

A Community Takes Action: St. Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent DePaul Assists With Fire

Submitted by Tonya Murphy

On Friday, December 27, 2013 at 3:30 am, a call went out to every fire department in McLean County to try to put out an apartment fire in Calhoun. Then they called for a department in Daviess County to respond as well. My husband has been a volunteer fireman for over 25 years, and I knew this had to be something big. I got dressed and headed down there.

It was 32°F outside and the first thing I did was to acquire water for the firemen to drink. Then I set out to see where the families from the twelve apartments had dispersed. Someone had opened up the Baptist church across the street from the apartments and families were going inside to warm up a little and then head right back out to see what was happening with their homes. One or two had on shoes, quite a few were barefoot and some had on socks that were wet by now. Very few people had on coats,



St. Sebastian Parish Hall was set up as an emergency thrift store December 27, 2013. Parishioners sorting the bags, then others sorting the tables by gender and size. Photos Submitted by Tonya Murphy

most were just in pajamas. One young lady had on a tank top and shorts; she had just driven 15 minutes to get to her mother. I told her we needed to get her back home to get more clothes on before she caught pneumonia. She told me she didn't have enough gas or money to get back home and come back and that her-momma wouldn't leave. I was awestruck, I didn't have a dime on me and there really wasn't anyone around except the fire departments and they were very busy.

The Red Cross had been called and they showed up before 5:00 am. By this time I had found my new friend, Robert, from the church. We had gotten the community room opened up and helped the Red Cross unload water, coffee, biscuits and blankets. The cavalry had arrived, but God wasn't finished with me yet.

Continued on page 18



New toy donations that were sorted and ready to go to their new homes. Photo by Julie Hayden



Kaylee Murphy (on the back of the truck) unloads a pickup truck full of donations. Photo by Julie Hayden



The hallway at St Sebastian Parish Hall filled with donations. Photo by Julie Hayden

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Our Pope Francis' Words About The Joy of Knowing Jesus and Images Are Quickly Understandable



Most Reverend
William F. Medley,
Bishop
of Owensboro

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last November Pope Francis published a new work entitled *Evangelii Gaudium*, The Joy of the Gospel. Some have portrayed this work as an outline of his papacy unfolding now for almost a year. While Pope Francis is an esteemed

scholar, his writing style, as least in this document, is less formal, more conversational than traditional Papal documents of recent memory.

The joy to be found in the proclamation of the Gospel is his theme. Pope Francis has enjoyed an immense measure of good will and, more surprisingly, good media coverage since his election to be Bishop of Rome on March 13, 2013. One cannot say that his teaching to date has set him apart from his recent predecessors like John Paul II or Benedict XVI, but the world has been captivated by his style, his simplicity, and above all his insistence that love of the poor will mark us as followers of Jesus.

The Pope invites "all Christians everywhere at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them." He quotes Pope Paul VI: "No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." He reminds us that whenever we take a step toward Jesus we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Thus the gift of joy is connected to the endless mercy of God.

Francis quickly recounts familiar expressions of joy that Jesus Christ brought to the world. The Angel Gabriel announced to Mary, "Rejoice!" (Luke 1:28). Elizabeth's baby (John the Baptist) leapt for joy in his mother's womb when she met Mary who was bearing Christ. (Luke 1:41) Mary's proclamation: "My soul rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47) John the Baptist, encountering Jesus as an adult: "For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled." (John 3:29) And Jesus grounds his preaching in joy: "I have

said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11) "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy." (John 16:20) And we are reminded that the disciples rejoiced at the sight of the risen Christ. (John 20:20)

A much quoted line from the exhortation is Pope Francis' challenge: Christians should not walk around as if they are returning from a funeral, he writes. The conversational tone of the Pope's writing invites one to observe, "But sometimes we are returning from a funeral." I do not believe that Pope Francis is suggesting that there are not times when Christians will be sad. Sadness is a natural human emotion. One who never experiences sadness may well be emotionally fragile. How can one really understand and appreciate joy if he or she has not had to look for it at times?

But Jesus Christ and his "Good News" is a story of joy, joy that abides even in a moment of sadness and loss. This is because of a faith conviction that in Jesus Christ all things will be made new. So, another image of Francis may be more telling. He reminds us that a Christian should never come across as a sourpuss. Now that's an interesting word and image for a Papal exhortation. It is one that is understandable. We all know what the Pope is describing. There are people who cannot find joy, or refuse to recognize it. Something in their life has blinded them to God's mercy and goodness. Yes, we all experience people and experience ourselves as sad at times. There are thousands of life situations that make us sad. But a sad person need not be a sourpuss!

May God Bless You all.

William F. Medley

+Most Reverend
William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro

Black History Month Gospel Explosion

Blessed Sacrament Chapel Catholic Church, 602 Sycamore St, Owensboro, ky (270) 926-4741, will host its 19th annual Black History Month Gospel Explosion on Sunday, February 16, 2011 at 2:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join us with local gospel choirs for a celebration of the the highest form of praise. Refreshments will be served afterward. Please contact Veronica Wilhite, Parish Life Coordinator, 926-7809 for questions.

Get Moving at the Mount!

**Saturday
May 31
9 a.m.**




The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are hosting their first 5K Run/Walk on May 31! This 5K "Fun Run" is open to walkers, runners, children and adults and will take place on the grounds of Mount Saint Joseph and the surrounding roads. All proceeds from the event will support the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters. This scenic route is the perfect family outing, so mark your calendar to get moving at the Mount!

COST: \$20 per person if you sign up by May 1, 2014
\$25 after May 1st and on race day

Prizes will be given to the winners • Race T-shirts will be available • Rain will not cancel event unless there is lightning • Bib pickup will be available the week before the race at Brescia University. Watch our website for more details, including the race route!
www.ursulinesmsj.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Located 12 miles west of
Owensboro on Hwy. 56

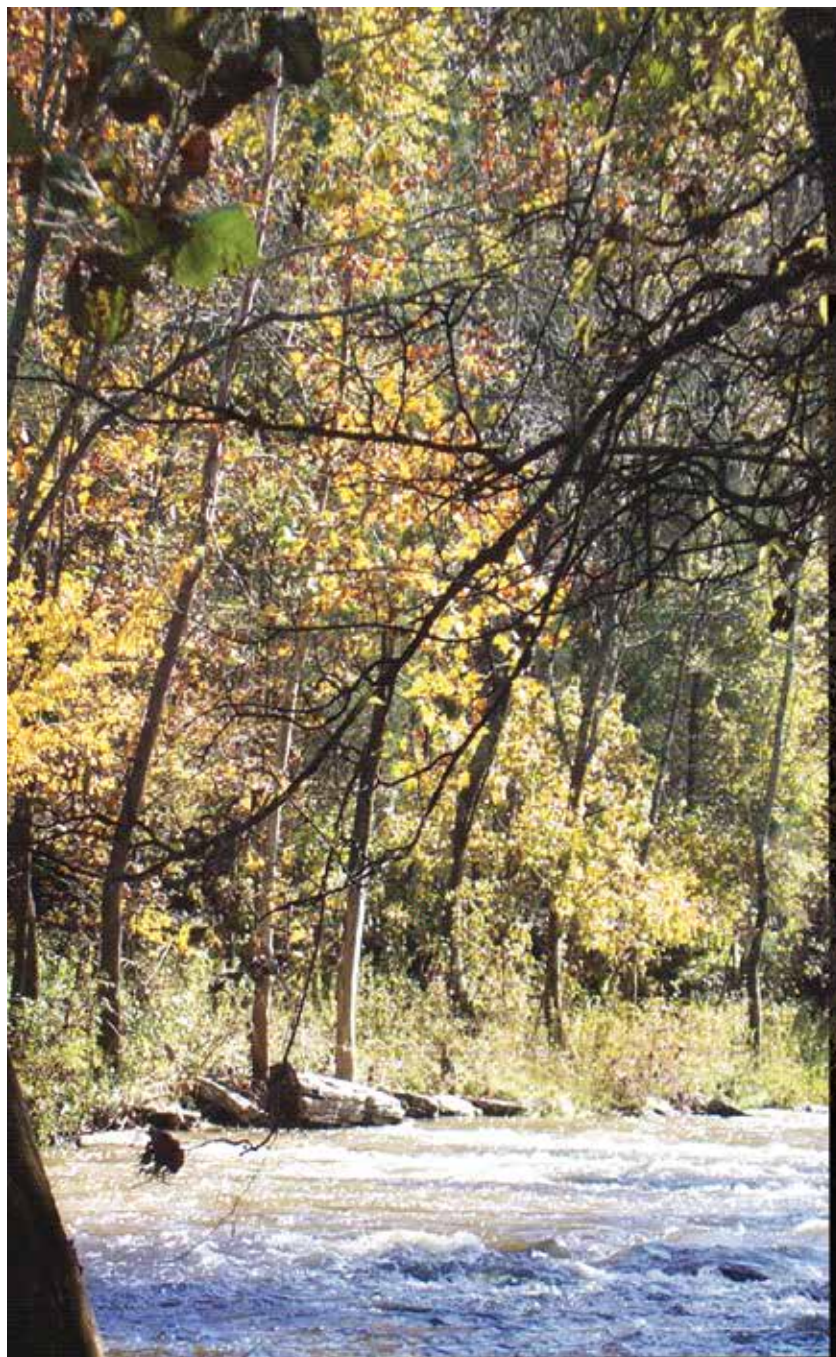
Register online:
www.ursulinesmsj.org
Contact April Ray:
270-229-4103 ext. 448 or
april.ray@maplemount.org

Bishop Medley's Calendar for February 2014:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| February 2 | 10:00 a.m. Confirmation, Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro |
| February 3-7 | Episcopal Ongoing Formation Workshop, Orlando, FL |
| February 8 | 5:00 p.m. Mass, Men's Catholic Conference, St. Stephen Cathedral |
| February 10 | 8-4 Catholic Pastoral Center Staff Day, MSJ Retreat Center |
| February 11 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg |
| February 12-14 | Symposium-Pastoral Issues in Science & Human Dignity,
Notre Dame, IN |
| February 15 | 10:00 a.m. Diocesan Black Catholic Gathering, Christ the King, Madisonville; |
| February 17 | 4:00 p.m. Confirmation, St. Joseph, Leitchfield
9:45 a.m. Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, CPC
1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting, CPC |
| February 18 | 8:00 a.m. School Mass, St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville |
| February 19 | 8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, CPC
6:00 p.m. Catholic Foundation of western KY Meeting, CPC |
| February 20 | 6:00 p.m. RCIA presentation, Parish of the Immaculate, Oboro |
| February 21 | 6:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Assembly 312 Vocation Meal,
Paducah |
| February 23 | 9:30 a.m. Confirmation, St. John the Evangelist, Paducah |
| February 24 | St. Meinrad Visit, Saint Meinrad, Indiana |
| February 25 | CCK meeting, Louisville, KY |
| February 26 | Province Meeting, Louisville, KY |
| February 27 | 10:00 a.m. Mass/Jubilee Celebration, Sr. Mary Dolores,
Passionist Monastery |
| February 28 | 2:00 p.m. Brescia University Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. Brescia University Board Meeting |

Diocese's Historic Capital Campaign Completed

February, 2014 3



THE DIOCESE of OWENSBORO

Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision.

December 31st, 2013 marked the end of the historic diocesan capital campaign "Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision". This campaign's goal was to raise \$9 million dollars over a 5-year period. It was an opportunity for all parishioners in the Diocese of Owensboro to unite behind a common goal. To date, \$5.2 million has been pledged with \$3.9 million collected. The proceeds from this campaign are to provide funding for the following ministries:

The Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center and Youth Camp near Bowling Green offers experiences that help deepen the faith and strengthen the Catholic identity of our young men and women. This camp engages young people by combining faith, friends, fun, and team-building in ways that enable them to grow and celebrate their faith surrounded by God's natural wonders. Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision will subsidize the camp, and fund renovations and operational expenses. \$374,935.33 pledged and committed. (Work will begin on dining hall renovations and construction of a new lodge in 2014)

Each and every one of our diocesan priests relies upon the Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund for his health care and for support upon his retirement or illness. Fully vesting the Charitable Trust Fund is our responsibility and is also another way to thank these laborers for their commitment to Christ's Church. \$325,740.34 pledged and committed

Saint Stephen Cathedral is the

"home of the bishop's chair (cathedra)" and the center of our diocesan liturgical life. Cathedral restoration and renewal ensures that Saint Stephen Cathedral continues to fulfill its role of the diocesan Church as a place of worship renowned for its spirit of prayer and beauty. All Catholics of this diocese may have a sense of ownership and pride realizing that Saint Stephen is truly their Cathedral. The Dedication of the Cathedral took place on November 18, 2012. \$538,182.38 pledged and committed

Quality Catholic education for our children and youth is core to the mission of the diocese. Catholic schools and parish religious education programs provide a foundation of faith. To guarantee the future of vital education ministries, a diocesan education endowment will be established to provide ongoing support for Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. \$248,206.48 pledged and committed

Of the 5.2 million dollars pledged, \$3,776,697 was not designated. These dollars will be divided among the above four ministries.

Thank you to all of those parishes and individuals that made this campaign a success. "The lives that will be touched by the success of this campaign are many; this campaign really did provide a space for all of us to take ownership of our church of western Kentucky"

Donations will be still be accepted by the stewardship and development office, but formal mailings of statements and reminder notices ceased as of December 31, 2013.



Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision Diocesan Capital Campaign Report December 31, 2013

Goal	\$9,000,000
Pledged	\$5,263,762.08
Paid	\$3,963,360.44
Number of Donors	1,875

Pledge Designations and Payments

DESIGNATION	PLEDGED	PAID
Diocesan Education Endowment Fund	\$248,206.48	\$226,348.29
Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center and Youth Camp	\$374,935.33	\$347,765.95
Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund	\$325,740.34	\$302,079.45
Saint Stephen Cathedral Restoration and Renewal	\$538,182.38	\$57,873.50
No Designation	\$3,776,697.55	\$3,029,293.25
Total	\$5,263,762.08	\$3,963,360.44

Why Send Your Kids to Church Camp?

By Ben Warrell, Director, Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center

It's that time of year again to start thinking about the summer. Vacations, trips, projects around the house, and CAMP! Each of our six summers at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp has seen substantial growth in the number of campers from one summer to the next! This summer, with our new lodge and dining hall, we expect even more growth! Maybe you've never considered sending your child to camp or just taking the chance to come and see what happens! Here are several reasons to think about coming to camp at Gasper River this summer.

The first is Controlled Independence. Camp is a safe, welcoming place for you or your child to grow into the men and women God created them to be. All staff and volunteers are Safe Environment trained and have undergone background checks. In addition, all staff and volunteers go through our thorough training of what's expected of them and their roles at camp. Young people are able to discover their gifts and talents, what God has blessed them with, in this unique setting. They grow in self confidence and self esteem being on their own and doing the challenging activities for their week of camp! We receive tons of messages from parents at the end of each week of camp about how they can see the difference in their children from one week!

The next thing to consider is Positive Role Models! In our world, it seems like this is something that doesn't exist anymore, but that is far from the truth. Each summer, we are blessed with



many outstanding young men and women who work tirelessly serving God and His Church and the campers at Gasper. These young men and women give freely of themselves to help the campers grow in all areas of their lives. It is so inspiring to see young, faith filled people joyfully serving God in such a beautiful way. In fact, several campers have asked our staff to be their sponsors for Confirmation!

Another excellent, and the most important, reason to come to camp is Faith Experiences like none other! At Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp, we celebrate



mass daily. For the Quest Camp and Camp L.I.F.E. we have Confession. We also have Adoration, which for so many in our six summers of camp, has been a life changing experience! Just this past Christmas/New Year's Camp, we had several campers tell us they felt God's presence for the first time in their lives! All activities focus back to the Catholic Faith and its teachings, along with our faith explorations each day and our Wonder & Awe time-when we discuss miracles to see how God has worked in the lives of the Saints and the Church! Each summer we are told by campers that "this is the first time I've been to Confession in years and it was wonderful!" or "mass will never be the same for me again!" "I didn't know that about our faith!" And the past couple of summers, we've had parents contact us about how much their children have shared with them about our Faith from their experiences at camp! It can be life changing for the entire family!

Lastly, it's Fun! Where else can you go to experience rappelling, zip lin-

ing, mass, rosary walk, team building, giant swings, confession, and teaching of the faith all in one day? Campers tell us over and over, I never had so much fun in my life or I never knew my faith could be so much fun! There is great joy in living in a community surround by new friends, focused on Jesus Christ and His Church and the Sacraments and growing in all areas of your development! We often think nothing of plunking down hundreds of dollars for soccer camp, gymnastics camp, band camp, or (fill in the blank with any other activity) camp. What would happen if we put as much effort (and financial backing) toward our children's spiritual development? What if we gave them every opportunity to stretch their spiritual muscles in a safe and loving environment like camp? Each winter it grows more and more, the number of family's asking about our summer schedule so they can schedule vacations or trips around sending their kids to camp! That is a humbling and awesome experience for us as staff! Imagine what might happen when, years down the road, they look back on their camp experience and say, "I know the Catholic faith is my home. I know God is real, because I experienced Him at camp."

Please contact our office at (270) 781-2466 if you need more information about camp or if you would like us to come speak to your parish or youth group about Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp. Come out and see us and see our new buildings and activities, come ask any questions that you'd like about the camp program, but come! Come and experience your faith like never before and be changed in all these ways! We can't wait to see you this summer!



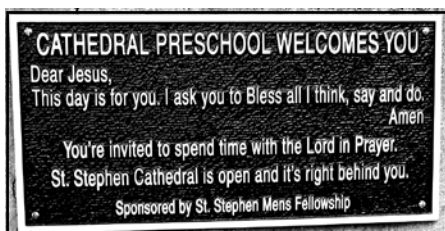
Cathedral Preschool A Loving Learning Center

Where Each Child Is A Special Gift

February, 2014 5

**National Catholic Schools
Week 2014**

**January 26 - February 1
Catholic Schools:
Communities of Faith,
Knowledge, and Service**



As you walk through the doors at Cathedral Preschool and hear the sounds of children's laughter mixed with voices of the teachers explaining the events of the day, you just know you have entered a special place. Christ is the heart of our preschool and we proudly begin each day with a prayer asking Him "to bless all we think, say, and do". He is ever present in each classroom with every activity the little hands create.

We've been around since 1986 and have served many families in the Owensboro area. Being a ministry of St. Stephen Cathedral, we are conveniently located in the Catholic Pastoral Center at 600 Locust Street. Cathedral Preschool is obviously a Catholic institution but there are families of other faiths that choose to send their children to us and a large percentage of the students continue on to the K-3 campus.

Children are our top priority and the staff takes their job very seriously. They are always looking for ways to im-

prove in the classroom consequently they each complete 15 hours of early childhood education annually. We love what we do and we love showing families the wonderful learning and nurturing environment that we have established.

The class sizes are small with a low ratio between teachers and students plus we offer a variety of choices as to the number of days the children can attend

each week. So, we have something that appeals to everyone.

Research shows the importance of early childhood education in preparation for kindergarten. Our objectives are all about encouraging each student to be the best they can be therefore helping them to excel.

There are a couple of features that were recently added to our program that set us apart; those being the extended hours for the 5-year olds and the "Minds-in-Motion" maze.

The maze is a sensory regimen that consists of 15 stations designed to improve a child's visual and auditory processing combined with balance and control of their bodies resulting in more efficient learning. The results are remarkable!

The Pre-K program for the 5-year old was started for a child that is old enough for kindergarten but they are not quite ready for the rigors of an all-day class.

This class has an extended day which is from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and meets Monday through Thursday. The goal is to get the child acquainted with coming to school on a daily basis and gain a love for school which will carry forward with them for years to come. We want to challenge each child to reach their fullest potential both academically and socially.

We are gearing up for registration which begins in February for the 2014-2015 school year. It is not too early to have your name placed on our mailing list to receive a registration packet. That can be done by calling the office at (270)926-1652 or by sending us an email at pam.weafer@pastoral.org.

Come see for yourself what has us so excited about Cathedral Preschool. We are a loving learning center where each child is a special gift. Our days are filled with "please and thank-you's", and plenty of smiles and hugs. What could be better than that?



A distinct honor *Surprise School Service Honors Young Hopkinsville Runner*

By Melissa Larimore

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Dec. 17, 2013 - The scene was somewhat normal for a Tuesday morning Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Children lined the pews, while the Rev. Richard Meredith led the service with help from the Rev. Julio Barrera and three altar servers.

In addition to wearing uniforms, many of the students donned party hats that read: Happy birthday Jesus!

But Jesus wasn't the only person being celebrated during the Mass.

The cross-bearing altar server and cross country running Tomás Weatherwax Duncan was surprised with a presentation for his first-place finish in the 11-year-old division of the Cross Country National Youth Championship on Nov. 23 in Louisville. He ran a 3K in 10:07.

Tomás, still dressed in the red and white robes, joined his parents, Thomas and Theresa Duncan, his younger brother, Tobiás, and his older sister, Táelor, in the front pew of the church.

The congregation — sans Tomás — stood in ovation as Principal Sarah Kranz announced Tomás' achievement.

Kranz read aloud letters from William F. Medley, the bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, and Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear. State Rep. John Tilley, D-Hopkinsville, sent his regards of recognition. Medley commended Tomás on his "hard work and dedication" and encouraged him to "give God the glory."

Jim Mattingly, superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro schools, and Ann Flaherty, an assistant superintendent, were also in the crowd.

Mattingly coached cross country in the 1980s and '90s and said, in the future, he hopes to watch Tomás run. Tomás has won 40 of about 50 races he's competed in.

Carter Hendricks, president of the Christian County Chamber of Commerce, remembered seeing Tomás run in the Turkey Trot in Hopkinsville on Thanksgiving Day. Hendricks joked that Tomás was just a streak that day and finished the race well before Hendricks crossed the finish line. He was a track sprinter in college.

Hendricks said Tomás has been "bless-



U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield (left), R-Ky., congratulates Saints Peter and Paul student Tomás Duncan on the 11-year-old's first-place finish in a national cross country tournament. Whitfield attended a surprise celebration service December 17, 2013 at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Photo submitted by Melissa Larimore | Kentucky New Era



Tomás and his family with Fr. Richard Meredith at right; from left, Thomas Duncan, Táelor Duncan, Tomás Duncan, Tobiás Duncan, and Teresa Duncan. Photo submitted by Sarah Kranz

ed" with speed, and he encouraged the champion to take that blessing and use it for good.

U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., as the keynote speaker, iterated the importance of the "God-given talent."

"God expects us to use it," Whitfield said. He presented Tomás with an American flag, which was flown above the U.S. Capitol in Tomás' honor.

Rep. Myron Dossett, R-Pembroke, and Don Ahart, representing Mayor Dan Kemp and Judge-Executive Steve Tribble, honored Tomás with words and certificates from their institutions.

Tomás' skill is a family trait. His father, a chief warrant officer three in the U.S. Army, plays an active role in his training, his mother is the school's coach and his brother nabbed second place in the 7-year-old division.

Other school runners placed in competition. Walter Kunnmann won 10th place in the 9-year-old division, and Muki Kunnmann snagged 23rd in the 12-year-old division.

The Duncans' and Kunnmanns' names will be displayed in the school gymnasium. The banners were revealed during the Dec. 17, 2013 presentation. Saints Peter and Paul School has also been named a National Beta School of Distinction, and a banner with that achievement will also hang in the gym.

The runners' placement at nationals "is a testimony to our students," Kranz said.

She told Tomás, "We're so very proud of you."

Melissa Larimore is the Hopkinsville, Ky. New Era features editor. Contact Melissa Larimore at 270-887-3226 or mlarimore@kentuckynewera.com.

Continued on page 7



From left, Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools Jim Mattingly, Myron Dossett, Thomas Duncan, Tomás Duncan, Teresa Duncan, Ed Whitfield, Carter Hendricks, and Don Ahart. Photo by Ann Flaherty



The elementary boys' cross country team from SPPS were state champions at the Kentucky Christian Cross Country State Meet held in Glasgow, KY, in November. Pictured are (front row) Ryan Luckey, Walter Kunnmann, Tobiás Duncan, and Ben Bennett. In the second row are Ryan Carlton, Lucas Shouse, Tomás Duncan, Nic Luckey, and Nathan Brianas.

Cross country running is the most naturalistic form of long-distance running in athletics as competitions take place on open-air courses over surfaces such as grass, woodland trails, and earth. In contrast to the relatively flat courses in track and road races, cross country usually incorporates obstacles such as muddy sections, logs and mounds of earth. As a result of these factors, weather can play an integral role in the racing conditions. Cross country is both an individual and team sport, as runners are judged on an individual basis and a points scoring method is used for teams. Competitions are typically races of 4 km (2.5 mi) or more which are usually held in autumn and winter. Cross country's most successful athletes often compete in long-distance track and road events as well.

Long-distance running, or endurance running, is largely aerobic in nature and requires stamina. The Old Testament has a few mentions of messengers running to deliver messages. For example, in 2 Samuel 18, two runners, Ahimaaz, son of Zadok and a Cushite run to deliver King David the message of the death of his son Absalom. In Jeremia 51:31-32, two running messengers meet each other halfway to deliver the message about the loss of Babylon.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-distance_running



Nationals: Four students qualified to compete at national competition held in Louisville. Pictured from left to right are Walter Kunnmann (10th place), Tomás Duncan (1st place), Muki Kunnmann (23rd), and Tobiás Duncan (2nd Place).

In the picture at right, Molly Bennett and Tomás Duncan were both state champions (boys and girls division) at the Kentucky Christian Cross Country State Meet held in Glasgow, KY, in November, 2013. Photos submitted by Sarah Kranz



In the picture at left, National Winner Cross Country runner for Saints Peter and Paul School Tomás Duncan. Photo Courtesy of Sarah Kranz, principal Sts Peter and Paul Catholic School.

Below, The Sts Peter and Paul Cross Country team cheering with their coaches. Photo courtesy of <http://stspsschool.org/wordpress/>



Paducah Churches Answer Need for Warming Center Downtown

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of my family, you did it to me."

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - There has been a rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years. A complex set of circumstances have required people to choose between food, shelter and other basic needs. There is a decrease in available low-income housing, eroding employment opportunities, especially with benefits, the recent increase in home foreclosures, unexpected financial and health crises and under employment that leave poor people at risk for homelessness. Once homeless, it is extremely difficult to reverse that situation.

The need for a Warming Center in downtown Paducah has been in the planning stages for several months. The Salvation Army, Paducah Cooperative Ministries, the City of Paducah and the Paducah United Way came together to facilitate the opening of the first city-led Warming Center in the downtown area of Paducah. Four Paducah Area Churches joined together to open the Warming Center during the months of December, January, February and March for individuals in need when weather conditions create undue hardship on families and individuals without access to heat. Five churches

St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer 2013

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - St. Vincent de Paul thrift store recently held its annual Christmas Dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall here. This is also the time that the awards are presented. Melba Johnson is the recipient of the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award. She has been a faithful volunteer at the store for almost 5 years. During that time she has sorted and hung donated clothes, worked at the desk as the cashier with a sometimes difficult cash register for 2 days each week. "She is very faithful and cheerfully does anything and everything that she is asked to do," Director Vicky Elliott commented. When the need for hiring someone to clean the store at the end of each week, Melba asked to be given the job and she also continues to volunteer 2 days each week. The volunteers come in to a clean and tidy store at the beginning of each week and after a busy week that leaves the store once again messy, Melba comes



were approved by the Fire Marshall to be suitable and the months of December through March were the months that the Center would be open. The Warming Center would be open any evening in those four months when the temperature is forecasted to be 32 degrees or below. Grace Episcopal Church was the host for December; Washington Street Baptist Church kept the Center open for January; The Broadway Methodist Church for February; and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church will open the Center in March.

During the month of December, the Warming Center in the parish hall at Grace Episcopal Church was open from 6 pm until 8 am. 15 cots on loan from the Red Cross and Grace provided the blankets, sheets and pillows, wash cloths

in when the store is closed and somehow manages to get it clean and tidy for the next week.



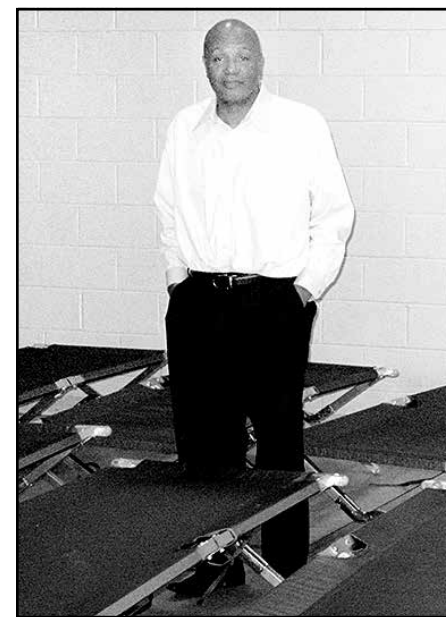
SVPD Director Vicky Elliott, right, posed with Melba Johnson, left, is Paducah St. Vincent de Paul's Volunteer of the Year 2013. Edie Keeney Photo

Pastor Ray Henderson of the Washington Street Baptist Church stands with cots ready for homeless people to spend a night in a warm shelter out of the sub-zero cold in January, 2014. Edie Keeney Photos

and toiletries that will be passed on in January, February and March. Food for evening meals and breakfasts was provided. Coffee, microwave meals, canned soup, crackers, popcorn, energy bars, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, milk cookies were available for the individuals and they could use the microwave. The guests normally prepared their own meals and cleaned up. 58 volunteers covered 3 shifts. Flyers with information about the Center were posted at the Paducah Library, the Community Kitchen, Paducah Cooperative Ministry, 4 Rivers Center, The United Way and places where homeless people might see the flyers.

Coordinator, Jim Wade, from Grace, obtained the cots, bedding, food and various supplies; recruited, trained and scheduled the volunteers and handled any other need that arose. Any one who came to the Center was admitted, if they did not jeopardize the safety or comfort of the volunteers and other guests. IDs were checked and new guests were cleared through the police department. From December 5 through January 2, the Center sheltered individuals 25 nights. The guests were 11 men and 2 women with the largest number at 5 on January 2nd. The most frequent guest stayed 12 nights. Most of the individuals moved on after one or two nights. Over the Christmas and New Year holidays, Grace put up 2 people for 2 times and 1 person another time in a local hotel because all places they usually went to keep warm were closed. Jim Wade commented, "This has been an exceptional experience for me being with these people. Grace has been discussing how our church could fulfill our mission to reach out to the needy. Matthew 25, The judgment of the Nations, states it very clearly. We have a mission to help the needy."

Warming Centers are typically open only for overnight use to provide a warm and safe place for individuals who would otherwise be sleeping outside. The Warming Center was open 24 hours a day from Thursday 12-5 through Sunday 12-8 because of the severe weather that closed other places in which the homeless seek



shelter during the day. In Paducah many of these individuals will go to the public library during the day; at noon they go to the Community Kitchen that is in walking distance from downtown Paducah, where free hot meals are offered Monday through Friday, and then they return to the library. Saturday meals are served at the Family Kitchen with food provided by several other Methodist Churches. The Broadway Methodist serves a meal on Sundays.

The 15 cots and the sheet, blankets etc were taken to the Washington Street Baptist Church where the Warming Center opened when the weather was freezing during the month of January. Pastor Ray Henderson considers the outreach to homeless individuals a great ministry opportunity to be able to come together to provide food and shelter to the homeless that live or are passing through Paducah. "Whenever there has been a need in this community there have been people who are right there to fill that need." A total of 7 men stayed at the Center through January 8. Three young men stayed at the Center every night that it was open and one young man came every morning at 6 to waken the men. Ladies in the Church washed all the bed linens, towels and wash cloths each day and prepared a hot meal for the men each evening. They had access to showers, restrooms, snacks, TV and a microwave. The Church checks the weather reports daily and will prepare to open the Center when it is needed.

St. Stephen Cathedral Is Beginning A New Ministry Called Stephen Ministry

February, 2014 9

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Acts Chapter 6 tells us how the early church grew to the point where people's needs were being neglected. So the apostles commissioned seven laypeople to care for God's people with Stephen being the first of the seven and, in a sense the first Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministries was founded in 1975 and is a non-denominational Christian organization with over 11,000 congregations currently enrolled internationally. There are 85 congregations within the state of Kentucky who have this ministry. As the Cathedral Parish, we hope to be a witness to other parishes in our diocese on how this Stephen Ministry program can extend the warmth and care of the Church to its parishioners.

Donna Murphy, Joan Perry and Bill Kelley attended the Stephen Ministries Leadership Training Conference last summer and are preparing to train ten members of the Parish to be Stephen Ministers early in 2014. Once the parish became a member of the Stephen Ministries organization, it is a member for the life of the parish and has the advantage of using all of the resources of the organization. The leadership training is intense but the knowledge and benefits are invaluable to the parish.

Our Stephen Ministers will provide high-quality care and outreach to hurting adults in the congregation. The Ministers will go through 50 hours of initial training, with another 7 hours being for the purpose of continuing education to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. Each Minister will be matched with a hurting person—men are paired with men, women with women and will meet weekly with that person to listen, care, pray and encourage. The Ministers will care for those dealing with a struggle in life such as the birth of a child, living away from home, grief, divorce, job-loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence and many other life difficulties.

We, at St. Stephens, are excited about this



Ministry and are looking forward to providing assistance to those in need within the our parish.

The intent of the Ministry is not to fix the problem but merely focus on the process of caregiving and rely on God to achieve results. The pastor and assistants within the parish will be the ones referring the "care receivers" to the ministers or the person may contact the ministry itself.

We wanted our parish to be fully informed of this ministry and so we have taken our time in publicizing the Stephen Ministry program, seeking out care-givers and making sure they have been trained in the Diocese of Owensboro Vulnerable Adult Ministry. Following all of the training our ten men and women will be commissioned in a ceremony after which the new Stephen Ministers will begin their caring services.

We pray that these caring services will become an extension of Christ's love to our parishioners.

At right, Donna Murphy and Joan Perry at Stephen Ministry Leadership workshop in Dallas TX and the group picture above shows all of the Catholics attending that workshop. Stephen Ministry photo



St. Paul School Welcomes Visitors from the Community

GRAYSON COUNTY, Ky. - This year St. Paul School has begun a Community Visitors Program. Once a month, the school invites someone from the community to speak to the students about his or her chosen profession. In doing this, the students see that what they learn in elementary and middle school is beneficial in whatever career path they choose. By presenting a variety of speakers in different fields, it helps to give the students a better understanding of the many career paths they could follow.

So far the students have learned more about professions in nursing, military, and religious life.

Pictured at left, Derrick, a nurse, answers questions from students about misconceptions people have about his profession. Deacon Bill Grant visited with the Kindergarten and first grade class. He has spoken to the students about the need for men and women entering religious orders, and how his job differs from that of a priest.



In the photo at center, On Veteran's Day, the school invited military veterans, Paul Ward and Ron Johnson to speak about their military service. Both, Ward and Johnson, spoke to students about the importance of our military members who defend our freedoms. They each brought in items for the students to view and discuss. Students presented certificates of appreciation to Ward and Johnson in honor of their years of dedicated service.

There are plans in the coming months to invite more people from varying careers to the school. Some of the professions represented will be a veterinarian, first responder, fire fighter, truck driver, and police officer.

Holy Name Parish Hosts Re-enactment of Story of Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Kamille Stich

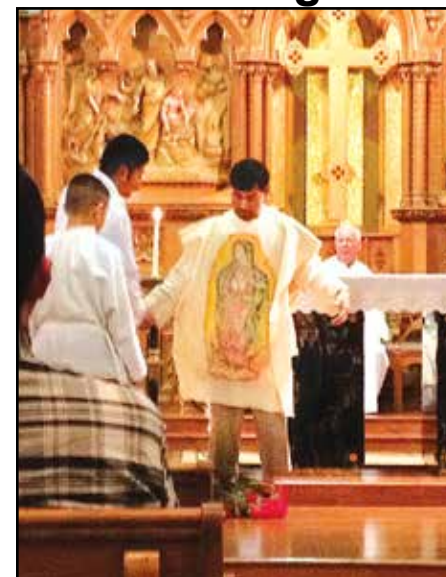
HENDERSON, Ky. - On December 12, 2013, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Hispanic community invited all members of Holy Name Church in Henderson to a beautiful Mass concelebrated by Father Tony Shonis and Father Larry McBride, followed by a fiesta in the school cafeteria. Hundreds were in attendance for this very special occasion that included a re-enactment of the story of Juan Diego, portrayed by Deacon Jamie Tiu, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, played by recent HNS graduate, Fernanda Gomez (pictured).

The Aztec roots of the indigenous people of the time were represented by ladies of the Hispanic community who processed in garments of red and gold and head pieces that included feathers. A beautiful altar was also constructed in the school cafeteria for the fiesta that included wonderful homemade dishes, as well as more dancing from various regions, and raffle drawings for beautiful ceramic images of Our Lady of Guadalupe that were shipped from Guadalajara and hand-painted by this community. It was very apparent that many loving hands worked very hard to make this event so wonderful for so many who attended.



A re-enactment of the story of Juan Diego, portrayed by Deacon Jamie Tiu, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, played by recent HNS graduate, Fernanda Gomez. Photo by Kamille Stich

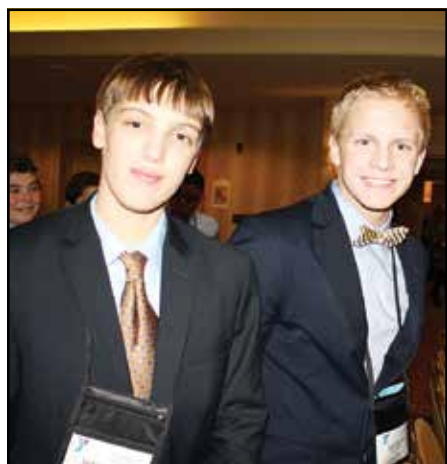
At right, Juan Diego, portrayed by Deacon Jamie Tiu, opens the saint's tilma shows the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



HNS Students Attend KYA

Submitted by Kamille Stich

HENDERSON, Ky. - Holy Name School 7th and 8th grade students attended the Kentucky Youth Assembly on December 12-14 in Louisville. Students spent weeks preparing for the conference under the direction of teacher Christina Shires by formulating, researching, writing, and learning to defend the passage of proposed bills to their peers. Holy Name 8th grader, Tyler Durham, campaigned for governor and learned valuable writing and public speaking skills in the process. The Holy Name group earned the "Outstanding Delegation" award and passed two bills into law. The "Outstanding Delegation" designation is based on the highest quality of participation, student preparedness, and behavior. Seventh grader, Jonathan Hauke, was awarded "Outstanding Delegate." HNS teachers Tom Tweddell, Kevin Steele, and Holly Farina assisted Mrs. Shires with leading the group through all of the KYA activities, including a bus trip to the state capitol.



L to R: Governor candidate, Tyler Durham (8th grader), and his campaign manager, Jackson Deep (7th grader) on the campaign trail.



7th graders, Andrew Moats, Hayden Krampe, and Jonathan Hauke are dressed to attend the KYA events.



L to R: 8th graders, Erin Williams, Morgan Thompson, Kaylee Alvey, and Riley Franks claimed seats in the State Capitol Building. Kamille Stich Photos



Little Joceline Arroya, in her native attire, stands before the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that was constructed in the Holy Name School cafeteria. Kamille Stich Photo

Beautiful Music at Holy Name School ...

“a school with soul”

By Kamille Stich

HENDERSON, Ky. - Holy Name School music teacher, Janet Barkley, is a very busy elf at Christmastime. Mrs. Barkley, along with PK teacher, Donna Jo Bugg, and HNS grandparent, Anne Klaffer, prepare the children's choir for special performances during this time.

On December 14, the choir sang at the Henderson Fine Arts Center as part of a Holiday Pops concert by the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra to benefit Henderson Habitat for Humanity. In addition, Holy Name 5th and 6th graders presented Habitat with a check for \$1,139.37 from their fundraising efforts.

On December 19, HNS first graders entertained the Holy Name senior group in the parish hall with four songs of the season.

On December 20, Mrs. Barkley also directed the school-wide Christmas program with special guest, Bishop William Medley, in attendance. St. John Bosco said, “A school without music is a school without soul . . .” Holy Name School enjoyed beautiful music and a soulful Christmas thanks to Mrs. Barkley, Mrs. Bugg, and Mrs. Klaffer.



Mrs. Kim's Kindergartners portrayed snowflakes in the HNS Christmas program. Photos by Kamille Stich



7th graders Eduardo Zeron and Carlee Crafton dance the Christmas Charleston



Bishop Medley thanks HNS principal, Mary Caton, for his Christmas gift

In the picture at right, 8th graders Caleb Sellers and Mikayla Watkins perform a beautiful Christmas waltz. Photos by Kamille Stich

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2014

FEBRUARY

- 7 Lourdes Youth
- 8-9 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 10 CPC Staff Retreat
- 13 Study of the Catechism**
- 15 St. Michael's/Sebree Planning Committee
- 21-22 Western Catholic Student Coalition Retreat
- 21-23 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 23-26 Sisters' Quilting Friends

MARCH

- 7-9 Yarn Spinners Weekend**
- 7-8 ICSC Youth Confirmation
- 13 Study of the Catechism**
- 14-15 Chapel Hill Women's Retreat
- 21-23 Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons (Saint Thérèse of Lisieux)**
- 26 Lenten Day of Prayer**

To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

- 28-30 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 29 Junior Festival Winners

APRIL

- 3 Study of the Catechism**
- 5-6 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 7-11 Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 3)**
- 11 Glory Conference Women's Retreat
- 12 Sts. Joseph & Paul RCIA
- 25-27 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 29-1 North American Ursuline Leadership Conference

MAY

- 1-4 Christian Women's Retreat
- 3 Private Wedding Reception
- 8 Study of the Catechism**
- 9-11 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 10 Yarn Spinning Day**
- 17-18 MSJ Academy Reunion
- 31 5K Run/Walk at MSJ



www.ursulinesmsj.org

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

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Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center



Safety First

Mary Carrico Catholic School student Lane Ballard on right practices securing a deer stand safety harness under the direction of Kentucky Dept of Wildlife employee Bill Fannin during a hunting and gun safety program at the school. Submitted Photo



On Jan. 9, 2014, members of the Diocesan Marian Shrine Committee met at The Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro to prepare a mailing to 2,600 youth and adults to recruit the youth for the Core Team of Youth 2000 and to ask adults for their support. In three hours that morning this group of about 12 people affixed mailing labels to envelopes, folded and stuffed letters into envelopes, taped the mailing piece together, and got them in order for delivery to the post office. Many hands make light work, they say, and this group of volunteers went about their jobs efficiently. And they had some good munchies on a table in the back. "You can't have a good meeting without good snacks," a parish secretary once told this WKC editor (actually, she said "junk food." Why do they do this work? Good food, good friends, a good cause, a good work space, and an understanding that volunteering one's time, talent, or treasure for the good of the Church has its own rewards in the next life in heaven - it's all good. From left front are Deacon Bill Bach, Rose Clark, Anne J. Jones, Lisa Bivins, Debbie Stiff, Joy Bach, Kathy Dixon, Lisa ENglert, Barbara Coomes, and Al Clark. Photo by Mel Howard

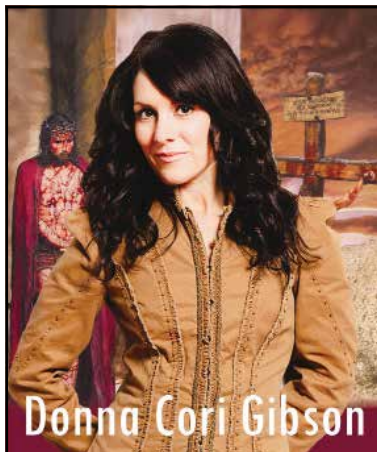
Donna Cori Gibson in concert

- *The Way of the Cross-*
a song for each station

Take up your cross and follow Jesus with a moving concert presentation of the Stations of the Cross to include video by Donna on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

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Lego Robotics Tournament Requires Hard Work And Teamwork

February, 2014 13

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - The Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School students had a great time at a recent December, 2013 Lego Robotics tournament in Paducah. The two teams, the Saints and the Swords, learned a great deal about hard work and teamwork. Here are some pictures from our recent Lego Robotics competition.



Two members of the Saints' Lego Robotics Team watch as the team works with their robot. Pictured are Joey Chaudoin and Tristan Folz.



The Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School Robotics team, "Swords," won the "Overcoming All Odds" trophy. Front row: Matthew Ramos; Middle row: Shane Ethridge, Ben Adcock, Muki Kunnmann; Last row: Camryn Barefield, Savannah Barron, Laura Holmes and Alma Valdez. Photos Submitted by Sarah Kranz

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- Dec. 11

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The owner was moved to tears from the unexpected gift of exterior home Christmas decoration from the Sisters of Service.



Bill Dannemueller of St. Thomas More paints the trim over the front door.



Mike Wurth of St. Thomas More parish finishes trim painting in the kitchen.



At right, Donnie Neihoff of St. John parish paints the bedroom trim.

At left, Rick Schipp of St. Thomas More and Steve Batusic of St. Francis ready trim in the hallway.



The Sisters of Service decorating the exterior of the Habitat House for Christmas.

In their group picture above are members of the Sisters of Service (L to R) Emily Hodges, Olivia Romero, Kimberly Bosh, Shannon Wilkins, Emily Veatch, Ashley Rich, Karina Romero, and Brianna Thompson decorated the exterior of the Habitat for Humanity House for Christmas.

In the picture at right is Emily Hodges, member of the Sisters of Service applies ribbon to the front porch post of the Habitat House. Photos submitted by Missy Eckenberg



The Paducah Catholic Community Habitat Home Build Continues to Inspires Service

By Missy Eckenberg

PADUCAH, Ky. - From the exterior of the Habitat House being built on Monroe Street by the Catholic Community of Paducah you would think the work is finished. But a look inside the house reveals the final touches being completed at the home that honors the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Owensboro. This project sponsored by the parishes of St. Francis de Sales, St. John the Evangelist, Rosary Chapel, St. Thomas More, St. Mary School System, Lourdes Hospital, and Catholic organizations has inspired service among the members of the Catholic

community.

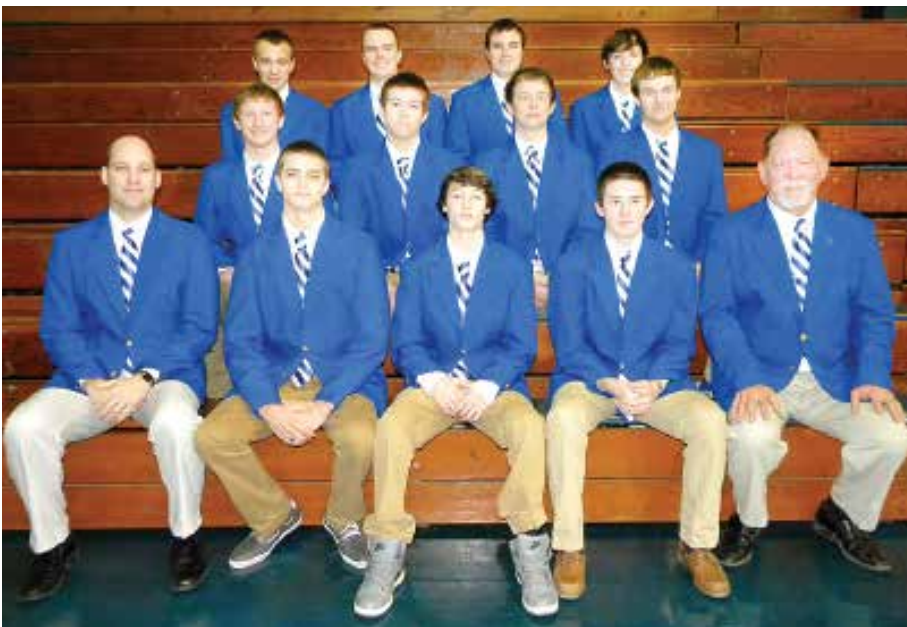
The Sisters of Service brought tears to the owner's eyes as they decorated the outside of the home for Christmas and the Knights of Columbus provided nonperishable food to stock the pantry as a special gift to the family. Rick Schipp, project coordinator has worked almost daily with a special crew representing all the partners to make sure the work is completed as soon as possible, and the community will celebrate the opening with Habitat for Humanity and the family in the coming weeks.



...Faith... The students in the picture above were chosen as Students of the Month at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School in Whitesville. They were recognized on Thursday, January 9th in front of faculty, staff, and peers. From left to right in the attached picture they are: Harlee Keener (6th grade); Paige Crabtree (2nd grade), and Jamison Mills (5th grade). Photo submitted by Kim Rydecki



...Knowledge... Officer Jared Ramsey is the police officer assigned to the Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus through the "Adopt a School" program. OPD and OCS have formed a proactive partnership to enhance school safety. Officer Ramsey stops by regularly and visits with the children. Shown here, Joey Watts is asking Officer Ramsey about some of the items he carries on his uniform. SUBmitted by Lori Whitehouse, Principal, Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus.



...And Service... - Trinity High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team. From left to right top row – Daniel Morris, Allen Howe, Nathaniel Mills, Jacob Hook; From left to right middle row – Skyler Dickens, Dakota Wathen, Drew Mills, Blake Booker; From left to right front row – Head Coach Ron Williams, Jonah Roberts, Eric Howard, Blake Midkiff, and Assistant Coach Jim Conder. Photo by Kim Rydecki

National Catholic Schools Week 2014

January 26 - February 1

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service

The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2014 is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." The annual observance starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2014 is January 26 to February 1. Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community at large.

The 2014 theme was developed in response to member requests for a theme and logo that would last more than a year, the new theme will be used for at least three years. This will provide opportunities for schools to brand the week and their ongoing marketing activities with repeated mentions and use of a consistent logo. It's especially appropriate that this new brand will mark National Cath-

olic Schools Week 2014 – the 40th anniversary of this annual event.

The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities—small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

The new logo features a swirl of colors interacting around a cross, which is at the center of all Catholic education. The vibrancy of the colors and the movement and shadows in the logo portray the inner-connectivity and community life that are present in our Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. Catholic Schools Week always begins the last Sunday in January.

By Curtis Miller

My wife, Meredith, and I welcomed our son into the world last January. Like most parents, we have a lot of hopes for him. We hope he'll be happy and healthy. We hope he'll be compassionate and independent. We hope he won't grow up to be a Yankees fan.

But of all the various things we hope for his life, there is a clear one at the top: We hope he grows up to love and follow Jesus. I would venture to guess that most Christian parents would say the same.

Which is why as a parent I'm thankful there's research being done on what helps kids stick with faith into adulthood, or what FYI calls Sticky Faith. The status of the next generation of Christians has been the cause of much hand-wringing, guess-making, and anecdote-peddling for about as long as there has been a next generation to worry about, but only recently has there been much reliable data from which parents and youth workers can learn. **1** What's even better is that more and more consensus is building around what actually works in helping faith stick into young adulthood.

A new addition to that body of research comes from University of Southern California sociologist Vern L. Bengtson in his book *Families and Faith: How Religion is Passed Down Across Generations*. The book arises out of a 35-year study of families begun in 1970, and focuses on the question of how religion is passed across generations. **2** This multigenerational study dispels certain widely-held myths and brings to light some very useful findings.

Here are four key findings most relevant to families and congregations:

1) Parents' Influence is Crucial

There is a common belief in our culture that parents wield less and less influence over their kids these days, and that those kids are increasingly abandoning the beliefs and values of their families of origin.

It is not true. It probably never has been. What is true, according to Bengtson's study, is that young adults today are just as likely to share their parents' faith as they were in 1970. This is true whether you're looking at religious affiliation (What religion are you?), religious intensity (How religious are you?), religious



Photo by Dustin McClure.

participation (How often do you attend?), Biblical literalism (What's your view of the Bible?), or civic religiosity (How important should religion be in public life?). Across all these markers, parental influence is just as high as it was a generation ago.

In other words, parents continue to be the single greatest influence on their children's faith.

(A quick aside: Grandparents, interestingly, are a close second. The study found that grandparents, especially grandfathers, who are highly religious were more likely to have grandkids who were also highly religious. It turns out that grandparents might be an underutilized asset in many churches and youth groups, not to mention families themselves. Here's an article from Kara Powell with Twenty Ideas for Grandparents - <http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/articles/twenty-ideas-for-grandparents> - you can pass along right now!)

There are some differences in parental influence when the data is broken down by religious tradition, however. Mainline Protestant and Catholic parents appear to have less influence on their kids than they did in 1970. Evangelicals, Mormons, and Jews all have about the same influence. But those with no religious affiliation (often called "Nones") are significantly more influential in their kids' faith now than they were a generation ago.

In other words, the widely discussed "rise of the Nones" is not due to unprecedented numbers of young people abandoning their childhood faith. It seems largely due to families of Nones passing on that "None-ness" at a much

higher rate than in the past.

The bottom line: *Parents matter*. They matter a lot. That's a very hopeful message churches could be sending to parents who are worried about their kids' faith.

2) Bland Faith Doesn't Transfer

The data, according to Bengtson, "indicates a trend towards polarization in religious intensity over time." **3** In every way that the study tested, those at either end of the spectrum of religiosity (either very religious or not at all religious) transferred that quality to the next generation at significantly higher rates than those in the middle. For example, parents who attend church "weekly or more" and those who attend "never" passed that quality on to their kids 59% and 55% of the time, respectively. Those who attend either "monthly" or "once a year," on the other hand, had young adult children who fit into the same category 31% and 26% of the time. Similar statistics carried across the various measures of religiosity.

Bengtson says that one reason for this data "is parental behavior, such as role modeling and consistency. If the parents are not themselves involved in religious activities, if their actions are not consistent with what they preach, children are rarely motivated to follow in their parents' religious footsteps." **4**

One of the biggest steps churches can take, therefore, to help spark faith from generation to generation is to encourage and equip parents in their discipleship. When a kid sees and hears that faith actually makes a difference in Mom and Dad's lives, they're much more likely to follow suit.



3) The Power of a Close Relationship

This may be counter-intuitive to a study about faith transmission, but the single greatest factor in whether a parent successfully imparted their faith to their children was the quality of their relationship with those children. By every measure in this study, a young adult was more likely to share their parents' religious beliefs and participation if they felt that they had a close relationship with those parents. This held true for all of the religious traditions studied.

Of particular interest is what happens when you break down the data between fathers and mothers. While a close relationship with her mother does significantly improve the odds of a child sharing Mom's religious beliefs when she becomes an adult, the relationship with her father is far more predictive.

This effect is greatest when the data focused in on Evangelical and Mainline Protestants. Among those groups, a close relationship with Mom has a very small effect on the likelihood of religious transmission, while a close relationship with Dad has a gigantic effect. For young adults from Evangelical families, 71% of those who had a close relationship with their father shared that Evangelical faith, compared with only 46% of those who did not have a close relationship with their father. While this is only one study, these findings are certainly worth wondering about.

Churches who want to see faith shared between generations need to encourage and equip parents to build warm, affirming, close relationships with their

Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16

kids. God loves and is patient with us. Is it any wonder that when we do the same for our kids they're more likely to meet that God?

4) Love the Prodigal

This close relationship becomes even more important when a child walks away from God.

Even the best parenting can't guarantee that children won't for a time walk away from the faith they were raised to believe, but what happens next can be the determining factor in whether those children eventually return. "The prodigals in our sample were rebels who later came back to the family religion; in almost every case we found that their parents have been patient and supportive – and perhaps more tolerant and open than they had been before the prodigal's departure."

5 It turns out that the best way to bring a prodigal back is to love them even more tangibly than before they left.

You'd think that as Christians we wouldn't have to hear this truth. After all, Jesus compares the Father's love for us with a father who runs with joy to meet his lost son (Luke 15). But we do need to hear it. Our love and acceptance of our kids is never more important than when they rebel against us. It is then that they will truly see the God who searches after and even dies for them. And it is then that we will truly see the God who forgave and pursued us even when we had rejected him.

Action Points for Families

- *Take a look at the faith you're passing on.* With the help of your spouse or a trusted friend, ask yourself: What practices and/or beliefs do you hope your kids will inherit from you? How do they see those things naturally and consistently displayed in your own life? Where could you be more intentional about passing faith on?

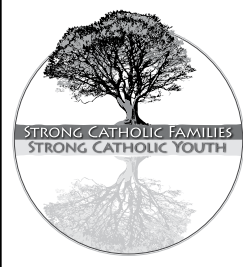
- *Get a hand from Grandma and Grandpa.* Is there a grandparent or another senior adult who can reinforce what you hope your kids learn about Jesus? Maybe they can take the grandkids to church one week, pray with them, read the Bible with them, or talk about their own relationship with Christ.

- *Learn from your kids.* Ask your kids how they know Jesus is important to you and that you love him. See if they've no-

New Research Out on Multi-Generational Faith Transmission

Here are four key findings most relevant to families and congregations:

- 1.) Parents' Influence is Crucial...(and Grandparents are a close second!)
- 2.) Bland Faith Doesn't Transfer...(the stronger, the better)
- 3.) The Power of a Close Relationship... (with the father's relationship quality especially predictive)
- 4.) Love the Prodigals... (patience and support over time wins out!).



ticed your faith. Say something like: "Jesus is really important to me, and I was wondering if you felt you could see that in my life?" You might learn a lot from their response.

- *Spend regular quality time together.* Find out what your kids most like to do with you, and plan ways to turn up the warmth in your relationship. Especially if this is new, it may be a little strange at first. That's okay! Keep at it, building a normal routine of fun and meaningful time together. Maybe you can start a new tradition like After-School Ice Cream Day on Wednesdays, Dinner/Breakfast Date on Thursdays, Hiking Day on Saturdays ...

- *Get help.* Sometimes a family needs an outside perspective to help get the warmth back in a relationship that has grown a bit cold. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to find a counselor who can help. A warm relationship with you is a significant force in your child's faith development, and it's never too late to work at restoring one with your child of any age.

NOTES: 1. See FYI's Sticky Faith resources; Chap Clark's Hurt 2.0; Chap and Dee Clark's Disconnected; Christian Smith's Soul Searching, Souls in Transition, and Lost in Transition; and Kenda Creasy Dean's Almost Christian. Together they paint a very complementary picture of adolescent and emerging adult

spirituality and the transfer of faith to the next generation.

2. *For those interested in the basic methodology: the findings come from a 35-year longitudinal study of families drawn from a representative sample of southern California in 1970. Those families were surveyed and periodically interviewed from 1970-2005 about a variety of topics, one of which was religion. The sample is therefore not nationally representative; for example, it has a relatively higher percentage of people with no religious affiliation than it would if the sample were taken from the South or the Midwest. It also includes fewer racial/ethnic minorities than would likely be the case if the sample were taken today rather than 1970.*

3. *Bengtson, Vern L. with Norella M. Putney and Susan Harris, Families and Faith: How Religion is Passed Down Across Generations, New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, p. 61.*

4. *Ibid, p. 72*

5. *Ibid, p. 189*

Source: <http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/articles/helping-kids-keep-the-faith#sthash.zz62Cq0J.dpuf>

Kentucky Catholic Bishops Announce New Executive Director

(Frankfort, KY) The Roman Catholic Bishops of Kentucky have appointed Jason Hall, as the Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK). Jason Hall succeeds Rev. Patrick Delahanty, who is retiring effective July 1, 2014. Jason is currently serving as the Associate Director of CCK.

In announcing the appointment on behalf of the bishops of Kentucky, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz said, "Jason has ably served the Catholic Conference of Kentucky as Associate Director, and I am confident in his ability to advocate for the social and moral issues that are consistent with Catholic social teaching and critical to the common good in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. His appointment comes with a strong recommendation from Fr. Pat Delahanty, who has been very appreciative of Jason's skills and dedication over the last several years. All of the Bishops of Kentucky are deeply grateful to Fr. Pat for his fine service



Jason Hall

and look forward to working with Jason to continue to keep the Church's positions before the Commonwealth."

Jason Hall, 35, is a native of Owensboro, KY. After graduating from Campbellsville University in 2000,

he attended the University of Kentucky College of Law (2003). Following law school, Jason served as Assistant Daviess County Attorney, working primarily on civil matters involving county government. In 2005, Jason relocated to Frankfort, where he worked for the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, representing the Department of Corrections. He subsequently spent four years as Deputy General Counsel to the Majority Leadership of the Kentucky State Senate, led by Senate President David Williams. In this role, Jason was involved in the development of public policy in several areas and had the opportunity to work with many public interest groups. Jason joined the Catholic Conference of Kentucky as Associate Director in 2011.

Jason was received into the Catholic Church in 2006 and is a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Frankfort, where he works with the RCIA and jail ministry programs. He is also a member of the Social Ministry Leadership Team of the Diocese of Lexington.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is the public policy arm of the state's four Roman Catholic Bishops.



St. Sebastian Parish Hall set up as our emergency thrift store. Parishioners sorting the bags, then others sorting the tables by gender and size. Photos Submitted by Tonya Murphy

While the Red Cross was getting things in order, Robert and I went to work. Robert went home and dug through his house to find socks for as many people as he could. I remembered that the St Vincent DePaul Conference at St Sebastian had a small stash of clothes because we had come across more than one family with an immediate need of clothing and no way to get to Owensboro, so I raided the boxes. I had to make four trips to the church to get various pieces of clothing. Everyone in the room left with a pair of shoes (whether they fit or not) except for one lady; we just didn't have a thing that would fit her. I left soon after, knowing all were in good hands with the Red Cross and my friend Robert.

I went back later in the morning to see if there was more that I could do and that is when I started hearing: What can we do? What sizes of clothing do they need? Where can we drop off clothes? I thought that, well, The St Vincent DePaul Society does not usually do this sort of thing, especially since we do not have our own store, but we do deal with people needing clothes. Remember, 11 families lost everything in this fire. We had no idea of the enormity of what we were about to take on.

I made sure it was OK with our pastor, Father John Okoro, that we could take over the parish hall for a couple of days and then went home and started making phone calls. The ladies with the St. Sebastian Conference of St. Vincent DePaul were gung-ho, these are families in need!

Facebook had blown-up by this time about the fire and we were seeing more questions of what do they need and what are their sizes. So I posted on my



St. Sebastian Parish Hall was set up as an emergency thrift store by parishioners, some carrying sorting the bags, then others sorting the tables by gender and size. Photos Submitted by Tonya Murphy

site that we were opening a donation site at St Sebastian Church Sunday morning and would take donations from 9am-6pm. Julie Hayden goes to church with us and she read my post on Facebook. She had been through the devastation of a fire two years earlier and she knew she had to take action. She didn't know it, but she was about to become a member of the St Vincent DePaul Society. After many, many replies on her site; she decided to start a Facebook page, *Help Fire Victims In Calhoun 2013*. Talk about a community in action! Everyone was ready to pitch in to help these families in need.

At 3:00 Saturday afternoon Faye May, Patricia Hayden, Julie Hayden, Kaylee Murphy and myself decided to run over to church, pull out our stash and get ready for Sunday morning. We knew the Baptist church had quite a few donations and someone had already called to ask if we would take them, so we headed over to pick them up. We came back with three truck loads of clothing that the community had been dropping off all day. We asked Calhoun Baptist Church to please bring the toys and household items Sunday since it was more than we could handle, being just five of us. We sorted

and organized until 8:30 that night which should have been our first clue since we expected to be at church for an hour or so that afternoon. While we worked Saturday night, people began arriving with bags of clothes....we weren't even taking donations yet and we had clothes and household items in every room in the parish hall!

Sunday morning came and we had asked for help from the entire parish at both Masses. From what we were seeing on Facebook and the phone calls we were getting among ourselves, we were

Continued on page 19

A Community Takes Action *(Continued from page 18)*



Car and truck loaded with donations for the families of the fire. Photo by Julie Hayden

starting to wonder if the parish hall was going to hold it all. When the vehicles started rolling in, with some of our kids outside actually directing traffic, we were as ready as we could be. The parish really jumped in and helped out through out the long day. We took in carload after carload of clothes, household items, furniture, bedding, toys and everything in between.

We had people sorting the bags, then others sorting the tables by gender and size, and others manning phone calls and cooking for all the hard working hungry people. We had four to five churches fill up trucks, trailers and vans and drop them off. People were talking about how they had spent all morning cleaning out the closets and the kids cleaned out the toy box to help these families that had nothing! Then they asked was there anything else the families needed or anything they could do Wow! What a community!

The St. Sebastian Parish Hall was filled with people working all day long with few breaks. It was absolute semi-organized chaos! The kids jumped right in there and did their part and, of course, we kept the men busy with the furniture donations and carrying in those heavy bags and boxes and we kept working. We had arranged with the Red Cross to tell the families to come over at 4:00pm and we would be ready for them to pick through the donated items.

At four o'clock, these families found their way to our little church. Most had been in the same clothes for two days;

they were so overwhelmed, humbled and appreciative. We would take them and go look for their sizes and show them cute things we spotted that would look great on them. We were surprised and pleased with the amount of new clothing and name brand stuff that we had to look through!

The joy we got from helping them is hard to describe. We took them down the hall and toured all the classrooms full of kid's clothes and household items. We made sure they had towels, washcloths, silverware, dishes, pots, pans and bedding. All our hard work really paid off when we were able to fill their cars up and send them home with their goodies.

By six o'clock we were ready to go home, but the cars were still rolling in with donations! Have you ever thought, "If I see another ____, I'm gonna scream!"? We were there.

We put on our happy faces ☺, and gladly took any donations that came our way and tried our best to keep up with the amount of clothing we had collected. By this time we were getting the word out that the parish hall was full and all donations needed to be directed to the St Vincent DePaul store in Owensboro, though not everyone got the message.

We did not get to see all the families on Sunday so we arranged to meet with some on Monday. We figured that everyone had to be overwhelmed from events of the weekend, so we invited all the families to come back on Monday

to see if they missed getting anything they needed.

We got started at noon on Monday and were greeted with the appearance of even more donations at the parish doorstep when we arrived. HELP!

At one o'clock the families arrived and were ready to shop. This time they took off on their own and dived into more clothes and more household items and we loaded them up. We were so glad to see them take these items the community had given to them. We encouraged them to take what they needed. If they did not have a place to store it, we had arranged some storage at a local warehouse. So we continued to shop with them and share in their delight of replacing some of what was lost. And we continued to take more donated items.

Once the families left, we took a look at our little "24 hour St Vincent DePaul store" and patted ourselves on the back for a job well done, a little messy but it worked.

The Lord had truly touched the hearts of our community, bringing blessings we could not have imagined. We were also blessed to have been able to share in fellowship that you can not get by just attending Sunday mass.

On Monday night, we worked until well after 9:00 pm getting some of the stuff bagged and boxed for it's trip to Owensboro. We wondered if the Owensboro

Do you have a calling?

Then, you're in good company.

Come & See Event

Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Indiana - March 14-16, 2014 For single, Catholic woman ages of 18 to 40. Get to know our Benedictine sisters, share in our community life and prayer, and meet other women who are considering religious life - no pressure, no commitment! For more information or to register online, visit www.thedome.org/vocations, or call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-734-9999, or email vocation@thedome.org.

Summer Camp For Girls

Camp Marian is June 16-18, 2014! This summer camp, filled with fun, food, fire and friends is for girls who are currently in 5-8th grade. The Camp takes place by Lake Marian at our Benedictine Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana. For more info email Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at vocation@thedome.org or call 812-

February, 2014 19

store realizes the amount of goodies that were getting ready to hit their warehouse?

We know the wonderful people of St Sebastian Catholic Church and the others that helped this weekend had no idea of the amount of work they were getting into. We were all amazed at the amount of donations that came in and not nearly as much went out. We worked hard all weekend and did not stop until Tuesday, but it seems a good way to end a year that ends with 13. We were about to fill up the box truck of St. Vincent DePaul and then part of another truck and that is without any furniture.

The people heard the cry of those in need in Calhoun and they responded from Owensboro, Henderson, Madisonville, Newburg, Evansville, Louisville and who knows where else. The donations of the clothing and household items to the Owensboro St. Vincent DePaul store will be felt for a long time to come.

Now, when the St. Sebastian SVPD Conference calls to ask for money to help pay utility bills in McLean County, we know that we really helped the store to earn this money and THAT is a real good feeling. But the best feeling is being part of a community that came together and reached out to those in need, to proclaim in the most tangible of ways, Jesus Christ is Lord!



Sister Kate Willegal, Nursing Professor, Post-Surgical Nurse, entered the Sisters of St. Benedict: 1993. Photo: <http://www.thedome.org/vocations/sister-kate-willegal/>

367-1411. ex. 2830. Cost is \$45, due at registration. REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15, 2014 at www.thedome.org/vocations -50 camper limit - fills quickly.

Charity Alive - Young Adult SCN Associate Program

NAZARETH, Ky. - January 02, 2014 - Charity Alive, the new Young Adult Associate program facilitated by SCNs Luke Boiarski and Nancy Gerth, hosted a pilot weekend for the launching of the program.

Charity Alive was created as an opportunity for young adults across the United States to build and maintain relationships with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in a way that is flexible to the young adult lifestyle. The college students who spent New Years at Nazareth, Ky., were all members of the Core Committee of the Young Adult Associates. The Core Committee includes Kay-tee Ambrozich, from Capital University; Trevin Bass, from Spalding University; TaNaa Davis, from Spalding University; Shannon Evans, from The University of Akron; Gary Hermann, from The University of Kentucky; and Marcel Williams, from Spalding University. Not all of the Core members were able to attend, but those who were able to arrived on Dec. 30.

Over the course of Dec. 31 – Jan. 1, the young adults interacted with other SCN family members and completed a Strengths Finder program with Mary Boyce, participated in a Tai Chi lesson with Paula Duane, and had a yoga ses-



A young Adult in the Strengths Finder program during a yoga session with Jennifer Hurst. SCN Photo

sion with Jennifer Hurst. Jo Ann Paulin presented information about the SCN Associate Program. The participants attended the New Year's Eve service and New Year's Day Mass. They enjoyed New Year's Eve in the company of many Sisters, and attended a reception after the prayer service. A service project element was completed on New Year's Day to as-



Four college students who spent New Years at Nazareth, Ky., were all members of the Core Committee of the SCN Young Adult Associates. SCN Photo



Two young adults sorting of donations at the St. Vincent de Paul Mission Store in Bardstown, Ky. SCN Photo

sist with the sorting of donations at the St. Vincent de Paul Mission Store in Bardstown, Ky.

The Invitation Gathering, the first event welcoming new participants, will be held in the spring of 2014.

Reprinted from <http://scnfamily.org/news/index.php?categories=Charity%20Alive>

At right, participant of Charity Alive at work during a service project element was completed on New Year's Day to assist with the sorting of donations at the St. Vincent de Paul Mission Store in Bardstown, Ky. SCN Photo



In Your Charity, Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Mary Hilda "Miss Mac" McFarland

Mary Hilda "Miss Mac" McFarland passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014. She was born Sept. 29, 1940, in Daviess County to the late Deak and Rachel Baur McFarland.

Miss Mac was a lifelong member of St. Stephen Cathedral where she volunteered for many ministries throughout her life, including the Parish Council, serving as president one year. At the time of her death, she was the editor of the St. Stephen Newsletter, The Parishioner and a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer.

Miss Mac was a member of the Owensboro Catholic High School class of 1958 and a graduate of the, then, Brescia College class of 1962.

Her first teaching job was at Mount St. Joseph from 1963-67; after which she began teaching at OCHS where she ded-



Miss Mac

Reflection For Miss Mac

By Allison Siddens, Special Education Teacher, Potter Gray Elementary

Tears sting my eyes as I think of Miss Mac's passing. Her memory will always be treasured by so many (including me)! She was delightful to be around; I think of her laugh, and (at times) her mischievous grin... I think of how she shared her faith and her love for learning in everything she did. I looked up to her and aspired to model myself as a teacher after her kind, gentle, and compassionate attitude that she shared with her students--all while maintaining high expectations of learning for each and every student in her class.

She positively influenced her students, co-workers, and everyone with whom she came into contact. I am blessed to have known Miss Mac, and to have been a teacher alongside her at Catholic High. She will be missed.

Reflection For Miss Mac

By Julie Ann Howard Ford, English Teacher, Daviess County High School

In my memory, Miss Mac will always be Lady Macbeth, arraigned in a floor-length, snowy white nightgown and delivering the soliloquy of her life before a packed audience in Soenneker Hall. On opening night of one of Emerald Productions' many illustrious performances, Miss Mac provided entertainment during intermission; this was a huge selling point for that particular play – the chance to see Miss Mac step into the shoes of one of Shakespeare's most complicated female roles. In my 2 years as a drama coach at Owensboro Catholic High School, Miss Mac taught me so much about what it means to be a good teacher and a good coach. She helped me to see that all kids have potential for greatness, and it takes kind, caring, generous people to bring that out in many students. I cannot go into a theater or be on a stage without thinking about Miss Mac and silently thanking God for her influence.

In her life, she achieved what every teacher hopes to achieve – that of mentor status for all who know her. Her passion for helping and nurturing her students and her friends and family alike should be emulated by all teachers. It is one thing to stand in front of a room full of students every day and hope you impart knowledge to them effectively. Miss Mac made people fall in love with music and art and drama, but unlike others, she also imparted life lessons on to her "kids." Her absence will be felt at OCHS for years to come, but her legacy lives on in the countless people who have been changed by her.

icated her life to the mission of OCHS for the next 42 years. Miss Mac "retired" from full-time teaching in 2006 and spent the next three years giving back to OCHS by teaching part-time for free. From 2009 to the time of her death, there was never a week when Miss Mac wasn't at OCHS helping out.

During her time at OCHS she was a sponsor of too many extracurricular activities to list on this page. Most notable were her many years spent as director of the drama program for the Emerald Productions and many, many years as a class sponsor.

During her time at OCHS, she introduced an astonishing number of students to classical music through her humanities classes via the Owensboro Symphony and was a member of the Owensboro Symphony Alliance until her death.

Miss Mac was recognized many times throughout her career with awards including Outstanding Owensboro Diocese Teacher of the Year, Owensboro Catholic Schools Saint Ursula Golden

Key, the OCHS Gold and Emerald Award, Coca-Cola Educator of Distinction (nominated by Nathan Sharp, OCHS Class of 2004), the Brescia College Alumni Father Saffer Award and the Brescia University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Miss Mac was the matriarch of OCHS, a staple of the everyday life of the school and a rock of Catholic education.

She is survived by several cousins, a nephew, godchildren, thousands of OCHS "kids" and many, many, many dear friends.

A funeral Mass was offered January 11, 2014 at St. Stephen Cathedral with Father Ed Bradley officiating.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations in honor of Miss Mac to the OCHS Mary Hilda McFarland Scholarship Fund, 1524 W. Parrish Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301, St. Vincent de Paul Society, 2885 W. Parrish Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301 or Owensboro Symphony, 211 E. Second St., Owensboro, KY 42303.

Eucharistic Adoration

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

2nd Sunday of the month



The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite you to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on the second Sunday of the month to pray for vocations. Our next date is **Sunday, Feb. 9.**

Eucharistic Adoration is from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the

Motherhouse Chapel (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56) and concludes with evening prayer.

If you are unable to be present, please join us in prayer for this special intention.

Adoration will continue on the second Sunday of each month in 2014.



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

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

Holy Name Celebrates Parish's Feast Day With Community Dinner

Story and photos submitted
by Kamille Stich

HENDERSON, Ky. - On January 3, Holy Name of Jesus Parish celebrated their feast day with a free community dinner and other festivities. Father Larry McBride decided the best way to commemorate our namesake feast day was to invite our parishioners, neighbors, and all those associated with the shelters and food banks in Henderson to a spaghetti dinner in the school cafeteria prepared by the Men's Club and staffed by Holy Name Parish volunteers. Father McBride was motivated by Pope Francis' recent call for "prayer and action" to end world hunger. Attendees were awarded door prizes for local businesses and members of the parish performed traditional native dances to entertain the crowd of over 300 people.



Parishioner Cletus Duncan serves a drink to Holy Name School 2nd grade teacher, Sr. Laurita Spalding

At right, Grandfather and granddaughter, Jim and Ann-Michael Utley on a visit to the dessert table.



Cassandra Toribio and Alexa Medina, students at Holy Name School, also performed a native dance.



Holy Name School principal, Mary Ann Campbell, and Hispanic Minister, Abraham Brown, enjoyed the evening.



Parishioners Tony Gibbs and Mary Ann Thomas were all smiles while serving up the spaghetti dinner.



It took many hands, including Mary Ann Campbell and Sue Kuerzi, to serve over 200 people.

The Dignity of the Holy Name

The Church reveals to us the wonders of the Incarnate Word by singing the glories of His name. The name of Jesus means Savior; it had been shown in a dream to Joseph together with its meaning and to Our Lady at the annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel.

Devotion to the Holy Name is deeply rooted in the Sacred Scriptures, especially in the Acts of the Apostles. It was promoted in a special manner by St. Bernard, St. Bernardine of Siena, St. John Capistrano and by the Franciscan Order. It was extended to the whole Church in 1727 during the pontificate of Innocent XIII. The month of January has traditionally been dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

The feast is meant to impress on us Christians the dignity of the Holy Name.

We read in Sacred Scripture how the angel Gabriel revealed that name to Mary: "You shall call His name Jesus." And to St. Joseph the angel not merely revealed the name but explained its meaning: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." The Messiah should not only be the savior, but should be called Savior. With Jesus, therefore, the name actually tells the purpose of His existence. This is why we must esteem His name as sacred. Whenever we pronounce it, we ought to bow our heads; for the very name reminds us of the greatest favor we have ever received, salvation.

Source: *Catholic Culture.org*



Robin Beck and Pat O'Nan took on salad duty serving Paul Coomes.

Lenten Day of Prayer...

Wednesday, March 26

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Led by Msgr. Bernard Powers

Program includes Mass, lunch and Reconciliation. The fee is \$20.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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



To register, contact
Kathy McCarty

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

How To Live Your Life As A Catholic Man

Catholic Men's Conference - Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014

*a day of worship and fellowship as we listen to nationally renowned
Catholic evangelists and celebrate Mass with Bishop William F. Medley*

The Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky will take place Saturday, February 8, 2014 at Brescia University Science Lecture Hall beginning at 8:00 a.m. The conference will address the subject of how to live your life as a Catholic man and will include nationally renowned and dynamic Catholic speakers such as George Weigel, who was the biographer for Pope John Paul II,



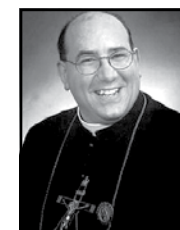
George Weigel



Dr. Ray
Guarendi

Dr. Ray Guarendi, and Fr. Louis Caporiccio from the Fathers of Mercy. The sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. The conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Medley.

The conference is open to men who are high school seniors or older.



Fr. Louis
Caporiccio

The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for students, and it includes lunch. There is more information at their website - www.kycatholic.com.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday 8 February 2014

Brescia University Science Lecture Hall
717 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301

8:00 am Registration / Will Call (coffee & donuts)

8:45 am Conference begins

12:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

12:00 pm Lunch (included with admission)

4:45 pm Conference ends

5:00 pm Mass with Bishop Medley at St. Stephen Cathedral

Note that your entire family is welcome to join-in the celebration of Mass

Allen, Warren, Butler, Edmonson, Grayson, Ohio, Breckinridge, Hancock, Daviess, McLean, Henderson, Union, Webster, and Crittenden.

2. The applicant project's policy making board must be at least one-third low-income. If this is not the case, the applicant must explain why the board does not have setting low-income board members. (Low-income board members do not include those considered voluntarily poor such as clergy, religious sisters, students, VIS-TA volunteers, etc.)

3. The applicant project's efforts must seek to benefit a poverty group.

4. The applicant project must seek to create institutional or systemic change by changing the structures that keep people poor and powerless.

5. CCHD will consider favorably only those projects which demonstrate

respect for the dignity of the human person. CCHD will not consider projects or organizations which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.

6. The activity for which funding is requested must be consistent with the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

7. Projects should generate cooperation and solidarity among and within diverse groups in the interest of a more integrated and mutually understanding society.

8. Projects should document that as a result of CCHD funding there are possibilities of generating funds from other sources or of moving towards becoming self-supporting within the time lines established in the proposal.

Feisty Fifties of Immaculate Parish is traveling to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., for a Show Trip. This will have 6 shows, 8 meals from April 7 to April 11, 2014 for the price of \$425.00 double. We will also tour the Smokey Mountains and visit Gatlinburg, Tenn. A deposit of \$75.00 is needed now and the balance by February 1st.

Catholic Campaign For Human Development Local Grant Information

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a national social justice program of the United States Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self-help organizations, and through transformative education of the non-poor.

Each year in November, the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky participates in the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection. From that collection, a percentage of monies are retained to provide grant funding to local organizations which meet CCHD criteria. Catholic Charities administers and allocates the grant funding.

To apply, please send a brief narrative of your organization, budgeting information, how your organization would meet the CCHD criteria of systemic change, what community organizations your group receives support from, and whether your organization's

policy-making board has one-third low-income members (if your board does not contain one-third of its members who are low-income also include an explanation of why this is not so).

Applications for grant funding must be received by May 20, 2014 so that grants can be awarded on or before June 20, 2014. The grant is a non-renewable and must be applied for each year. Three years is the total number of years any one group can receive this grant. Each year several grants are awarded averaging between \$800-\$1200 each. The grant application is a little shorter and a little more simplified to complete this year.

Criteria:

1. The applicant's project must be within the thirty-two counties which comprise the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. These counties include: Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Ballard, McCracken, Carlisle, Calloway, Marshall, Trigg, Lyon, Livingston, Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins, Muhlenburg, Todd, Logan, Simpson,

At Last! Extreme Catholic Media

Lolek Productions Tackles New Digital Medium

By Larena Lawson

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15)

In answer to Blessed John Paul II’s call to the new evangelization, Lolek Productions was created in May of 2011 by Father Joshua McCarty, priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, while he was serv-



Father Joshua McCarty

ing as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, Kentucky. From its beginning Lolek Productions has sought to be the new face in Catholic media that would share God’s truth and love

through compelling, beautiful, high quality multimedia.

Lolek, the boyhood name of Karol Józef Wojtyła, who would go on to be Pope John Paul II, was the perfect name for an organization that is new, bold, and deeply Catholic. In his younger years, Lolek was an actor and loved the theater. He was a poet and had a natural flair for the theatrical. He had a way of seeing the similarity between faith and the theater. To him the world was a stage, God was the Director and all people were the actors. The young Lolek, meaning “son of freedom,” grew to be a great advocate for the flourishing of the human person. True freedom is only found in Christ.



This is the message of the Church and of Lolek Productions. Advertising, photography, videography, and social networking are the tools.

Currently, Father Josh is assigned to Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro and has grown the audience of his production company. With the blessing of Bishop William Medley, Lolek Productions has applied for nonprofit status. Father Josh desires to see the company’s fans continue to multiply, so to share the Gospel message with as many people as possible. Pope John Paul II, while talking of communications said, “Do not be afraid of new technologies!” The USCCB in their online publication of Disciples Called to Witness II stated that Pope John Paul II also “called for new ‘ardor, methods and expression’ of evangelization, ones that engage the present-day culture and modern man.” This is the work of Lolek Productions, to make a radical difference in today’s world by reaching out to people, young and old, and showing them the all powerful love of God and the beauty of the Catholic Church.

Article continued on page 26



LOLEK
PRODUCTIONS

Go to <http://lolekproductions.com> to view photos and released videos in the "Portfolio", to read through the "Blog", and to check out new projects "In Production." If you have a story idea or want to get involved with this work of New Evangelization, email fr.mccarty@lolekproductions.com



Bringing The Beauty Of The Catholic Church To The Digital World!



 **LOLEK**
PRODUCTIONS



GO TO <http://lolekproductions.com> to see the images on pages 24-26 and the video productions that have been released.





LOLEK Tackles New Digital Medium

PRODUCTIONS <http://lolekproductions.com/> - Bringing The Beauty Of The Catholic Church To The Digital World!

(Continued from page 24)

As the creator and producer of Lolek Productions, Father Josh is looking for stories of “grace” and asks the Holy Spirit for inspiration in finding and telling those stories. He wants people to be “real,” to share how God has been present in their lives, in good times and in struggle. Grace is alive and well. Oh, that we would have to eyes to see!

The work of Lolek Productions consists of going on location with cameras and equipment in hand or working from the Lolek office and/or basement turned studio located at Sts. Joseph and Paul Church Offices. Although Father Josh has multi-talented people who have worked with him and have contributed to the various projects, he works on the final edits himself.

The first group that Lolek Productions reaches is those who love the Church and are engaged in the internet and social communication. The members of this group are the ones that have read to this point in the article. lol. The second group are the children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of the first group. This group might, probably, didn’t even open this communication. This second group just might consider looking into what Lolek Productions is doing if the first group would say that Lolek Productions just released this very interesting video about a woman in Guatemala, and she is so poor, but so happy. Take a look! We reach the second group through the first group. The third group is filled with special people: nerds and creative people. This



group needs to be engaged with their talents, and Lolek Productions wants to engage them. There are so many pieces that are needed for video production: musicians, computer people, writers, editors, grips (people to move stuff), lighting technicians, office help, legal aid, etc. All of these groups are essential to the work and growth of Lolek Productions.

Father Josh believes in grace. Grace is what makes a story. And when we take those stories, and show them to people: lives are changed.

Please type this website into your web browser: <http://lolekproductions.com> and look around a little. While you are reading one of our stories, make sure to also subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Then, if you have a story idea or want to get involved with this work of the New Evangelization, please email fr.mccarty@lolekproductions.com Please pray, finally that this work will always be faithful in spreading the Good News of the Gospel.



Why Do A Video Adventure?

“So, why have we done it? Two reasons: for the story and because of believing in grace. We love stories and pictures. Stories are strong; and stories change the way that people look at things. But more importantly, before you press “record” you have to believe that there is something worth seeing and something worth conveying.”

(<http://lolekproductions.com/made-for-love-cypriana/>)

Giving Tree at St. Thomas More Parish Benefits Many

By Missy Eckenberg

PADUCAH, Ky. - Generosity extended to those in need from the parishioners of St. Thomas More during the Advent season. More than 550 presents were provided to 103 local families needing Christmas assistance. Presents including clothing, toys, and bicycles were placed under the tree in the gathering space with volunteers moving them to the parish hall to sort and ready for families. We extend a special thank you to Sheila Rea, Camy Clark, and their families for coordinating this wonderful program.



Above, Parishioners moved over 550 gifts to the parish hall for sorting for the 103 families served. At right, Gifts including clothing, toys, and bicycles for those in need surround the bare tree and fill the gathering space at St. Thomas More. Photos by Missy Eckenberg



Children Rejoice in the Birth of Jesus

By Missy Eckenberg

PADUCAH, Ky. - The children of St. Thomas More parish rejoiced in the birth of Jesus during the Christmas Eve Mass held at St. Thomas More Church. The

Jubilate Choir, instrumentalists, and Nativity play provided the young parishioners with an opportunity to proclaim the great tiding of our savior's birth with parents, relatives, and parishioners filling the church.



Children portray Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and angels during the Nativity play at St. Thomas More parish. (photo Sheri Babbs)



Connie Poat directs the Jubilate Choir as they sing for the Christmas Eve children's Mass. Photo by Felicia LaBarge



Fr. Pat Reynolds speaks with the children about the blessed Nativity during Mass. (photo Sheri Babbs)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Wedding Anniversaries for February- Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and Over 50 Years of Marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Janice Foster, 58

Vince & Joan Frey, 55

Dennis & Cindy Bartley, 40

John & Mary Medley, 53

Frank & Nancy Howard, 51

Anthony & Mary Brown, 68

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro

Kenneth & Jean Higgs, 60

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

William & Martha Duncan, 60

Bernard & Betty Feltrup, 59

John & Carlene Gabe, 51

David & Laura Hager, 40

Richard & Doris Market, 51

Gary & Sandra Thomas, 25

John & Janet Vukovich, 25

Mike & Bobbie Ann Willett, 51

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Donald & Mary Jane Scarbeau, 54

Robert & Rita Otto, 57

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Fred & Rose Conti, 54

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Denis & Martha Wheatley, 54

Adrian & Velma Wheatley, 60

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

James & Patricia Krampe, 54

Gary & Patricia Satterwhite, 54

Silas E. & Catherine Simon, 67

Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 59

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Guy & Linda Connor, 53

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Wayne & Loretta Nally, 53

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

James L. & Dorothy Calhoun, 68

St. Ann, Morganfield

Leroy & Eva Stone, 50

Franklin & Agnes Hancock, 66

Ronald & Mary Davis, 57

Gilbert & Pat Rudd, 53

Thomas & Ivana Carmon, 25

Willard & Joyce Greenwell, 61

St. Anthony, Axtel

Charles A. & Connie Metcalfe, 40

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

James & Celia Faye Johnston, 52

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Carl & Paula Ball, 57

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Thomas & Juanita Elliott, 56

Randal & Julia Elder, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Joe & Joyce Ripley, 40

Edwin & Mart Imogene Houser, 60

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Don & Betty McCormick, 61

H. C. & Gustava Thompson, 61

St. Joseph, Central City

David & Jean Simpson, 52

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Art & Arlene Bitsky, 58

Charles & Alice Bruce, 53

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Robert & Rose Coplen, 63

David & Bett Morrill, 50

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James M. & Frieda Payne, 56

St. Mark, Eddyville

Ralph & Shirley Keeney, 51

St. Martin, Rome

Bill & Jane Shelton, 63

St. Mary, Franklin

David & Marian Becker, 40

Basil & Hilda Trouten, 50

St. Mary, LaCenter

Robert & Florence Lanier, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

David & Regina Gray, 25

Randall & Denise Edge, 40

James & Marty Johnson, 50

St. Paul, Leitchfield

John & Julie Penny, 25

St. Peter, Waverly

Allen Ray & Carolyn Mackey, 62

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Bobby & Theresa Barnett, 52

Frankie & Betty Clark, 59

James F. & Penny Howard, 54

William & Martha Zoglmann, 60

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Kenny & Faye Glasscock, 40

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Virgil & Colene Jennings, Jr., 67

Robert J. & Vurble Mahoney, 57

Thomas E. & Lucy H. Neal, 53

Bill & Rosemary Payne, 53

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jonathan & Jonna Neihoff, 25

Al & Mary McKeown, 51

Thomas & Mary Frances Galvin, 64

St. William, Knottsville

James R. & Evelyn Cecil, 59

Robert & Ellen Edge, 55

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Martin & Patricia Cecil, 50

Norbert & Nancy Crowe, 58

William A. & Betty Jo Payne, 58

William & Katherine Thomas, 63

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

G. W. & Joan Brockman III, 52

Kings Provide Offertory Gifts on Epiphany of the Lord Masses



By Missy Eckenberg

PADUCAH, Ky.

- Children of St.

Thomas More parish

provided the gifts

during at the Of-

fertory of the Mass

on January 4 and

5, 2014. They also

accompanied Fr.

Patrick Reynolds in

a procession to the

Nativity where they

kneeled before the

image of Jesus lying

in the manger.

At left, Fr. Patrick

Reynolds kneels

with the children

dressed as kings

during the Mass for

the Epiphany of the

Lord at the 5:30 p.

m. Mass.



The kings place gifts before the baby Jesus as they and Fr. Pat Reynolds kneel at the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Nativity of the Lord Mass Brings Great Joy to St. Thomas More Parish

February, 2014 29

By Missy Eckenberg

PADUCAH, Ky. - A crowded St. Thomas More church began the Christmas Mass during the night with Carols for Christmas Eve including Of the Father's Love Begotten and Christo Nato Domino Jubilemus Omnes. This was followed by The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus from the Roman Martyrology which draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ beginning with creation and names events that help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history. Fr. Patrick Reynolds and Fr. Brandon Williams concelebrated the Mass with the assistance of Deacon Terry Larbes.



Above, The St. Thomas More choir under the direction of Jim Hess began the Nativity of the Lord Mass with carols.

At left, Fr. Patrick Reynolds provided the homily while Deacon Terry Larbes, and Fr. Brandon Williams listen.

At right, Fr. Patrick Reynolds proclaimed once again the birth of Christ to those in attendance at the Christmas Eve Mass in St. Thomas More Church, Paducah. Photos by Missy Eckenberg.



God's Vineyard workers are busy at work!...



By Christina Wheatley

When spending a little time in prayer today, the word "search" came to my mind. When pondering such a "word", this prayerfully evolved... insight is welcomed... **The Search...**

How often in the "mid bleak winter's chill", the soul wanders aimlessly seeking solace from the darkened sleep of "winter" concerns... The questionable "who", "what", "where", "why", and "how" darkens and grays every fiber when something tragic happens... Wondering "ifs" eluding concepts plague and drain the "hopes of spring" to burst forth... And so, the search begins.

The search becomes complacent. Twisting and turn... trying this... doing that... seeking the material satisfaction of the "Christmas Rush!"... and once it is over... well, now what... The search with brief fulfillment only leads to regret if the search is in material things. With this tumbling block, the true simplistic search is hindered....

An Advent concept transpires in the search. One must "step back" and "ponder" prayerfully the things that are occurring in the "now". This thought comes to mind... the "winter solace has ended and "a light has shown in the darkness"... What is that light? How can one find and follow that light? The path is there and one steps toward the "light". Like the Hunt! Tally ho! The search is back on.... Yet! a sudden "chill" of doubt with a "snowy" blockade covers one's path... Breaks are applied. One finds oneself spinning aimlessly around like a car on an icy road... Praying God help this person!... Then, deep within a whispering is heard... "Be still! Know that I Am God"... Like the blanketing of "snow" on the frozen ground, the calming "rest now" beacons one to realize I Am! has "got this". The advent of the search is fulfilled with a hopeful "spring's promise"...

It this person's prayer for you that God blankets your soul with "snowy dormant" eases with the re-assurance of a hopeful spring throughout the New Year... Keep a little Christmas always in your heart for the Magi will be visiting you again. Do not look for gold or richly attire, let your "search" be for God's presence in each person you meet and experience ...Blessings!

The Ursuline Sisters help people become who God intends them to be.

...Have *you* considered religious life as a sister?

Perhaps you know Sister Laurita Spalding, who helps shape the education and faith life of second-graders as a teacher at Holy Name School in Henderson. The Ursuline mission is to proclaim Jesus through education and Christian formation in the spirit of our founder, Saint Angela Merici.

Ask Sister Laurita about her life as an Ursuline Sister. To learn more, visit www.ursulinesmsj.org.



Contact Sister Martha Keller, Director of Vocation Ministry:
270-229-4104

martha.keller@maplemount.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999





Twenty-Three St. Ann Catholic School Students Qualify For Duke TIP

These St. Ann students in grades 4-6, based on their scores as 3rd thru 5th grade students, have been identified for the Duke TIP Talent Search Program for the 2013-14 school year: (front row) Myles Thomas, Wesley Holbrook, Kaleb Nelson, Quinn Harmon, Emma Sharkey, Kramer Jenkins, Gretchen Greenwell, Hannah Thomas, Morgan Beaven, Ainsley Beaven, Sydney Brown. (Back row) Elijah Price, Brayden McGraw, Heather Crowdus, Mollie

Morris, Jaeden Rossio, Gray Greenwell, Benson Greenwell, Weston Clements, Micah Ervin, Nokomus Rossio, Garren Duckworth, Gabe Vincent. The Duke TIP Talent Search Program identifies academically talented students based on standardized test scores achieved in the spring of 2013. Candidates are invited to take the ACT Explore which will allow them greater insight into their academic abilities. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson, Principal.



St. Ann 7th grade students that have been identified for the Duke Tip Talent Search for the 2013-14 school year include: Emily Greenwell, Jacqueline Davis, Macy Butler, Anna Wheatley, Aubrey Hancock, Kent Davis, Samuel Hite, Paden Dyer, Jarett Gough, Samuel Gatten, not pictured Alex Paris. The Duke Tip Talent Search program identifies academically talented 7th grade students based on standardized test scores achieved in the spring of 2013. Candidates are then invited to take the ACT as 7th grade students which allows greater insight into their academic abilities. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson, Principal.

March 21-23 Women's Retreat: "Saint Thérèse of Lisieux"

A "Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: Her Story, Our Story" women's retreat will take place March 21-23 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, "the Little Flower," was one of the most popular saints of the 20th century and is the third female Doctor of the Church. Her spirituality of "the Little Way" reminds Christians that holiness does not require extraordinary deeds. Retreat leader will be Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU. Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. The fee is \$180, or commuters can attend for \$130. Take 10 percent off the cost if paid in full by Feb. 21. Contact Kathy McCarty, 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org. A retreat brochure can be found at www.ursulinesmsj.org under Conference and Retreat Center.

National Catholic Schools Week 2014

January 26 - February 1

Catholic Schools:
Communities of Faith,
Knowledge, and Service



Debbie Hagan posing with pastor Fr. Larry McBride and HNS Principal Mary Caton. Kamille Stich Photo

Grandparent Volunteer of the Year

By Kamille Stich

HENDERSON, Ky. - Holy Name Church parishioner Debbie Hagan was named "Grandparent Volunteer of the Year" at the Grandparent Mass held in November. Debbie's stewardship of time, talent, and treasure covers almost all aspects of the work being done at Holy Name School. She makes copies, substitute teaches in various grade levels, volunteers in the after-school care program, purchases school supplies throughout the year, and donates them to students in need, among many other things. She is a constant presence at the school with a tremendous spirit of volunteerism and positivity. Debbie's daughter-in-law, Amy Hagan, is a third-grade teacher at Holy Name and, while Debbie is volunteering here, she enjoys seeing with her four grandchildren who also attend HNS: Hunter, Drew, and Mallory Hagan, and Campbell Liggett.

**PRAY AS A FAMILY
FAST IN SOLIDARITY
GIVE TO CHANGE LIVES**



Five minutes a day is all it takes.

Your family's Lenten journey can provide lifesaving aid around the world.

Visit crsricebowl.org or contact your CRS Diocesan Director to get involved!



Local Diocesan Contact

Richard Murphy • richard.murphy@pastoral.org • 270-683-1545

To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Any person who wishes to contact the diocese regarding an allegation of sexual abuse should call the Catholic Pastoral Center at 1-270-683-1545 and ask to speak with the Assistance Coordinator or a member of the Review Board. To speak with a particular member of this Board, tell the receptionist. In either case, the receptionist at the Catholic Pastoral Center will give the caller's information to a member of the Diocesan Review Board for follow-up.

Callers may choose to remain anonymous for the initial call to the Catholic Pastoral Center receptionist. The phone numbers of the members of this Board will not be made public. You may also contact the Board via email at reviewboard@pastoral.org. Be sure to include your contact information. No direct response will be given by email because confidentiality is never guaranteed when using email. Follow-up will be made by telephone.

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett (Vice-Chair), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Chair), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, and Ms. Kelly Roe. Sr. Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Review Board.

One Body

We have been called together to be:

- One Church that has faith that God the Father dwells in heaven. God the Father who provides the blessing to be adopted as his children so that we can call God the Father, "Our Father".
- One Church that actively participates in building the Kingdom of God on earth while firmly united in hope that the fullness of Our Father's kingdom is near at hand.
- One Church that realizes that obedience to the Father's will is how the Kingdom of God is built. We become unified in charity as we live our lives in accordance with the Father's will.

Charity flows from being obedient to the Father's will. Charity is friendship and communion; the visible part of charity is seen in the actions we take to restore the unity of the Church. The body of Christ is the Church.

- One body and one Spirit, ...
- One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- One God and Father of all, ... (Eph. 4: 4-6)

The members of the body of Christ are those who have been baptized in the name of the Trinitarian God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All who have been justified by faith in Baptism have the right to be called Christian and accepted as brothers and sisters by the children of the Catholic Church. Baptism constitutes the foundation of communion

among all Christians including those who are not yet in full communion. (CCC 1271)

During February we will have a workshop to discuss the biblical foundation of Christian unity at three locations:

- Feb. 8th at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Owensboro from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Feb. 15th at Holy Spirit, Bowling Green from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Feb. 18th at St Thomas More, Paducah from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

A Note to Owensboro Area Catholic Parishes:

Thanks for supporting your local St. Vincent de Paul Society this past year. Your contributions of clothing, appliances, cars, trucks, money and furniture allowed your local Society of 25 employees and 250 volunteers to serve over 12,000 deserving men, women and children. Thanks for your continued support."

Diocesan Priest Temporarily Suspended From Public Exercise of Ministry

The Reverend John Meredith, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro ordained January 12, 1980, has been temporarily suspended from the public exercise of ministry. Fr. Meredith has been the pastor of Blessed Mother Church in Owensboro since 2008. This suspension stems from recommendations made to Bishop William F. Medley by the Diocesan Review Board in response to allegations of inappropriate conduct with a minor, according to diocesan policies.

The Owensboro Police Department announced on December 31, 2013 that it would initiate an investigation. The Diocese of Owensboro cooperated fully with the Police Department and the Commonwealth Attorney. On January 16, 2014 the Owensboro Police Department announced that their investigation had been concluded and that there would be no criminal charges filed.

The Diocese of Owensboro continues its inquiry into the allegations. There have been violations of the diocese's codes of conduct dealing with contact between adults and minors. Fr. Meredith's temporary suspension remains in effect.

Earlier in his priesthood Fr. Meredith had served at: St. Francis de Sales, Paducah [January 1980- May 1980], St.

Mary of the Woods, Whitesville [June 1980 – June 1983], Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro [June 1983 – June 1985], St. Edward, Fulton and Sacred Heart, Hickman [June 1985 – June 1988], Christ the King, Madisonville [June 1988 – June 1995] and Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro [June 1995 - June 2008].

We always pray for any who have ever been harmed within the community of the Catholic Church. Please remember Fr. Meredith and his family, friends and parishioners in your continued prayers.

Because the Church's first obligation with regard to all victims, whether alleged or substantiated, is for healing and reconciliation, the Diocese will reach out to every person who alleges that he or she was abused by anyone acting in the name of the Church, whether the alleged abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past. If you or someone you know has been abused by a member of the Church, please call the Diocese of Owensboro, 270-683-1545, and ask for the Assistance Coordinator or a member of the Diocesan Review Board. Those names can be found on the diocesan website, www.rcdok.org and are listed in the Western Kentucky Catholic.

The Western Kentucky Catholic

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Bishop of Owensboro

• Editor: Mel Howard, mel.howard@pastoral.org

• Business Address: Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301 Phone: 270-683-1545. Fax: 270-683-6883

• See the present edition and back issues of the WKC Online at http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC_online.php

• Story Deadline: 15th of month prior to publication.

The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars.

"Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God." -Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971.

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic 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.

Please send all Western Kentucky Catholic address additions, address deletions or address changes to Cathy Hagan at cathy.hagan@pastoral.org.

Remarks by The Most Reverend
Ronald W. Gainer, Diocese of
**Lexington CCK Annual Health Care
 Summit ,The Catholic Center ,
 Lexington,Ky., October 30, 2013**



Bp. Ronald Gainer,
Lexington, Ky

I thank you for that and for your participation today in our annual CCK Health Care Summit.

Thank you to our three presenters for the information, perspectives and assistance you offered us.

I also want to express thanks from all of us to Father Pat Delahanty, the CCK staff and the CCK Health Care Committee who plans this annual meeting. In a very particular way I thank Karen Chambers who serves us so well in managing all the details of our Annual Health Care Summit.

Maybe you have heard this story. A driver was stopped by a state trooper. He was clocked going 20 miles over the speed limit. When the officer began talking with the driver, he noticed by the light of his flashlight that in the back of the car there was a can of gasoline, some rags, matches and other combustible materials. The officer immediately suspected that the individual had already committed or was on his way to commit arson. When he questioned the driver about the reason for the materials in the back of his car, the driver explained that he was a professional juggler and that he was speeding because he was running late for a scheduled performance. The officer was still skeptical, having heard all kinds of excuses to cover up criminal activity, so he said to the driver, "All right, if you are a juggler, show me." The driver got out of the car, took three bowling pins out of his trunk, wrapped the ends with gas soaked rags and began effortlessly juggling them, while the officer held his flashlight on the performer.

A passing car slowed down as the driver and passenger stared at the officer and the juggler tossing his flaming bowling pins. The couple was returning home after dinner in a local restaurant. The man said to his wife, "Honey, I swear I will never again have a second drink when we eat out. Would you look at that? Do you believe what the police are requiring now for a road side sobriety test?"

As outsiders to the exchange between the juggler and the officer, it could easily appear that what was taking place was a field sobriety test. Only the two directly involved knew the real story.

In some ways the story applies to Catholic Health Care. To outsiders it is easy to get the wrong idea of what we are doing. From the outside it can look like a contest of juggling excellent health care provision, prudent, productive business decisions, careful navigation of the ever changing regulatory landscape and a laundry list of moral do's and don'ts that others see as strangely peculiar to Catholic moral teaching. It is no easy task to keep everything flowing, moving things in harmony, without dropping one or more of the essentials that are necessary to keep our institutions afloat. But that is what it might look like to a passer-by, to an outsider. It should not be the way those of us who are involved in the work, the ministry, see ourselves. It is imperative that you who are leaders in this important mission seek a thorough integration of our distinctive Catholic identity with all the other aspects of your health care work.

George Weigel in his latest book, *Evangelical Catholicism*, gives an intellectual and spiritual analysis of the Catholic Church today and the deep reform needed if we are to be effective in proclaiming and living the Gospel in contemporary Western culture. In a section entitled "Evangelical Catholicism is both culture forming and counter-cultural," Weigel hits on this essential work of integration in a culture that is fragmented and hostile to religious values. He writes:

"In less than a decade after the Vatican Council, the high culture of the West took a sharp turn toward an aggressive and hegemonic secularism, that, in the 21st century, manifests itself as Christophobia: a deep hostility to gospel truth (especially moral truth) and a determination to drive Christians who affirmed those truths out of the public square and into a privatized existence on the margins of society. In these circumstances, the preaching of the gospel and the living out of gospel truth in activities ranging from healthcare to foster care to education are profoundly countercultural. They put the believer at risk in terms of psychological comfort and social status. When the ambient public culture is dominated by nihilism and relativism and conscripts public authority to impose that nihilism and relativism on others through the coercive use of state power, the church faces the challenge that is somewhat similar, at least structurally, to the challenge it faced in communist lands during the Cold War years."

(George Weigel, *Evangelical Catholicism, Deep Reform in the 21st Century Church,*

Basic Books, New York, NY: 2013, p.82)

To allow the Catholic Identity of our institutions and our religious values to permeate every aspect of our health care delivery does, I believe, put you at risk in the ambient culture. Our challenge - requiring considerable courage and integrity - is to remain steadfast to the rich heritage we have received from our past and preserve and further that legacy for future generations for the good of that very culture which often shines an unfriendly light on us and from the outside misunderstands what is really going on with us.

At the root of this tension is a fundamental difference in the understanding of the human person. In Catholic doctrine there is an unchanging, clearly articulated vision of just who we are, how we are made, what we are to do and where we are headed when medicine and medical practice can no longer help us. Our Catholic understanding of the human person is the foundation of our moral vision. That vision of the dignity of the person contrasts greatly, contrasts essentially, with the secular concepts of the nature and purpose of human persons.

In a September 20th address to a meeting of Catholic Medical Associations at the Vatican, Pope Francis made these remarks: "...hospital departments ... are privileged places of witness and evangelization, for wherever the church becomes "the bearer of the presence of God", there, too, she becomes the "instrument of the true humanization of man and the world."

Today courage is needed to bear witness courageously to the Gospel of Life!

(*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization, n. 9*)

"By fostering an awareness that the human person in his frailty stands at the center of all medical and health care work, the healthcare facility becomes "a place in which the relationship of treatment is not a profession" - your relationship of treatment is not a profession - "but a mission; where the charity of the Good Samaritan is the first seat of learning and the face of suffering man is the Christ's own face.

"Never fail to ask the Lord and the Virgin Mary for the strength to accomplish your work well and to bear witness courageously - courageously! Today courage is needed - to bear witness courageously to the gospel of life!"

Days such as this one help us not only professionally to get essential information and to network with other professionals but days like today can help us retain our focus on what is truly distinctive about Catholic

Health Care - that we have been given a "mission" and have accepted a responsibility to carry out that mission faithfully and care-fully. A keystone document on the mission of the laity in the Church and in the World, tells us: "The Church today lives a fundamental aspect of her mission in lovingly and generously accepting every human being, especially those who are weak and sick. (*Christifideles Laici, n. 78*)"

As we conclude our time together, consider this special time in which we find ourselves. We are nearing the end of the Year of Faith - a time during which the whole Church was invited by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to integrate our faith more fully into the whole of our lives and to grow bolder in witnessing to Jesus Christ. The Year of Faith is also a time when our health care institutions and those who lead them and who serve in them have an opportunity to intensify the Christ-centered service of love that we provide through the art of medicine and care giving.

We are also only two days away from the annual Festival of All Saints, November 1st. As we listened to the introductions we gave at the beginning of our program, we heard mentioned the names of so many of our hospitals and other facilities placed by their founders under the patronage of our Blessed Mother and the saints. As All Saints Day approaches, we might all do well to remember the innumerable saints - canonized and those we knew in our own lives who helped to form us in the work that we do. That great cloud of witnesses is able to assist us to remain focused and bold in our mission. We celebrate those Saints who struggled with their own serious illnesses - illnesses that gave them a deep union with the passion of Christ and who were able to show the world the human and spiritual value of suffering through their example and endurance. We celebrate those Saints who were leaders in healthcare and care giving - many of them Foundresses or Founders of religious communities whose members forwarded their healing work through the centuries. We celebrate the memory of the Saints who prayed for and with the sick and the dying.

As we take leave of each other, we do not exit our membership in the communion of saints. We have these great models and intercessors to help us. As their contemporary outsiders looked on their lives and works, they were often misunderstood. Yet with an unfriendly light shining on them, they remained steadfast in the mission entrusted to them by Christ. Inspired by their example and relying on their intercession, we must "go and do likewise" (*John 13:15*).

Bishop William Medley Appoints Mr. Joe Bland As Director of the Family Life Office on January 13, 2014

February, 2014 33

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Mr. Joe Bland has accepted the position of the Director of the Family Life Office (FLO) for the Diocese of Owensboro. His first day working in the Catholic Pastoral Center where the FLO is located was January 13, 2014.

The Western Kentucky Catholic met with Joe the day after he began working for the diocese and asked some questions Joe Bland told us some of his story for the Western Kentucky Catholic.

WKC: Joe, tell us some about yourself, your family, and your thoughts about this new office you will hold.

Joe Bland: "I have been married to my wife, Cathy, for over 26 years. We have three children; Chelsea 24, Seth 20 and Hannah 16. We are members of St. Mary of the Woods in Whitesville where we have lived for 22 years.

"I have worked in ministry for almost 12 years working for St. Mary's as Youth Minister and Director of Faith Formation and I taught Religion at Trinity for 10 Years

"I'm a graduate of Brescia "College" University 89' and I have a Masters Degree in Theology from St. Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, IN. I am currently working on a Certificate in Theology of the Body Institute in Downingtown, PA.

"I have worked not only at the parish level but I have been involved in many areas of the diocese as well. I have been a Co-Director of CLI along with Melinda Prunty. I was involved in the bringing of Gasper River from a dream to a reality and served on the first board of directors there and have stayed involved in camp ministry over the last 7 years. I have served on many TEC teams and was Team Selection Chair for 3 Years on the TEC Board. I have been a workshop presenter at ODYC (Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference) presenting on topics of Theology of the Body and the dangers of Internet Pornography and my wife and I are presenters for Pre-Cana.

"My work in Theology of the Body over the last four years has shown me that there is a need for a greater focus on family life and to strengthen the core family. That starts when we understand ourselves and our sexuality and that we are made in the image and likeness of God. This has



Mr. Joe Bland is the new Family Life Office Director for the Diocese of Owensboro. Joe began work in the office Jan. 13, 2014.

Photo by Mel Howard

enkindled a passion in me to want to help families which starts when they are still young single people looking to get married and start a family. We have to focus on our young people getting engaged. If we can build stronger families when they are just starting out this will help to promote the next generation of strong Catholic families which in turn will promote more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This is the passion that I hope to bring to the Office of Family Life."

WKC: Thanks, Joe. Are there any new programs you're hoping to direct for parishes and schools? For example, Theology of the Body—how might this theology become more widely understood among the people in the pews of our parishes? Where is it already being taught in the diocese?

Joe Bland: "Right now I want to observe for the first few months and get to know the people that I will be working with in these various programs we have. However, with my training in Theology of the Body I would like to help people in the parishes have a better understanding of what it really means and how beautiful the teachings are that JP II gave us. There is so much that we can continue to learn about these teachings.

"My goal is to help build stronger families. I would like to look at new programming for Fatherhood Initiatives, and parenting in today's society. I want to be a Director that goes out to the people and

help those ministers in the parish.

"To my understanding all the Catholic high schools in the diocese are teaching TOB in some form. There are most likely some young adults studies going on but I haven't heard of any lately."

Joe works in the Family Life Office in The Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St. in Owensboro. The Administrative Assistant of the Family Life Office, Charlotte Hedges, has worked since 2002 assisting the Director with implementing the programs the office manages for the diocese, and maintains the list of names and years of marriage for the Wedding Anniversaries which are printed each month in *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

Finding Out About A Theology of the Body

The 'Theology of the Body' is Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person - body, soul, and spirit. Presented as talks in his Wednesday general audiences in St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body consists in 129 catechetical lectures. Interested readers may find the series online at ewtn.com. Theology of the Body for Teens has also been developed for teens and pre-teens in Catholic Schools, parish youth ministries. Religious Education, Confirmation, and homeschool settings.

1. Of the Unity and Indissolubility of Marriage

On 5 September 1979, in the first of his General Audiences on the Theology of the Body, the Holy Father expounded the words of Christ, "In the beginning the Creator made them male and female."

129. Conclusion to the Series: Redemption of the Body and Sacramentality of Marriage

In his General Audience of 28 November 1984, the Holy Father concluded his four-year catechesis on Theology of the Body with a summary of his conclusions. His catechesis was divided into two parts: the first was a study of Christ's words on marriage and their implications for the redemption of the body, and the second, an analysis of the sacramentality of marriage as presented in Ephesians 5, with added insights from *Humanae Vitae*. Source: <http://www.ewtn.com/library/papaldoc/jp2tbind.htm>

In Your Charity, Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mary C. Kennedy



Mary C. Kennedy

Mary C. Kennedy, 82, of the Carmel Home passed away Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital. She was born Feb. 15, 1931, to the late Frank and Ava Kennedy. Mary was a teacher and principal in the Owensboro Catholic Schools system, most recently a principal for Holy Angels Elementary School. She served on the board of directors of the Catholic Foundation. Mary also served as a member of the evaluation team for Diocesan Self-Study and Office of Superintendent. She served as co-founder and secretary to Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Education Inc. from 1983-1985; served on Archdiocesan Curriculum Steering Committee for Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 1974-1975; served as principal at St. Peter School in Waverly while in charge of integration with Blessed Martin School and consolidation at St. Vincent School serving Sturgis, Marion, St. Vincent and St. Peter area students.

She also was preceded in death by her brothers, Charles and Raymond Kennedy; sister Anna Clements; and brothers-in-law Robert Peters and Carl Medley. Mary is survived by her sisters, Lola Whitesides, Gladys Peters, Norma Medley, Joan Byrne (J.L.) and Sherry Holinde (Sam); brother Larry Fulkerson; brother-in-law Don Clements; sister-in-law Marilyn Fulkerson; and three special friends Sister Mary Jude Cecil, Joan Perry and Mary Danhauer.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Carmel Home. Burial was in St. Alphonsus Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Carmel Home or Owensboro Catholic Schools. Condolences may be left at www.glennfuneralhome.com.

St. Thomas More Parishioners Celebrates the Beginning of Advent



In the picture at top left, Claudia Burrus, left, works with the children at the craft table to assist them with making special Christmas items.

In the picture at middle left, The Dawson family works together to create an Advent wreath with greens and the four candles.

Photos by Felicia LaBarge

By Missy Eckenberg
PADUCAH, Ky. - The annual Advent celebration was held on November 30, 2013 in the parish hall after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Parishioners welcomed the special season by gathering together to enjoy chili, make an Advent wreath, and help children make special Christmas items. A special thanks goes to Donna Tarantino and Martha Argotte-Thomas for coordinating the effort and Maybel Reyes for preparing enough chili for all.



Join us for a Women's Retreat

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

March 21-23, 2014

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, "the Little Flower," was one of the most popular saints of the 20th century. Her spirituality of "the Little Way" reminds Christians that holiness does not require extraordinary deeds, lofty theology or mystical phenomena. Rather, Thérèse's ideal of holiness is faithful and loving attention to the ordinary circumstances and people of our daily lives. Retreatants will reflect on and pray with Saint Thérèse by looking at her family life, her experience of Carmelite life, her "Little Way" and her experience of dying and the promise of eternity.



Sister Cheryl

Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch Sunday.

Fee: \$180 for residents or \$130 for commuters.

***Get a 10% discount if paid in full by Feb. 21, 2014.**

A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Sister Ann McGrew: 270-229-0200

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206 • kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
Find a brochure online at www.ursulinesmsj.org under Conference & Retreat Center



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Join our Spinning Retreat!

March 7-9, 2014



Whether you are an experienced yarn spinner, weaver, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the Arts at the Mount weekend retreat at Mount Saint Joseph

(located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56).

Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill.

The group plans to "spin, knit and talk until we're done!"

For information on room rates, costs, etc., or to register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org • www.ursulinesmsj.org

2014 SPINNING DAYS: May 10 and Aug. 2



Mount Saint Joseph
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8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

A Living Will or a Loving Will: There Are Important Differences

By Sheila Howard, RN

Many people believe that living wills are primarily safeguards against excessively burdensome medical treatments that only prolong the dying process. All too often, however, they are utilized in a way that denies routine medical treatments to persons who are not dying, but rather who are regarded as no longer having any real “quality of life”. In some cases, patients who have dementia or who are merely over a certain age have been determined to have no quality of life. Many of the underlying assumptions and ambiguity inherent in the language used in living wills creates a danger of our choices being misunderstood or distorted and treatments that we may actually want being denied at a time when we cannot speak for ourselves.

The Living Will document was first developed in 1967 by the organization that was then known as the Euthanasia Society of America (the organization known today as Choice in Dying). Since that time, every state has passed legislation recognizing advance directives. Since 1990, it has also become law that every health care facility that receives Medicaid or Medicare funding is required to provide patients an opportunity to sign an advance directive upon admission.

Pro-life organizations such as National Right to Life; Physicians for Life; Lifetree; Priests for Life; National Association of Pro-Life Nurses; American Life League; and the International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force warn us about the dangers of living wills. Here are some concerns that have been noted:

1) The language in living wills is broad and ambiguous and therefore our choices may be interpreted—or misinterpreted—by medical and legal personnel to mean something different than what we intended. Examples of ambiguous terms are “irreversible or incurable condition”—this could be applied to such conditions as stroke, alcoholism, cerebral palsy, asthma, dementia, or even diabetes. Many conditions cannot be cured but they can be controlled with proper medical care. In a similar way, “terminal condition” or “imminent death” has been interpreted or legislated to mean a probable occurrence of death anywhere from 30 days to a year or more.

2) Living wills are legal documents that state in the present time our decisions

or desires regarding future treatment. We do not know what our future illness or circumstance will be or when it may occur or what treatment options will be available in our future.

3) The basic premise and underlying assumption of living wills is for non-treatment. Furthermore, they allow the definition of treatment to be determined by state law.

4) In general, living will legislation does not hold medical professionals accountable or liable if they don't follow a medical surrogate's directives.

5) In the current health care climate, living wills are being used more frequently to justify removal of life support in cases where patients are not dying but are disabled or otherwise determined to have poor “quality of life”.

6) Emergency physicians and personnel frequently assume that a patient who has a living will should not be resuscitated in the event of a medical emergency. This assumption is often made without any knowledge or investigation of the specific terms of the individual's living will.

Because of these problems and other concerns with living wills, many pro-life organizations encourage instead the use of a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions (DPHACD)—sometimes referred to as a health care surrogate. The person you designate for your DPHACD needs to be someone who knows and respects you and who affirms your belief in the sanctity of life. A health care surrogate is believed to be a better option for several reasons:

1) The surrogate or proxy you choose is your legal representative as well as someone who loves you and knows you and your wishes.

2) In the event of a health crisis in which you cannot speak for yourself, your surrogate can ask the necessary questions and evaluate treatment options and discern which choices comply with your expressed wishes. This is done at the time of the health situation when the specifics of your condition and treatment options are known.

3) Doctors are generally exempt from liability if they follow the surrogate's directives.

Many pro-life groups also provide documents to assist us in stating our specific instructions in writing and to guide

us in legally designating our surrogate. Having written instructions is a good place to begin an in-depth discussion with our surrogate (and all of our loved ones) and helps us to clarify our choices. The basic premise of these documents is a presumption for treatment, except in specific situations that we state, and the instructions help us to state our exceptions in precise terminology. Examples of such documents are the “Will to Live” provided by Right to Life; the “Loving Will” developed by the American Life League, and the “Protective Medical Decisions Document” (PMDD) written by the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. The PMDD is recommended by Physicians for Life. These are only a few of the alternatives to the Living Will document and all of them are intended to be a written representation of our choices in addition to our designation of a surrogate—not in place of

the designation of a surrogate. You may obtain a copy of any one of these documents by contacting the organization that developed it or by downloading it from their website. You do not have to contact a lawyer to complete any of these documents or to designate a surrogate.

It is important to understand that there is no religious, pro-life, legal or medical organization that insists that excessive, unnecessary or useless treatments need to be provided to keep dying persons alive. What they do advocate for is that people are provided care that honors the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, rather than what is judged to be quality of life. They also defend each person's right to be provided treatment choices based on effectiveness of treatment and that honor his or her expressed wishes and beliefs rather than an assumption that the individual “wouldn't want to live like that”.

Black Catholic Day of Reflection

The diocese of Owensboro will host its annual Black Catholic Day of Reflection on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at Christ the King Parish Hall, Madisonville, Ky From 9:30 AM until 4:00 PM. This day will include a continental breakfast, lunch, music and prayer with Bishop Medley and a Youth panel. Opportunities to purchase Afro-centric items as well as diocesan T shirts will also be available. Contact the Office of Black Catholic Ministry, Rita Hayden (270) 683-1545 or Veronica Wilhite (270) 926-4741 for information and to register for this day of fellowship and spiritual revival. There is no cost for registration and everyone is welcome.

Compassionate Healing

Learn to be a compassionate presence for others that are looking for help. The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand are offering a program, “Compassionate Healing,” on Monday, February 17, at Kordes Center in Ferdinand, Indiana. Topics will include healing in Scripture and in the Benedictine tradition, tracing the heritage of healing, and practicing compassionate healing. Presented by Sister Michelle Mohr, OSB, and Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB. Program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern. Cost \$79, including lunch. Register by February 13. For more information, or to register, call 800-880-2777, or 812-367-1411, ext. 2915, or visit www.thedome.org/programs.

Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest



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

The Serra Club is asking that you pray daily for your adopted priest. The names of priests

are assigned randomly.

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

Trinity High School Wrestling Team Begins First Season

By Monica Morris

Trinity High School in Whitesville, Ky., has a long standing history in its local community. It has provided education and extracurricular activities for generations of families in the surrounding countryside for many years. This school year, however, the small high school has begun something never before tried in its history. It has started a wrestling team.

The venture began with the hiring of Mr. Jeremy Goebel as the religion teacher for the 2103-2014 school year. Mr. Goebel came to the position with a master's degree in theology and previously taught in Indiana. In addition to these qualifications, though, he just happens to have excellent credentials in the field of wrestling.

Growing up in Evansville, In., Goebel was raised in a legacy of wrestling. His uncle, Mike Goebel, has coached the now well-known wrestling program at Matre Dei High School in the city of Evansville since 1980, with an impressive 10 state titles during this time. Jeremy Goebel wrestled for this team. His senior year (2006) he was captain of a team that won state. From there he went on to wrestle at Rend Lake College and to be assistant coach at Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis. Now he is coming full circle in his family's legacy by having the opportunity to do as his uncle and build a wrestling tradition, beginning with a brand new program.

Goebel is assisted in this endeavor by Jarrett Allen, who comes from 5 years of wrestling for and then a stint assisting at Daviess County High School. The two coaches exude an enthusiasm for this program that is almost tangible. The boys of the team respond to this positive attitude, and have thrown themselves into this venture with gusto. There are currently eight of them on the team. The roster includes senior co-captains Zack Rhodes and Austin Sands. Young men coming up to fill positions are sophomores Codey Mattingly, Michael Roberts, Reuben Morris, and Zach Boarman. The roster is rounded out by two seventh graders, Blaise Morris and Caleb Mills, who are eager to earn their spot among the older boys.

Trinity's first season has begun. The current plan is for them to only host one home match this season, on February 6 at



Mr. Jeremy Goebel is Wrestling Coach at Trinity High School, Whitesville, Ky. THS Photo

6:00 p.m. in the Trinity gym.

Watch this team for plenty of excitement as they grow in technique and experience.

To learn when and where they'll be wrestling, contact Trinity High School (270-233-5533).

The 2013-2014 Trinity High School Wrestling Team, (L - R) are Codey Mattingly, Zach Boarman, Zack Rhodes, Reuben Morris, Michael Roberts, Blaise Morris, and Austin Sands. Photo by Christina Rhodes

T-H-S! T-H-S! GO RAIDERS! GO BIG BLUE!



On Saturday, January 11th, the Trinity High School Lady Raiders Basketball team took on Cannelton. This solidified another victory for the Lady Raiders. Some of the starting lineup - From left to right - Kirsten Beatty (#24), Hannah Armes (#5) and Cecilia Morris (#44). Photo by Kim Rydecki



On Saturday, January 11th, the Trinity High School Raiders Boys Basketball team took on Christian Fellowship. This solidified another victory for the Raiders. From left to right - Drew Mills (#30) and Blake Booker (#25). Photo by Kim Rydecki

Go! Go Raiders! Everybody Yell! Go Raiders!

Go To <https://www.facebook.com/trinity.raiders>

National Catholic Schools Week 2014
January 26 - February 1

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service



Trinity High School Wrestling Team



Ursuline Associates Advent Service

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OWENSBORO, Ky. - Thirty associates of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Ursuline Sisters and friends gathered in the Brescia University Chapel on Dec. 16, 2013 to celebrate Advent together. The prayer service was created by Associate Martha Little. Here are pictures from the evening.

For more information about the MSJ Associates go to <http://ursulinesmsj.org/associates>.



Associate Joan Perry reads her portion of the prayer service, about believing in the promises of Scripture



Sister Cheryl Clemons, left, played the organ as Sister Elaine Burke led the singing.



Associates Jennifer Kaminski, left, and Debbie Lanham, coordinator of the Owensboro Associates, played roles in the service.



Sister Helena Fischer, center, lights an Advent candle, joined by Sister Marie Joseph Coomes and Associate Keith Hudson, who both also lit a candle.

At right, Associate John Little extends his candle to Bonnie Snyder (not pictured), as Sister Rose Jean Powers (center) lights Shirley Kent's candle. Candles were lit from the Advent candle, and then participants shared their light.



Associate Keith Hudson shares his light with Sister Marietta Wethington. Sister Marietta read the voice of Saint Angela Merici during the service. Saint Angela is the founder of the Ursuline order.

St Joseph Saints Boy's Team Win Tournament

Submitted by Sandy McAllister

The St. Joseph School-Bowling Green's boy's basketball team brought home the championship trophy from the Adairville Holiday Invitational Tournament held on December 18th. Under the leadership of coach Chad Goodman, the Saints defeated Todd County and Adairville before taking on a second Todd County team in the final game. Eighth grade students, Jay Buser, Nash Hightower and Ivan Markovic were all selected for the All-Tournament Team. Buser, who led the Saints in scoring, was named tournament MVP. The Saints headed into the second half of their season with an impressive 13-1 record.

At right, the St. Joseph School-Bowling Green's boy's basketball team for 2013-2014 school year. Submitted by Sandy McAllister



Jay BUser, MVP



**National Catholic Schools
Week 2014
January 26 - February 1
Catholic Schools: Communities
of Faith, Knowledge, and
Service**

NCYC Lights Hearts In An Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



Some National Catholic Youth Conference 2013 attendees. Back Row: Frances Seaton, Jack Padgett, Kelsey Settles Front Row: Travis Welsh, Ryan Purk, Gabby Hoffman, Paige Hicks, Noelle Curry, Deacon Dirck Curry. Photo submitted by Noelle Curry

1 Corinthians 12:12

"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit."

By Ryan Purk

OWENSBORO, Ky. - From November 20-23, 2013, along with several other members of the St. Stephen Cathedral Youth Group, I was bless-

ed to have the opportunity to attend National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. NCYC is a gathering of around 23,000 youth and 4,000 adults from around the United States including states like Hawaii and Alaska. These Catholic followers come with the unified purpose of growing closer and falling deeper in love with Jesus Christ.

A pervading sense of unity was present in each activity, motivational speaker, worship service, mass celebration, etc. The power of the Holy Spirit was at work in the two block long confession lines and the adoration services; in the loving smiles and warm embraces of Catholic brothers and sisters welcoming each other. In each of these moments the Oneness of the Holy Spirit became ever more apparent to me. There is one moment in particular that Jesus especially touched my heart; a moment where I saw the true meaning of the Body of Christ, the Church.

On the final night of NCYC the Mass of Christ the King was celebrated in Lucas Oil Stadium with over 27,000 followers in attendance. Throughout the weekend God had been pouring graces into my heart through prayer, fellowship, and confession, but I didn't feel the full force of these graces until I witnessed a procession of over 200 priests, bishops, and deacons at the opening of Mass. This procession lasted around ten minutes as the whole assembly sang songs of God's love, his mercy; and his glory. These religious men were all of one mind body and spirit as they prepared to be instruments of God in the consecration of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This true and holy food is what makes us into the image of the Body of Christ. It unites us.



Ryan Purk and Bishop Medley hanging out in the hotel lobby. Photo submitted by Noelle Curry

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the one body of Christ in front of me could be felt in my soul and Jesus lit my heart with a more intense flame of love for him. I see the Church more clearly as the Body of Christ and my resolve to follow God's will has been strengthened from this experience. The Church will help me keep this flame of faith alive and will continue to add to it all the days of my life.

Singing Carols For The Folks at Home



High school youth from St. Lawrence, St. Stephen and St. Williams caroling to St. Stephen's homebound parishioners (Dec 15). Photo submitted by Noelle Curry

In the picture at right, Junior high youth caroling to St. Stephen Cathedral's neighboring homes (Dec 18). Photo submitted by Noelle Curry



MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH HAPPENINGS

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The Ursuline Associates of Western Kentucky came to Maple Mount on Nov. 16, 2013 to share their affection with the Ursuline Sisters, bringing them home-made treats and individual goody bags during a party in Saint Joseph Villa. "We decided to do some in-reach rather than outreach," said Sid Mason, coordinator for the group. Here are some photos from the event.



Sister Rita Lavigne smiles as she looks at a picture Associate John Wood took on his phone.



Picture at left, Associate Risè Karr, left, of Hopkinsville smiles as Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan picks up a few treats.



Associate Betty Boren, right, of Hopkinsville, hugs Sister Philomena Cox. MSJ Photo



Associate Mike Sullivan draws a smile from Sister Rosalin Thieneman.



Robert Rivers, who trains those in the diaconate program in Atlanta, speaks to the 16 members of the Permanent Diaconate Program in the Diocese of Owensboro, along with some of their spouses, on Nov. 16 at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Those studying to become deacons in the Diocese of Owensboro come to the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center each month for an intensive weekend of study. MSJ Photo



Associate Elaine Wood, center, of Barlow, visits with Sister Marie Julie Fecher, as Sister Annalita Lancaster looks on at right. The associates set up a colorful feast of fruit, sweets and snacks for the sisters.

Every year since 2000, at least two Mount St. Joseph Academy graduates have been awarded the Maple Leaf Award, given to those who "personify the values of their Mount Saint Joseph education in contributions to their local faith communities, civic communities, and/or Mount Saint Joseph." Picture at lower far right, Anna Mattingly, A66, reads her nomination for why Sister Michael Marie Friedman deserved the 2013 Maple Leaf Award. Mattingly teaches at St. James Elementary School in Elizabethtown, Ky., where Sister Michael Marie is principal. Near right photo: Sister Michael Marie Friedman, A64, center, listens as Anna Mattingly tells those present the accomplishments that led to her receiving the Maple Leaf Award. <http://ursulinesmsj.org/news/2013-mount-saint-joseph-academy-and-junior-college-alumnae-reunion>



St. Charles, C.P., Brings Passionist Nuns Another Postulant!

A Blog Post, January 9, 2014 - from *In The Shadow of His Wings*, Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, USA

The 2014 Polar Vortex brought us a postulant but we give more credit to our Passionist Saint Charles of Mt. Argus whose feast is January 5. Sr. Cecilia Maria entered on this same feast back in 2010. Elizabeth and family arrived Saturday, January 4 just as we were getting the heat working again in chapel. It was a great joy to see all of them again and to receive a new postulant in our ranks!

By Monday our temp in chapel began to go back down and we moved out. Tuesday morning brought us a busted water sprinkler pipe in the back of chapel and yesterday brought us another busted pipe by our front entrance.

During second Vespers of Epiphany Mother Catherine Marie gave an inspiring reflection about Elizabeth's entrance.

"On this blessed evening of Epiphany Sunday, as we allow the Holy Spirit to open up for us more and more the mystery we're celebrating, we find that many aspects of this feast can be applied to the mystery of a religious vocation, and many lessons can be drawn to appreciate



the beauty of Elizabeth's call from Florida to Kentucky as she followed the star of faith shining in her heart, guiding her vocational search. ...

... "So, dear Elizabeth - with you we "begin again." Having been led by faith to find Christ in Passionist life, let's all renew our strong commitment to fulfill the mission God has given us for the



Elizabeth holding a framed print of Saint Andrew. Elizabeth and family during a parlor visit. Passionist Nuns Photos



Elizabeth with her parents and Mother Catherine Marie on the morning of the feast of Epiphany as she "postulates" - asks - to enter the cloister to discern more clearly God's call to Passionist life.

people of our times, to walk with each other, support each other, and help each other to be all that God wants us to be, each one in the mystery of her unique and unrepeatable self. The words of St. Paul the Apostle to the Philippians come to mind: "Prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation, among whom you shine like stars in the sky while holding

fast to the word of life." Together, may our lives touch, help and transform the sinners living in the darkness and misery of twisted and depraved lives without God! Elizabeth, we are all walking the path with you, and will be supporting you and your family by our love and prayers. God bless you!"

Source: <http://www.passionistnuns.org/blog/st-charles-cp-brings-us-another-postulant/>

In God's Name

Changing of the Seasons, Time of Year Mirrored in Our Lives



Luis Aju

By Luis Aju

(Weather here) is different experience for us who come from Central America, South America and elsewhere.

In the United States the cold is cold, with much snow and if it is hot, it is very hot. The summers can be mostly over 100 degrees F, making life a bit more challenging in this country.

Few days are of spring and autumn; the different phases that our world passes through are the same that the human being goes through as well.

We are born, we grow, become young, get tired and old and then we walk into another life. A life cycle that nobody can change. Life is not static; life is dynamic, even without feeling the years pass. That is why we who are endowed with intelligence which is a gift from God, analyze our life. We should be concerned that we

do good deeds and also be concerned with the negative deeds we do against others, which is like doing them against God. Despite these great changes, our world suffers through, but it continues on course. We have damaged our world in many ways but it still produces our every day food.

Men and women alike, we must teach our children about the end of life, and that there is a reason for our life. Do not let years pass us by while we continue in the same ways. We should at least make a pause from our lives and realize everything we do in life.

A Saint of Guatemala, canonized for Pope John Paul II, Brother Pedro of Guatemala said, "Remember, brothers, we have one soul, and if we lose it, it can't be recovered."

Each day we build the happiness we seek, with good works towards all without making distinction of people of any rank. It is said that gray hair is a sign of wisdom, not only of the years lived. Hopefully they are years full of wisdom and many virtues. That's our hope.

Our good wishes for this new year is that we each do our part and work to heal what we have damaged and make better what needs to be better. Everyone needs a healing, not only physically but also from the ills of spirit, the ills of ambition, for those who suffer from an addiction of any kind, from bad zeal

and illness due to materialism and especially those who are responsible for the sicknesses of others. All these illnesses, we are called to correct today, not tomorrow or another day, but today. God bless you!

Excerpt from "Canonization Of Brother Pedro De San José De Betancurt, Homily Of The Holy Father John Paul II, Guatemala City, Tuesday July 30, 2002"

"Today, the new Saint represents also an urgent appeal to practise mercy in modern society, especially when so many are hoping for a helping hand. Let us think of the children and young people who are homeless or deprived of an education; of abandoned women with their many needs; of the hordes of social outcasts who live in the cities; of the victims of organized crime, of prostitution or of drugs; of the sick who are neglected and the elderly who live in loneliness. ... "Brother Pedro personifies "a heritage which must not be lost; we should always be thankful for it and we should renew our resolve to imitate it" (Novo millennio ineunte, 7). This heritage should inspire in Christians and in all citizens a desire to transform the human community into a great family, in which social, political and economic relations may be worthy of man, and in which the dignity of the person is promoted, with the effective recognition of his inalienable rights.

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/homilies/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_20020730_canonization-guatemala_en.html

UP IN SMOKE: Marijuana use rising among American teens

February, 2014 41

By Stephen Gray Wallace, MS Ed

Not that it wasn't predictable, but the federal government, fueled by new Monitoring the Future data collected by the University of Michigan on behalf of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), is reporting a rise in the illicit use of marijuana among high school students.

Shocking.

Did we really believe the loosening of restrictions on marijuana sales, possession, and use - including those related to "medicinal marijuana" - were to have no effect on those we have worked so hard to protect from the ravages of substance use condition and disorder. Not so much.

In fact, the national SADD organization predicted as much when it rallied publicly against decriminalizing the possession of marijuana years ago, stating, "Decriminalization would encourage increased use, including among teenagers. Decriminalization also sends the message that marijuana is harmless, which is not the case. The developing brains of teen-

agers are susceptible to negative changes as a result of drug and alcohol use, and these changes can be permanent."

This statement foreshadowed much of the information just released from NIDA, including reference to the normalizing of use and detrimental impact on maturing adolescent brains. Citing a new study by scientists at Northwestern University, NIDA director Dr. Nora D. Volkow, said, "What is worrisome is that we're seeing high levels of everyday use of marijuana among teenagers - the type that is most likely to have negative effects on brain function and performance."

What are those effects?

According to the Northwestern study, they include differences in structures such as the thalamus, globus pallidus and striatum. Translation: a decline in "working memory" vital to such tasks as solving puzzles, remembering numbers or quickly processing information needed to perform everyday tasks. Working memory is also a strong predictor of academic success, according to Matthew

J. Smith, an author of the study.

The NIDA report also highlights concern that the relaxation of restrictions on marijuana (which can now be sold legally in 20 states and Washington, DC) has been influencing the behavior of teenagers. The federal statistics tell us that more than 12 percent of eighth graders and 36 percent of high school seniors, at both public and private schools, reported smoking marijuana in the past year. Perhaps most alarming is that approximately 60 percent of seniors said they did not believe regular use of the drug is harmful.

Similar attitudes were reflected in recent driving research conducted by SADD and Liberty Mutual Insurance, in which 23 percent of teens admit to driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or other drugs. A whopping one in four teens (25 percent) who have driven under the influence of marijuana say they're not distracted "at all" when mixing substance use with driving.

With 13 million driving-aged teenagers, according to the U.S. Census Bu-

reau, we have reason to be afraid.

Very afraid.

The NIDA report also contains some good news noting alcohol use by teens - including bouts of heavy or "high risk" drinking - continues to decline, as does use of most every other illicit drug, including Vicodin, abuse of which is half what it was ten years ago.

The takeaway?

Prevention programming, such as the type provided by SADD through its thousands of school-based chapters across the country, works - especially when we intentionally take two important steps:

- * Identify significant trends in substance use condition and substance use disorder;

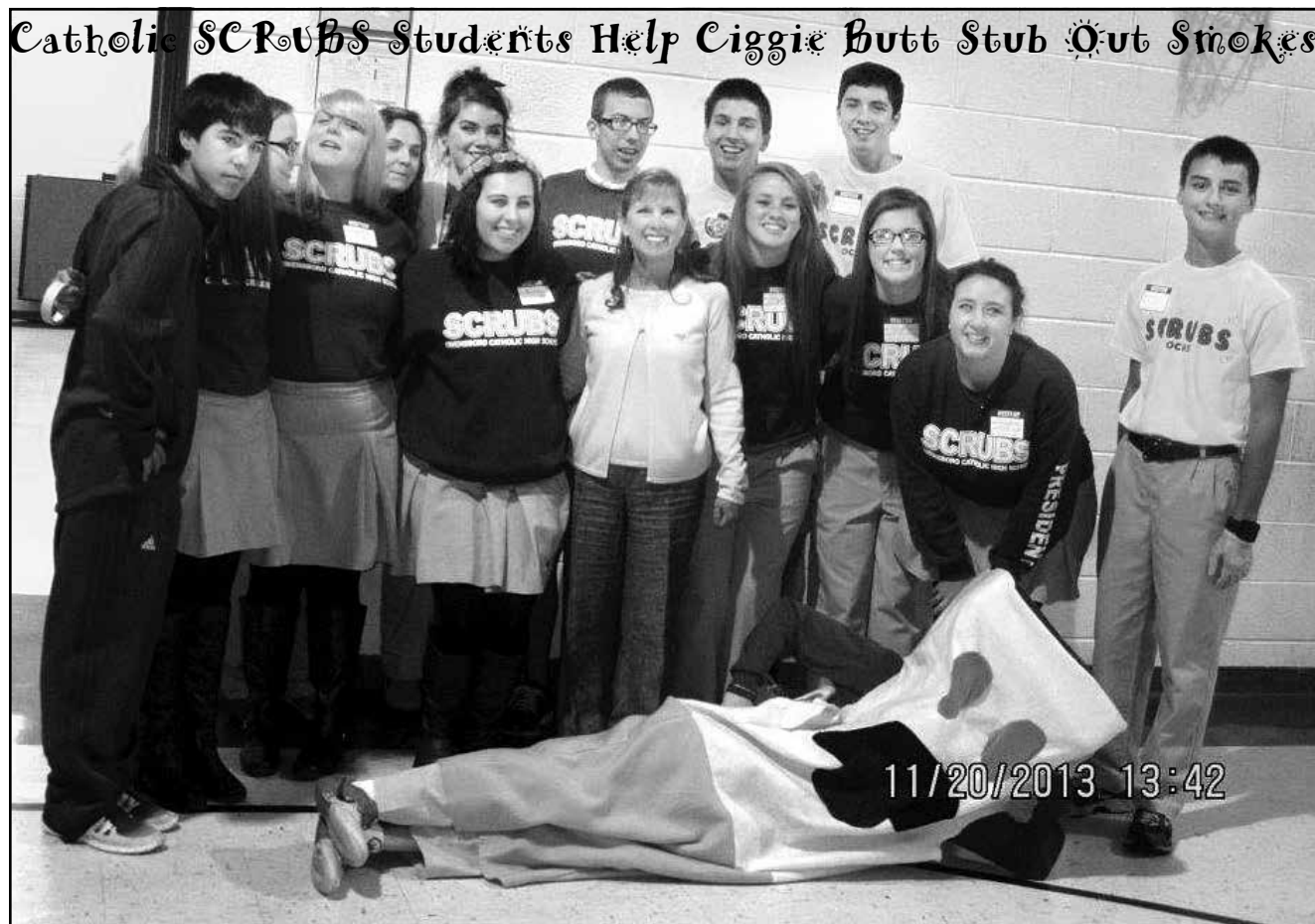
- * Empower youth and all caring adults to talk about adolescent decision-making, convening key stakeholders in communities (school, public safety, parents and teens) to reach consensus and take action on prevention initiatives.

Finally, we must remain focused on the future, recommitting to initiatives aimed at keeping young people safe, alive and in pursuit of the positive youth outcomes they seek, lest our decades of work go up in smoke.

Stephen Gray Wallace, an associate research professor and director of the Center for Adolescent Research and Education (CARE) at Susquehanna University. Source: Dec. 23, 2013 Release. Also found online at http://sadd.org/oped/up_in_smoke.htm



Hosted by Owensboro Catholic Middle School, the Owensboro Catholic High School SCRUBS students visited the Owensboro Catholic Middle School on Nov. 20, 2013, The Great American Smokeout Day, with messages about the dangers of tobacco usage. "Ciggie Butt" is the name of the character which the guy lying on the floor dressed in costume portrayed. Tessa Holcomb made this felt costume when she was a student at OCHS. From left to right are: Jacob Johnson, Emily Linn, Lauren Harney, Brittany Clouse, Madeline Rafferty, OCMS teacher Mrs. Amy Renshaw, Paige Anderson, Nic Jackson, Mason Robertson, Davis Mitchell, Haley James, Leslie Wilson, Emily Mitchell, and Adam Hayden. Julie Renshaw just happened to come into the gym and the OCHS kids wanted to have their picture made with their former teacher. The OCMS students came in the gym during their lunch block to talk to the SCRUBS students who had various stations set up around the gym. Photo by Bev Howard





By Kim Rydecki

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - On Wednesday, January 8th, Trinity High School hosted its annual Volleyball Banquet where players were recognized for their many achievements in the 2013 Volleyball Season.



In the picture above are the THS Varsity – from left to right, Shelby Aud, Abby Booker, Alanna Wathen, Madison Buck, Mollie Beatty, Haley Payne, Lauren Beyke, Katelyn Coomes, Shawna Aud, Hannah Armes, Liza Howard, Katie Wathen, Madi Perez. Coaches are in the background, from left to right, Richard Armes and Adam Huff.

In the picture at left are the THS Seniors with

Coaches – from left to right includes Adam Huff, Madi Perez, Liza Howard, Katie Wathen, and Richard Armes. This group of ladies achieved many things during this volleyball season including: 3rd Region District Champions; set many school records, including 28 season wins, which is the highest in any sport in Trinity High School Athletic history; made it to the All A Final Four.; and Madi Perez was named to the All A 1st Team.



Parish Youth SURPRISE Fr. Anthony Ottagan

CALVERT CITY, Ky. - The youth at St. Pius X Catholic Church here celebrated the 11th anniversary of Father Anthony Ottagan's ordination.

In the picture above left, St. Pius Faith Formation for Youth (FFY), celebrate the 11th anniversary of Father Anthony Ottagan's Ordination, Wednesday January 8, 2014.

Center picture above: The look of SURPRISE. Through some deception we were able to get Father Anthony to the Church where the youth were waiting to surprise him.

In the picture above left, The church youth recite a prayer prepared by Ms Betty Derry in honor and celebration of Father Anthony's Ordination. He received an Ordination card signed by all youth and adults that were present that evening.

In the picture above left, Father Anthony joins with the St. Pius X youth in listening to their Ordination Prayer for him. Photos taken and submitted by Rich Derry

Saint Meinrad Archabbey receives Friend of Conservation Award

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, was honored at the 2014 annual conference of Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts on January 7, in Indianapolis.

Saint Meinrad received the Friend of Conservation Award in the nonprofit

category for its outstanding contribution to soil and water conservation in Indiana. Fr. Guy Mansini, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad and the Archabbey forester, accepted the award on behalf of the monastery.

The Spencer County Soil and Wa-

ter Conservation District nominated the monastery for the award.

Since 2006, the Archabbey has developed 184 new acres of woodlands, with the help of American Electric Power Co., and 384 acres of wetlands with the Wetland Reserve Program of the Natural Re-

sources Conservation Service. The land had formerly been used for farming and livestock.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey has demonstrated a sustained commitment to the Classified Forest Program and has been supportive of forests, forestry and the forest industry in the area.

We Are One Body

By Diane Willis

OWENSBORO, Ky. - "We Are One Body" a Confirmation retreat for the eighth graders of Immaculate Parish was held Sunday, January 5th. All 24 Confirmandi who will be confirmed February 2 were present for the day-long retreat. Thirteen high school students from Immaculate led the retreat by facilitating small group discussions, giving talks on "Being the Mind and Mouth of Christ", "Being the Hands and Feet of Christ", Saints, "Being the Heart of God" and performing skits. The day ended with quiet time in church with God, families and sponsors.



In the picture at left, Confirmation students working on a quilt for St. Joseph.



At left, Team St. Thomas performed a skit on courage. Photos submitted by Diane Willis



A Marriage Retreat

Over 30 people enjoyed a Marriage Enrichment Day presented January 11 by Greg & Julie Alexander at Immaculate Parish. The Alexander's message included thoughts on improving communication, experiencing forgiveness, service and prayer in marriage, and cherish the marriage God intended for you. After the retreat, couples attended 4:30 Mass and renewed their vows along with all married couples present. The retreat ended with a catered meal for the retreatants. In the picture above, Marriage retreat participants listen to Greg & Julie Alexander. Photo submitted by Diane Willis



An Epiphany Party

The annual Epiphany Party for the Religious students, their families and other parishioners of Immaculate took place January 8. Families enjoyed pizza, crafts, and family game night. Above, the Mattingly family plays UNO at Immaculate's Epiphany Party. Submitted by Diane Willis



Celebrating The Finding Of Lost Sheep

Twenty-eight young people from Immaculate Parish celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Sunday, January 12. Afterwards, a reception was held for the students and their families. Above, left, Chase Mather and Elle Watson are excited about receiving their sheep cupcakes. Above, right, Mary Dolinger is all smiles that the lost sheep was found. Submitted by Diane Willis

Light One Candle

'Homeless' and 'Criminal' are Not Synonymous

By Jerry Costello for The Christophers

It was a pretty decent story to begin with: a homeless man finds a wad of cash, and instead of keeping it for himself he decides to turn it in. That's the way it started, anyhow. In time the police told him he could keep the money because no one else had claimed it, and it wasn't long after that that the commotion began. Because he failed to report the money (which totaled \$850) as income, a Human Services official declared, he lost benefits that were due him, and that opened the floodgates.

An outrage, the public declared, and more than a few people in high places agreed with them. The United Way set up a fund for the man, and people contributed enough so that the total dwarfed the initial cash discovery. And along the way, the man made an impassioned plea for his fellow victims of homelessness—in a thoughtful manner, one that made the general public sit up and take notice.

In short, it was a quite a story now. And there's clearly a lot yet to be

told.

James Brady—for that is the man's name—does not quite fit the image of someone who's homeless. A former newspaper photographer and data analyst who has suffered from depression and fell upon hard times, he lives in Hackensack, New Jersey. That's where reporter Hannan Adely has told his story in *The Record*, including his appearances before the City Council to describe the plight of the homeless. Even though he now lives in an apartment, aided by a Bergen County rent assistance program, he has reached out to the newspaper and the council—both before and after his brush with fame—to sum up his feelings.

"We have issues in the town with the homeless and the way they've been treated," he said.

"'Homeless' and 'criminal' are not synonymous.

"I have no problem with cracking down on homeless people when they're doing something wrong," he added. "When they're not doing

something wrong, they should be treated with the same respect as anyone else."

Even though state officials have said they would take steps to fill in the gaps in Brady's benefits, and a county representative said the matter "could have been handled better," a sense of public protest followed the decision to cancel out the benefits because Brady failed to report the income. News organizations spread the story and donations began pouring in. Several hundred contributors sent in nearly \$10,000, *The Record* reported, and an official of the United Way said the money would be used to meet Brady's medical needs.

"To see it get picked up by so

many papers and the response—it's tremendous," Brady said. "People are very sympathetic."

Should he have handled it differently—just pocketed the money, say?

"Nah," he said. "That's not the right thing to do." He added that he was "proud" to turn in the money to the police, in a way to show that homeless people still know to do the "good and decent" thing.

"We're not criminals," Brady said. "We're just down on our luck."

For a free copy of the *Christopher News Note, SERVING THE POOR*, write: *The Christophers*, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.

Birthright Celebrates 30 years.

"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth

and the right of every child to be born."

Birthright in Owensboro has a big increase of families in need this year and they need help with:

- Diapers and baby wipes
- New and used clothing: baby and maternity,
- Blankets: new and gently used
- Formula
- Monetary assistance
- Gas cards and gift cards

We would like to thank the Catholic community for their support, donations and prayers. For more information, contact:

Birthright

Terri LaHugh, Director
512 West 7th Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
1-270-683-1103

"Prayer For My Son."
Photo by Father Joshua McCarty



Are You Walking with Christ?

WALKING TOWARD
Eternity
Making Choices For Today

Bring
your
Bible.

A Powerful
new
seminar by
Jeff Cavins

A Live Seminar with Jeff Cavins

As Catholics our Faith is meant to be put into practice. Christianity is more than a set of beliefs; it's a way of life. Walking Toward Eternity is a powerful seminar that will help you to put your faith into practice, draw you closer to Christ, and challenge you to make real and lasting changes in your life, changes that will help you to become the person you hope to be.

Saturday, September 20, 2014

Registration: 8:30 am
Seminar: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Immaculate Parish
2516 Christie Place
Owensboro, KY 42301

Cost: \$30
(includes materials, light breakfast and lunch)
Early registration is encouraged since seating is limited.

Sponsored by: The Diocese of Owensboro, Immaculate Parish,
St. Stephen Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, Precious Blood

FREE Friday Night Talk
September 19, 2014

"Living the Life You Don't Have Time for"

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Location: Immaculate Parish
2516 Christie Place
Owensboro, KY 42301

Jeff Cavins is the creator of
The Great Adventure Catholic Bible
Study Program and director of
the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn
Catechetical Institute.

Registration Form

Please indicate number of tickets you are purchasing below.
Includes materials, light breakfast and lunch.

	Price	# of People	Total
Saturday Seminar (by 8/1/2014)	\$30	X _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Seminar (after 8/1/2014)	\$35	X _____	= \$ _____
			Total = \$ _____

For more information, Contact:
Diane Willis
Phone: 270-683-0689
Email: dwillis@immaculateparish.org

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Number attending _____ (Please list additional names on back)
E-mail _____

(Note: Tickets will be held under Registrant's last name.)

Make checks payable to:
Immaculate Parish
Mail to: Immaculate Parish Attn: Diane Willis
Address: 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301

Ascension products will be available for purchase.

ORAR EN FAMILIA AYUNAR EN SOLIDARIDAD DAR PARA CAMBIAR VIDAS



Cinco minutos al día es todo lo que se necesita.

La jornada de Cuaresma de tu familia puede proporcionar ayuda vital alrededor del mundo.

¡Visita crsplatodearroz.org o ponte en contacto con tu director diocesano de CRS para participar!



Diocesan Retreat for Families

By Luis Aju

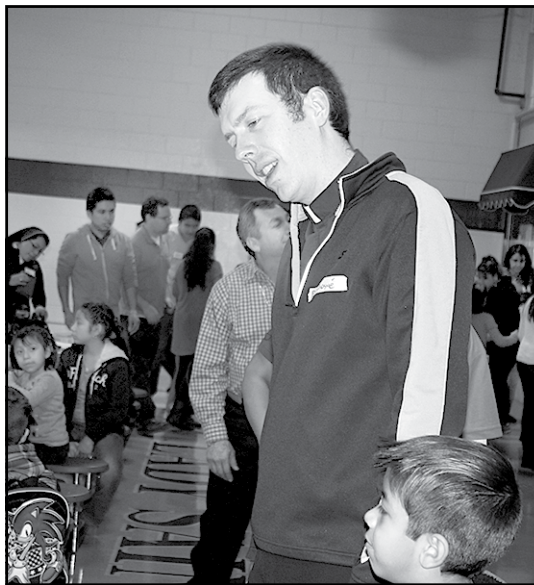
The Hispanic Ministry Staff of the Diocese has quarterly meetings, where we evaluate programs and plan activities for the Hispanic community, who lives in the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Owensboro. In one of these planning sessions we began to elaborate a retreat to target the entire Hispanic community.

Months ago, we designed a diocesan family retreat that would be led by Fr. Julio Palarino Castro, native of the Archdiocese of La Plata, Argentina, SA

Fr. Julio was thrilled with the idea of sharing their experience that he brings from the Argentine communities to the multicultural community of the diocese.

We are sure that his pastoral work in this regard is a support for people as individuals and as a community in which we will receive it in good time.

During these present times, The New Evangeliza-



tion in the Church of today, is ACTION. It is shouted everywhere that enough with books, theories, great preaching, we know a lot (not all) to be able to bring to life our human actions, with all. Love actions are: charity, compassion, respect for each other, respect for the human person, man or woman, boy or girl, young or old. Do not confuse compassion, love, charity with something else, but quite simply, serve with compassion and take care of the weak.

Therefore, we serve in the Church; we should often review how our mission in the

Reportar las Acusaciones de Abuso Sexual

Cualquier persona que desea comunicarse con la Diócesis sobre una alegación de abuso sexual debe llamar al Centro Pastoral Católico a 1-270-683-1545 y pedir hablar con al Coordinador Auxiliar o un miembro de la Junta de Revisión Diocesano. Para hablar con un miembro particular de este junta, dígame a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico le dará la información de la persona que llama a un miembro de la Junta de Revisión para seguimiento.

Las personas que llaman pueden ser anónimos para la llamada inicial a la recepcionista. Los números de teléfono de los miembros de esta junta no serán divulgados al público. También se puede contactar a la junta por su email a reviewboard@pastoral.org. No se olvide de incluir su información de contacto. No se responderá directamente por email porque no se puede garantizar la confidencialidad por email. Seguimiento será por teléfono.

Los miembros de la junta que responden a las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Mr. Ken Bennett (Vice-Chair), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Chair), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, and Ms. Kelly Roe. Sr. Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, sirve como enlace entre al Obispo y la Junta de Revisión Diocesano.



In the picture at left, Fr. Joshua McCarty talks with some of the children. In the picture at right, retreatants participate in a song/prayer. Photos by Lujis Aju

community is going. We who have been given the responsibility to serve become to feel like kings and come to say, "What I say goes." The church is of God we are only servants. We also often hear, "in my country it is not like this," let us forget our closed way of thinking and let us open our hearts and minds to others different from us. It is reminded to us that com-

munities belong to God and not to the workers. May God bless us to carry his message properly where it should go. The friends of Jesus are: the poor, the unwanted, the sinners, and those who need support. Those who feel confident that they are owners of the vineyard of the Lord, are they not mistaken? Let us meditate on that.

Por Luis Aju

El personal del Ministerio Hispano de la diócesis, tiene reuniones trimestrales, en las cuales, evaluamos, programamos y planificamos actividades para la Comunidad Hispana, que vive en la jurisdicción de la Diócesis de Owensboro. En uno de estos planes, se pensó elaborar un plan para un retiro para las comunidades hispanas de la diócesis

Meses atrás, diseñamos un retiro familiar diocesano que sería dirigido por el P. Julio Palarino Castro, Originario de la Arquidiócesis de la Plata, Argentina, S.A.

El P. Julio, encantado con la idea de compartir su experiencia que trae de las comunidades Argentinas, para con la comunidad multicultural de la diócesis.

Estamos seguros que su labor pastoral en ese sentido es un apoyo para las personas como individuo y como comunidad lo recibiremos en hora buena.

En este tiempo, La Nueva Evangelización en la Iglesia de hoy día, es ACCION. Nos lo gritan por todas partes, que basta con libros, teorías, grandes predicaciones, ya sabemos mucho (no todo) para poder hacer nuestras acciones más humanas, con todos. Las acciones de amor son, la caridad, la compasión, el respeto del uno al otro, el respeto a la persona humana, mujer u hombre, niño o niña, anciana o anciano. No confundir compasión, amor, caridad con otra cosa, sino simple y sencillamente, atender con rozaron y compasión a los más débiles.

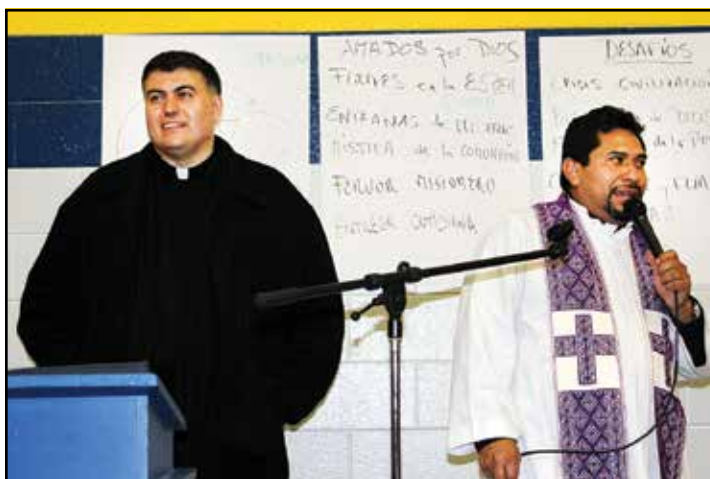
Por lo tanto, los que servimos en la Iglesia, debemos de revisar cómo va la misión nuestra en la comunidad? Existimos personas que nos han dado la responsabilidad de servir y nos volvemos como reyes y decimos "Lo que yo digo se hace". La iglesia es de Dios, nosotros solo somos servidores. También se oye decir que, "en mi país no es así", olvidemos nuestra forma de pensar tan cerrada, abramos el corazón y mente para los otros diferentes a nosotros. Volvemos a decir que las comunidades pertenecen a Dios y no a los obreros. Que Dios nos bendiga para poder llevar su mensaje correctamente donde tiene que llegar. Los amigos de Jesús, son los pobres, los indeseados, los pecadores, los que necesitan acompañamiento. Los que se sienten seguros de que son dueños de la viña del Señor, ¿no será que están equivocados? Pensemos un rato.



El equipo de los Ministros Hispanos, hemos expresado nuestro aprecio y agradecimiento, al P. Julio por, compartir su experiencia como pastor y como lider de su Parroquia, alla en su lejano pais, pero que caminamos en el mismo camino. Gracias por estar con nosotros. Todos de diferentes puntos del mundo, hemos unificado nuestra fe y lucha por convivir en la Fe. Luis Aju



Luis Aju, al final del retiro, expreso en nombre de la Diocesis y de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano su agradecimiento y apreciacion al P. Julio por haber compartido su sabiduria y su espiritualidad como latino con los latinos. Gracias P. Julio. Por Luis Aju



Los dos Sacerdotes, P. Julio y Jose Carmelo. se dirigen a la comunidad. estos eventos. siempre son invitados otros sacerdotes, en este proceso de formacion de los fieles, de la diferentes parroquias. F.Luis Aju



P. Julio con el candidato al Diaconado peermante, conversaron en el tiempo del almuerzo. Para un camio de impresiones y conocerse uno al otro. F.Luis Aju



Estas personas, padre de familia, Seminarista Marwin, atendieron activamente el retiro diocesano. Gracias por venir y ser parte de este evento, que a todos nos ilumino de varias maneras. El papa, agrazando a su nino, atendiendo el retiro. Una forma de formar a los ninos. desde pequenos. F.Luis Aju.



P. Julio y la Hna. Esther Ordonez, comparten la lectura del dia. No cabe duda de su interes en la lectura de cualquier documento de la Iglesia, porque se menciona algun documento como como las enciclicas emitido por el Papa Francisoco, acerca de la familia. Tambien los Doc. de Puebla, Aparecida, Medellin etc.. F.Luis Aju

Palabras Nuestro Papa de Francisco son fácilmente comprensible



Mons. William F. Medley, Obispo de Owensboro

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El noviembre pasado, el Papa Francisco publicó un nuevo trabajo titulado *Evangelii Gaudium*, La alegría del Evangelio. Algunos han interpretado esta obra como un esbozo de su papado que se esta desarrollando por ya casi un año. Mientras el Papa Francisco es un estimado erudito, su estilo de escritura, al menos en el presente documento, es menos formal, más conversacional que los documentos papales tradicionales de la historia reciente.

La alegría que se encuentra en la proclamación del Evangelio es su tema. El Papa Francisco ha disfrutado de una inmensa buena voluntad y, más sorprendentemente, de buena cobertura de los medios de comunicación desde que fue elegido para ser Obispo de Roma el 13 de marzo del 2013. No se puede decir que su enseñanza hasta la fecha le ha apartado de sus recientes predecesores como Juan Pablo II o Benedicto XVI, pero el mundo ha sido cautivado por su estilo, su sencillez y sobre todo su insistencia de que el amor a los pobres nos marcará como seguidores de Jesús.

El Papa invita a “todos los cristianos de todo el mundo en este mismo momento a un encuentro personal con Jesucristo renovado, o al menos a ser abiertos a que el los encuentre a ellos.” Él cita el Papa Pablo VI: “Nadie está excluido de la alegría traída por el Señor.” Él nos recuerda que cada vez que damos un paso hacia Jesús nos damos cuenta de que él ya está allí, esperándonos con los brazos abiertos. Así pues, el don de la alegría está conectado a la infinita misericordia de Dios.

Francisco relata rápidamente expresiones familiares de alegría que Jesucristo trajo al mundo. El ángel Gabriel anunció a María: “Alégrate!” (Lucas 01:28). El bebé de Elizabeth (Juan el Bautista) saltó de gozo en el vientre de su madre cuando conoció a María que estaba esperando a Cristo. Proclamación (Lucas 1:41) de María: “Mi alma se regocija en Dios mi Salvador.” (Lucas 1:47) Juan el Bautista, al encontrar a Jesús ya como un adulto: “Por esta razón, mi gozo ha sido cumpli-

do.” (Juan 03:29) Y Jesús basa su prédica en la alegría: “Les he dicho estas cosas para ustedes, para que mi gozo esté en ustedes, y su gozo sea completo.” (Juan 15:11) “Estarán tristes, pero su tristeza se convertirá en alegría.” (Juan 16:20) Y se nos recuerda que los discípulos se regocijaron al ver a Cristo resucitado. (Juan 20:20)

Una línea muy citada de la exhortación es el desafío del Papa Francisco: Los cristianos no deben andar como si estuvieran regresando de un funeral, el escribe. El tono coloquial de la escritura del Papa invita a observar, “Pero a veces regresamos de un funeral.” Yo no creo que el Papa Francisco está sugiriendo que no hay momentos en los que los cristianos no estarán tristes. La tristeza es una emoción humana natural. Alguien que nunca experimenta la tristeza bien puede ser emocionalmente frágil. ¿Cómo se puede realmente entender y apreciar la alegría si él o ella no ha tenido que buscarla a veces?

Pero Jesucristo y su “Buena Nueva” es una historia de alegría, alegría que permanece incluso en un momento de tristeza y pérdida. Esto es debido a un compromiso de fe que en Jesucristo serán hechas nuevas todas las cosas. Por lo tanto, otra imagen de Francisco puede ser más elocuente. Él nos recuerda que un cristiano nunca debe quedar como un aguafiestas. Eso sí que es una palabra e imagen interesante para una exhortación papal. Es una que es comprensible. Todos sabemos lo que está describiendo el Papa. Hay personas que no pueden encontrar la alegría, o se niegan a reconocerla. Algo en sus vidas los ha cegado a la misericordia y bondad de Dios. Sí, todos experimentamos a las personas y nos experimentamos a nosotros mismos como seres tristes a veces. Existen miles de situaciones de la vida que nos hacen estar tristes. Pero una persona triste no necesita ser un aguafiestas.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos.

+ Mons. William F. Medley
Obispo de Owensboro

Sacerdote Diocesano Temporalmente Suspendido Del Ejercicio Público de Ministerio

El reverendo John Meredith, un sacerdote de la Diócesis de Owensboro ordenado el 12 de enero 1980, ha sido suspendido temporalmente del ejercicio público del ministerio. El Pr. Meredith ha sido el pastor de la Iglesia de la Santísima Madre en Owensboro desde el 2008. Esta suspensión se debe a las recomendaciones hechas al obispo William F. Medley por la Junta Directiva de Revisión Diocesana en respuesta a las acusaciones de conducta inapropiada con un menor de edad, de acuerdo con las normas diocesanas.

El Departamento de Policía de Owensboro anunció el 31 de diciembre 2013, que iniciaría una investigación. La Diócesis de Owensboro cooperó plenamente con el Departamento de Policía y el Fiscal de la Mancomunidad. El 16 de enero del 2014, el Departamento de Policía de Owensboro anunció que su investigación había concluido y que no habría cargos penales.

La Diócesis de Owensboro continúa su investigación sobre las acusaciones. Han habido violaciones de los códigos de la diócesis de conducta relacionados con el contacto entre adultos y menores de edad. La suspensión temporal del Pr. Meredith sigue en efecto.

Al comienzo de su sacerdocio El Pr. Meredith había servido en: San Francisco de Sales, Paducah [enero 1980 a mayo 1980], St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville [junio 1980-junio 1983], la Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro [junio 1983-junio 1985], St. Edward, Fulton y Sagrado Corazón, Hickman [junio 1985-junio 1988], Cristo Rey, Madisonville [6 1988 hasta junio 1995] y Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro [junio 1995 a junio 2008].

Siempre Oramos para cualquiera que alguna vez haya sido perjudicado dentro de la comunidad de la Iglesia Católica. Por favor, recuerde a el Pr. Meredith y sus familiares, amigos y feligreses en sus oraciones.

Debido a que la primera obligación de la Iglesia con respecto a todas las víctimas, ya sea alegado o justificado, es la curación y la reconciliación, la Diócesis se encargara de hacer un llegado a cada persona que alega que él o ella fue abusada por cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, si el supuesto abuso haya ocurrido recientemente o hace muchos años en el pasado. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce ha sido víctima de abuso por un miembro de la Iglesia, por favor llame a la Diócesis de Owensboro, 270-683-1545, y pregunte por el Asistente coordinador o por un miembro de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana. Esos nombres se pueden encontrar en el sitio web de la diócesis, www.rcdok.org/safe y se enumeran (ABAJO) en la periódico Católico del Oeste de Kentucky.

Calendario del obispo Medley para febrero 2014:

Febrero 2	10:00 a.m.	Confirmaciones, Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
Febrero 3-7		Taller Episcopal de Formación, Orlando, FL
Febrero 8	5:00 p.m.	Misa, Conferencia de Hombres, St. Stephen Cathedral
Febrero 10	8am-4pm	Día de Personal del Centro Pastoral, Centro de Retiro Monte San José
Febrero 11	6:00 p.m.	Confirmaciones, St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Febrero 12-14		Simposio-Asuntos Pastorales en Ciencia & Dignidad Humana Notre Dame, IN
Febrero 15	10:00 a.m.	Junta Diocesana de Black Catholic, Christ the King, Madisonville
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmaciones, St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Febrero 17	9:45 a.m.	Junta Directiva Sacerdotal, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal CPC
Febrero 18	8:00 a.m.	Misa Estudiantil, St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Febrero 19	8:30 a.m.	Junta del Consejo Diocesano Financiero, CPC
	6:00 p.m.	Reunión de la Fundación Católica Del Oeste de KY, CPC
Febrero 20	6:00 p.m.	Presentación de RCIA, Parroquia de la Inmaculada
Febrero 21	6:00 p.m.	Caballeros de Columbus Asamblea 312 Comida Vocacional, Paducah
Febrero 23	9:30 a.m.	Confirmación, St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Febrero 24		Visita a San Meinrad, Saint Meinrad, Indiana
Febrero 25		Reunión CCK, Louisville, KY
Febrero 26		Reunión Providencial, Louisville, KY
Febrero 27	10:00 a.m.	Misa y Celebración de Jubilo, Sr. Mary Dolores, Monasterio Pasionista
	2:00 p.m.	Junta Directiva de Brescia University
Febrero 28	9:00 a.m.	Junta Directiva Brescia University



2014 Ministerio Hispano Calendario De Eventos

Saturday, February 1 - Talleres de LEVANTATE
 Sunday, February 2 - Talleres de LEVANTATE
 Monday, February 17 - 10:00am - Reunión Trimestral de Ministros Hispanos
 Monday, March 10 - 10:00am - Reunión de Ministros Laicos Parroquiales
 Tuesday, March 11 - 10:00am - Reunión de Ministros Laicos Parroquiales
 Thursday, March 20 - 12:00pm - Retiro de Ministros Hispanos
 Friday, March 21 - 2:00pm - Retiro de Ministros Hispanos
 Saturday, March 22 - 1:00pm - Candidatos de Confirmación en la Catedral
 Saturday, May 17, 2014 - 8:30am - Pre-Cana en Español
 Saturday, November 8, 2014 - 8:30am - Pre-Cana en Español
 WhenSat, November 8, 2014, 8:30am – 5:00pm at Christ the King Church, Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, Kentucky, Estados Unidos. Retiro Prematrimonial para parejas que hablan español que están preparándose para recibir el Sacramento de Matrimonio. Organizado por la Oficina Diocesana de Vida Familiar. Costo: \$20.

En Nombre de Dios

El cambio de las Estaciones y el tiempo del año.

Por Luis Aju



Una experiencia diferente para nosotros los que venimos de Centro América, Sur América y otros lugares del mundo.

En los Estados Unidos es frío y es frío, con mucha Nieve si es caliente es caliente. El verano en su mayoría más de 100 grados F. Situaciones que agudizan la vida en este país. Pocos días son la Primavera, y el Otoño, las fases que pasa nuestro mundo, son los mismos pasos que da el ser humano.

Nace, crece, se hace joven, se llega a cansarse, llega a viejito y viene la otra vida. Un ciclo de vida que nadie lo puede cambiar. La vida no es estático, la vida es dinámico, aun sin sentir pasan los años. Por eso nosotros las personas que estamos dotados de una inteligencia que es un regalo de Dios, analizamos nuestra vida. Nos debe preocupar que obras buenas hacemos y que acciones malas hacemos contra el prójimo por lo tanto contra Dios. Nuestro mundo a pesar de estos grandes cambios que sufre, sigue su rumbo, lo hemos dañado, de muchas maneras pero nos sigue produciendo nuestros alimentos de todos los días. Hombres y mujeres, debemos de enseñar a nuestros hijos el fin de la vida, existe una razón de nuestra vida, que no pasen los años encima y seguimos en lo mismo, al menos debemos de hacer un paréntesis en nuestra vida, darnos cuenta de todo lo que hacemos en la vida. El Hermano Pedro de Guatemala, dijo “Acordaos Hermanos que un Alma tenemos, y si la perdemos No la recobramos” Día a día es construir la felicidad que buscamos, con obras buenas. A todos, sin hacer distinción de personas de ningún rango. Se dice que las canas son signo de sabiduría, y no solo de los años vividos. Ojala lleno de sabiduría, lleno de muchas virtudes. Esa es la esperanza. Nuestros buenos deseos es que cada uno ponga de su parte y trabaje para remediar lo que hemos dañado que debemos de mejorar. Todos necesitamos de una Sanación, no solo los enfermos físicamente sino también los enfermos, del espíritu, así como la ambición, los que padecen de una adicción de cualquier índole, de celo malo y del materialismo. Además los enfermos transgresores de la vida de los otros, todos estos males, somos llamados a corregirlo hoy día, no mañana u otro día, soy por hoy. Dios lo bendiga!

Orden para seguir la formación de las comunidades de LEVANTATE

Diócesis de Owensboro

DATE	TIME	PARISH	TOWN
Día Viernes 31 de Enero 2014	6:30PM – 9:30 PM.	Parroquia de San José.	BOWLING GREEN
Día Sábado 1 de Febrero 2014	9:30AM—12:00 Medio día	Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo	HOPKINSVILLE
Día Sábado 1 de Febrero 2014	6:00PM – 8:30PM	Parroquia de San Leo	MURRAY
Día Domingo 2 de Febrero 2014	5:00PM-7:30PM	Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo,	OWENSBORO

Febrero

Extracto de la “canonización del Hermano Pedro de San José de Betancourt,

Homilía del Santo Padre Juan Pablo II, Ciudad de Guatemala, martes 30 de julio 2002”

“Hoy en día, el nuevo santo representa también un llamado urgente a practicar la misericordia en la sociedad moderna, especialmente cuando tantos están esperando una mano amiga. Pensemos en los niños y jóvenes que no tienen hogar o privados de una educación; de mujeres abandonadas con sus muchas necesidades; de la multitud de marginados sociales que viven en las ciudades, de las víctimas del crimen organizado, de la prostitución o de las drogas; de los enfermos desatendidos o en los ancianos que viven en soledad. “El Hermano Pedro personifica” un patrimonio que no se debe perder y que siempre debemos estar agradecidos por ello y debemos renovar nuestro propósito de imitación “(Novo millennio ineunte, 7). Este patrimonio debe suscitar en los cristianos y en todos los ciudadanos el deseo de transformar la comunidad humana en una gran familia, en la que las relaciones sociales, políticas y económicas pueden ser dignas del hombre, y en el que se promueve la dignidad de la persona, con le efectivo reconocimiento de sus derechos inalienables.”

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/homilies/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_20020730_canonization-guatemala_en.html