en cada momento y cada año, Dios se mantiene como ese punto inmóvil en nuestro mundo tan cambiante y en relación a nuestras vidas que evolucionan. La tecnología continua cambiando nuestras vidas pero todos estamos llamados a relacionarnos con un Dios que no cambia. Un Dios que siempre fue, es, y siempre será.

Antes de un nuevo día de Año Nuevo muchas de nuestras familias experimentarán esperanzas y sueños cumplidos. También pérdidas y desilusiones y combinaciones de todas estas. Pudieran llegar enfermedades, dificultades económicas podrían darse, pero también nacerán nuevos bebés y muchos se graduarán, parejas se casarán, y éxitos serán abundantes. Y la constante será que nuestro Dios estará presente en todas y cada una de estos momentos y ocasiones.

Este mes viajaré a Washington D.C junto con jóvenes y adultos de alrededor de la Diócesis para participar en el evento anual de la "Marcha por la Vida". Cada año cientos de miles de ciudadanos se reúnen en la capital de nuestro país para recordarles a nuestros legisladores y líderes electos de que existe una mancha enorme y grave en la conciencia de nuestra nación mientras el aborto se mantiene a la demanda y como ley del país. Aunque quizás usted no podrá viajar a Washington con nosotros a la marcha, puedes con tus oraciones y acción asegurarte de que las voces de personas de fe se hagan escuchar.

La Semana de Escuelas Católicas se observará desde el 30 de Enero hasta el 5 de Febrero. El tema de este año es: Escuelas Católicas: A+ para América. Haremos resaltar las grandes contribuciones que nuestras escuelas Católicas han dado para nuestra nación. Estaré visitando varias de nuestras escuelas Católicas durante este tiempo. En el transcurso del año visitaré y celebraré la Misa en cada una de nuestras dieciocho escuelas Católicas, como también los Ministerios Católicos en las Universidades de Brescia, Western Kentucky y Murray State. Estar con estas personas jóvenes me llena de



Monseñor William F. Medley

alegría. Llevar la buena nueva del evangelio de Jesucristo a ellos es un acto de fe que Dios seguirá llenando sus vidas y a través de su bondad y testimonio el Espíritu Santo seguirá renovando la faz de la tierra.

Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe en San Leo, Murray, KY

Sometido por John Krieb., Traducido por Julio Barrera.

Desde a mediados del mes de Julio de este año, los miembros de la parroquia de San Leo en Murray, Kentucky han estado celebrando la Misa en el salón parroquial dado a la renovación y expansión de la misma Iglesia. El padre Jason McClure quiso que durante este tiempo de Adviento, tiempo de preparación, se ofrecieran unas charlas de catequesis sobre la importancia de la aparición de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, ya que esta imagen será la única imagen mariana que estará en nuestra nueva parroquia. Muchos de los feligreses que no son hispanos no tienen un conocimiento y comprensión muy profunda sobre este misterio que sigue vigente hasta nuestros días. Así que nuestro seminarista Julio Barrera ofreció muchas oportunidades durante la novena a la Virgen en las cuales se dieron pláticas catequéticas para toda la comunidad de habla Inglesa y de habla Hispana. La novena inicio el 3 de diciembre con un rosario bilingüe, el cual se rezó en otras ocasiones durante la novena con diferentes intenciones cada día.

El Calendario del Monseñor Medley para el Enero 2011

2 – 6 de Enero	Retiro Anual para los Obispos
8 de Enero, 9am-12pm	Católicos @ el Capitolio: Región de Bowling Green, Iglesia Espíritu Santo
9 de Enero, 8am	Misa, Iglesia San Esteban, Cadiz
10-13 de Enero	Convocación de Sacerdotes, Lake Barkley
15 de Enero, 9am-12pm	Católicos @ el Capitolio: Región de Owensboro, Iglesia San Pio X
16 de Enero, 11:15am	Misa, Iglesia Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown
18 de Enero, 9am	Misa y Reunión del Personal Diocesano, Centro Pastoral Católico
11am	Reunión del Comité del Personal Sacerdotal
1:30pm	Reunión del Concejo de los Sacerdotes
19 de Enero, 8:30am	Reunión del Comité de Administración/Finanzas, Centro Pastoral Católico
20 de Enero, 8:00am	Misa Escolar, Escuela Secundaria de la Trinidad, Whitesville
22 de Enero, 9am-12pm	Católicos @ el Capitolio: Región de Paducah, Hospital de Lourdes
5pm	Misa, Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
23 de Enero, 5:30pm	Misa de Vigilia para la Vida, Basílica Nacional, Washington, DC
25 de Enero, 11am-4pm	Horas en la Oficina de Paducah, Hospital de Lourdes
26 de Enero, 9am	Confirmación, Iglesia, San José, Mayfield
31 de Enero, 9am	Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas, Santo Nombre, Henderson



El domingo 5 de diciembre, Julio presentó la película "Guadalupe" en la que se explica la historia de las apariciones de nuestra señora de Guadalupe. Al final de la película hubo una sesión de comentarios y de preguntas y respuestas por todo el grupo que asistió. El miércoles 8 de diciembre se presentó otra película "Mary/María" además hubo palomitas de maíz (poporopos o crispetas) y refrescos para todos los asistentes. El jueves 9 de diciembre fue el último día que se rezó el rosario antes de la fiesta de la virgen, este día se conmemora la fiesta de San Juan Diego. Julio nos presentó también, como parte de la novena, una "tilma", que sus

padres el Sr. Julio y la Sra. Sara le enviaron desde México. De esta forma, los feligreses tuvieron la oportunidad de tocar y ver el material similar del cual está hecha la tilma que usó Juan Diego y que la original está en la Basílica de Guadalupe en México, esta tilma está hecha de fibra de maguey. Después de presentar la tilma a la comunidad, se puso debajo de la imagen de san Juan Diego que tenemos en la parroquia. El viernes 10 de diciembre, Julio presentó un documental sobre la virgen llamado, Guadalupe: una imagen viva, tanto en Inglés como en Espa-

Continued on page 8

Oraciones de la Novenas Para Acercarnos a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe



La comunidad, ha rezado la Novena en la casa de habitación de la familia Gloria Matias el día 10 de Dic. En la Comunidad de Owensboro, ellos son miembros de la Comunidad Hispana de esta localidad, es una bendición que un Sacerdote Hispano, visite las familias y rece con ellos la Novena, en preparación a la Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

(fotos por Luis Aju)

Esa misma noche del 10, la Hna. Panchita, como la conocemos, también toma parte en estas celebraciones ya que lo ha hecho por varios años y siente mucho amor a la Virgen y la tradición Hispana.

Cristóbal Gutiérrez, al fondo, dirige la oración, tomando como guía, el rezo del Santo Rosario, Chris, es el Ministro Hispano de la Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo, por esa razón El, dirige las oraciones que se han recitado por varios años, guardando así en forma respetada la tradición de las oraciones, que se usan en las novenas.



En la casa de Adriana Velásquez y su familia el día 11 de Diciembre, se rezo la Novena, esta vez, el Rosario fue rezado por diferentes miembros de la comunidad. Un Misterio por cada uno, esto hace que la comunidad también tome su responsabilidad. Además el P. Jane Rene, compartió la Historia y lección de la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe y lo que signifioco en aquel tiempo y lo que significa hoy en día, reflexión que todos hemos gustado en escucharlo.



Turn to page 8, English section, for story.

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Defiende la Fe

FECHA DE LA DONACIÓN NACIONAL: FIN DE SEMANA
DEL 22 Y 23 DE ENERO, 2011

Contribuya a la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina en su parroquia

Guardar la Fe. Apoyar a la Iglesia en America Latina

Fecha de la donación nacional: Fin de semana del 22 y 23 de Enero, 2011

La Iglesia en América Latina enfrenta desafíos por varios factores que están alejando a los fieles: la falta de acceso a una formación en la fe, la presión para emigrar que surge por estar viviendo en una sociedad globalizada dando como resultado la desintegración de la familia y de la comunidad. La Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina financia proyectos pastorales tales como la evangelización en las áreas rurales, la formación en los seminarios y una catequesis para nutrir la fe en esa región. Por favor, defiende la fe con la Iglesia en América Latina brindando su apoyo a esta Colecta.