

# The Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 Volume 42, Number 3

March, 2015

Graphic by Allison Hayden



## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2015

Saint Joseph Catholic Elementary School students in Bowling Green were organized in the shape of a cruciform inside Saint Joseph Church on Jan. 27, 2015 in a celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2015.

Photo submitted by Rita Larimore

## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



All are invited to join with Bishop Medley for Evening Prayer  
Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.  
to pray for PROTECTION and HEALING for all impacted by child abuse.  
Holy Name of Jesus Church, 511 Second Street, Henderson, KY



Diocesan Chrism Mass  
Owensboro Sportscenter

6:30 p.m. CST  
March 31, 2015

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## If You Have Not Found Your Way To Confession In Too Long, Let This Lent Be The Time



**+Most Rev. William F. Medley, Bishop of Owensboro**

Dear sisters and brothers, as Catholics our liturgy and ritual never allow us to be very far removed from the reality of God's mercy. We begin the Mass by "calling to mind our sins, and asking for God's mercy." Then we voice in chorus, "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy." Or we say plainly, "I confess to Almighty God ....."

The sign of peace at Mass, though popularized as a fair thee well, in fact flows from the gospel mandate to make peace and be reconciled before coming to the altar of the Lord. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask that our sins be forgiven as we forgive others. And just before receiving Communion we plead again, "Lord I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

God's forgiveness and mercy are at the heart of the Gospels, these epitomize the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Our age and our culture do not value the most human experience of acknowledging our faults and sins, unless of course it involves a media circus and serves to humiliate a celebrity person or institution. Fifteen minutes of fame of the worst kind and then the fallen is to disappear into the shadows. Too often what has happened is only degradation, not a genuine confession and opportunity to be reconciled.

It has been two years since Jorge Bergoglio was introduced to the world as Pope Francis. It might be said

that he has broken the mold of papal figures and biographers are still scrambling to figure out this man who came to Rome from the ends of the earth.

But when I am asked to sum up my own impressions of our new pope, the single word that comes to mind is mercy. He is obsessed with teaching and sharing God's mercy. Unaccustomed to popes giving interviews and holding press conferences, his blunt public confession, "I am a sinner," came as a shock to some. Hardly a radical revelation though. Apart from Jesus and his Blessed Mother Mary there has not been a human life lived without sin.

For any who would believe that Francis' emphasis on mercy is overplayed or threatens to diminish the world's understanding of sin, we might note that he continues a noble modern theme of the papacy, most notably in the words and actions of two newly canonized saints, St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II. It was St. John XXIII who spoke at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, "The Spouse of Christ (the Church) today prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity." And it was St. John Paul II who designated the Second Sunday of Easter to be observed as Divine Mercy Sunday.

If Pope Francis has brought anything unique to this teaching of Jesus, it may be that he is more than ready to challenge the institution of the Church itself to witness the mercy she preaches.

The holy season of Lent is one that calls all followers of Christ to reconciliation and works of mercy. Again, the Church's rituals and sacraments are the portals to God's mercy. As noted

before, every Mass calls us to these reflections.

In recent decades the treasure that is the Sacrament of Reconciliation has been spurned by too many. For some the human experience of saying out loud, even in privacy, one's failures is too much. Sadly, some have experienced something less than God's mercy from a priest along the way who maybe did not understand the mystery. Though these recollections live on and are publicized, the vast majority of priests revel in the opportunity to speak the words, "I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

If you have not found your way to confession in too long, let this Lent be the time. Yes, it might seem overwhelming to review one's life over a span of years. Start modestly, what are the one or two things in your life you feel most in need of God's mercy? Go with it; confess it; be absolved.

In January there was a national

conference in Nashville for college age Catholics. 9500 young people came to this SEEK conference for four days of prayers and talks. Confessions were heard almost continuously through these days, but there was a special time when nearly 300 priests and bishops were available to hear confessions. For more than three and a half hours these 300 priests and bishops heard confessions. Some stood in line for hours for the opportunity to confess their sins.

I was one of those 300 confessors and I must say that the grace was palpable in that massive room. God's mercy is a powerful and beautiful force.

Accept the invitation this Lent to confess your sins, to be unburdened of senseless baggage, and experience God's love and mercy.

May God Bless You all!

**+Most Reverend William F. Medley,  
Bishop of Owensboro**

### Bishop William Medley's Calendar For March, 2015

|           |            |   |
|-----------|------------|---|
| March 3   | 6:00 p.m.  | Owensboro Serra Club Charter Dinner   |
| March 4   | 8:30 a.m.  | School Mass, Mary Carrico, Knottsville  |
| March 5-6 |            | MCC Staff Retreat, Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount                                    |
| March 9   |            | Meeting, USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People             |
| March 10  | 8:00 a.m.  | School Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville                                      |
| March 11  | 10-3:00    | Pastoral Planning Day with Priests, MCC   |
| March 13  | 9:00 a.m.  | School Mass, St. Ann, Morganfield   |
| March 14  | 5:00 p.m.  | Diaconate – Rite of Institution of the Ministry of Lector, St. Alphonsus, Owensboro |
| March 15  | 10:30 a.m. | Mass, Youth 2000, Brescia University, Owensboro                                     |
| March 16  | 9:45 a.m.  | Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, MCC   |
|           | 1:30 p.m.  | Priests' Council Meeting, MCC   |
| March 17  | 9:00 a.m.  | Staff Mass and Meeting, MCC   |
| March 18  | 8:30 a.m.  | Diocesan Finance Council meeting, MCC   |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Catholic Foundation of Western KY meeting   |
| March 19  | 9:30 a.m.  | School Mass, St. Joseph, Bowling Green  |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Confirmation, St. Agnes/Sacred Heart/St. Peter @ Sacred Heart, Waverly              |
| March 20  | 8:00 a.m.  | School Mass, Trinity High School, Whitesville                                       |
|           | 9:00 a.m.  | Senior Conversations, Trinity High School   |
| March 21  | 5:00 p.m.  | Conferral of Ministries of Acolyte and Lector, St. Stephen Cathedral                |
| March 22  | 2:00 p.m.  | Scout Religious Emblem Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral                                  |
| March 24  | 10:00 a.m. | School Mass, St. Mary Middle School, Paducah  |
|           | 12:00-2:00 | Paducah Office Hours, Lourdes Hospital, Paducah                                     |
| March 26  | 9:00 a.m.  | School Mass, OCES K-3 Campus, Owensboro   |
| March 29  | 11:00 a.m. | Palm Sunday Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral   |
| March 31  | 9:00 a.m.  | Senior Conversations, Owensboro Catholic High School                                |
|           | 6:30 p.m.  | Chrism Mass, Owensboro Sportscenter   |

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro,** will have Fish Fry Fridays again this Lent. All-you-can-eat catfish fillets, cole slaw, beans, french fries, hush puppies, dessert, and drink. Adults are \$10, kids 5-12 are \$5, and kids 4 and under eat FREE. Every Friday of Lent from 5:30-7pm in Lourdes Parish Hall.

### Diocesan Priest Appointments:

Effective in June of 2015 **Fr. Jason McClure** will assume responsibilities as the Vicar for Clergy for our diocese while continuing his work as Vocation Director. Fr. Darrell Venters has served in this capacity since 2001 and served in the era when Owensboro began to welcome the first of many international priests.

**Fr. Darrell Venters** has graciously agreed that he will continue to coordinate the welcome and introduction of new international priests to western Kentucky.

Many thanks to Fr. Darrell and Fr. Jason!

## Universal Church Focuses On Child Abuse

For the past several years members of the diocese have gathered specifically to pray for protection and healing from abuse during April because it is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year Bishop Medley will be presiding at Evening Prayer at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to join in prayer for those impacted by abuse, especially within the Church.

“May the Lord Jesus instill in each of us, as ministers of the Church, the same love and affection for the little ones which characterized his own presence among us, and which in turn enjoins on us a particular responsibility for the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. May Mary Most Holy, Mother of tenderness and mercy, help us to carry out, generously and thoroughly, our duty to humbly acknowledge and repair past injustices and to remain ever faithful in the work of protecting those closest to the heart of Jesus.”

This prayer from Pope Francis was sent February 2, 2015, in a letter to Church leaders worldwide. In his letter Pope Francis shared his expectations for the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, first established by him in December 2013 to “improve the norms

and procedures for protecting children and vulnerable adults.” The pope added members in December 2014, bringing the group’s total to seventeen: a mixture from five continents of priests, male and female religious, and lay men and women, including two abuse survivors and experts in related fields.

A key focus for the Commission will be accountability: developing processes for greater accountability for all who work with minors in the Church, whether clergy, religious, or laity. The group acknowledged in its statement from its plenary gathering on February 9, 2015, that the members are “keenly aware that the issue of accountability is of major importance.”

In addition as Pope Francis’ letter indicates, the Commission is to provide assistance at the local level “through an exchange of best practices and through programs of education, training, and developing adequate responses to sexual abuse.”

The Diocese of Owensboro, which has had an Office of Safe Environment in place since 2003, looks forward to benefiting from the Commission’s expertise and recommendations as it continues to address child safety issues through its Safe Environment processes.

## Diocese Of Owensboro And The Family Life Office Is Sponsoring A Pilgrimage To The Philadelphia World Meeting Of Families

September 21-27, 2015, Monday - Sunday  
7 days / 6 nights

Pilgrimage to Philadelphia to the World Meeting of Families and a concluding mass with Pope Francis

Pilgrimage price including hotel accommodations and motorcoach transportation from Owensboro, KY: \$841 - \$899.

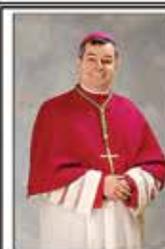
Prices based on quad occupancy. **COST EXCLUSIONS**

World Meeting of Families Registration ranging from \$125 - \$325 for adults and \$95 - \$199 for children under 18

Tips to long-distance motorcoach driver(s).

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary.

For more information and/or a reservation application call/contact Joe Bland at the Family Life Office  
at [joe.bland@pastoral.org](mailto:joe.bland@pastoral.org) or 270-852-8377



**YOU ARE INVITED!**

Join

**Bishop William Medley**  
on a Pilgrimage to

**France**

Lourdes - Nevers - Lisieux - Normandy Beaches - Paris

**October 8 - 17, 2015**

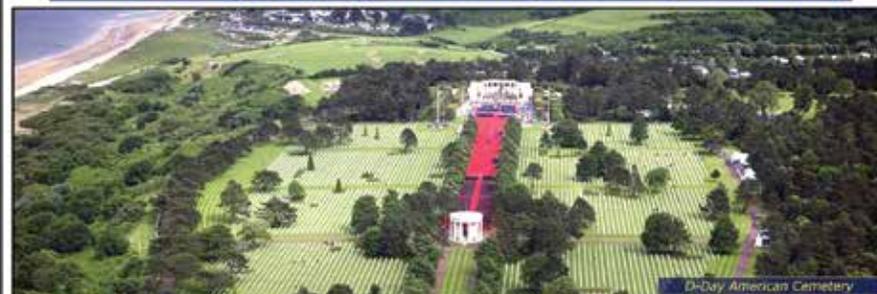
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**

[www.pilgrimages.com/bishopmedley](http://www.pilgrimages.com/bishopmedley)



## The Western Kentucky Catholic

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

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic 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, deletions or changes to Cathy Hagan at [cathy.hagan@pastoral.org](mailto:cathy.hagan@pastoral.org).**

## 4 Parenting Challenges and How Camp Can Help



This article comes from the Christian Camping & Conference Association magazine, InSite. In our eight years here at camp, we have seen all of this take place! It is true!!! Young people spending time unplugged away from the media, young people growing in self-esteem and self-confidence, young people becoming more independent and self-assured, young people making friends that last a lifetime all happen at camp. If you're not so sure, try it out and see for your-



self!

In today's digital, fast-moving, ultra-competitive world, raising kids who grow into happy, independent adults has become more challenging for parents. Quality summer camp programs offer an experience that many parents have found to benefit their child's development of important life skills. Independence, perseverance, and social skills are just a few of the skills that campers learn in the supportive community of camp. In partnership with parents who are focused on their child's healthy development, many camp programs offer positive, child-focused outdoor experiences that counteract some of the negative experiences children are facing in school, sports, social life, and cyber space.

Camp took my city kid, who could barely ride a bike, and returned a sailing, camping, climbing, in love with the outdoors young man.

*Jennifer Lansing, Chicago, Illinois*

### Parenting Challenge #1: Too Much Screen Time, Not Enough Outside Time

In our increasingly digital world, children are spending less time outside and more time in front of screens. The negative impact of our digital lifestyle is evident in kids' expanding waists and lack of interest in being outdoors. Whether texting, posting and reading updates on Facebook, or watching TV, our children are being inundated with digital input. The attraction of the media is hard to resist, so most of us (including us parents) simply succumb to having the near constant presence of

our electronics. Many of us find it hard to drag ourselves away from our laptops and smart phones, and often our schedules and lifestyle don't allow for adequate time to just be outside and enjoy our natural surroundings. Richard Louv coined the term "Nature Deficit Disorder" in his book *Last Child in the Woods* to describe the alarming trend of children spending less and less time outdoors. Whether due to sensational media accounts of lost hikers that have fanned parental fears, or simply a lack of time in over-scheduled lives, children simply aren't outside playing as much as they used to.

*I've learned to face my fears, I've tried new things, and I have learned that you don't always need to have your phone or video games.*  
-Kimberly, 2012 camper

Camp experiences give kids the opportunity for electronics-free fun in rustic, natural settings. At night, campers count shooting stars and share stories with camp friends, and don't even think about their TV, video games, and cell phones!



### Parenting Challenge #2: Helping Kids Become Independent Adults

Whether due to parenting trends ("helicoptering") or being so connected to our kids (both in our close relationships and via our digital leashes), children are much less independent than we were at the same age. Twenty years ago, we were babysitting infants at age 13. Now, some of us hire babysitters for our 13 year olds! Ironically, kids are experimenting with drugs, sex, and other high-risk behaviors younger than ever, possibly as a result of feeling so little independence and control in their own lives. College freshmen are struggling to adjust to being away from

home, and many who start school away from their parents end up back at home. Colleges have staff dedicated to orienting and communicating with parents, who are closely involved from the application process right through to job interviews post college. Many college graduates move back home and slide right into a dependent lifestyle. This "endless adolescence" just isn't natural. As a society, we are not doing a good job of launching our children into independent adult life.

*My shy, quiet nine year old went to camp not knowing a soul. Two weeks later, my daughter came home transformed. She blossomed. She made friends, learned a multitude of activities, felt safe, loved, confident, and happy, really happy. As hard as it was on me, it was all worth it for her. I know this is the single best thing I have ever done for her.*

*Cheryl Epstein, Long Beach, CA*

Parents who send their kids to camp understand the value of giving their children early, independent life experiences. While knowing their children are well-supervised in a safe, supportive community, parents feel great about giving their child the opportunity to have a few weeks of independence from them. Children as young as seven years old successfully complete two-week camp stays and feel a great sense of pride and independence as a result. Without having their cell phone to immediately contact their parents with every question and need, kids learn to rely on themselves and seek support from their counselors and cabin mates.



### Parenting Challenge #3: Everything's a Competition

From the first conversation about whose child learned to walk or talk first, parenting today (and life in general)

**Continued on page 5**

## 2015 Gasper River Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!!!

| Dates:             | Ages              | Camp                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| May 25 to May 29   | 18+               | Eucharistic Life Camp |
| May 31 to June 5   | 5th & 6th Graders | Expedition I          |
| June 7 to June 12  | 7th & 8th Graders | Quest I               |
| June 14 to June 19 | High School       | Camp LIFE I           |
| June 21 to June 26 | 7th & 8th Graders | Quest II              |
|                    | 5th & 6th Graders | Expedition II         |
| June 28 to July 3  | High School       | Camp LIFE II          |
| July 5 to July 10  | 5th & 6th Graders | Expedition II         |
| July 12 to July 17 | High School       | Camp LIFE III         |
| July 12 to July 15 | 3rd & 4th Graders | Explorer I            |
| July 19 to July 24 | 7th & 8th Graders | Quest III             |
| July 26 to July 29 | 3rd & 4th Graders | Explorer II           |

For information, look online at <http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/> and click on Camp Forms. Please contact Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center by phone at (270)-781-2466 or by email at [gasperriver@hotmail.com](mailto:gasperriver@hotmail.com)

## 4 Parenting Challenges and How Camp Can Help *Continued from page 4*

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seems to have become one giant competition. Who's in the top reading group? Who made the "A" soccer team? Who's top of the class? Who got elected class president? Who got picked for cheer leading?

In trying to help our kids keep up, and leave opportunities open for them, we often end up pushing too hard for our kids to do well in too many areas. Many kids are taking challenging course work at school, competing on high level sports teams with demanding practice schedules, learning a musical instrument, and being involved in clubs (to make sure they are "well rounded"). Often, finding something they are passionate about or truly enjoy goes on the back burner. With little free time to explore and try new things, many kids don't even know what they like. And, much of the time, kids feel badly because they are not the one picked for the team or deemed "the best." Most of us aren't.

Everything you do is made into fun.

There is no competitiveness. There is this sense that I am able to let my kids experience some of what it was like to grow up in safer, less congested, slower times, where they have independence and low-tech fun.

*Stephanie Kaufman, Pacific Palisades*

Many camp programs offer recreational activities where campers support each other to improve their individual



skills and have the unique opportunity to relax and have fun in a non-competitive environment. Whether cheering each other on to get up on water skis or a wake board, or learning to skipper a sailboat together, camp is all about enjoying life, learning new outdoor skills, and enjoying the company of friends.

### **Parenting Challenge #4: Good Friends are Hard to Find**

We all want our children to be happy and find good friends, but it's often not as easy as it seems. With kids competing for the same spots on teams, and eventually the same spots in colleges, many friendships become competitive. Some children simply don't have time to spend building strong one-on-one relationships. Often, time spent with friends is only in structured settings like school and sports. Some kids are shy, socially awkward, or get bullied at school or online.

*Because of my time at camp, I've been more confident in everything I do and I popped out of my shy shell. -Kinsey, 2012 camper*

At summer camp the focus is on building community and helping campers develop close friendships. Campers are assigned to cabin groups of similar-aged kids. Counselors serve as cabin leaders and help campers get to know each other. Team building games at the start of camp, similar to what corporations use to build teamwork, are used to help foster good communication and teamwork. Campers try everything in a supportive, group setting. Through all of their shared experiences, they form close bonds with their camp friends.

***Parenting can be a challenge, but a few weeks at a quality summer camp program can really help!***

One of the greatest things about Christian camping is we take all of this and mix in the Sacraments and teachings of the Catholic Faith. These will forever be a part of these young people's lives! I attended a camping conference and the speaker asked us to write down all we remembered from our camp experiences as kids. Mine was years and years ago but I could vividly remember all that we did. Then she asked, "What did you do the other days of that summer?" I did not have one concrete memory from any of those other days! I know generally what I did but couldn't connect it to an actual memory. **THAT IS THE POWER OF A CAMP EXPERIENCE!** And when faith and the Sacraments are there, it only makes it better! Call us to set up a visit or to come to your Parish or school to talk about camp at 270-781-2466. Visit our website at [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org) for additional information, on-line registration and all the forms you'll need to sign up for camp! We can't wait to see you this summer!

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## **Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center**

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Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center is seeking a Camp Health Care Providers (Nurse): Someone who is an EMT, Nurse or Doctor who can volunteer to work as our Camp Health Care Provider for a week. While we cannot pay someone to do this great service for us, we do offer a full scholarship (equivalent to the week of camp that you volunteer) that can be used to send a child, sibling, etc to camp. If interested, please contact our office for more details.

**Volunteer Counselors:** Must be at least 16+ and two grades older than the group they wish to counsel for. Counselors are required to attend one of the Counselor Trainings and complete a Volunteer Form (forms available after you have attended a training).

**Training dates will be held at the following locations/times:**

- **March 29 @ Gasper River, Bowling Green 1-5 PM**
- **April 25 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro 1-5 PM**
- **June 20 @ Gasper River, Bowling Green 1-5 PM**

**Summer Staff:** Must be at least one year removed from High School.  
**Staff In Training (SIT):** Must be at least 17+ and/or a Jr in High School

Staff and SIT are required to apply and interview for the position. Applications must be received **NO LATER THAN Feb 28**. Any applications received after the deadline will be ineligible for a position. Interview Weekend is Friday, March 6 @7 pm--Sunday, March 8 @ 11:30 pm. Please plan to

attend the entire time.

Applications available on our website: [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org)

To complete online: Click on the "Camp Forms" tab and follow the "Online Registration." Choose to fill out a Staff Application rather than a Camper Application.

To mail in: Click on "Job Postings" and choose either Staff or SIT application; print, fill out and put in mail before Feb 24 to ensure it arrives on time!

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. Our 168 acre facility is located on the Gasper River just 8 miles Northwest of Bowling Green. Although we are owned and operated by the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky, the facility is available to all denominations, schools, families and business groups.

Our goal is to bring people here, have them learn and grow in their faith and then take what they have learned back to their communities to put into practice. We will strive to follow St. Benedict's Rule that "all will be welcomed as Christ." If you have any questions about our facility or if there is any way that our staff can assist you in your needs, please contact us by phone at (270)-781-2466 or by email at [gasperriver@hotmail.com](mailto:gasperriver@hotmail.com) to see how we can best serve you.

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center, 2695 Jackson Bridge Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101. 270.781.2466

## Arise Together in Christ Parish Mission at St. John the Evangelist Church

By Gwen Taylor

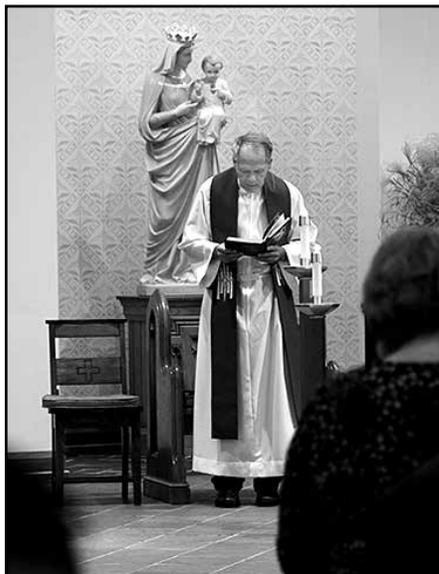
December 4-6, 2014, an extremely foggy Thursday night, damp and very chilly, I was driving out to St. John for the first night of the Arise Parish Mission. The fog was so dense and I just couldn't see many of our folks getting out for the first night of this mission. About fifteen minutes prior to the start, the church started filling up. In all, we had about sixty people in attendance, which is very good, considering there were only 87 in total who had participated in Season V.

As the Arise Parish Coordinator, I visited all the various groups and did not join one in particular. I had heard many people say that they had become so connected to their group that they wanted to continue after Arise was over. The mission echoed this mentality. It was a deeply moving experience. The acoustics in our church are awesome and the sound of EVERYONE singing was a outward sign of the sense of community that had taken place in the small group sharing. The music that night was about light in the darkness and "We Are One Body". During the faith sharing, the sound of people talking, openly and freely in the pews about their own experience was another sign that this Catholic community had become comfortable talking about their faith with their fellow parishioners.

The next night, attendance dropped some, but then, it was a Friday night in December and many other events were going on as well. We still had about fifty in attendance. Our speakers who gave a testimony on both nights were phenomenal. One of the testimonies on Friday evening began with, "have you ever been given a gift that you didn't know you needed?" She went on to say that with the Arise program, "faith grew and lives were enriched".

Our Parish Mission concluded with Saturday evening Mass and a meal following with about 70 in attendance. Surveys were conducted and all but two people asked that we continue with a faith-sharing program with start and end dates much like Arise.

A popular response was that many were hesitant, but signed up because Father Tom had promoted it so fervently. People said they just weren't comfortable meeting in groups and talking about their faith, but by the second season, found that they wouldn't want to be without



St. John pastor Fr. Tom Buckman leading prayer.

their small group.

Our parish had an average of twelve small groups and ninety participants. It is very evident that Arise did have a positive impact on our parish. For those parishes who haven't held their parish mission yet, it can and probably will be more powerful than you think. For three chilly, rainy, foggy December evenings, we saw great numbers, heard powerful testimonies, and broke bread, both literally and figuratively.



Sharing Faith: from left, Kim Miller, Gwen Taylor, Bob Tackett, and Doris Trussell.

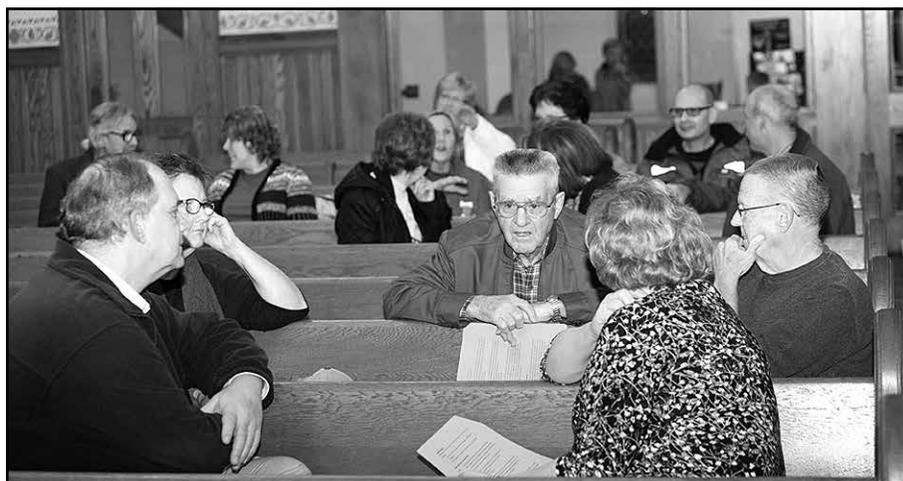
Arising With A Growing Faith: from left, Rick Darnell, Lynda Hatton, Paul Carrico, Mike Hatton, and Janice Darnell in photo at right.



This St John parish group picture consisted of the small group Leaders and ARISE participants. There were approximately 60 in attendance that evening.



Barbaranelle Tackett, Michael Alexander, Bob Wurth, and Samantha Veal serving as a choir to lead the music. Photos this page submitted by Gwen Taylor



# Guthrie Church Destroyed in Feb. 10, 2015 Fire

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## From Kentucky New Era staff reports

A fire destroyed the Saint Mary and Saint James Catholic Church in Guthrie on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015.

The cause of the blaze is not yet known, but it started behind the church and spread to the rest of the building, Todd County Emergency Manager Tim Pulley said. No one was injured.

Pulley said an employee at the church noticed the fire when he heard popping. Some items from inside the church, including a crucifix, were rescued from the flames and put in the yard of a nearby house as firefighters worked to contain the blaze. Smoke could be seen from as far as eight miles away in Trenton.

The church at Green Street and Third Street was built in 1948 from materials from old barracks at Fort Campbell. The building that burned down Tuesday was built in 1980, said Bobby Paul Covington, a member of the church since he was baptized there in 1950.

According to Covington, the church is the oldest Catholic church in Todd County. Covington said the congregation was thinking about adding on to the church, but God has his way of giving you new plans.

*Photos and article reprinted with permission from Kentucky New Era*



Images of the interior of Saint Mary and Saint James Catholic Church in Guthrie, before and after the Feb. 10 fire.



**Immaculate Parish celebrated Confirmation February 1st during the 10am Mass. After the homily, where Bishop Medley addressed the candidates, Fr. Tony Jones assisted Bishop with the Rite by laying on of hands. The Bishop then confirmed the 34 candidates. Afterwards, the Confirmandi celebrated with their families and friends with a lunch in the Parish Family Center and gym. This allowed the Bishop time to individually greet each candidate.**



## Father Patrick Reynolds, JCL, Celebrates 35 Years In Service To God

By J. Patrick Kerr

PADUCAH, KY - For nearly 12 years, the Rev. J. Patrick Reynolds, JCL, has been Pastor at St. Thomas More. As you might expect, he has a rich history of life prior to coming to Paducah and St. Thomas More parishioners, along with family, friends and priests from throughout the Diocese of Owensboro celebrated that rich history on January 23, 2015 with Fr. Pat on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination.

As the fourth oldest of seven brothers and four sisters, Fr. Pat is no stranger to crowds! His easy manner and sense of family shaped the man we know today into a caring, levelheaded, kind and sensible shepherd for his parishioners. His parents, Mary Patricia and the late Judge Charles Reynolds instilled faith and family in all their children and Fr. Pat certainly took those lessons to heart.

Fr. Pat began his pastoral work as an Associate Pastor at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, KY, followed by an assignment as Associate Pastor at Holy Name Church in Henderson, KY.

Following his time at Holy Name Church, Fr. Pat spent a year at St. Ann Church in Morganfield and then two years studying Canon Law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

After completing his course of study, Fr. Pat moved to St. Romuald Catholic Church in Hardinsburg, KY, where he was named Pastor. In an interesting turn of events, he also served as Principal of St. Romuald High School during his time as Pastor there.

Following his assignment in Hardinsburg, he led the parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho, KY and then moved to St. Thomas More in June of 2003 where he still serves as Pastor.

When asked about his various assignments and duties over the years, Fr. Pat points out a few highlights. He said, "In the many years of service to God and the Church, I have truly enjoyed all the blessings that have been given me and all the opportunities I have had. Looking back, one of the things I have enjoyed most was early in my career when I was an Associate Pastor. The ability to have so much time to spend with parishioners, committees and especially the youth, without all of the administrative tasks, was a joy. It is easy to get tangled up in the 'business' of the church and have that



**Father Pat Reynolds with Bishop John J. McRaith during the 175th anniversary of Saint Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg, in the fall of 1986.**

take time away from being the spiritual advisor to those I have been called to guide."

He continued, "I expect that is why I have enjoyed having so many Associate Pastors work with me over the years. To help young priests on their path has been good for me and good for the Parish. We all benefit from watching others grow in their faith and to see a newly ordained priest work through those challenges is reminder for me and lesson for us all."

During his many years as a priest, Fr. Pat's role in the Diocese has grown as well. Currently he serves as Vicar General for the Diocese of Owensboro assisting the Bishop, the Most Reverend William Francis Medley. Prior, he served as Judicial Vicar for the Diocese.

On serving as Judicial Vicar, Fr. Pat explained, "It is one of the most challenging things I have been called to do. As a Canon Lawyer I was humbled to have to make judicial decisions based on Church Law, while at the same time keep the pastoral concerns in mind. After all, the last Canon Law of the Church says, 'The salvation of souls must always be the supreme law of the Church and kept before one's eyes.'"

He went on, "I loved being at the hub of the Diocese working in the Pastoral Center with the staff. However, the work was very intense and constant. It did give me a true appreciation for being a pastor. It was very relaxing to go back to the parish."

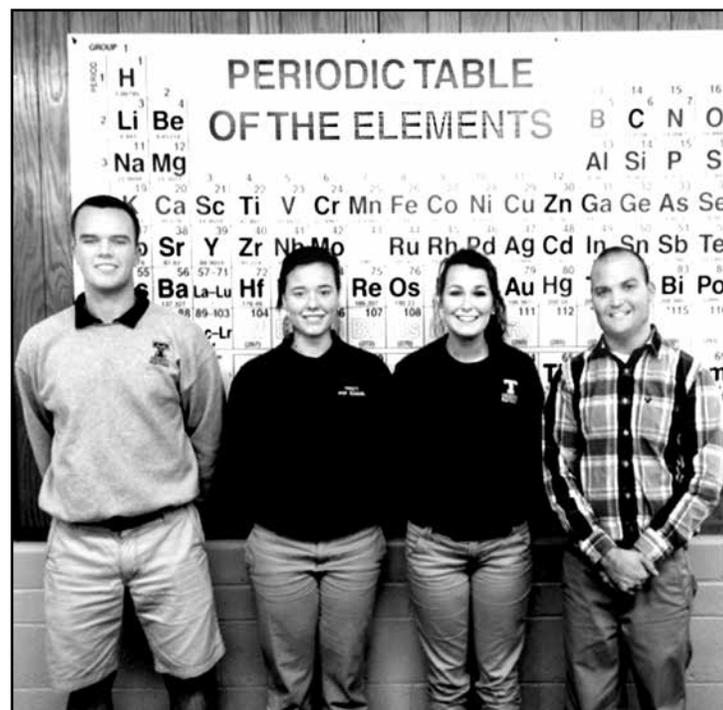
In 35 years as priest, Fr. Pat has had countless occasions to deepen his faith and become closer to God. A journey that is life-long for every human being. When talking about some special spiritual moments, Fr. Pat called to mind several Masses that have had a great impact on his relationship with God. "I have been blessed with the chance to celebrate Mass in Rome at the tomb of St. Peter - not once, but twice - as a young priest in 1984, and again in

2011. After being ordained only a few years, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome with some of my seminary classmates. To be in such a holy place with such rich history and to be honored to celebrate Mass in that presence has been one of the most spiritually moving events in my time as a priest." He said.

"In a similar way, to be able to preside at the Mass at the Grotto in Lourdes, France last year was overwhelming." He continued.

On a personal level Fr. Pat reflected, "The very first wedding I celebrated was that of my sister Mary Anne. My first Baptism as a priest was my nephew and namesake Patrick. Since then, I have been blessed to bring nearly all my nieces and nephews into the Church at their baptisms. Those joyous occasions are in stark contrast, but no less of a privilege, then when I presided at the funeral Mass of my father in the winter of 1996. It was, of course, sad but at the same time a profound experience that I cherish."

As St. Thomas More's Pastor for more than a decade, Fr. Pat has had the unique opportunity to see faith and love of God grow in young members of the parish as they have grown in age. He said, "To see children grow up to be responsible and loving their faith moves me everyday. When all is said and done, to help people love God better and be the best men and women they can be is what my 'job' is about. To show people how to recognize and use the gifts God has given them and to be part of the St. Thomas More and Paducah community continues to be a blessing every day and a blessing that I thank God for every day."



**"The Earth Is What We All Have In Common."**

*Wendell Berry, only living member, Kentucky Writers Hall Of Fame*

Three Trinity High School students who placed in the conservation contest. The students are from left to right as follows: Allen Howe, Cecilia Morris, Lauren Beyke and Mr. Ben Morris. The honors that they received are: Cecilia Morris - 1st place among high schools and 1st in district; Lauren Beyke - 2nd place among high schools and 2nd in district; Allen Howe - 3rd place among high schools. Kim Rydecki Photo

## What St Romuald learned from St. Benedict

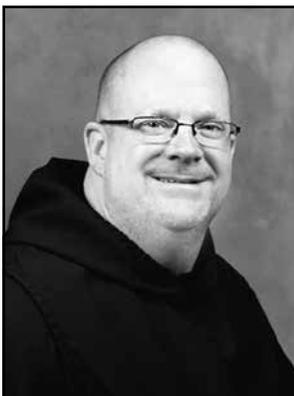
Submitted by Staff

HARDINSBURG, Ky. - Then or Now? What a loaded question! Historically, yes, St Romuald (hermit monk 951-1027) began his life of monastic conversion and spiritual growth under the rule of St Benedict (480-547) before founding the Camaldolese Order of Hermits. But recently in Hardinsburg, Ky, parishioners of St Romuald Parish again spent time praying in conferences under Benedictine influence with Fr Brendan Moss, O.S.B. for a parish mission.

On November 15-19, the parish of St Romuald was blessed by the prayer leadership and spiritual conferences of Mission Speaker Fr Brendan Moss, OSB. Each night's prayer and conference focused on a different virtue of Benedictine spirituality (stability, obedience, conversion, poverty and purity). Each night within the context of Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours, Fr Brendan invited the parishioners and friends of St Romuald to explore the charism of Benedictine life. Beginning with an overview of monastic living, Fr Brendan offered a primer on the Liturgy of Hours, outlining the effect of prayer sacralizing time and keeping attention upon God's presence in every moment. Despite each person's differing life duties and responsibilities, the offering of one's hours to God's Glory leads a person's individual work to become the Work of God (Opus Dei). Introducing the first night's topic of 'stability', Fr Brendan encouraged the attendees to 'center' themselves in God, securing the 'stability' needed to maintain awareness of God's presence in the midst of the fleeting, turbulent changes of society's fads and trends.

As Fr Brendan said, "Stability begins when we realize who we are, and whose we are." He asked each person, to go to prayer asking to see oneself as one truly is, fallen and frail due to sin, yet at the same time being a unique child of God created in His image. Such grounding provides the foundation needed to live faithfully in such a fluid world. On the second evening, Fr Brendan presented the concept of obedience by asking everyone to consider what they 'listen' to, and calling everyone to better 'hear' God through His word, through all persons encountered and through one's own heart. He said this required the discipline of listening to God through the silence of meditation and personal 'heart prayer'.

The third evening he presented 'conversatio' as a model of continual conversion and turning to God, asking where God is in one's own life and in the lives of others. This Benedictine value leads us to examine how well we live in community and interact with others. This call to 'practice the presence of God' in all parts of our lives challenges us to humbly acknowledge the need to watch our conduct and habits. 'Conversatio' also requires us to examine how we use our time and relate to others. Fr Brendan emphasized the crucial need to make room for the truth of who we are as often 'faulty' and 'failing' human beings in need of God's grace ourselves. Accepting our faults leads to a humil-



**Fr Brendan Moss from St. Meinrad spoke each night showing us how we can be helped in our spiritual lives with the rules of the Benedictine Order.**

ity that is more accepting of the faults of others with a readiness to forgive them. Such humility and willingness to forgive allows for the development of a genuine Christian community.

On the final night, Fr Brendan introduced 'poverty and purity' as virtues needed to keep one's way of living simple and to cultivate holiness by full awareness of dependence upon a loving and providential God. He asked everyone to review 'right relationship to God, others and our possessions'. Poverty and chastity as values remind us to keep God foremost and central in our lives, and to check the balance of our lives in relationship to God and material possessions. We are measured not by how much we have or what powerful people we know, but by simply knowing and trusting that we belong to God and God has us!

Many parishioners remarked about the challenge of each virtue of Benedictine spirituality, and the reliance upon God needed in order to practice them all. Fr Brendan encouraged a focus upon any one of them

as a beginning, and to trust the discipline of time to bring the others into play as needed. He emphasized that just as faithful Benedictine living is not achieved alone through an overnight stay at a monastery, so also a call to holiness is not perfected in 4-day mission timeline. Sanctity comes through stably and daily taking up the practice of listening to God's voice in prayer, attending to God through spiritual habits, simplifying one's life and maintaining purity by daily focusing on the discipline of lovingly carrying out one's duties.

Several parishioners remarked upon the importance of having parish missions as opportunities to be challenged to grow and better practice spiritual living. Joellen McGary commented upon Fr Brendan's engaging, and personal style that kept everyone attentive, and his presentations that made the scriptures relevant and ap-

plicable to everyday experiences. Lisa Kennedy said, "I loved the mission! It was refreshing. I never was tempted to be fidgety or distracted." Another parishioner Dolores Mattingly mentioned she felt it was one the best missions that the parish has hosted. Chris Brumfield enjoyed the challenge to maintain a sacredness in our lives through constant prayer and different spiritual practices Fr Brendan shared with the parish. Buck and Dorothy Jarboe both pointed out how remarkable it was how many parishioners made every night of the mission, to best follow the progression of the conferences, each night building upon the previous one. In all, St Romuald parishioners give thanks for the spiritual challenge and renewal shared with them by Benedictine Fr Brendan Moss! All for the Glory of God!

## Fr. Joe Miller, 92, Dies



**Father Joseph C. Miller**

Reverend Joseph C. Miller, age 92 of Nevis, Mn. died Saturday, February 7, 2015 at Green Pine Acres Nursing Home in Menahga, Minnesota.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated February 13 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Spring Hill. Rev. Timothy Wenzel presided, with Revs. Ed Bradley, Marvin Enneking, and other priests concelebrating. Interment followed in the parish cemetery

Reverend Joseph Conrad Miller was born September 6, 1922 in Spring Hill Township, Stearns County, Minnesota to Joseph and Catherine (Nietfeld) Miller. He attended country school at Stearns County District 133 through the eighth grade and then graduated from the Crosier Preparatory Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology from the Crosier House of Studies in Hastings, Nebraska and his master's degree in classical languages from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Father Miller professed his solemn vows as a member of the Crosier Order on December 8, 1944 in Hastings, NE. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1949 by Bishop Louis Kucera in Hastings, NE and celebrated his first Mass on June 5, 1949 in Boys Town, NE.

Father Miller was a teacher of Latin, Greek, and German at the Crosier Seminary in Onamia from 1950 to 1967. He was also the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Milaca from 1960 to 1967.

Father Miller was incardinated in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky in 1968, where he served in the following pastoral assignments: pastor of St. Anthony Church, Peonia, KY, St. Benedict Church, Wax, KY and St. Augustine Church, Grayson Springs, KY for ten years; St. Alphonsus Church, St. Joseph, KY for seven years; and Immaculate Conception Church, Earlington, KY for two years. Father Miller retired in 1986 and has resided on Lake Belletaine, near Nevis, Minnesota, since then.

Father Miller is survived by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Math (Theresa) Miller and Father Henry Miller; and four sisters, Sister Gordian Miller, O.S.B, Julianna Miller, Leona (John) Mehr, and Armella (Leo) Eveslage.

“Mommy, what is *that*?” Without looking, we know the little tyke is pointing to us, and it’s dear mother is doing her best to shush them and move away quickly. We receive that reaction quite a few times. It does make us smile.

*What are the Carmelites? Who are the Carmelites?* Our Constitutions say we are a “group, walking together on the way to God.” “We exist for the Adoration and Praise of Jesus Christ.” Our Carmelite writers tell us that “the Carmelite Order has the specific function in the Church to perpetuate the love that Jesus has for His Mother,” and that “Carmel exists for the veneration of Mary.” So, first and foremost, we are Mary’s Order. Love for our dear Lady inundates our whole life. We know that when we venerate her, she will lead us straight to Jesus and to the Father. We know that when we strive to imitate her, then we will be true spiritual mothers to all we meet.

Our Carmelite tradition takes us all



In this July 16, 2014 photo are jubilarians Father Richard Cash, Sister Mary Therese, and Sister M. Angela Therese. Carmelite Sisters Photo

the way back to the holy prophet, St. Father Elijah. It is in his spirit of deep prayer, deep union with God, and his profound zeal for the “Lord God of Hosts,” that we find our vocation to continue the mission of the ‘praying Christ’ in the Church.

As Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus we take the mission of Carmel and live it in conjunction with our service to the elderly and to children. Our Foundress, Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph, began this Congregation in Berlin, Germany in 1891. In reception of the name, Carmel of the Divine Heart, she saw our sacred role as *intercession* and *reparation*. As a “family” united in love, we are to imitate our dear Lady in prayer, interceding for all the needs of the Church and the world. We are to foster a deep devotion to the *Divine Heart* of Jesus; to encourage each of our Sisters to foster a spirit of self-denial and reparation. Primarily, to repair for those who deny “the Divinity of Jesus Christ.”

Mother first opened a Home for homeless children in Berlin; children who were orphaned or who were living on the streets. It was her burning desire to save them for the Divine Heart of Jesus. She founded Homes for children all over Europe, and insisted that they be “HOMES” not institutions; a Home full of love for those

whom we are privileged to serve. She desired that the Sisters be true Mothers to those whom they serve.

While in the United States in 1912, Mother Maria Teresa saw the need to provide Homes for the elderly. In her spirit and out of her love for the elderly, Carmel Home was founded in 1952. It is in Mother’s deep love to “see God in all, serve God in all, and love God in all” that she has inspired her Carmelite daughters to provide a safe haven for our elderly, so that they may live out their final days on earth, preparing for eternity with God.

Splendor Of Truth Ministries

- Presents -

## Total Transformation

Understanding Lenten Practices in Scripture

Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

Dr. Nicholas Lebish, D.Min.



To be hosted in  
three parishes in Owensboro:

Parish of the Immaculate  
(Friday, March 6th, 6:30-8:00 pm)

St. Stephen Cathedral  
(Saturday, March 7th, 10:00-11:30 am)

Blessed Mother Catholic Church  
(Saturday, March 7th, 6:30-8:00 pm)

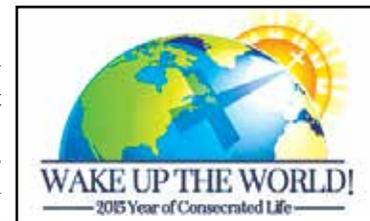
Dr. Nicholas Lebish is a convert to Catholicism from Evangelical Protestantism. He studied Philosophy and Theology in Rome, Italy. Having completed his Doctor of Ministry in Theological Studies he is currently working on a second doctorate in Education.



Free Admission – A Free Will Offering Will Be Accepted



**Nine Cheers** for The Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School Middle School Academic Team who took first place in district competition on January 17 and is now headed to regionals! The following individuals are in this photo: (From left to right – back row) Kateri Lambert (Coach), Candice Lambert (Assistant Coach), Harlee Keener, Corbin Mills, Caleb Jones. (From left to right – front row) Mary Hardesty, Lydia Lambert, Brittney Booker, and Sr. Suzanne Sims (Principal). Photo by Kim Rydecki





Students at Owensboro Catholic High School in conjunction with SCRUBS collected gently used coats as part of Coat A Kid held in the area each year. The coats are cleaned by a local cleaner and then distributed where they are needed. Coats, blankets (collected at the band concert in December, 2014), and handmade double-sided fleece blankets made by OCHS students were donated as part of the Homeless Resource Fair in January 28 at Settle Memorial Church. The Knitting and Crocheting Club also made scarves and hats to be offered to people in need at the Homeless Fair. Pictured above are OCHS students Pete Mattingly, Chase Trogden, Lilly Harvey, Mrs. Bev Howard, Tre Perkins, and Tyler Mayfield helping to move the coats. Mel Howard Photo



Residents from Lighthouse Recovery in Owensboro helped the men, women, and children who attended the Homeless Resource Fair at Settle Memorial Jan. 28, 2015 find what they needed at a table provided by Owensboro Catholic High School students. From left are Daniel, John, and at right back, Randy Dowell who helped the man in front find a warm blanket, a hat and scarf which were donated to the resource fair from OCHS's Knitting and Crocheting Club and SCRUBS group.

Angela Settle who helped organize the Resource Fair at Settle Memorial said, "The Homeless Council of the Ohio Valley (HCOV) is so thankful for all that OCHS did to make this Resource Fair worthwhile for the homeless to attend! I think that we also have another organization that will be able to donate blankets next year since our numbers are increasing. I was fortunate to be able to go out with a group from HCOV on Jan. 28, and we found homeless people staying in laundromats, on the steps of buildings downtown, and in multiple-people living in hotel rooms. Unbelievable!"



## Son Breaks Dad's Trinity High School Record

On January 30, 2015, Trinity High School Raider Daniel Morris broke a school basketball record, making 10 three point shots in a single game. The school record Daniel broke was previously held by his father, Kevin Morris. Above are Daniel with his parents and siblings, from left to right, Cassidy Morris, Kevin Morris, Daniel Morris, Krista Morris, and Trenton Morris. Photo by Kim Rydecki



Bishop Medley @BishopMedley1 Jan 29, 2015  
Alive in the Holy Spirit -- 18 Confirmed at St. Romuald, Hardinsburg, KY



## WAKE UP THE WORLD!

2015 Year Of Consecrated Life

This year, beginning on November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis has called the whole Church to observe a “Year of Consecrated Life.” What a wonderful opportunity for us all to reflect upon the beauty, power, and gift of consecrated life! What is it? Why does it exist? How is it related to the whole Church? And what distinguishes our Passionist contemplative life from the many other forms of consecrated life? In this newsletter, we begin what we pray will be a grace-filled year of pondering these questions.

As we begin our meditations on consecrated life specifically, let us look first at who we are as human persons. When God created the human race – when He created each of us individually – He created us to be His spouse. What dignity each human being has! God loves us so much that He created each man and woman on the face of the earth to be His bride! That is why Jesus calls heaven a “wedding banquet” – for all eternity, we will be celebrating our marriage with God Himself. The Church calls this love of God “the universal call to holiness.” No matter what our particular state of life is, we are each called to become so holy, so united with God that we become His spouse.

Most people follow this universal call to holiness through the vocation of matrimony, which is itself a beautiful image of the love between God and the Church. But throughout the centuries, God has asked some men and women to be consecrated to Him alone and, thus, to live their eternal vocation already here on earth. Through the profession of their “marriage vows,” the “evangelical counsels” of poverty,

chastity, and obedience, these consecrated souls conform their lives as closely as possible to the earthly life of Jesus, their divine Bridegroom. Joyfully returning love for Love, they give themselves entirely to Him and to His work on earth. As they do so, their lives become powerful signs to the whole world, proclaiming what each person is created for: eternal happiness in the spousal embrace of God.

Becoming signs of the love of God for the world is at the very heart of our Passionist contemplative vocation. Not only do we profess the three evangelical counsels, but we profess a vow “to promote devotion to and grateful remembrance of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ and to express it in our style of life.” It was in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection that the Son of God consummated His marriage to His Bride, the Church! “God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son...” (Jn. 3:16). As Passionist brides of Christ, we live out our consecration on Calvary, in the atmosphere of Christ’s sacrificial love, offering ourselves in union with our Crucified Spouse to the Father for the sake of the whole world.

By our lives of prayer and sacrifice, cloistered here at the foot of the Cross, we strive to teach all people about the God who loves them so much that He came to earth and died, just so that He could lead them back into His Kingdom as His radiant, spotless Bride.

Drawn by the Holy Spirit, the Passionist Nuns profess the evangelical counsels in the Church to intensify their baptismal consecration and to unite themselves in a special way to the Church and to her Mystery. Voluntarily and lovingly they oblige themselves “to follow Christ who, virginal and poor, redeemed and sanctified men by obedience unto death on the cross.” Consecrated therefore as “brides of the Crucified by the holy vows,” they live solely for Christ and for His Body, which is the Church.

(*Constitutions of the Passionist Nuns*, #9; cf. *Lumen Gentium* #43-46)



## NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

MEET A SISTER. BE INSPIRED.

Celebrating the lives and contributions of Catholic Sisters

March 8 — 14, 2015



Sister Mary Henning and Sister Catherine Barber - Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

[www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org](http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org)

[www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org)

## Bishop Medley Visits Paducah For Catholic Schools Week And Diocesan Town Hall Meeting

March, 2015 13

By J. Patrick Kerr

PADUCAH, KY – The Most Reverend Bishop William Francis Medley visited Paducah in late January for Catholic Schools Week and a Town Hall Meeting of Catholics in the area.

At St. Mary School System, Bishop Medley celebrated Mass along with the priest from the area. Speaking during his homily, the bishop outlined the importance of Catholic

Schools and the education they provide not only in traditional school subjects, but also the moral education that consistently turns out students who live their lives with a God-conscience center of purpose.

Following Mass at St. Mary, Bishop Medley took time to visit Hope Unlimited Family Care Center, where he joined members of the Knights of Columbus along with St. Mary High School Juniors and the staff of the facility to bless a new 4-D ultrasound Machine. Because of the



**Bishop William Medley presiding at Mass at Saint Mary for Catholic Schools Week Celebration in Paducah, Jan. 2015 with Fathers Brian Roby, Pat Reynolds, and Stan Puryear concelebrating. J. Patrick Kerr Photo**

thanked the Knights of Columbus for the work they do for the Catholic community as a whole.

Aida Vega, Executive Director of Hope Unlimited said, "It's quite an honor to have hosted Bishop Medley. Having his support, along with the wonderful Knights in our area, means so much to our client families! A new, dependable 4-D ultrasound is very important, but having the Bishop begin its use in prayer really makes the machine God's instrument."

In the evening, Bishop Medley held a Town Hall Meeting at St. Francis De Sales in downtown Paducah to hear parishioners' thoughts on the family and how the challenges of family life relate to their Catholic Faith. In October, Pope Francis received a report at the conclusion of the Synod on the Family and then directed Cardinals, Bishops and Priest throughout the world, to meet with the faithful and collect their thoughts on marriage, divorce, family planning and other concerns as they relate to the Catholic family. Bishop Medley held the first such listening session in Paducah and will hold similar sessions throughout the Diocese in the coming months. After, he will prepare a report to send to the Vatican for review.

generosity of the Knights of Columbus, the Paducah clinic was gifted a machine in 2013. This new machine, also donated by the Knights of Columbus, will be sent to Hope Unlimited in Metropolis, IL. The Bishop stressed the importance of the sanctity of life during his blessing and

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**The Most Reverend Bishop William Francis Medley, poses in Paducah, KY, with Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds of St. Thomas More Parish (far right), St. Mary High School Juniors, Aida Vega, Executive Director of Hope Unlimited (center) and members of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights donated a new ultra sound machine to Hope Unlimited and Bishop Medley took time to bless the technology. Aida Vega said, "We know how technology can make things real to parents. With God's help, the ultra sound images will also make the holiness of that first heartbeat real, as well." J. Patrick Kerr Photo**

14 March, 2015

## Brescia University Students Recognized, Receive Leadership Awards

OWENSBORO, KY (January 27, 2015) – Each year, during Brescia University's Founder's Week there is a tradition of recognizing one male and one female student who possess in remarkable ways the spirit of Saint Angela Merici. Angela Merici was a leader in great and small ways and touched the lives of many. She is responsible for the formation of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who founded Brescia University in 1950.

This year, Marketa Kreuzingerova, a junior studying accounting from the Czech Republic and Peter Olisa, a sophomore in Engineering Studies from Nigeria-West Africa were nominated and chosen to receive this honor.

Saint Angela attracted people from all walks of life; rich and poor, nobility and common folk, learned and uneducated. She is often noted for her hospitality, her healthy sense of self in relationship to God and others, her contemplative spirit while being involved in the world and her ability to be a reconciler and peacemaker.

Any member of the Brescia family (Students, Faculty, Staff, Administrators) had the opportunity to nominate a Brescia student to receive the "Spirit of Angela Award."

Marketa was described as a woman of integrity, with respect for others and their gifts and as a woman with an intellectual and spiritual hunger.

"Marketa has been an active member on campus and an example of academic integrity, from academics to residence life, international studies and events and internships" Sister Rose Marita, co-chair of the Spirit of Angela Committee said. "Marketa has a hunger to bring goodness to others each and every day in whatever way she can. In her there is found an example of humility, and servant leadership that is the epitome of the Spirit of Saint Angela Merici."

Peter was recognized as a quiet, unassuming man of strength, as having a gratitude that is contagious and wisdom beyond his years. But what stood out about Peter most was his love for God.

"Above all, in my encounters with Peter, I have known him to be a man of God, a man who seeks and finds and questions in a way that further quenches his longing for God. Whatever difficulties he has experienced in his life indeed made him stronger and wise and compassionate," Dr. Daniel Kuntz, co-chair of



**Peter Olisa and Marketa Kreuzingerova received Spirit of Angela Awards from Brescia University. BU Photo**

the Spirit of Angela Committee said.

Along with the "Spirit of Angela" recipients, a number of other student leaders were also recognized for their service to the Brescia community:

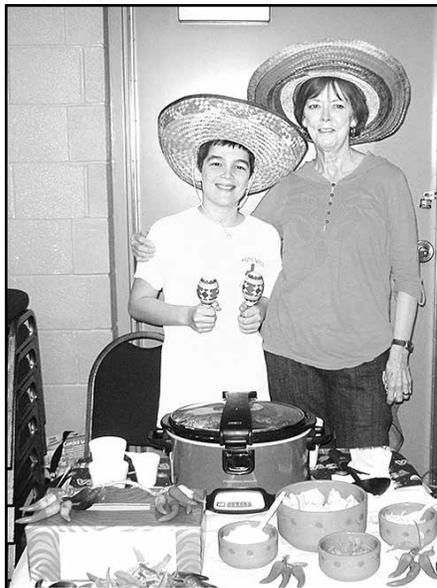
Alexis Ross-Logan (Student Activities Program Board), Carleigh Jo Bright (Student Government Association), Samantha Walker (Women's Track), An-



**Brescia Student Leaders Recognized for Service to the Brescia Community**

drew Atkins (Men's Track), Cynthia Leonardo (Student Ambassador), Sarah Elrhajoui (Women's Soccer), Alejandra Matiz (Women's Tennis), Jonathan Kamuf (Men's Tennis), Italo Arruda (Men's Soccer), Leah Armstrong (The Broadcast), Lutisha Buckner (Black Student Union), Aaron King (Baseball), Emily Fabrizio (Ichabod Society), Kumari Logan (Honors College-second year), Margaret Ballou (Honors College, first year), Allison Simpson (Psychology Club), Shelby Goff (Social Work Club), DeAnna Nash (Bearcaddettes), Julie Whitfil (Women's Basketball), Katie McClure (First Year Experience Peer Educator), Rose Ripa (Residence Life), Sara Morgan (Kentucky Education Association/Council for Exceptional Children)

For more information on Brescia University and Founder's Week, please contact Kayla Cruse at 270.686.2110 or [kayla.cruse@brescia.edu](mailto:kayla.cruse@brescia.edu).



### Top Chefs

**As part of Catholic Schools Week, the Mary Carrico Catholic school PTO sponsored a "Top Chef Knottsville" soup-cook off after Mass on Sunday, January 25th. Pictured at their soup booth is Mary Carrico student Dawson Fulkerson and his grandmother and Taco Soup maker, Debbie Fulkerson. Photo by Chuck Green**

## Preparations are underway for the next Spiritual Direction Training Program at Maple Mount

Plans are underway for the sixth class of the Spiritual Direction Training Program provided by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

The Spiritual Direction Training Program is an opportunity to develop and practice skills necessary to learn the art of spiritual direction. The rural setting at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center offers the quiet and serene atmosphere for prayer and discernment that is needed for this type of program.

The program is designed for both experienced directors and those who feel the call to this ministry. Under competent supervisors, both beginning and experienced directors will have opportunities to learn and refine their skills. Participants come to learn how to companion others on their walk with God, but they often find their own spirituality is deepened through the two-year process.

The Spiritual Direction Training Program meets eight times for a weekly session beginning at noon Monday and ending at 11 a.m. Friday. This program prepares participants for the ministry of spiritual direction from a Catholic perspective and in the spirit of Saint Angela Merici. During each of the eight weeks, participants will enter into study, reflection and prayer around a topic fundamental to the understanding and practice of spiritual direction. There will be daily opportunities for Eucharist, prayer and reflection in an atmosphere of contemplation.

The dates for the 2015-2017 class are: Oct. 26-30, 2015; Jan. 11-15, 2016; April 4-8, 2016; July 25-29, 2016; Oct. 17-21, 2016; Jan. 9-13, 2017; April 3-7, 2017; July 31-Aug. 4, 2017.

For more information, contact Sheila Blandford, 270-229-4103, ext. 804, or email [sheila.blandford@maplemount.org](mailto:sheila.blandford@maplemount.org). Visit [ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org) and click on the Conference and Retreat Center tab to learn more.

## 20 Murray State University Students Attended Seek 2015 in Nashville, TN.

March, 2015 15

Where do you turn with all of life's important questions? During early January, 2015, 10,000 young adults turned to Christ. SEEK2015, presented by FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students was an adventurous five-day event in Nashville from January 1st – 5th. With unexpected twists and turns, participants were challenged, inspired and left wanting more.

And that's exactly what the 20 Murray State students who attended got!

Here are a few quotes from 3 participants:

"For me, SEEK was a reminder of how much God loves each of us, and how much we're worth to Him. The first thing they told us when we got there was that, even though we came to this conference seeking Christ, Christ sought us first. Sometimes we work so hard trying to find God, to be closer to Him, but we forget to just let Him love us as we are. I really needed to remember that." Emily Ferguson, Murray State Sophomore

"Basically I was a non-practicing Catholic...Going to SEEK reconnected me to my faith and rekindled the fire of the Holy Spirit in me to drive me to go back to church and become active again. It was largely a turning point for me in my faith." Hunter Steele, Murray State Junior

"SEEK2015 was the most life-changing event I've ever experienced.

Adoration and confession with 10,000 other students was probably my favorite part." Kelsey Grapperhaus, Murray State Sophomore

"Being in the same place as 10,000 young Catholics really makes the Church come alive! SEEK helped me grow deeper in my faith through fellowship and prayer. I greatly enjoyed hearing talks from great models of our Catholic faith. They all encouraged us to go out into the world and set it on fire with the Holy Spirit." Helen Beckert, Murray State Junior

Several young adults from the Diocese of Owensboro were blessed with the opportunity to spend some time with Bishop William Medley over dinner on the evening of Saturday, January 3rd.

SEEK is a gathering of college students on a journey. It's a place where students can come together to take on some of life's BIGGER questions and, like guides along

the way,  
learn  
from  
one  
another  
where  
wisdom and experience lead. Life is meant to be lived and in order to live it to the fullest, we need to heed the wisdom that calls us to 'ask, seek and knock' to discover who we are, where we're going and what motivates us.

Presented by FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, SEEK2015 was an adventurous five-day event in Nashville from January 1-5, 2015.



Bishop William Medley and Fr. Jason McClure with the Murray State contingent at SEEK in Nashville, Jan. 3, 2015. Photo from Bishop Medley @BishopMedley1.



left to right Meagan Moffat, Kelsey Grapperhaus, Emily Bruns, Kelly Grant, Audrey Dirnberger, (front). Article and photos submitted by Allison Loomis



From left to right: Nick Smith, Ron Tyson, Kaylee Murphy, Emily Bruns, Sarah Carter, Megan French

## Mother Teresa and Shoes For Haiti Presentation Comes to Sts. Joseph and Paul Church

By Natalie Dant

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On December 4, 2015 at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish Hall, Allen Lake, a professional photojournalist, told his story of being in the right place at the right time in June 1982. Mother Teresa was visiting Eastern KY to open a shelter for battered women. Being the overachieving, egocentric photojournalist that he was, he wanted to "get the story."

Allen spoke of the gentleness and humility of Mother Teresa. He was there to "get the story," but a tiny seed was planted that day that grew over time and led to the beginning of a new journey and direction in his life. As he allowed the Lord to direct his path, Allen began Fireside Family Ministries in 2008 with his family.

This ministry led him to mission work in the United States and worldwide. In his gathering with us, he spoke of his trip to Haiti and the work they are doing to help the people of this fourth world country. They help support a burn clinic and supply medication for burn victims. Burns are a frequent injury to Haitians as open fires are how they must cook, with the lack of electricity in most areas. They also provide nutrition to the malnourished. Another gift that they provide is shoes. Allen had a slideshow that showed the missionaries washing the natives' feet and placing the shoes on their feet. This was heartwarming to see, as our Parish of Sts. Joseph and Paul has sent nearly 4,000 pairs of shoes to our Twin Parish in Lalomas, Haiti.

Allen shared the experience of his mission trip to Haiti in story and pictures. It was a familiar and humbling story for many in the audience, as Sts. Joseph and Paul has been involved with mission work in Haiti. Our Parish has taken three mission trips and 17 missionaries have seen the poverty of this country. To quote an old Haitian proverb, "The heart cannot feel what the eye has not seen." This is certainly true for me, as I have been one of those missionaries.

Allen also spoke of how well behaved the children are in school. Education is their only way out of the cycle of poverty; it is a luxury for them, and they know if they misbehave they will be asked to leave.

We were grateful to hear Allen's



Mother Teresa, June, 1982. Allen Lake Photo

story and pray for continued success in his ministry. Allen has beautiful photographs of his visit with Mother Teresa that he uses by selling them to help keep his ministry moving forward. Mother Teresa continues to help the poorest of the poor. Allen now works for the Kentucky Juvenile Justice Department and he and his family continue their work at Fireside Family Ministry.

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish participates in the Haiti mission through the Twinning Parish Program. We have been twinned with St. Joseph Parish in Lalomas, Haiti. As stated earlier, we have taken three trips, with another planned in April, and 17 parishioners have made the trip. Fr. Evaneau is their pastor and he is responsible for nine remote chapels in addition to the Parish of St. Joseph. He has made two trips to Owensboro.

Every mission trip has had different goals, and we see progress every time we return. Our first trip to Haiti was mostly fact finding, trying to find out what needs they had and how we as a Parish in Ow-

ensboro KY could help. With the devastation still noticeable from the earthquake in 2009, the missionaries made the long drive from Port-au-Prince to the remote community of Lalomas in the mountains. The roads in the mountains are treacherous, with huge rocks, washouts, trenches, and no bridges. We had to cross the river by driving through it. Most people travel by foot, donkey or, if fortunate enough to own one, motorcycle. The poverty was overwhelming, like nothing we had witnessed before. But one thing we noticed with each trip is the spirit of joy and love in the children. The lack of the basics, food, clean water, shoes, clothing, and medical care was shocking. We knew we had to help these people. Lavidia Mischel was so touched and heartbroken to see so many without shoes and decided she was going to fill a huge box with shoes

and send them to Lalomas. This was accomplished when we had a shoe drive and, as I have already mentioned, collected nearly 4,000 pairs of shoes. We decided one of the biggest ways we could help the Haitians was through education of the children.

On our second trip, we spent most of our time taking pictures of the school children so that we could set up a sponsorship program. To sponsor a child through school is \$20 a month, \$240 per year. This money is used to pay the salary of the teachers, which ensures that the children will have an education. Through our sponsorship program, 48 teachers are paid \$115 a month, and 2,300 children attend school during the school year, which runs from October through June. Before this, the teachers were paid only when there was money available.

On this trip, one of our missionaries was given a gift of eggs from a child she had given \$10 to on the first trip. He told her he bought a hen with the money and the hen lays eggs that help feed his family and he sells the rest at market. This led

to another idea for our next trip, "Hens for Haiti." We passed out plastic eggs at Easter Mass and over the next few weeks the eggs were returned with money to purchase hens!

Our third trip to Haiti was to assess medical needs and resources, and to deliver the "Hens for Haiti" gift from our Parish. We had an impromptu clinic two hours each day for three days with very little supplies. We saw things from headaches, parasite infestations, 3rd degree burns, and deep lacerations on children's feet from lack of footwear. The lack of medical care was astounding. We also looked into how we could provide clean water to the area. Sr. Lorraine Lauter is coming to our Parish to teach us about "Water with Blessings," which is a clean water project we can use to help the people of Lalomas to get clean, safe drinking water. We delivered 1,200 dresses to the women and girls that were made with love by one of our parishioners, Katherine Brand. The girls looked so beautiful and they were so proud of their new dresses. During our stay, we found out that chickens in Haiti had a virus, so our "Hens for Haiti" turned into "Goats for Haiti." These goats can be used to enable the community to care its family and make money from the goats' offspring.

Our work in Haiti has come a long way, but we have much more to do. We received an email from Fr. Evaneau recently, stating that the World Food Organization has stopped sending food to his school. This was, at times, all the food the children received. It takes twelve, 18lb. bags of rice to feed the school children. A bag of rice cost \$40. After this email was sent out, our Parish again responded and money donated for rice started coming in.

This is a very humbling and rewarding ministry to be involved in. Matthew 25:35-36,40: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Amen, I say to you, what you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

If you would like to help sponsor a child or get more information about our work in Haiti, call the Parish office 270-683-5641, and ask for April Dickens, or email Lavidia Mischel at [lavidia0204@yahoo.com](mailto:lavidia0204@yahoo.com).



## Saints Peter and Paul Elementary CROSS COUNTRY

Submitted by Therese Bennett

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Saints Peter and Paul Elementary Cross Country Team completed another successful season. This season saw the Saints record 6 school records: Annalee Renfroe, Molly Bennett (2K and 3K Elementary), Traace Pound, Muki Kunnmann (3K and 4K MS).

The elementary boys' team brought home 3 titles: Glasgow Invitational, Saint Mary's Invitational, and Christian State Champions. Walter Kunnmann was the boys elementary Christian State Champ. His sister, Muki, took top honors in the middle school race. Other standout performances during the season included individual wins at Glasgow Warrior Run (Muki Kunnmann MS, Molly Bennett ES), St. Mary's Invitational (Walter Kunnmann), Logan County Cougar Run (Muki Kunnmann).

Ten runners qualified and competed at the KTC-CCA State Championships in their age divisions: Ben Bennett (28th), Molly Bennett (7th), Nathan Brianas (12th), Hunter Goodin (183), Tahlon Goodin (43rd), Muki Kunnmann (6th), Walter Kunnmann (56th), Nic Luckey (39th), Ryan Luckey (75th), and Luke Shouse (16th). Nine Saints runners qualified for the National Championships in Nashville, TN. Finishers included Ben Bennett (44), Nathan Brianas (60), Hunter Goodin (16), Tahlon Goodin (24), Muki Kunnmann (43), Walter Kunnmann (10), Nic Luckey (23), Ryan Luckey (12), and Luke Shouse (55).

Roger Volk, was one of the head coaches this season. When asked what impressed him about this year's team, he replied, "these runners are fearless and are willing to take on anyone. They are a small school of 180 students, but they take on schools with 5000 students." Coach Volk said the reason he volunteers his time with the team is the joy he receives working with kids and the opportunity to "give back to [his] church and community" by sharing his blessings. At the recent awards banquet, Coach Volk also gave credit to the many volunteers who came together during the season to help with coaching duties, organize fundraisers, and supported the runners at races across the state.



## Saints Peter and Paul Elementary KYA

Submitted by Therese Bennett

Saints Peter and Paul students recently received top honors at the Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) in Frankfort. KYA is a three-day conference and learning experience that promotes participation in the democratic process through simulation of the legislative procedure. Students prepared for months prior to the actual conference. They participated in such areas as research and authorship of bills, practiced and honed their speaking skills, and prepared for debate sessions. The conference was attended by over 1500 students from throughout Kentucky. For the first time in school history they

## Saints Peter And Paul Elementary Academic All-Stars

Submitted by Therese Bennett

Four Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School students were recently named to the Regional Academic All-Star Team. Middle school students are chosen in one of four disciplines—English, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Alma Valdez, Anastasia Kunnmann, Shane Ethridge, and Madelyn Bennett were the proud recipients of this year's awards. The awards were hosted by the Kentucky New Era and local rotary clubs and provided numerous scholarships to area winners. The nominees were honored at a reception at the Hopkinsville Community College that was also attended by representatives from universities such as Murray State and Austin Peay. The winners received a medal and a certificate.

Alma Valdez was nominated by Rochelle Dickerson in English, who wrote that Alma "exhibits an excellent use of vocabulary." The social studies award was presented to Anastasia Kunnmann. She was nominated by her teacher, Lynn Hensley, for her "insight." Ms. Hensley also nominated Shane Ethridge in the science division, saying he was "an excellent science student." Madelyn Bennett took honors in mathematics after being nominated by her teacher, Nicole Mowen, who said "[Madelyn's] keen understanding of math and logic is impressive." The purpose of the program is to recognize top middle and high school scholars from the Pennyroyal region.



received the prestigious Outstanding Statesmanship Award. It is presented to the school delegation that has "the highest overall quality of contribution to debate."

Other awards received included the Delegation of Excellence, two Outstanding Speakers (Kendall Doer and Will Groves), Outstanding Media Core (Victoria Fisk), and Karenna Chaudoin was chosen by her advisors as Outstanding Delegate. Three groups of students authored bills. Each of the bills was presented in a mock legislative mode. The students had to be prepared to speak in front of large crowds and answer random questions. All three were voted on and passed. The team of Molly Bennett, Karenna Chaudoin, James Folz, and Kyle Spurr were chosen to present in the State Capitol Senate Chambers, an honor only received by one other group of Premiere bill authors.



### Way to go, Hayden!

Congratulations to HNS 8th grader, Hayden Krampe, son of Mike and Heather Krampe, for winning the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest. Hayden received his award at the DAR Annual Tea, on February 14, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Parish Hall. Hayden is pictured with his classmates just to the right of his proud teacher, Mrs. Christina Shires, Way to go, Hayden!

Photo by Kamille Stich

## 2015 Catholic Parish Picnic Schedule

| Date       | Serving Time                     | Parish  |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|
| May 8-9    | International Barbecue Festival, | Downtown, Owensboro                                   |
| May 16     | 11:00 a.m.                       | Carmel Home, Owensboro                                |
| May 24     | 11:00 a.m.                       | St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville                    |
| June 6     | 4:00 p.m.                        | Precious Blood, Owensboro                             |
| June 6     | 3:00 p.m.                        | Saint Joseph, Leitchfield                             |
| June 6     | 5:00 p.m.                        | St. Ann, Morganfield                                  |
| June 13    | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro                             |
| June 20    | 3:00 p.m.                        | St. Romuald, Hardinsburg                              |
| June 20    | 3:00 p.m.                        | Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro                        |
| June 27    | 5:00 p.m.                        | St. Peter, Waverly                                    |
| June 27    | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho (100 <sup>th</sup> picnic) |
| July 4     | 2:00 p.m.                        | St. Anthony, Peonia                                   |
| July 4     | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Anthony, Axtel (Rough River)                      |
| July 4     | 11:00 a.m./5:00 p.m.             | St. Denis, Fancy Farm                                 |
| July 11    | 12:30 – 7:30 p.m.                | Immaculate Conception, Hawesville                     |
| July 11    | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph                             |
| July 18    | 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.           | St. Charles, Bardwell                                 |
| July 18    | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley                       |
| July 25    | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady                        |
| July 25    | 3:00 p.m.                        | St. Paul, Leitchfield                                 |
| Aug. 1     | 11:00 a.m.                       | St. Jerome, Fancy Farm                                |
| Aug. 1     | Noon                             | Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro                          |
| Aug. 4     | 5:00 p.m.                        | St. Martin, Rome                                      |
| July 25    | 4:00 p.m.                        | Blessed Mother, Owensboro                             |
| Aug. 22    | 3:00 p.m. (ET)                   | Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington                       |
| Aug. 30    | Noon                             | Rosary Chapel, Paducah                                |
| Sept 11-12 |                                  | Holy Name Fall Festival, Henderson                    |
| Sept. 12   | 4:30 p.m.                        | St. Agnes, Uniontown                                  |
| Sept. 12   | 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.           | St. John the Evangelist, Paducah                      |
| Sept. 13   | 10:30 a.m.                       | Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount                         |
| Sept. 19   | 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.            | St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro                      |
| Sept. 19   | 4:00 p.m.                        | Christ the King, Madisonville                         |
| Sept. 19   | 4:00 p.m.                        | St. Columba, Lewisport                                |
| Sept. 19   | Noon                             | St. Pius X, Calvert City                              |
| Sept. 20   | 11:00 a.m.                       | St. Lawrence/St. William Parishes                     |
| Sept. 20   | Noon                             | St. Leo, Murray                                       |
| Sept. 26   | 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.           | St. Elizabeth, Clarkson                               |
| Sept 26    | 3:00 p.m.                        | Immaculate, Owensboro                                 |
| Sept. 27   | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.           | St. Joseph, Central City                              |
| Sept. 27   | 11:00 a.m.                       | St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville                    |

Editor's Note: If dates and serving times need changing in this schedule, please email Western Kentucky Catholic editor: Mel.Howard@pastoral.org with changes.

## Saint Paul Catholic School Saints' Day Jan 29, 2015



At back, Teacher - Emily Drake; Rebecca DePoyster - St. Rose of Lima; John Pirtle - Pope John Paul II; Shelby Davis-St. Cecilia; Jarek Whitworth-St. Christopher; Molly Geary-St. Catherine; Alex Skaggs- "St Tarcisus; Chloe Collard-Juan Diago; Corbin Geary- St. Michael; Lilly DePoyster- St. Teresa. St Paul School Photos

Photo below: St. Isadore - Gabriel Mudd, St. Philomena- Maddie Pierce, St. Paul-Joe Sims, St. Anthony-Isaac DePoyster, St. Joan of Arc- Joan Butterworth



Mary Carrico Catholic School held its annual National Geographic Bee school contest in January. Pictured on the left is the school winner Lilly Mudd and the Geographic Bee school sponsor and teacher Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU. Submitted by Chuck Green, Principal



A young boy uses his Grandpa's cell phone to take a photo of students in the second grade during the OCS K-3 Grandparents program on Jan 30, 2015.

Mel Howard Photo

## In Our Catholic Schools Young Daughters of Saint Angela Pinning Ceremony



The two newest members of the Whitesville Young Daughters of Saint Angela were pinned in a ceremony at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School on Dec. 17, 2014. Harlee Keener and Lexie Barnett received their pins in the school media center.

Y-DOSA is an organization for young women ages 11-18 who are interested in learning more about Saint Angela Merici and the faith and values she taught young women that have been passed down to the present day. The groups also do service projects to help others.



Sister Suzanne Sims, adviser of the Whitesville Y-DOSA chapter and principal of St. Mary Elementary School, poses with Harlee Keener, left, and Lexie Barnett, the chapter's two newest members.



Lexie and Harlee show their gifts during the pinning ceremony – framed icons of Saint Angela Merici, the founder of the Ursuline order. In the center is Mary Hardesty, a YDOSA member.

**St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School - Students of the Month**  
On Tuesday, January 20th, 2015, Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School, Whitesville, recognized their Students of the Month! The following students were recognized and are pictured in the attached photo: Alan Hamilton, Colsi Stauffer, and Grayson Moore. Photo by Kim Rydecki



St. Mary of the Woods in McQuady celebrated the start of Catholic Schools Week 2015 with the youth of the parish who attend St. Romuald Interparochial School sharing the liturgical ministries of Mass Jan.25. Those who helped are Addison, Emily, Julia, and Ashley Hinton, Audrey, Maggie, and Emily Carwile, Matt Bland, Kylee and Sam Haycraft, Hunter Boehman, Luke and Lily Hendrick, William and Montgomery Moorman. Submitted by Kayla Rothrock



Recent graduates of Saint Romuald Interparochial School who were in attendance at Mass Jan. 25 were were Mary Hinton, Brittany Carwile, Kelsie Hendrick, Kayla, Ryan, Aaron, and Gracie Rothrock, and Morgan Tivitt. Submitted by Kayla Rothrock



### The Decisive Moment

A grandpa's proud face watches a grandchild singing during the OCS K-3 Grandparents Day Program Jan. 30, 2015. Jeff Danhauer, grandfather of Katie Beth Osborne, lined up his cell phone camera and then waited for that decisive moment when Katie Beth's face and the gym lights were shining just right. It was a thumb's-up moment.

Mel Howard Photo

**St. Paul Catholic Church** in Grayson County is selling bricks to raise money for its new Parish Hall. The bricks will be used in a design in or around the new hall as a way of connecting our past loved ones with our present and future church. The bricks can be in memory or in honor of some one. The 4 x 8 bricks are \$50.00 each and 8 x 8 bricks are \$100.00 each.

For more information contact St. Paul Church.

Phone number 270-242-7436 or email [stpaulgrayson@windstream.net](mailto:stpaulgrayson@windstream.net) or [Stpaulgraysonamy123@windstream.net](mailto:Stpaulgraysonamy123@windstream.net).

## Catholic Schools Week

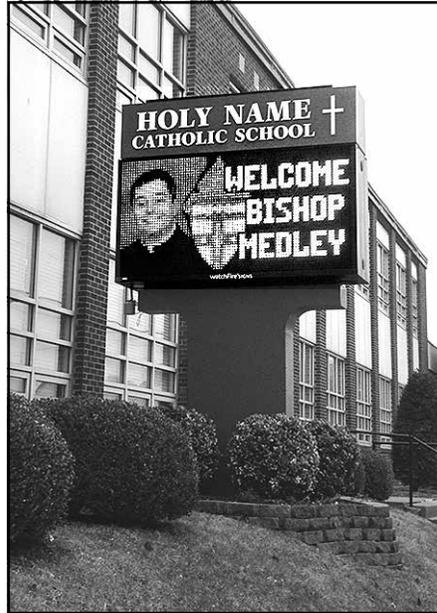
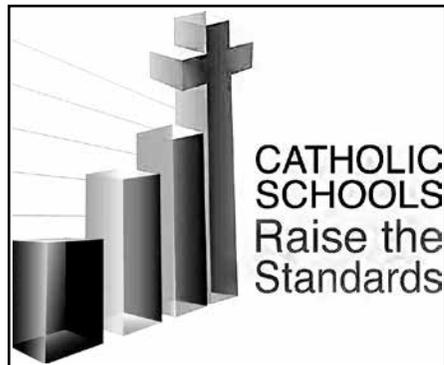
### Dear Catholic School Educators of the Diocese of Owensboro,

The annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week calls us to reflect on the immense value of Catholic education. Day after day, month after month, year after year, our students are given spiritual guidance and academic instruction in an atmosphere that follows the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A special thanks to our administrators, teachers, and support staff during Catholic Schools Week 2015. Please know that every single ounce of effort you put forth on behalf of our students and our schools is appreciated. Because of your hard work and dedication, our students are receiving a priceless gift, and a gift that keeps on giving.

This correspondence is similar to a letter I sent to our educators in February, 2006. The letter itself is outdated, but the message is the same. And the consistency of that message is another strength of our Catholic schools. In the field of education, new ideas and “magic bullets” come and go, but our message stays the same. Our focus remains on faith formation, academic excellence, and servant leadership, which combine to set our students up for success in this life and the next.

It is a tough world that we are preparing our students to live in after they leave us. Maybe it’s just my age, but with each passing year it seems that the challenges our students face . . . economically, socially, and spiritually . . . are more difficult than ever before. They will continue to be bombarded with pressure to live their lives in ways that are not consistent with Catholic teaching. It often seems that a million voices are trying to influence students in the wrong ways, and there is immense peer pressure for them to ignore the voices of family and Church that counteract the negative messages.



The marquee in front of Holy Name Catholic School in Henderson on Jan 26 greeted all with a welcoming of Bishop Medley who presided at a school Mass in celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2015. Submitted photo

But as a crucially important ministry of the Catholic Church, our Catholic Schools add grace, strength, and reason to the voices that truly prepare students for what they are facing and will continue to face in the real world. In that context, our Catholic Schools may be more important now than ever before. Which makes our role as Catholic educators more important

than ever before. We are empowered to send to students every hour of every day the message that no matter what challenges and difficulties the future may bring, their faith in Christ will strengthen them to meet those challenges and to serve as an inspiration to others. As Saint John Paul II said so often as he encouraged the youth of the world, “Be not afraid!”

As I once heard in a homily, “Everyone thought that little Baby was cute, but little did they know how difficult it would be to walk with Him.” In many ways our Walk as a Catholic educator is not easy. During Catholic Schools Week

and throughout the year, I pray that the Holy Spirit gives all of us abundant guidance and strength to serve our students well. They need us to be at our best every day in terms of both performance and witness. There is no work that is more important.

And May God’s richest blessings be with each of you as you continue to do that important work.



Mr. Jim Mattingly

Yours in Christ, Jim Mattingly, Superintendent, Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools

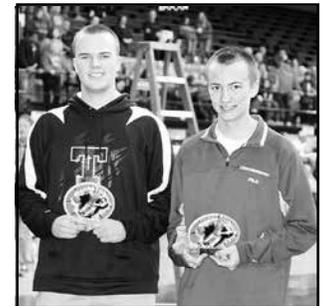
## Trinity High School Students Wins Awards



From Trinity High School, Class A Regional All Tournament Team – Nina Wathen and Hannah Armes (Photo taken by Hannah Armes)



From Trinity High School, 3rd Region All A Academic Team – Hannah Armes and Jacob Hook (Photo taken by Kim Rydecki)



From Trinity High School, All A All Tournament Team – Allen Howe and Daniel Morris (Photo taken by Sue Howe)

## 2014 St. Ann Interparochial School 8th Grade Students Perform Extremely Well on the ACT Explore Test

MORGANFIELD, Ky. - Eighth grade students at St. Ann Interparochial School have participated in taking the ACT Explore Test since 2007. Scores from the 2014-15 eighth grade class exceeded the State and National Scores in all tested areas comparing them to the 2013-2014 published scores.

| Test        | ACT Explore Benchmark Score | St. Ann Interparochial School Scores 2014 | Nationwide ACT Explore Scores 2013 | State ACT Explore Scores 2013 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| English     | 13                          | 19.5                                      | 14.7                               | 14.6                          |
| Mathematics | 17                          | 18  | 15.5                               | 15.3                          |
| Reading     | 16                          | 19.2                                      | 16.6                               | 14.5                          |
| Science     | 18                          | 19.7                                      | 16.6                               | 16.6                          |
| Composite   |                             | 19.2                                      | 15.5                               | 15.4                          |

Students across the nation take the ACT Explore test each year. ACT Explore includes four 30-minute multiple choice tests in English, math, reading and science. ACT Explore also collects information about students’ interests, needs, plans, and selected background characteristics. ACT provides information in the form of ACT College and Career Readiness Standards. The Standards describe the types of skills and knowledge typically demonstrated by students who score in particular score ranges on each test of ACT Explore. *Source: St. Ann School Feb. 6, 2015 Release*

# St. Romuald Lady Rebels Win Diocesan Tournament

HARDINBURG, Ky. - The Lady Rebels won their first ever Diocesan Tournament January 24, 2015. The tournament was held at St. Romuald. In the first round game, they faced Whitesville Trinity. The Lady Rebels came out with determination and never looked back, winning by a score of 36-17. That moved the Lady Rebels into the championship game where they battled St. Joseph from Bowling Green. The Lady Rebels played a hard fought game with great teamwork and leadership, and won by a score of 45-20 making them the champions.



2015 Diocesan Tournament - 1st Place  
Front row: LtoR - Paige Pollock, Katie Chaney, Jada Critchelow, Lindsey Whitfill, Kallie Jarboe, Karlie Davis & Haley Masterson; Back row: L to R - Assistant Coach David Poole, Cassidy McDaniel, Aubrey Tabor, Ashley Hinton, Avary Aubach, Tessa-Jo Allen, Brianna Poole, Assistant Coach Raymond Critchelow. Absent- Paul Huffines (he had the flu). Photo submitted by Kim Brumfield

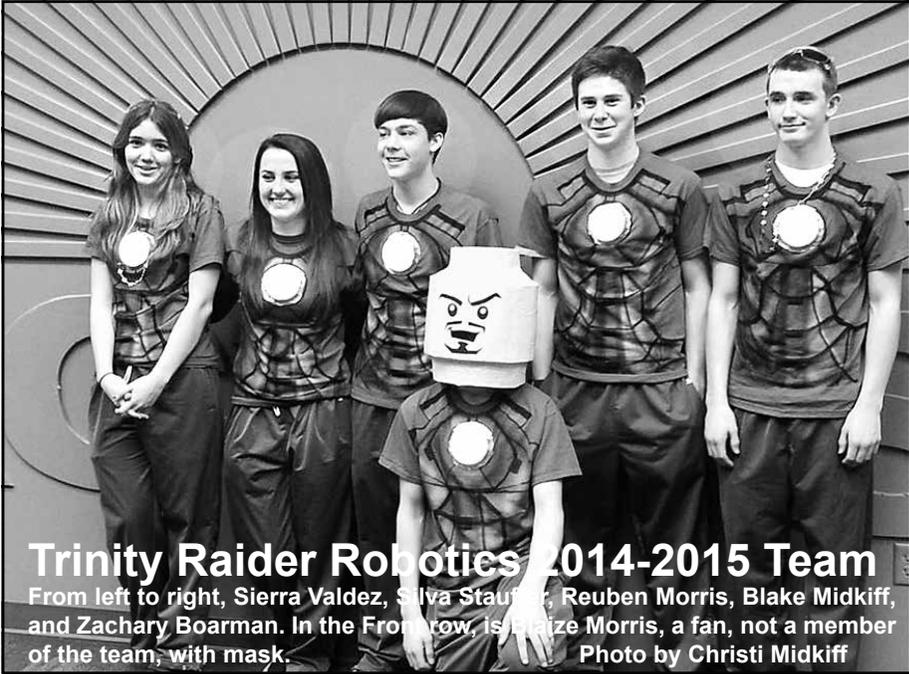


## A Big Thumbs Up For Catholic Schools!

Gracie Johnson 10, a fourth grade student at Holy Name Catholic School in Henderson, bounces on a pogo stick and sends out a big two-thumbs-up as about 150 students run through their first rehearsal of their upcoming circus in the gymnasium Friday. The circus and chili dinner took place at the school on Jan. 29, 2015 to coincide with National Catholics Schools Week. Photo by Jason Clark / The Gleaner



The Owensboro Catholic Middle School's annual Catholic School's Week Religion Bee took place Jan. 28, 2015. The champions are: 1st place - Reisz Krampe; 2nd place - Jade Flaherty; 3rd place - Zach Cecil; 4th place - Cambron Johnson. Submitted by David Kessler



## Trinity Raider Robotics 2014-2015 Team

From left to right, Sierra Valdez, Silva Stauffer, Reuben Morris, Blake Midkiff, and Zachary Boarman. In the Front row, is Reize Morris, a fan, not a member of the team, with mask. Photo by Christi Midkiff

## Catholic Schools Week And Our Teachers

By Father Ed Bradley

I remember when I was in first grade, Sister Mary Edith would walk up and down the rows, checking each student's progress as we worked silently at our desks. I never had to look up to see when my turn would come. I knew I was next by the faint scent of Yardley Soap and the gentle rattle of Sister's rosary beads on my wooden desk as she leaned over my shoulder. She would quietly tap on my paper, indicating a mistake. Correcting it was always a mystery to me, but not to Sister. Sister knew everything. She even knew that God loved me. I was never quite sure if He had told her directly or if it was something she read in my file. But I knew it must be true because "Sister said." She said I was His child. And like a loving Father, God wanted the best for me. He also wanted me to bring home to Him my very best self, and she would teach me how.

So for the next twenty-two years of my education in Catholic schools and colleges, in class after class, school after school, the sisters, priests, brothers and lay teachers taught me how to bring home to my Father in Heaven my very best self. Oh yes, they also gave me excellent academic instruction that prepared me well for a world yet to exist. It was a preparation grounded in Catholic character development, accountability, responsibility, and love. It was a rhetoric I saw lived out every day. It was a rhetoric that is still lived out in our Catholic schools. Today this reality is created by the Catholic school teacher.

Since the time Jesus said to Simon, "You are Peter," Catholic educators have known many titles: Apostle, Disciple, Follower, Father, Sister, Brother, Teacher. All, regardless of their outward presence, are witness to their inner faithfulness, to their commitment to spreading God's Good



### Teachers Matter

**A great teacher can change a life, perhaps many lives over the course of his or her tenure. Such a teacher is remembered with heartfelt gratitude. In this photo Kathy Henson, a preschool teacher at St. Mary of the Woods School, Whitesville, Ky. for many years, is working with two of her students. A teacher at a Catholic school, even one who is beginning her or his first year, can leave a lasting impression on a student. Kim Rydecki Photo**

News. They have dared to touch the hem of the garment of the Master Teacher and follow Him on a journey on the road less traveled. God calls them to this vocation; He qualifies them to do His work. And they, and their families, regardless of the sacrifice, say "yea" to His call, "yes" to the vocation of teaching.

The educators weather the winds of change and the ridicule of a secular world centered on materialism. They hold fast to the mission. Where would we be without them, these teachers in the Catholic schools? Their reward is from God and rests in the knowledge that they pass on our faith and our heritage. They educate and shape the future Church as well as the future world. Their recognition will be from God Himself in their welcome home:

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

*Fr. Ed Bradley is Campus Minister for Owensboro Catholic High School. Reprinted from Catholic High Parentliens, January 21, 2015.*



The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2015 is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." The annual observance starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2015 is January 25-31. Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community at large.

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.

*Reprinted from Catholic High Parentliens, January 21, 2015.*



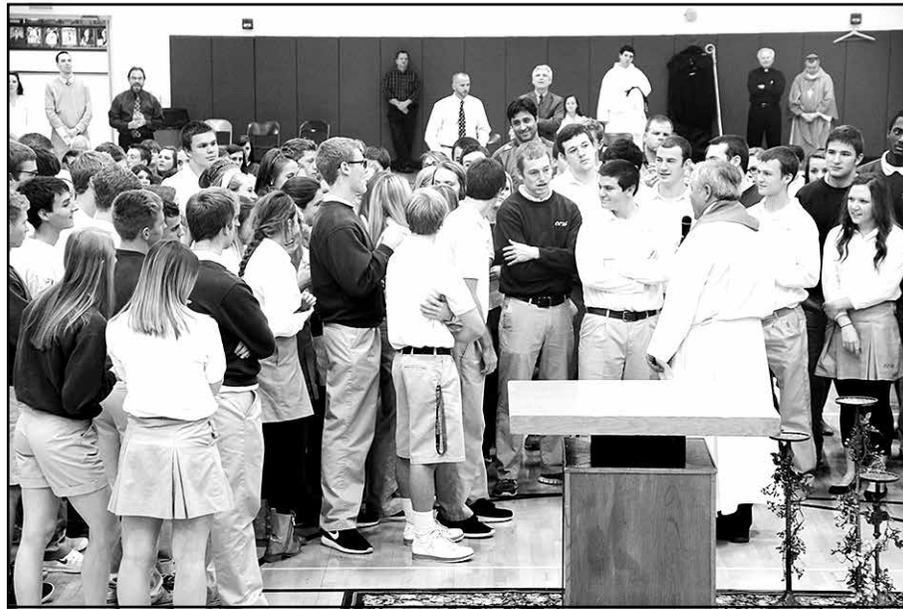
### St. Ann Interparochial School Homecoming Royalty

**St. Ann Interparochial School held their Basketball Homecoming on January 16, 2015 at the St. Agnes Hall in Uniontown, KY. Pictured is the chosen homecoming court: 2nd runner up: Josie Luttrell, Kent Davis, and Kennedy Jenkins; Queen Anna Wheatley, King Sam Hite; 1st runner up: Olivia Wheatley and Gavin Clements. After the crowning, students enjoyed dancing and refreshments. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson**

*Father Brad Whistle delivered this homily during a school Mass at Owensboro Catholic High School for Catholic Schools Week on January 29, 2015:*

"I am a product of twenty years of formal Catholic education. I am a 1973 graduate of Trinity High School in Whitesville. I am so old that when I was in school, we did not have kindergarten. I went to St. Mary's Elementary for eight years. Then I had four years at Trinity. After that I went to Murray State University for my first year of college. When I came home after that first year of college is when I made the decision to enter the seminary. I then attended four years of college seminary here in Kentucky. Then I went to Mount Saint Mary's for four years to do my Master's work in Theology. That school is located in Emmittsburg, Maryland.

"I want to tell you of a very challenging time in my life after my eighth grade year. In the middle of that summer I told my mom that I wanted to go to Daviess County High School because I wanted to play football. The reason I say mom is that she is the Catholic parent in our family. My dad is of the Baptist faith and I didn't think it would matter much



**Fr. Brad Whistle, at right center dressed in an alb, offered a prayer for OCHS athletes after a school Mass on Nov. 6, 2014 in the school gym. A weekly occurrence, the OCHS athletes' prayer ends with "May we be humble in victory, and courageous in defeat." Mel Howard Photo**

to him. My mom was shocked. She could not believe what she was hearing. When I started going to some of the football practices she realized I was serious.

"I knew my mom was not happy about my decision, but I was determined. Mom then made an appointment for me to see the Principal at Trinity High School. She made an appointment for me to see the head basketball coach at Trinity. She made an appointment for me to see our pastor, Fr. Charlie Fischer. All three of these people I had great respect for and still do.

"Now, remember I was fourteen years old. This was a lot of pressure for me. It got to be more than I could handle. I finally agreed that I would attend Trinity High School.

"During the years that followed,

## So Proud!

**In the picture at left, Joshua James and his son, Carter, applauded as students at the OCS K-3 Campus Grandparents' Day program sang. Joshua has two other children who go to the K-3 Campus, J.J., Jr. and Cameron Carter. The program was part of the elementary school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2015.**

**Mel Howard Photo**



especially in my seminary years, as I reflected upon my call to possible priesthood, I began to see how God was working through that situation with my mom. Because, you see, it was in my freshman year of high school that I began to give some thought and consideration to being a priest. I didn't tell anyone about it, not even my family. I now believe that God used that situation with my mom and going into my freshman year of high school as a way of leading me and guiding me.

"Two years after I was ordained I was assigned to Owensboro Catholic High School as Dean of Students. Fr. Bradley was Principal. It was during my five years here that I began to have a greater appreciation for what my mom did so many years ago in wanting me to stay in a Catholic school. I was better able to understand the sacrifices she was willing to make in order for that to happen. Even if that meant that I might have been disappointed.

"How was I able to understand that? In three specific ways, I believe.

"I was better able to understand because of the sacrifices that I saw so many parents making in that day and time in order for their sons and daughters to attend a Catholic school. And students, so many of those people are your present day grandparents. They witnessed to

their kids who are now your own parents. Many of them sacrificed so much in order for you to be here today. The day will come when you will have your own sons and daughters and you will be faced with that same decision. I pray that you will be willing to make the same sacrifices that have been witnessed to you by your parents and grandparents.

"I also began to see the tremendous sacrifices that so many of our faculty and staff were willing to make. Low salary and long hours just seem to be the norm at Catholic High and in all of our Catholic schools. What dedication and commitment I could see in these wonderful people. All of that continues to this very day.

"Finally, (and you might be happy that I have come to that point), I began to get a greater picture of the sacrifices our parish churches make. Every year the Bishop sends all the priests a questionnaire to fill out regarding our present assignments. There are questions like, "Do you wish to be moved? Would you consider another assignment?" One question that is also there is, "Would you like for your assignment to include a Catholic school as part of the parish?" I have always said 'yes' to that question. But some priests will respond by saying 'no.' Why do you think that is true? A big reason is very simple. It creates a lot of stress financially. Our parishes in Owensboro and Western Daviess County commit \$2,000,000 to OCS every year. That gets to be very difficult, especially for some of the smaller parishes. For most of our churches, that is well over 50-60% of our annual income.

"Why do you think we as parishes are willing to make this sacrifice? Why do you think the faculty here at Catholic High is willing to make this sacrifice? Why do you think your parents and grandparents are willing to make this sacrifice?"

### **Because YOU ARE WORTH EVERY PENNY OF IT.**

We believe Catholic schools are worth the sacrifice. Because of what has been witnessed to you by so many people, we believe that you, too, will one day make those same sacrifices.

"Thanks, Mom, for being smarter than me.

"May God bless all of you here today and Owensboro Catholic Schools."



## Happy Catholic Schools Week!

By Ken Rasp, Director, Owensboro Catholic Schools

January 27, 2015 - Earlier this morning I visited the OCES K-3 Campus. The building was alive and vibrant. In every classroom 4th, 5th and 6th grade students from the OCES 4-6 Campus were paired with students from the OCES K-3 Campus. The older students came prepared with a book to read to the younger student. Prior to leaving, the students worked together on a hand written and drawn card to be shared with an elderly patient at a local Nursing Home. It was incredible to see the interaction, and obvious enjoyment, between students. As a side note, I especially enjoyed seeing teachers from each of the buildings talking and sharing. Certainly I saw evidence that we are truly a faith community. Our God is good. Please join me in a prayer of thanksgiving for the many blessings He showers upon us.

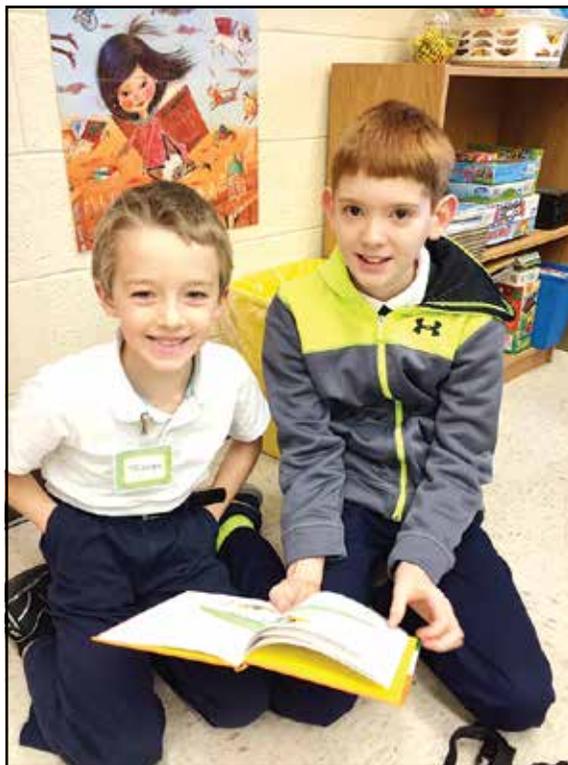
Source: Director's Corner, Owensboro Catholic Schools, Jan. 27, 2015



Photos: Top Right: Olivia Blondin, Julia Marshall, Kenlee Ackerman, Emmy Moore  
Bottom Left: Saidi Gonzalez, Haley Gilbert, Allie Hamilton  
Middle Bottom: Tristan Jones, Will Fulkerson  
Top Bottom right: Anna Katherine Wathen, Gracie Waninger, Mary Grace Hayden  
Bottom Right: Noah Bennett, Michael Bennett.

Photos submitted by Lori Whitehouse

For Catholic Schools Week 2015, the Owensboro Catholic Schools 4-6 Campus students came by bus to the OCS K-3 Campus. The older Students shared their favorite book and then worked with the younger students to create cards for local nursing homes.



## Student Believes Catholic School Helped Her Learn To Use Disciplines Properly

Dear Ms. Kranz,

I have realized, after attending Christian County High School this year, not only how much Sts. Peter and Paul School means to me, but how much the teachers, faculty, and staff did for me. I am beyond appreciative to Mrs. Mowen for helping me in math, which, for a while, was something I struggled with, for the time spent with Mrs. Dickerson expanding my knowledge of English, and for Mrs. Hensley who gave me a love and understanding for science. There is not a single day that goes by when I don't miss Sts. Peter and Paul School. If I could go back and change anything about the time I had at the school, it would only be to make it longer. Thank you for making my seventh and eighth grade years ones that I will never forget.

To Mrs. Mowen: The time I got to spend as a student of yours seems to have ended far too soon. In just two years you taught me so much. I am beyond grateful for every second you spent making sure I understood what you were teaching; it is something that I'm not sure how to repay you for. I think it is safe to say that, not only will you always be my most favorite math teacher, but also that there will always be a special place in my heart for you.

To Mrs. Hensley: You weren't just my science teacher. You were a person that I knew I could always go to if I needed help. In eighth grade, you gave me a special understanding, along with Fr. Richard, Fr. Julio, Ms. Libby, and others, of Catholicism that will be something I hold close to my heart forever. You also gave me the skill of note taking. The class may have thought, at times, that our hands might just fall off, but it was well worth it.

To Mrs. Dickerson: Thank you for helping expand my knowledge of English and of literature. It is something that I will never take for granted. As something that I use every day, I cannot thank you enough for teaching me how to use it properly.

To all the eighth graders graduating in 2015: Cherish the time you have left at Sts. Peter and Paul. Don't take even a second for granted, because trust me, you will miss it. You'll miss the uniforms, you'll miss the teachers, and more than anything, you'll miss the atmosphere and the sense of security that comes from being around people who feel like family. Even if you tell yourself that you won't miss it, you will. I know I do. So cherish the time spent and never forget how much the teachers have done for you.

To the faculty and staff: Thank you. Thank you for everything you do for the school. Thank you for making the years I spent at the school possible.

Sincerely, Zoe Braboy, Eighth grade class of 2013-2014



A student from St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville, KY greets Brescia University's Barney the Bearcat with a hug during a visit for Catholic Schools Week

At right, students from Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville celebrated Catholic School Week with Brescia University's Barney the Bearcat



## Bishop William Francis Medley

Most Rev. William Francis Medley the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro makes an appearance Jan. 29, 2015 at Christ the King Catholic Church to conduct Mass for the students who attend the church's school. Medley was visiting the church, which is located at 1500 Kingsway Drive in Madisonville, as part of Catholic Schools Week. Felicia Stewart, The Messenger



Barney the Bearcat from Brescia University caught OCMS eight graders during their lunch period on the Friday of Catholic School Week and challenged them to a sound off with other students, yelling "Go Bearcats!"

Trinity High School guys gave Brescia University's Barney the Bearcat a ready Trinity Raiders cheer during a Catholic Schools Week visit.

Brescia University Photos





Senior girls Jules Spruill, Kathryn de la Rosa, Lauren Tashjian and Caroline Koenig stock shelves at Paducah Cooperative Ministries with donated canned items during the Senior Day of Service.



It's a bird... it's a plane... it's.... St. Mary Middle/High School Interim Principal Susan Higdon leaping tall buildings in "The Pursuit of Excellence Through Christ" at the middle/high school teacher appreciation luncheon.



Kindergarteners Dagan Wurth and Alyssa Carter pray during the Catholic Schools Week Mas with Bishop Medley.



SMES principal Lisa Clark with several 1st and 2nd graders during the Catholic Schools Week skating party. Photos submitted by Heather DeHart



Sr. Martha Keller leads a vocation discussion with St. Mary high school girls



Middle school religion teacher Mr. Taylor Ballard with 7th and 8th graders on Decade "DJ Day"



Fr. Jason McClure talks with the SMHS boys about vocations as part of Catholic Schools Week festivities.



Rylee Walk, a SMMS 7th grader, is joined by her mother, Kelli, for lunch on Thursday of Catholic Schools Week.



Kindergarteners Gemma Farley, Caroline Kennedy, Audrey Sims and teacher Felicia LaBarge karaoke to "Call Me Maybe" at the Silly Sock Sock Hop

At left, Seventh grader Ethan Barnett is joined by his mother, Vanessa, for lunch on Thursday of Catholic Schools Week.



Kindergarten students enjoy a "Silly Sock Sock Hop" on silly sock day.



Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Debbie Stewart serves doughnuts to her class on student appreciation day.



Father Brian Roby offers The Body of Christ to a St. Mary student. At left, Father Pat Reynolds enjoys hugs; Bishop William Medley enjoys the moment, too. Photos submitted by Heather DeHart



St. Mary Elementary First Grade students with Bishop William Medley after Catholic Schoos Week Mass.



As part of their day of service, St. Mary Middle School students make Valentines for Veterans.



St. Mary 5th graders Jack Roof, Thomas Humm and Conner Speis enjoy milk and doughnuts on student appreciation day.



SMMS 6th graders with Bishop Medley at the conclusion of the Catholic Schools Week Mass.



At right, Seniors Amanda Wurth, Sydney Nash, Rachel Denkins and Brook Duwe move items from the Paducah Cooperative Ministries storage into the recycling bin during the Senior Day of Service.



At left, Senior boys Peyton Smith, Ian Brown, Brian Johnston and Davis Sims sort canned goods at Paducah Cooperative Ministries during the Senior Day of Service.





Mrs. Lisa Armes Career Development Classes. This semester, Mrs. Armes implemented Mentor Mondays. She invited Trinity graduates to attend and talk with her current Seniors about what to expect after graduation. Many shared their personal experiences post-graduation. Many graduates have attended these Mentor Mondays. Attached to this email are a few photos from these gatherings. Photo by Kim Rydecki



A National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Trinity High School was celebrated at the Catholic Schools Week Mass on Wednesday, January 28. Above are all NHS Members at Trinity High School, from left to right – Morgan Porter, Ariel Aud, Blake Booker, Hannah Armes, Sponsor Lori Ann Redmon, Hannah Bland, Allen Howe, Shawna Aud, and Lauren Beyke. Photo by Christina Rhodes.



Religion Bee - On Thursday, January 29th, Trinity High School held their annual Religion Bee competition. This photo is a group shot of the competing teams from each class. Students that are visible in this photo are the winning team, the Senior Class team: Charlotte Morris, Skyler Dickens, Hannah Armes, and Hannah Bland. The photo at right is a group shot of one of the competing teams. Students that are visible in this photo are the Freshmen team: Caleb Goetz, Bailey Onstott, Zachary Hardesty, and Sarah Smith. Photos by Christina Rhodes



On Thursday, Jan. 22, and Friday, Jan. 23, Trinity High School Student Council celebrated National Compliment Day by putting personal notes on each student's locker. Students came in to school on Friday to find special notes of positivity from their Student Council representatives. Student Council Freshmen Class representative, Sarah Smith, posting notes to her classmates' lockers (photo taken by Kim Rydecki)



**TRINITY High School**  
Trinity High School students participated in The March for Life on January 22-23, 2015 in Washington, D.C. Photo by Al Wathen.

## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: **A Great Treasure**  
 4 Lenten Day of Prayer  
 5-6 Owensboro Diocese Staff Retreat  
 6-8 Ignatian Silent Retreat  
 12 Rediscover Catholicism  
 20-22 Women's Retreat: "Holiness in Family Life" with Sr. Cheryl Clemons  
 27-29 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program  
 28 St. Joseph & Paul RCIA

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

To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty

**270-229-0206**

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



Mount Saint Joseph  
 Conference and Retreat Center

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Discover your place in  
 God's plan...

WAKE UP THE WORLD!  
 —2015 Year of Consecrated Life—

#### APRIL

- 7 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: **Gratitude as Gift**  
 9 Rediscover Catholicism  
 10-12 Glory Conference - Women  
 13-17 Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 7)  
 18-19 Catholic Engaged Encounter  
 24-26 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program

#### MAY

- 1-3 Christian Women's Retreat  
 4-6 Retreats International  
 5 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: **Leadership**  
 8-10 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program  
 9 Yarn Spinning Day  
 14 Rediscover Catholicism  
 16-17 MSJ Academy Reunion  
 30 MSJ 5K Run/Walk

Give Peace,  
 Quiet and Prayer  
 a Chance



Join us for a Women's Retreat

**March 20-22, 2015**

**Holiness in Family Life: Lessons from Saint Monica and Elisabeth Leseur**

Presenter:

**Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU**

Time:

**Begins 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday**

Cost:

**Residents \$180, Commuters \$130**

Contact Kathy McCarty to register  
 270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph  
 Conference and Retreat Center

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

The fourth-century Saint Monica and the 19th-century Elisabeth Leseur experienced family struggles firsthand.

Saint Monica, famous for her faithful praying for the conversion of her son, Saint Augustine, lived with a violent and unfaithful husband. Neither her husband nor her son shared her faith for most of their time together.

Elisabeth was married to an atheist, but her spiritual journals, left for him to read after her death, so moved him that he became a Christian.

Participants will learn about these two remarkably different women who were united in constant prayer that their loved ones would someday share their faith in Christ and love for the Church.

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



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

## Lenten Day of Prayer

**Wednesday, March 4**

Time:

**9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
 Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Presenter:

**Monsignor Bernard Powers**

Cost:

**\$20 fee includes lunch**

Contact Kathy McCarty to register:  
 270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



The Lenten Day of Prayer includes a program of reflection, Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a noon meal. Please join us.



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Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**4 P.M. - 5 P.M.**

**2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**



WAKE UP THE WORLD!  
 —2015 Year of Consecrated Life—

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite you to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on **March 8 and on the second Sunday of each month in 2015** from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the **Motherhouse Chapel** (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). We will conclude with evening prayer. During this special time of the Year of Consecrated Life, we ask you to join us in praying for a deeper awareness and openness in response to God's call to consecrated life.



Ursuline Sisters  
 of Mount Saint Joseph

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## Bishop William Medley Hosts Town Hall Meetings For Synod on Family

In October 2014, an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops was held in Rome to treat the topic, "The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization". The Holy Father has called for a second Synod to take place from October 4-25 this year on the topic: "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World."

In preparation for this year's Synod, Bishops across the globe have been asked to complete a series of questions after consultation with the people of their diocese. So that he can listen to your opinions and concerns, Bishop William Medley scheduled four town hall meetings across the diocese and encouraged everyone to consider attending one of the sessions: at Christ the King Parish, Madisonville; at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah; at Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green; and at Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro.

So that our meetings could be as productive as possible, all Western Kentucky Catholics were encouraged to look over in advance the questions which will be addressed at these meetings. The questions are based upon the document which was issued at the conclusion of the 2014 Synod, the *Relatio Synodi* found online at [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/documents/rc\\_synod\\_doc\\_20141209\\_lineamenta-xiv-assembly\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20141209_lineamenta-xiv-assembly_en.html).



In preparation for this year's Synod, Bishops across the globe have been asked to complete a series of questions after consultation with the people of their diocese. So that he can listen to your opinions and concerns, Bishop Medley scheduled four town hall meetings across the diocese and encouraged everyone to consider attending one of the sessions. The photo above was from the Tuesday, January 20 session held at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. At right, Patti Gutierrez from St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Sebree expressed a thought. Photos by Kevin Kauffeld

Those who were unable to attend one of the Town Hall meetings could submit input by completing one or both of the surveys found on the Owensboro Diocesan Website, [www.rc-dok.org](http://www.rc-dok.org). The first contains the paraphrased questions considered at the Town Hall meetings; the second contains the actual 46 questions distributed to all dioceses.

The Synod of Bishops Questionnaire with paraphrased questions asked the person's name and parish name, and had these six questions:

1. Sanctity of Marriage - The Joy of Sharing Life Together: How can we help people to better understand the power of a relationship with God in marriage and of the grace of the Sacrament in their lives?

2. Sanctity of Family Life - God's Salvific Plan: How can the family be helped to become "the domestic church" with a missionary vocation? How can we develop a family spirituality?

3. Challenges to the Family - The Culture / Pastoral Challenges: What is being done to help families in trouble?

4. Divorce and Remarriage - Caring for Wounded Families: How can we respond compas-

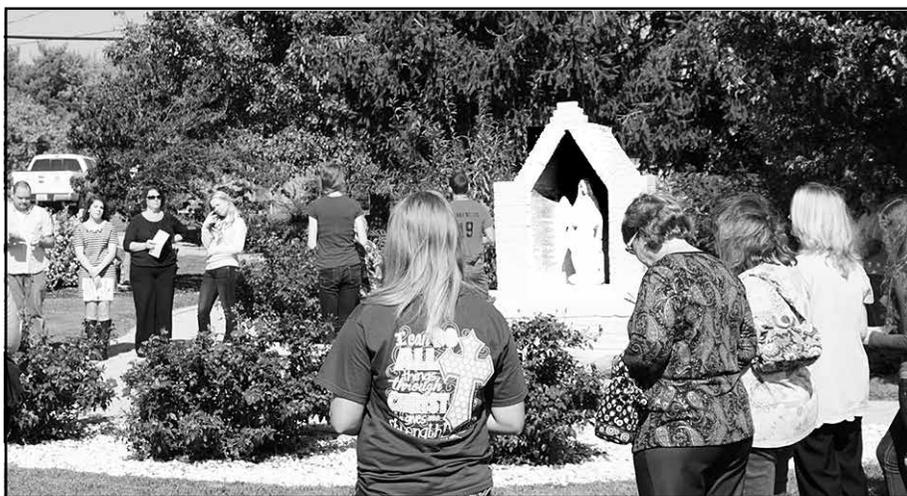


sionately to people in irregular unions (e.g. those who have been divorced and have civilly remarried without annulment) while remaining faithful to the teaching of Christ and the Church?

5. Respect for Human Life - The Transmission of Life: How do we foster a genuine culture of life?

6. The Mercy of God - Truth and Beauty of the Family, Mercy Toward the Wounded: How can we help all people see that no one is beyond God's mercy? How do we proclaim the truth of the Gospel in Charity and Love?

When all the listening sessions were completed, Bishop William Medley said that he would prepare a confidential report for the USC-CB/Synod.



## Parish's Prayers Form A Living Rosary

Submitted by Lindsay Thomas

This past October, 2014, the eleventh grade religion class at St. Jerome Church in Fancy Farm hosted a Rosary. This was no ordinary Rosary though. Each person that attended was given one of the prayers of the Rosary, becoming a "bead" of the Rosary. This is known as the "Living Rosary". They chose to do it in the month of October as that is the month of Mary.

Each "Our Father" was led by a class member with the "Hail Mary's" being led by parishioners. Everyone enjoyed being in the outside Grotto on the church grounds and several asked if we could do it again in May, 2015.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**March Wedding Anniversaries**  
**10, 25, 40, 50 and Over 50 Years of Marriage**

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

R. C. & Margaret Keith, 58

**Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro**

Frank & Gloria Adams, 50

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Donald & Shirley Altmeyer, 58

Phillip & Marilyn Dorsey, 25

Paul & Nina Drury, 56

William & Charlotte Faulkner, 59

James & Karen Guess, 25

Mark & Donna Nally, 25

Robert & Liz Shea, 61

Jerry & Jewel Marie Williams, 56

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

Roman & Natella Safarov, 25

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Steven M. & Lisa Ash, 25

Kevin & Sue Krampe, 25

Carroll & Joyce Ferguson, 58

William & Sarah Kemper, Jr., 53

Dennis & Gloria Rummage, 53

**Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro**

John & Whitney Foreman, 10

Roger & Patti May, 25

**Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Paul & Doris Westerfield, 58

**St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Jeff & Christy Gough, 10

Ben & Kim Nance, 10

**St. Ann, Morganfield**

Paul & Cindy Loxley, 25

**St. Anthony, Axtel**

Bobbie & Mary Moore, 58

**St. Anthony, Browns Valley**

Charles & Ann Hamilton, 50

**St. Columba, Lewisport**

Jimmie & Carol Harper, 53

**St. Denis, Fancy Farm**

Jack & Rose Riggs, 58

**St. Edward, Fulton**

Paul & Mary Pennell, 59

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson**

Raymond & Carol Hill, 53

**St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Pat & Betty Robinson, 50

John D. & Lynda Oldham, 50

Richard & Brenda Hayden, 53

Charles & Marie Riggs, 67

**St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

James & Fay Johnson, 63

**St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**

J. C. & Maggie Edge, 57

James & Mary Jane Nelson, 50

**St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**

Thomas & Helen Ellington, 62

**St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Rodolfo & Irma Morales, 25

Rod & Marianne Cunningham, 40

David & Betty Morrill, 51

Leonard & Barbara Webb, 53

Robert & Rose Coplen, 64

Howard & Imogene Riley, 67

**St. Leo, Murray**

David & Katherine Durr, 25

**St. Mary, Franklin**

Roger & Mary Beth Farley, 78

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 53

March, 2015 **31**

**St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**

Wilbur & Patsy Phelps, 56

**St. Peter, Waverly**

Billy Don & Joyce Greenwell, 58

**St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro**

Jerome & Gail Hoesli, 58

**St. Stephen, Cadiz**

Gerald & Maxine Corbey, 56

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Daniel & Patricia Watkins, 25

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**

John & Chrissy Elliott, 10

Jeff & Jill Mudd, 25

Sam & Mary Lynn Thompson, 25

Tim & Barb Harris, 40

Charles & Linda Wilson, 56

Marcus & Opal Cooper, 58

Joe & Betty Falconite, 60

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Greg & Debbie Wolfe, 10

Joseph L. & Betty Johnson, 65

Daniel & Joyce Shuler, 64

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Michael & Julianna Makovec, 10

Shawn & Shannon Kelly, 25

Paul & Tana Shade, 25

Charles & Kerry Mahoney, 40

Richard & Betti Block, 53



St. Jerome Camp Connect campers working at a neighbors home in 2014.

## St. Jerome Camp Connect

St. Jerome Church in Fancy Farm will host their 5th Work Camp "Camp Connect" for youth entering grade 7 in the fall of 2015 through grade 12 on June 14 – 18, 2015. The theme is "God loves a cheerful giver" ~2 *Corinthians* 9. Cost is \$60 per camper.

Camp Connect begins around 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 14. Campers will work at area residents' homes or at distribution/service centers (i.e., Food Pantry, Martha's Vineyard, St. Vincent de Paul in Paducah, Hope for Life) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Campers will go home Thursday at noon. Each night the camp has an evening program. Mass will be Monday – Wednesday night.

Sherry Jones said, "In July 2011 we held our first "Camp Connect" and had 20 participants; in June 2012 we had over 30 participants; in June 2013 we had over 40 participants; and in June 2014 we had over 50 participant. We have increased every year and hope to reach our limit of 60 participants this year. Due to the increased sensitivity in regards to sexual harassment and misconduct, St. Jerome Camp Connect requires all campers 18 and older to complete a background check.

For information, or to obtain the required forms to attend Camp Connect, please feel free to contact Team Leader, Tracy Watt, at 270-705-3548 or Sherry Jones at St. Jerome Church at 270-623-8181.

## Rediscover Catholicism

Thursday, March 12

Time:

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Presenter:

Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

Cost:

\$10 fee includes lunch

Contact Kathy McCarty to register:

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph  
 Conference and Retreat Center

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



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



This is a study based on the bestselling book,

"Rediscover Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly, which is quickly becoming the most read Catholic book of our time. He reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality while addressing some of the most important questions we face today as individuals and as a Church.

**This year-long program meets the second Thursday of each month (except July). Upcoming dates: April 9, May 14, June 11, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10**



## Rediscovering Catholicism

From left, Marsha Logsdon, Tonya Logsdon, Anne Renfrow and Jackie Lee listen as Sister Ann McGrew talks about the first story recounted in "Rediscover Catholicism." Sister Ann led the discussion in the opening session of "Rediscover Catholicism" on Jan 8, a monthly program at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center based on the book of the same title by Matthew Kelly. The book reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality while addressing some of the most important questions we face today as individuals and as a Church. The program meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Retreat Center, and costs \$10, which includes lunch. The next session is Feb. 12.



## Evening with an Ursuline

Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, center, leads the "Learning to See as the Mystics See: A Primer" discussion in Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Jan. 6. It was part of the monthly "Evening with an Ursuline" series that will take place through August. Sister Rose Marita talked about living in the sacrament of the present moment, and quoted from such acclaimed spiritual writers as Richard Rohr and Thomas Merton. An upcoming "Evening with an Ursuline" talk is on March 3, with Sister Vivian Bowles presenting, "A Great Treasure: Improving Life Balance." The cost is \$15, which includes dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Call 270-229-0206 to register.



## Billboards For Life

A billboard installed January 31, 2015 by the Knights of Columbus Council, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic

Church in Owensboro. Thanks, all, for making this happen! Submitted by Deacon Nick Nichols

## Touring the Halls at Saint Joseph Villa

Ursuline Sister Helen Leo Ebelhar casts her vote in the hall decorating contest on Dec. 12, 2014 at Saint Joseph Villa in Maple Mount. Staff decorated the three halls in the Villa and asked everyone to tour the halls and to vote for their favorite. During the event, everyone enjoyed eating treats, singing Christmas carols and seeing Santa Claus. About 100 people voted in the contest, with the Bethlehem-themed hall being chosen the winner.



## Line Dancing Is Fun!

Saints Peter and Paul School students really enjoy line dancing, and that was the special activity which the faculty and staff had for them on Friday of Catholic Schools Week, 2015 in Hopkinsville. Photo submitted by Sarah Kranz

## Holy Images

*Editor's Note: Communication between and among persons is a ministry, a service which coordinates the management of meaning. It is said that a photograph is worth a thousand words. In pictures, some which he takes, some from other photographers in the parish, Father Suneesh Mathew affirms and acclaims Jesus shining through the people of the St. Stephen Cathedral Parish as they participate in parish life. The WKC has shown his photos many times in earlier editions. In his pictures, this good priest communicates a love, a respect, and a window on how God is working in the lives of His People.*



### With The Blessed Sacrament Community

On the 8th of February the community of Blessed Sacrament honored women who are over 70 which they call "the ladies of Wisdom". Every Year blessed sacrament community honors women who are over 70 for their contribution, Support, Wisdom and service to the Church over the Years. The people in the picture are Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Dorothy Fulton, Ann Wathen, Nancy Bumm, Frances Johnson, Gloria Adams and Jean Higgs.



### With Young Catholics From St. Stephen Cathedral Parish

17 youth who made their first reconciliation on February 8, 2015 at St. Stephens posed for a memorable picture with pastor Fr. Jerry Riney, back left, Director of Faith Formation Donna Murphy, and parochial vicar Fr. Suneesh Mathew.



### With Fr. Jerry Riney Teaching

Fr. Jerry Riney talking to the Children at their first reconciliation.



### With First Reconciliation Service at St. Stephen Cathedral

Siblings of the Children singing at their first reconciliation. St. Stephen Cathedral Photos submitted by Father Suneesh Mathew

Mary Carrico Catholic School's 5th grade February Class of the Month Front Row R to L: Ezra Mattingly, Molly Brown. Back row L to R: Teacher Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner, Mallory Lanham, Hunter Smith, Owen Payne, Dawson Fulkerson. Photo by Chuck Green, Principal



# Get Moving at the Mount!

## 5K Run/Walk Saturday, May 30, 2015

8 a.m.

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are hosting their second 5K – the official 5K for the Daviess County Bicentennial! It is



open to walkers, runners, children and adults and will take place on the grounds and nearby roads. All proceeds will support the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters.



**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**COST: \$20 per person if you sign up by May 1, 2015**

**\$25 after May 1<sup>st</sup> and on race day.** (Ages 6 and under free)

**Register by May 11<sup>th</sup> to be guaranteed a free T-shirt!**

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.

For information, visit:

[ursulinesmsj.org/help-the-sisters/5k](http://ursulinesmsj.org/help-the-sisters/5k)

Find us on Facebook: Get Moving at the Mount

For more information,

contact Dan Heckel

270-229-4103 ext. 279

[dan.heckel@maplemount.org](mailto:dan.heckel@maplemount.org)



**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

# SAVE THE DATE!

**SUNDAY, MAY 3 at 2PM—Parish of the Immaculate**

The Immaculate

Music Ministry Program Presents:

Contemporary Catholic Recording Artist

**TREVOR THOMSON**

**LIVE IN CONCERT!**



Leading others to God's heart is Trevor's primary mission. Trevor uses song, story and prayer, as the vehicle for worship, meditation and healing.

Come celebrate a wonderful afternoon of music for all ages!!

-Submitted by Matt Gray

# Christian Leadership Institute

Diocese of Owensboro

Do not let anyone look down upon you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, your faith, and your purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

## Christian Leadership Institute (CLI):

Young people ages 15-19 (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 21-26, 2015, at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are, or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making. For registration information contact your youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 25th. Registrations after May 25th will cost \$25 more.



Left: Father Joshua McCarty with youth from Owensboro at Mass in the mountains on the way to DC. Above, Owensboro area youth marching for life Jan, 22, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

## Diocese To Sponsor 2015 SLIM Awards

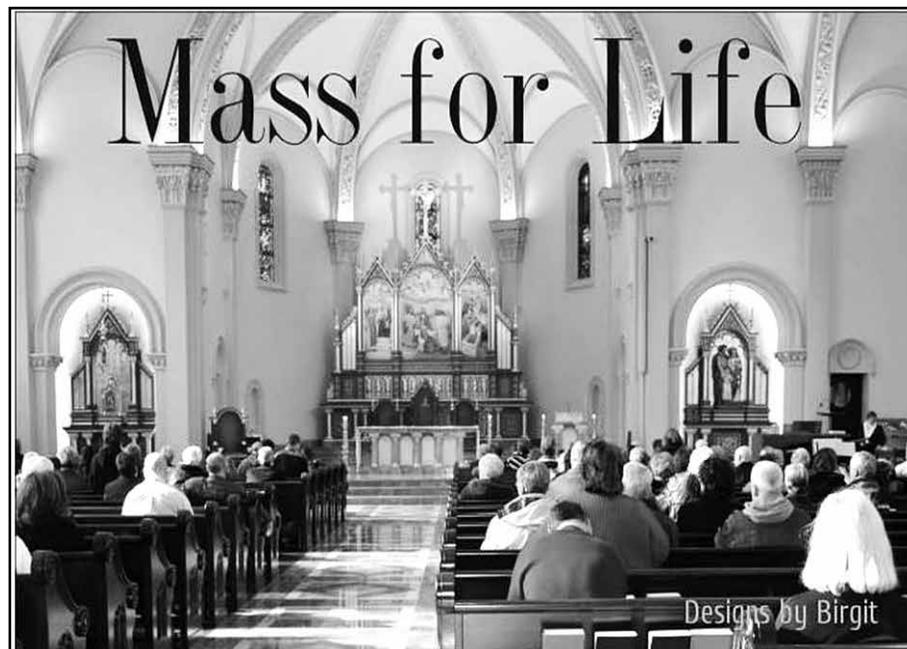
OWENSBORO, Ky. - In a January 27, 2015 email to Pastors, Youth Ministers and Parish Catechetical Leaders, Melinda Prunty, Director, Office for Youth Ministry announced the 2015 Servant Leaders in Ministry Award for youth with guidelines for selection and nomination form. Ms. Prunty wrote, "We would once again like to recognize high school juniors and seniors who have made an outstanding contribution to their Parish, Deanery and/or the Diocese through their leadership and involvement in youth ministry. The Diocesan Office for Youth Ministry is sponsoring the annual "Servant Leaders in Ministry" awards.

"Up to eighteen young people will receive an award in the form of a plaque while all other youth nominated will receive a Certificate of Recognition. Our hope is that the Pastor will award plaques and certificates to the young people during a Mass or special service to be determined

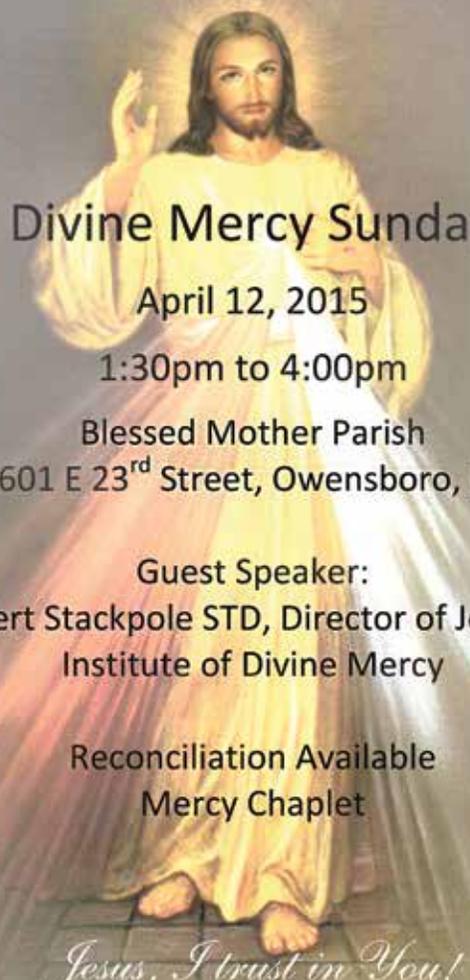
by the Pastor and the Youth Ministry Contact. You may want to pass this information along to the young people and adults involved in youth ministry in your parish. This would be a great affirmation of your youth to have friends and family there to celebrate the moment with them as they receive this recognition. NOTE: A youth can be nominated more than once, but may not receive a plaque more than once in order to allow others to receive recognition. If nominated after receiving a plaque, only a Certificate of Recognition will be awarded.

A special committee appointed by the Director of Youth Ministry will choose recipients of the awards. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY March 16, 2015.** Please feel free to call either Robin Tomes or myself with any questions at 270.683.1545.

In Christ's peace, Melinda Prunty, Director, Office for Youth Ministry



The faithful gathered with other pro-life defenders for Mass in St. Stephen Cathedral on January 22, 2015. Known as a Pro-Life Mass, the prayer this day noted the forty-second anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton US Supreme Court decisions which legalized abortion in this country. Bishop William Medley presided at the Mass. In his homily, Bishop Medley at the diocesan Respect Life Mass, said, "We are not against anything. We're for life!" Birgit Jones Photo



**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
 April 12, 2015  
 1:30pm to 4:00pm  
 Blessed Mother Parish  
 601 E 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Owensboro, KY

Guest Speaker:  
 Dr. Robert Stackpole STD, Director of John Paul II  
 Institute of Divine Mercy

Reconciliation Available  
 Mercy Chaplet

*Jesus, I trust in You!*

We invite you to join us on a Custom Catholic Pilgrimage to

# Poland

A Journey of Faith, Culture and History  
 September 14 - 25, 2015  
 11 nights & 12 days

~ RAFFLE ~  
 Win Two VIP Bookings!  
 Round trip airfare for 2 plus more...  
 (Must be 18 years or older to participate.)  
 Charitable Gaming No. EXE0001012



 **Glenmary Sisters**

For registration and raffle info, visit our website:  
[www.glenmarysisters.org](http://www.glenmarysisters.org)  
 800-301-2689 / 270-686-8401

Spiritual Leaders:  
 Reverend Fr. Brandon Williams  
 Reverend Fr. Jaroslaw Skrzypek

## Gratitude as Gift

**Tuesday, April 7**

**"Evening with an Ursuline"**  
 Time:  
 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Presenter:  
 Sister Mary Matthias Ward  
 Cost:  
 \$15 fee includes meal

Contact Kathy McCarty to register  
 270-229-0206  
[kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)



Have you ever experienced a gratitude session? We know the importance of practicing gratitude. We will explore what we are grateful for and to whom we are grateful.

The Ursuline Sisters will present a new topic on the first Tuesday of each month through August.  
 Coming up on May 5:  
**"Can Leadership be Redeemed or Redeeming?"**  
 with Sister Amelia Stenger



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
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 8001 Cummings Road  
 Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999  
 270-229-4103  
[www.ursulincsmsj.org](http://www.ursulincsmsj.org)



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



On the 10th of February, 2015, St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Staff celebrated the 66th birthday of Fr. Jerry along with few priests and family of Fr. Jerry in a hallway of the Saint Stephen Rectory. Photo submitted by Fr. Suneesh Mathew



## Saint Joseph's Holy Family

### 3rd Annual Homeschool Retreat

and May Crowning on Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
 Theme: *Love is Our Mission.*  
 Confessions and Mass celebrated by Fr. Jean Vogler.  
 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Central).  
 Pitch-in meal. RSVP by May 6.  
 Free Will Offering.

St. Joseph's Holy Family, Inc., 25992 Cottonwood Road  
 Bristow, Indiana 47515  
[St\\_Joseph\\_s\\_Holy\\_Family\\_Inc@mail.vresp.com](mailto:St_Joseph_s_Holy_Family_Inc@mail.vresp.com)

# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2015

Saint Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Bowling Green in a celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2015.

March, 2015 37



Above, Fr. John Thomas visits 5th grade students during CSW to speak about vocations

Mrs. Larimore's 5th grade class filled Goodie Bags for CSW school wide service project



Will Winger and Isabella Bryant filling bags for service project (goodie bags for Room in the Inn and Hotel Inc.) Photos submitted by Rita Larimore



Viva Mexico, a Mariachi Band from Nashville, TN, performed for St. Joseph school in Bowling Green on Jan. 30 of Catholic Schools Week. Above, Students danced to the music of Viva Mexico. Photo by Rita Larimore



Traveling St. Peter played Bingo with 6th Grade students on Jan. 30, 2015 during Catholic Schools Week celebration at Saint Joseph School in Bowling Green. Photo by Rita Larimore



**Saints Peter and Paul School** students had a special prayer service one afternoon during Catholic Schools Week and prayed the rosary the following afternoon.

At right, SPPS third graders donated money to the Sanctuary House during CSW. Sanctuary, Inc. helps victims and their children who are suffering from domestic violence. In the past they have also donated school supplies to Sanctuary. Photos by Sarah Kranz



## 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, 2015 so that grants can be awarded on or before June 20, 2015. 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:

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

- 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, VISTA volunteers, etc.)

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

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

- 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.

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

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

- 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.

*Richard Murphy, Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro  
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, Ky 42301, 270/683-1545, richard.murphy@pastoral.org*

## Lourdes Donation Helps Fund St. Mary School Athletics



**Members of St. Mary High School girls softball team and girls and boys varsity soccer team posed with Lourdes personnel, holding check from left to right, Steven Grinnell, Lourdes President and CEO; Eleanor Spry, St. Mary School System Director; Mark Desmond, Lourdes Vice President of Mission Integration. Lourdes Photo**

PADUCAH, Ky. - (Feb. 4, 2015) - Lourdes is pleased to announce a \$20,000 donation to St. Mary School System. The money will go toward a scoreboard for the new on-campus girls softball field, as well as signage at the soccer facility.

"St. Mary is grateful to have this partnership with Lourdes Hospital, allowing two strong Catholic entities to support each other's mission," says St. Mary School System Director Eleanor Spry. "Bringing the softball team to our campus and enhancing our soccer facility creates a greater sense of community amongst our students, families, and our neighbors at Lourdes."

The softball field is now housed on the St. Mary campus. Previously, the team played at St. John Softball Field.

"We celebrate the ongoing relationship with Lourdes and St. Mary Schools, both faith-based institutions," says Ste-

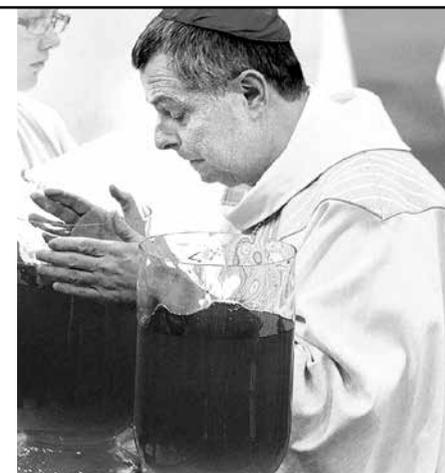
ven Grinnell, Lourdes President & CEO. "Our donation is an investment into the community to better serve the students and their families. Lourdes is honored to associate our organization with such academic excellence and Catholic tradition."

Construction for the field began last summer. More than 7,000 yards of dirt was moved for the new facility.

"As Catholic healthcare and Catholic education are witnesses to the Lord's presence among us and essential to human flourishing, Lourdes and Mercy Health are happy to partner with St. Mary School and make this donation to further its mission to empower students academically, encourage self-sacrifice and nurture learners to become a positive influence on others," says Mark Desmond, Vice President of Mission Integration.

St. Mary hopes to play its first game on the new field later this spring.

**Make PLANS to attend  
the 2015  
CHRISM MASS  
ON MARCH 31  
at 6:30 P.M. IN THE  
OWENSBORO  
SPORTSCENTER.**



## Right to Life of Owensboro Commemoration

Right to Life of Owensboro held their annual Commemoration Service to remember and honor all those affected by abortion on Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Daviess County Courthouse. RTLO President, Jerry Embry, opened the service by reminding all in attendance that since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 some 57 million young lives have been ended by abortion. We were reminded of the brutality of mankind by stirring up images of the Holocaust that saw 11 million people exterminated simply because they were deemed inferior and of no value.

Continuing through history we recalled the horror of twin towers burning and collapsing and killing nearly 3,000 people. Finally, the comparison was brought to bear remembering that more than 3,000 people die every day from abortion. Some dissolved by chemicals, some violently torn from their mother's womb, and others partially born only to have their spinal cord cut. Lastly a plea was made encouraging everyone to pray for hearts to change, to continue to educate on the truth of abortion, and to stand up and be a voice for those who have no voice.

KY State Representative, Suzanne Miles, addressed the small crowd with legislative updates pending in the KY General Assembly. The service featured music by Clint Campbell who sang "Amazing Grace" and an original song titled "Oblivious" while a candlelight vigil was held. Prayers were offered by Fr. Jerry Riney from St. Stephens Cathedral and Pastor Roger Sassaman from Peace Lutheran Church. RTLO Executive Director, Robin Beatty, spoke to the crowd and reminded them that during this service about 136 babies were aborted. During an 8-hour work day some 1,088 are lost and concluding that around 3,300 are lost every day. Pro-life representatives from ALLPAC, Care Net, Birthright, Gospel of Life, Opportunities for Life, and Rachel's Vineyard also addressed the crowd.

**Right to Life of Owensboro Annual Chili Supper will be February 28, 2015, 5:30- 7:30 pm, at Blessed Mother Catholic Church, 601 E. 23rd Street, Owensboro, KY. Adult tickets:\$7. Child (age3-12): \$5 Under 2: Free.**

**You can get tickets at the door or at the office. Thank you. Come for a night of family fun. For information, call 270-685-4922, [rtlo.org](http://rtlo.org) (website).**



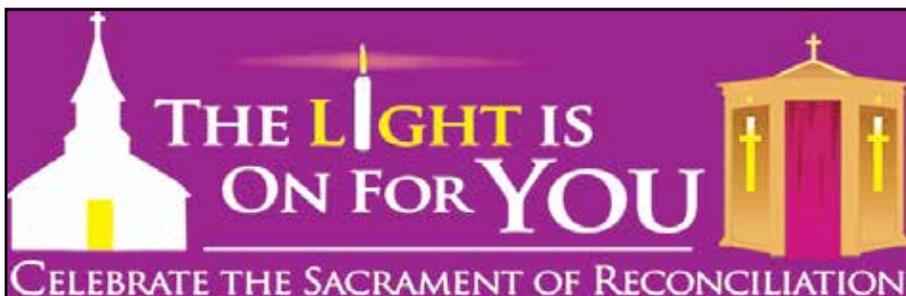
**136 flags were placed on the courthouse lawn on January 23, 2015 to represent each child aborted during just one hour. Submitted Photo**



## 100th Day of School!

Mrs. Neal's Kindergarten Class at Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus celebrate the 100th Day of School! Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.

Photo collage by Nancy Neal for OCS K-3 Elementary School



### The Light Is On For You

"The Light Is on for You" is an initiative being undertaken by dioceses across the country to allow all Catholics to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. Confessions will be held every Wednesday during Lent, (March 5 to April 17, 2015) from 6:30-8:00 PM in Catholic churches in the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at [www.rcdok.org/lightison](http://www.rcdok.org/lightison)

### ¡La Luz esta ENCENDIDA para ti!

"Mas tú, cuando ores, entra en tu cuarto, y cerrada la puerta, ora a tu Padre que está en secreto" (Mt 6:6). Todas las puertas de las Iglesias Católicas estarán abiertas los miércoles por las noches durante Cuaresma. Podrás rezar en silencio o recibir el Sacramento de Reconciliación. Venga, cierra la puerta, y confiese sus pecados a su Padre Celestial en secreto. Experimente el perdón y amor misericordioso de Dios. Para el horario, los lugares, y un repaso de como hacer una buena confesión, visita al [www.thelightison.org](http://www.thelightison.org) y pida la página en español



## Lourdes Hospital and St. Thomas More Catholic Church Partner on Mission Trip to Lourdes, France

PADUCAH, KY – This week, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. As part of the recognition of the importance of the day, Lourdes Hospital and St. Thomas More Catholic Church have announced they will work together to provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience of spiritual growth and service to the Catholic youth of the area. Lourdes Hospital will help underwrite a mission trip to Lourdes, France, for students this June.

Last summer, St. Thomas More parishioners traveled to Europe on a Marian Pilgrimage that included a visit to the site of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France.

During this journey, the Reverend J. Patrick Reynolds, JCL, pastor of St. Thomas More, was privilege to celebrate Mass at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Upon returning to the states, there was a strong desire to organize a mission trip.

Reynolds said, “To provide students with such a unique opportunity, while building their faith and an appreciation for those less fortunate, harkens back to the early teachings of Jesus. To grow the faith of youth builds a foundation for the future of the Church.”

St. Thomas More Director of Youth Ministry, Matt Rochette had participated in a service trip to Lourdes in college that was put together by the North American Lourdes Volunteer Organization. Rochette contacted the group and a plan to take 15 - 20 St. Thomas More youth to Lourdes, France, was born.

St. Thomas More’s youth will spend a week caring for the sick and needy that travel to one of the most visited holy sites in the world. They will help cook meals and volunteer in the hospital, all while deepening their Catholic faith and understanding.

Students have been called upon to raise a portion of the money on their own, thus demonstrating a commitment and a willingness to serve. But without the help of the Catholic community as a whole, the trip would not be possible.

Realizing the community has its’ own “Lourdes,” St. Thomas More approached Lourdes Hospital with the project. Steven Grinnell, President and CEO of Lourdes Hospital, recognized the mission of the hospital and the goals of the pilgrimage to be one in the same.

Grinnell said, “We couldn’t think of a more perfect fit. Lourdes Hospital’s mission is to heal and serve. How could we better demonstrate that commitment than to foster that spirit in the youth of our Catholic community?”

Because of the special bond Lourdes Hospital feels with the site at Lourdes, France, the hospital suggested the trip should be one of healing as well as service. Over the coming months, Lourdes Hospital will request their doctors, nurses and other staff to also commit to volunteering for the trip. Lourdes hopes to send medical volunteers on the mission with the students, thus bridging the spirit of healing between youth and adults.

“Aligning so closely with Lourdes Hospital’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus, the service trip will be a concrete example of just what that means.” Grinnell said.

## To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331).

In addition, to report to the diocese abuse by church personnel (paid or volunteer) either past or present, please call the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator at this confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro revised its sexual abuse policy, effective July 1, 2014 and it is available at parishes and also on the diocesan web site ([www.rcdok.org/safe](http://www.rcdok.org/safe)).

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. The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

## Catechetical Leader Award Nominees Are People Who Can Change The World

According to Vatican II, all are called to holiness. This call from God is for all—not just priests and consecrated religious. Many choose to answer that call in many ways—through parenthood, following professional careers, as friends to name just a few. Each day all are called to grow in holiness. Within the ministry of the Church, a few are called to serve God as lay ecclesial ministers—pastoral ministers who serve the church but are not ordained. According to the USCCB, this ecclesial ministry includes:

**Authorization** of the hierarchy to serve publicly in the local Church

**Leadership** in a particular area of ministry

**Close mutual collaboration** with the pastoral ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons

Preparation and **formation** appropriate to the level of responsibilities that are assigned to them including; human, spiritual, pastoral, and theological dimensions.

Each year the Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry honor one lay ecclesial minister in the field of catechetics with the Bishop John J McRaith Catechetical Award. At this time, the directors of these offices are seeking nominations for this annual recognition. Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers working for a minimum of 5 years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. Some ministerial roles to be considered are Director of Religious Education, Coordinator of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, etc.

When considering nominees for this award, the criteria from the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers are used as a point of reference. Nominees should demonstrate the quali-

ties of human maturity needed for fruitful ministry with the people of God. He/She must demonstrate Christian spirituality as foundational to ministry, integrated in service with the people of God, and possessing a sacramental view of the world that recognizes the world can be a vessel of God’s presence and God’s transforming grace. In addition, the candidate must have an understanding of the breadth of Catholic theological and pastoral studies as well as the intellectual skill to use that knowledge in ministry with God’s people from diverse populations and cultures.

Anyone from the diocese may nominate a catechetical leader. Nominations are due to Elaine Robertson by April 22, 2015. When nominating please include the nominee’s name, address and parish. It is also helpful to describe the nominee’s performance in the following areas:

Why should this person be honored with the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Award?

Describe this person’s commitment as a Catechetical Leader.

- How has this person aided Catechists and/or Youth Leaders to improve their ministry?

- How is this person a Christian role model for Catechists, Youth Leaders and parishioners? Give an example.

- Does this person volunteer time and talent to the community apart from parish and diocesan duties? If so, give details of her or his involvement.

- How well does this person work with the pastor, professional colleagues and parishioners?

Please send all nominations to Elaine Robertson at [Elaine.robertson@pastoral.org](mailto:Elaine.robertson@pastoral.org) or at 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301.

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A few of Bishop John J. McRaith’s often-quoted comments on stewardship demonstrates his passion for it. “I am convinced that if we make it part of our faith life **we can change the world**. We can make this place a better place in which to live – not just for us, but for everyone. I am convinced of this because I am convinced that it will attack the selfishness that besets all of us. It turns the mine to ours; it turns the self to others. It turns us from just loving ourselves to loving others as Jesus loves them.”

Source: <http://www.dnu.org/word/gr3-09.pdf>

“Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option.” Source: <http://www.dbqarch.org/offices/stewardship/education/>

## 2014-2015 Nomination Form for the Diocese of Owensboro Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award

### Previous Recipients

|           |                               |           |                           |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1998-1999 | Sr. Maggie Cooper, SCN        | 1999-2000 | Anita Willoughby          |
| 2000-2001 | Carol York                    | 2001-2002 | Sr. Ann McGrew, OSU       |
| 2002-2003 | Sr. Margaret Ann Aull, OSU    | 2003-2004 | Sr. Julia Head, OSU       |
| 2004-2005 | Rosemary Payne                | 2005-2006 | Franki Durbin             |
| 2006-2007 | Sr. Marie Michael Hayden, OSU | 2007-2008 | Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU |
| 2008-2009 | Denise Long                   | 2009-2010 | Mary Helen Rhodes         |
| 2010-2011 | Danny May                     | 2011-2012 | Debi Hopkins              |
| 2012-2013 | Marie Rose                    |           |                           |
|           | Lori Lewis                    | 2013-2014 | Charlie Hardesty          |

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced at the Appreciation Dinner for Catechetical and Youth Ministers on May 4, 2015 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Anyone from the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award.

Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers working for a minimum of 5 years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. Some ministerial roles to be considered are Director of Religious Education, Coordinator of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, etc.

The recipient of the award is a role model as an outstanding human being; committed to Diocesan, Parish and Community service; shows a deep sense of spirituality; is knowledgeable, and committed to continuing their intellectual, spiritual and collaborative growth.

The deadline for nominations is April 22, 2014. The Core Committee for Religious Education, consisting of the Diocesan Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministry will discern and select the recipient.

All nomination forms should be mailed to the Religious Education Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 or e-mailed to [elaine.robertson@pastoral.org](mailto:elaine.robertson@pastoral.org) by April 22, 2014.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to nominee \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate page, please comment on the nominee's  
performance as a Catechetical Minister.**

**Please describe the nominee's performance in the following categories:**

- **Why should this person be honored with the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Award?**
- **Describe this person's commitment as a Catechetical Leader.**
  - **How has this person aided Catechists and/or Youth Leaders to improve their ministry?**
  - **How is this person a Christian role model for Catechists, Youth Leaders and parishioners? Give an example.**
- **Does this person volunteer time and talent to the community apart from parish and diocesan duties? If so, give details of her or his involvement.**
  - **How well does this person work with the pastor, professional colleagues and parishioners?**

## Catholic School Search for School Secretary

Mary Carrico Catholic School has a job opening for school secretary for the 2015-16 school year. Applicants must have outstanding communication skills and be proficient in clerical skills including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PrintMaster. If interested please send a resume and letter of application to: Chuck Green, Mary Carrico Catholic School Principal, 9546 Ky Hwy 144, Philpot, KY 42366. For additional information about the position, please contact the school principal at 270-281-5526 or e-mail at [cgreenmcms144@yahoo.com](mailto:cgreenmcms144@yahoo.com)

## Bruised, Hurting and Dirty

March, 2015 41

"Ian" By George Kane

When I first moved into the south side neighborhood of Evansville, I began to rub shoulders with a lot more "thug" types than I had previously known. Today, every time I step outside, and especially when I'm doing mission work, I encounter shirtless men with sideways hats, tattoos of screaming skulls, a strut in their step, and pants around their ankles. Sometimes they walk with their earbuds in, staring at the broken pavement and singing along. Other times they walk with their heads on a swivel, peering aggressively ahead, behind, and side to side. Their eyes ask You wanna fight? and their never-still hands never stop adjusting their clothing, their hair, or checking their phones. You've seen a young man like this, haven't you? What words would you use to describe him? A thug? A criminal? Dangerous? Lazy? Beloved brother?

One day on mission, John and Ellen came across a city block that felt like a ghost town. They passed house after abandoned house, slowly caving in on their foundations, with decaying and repulsive facades. Then, softly at first, they heard the low boom-boom of rap music droning in a nearby shotgun shack with camouflage curtains in the windows. John and Ellen were both interested in knocking on the door, but they didn't have a sense for what the Lord wanted to say. Boom-boom-boo. Knock-knock-knock. A young man stepped out onto the porch and quickly shut the door behind him, but not before the smell of broken plumbing escaped. Short and skinny, Ian was swimming in a huge T-shirt covered in dollar bills and wore a backwards flat-brimmed hat. His small, black eyes glared aggressively at John and Ellen, sizing them up.

"We're some Christians," John explained, "We think God has a plan for this neighborhood and--" "I make my own rules," Ian interjected, smacking his chest with a skinny fist. His arms are covered in small, dark bumps and ringworm welts. There had to be animals with him in that tiny shack of a house. "Man, the police know not to mess with me," Ian continued, detailing highly dramatic, highly unlikely encounters with the police, "I've got family that will back me up." John and Ellen could hear the dog barking. "And my dog will eat people," Ian threw in for effect. Ellen changed the direction of the conversation by asking Ian where he liked to go to church, and slowly, almost imperceptibly, Ian started to open up. It turned out that the last time Ian went to church he felt judged for his clothes, and quit going. "I live alone. All I do is wake up and play video games."

Ian looked back at his house. "In one game, I have mansion." Seizing an idea, John asks Ian if he knows that God is preparing us a mansion with tons of rooms in heaven. This got Ian excited, and as John continued to explain what it's like to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, finding our calling as men made for a specific purpose, Ian (who had learned about the Holy Spirit from watching TV on Netflix) exclaimed, "Man, what you're saying is making some sense, it's getting in here," he pointed to his forehead and shook his finger, "...And going around like this!" And when John told him about Christ dying for our sins, Ian said, "You've got me thinking about this stuff." At one point John wrote down the name of some free Christian rap music, and Ian stared at the note. "I don't know how to read...people just kind of pushed me along in school." At the end of the conversation, John led a prayer for strength, which Ian gratefully received. John and I have been back to visit Ian, and John has begun some rudimentary reading lessons.

Ian is my beloved brother!

As Pope Francis said, "We need to go out...to the outskirts where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters...go out and give ourselves and the Gospel to others, giving what little ointment we have to those who have nothing, nothing at all." – Holy Thursday Mass Homily, 2013.

*Editor's Note: The Western Kentucky Catholic would like to share with readers a new column by George Kane. Thoughts? Please reply to [Mel.Howard@pastoral.org](mailto:Mel.Howard@pastoral.org)*



## The Daughters of Isabella, St. Francis de Sales, Circle 258 Install Officers

PADUCAH, Ky. - The Daughters of Isabella, St. Francis de Sales, Circle 258 installed officers on February 3, 2015. The newly installed officers include: Regent-Sheri Babbs, Past Regent-Theresa Wilkins, Recording Secretary-Shawn Barber, Treasurer-Kerie Sturm, Financial Secretary-Beth Walker, Chancellor-Marianna Romero, and Auditors-Ann Averill, Carol Sutherland, and Jennifer Bosh.

The officers will lead the DofI to fulfill their mission statement of:

- The Order of the Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principle of its motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity.

- We come together as a sisterhood to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, bringing spiritual benefits to our members and contributing to the common good of humanity.

- By our faith we are called to serve, inspired and challenged to do God's work.

- We are committed to foster individual participation by way of mutual understanding, charitable activities and social interaction.

- As we strive for the development of all that is best and truest in womanhood, we emerge in our communities as a positive influence to uphold the high ideals of life and morals.

The St. Francis de Sales Circle 258 serves the parishes of St. John's, St. Francis de Sales, St. Mary of the Woods, Rosary Chapel, and St. Thomas More. Circle 258 contributes to charities including Child Watch, Hope Unlimited, St. Mary School System, and Knights of Columbus. Circle 258 also sponsors the Sisters of Service which is a Catholic Girls Service Organization for girls 10-18 years old.

If you are interested in the Daughters of Isabella or the Sisters of Service and their mission, contact Sheri Babbs at sbabbs@comcast.net or 270-832-0958.

## Sister Joseph Marita Wheatley, SCN, 91, Dies



Joseph Marita Wheatley, SCN, 91, a native of Waverly, Kentucky and a graduate of St. Vincent Academy, died at Nazareth Home, Louisville on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 72 years.

Sister Joseph Marita served in Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia as teacher in elementary education for 31 years. At St. Vincent Infirmary, now St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, she served as pastoral associate and chaplain for 21 years. In the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister taught at St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville, Kentucky from 1959-60 and at St. Agnes School, Uniontown, Kentucky from 1972-75. Sister also served in the SCN Mission Office, now Office of Congregational Advancement at Nazareth, Kentucky from 1996-2014. Sister became a resident at Nazareth Home in January 2015.

Survivors include nieces, nephews and her religious community. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on February 10, 2015 in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, followed by burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Funeral Arrangements are being handled by Ratterman Funeral Home, 3800 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Kentucky. Memorials may be made to Office of Congregational Advancement, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.



The Daughters of Isabella with the new officers. From Left to Right in the photo are: Beth Walker-financial secretary, Shawn Barber-recording secretary, Ann Averill-Auditor, Sheri Babbs-Regent, Fr. Tom Buckman-Chaplain, Theresa Wilkins-past Regent, Jennifer Bosh-auditor, Carol Sutherland-auditor, Marianna Romero-chancellor, and Keri Sturm-treasurer. Submitted by Sheri Babbs



## Anna Jeanne Hardesty, SCN, Dies

Anna Jeanne Hardesty, SCN, 90, a native of Whitesville, Kentucky, died at Nazareth Home, Louisville, on Saturday, January 31, 2015. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 73 years.

Sister Anna Jeanne served in child care, elementary education as teacher and principal, administrator and coordinator, in admission and business office personnel, pastoral ministry, social justice and volunteer ministry in Tennessee, Maryland, Kentucky, and Arkansas for 69 years. In the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister served in St. Stephen Cathedral School in Owensboro from 1961-63; as principal at Sacred Heart School, Hickman, Kentucky from 1963-67; and as a teacher at St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville, Kentucky from 1972-78. From October 2010, Sister has served in the Apostolate of Prayer.

Survivors include seven sisters: Evelyn Hagan and Theresa Wedding of Whitesville, Kentucky; Rita Wink of Utica, Kentucky; Norma Jean Crowe and Rose Cecilia Knott of Columbia City, Indiana; Virgilia Marie Crowe of Owensboro, Kentucky; Lillian Dreiman of Oaktown, Indiana and her religious community.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, Kentucky February 3, 2015, followed by burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Office of Congregational Advancement, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.

### Cathedral Preschool, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year has begun for families with children currently enrolled at Cathedral Preschool. Forms have been automatically be sent home to them.

Open registration is on-going for the 2015-2016 school year. Children attending preschool must be 3, 4 or 5 years old by October 1, 2015.

To ensure receiving registration forms you may call (270) 926-1652 or log on the website at [www.cathedralpreschool.com](http://www.cathedralpreschool.com)



*Saint Meinrad*

### Come & See Weekend March 6-8, 2015

Single Catholic men, ages 18-35, are invited to attend a Come & See weekend March 6-8 on the campus of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, a Benedictine monastery in southern Indiana.

Participants stay in the monastery guest house, eat and pray with the monastic community, participate in morning work periods, and attend afternoon conferences by monks on different aspects of the monastic life.

To learn more or register for this Come & See event, contact the Vocations Office of Saint Meinrad Archabbey at [vocations@saintmeinrad.org](mailto:vocations@saintmeinrad.org) or (812) 357-6318.

## Sister Mary Ellen and Selma



Mary Ellen Doyle, SCN.

Jan. 16, 2015  
- In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we, The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth are sharing excerpts from writings by Mary Ellen Doyle,

SCN. Sister Mary Ellen has a long history of working for civil rights that continues to this day. Here are her reflections of marching during the Civil Rights Movement.

"When Governor George Wallace of Alabama was invited to campus by a student group, I finally got the nerve to take part, in full habit, in a campus protest march. That led to my participation in the last phase of the Selma-to-Montgomery march, along with other priests and religious from Notre Dame.

"Notre Dame was seething with the issues of the Civil Rights Movement when word came that participants were sought for the last lap of the march from Selma into Montgomery. The Chicago Catholic Council for Interracial Justice was sponsoring a group, to include students from Notre Dame.

"Perhaps ten of us, mostly Sisters and priests, as I remember, met the larger group in Chicago and flew to Montgomery. In Montgomery, a bus transferred us to join the march. The first strong emotions of joy at being there came to me as we walked past small homes in the black section of the city and exchanged waves and smiles with the people who filled the porches.

"The approach to the Capitol, however, had all the atmosphere of an occupied city, with grim National Guardsmen at every corner. In front of the Capitol on our left was the massive white stone Judicial building; curious or hostile white faces looked at us as if seeing the approach of an enemy. On our right stood the Dexter Avenue Baptist church where Martin Luther King had first organized the bus boycott and started the whole movement. The two unmovable forces had come to confrontation, with the symbol of governmental

resistance in between, facing a crowd determined to move that government.

"I remember the excitement of meeting the marchers in the crowd, of hearing the speeches, of singing "We Shall Overcome," my arms crossed and hands joined with an African American woman and another Sister. We sang with the gusto of a naïve belief that we had already overcome a separating barrier so immense that we could complete the task once for all, NOW rather than "someday."

"After the ceremony, we were transported from the Capitol to the City of St. Jude. This complex comprised a church, school, hospital, rectory, and convent, and a large field where many marchers had camped the night before and would spend the present night before their dispersal. Most of the Sisters were to be housed that night in the convent; I still wonder how they managed us. Before supper, several of us were shown through the small hospital by a nurse who expressed her pride and happiness to see the marchers. Supper was offered to a huge group in (as I remember) a kitchen and adjoining rooms of the school, whose gym was also be overnight housing. The talk bubbled everywhere; committed people shared their stories and reasons for their enthusiasm and presence. Only one named individual remains in my memory: Henri Nouwen. He had made the entire march, been rain-soaked, and was now encased in a sweater that stretched to his knees.

"The experience of the Selma-to-Montgomery March and marchers was central to a permanent change in my awareness of the reality of racism and all later involvements. I came to see that, though I would gladly take part in any future marches or other brief actions, I needed to find a lasting way to make a difference."

Sister Mary Ellen went on to work for racial justice in many various and powerful ways throughout her life. She continues her work today.

She writes, "I have been able to embody one piece of the SCN's commitment to justice and compassion for marginalized persons. I have every reason to be thankful for all gifts."

## Prayer for Consecrated Persons



May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere.

Sister Ma Esperanza Ofelia Rivera-Gomez, Misionaris Sacret Jesus singing at Mass Feb.10, 2015 in St. Stephen Cathedral. Mel Howard Photo

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer printed with permission, Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life And Vocations, [www.ForYourVocation.org](http://www.ForYourVocation.org) • [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## Best Catholic Schools Week Activity Required No Sound At All!

PADUCAH,Ky. - St. Mary's Kindergarten Class enjoyed Catholic Schools Week with Sundaes on Monday, All School Mass on Tuesday, Donuts on Wednesday, Board Games on Thursday and a Sock



Kindergartener Mark Humm asking Ms. Paula for syrup at the Sign Language Breakfast.



Ms. Ronda, Ms. Lori and Ms. Paula saying, "You're welcome" in sign language. Submitted by Felicia La Barge, Saint Mary Elementary Kindergarten

Hop Friday. But the activity that they enjoyed the most required no sound at all. The Kindergarteners had a Sign Language Breakfast. The students ordered, toast, eggs, waffles, sausage, butter, milk and even syrup from the St. Mary cafeteria ladies. Many thanks to Senior, Miss. Katie Clark, who assisted us with our Sign Language skills and Mrs. Paula Hudson who coordinated the preparation of our breakfast.

# The Voice of Religious Freedom in The Public Square

A Message from Jason D. Hall

For the past few years, CCK has been working to limit the exorbitant interest rates being charged for so-called "payday loans." These loans prey upon those with low incomes who find themselves in very difficult circumstances. This year, a bill to cap interest and fees on payday loans at 36%, Senate Bill 32, has been introduced in the Kentucky State Senate. CCK strongly supports SB 32.

The biggest challenge in passing SB 32 during the 2015 legislative session is in getting the bill to the Senate floor for a vote. With the large number of bills that are introduced in a session that only lasts for 30 legislative days, unless a bill is prioritized by the leadership, the session can pass with no action being taken. The leadership of the Senate, therefore, is key to ensuring that the bill moves forward. They need to know that Kentuckians place a high priority on addressing this issue of basic economic justice.

Please take a moment to contact the members of Senate leadership, especially Senate President Robert Stivers, and ask them to make sure the full Sen-



**Father Richard Meredith spoke with KY Senator Whitney Westerfield at Sts. Peter and Paul Church Jan. 17, 2015. Jim Creighton Photo**

ate gets a chance to vote on the payday lending bill, SB 32.

Call 1-800-372-7181 (or 1-866-840-6574 for a Spanish-speaking operator) to reach the General Assembly switchboard. Ask to leave a message for Senator Stivers and the rest of Senate leadership, urging them to bring SB 32 to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your willingness to practice Faithful Citizenship and be a voice for the vulnerable in our communities.



## Help For Families In Need

With the participation of Christ the King parishioners, school students and faculty, the Madisonville St. Vincent de Paul Conference distributed baskets of food this past Christmas to 260 families in need. This is an annual event which gives much satisfaction and joy to the people involved. Submitted by Joe Rocha, SVDP President



'Schola Rejoice!' is a new praise music group at the parish of Immaculate. Its stylistic approach is more contemporary yet uses the same Catholic guidelines to enrich the music during mass. The parish of The Immaculate 'Schola Rejoice!' group members are: Rachael Clark, Kelly Brauer, Susanne Gardner Story, Carla Clark Goodwin, Joe Day, Chuck Flaim, Bart Rhodes, Bobby Miller and Matthew Gray (Director of Music). This past Sunday was their first time singing and they got to give of their wonderful talents in a packed church while 34 young people got confirmed into our church!!



^Chuck Flaim on mandolin and Bart Rhodes on bass



^Susanne Story, Carla Goodwin, Rachael Clark, Joe Day and Kelly Brauer sing and play

Bobby Miller on drums/percussion >

-submission by Nicole Gray



## "Mom, Guess Who Came To Our Classroom Today!"

After a School Mass in Saint Paul Church, Bishop Medley and Fr. Steve Hohman visited Annette Cannon's kindergarten class on Feb. 9, 2015 at St. Paul Catholic School, Saint Paul, Grayson County. Jim Mattingly Photo



## Confirmation Day with Bishop Medley on Jan.17, 2015, in St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

During Confirmation interviews, Director of Faith Formation, Diane Willis asked Immaculate Parish's eighth graders to evaluate the Confirmation Day with the Bishop on Jan.17, 2015. Many of the students commented that they really enjoyed it. Dalton Baisden Wade said it was great seeing the Bishop in this setting prior to the day of Confirmation. Many agreed that the casual setting may help the nerves which might set in on Confirmation Day. Others appreciated the fact that many students were present. "It was great to have all the eighth graders together," said Amber Payne. And even though the students from Immaculate live in Owensboro, many have not seen the

Cathedral. So, they appreciated seeing our beautiful Cathedral and hearing about the history and why this building is called the Cathedral.

Elaine Robertson, Diocesan Director of the Faith Formation Office, said, "I would say our 2015 Confirmation Day was historic in that it was our first attempt to bring together Confirmation candidates from the entire diocese to allow them to see and learn about "their Cathedral." Often teenagers, especially those from parishes in the regions with low Catholic population do not realize that there are more Catholics just like them.

"The main purpose of this gathering was to expose them to the Cathedral and



allow them to learn why the Cathedral exists and should have some meaning in their own lives as Christians.

"This gathering was a special time for the candidates to meet the bishop before the actual Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated with him. One student loved the interaction with the bishop and relieved some anxiety about seeing him on Confirmation Day. Another was glad to see that the bishop had a great sense of humor. They also had some time to ask him questions. The discussion time with him which began with a brief history

of the diocese was an opportunity for the bishop to express the great love he has for them and ask them for their love as well.

"I think Bishop Bill was pleased but would have like to see more attend. The children enjoyed the day. One child who was angry because his mom made him come told her, "It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be!"

Another Owensboro candidate found the tour of the Cathedral great and was glad they learned about it because they had never been there before."



Fotos por Abraham Brown



## Reportar las Acusaciones de Abuso Sexual

Cualquier persona que sepa de un abuso de un menor de dieciocho años es obligado por ley informarles a las autoridades estatales apropiadas: policía local o la línea dedicada para el Abuso Infantil de Kentucky (gratis: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331).

Además, para informar a la Diócesis sobre el abuso por parte de algún personal (pagado o voluntario) de la Iglesia, en el pasado o presente, favor de llamar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral a esta línea confidencial: 270-852-8380. La Diócesis de Owensboro acaba de revisar su reglamento sobre el abuso sexual, efectivo el 1 de Julio del 2014 y está disponible en todas las parroquias y también en el sitio web diocesano ([www.rcdok.org/safe](http://www.rcdok.org/safe)).

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-Presidente), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Presidente), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, y Ms. Kelly Roe. La hermana Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y la Junta de Revisión Diocesano.

## Nombramientos Diocesanos Sacerdotales

Efectivo en Junio del 2015 el Padre Jason McClure asumirá sus responsabilidades como Vicario del Clero en la diócesis al mismo tiempo que continuará su labor como Director de Vocaciones. El Padre Darrell Venters ha servido en esta capacidad de Vicario para el Clero desde el 2001 y sirvió durante la era en que Owensboro comenzaba a recibir los primeros de muchos sacerdotes internacionales.

El Padre Darrell generosamente ha aceptado continuar la coordinación, bienvenida e introducción a la diócesis para nuevos sacerdotales internacionales en Kentucky occidental. Muchas Gracias tanto al Padre Darrell como al Padre Jason.

## Si No Te Has Acercado A La Confesión En Mucho Tiempo, Que Esta Cuaresma Sea El Tiempo.



Mons. William F. Medley, Obispo de Owensboro

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Al ser católicos, nuestra liturgia y nuestros ritos nunca nos permiten distanciarnos de la realidad de la misericordia de Dios. Comenzamos la Misa con: "para celebrar

dignamente estos sagrados misterios, reconozcamos nuestros pecados." Enseguida todos en coro proclamamos, "Señor, ten piedad. Cristo, ten piedad. Señor, ten piedad." O bien decimos, "Yo confieso ante Dios..."

La señal de la paz en la Misa, aunque hoy en día nada más parece más como un saludo, realmente tiene sus raíces en el mandato del evangelio hacer la paz y estar reconciliado con todos antes de acercarnos al altar del Señor. Cuando rezamos el Padre Nuestro pedimos que nuestros pecados sean perdonados igual como nosotros perdonamos a los demás. Y justo antes de recibir la comunión otra vez pedimos, "Señor, no soy digno de que entres en mi casa, pero una palabra tuya bastará para sanarme."

El perdón y la misericordia de Dios son el centro del Evangelio, estos dos representan la vida y el ministerio de Jesucristo. Nuestro tiempo y nuestra cultura no valoran la experiencia tan humana de reconocer nuestras fallas y pecados, al menos que involucren un circo mediático y sirviendo para humillar a una persona o institución famosa. Un momento de fama que pueden ser los peores minutos de una vida. Después el caído pareciera debe desaparecerse en las sombras. Demasiadas veces lo único que ha pasado es una degradación, no una confesión genuina o una oportunidad para la reconciliación.

Han pasado dos años desde que Jorge Bergoglio fue presentado al mundo como el Papa Francisco. Se podría decir que él ha roto el molde de figuras de Papas y los biógrafos todavía siguen luchando para entender esta figura que llegó a Roma de los "fines de la tierra".

Sin embargo; cuando me piden expresar mis impresiones de nuestro nuevo Papa, la palabra que viene a mi mente es: misericordia. Él está obsesionado

con enseñar y compartir la misericordia de Dios. Como no estamos acostumbrados a ver un Papa que se deja entrevistar y que organiza conferencias de prensa, su confesión pública "Yo soy un pecador," fue sorprendente para algunos. Pero realmente no es una revelación tan radical. Aparte de Jesús y su Santísima Madre María no ha existido una vida humana sin pecado.

Para los que piensan que el énfasis que el Papa Francisco pone en la misericordia es demasiado o que disminuye el concepto de pecado en el mundo, debemos notar que es una continuación de un tema moderno del papado muy noble. Se puede observar ese tema especialmente en las palabras y acciones de los dos santos recién canonizados: San Juan XXIII y San Juan Pablo II. Fue San Juan XXIII quien habló en la apertura del Concilio Vaticano II, "En nuestro tiempo, sin embargo, la Esposa de Cristo prefiere usar la medicina de la misericordia más que la de la severidad." Y fue San Juan Pablo II quien designó el Segundo Domingo de Pascua para observar el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia.

Si hay algo singular que el Papa Francisco ha añadido a esta enseñanza de Jesús, es su disponibilidad de retar la institución misma de la Iglesia a ser testiga de la misericordia que enseña.

El tiempo sagrado de la Cuaresma llama a todos los seguidores de Cristo a la reconciliación y a las obras de misericordia. De nuevo, los ritos y sacramentos de la Iglesia son los portales de la misericordia de Dios. Como fue notado antes, cada Misa nos llama a estas reflexiones.

En las recientes décadas el tesoro que es el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, ha sido rechazado por muchos. Para algunos la experiencia humana de decir en voz alta, aún en privado, las faltas de uno es demasiado. Tristemente, algunos han experimentado algo menos que la misericordia de Dios de un sacerdote quien tal vez no entendió el misterio. Aunque estos recuerdos aún viven y son divulgados, a la gran mayoría de sacerdotes les encanta la oportunidad de decir las palabras, "Yo te absuelvo de tus pecados en el nombre del Padre, y del

Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo."

Si no te has acercado a la confesión en mucho tiempo, que esta Cuaresma sea el tiempo. Cierto, puede parecer demasiado difícil revisar varios años de tu vida. Empieza poco a poco, ¿Cuál son una o dos partes de tu vida donde más necesitas de la misericordia de Dios? Comienza con eso, confíesalo y se te absolverá.

En enero hubo una conferencia nacional en Nashville para los católicos universitarios. 9,500 jóvenes llegaron a esta conferencia de SEEK para cuatro días de pláticas y oración. Se escucharon confesiones casi continuamente a través de los cuatro días, pero fue un momento especial donde había casi 300 sacerdotes y obispos disponibles para escuchar confesiones. Para más de tres

horas y media estos 300 sacerdotes y obispos escucharon confesiones. Algunos estuvieron en fila por horas para la oportunidad de confesar sus pecados.

Yo fui uno de estos 300 confesores y tengo que decir que la gracia fue palpable en este salón gigantesco. La misericordia de Dios es una fuerza hermosa y poderosa.

Acepta la invitación esta Cuaresma de confesar tus pecados, quitarte esa carga sin sentido y de experimentar el amor y la misericordia de Dios.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos!

+ Mons. William F. Medley,  
Obispo de Owensboro

### Calendario del Obispo Medley de Marzo 2015:

|           |            |  |
|-----------|------------|--|
| Marzo 3   | 6:00 p.m.  | Cena de Fundación del Club Serra de Owensboro  |
| Marzo 4   | 8:30 a.m.  | Misa Escolar, Escuela de María Carrico, Knottsville  |
| Marzo 5-6 |            | Retiro del Personal del MCC, Monte San José, Maple Mount                                     |
| Marzo 9   |            | Reunión, Secretaria de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes del USCCB                               |
| Marzo 10  | 8:00 a.m.  | Misa Escolar, San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville  |
| Marzo 11  | 10-3       | Día de Planeación Pastoral con los Sacerdotes, MCC   |
| Marzo 13  | 9:00 a.m.  | Misa Escolar, Santa Ana, Morganfield   |
| Marzo 14  | 5:00 p.m.  | Diaconado – Rito de la Institución del Ministerio del Lectorado, San Alfonso, Owensboro      |
| Marzo 15  | 10:30 a.m. | Misa, Youth 2000, Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro  |
| Marzo 16  | 9:45 a.m.  | Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal, MCC  |
|           | 1:30 p.m.  | Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal, MCC  |
| Marzo 17  | 9:00 a.m.  | Misa y Reunión del Personal del MCC  |
| Marzo 18  | 8:30 a.m.  | Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas, MCC   |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Reunión, Fundación Católica del KY Occidental  |
| Marzo 19  | 9:30 a.m.  | Misa Escolar, San José, Bowling Green  |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Confirmación, Santa Inés/Sagrado Corazón/San Pedro @ Sagrado Corazón, Waverly                |
| Marzo 20  | 8:00 a.m.  | Misa Escolar, Escuela Preparatoria de la Trinidad, Whitesville                               |
|           | 9:00 a.m.  | Conversaciones con los "Seniors", Escuela Preparatoria de la Trinidad                        |
| Marzo 21  | 5:00 p.m.  | Rito de la Institución de los Ministerios del Acolitado y Lectorado, Catedral de San Esteban |
| Marzo 22  | 2:00 p.m.  | Misa de Insignias Religiosas de los Scout, Catedral de San Esteban                           |
| Marzo 24  | 10:00 a.m. | Misa Escolar, Escuela Secundaria de Santa María, Paducah                                     |
|           | 12-2       | Horas de Oficina en Paducah, Hospital de Lourdes, Paducah                                    |
| Marzo 26  | 9:00 a.m.  | Misa Escolar, Campus de OCES K-3, Owensboro  |
| Marzo 29  | 11:00 a.m. | Misa de Domingo de Ramos, Catedral de San Esteban  |
| Marzo 31  | 9:00 a.m.  | Conversaciones con los "Seniors", Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro                 |

**Marzo 31 6:30 p.m. Misa Crismal, Centro Deportivo de Owensboro (Sportscenter)**



## Casi 400 Hispanos congregados para reflexionar sobre el matrimonio y la familia

El Papa Francisco durante este año 2015 está retando al mundo y a la iglesia universal a enfocarse en los temas y aspectos relacionados al matrimonio y la familia. Desde sínodos hasta varios eventos ya llevándose a cabo y otros planeados a futuro en distintas diócesis y parroquias alrededor del mundo este año, nos recuerdan de este crucial y urgente enfoque. En nuestra propia diócesis y como un primer paso en escuchar este llamado, familias hispanas de la diócesis de Owensboro se congregaron el pasado 31 de Enero para reflexionar y orar sobre estos temas de gran impacto para todos.

El día en Hopkinsville comenzó con café y convivencia antes de comenzar con la primera conferencia a las 9am. Fuimos bendecidos con el Padre Julio Palarino, sacerdote de Argentina muy articulado, accesible y humilde para dirigir el encuentro diocesano de familias. A pesar de las enormes dificultades de una comunidad con frecuencia en las sombras de la sociedad y bajo la amenaza de deportaciones que más bien seguido separan y destruyen familias, los hispanos motivados en la fe se mostraron convencidos y resueltos en confiar a sus familias al Señor y a nuestra Madre Santísima. No es nada fácil, sino difícil que hasta nos quiebra el corazón saber de tantos hispanos en nuestras comunidades quienes no han visto a sus esposas, hijos, hermanos o padres por años, unos hasta por décadas.

Esta realidad es también de impacto en la familia. Este día también concedió la oportunidad de contestar y comentar sobre las seis preguntas lanzadas por el Sr. Obispo en preparación al sínodo de los obispos. Las personas estuvieron muy agradecidas por la visita del obispo por unos minutos mostrando su interés y cuidado por esta comunidad.

Finalmente quisiera agradecer a Joe

Bland y a Susana Solorza por encontrarse ese día con los adolescentes. Aún más importante, quisiera sinceramente agradecer a todos y cada uno de los Ministros Hispanos de alrededor de la diócesis y al equipo de mujeres que trabajaron en la cocina y que este día todos trabajaron tan duro para que el encuentro se diera sin mayor dificultad y se hiciera posible este increíble evento. ¡Gracias!

- Cristóbal Gutierrez, Director del Ministerio Hispano



Fotos por Abraham Brown

