

THE WESTERN  
KENTUCKY



Catholic

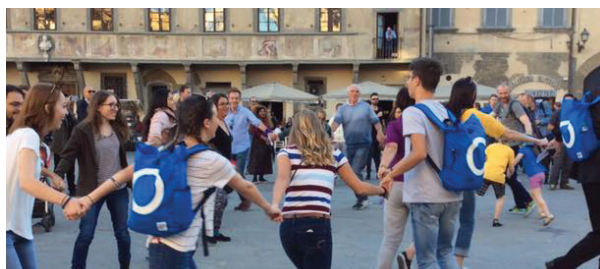
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

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## Bishop Medley leads pilgrimage to Greece

During his recent Greece pilgrimage, Bishop Medley celebrates Mass at the site where the biblical Lydia and her household were baptized by St. Paul. [Page 9](#)



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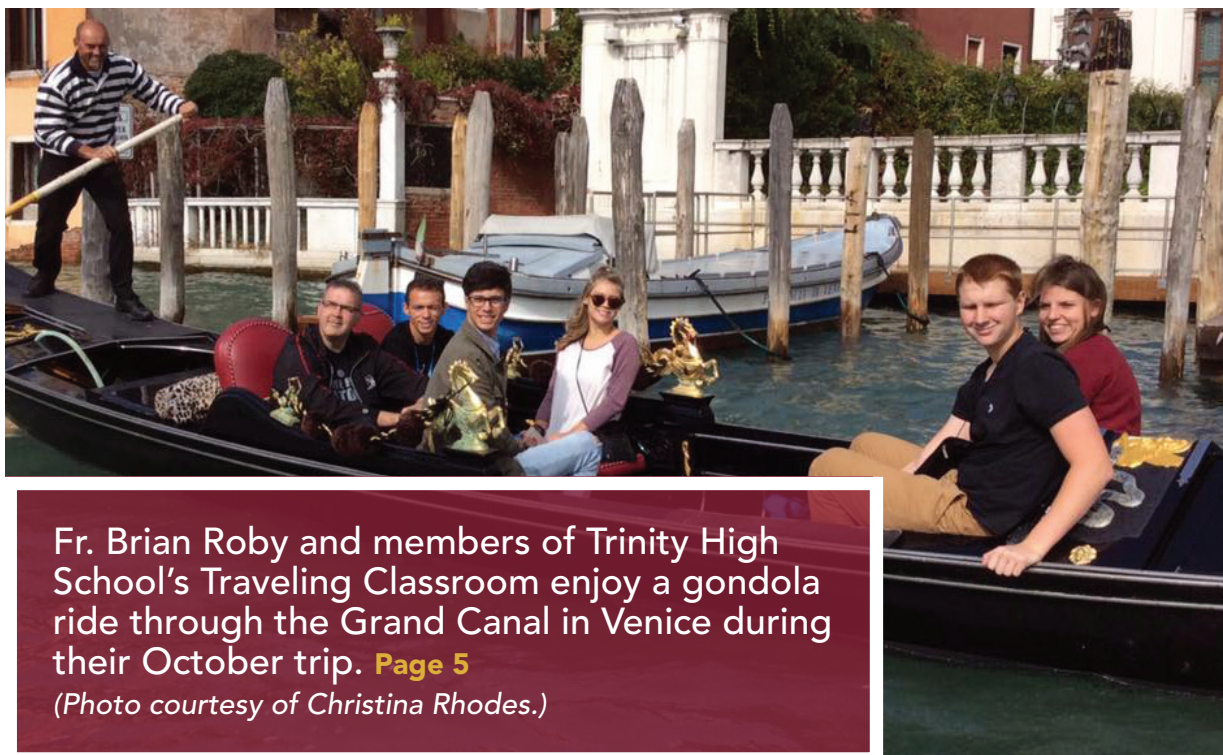
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Fr. Brian Roby and members of Trinity High School's Traveling Classroom enjoy a gondola ride through the Grand Canal in Venice during their October trip. **Page 5**

*(Photo courtesy of Christina Rhodes.)*

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## To submit stories and articles

**Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.** The Western Kentucky Catholic will take reader-submitted content into consideration but no submissions are guaranteed placement, due to space restrictions.

**Article guidelines:** The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider submitted articles pertaining to issues and events within our diocese. Please contact the editor in advance for a word limit, as space varies by month. **Photo guidelines:** The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider your high-resolution digital photos showing special moments and memories from within our diocese. Photos must be a JPEG format (ending in ".jpg") and sent via email. A photo description, date, and name of photographer must be included. Please email your articles or photos to [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org) by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.

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KENTUCKY  Catholic

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Opinions expressed in submitted columns and letters to the editor in The Western Kentucky Catholic may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not endorsed by the publisher or editor. No submissions are guaranteed placement in The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Please politely indicate any factual errors in this publication by emailing [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org).

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# A Word from Bishop Medley

Dear sisters and brothers,

In our day, perhaps in any era throughout history, we often want to sum up a leader's thoughts and philosophy in just a few words, perhaps a slogan. In fact, in our media-driven age, these often get boiled down to sound bites. And, for better or worse, these slogans or sound bites can define a person or a movement.

Pope Francis and other recent popes, too, have been branded with slogans, and that can be a good thing. As our Diocese of Owensboro inaugurates a four-year pastoral initiative, we will borrow some well-established concepts from Pope Francis. In Pope Francis' slogans, we will easily hear echoes from St. Pope John XXIII, Blessed Pope Paul VI, St. Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI.

Our new initiative will be Living as Missionary Disciples and will begin with this new liturgical year on December 3, the First Sunday of Advent. Our focus this first year will be prayer. In the Gospel, Jesus is seen to pray before important events and actions and so gave us a model. The term "missionary disciple" is borrowed from the writings and the thoughts of Pope Francis. But Pope Francis' particular 21st-century words are simply a new articulation of the Gospel mandate of Jesus: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the age."

So, if our mission is as old as Jesus, what do we bring that can possibly be new and refreshed? Such renewal has been the work of the Second Vatican Council and all of our popes over the last half century. Our world is not the world of first century Galilee, or 5th-century Europe, or the 16th-century "new world." Our world is very different from the time of a century of two World Wars. In every age, the Church has had to hear anew Jesus' mandate and figure out how to be faithful to his call.

Another phrase that Pope Francis has popularized is the call for our Catholic Church to be focused on mission and not just maintenance. As I visit the 78 parishes of our diocese, I find beautiful places of worship. They all have an altar, an ambo (pulpit), and a baptismal font. They are all clean and well-maintained, reflecting the pride we have in our churches.

But many of our churches, like those in most of the world, have only a fraction of the people there that might

## BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR ● DECEMBER 2017

<b>DEC 3</b>	8:30 a.m. ● Confirmation – St. Mary, LaCenter 2:00 p.m. ● Holy Hour – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
<b>DEC 6</b>	10:00 a.m. ● Discipleship Day with Priests & Parish Leaders
<b>DEC 8</b>	9:00 a.m. ● School Mass – OCES 4-6 Campus, Owensboro 1:30 p.m. ● Religious Profession – Passionist Nuns, Whitesville
<b>DEC 9</b>	4:00 p.m. ● Dedication of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Elkton
<b>DEC 12</b>	7:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Francis of Assisi, Elkton
<b>DEC 14</b>	5:00 p.m. ● Advent Presentation – Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount
<b>DEC 15</b>	Installation of Bishop Joseph Siegel – Diocese of Evansville 7:30 p.m. ● Conversation with Brescia's L3 Students – Mount St. Joseph
<b>DEC 20</b>	11:30 a.m. ● Lunch with Diocesan Seminarians
<b>DEC 22</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Mass with Diocesan Staff and Christmas Luncheon



*Continues on page 4*

A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

have been there a generation ago. Well-maintained buildings of which we can be proud. But sadly ever-emptier buildings. Why?

Pope Francis calls the Church to move from maintenance to mission. Certainly as good stewards we want to always repair and paint and preserve our church structures. But, all the more, we want to extend the Gospel mission to those who have not heard it, or perhaps who have heard a message diminished by life and culture.

This 21st-century challenge of ours is not so different from other ages. The mandate of Jesus is unchanging, but how to accomplish that is forever changing. Pope Francis writes: "I hope that all com-

munities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of pastoral and missionary conversation which cannot leave things as they presently are. 'Mere administration' can no longer be enough. Throughout the world let us be 'permanently in a state of mission.'" (Evangelii Gaudium 25)

Where do we begin?

Let us pray. ■



**Most Reverend William F. Medley**  
Diocese of Owensboro

## 2018 Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky

**February 17, 2018 | RiverPark Center, Owensboro, KY**

The Catholic Men's Conference is pleased to welcome Christopher West and Doug Barry as the keynote speakers for the upcoming conference.

Conference and ticket information available at [kycatholic.com](http://kycatholic.com).



**Christopher West**



**Doug Barry**

### Considering Adoption?

**Catholic Charities of Owensboro serves pregnant women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and couples who wish to adopt. To learn more, call 270-852-8328 or visit [KyCaringConnection.org](http://KyCaringConnection.org).**

### St. Gerard Life Home

**Providing housing and services to pregnant women and their babies**

**If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis or unplanned pregnancy, call us at 270-852-8328 or toll-free at 1-877-803-5064.**

### 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 website ([owensborodiocese.org/safe](http://owensborodiocese.org/safe)). The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

# From dancing to sightseeing, Italy a ‘wonderful blessing’ for Trinity's Traveling Classroom students



Trinity students and Fr. Brian Roby dance in Piazza Santa Croce, Florence. Photo courtesy of Christina Rhodes.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Trinity High School students who participated in the Traveling Classroom trip to Italy brought home many memories, but one of the most unforgettable was in the Piazza Santa Croce in Florence.

Christina Rhodes, an English teacher at Trinity

who also teaches the Traveling Classroom course, recalled that a group of Italian men in matching outfits started playing drums in the piazza.

“All of these people started dancing in a circle,” said Rhodes.

She said many people spontaneously joined hands and began dancing swiftly to the beat of the music.

Several Trinity students joined in the dance, and by the end, they were even joined by Fr. Brian Roby, pastor of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. The parish's campus is home to both Trinity and St. Mary of the Woods Elementary School.

“I love how music brings people together,” said Hunter O’Bryan, a sophomore Traveling Classroom student.

Caleb Goetz, a senior participating in Traveling Classroom, was one of the students who joined in the dance.

He said this experience, as well as the overall trip – which took place in October during Trinity’s fall break – gave him a fresh perspective on the world.

“It made me realize the world is bigger than my small town, and how I want to travel more,” said Goetz.

The class, which met with the WKC in mid-October following their return home, said their trip included Rome, Venice, Florence, Verona, Assisi, Pompeii, Vatican City and Milan.

Tyler Cecil, a junior, commented that “Venice was definitely different than any other town I’d ever seen – it’s built on the water.”

Cecil added that he enjoyed visiting the small local shops in Venice, as well as viewing the local architecture, which is more classically-styled than that of the United States.

*Continues on page 6*



(Left) The Traveling Classroom group walks up the steps toward the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. (Right) Trinity students walk through Rome's ancient ruins on their way to the Roman Forum. Photos courtesy of Christina Rhodes.

### *Traveling Classroom continued from page 5*

Besides the experience of becoming international travelers, the students said they also learned other lessons that would remain with them throughout their lives.

Chloe Mattingly, a junior, said she learned to “appreciate the little things more,” and had become more independent as a result of the trip.

“It was not just about the trip, but about the people who went, too,” she said. “We grew closer as a class.”

And senior Erin Heshner said she was “nervous

about the plane ride,” never having been on an airplane before, “but the trip was worth it.”

Rhodes said the Traveling Classroom program was established in 2010 by former religion teacher Joe Bland, who is now the director of evangelization for the Diocese of Owensboro.

Previous trips have included London, Paris, Italy and the British Isles, and the course is a joint effort between Rhodes and Trinity’s art teacher, DeeAnna Wathen.

The students “adopt” eighth-graders for whom they pray and create packets with daily journals and photos.

“The idea is to ‘take’ the eighth-graders with us, so to speak,” said Rhodes. “We also want to encourage their interest in future travel.”

Rhodes said traveling with her students is “a wonderful blessing.”

“Listening to the students discuss their experiences can move me – and sometimes the students – to tears,” she said. “I think it is important for students to recognize that universality of our faith, to realize that people all across the world, at every Mass being celebrated by every Catholic, the lessons and rituals are the same.” ■

# After abortion, ‘healing, transformation’ is possible

## Rachel's Vineyard volunteer shares journey from hurt to healing



Rachel's Vineyard retreats in eastern Daviess County are held at St. Joseph Monastery, home to a community of cloistered Passionist nuns. WKC file photo.



### Attend the retreat

**When:** Jan. 12-14, 2018

**Where:** Eastern Daviess County area

To register or learn more,  
contact Debbie at  
[debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com](mailto:debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com)  
or Jennifer at (931) 242-5506 or  
[jennifer@hopeafterabortionky.com](mailto:jennifer@hopeafterabortionky.com).

All conversations are held  
in strict confidence.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

*Editor's note: Constance's last name has been withheld for privacy.*

A woman never “just ends up pregnant, and gets an abortion,” said Constance, who had an abortion after becoming pregnant as a teenager many years ago.

“There’s always a story behind that,” she said.

Today Constance volunteers with western Kentucky-area Rachel’s Vineyard – a Christ-centered retreat program that seeks to assist the healing pro-

cess for women and men who have been affected by abortion.

She lives a joy-filled life, and her Nov. 7, 2017 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic revealed a happy, smiling woman enthusiastic about her Catholic faith and ministry.

But several decades earlier, when she had the abortion as a 19-year-old, “I didn’t know what to do. It really just turned into self-condemnation.”

“And that self-condemnation and bitterness affected my relationships with people,” said Constance, adding that it particularly influenced how she related to men.

Constance had grown up in a large Catholic fam-

ily – “we went to church, did all our sacraments” – but her father was quick-tempered and physically abusive.

“My image of God the Father was tainted by my earthly father, who wasn’t loving, wasn’t understanding or compassionate, and was quick to anger and quick to hit,” she said. “Even though I felt like I could go to Christ and pray, when I found myself pregnant I thought, clearly I did something bad.”

Being raised in that type of atmosphere, “I always felt like I was a bad girl,” she said. “When I was pregnant I felt that I was a bad girl, and this is my punishment for doing something wrong.”

Her boyfriend urged her to have the abortion –

*Continues on page 8*

*Rachel's Vineyard continued from page 7*

“and with my mom being very spiritual, I thought she would kill me!” said Constance.

“So I was like, this is the easiest way out of this problem,” she said. “This is the easy fix.”

Constance said the day she decided to have the abortion, “is the day I lost my faith in God being able to answer my prayer.”

“I thought that if I was that bad girl, God wasn’t going to answer my prayer and solve my problem... ‘I’m going to forget God and solve this on my own,’” she said.

She said she still remembers being on the operating table for the abortion, and how painful it was.

“The nurse was holding my hand, and I just wanted to dig my fingernails into her hands,” said Constance. “I wanted to hurt her as I was physically being hurt.”

After the abortion she self-medicated with alcohol and drugs “to numb the pain,” and built a career, simultaneously lacking faith in God, and in herself.

“There were times that I asked God’s forgiveness, and felt like I had done that, because in my mid-20s I came back to going to church,” she said.

But she still did not feel as though “God could really forgive me.”

She got married at 35, and had some difficulty becoming pregnant before finally miscarrying.

“That’s when everything really came crashing down,” said Constance. “And I was back to that child, thinking ‘God’s punishing me with this miscarriage, a baby I wanted, because the other baby I threw away.’”

That is when she decided to go on a Rachel’s

Vineyard retreat.

During the retreat, which begins on Friday and concludes on Sunday, the retreat coordinators take certain scriptures and follow a narrative, “and we really place ourselves in that scripture,” she said.

Constance explained that through five different scripture readings, spread over the weekend, “like peeling away the layers of an onion, you get to that point where it’s like ‘God does forgive me. And I forgive myself.’”

She said she especially identified with one of the readings, in which Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well. The Samaritan woman became a witness to the Gospel after encountering Jesus, and Constance said she relates to this very strongly.

“She’s not perfect, but Christ chooses her to proclaim his message,” said Constance. “For me, I can take my sin, my abortion, and even while I still feel the sting of that sin, Christ can still use me.”

After experiencing Rachel’s Vineyard for herself, Constance decided to begin volunteering on the retreats to help others.

Constance said she has seen many “transformations” of the people who attend the retreat. This includes sad and angry people who are moved to joy and laughter, and people breaking down their own emotional walls to share their stories.

Constance said although Rachel’s Vineyard has a priest present and provides the opportunity to attend Mass, “the retreats are great for anyone with a Christian background.”

“It is Christ-centered,” she said. “I hope and pray more people will be open to participate.”

Constance said the retreat is open to everyone, and she has seen all ages. The retreats are strictly



## Learn More

[hopeafterabortionky.com](http://hopeafterabortionky.com)

[Facebook.com/HopeAfterAbortionKy](https://www.facebook.com/HopeAfterAbortionKy)

By mail, write to:

Rachel’s Vineyard of Bowling Green  
806 Shaker Museum Rd.  
Auburn, KY 42206

confidential, and a licensed therapist is present.

She said she knows the feeling of living in pain for so long, “and I know the healing and transformation is so amazing.”

“Carrying that self-condemnation and that burden silently inside – it stops so much of God’s light shining through us,” she said. “Just come. Come as you are, with all that’s going on.” ■



## Further Reading

For those who would like to learn more about healing from abortion, Constance recommended the book “Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion,” written by Dr. Theresa Burke, the founder of the international Rachel’s Vineyard program.



# Greece pilgrimage included visit to Europe's first baptism site

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Bishop William F. Medley has led many pilgrimages and visited many amazing locations, but what stood out to him during his recent pilgrimage to Greece was the site of the first baptism on the European continent.

Often referred to as the Baptistry of St. Lydia, this site, outside the Greek city of Kavala and beside the ruins of ancient Philippi, is where the biblical Lydia was baptized by St. Paul.

Acts 16:11-15 explains that Lydia, a “dealer in purple cloth” – a lucrative business at that time – converted to Christianity when St. Paul visited her city. Lydia’s entire household was also baptized, and St. Paul and companions were welcomed to stay with her family.

Bishop Medley, who celebrated Mass there, said it was incredibly moving “to think that Lydia was the first of many brought to the faith on the European continent.”

The bishop said the Oct. 25-Nov. 4 pilgrimage to Greece focused on “walking in the footsteps of St. Paul,” and took him and his 22 fellow American pilgrims to the numerous locations of St. Paul’s travels.

This included Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, Philippi, and Ephesus – known traditionally as Mary’s House, where popular devotion says Our Lady resided near the end of her life.

The bishop explained that some of the sites are so ancient that their actual historical accuracy may be



Bishop Medley stands at the location where the biblical Lydia was baptized by St. Paul. Photo courtesy of Kevin Kauffeld.

muddled, but that is not what matters.

“What made this ground holy is that pilgrims



An icon of Lydia is displayed at the site where St. Paul baptized her and her entire household in the early first century. Photo courtesy of Kevin Kauffeld.

have recalled the Gospel stories here, and their prayers have sanctified this ground,” he said. ■

## DECEMBER 2017 BULLETIN BOARD

■ **Bishop Barron Bible study at Blessed Mother**  
Blessed Mother Church will host a Bible Study from Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire, "David the King." This 7-week study is from Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018 through March 21, 2018, not in session for Ash Wednesday, and with additional dates for snow days or optional discussion included. There are two sessions that run concurrently each Wednesday at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. for your convenience. Details about the program can be found at <http://david.wordonfire.org>. Study guide books will cost \$24.95. Please let us know if you will be attending, and we will order the books. Make checks payable to Blessed Mother Church. Please register by contacting the office at 270-683-8444.

■ **Register for annual Black Catholic Congress**  
The Archdiocese of Louisville's fourth annual Archdiocesan Black Catholic Congress will take place on Dec. 9, 2017 at the Flaget Retreat Center in Louisville. This year's theme is "African American Catholics: Missionary Disciples." The day begins with registration at 8 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m., and features continental breakfast, lunch, workshops and more. Speakers are Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville and Fr. Maurice Nkemefuna Emelu of the Diocese of Orlu in Nigeria. \$35/adults and \$20/youth. To learn more or to register, contact F. Veronica Wilhite, director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro, at (270) 683-1545 or email [veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org](mailto:veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org).

■ **Spring Women's Retreat: Martha and Mary**  
Friday-Sunday, March 16-18, 2018 at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Led by Sr. Cheryl Clemons, OSU. Fee: \$180 (includes retreat, materials, meals, accommodations). \$130 for commuters (includes retreat, materials and meals). Take 10 percent off if paid in full by Feb. 16, 2018. Ursuline Sr. Cheryl Clemons brings her always popular women's retreat to the Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, discussing "Essential Questions: What Martha and Mary Can Teach Us." Stories about Mary and Martha of Bethany are found in both Luke's and John's Gospels. Most discussions of these two Gospel women focus on the frazzled worker Martha compared to her quiet, prayerful sister Mary. During this retreat, we will be invited to consider these stories

from a different approach: What life questions still relevant today do these two women evoke, and what answers might they suggest? During presentations that peel back the layers of the Gospel stories, times of quiet reflection, group sharing and the celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, retreatants will explore the links between Mary and Martha and their own lives. For more information and to register, contact Kathy McCarty, 270-229-0206, or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org).

■ **'A scout is reverent'**  
Our Religious Emblems Mass with Bishop Medley will be Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral. Now is the time to begin working on religious emblems for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Webelos and Cub Scouts. Please see [owensborodiocese.org/scouting](http://owensborodiocese.org/scouting) for more details.

■ **Mount St. Joseph Quilt Club**  
Sign up by Jan. 4, 2018, to get your name into the new Quilt of the Month Club drawings at Mount St. Joseph. The drawings take place on the first Friday of each month. You will still get nine chances to win a handmade quilt! Tickets are \$20. Only 2,000 tickets are available. Proceeds support the retired Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph in Maple Mount, Ky. To order your Quilt Club ticket(s), contact Maggie Matsko at 270-229-2009 or [maggie.matsko@maplemount.org](mailto:maggie.matsko@maplemount.org). For more information, visit [ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org). Click on Help the Sisters, then Quilt Club.

■ **Evening with an Ursuline Dinner/Presentation**  
Dec. 5: Sr. Mary Matthias Ward - The Mystery of Christmas  
Jan. 2 - Sr. Cheryl Clemons - New Year's Resolution and a Better Life  
Feb. 6: Sr. Pat Rhoten - Jesus the Bridegroom  
First Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The \$20 fee includes dinner in the Center dining room. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)

■ **Focus on Faith with 'Mary 101' Dec. 14**  
Thursday, Dec. 14. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.  
Led by Ursuline Sr. Ann McGrew. Fee: \$20 per class

(includes lunch). Attendees will discuss the book, "Mary 101, Tradition and Influence," by Mary Ann Zimmer. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org).

■ **December Alzheimer's education programs**  
*The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease:* Alzheimer's disease and related dementia's are not a normal part of aging. This program provides information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease & treatment. Registration required; Call 1.800.272.3900 or go to [communityresourcefinder.org](http://communityresourcefinder.org) to register. \$5 donation suggested, \$15 fee for professionals. Dec. 14, 10-11 a.m., Owensboro Health Park  
*Dementia Conversations:* This workshop will offer tips on how to have honest and caring conversations with family members. Registration required; Call 1.800.272.3900 or go to [communityresourcefinder.org](http://communityresourcefinder.org) to register. \$5 donation suggested. Designed for family caregivers; please no professionals. Dec. 14, 2017, 12-1 p.m., Owensboro Health Park.

■ **Confirmation Retreat Day for all parishes March 17**  
Saturday, March 17, 2018. 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Led by Sr. Michael Marie Friedman  
Fee: \$25 (includes lunch). Are you planning the sacrament of Confirmation this year? Plan your Confirmation retreat day at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Together with others, you will talk about prayer, your relationship with God and the sacrament of Confirmation. Explore values, trust, cooperation, prayer and service, and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. All parishes are invited. Please register by Feb. 17. Contact Kathy McCarty, 270-229-0206 or e-mail [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org).

**To have your events listed in our Bulletin Board, email information of no more than 200 words to [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org) by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

#### DECEMBER

- 1-3 Friendship Spinners
- 5 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Mystery of Christmas**
- 9 Advent Day of Prayer**
- 14 Advent Evening with Bishop Medley**
- 14 Focus on Faith Book Study (Mary 101)**
- 15-16 Living & Leading with Love

#### JANUARY

- 2 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: New Year's Resolution and a Better Life**
- 5-7 Yarn Spinners Retreat Weekend**
- 12-14 Retrouvaille Weekend
- 13 Diocese of Owensboro Deacons Meeting
- 20-26 St. Meinrad Retreat Week

#### FEBRUARY

- 3 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 3-4 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Jesus the Bridegroom**
- 9-11 Contemplative Weekend for Private Retreatants**
- 16 Last day for 10% discount for Spring Women's Retreat (March 16-18)**
- 17 Once More With Love
- 17 Registration deadline for Confirmation Retreat Day (March 17)**
- 23-25 Scrapbooking Memories

**Think of Mount Saint Joseph when  
booking YOUR next event!**

Center-sponsored programs are **BOLD**. Please call to register. Also call to schedule an event. **270-229-0206**  
**kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org**  
**ursulinesmsj.org**

*Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56*



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

*Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro*

### Advent Day of Prayer

Presented by  
Monsignor Bernard Powers



**Saturday,  
December 9**  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$25

(Lunch is included.)



*Prepare yourself for this  
holy time of waiting.*

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206  
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org  
ursulinesmsj.org



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

### An Advent Evening

Presented by  
Bishop William Medley



**Thursday,  
December 14**

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

\$20 (Dinner is included.)

*Spend an evening with our bishop to  
prepare for the coming of Christ.*

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206  
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org  
ursulinesmsj.org



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

## 2017 schedule of celebrations in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

#### St. Michael Parish, Sebree

Dec. 11: Procession and Last Novena at 10:30 p.m.; Mañanitas at 12 a.m.; Mass at 12:30 a.m.

#### St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green

Dec. 11: Mass at 8 p.m.  
Dec. 12: Mass at 9:30 a.m.

#### SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville

Novena: December 3-11  
Dec. 12: Mañanitas with Mariachis at 5 a.m.; English Mass at 8 a.m.; Bilingual Mass at 5:30 p.m.; Fiesta at 7 p.m. in Meredith Hall

#### Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville

Dec. 12: Mass at 6 p.m., followed by fiesta in the parish hall

Editor's note: This schedule is not exhaustive; these are the dates received by the WKC by the time we went to press. Many more parishes in the diocese will be celebrating this feast. We suggest that you contact your parish to learn if they will be holding a Guadalupe celebration this year.

## St. Thomas More's parish picnic grows into fall festival, moves to October



Fr. Brad Whistle, pastor of St. Thomas More, leads the blessing before the meal. Photo courtesy of St. Thomas More Parish.

BY J. PATRICK KERR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Every August, St. Thomas More has held their picnic for parishioners to enjoy. The picnic is free to all and is great time to get together with old friends and meet new ones.

The picnic has always been well attended and parishioners love it – with just one tiny complaint – it is always so hot! August in western Kentucky, as we all know, is not the most pleasant of times. The heat and humidity of late summer is miserable and exhausting.

This year, St. Thomas More made the decision to

move the picnic to mid-October and add a fall festival feel to the event. In addition to food and games for the children, the parish hosted a mini ministry fair highlighting local charitable organizations in need of volunteers as well as answering parishioner questions about ministry opportunities within the church.

The ministry fair tied in well to the parish's Stewardship Commitment Weekend, which is scheduled for the first of November.

St. Thomas More parishioners enjoyed barbecue, potato salad and all the fixins' at the fall parish picnic. The picnic was free and everyone was asked to bring a dessert, fruit or salad to share.

With the threat of rain, some of the planned fall festival activities, like the hayride and bonfire, had to be postponed. However, they will certainly be back next year as the fall seems to be a perfect time for the picnic. ■

*J. Patrick Kerr serves as communications director at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.*

## Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference provides formation, reunions

The Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference was held Nov. 5-7 at Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Cadiz. This year drew 88 people, which included catechists, directors of religious education, Catholic school principals and youth ministers, among many others. The theme was Catholic Leadership: Missionary Disciples. The speaker lineup was Fr. Thomas Petri, O.P.; Elizabeth Ficocelli; Pamela Bernard; Kevin Dowd and Jessica Knierim. The conference provided ministry-relevant topics such as sacramental preparation, connecting youth with the Eucharist, accompanying families in faith formation, and the emphasis on STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art, math) in Catholic schools. The conference served as a reunion for some participants. For example, Fr. Petri reconnected with participant Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU – his second-grade teacher from his days at Christ the King School in Madisonville. ■



Fr. Thomas Petri, OP, stands with his second-grade teacher, Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU. Photo courtesy of Sr. Rosanne Spalding.

## Four-year evangelization plan to start in Advent; to foster an 'encounter' with Jesus Christ

BY JOE BLAND, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for...” This quote is from one of the opening paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Man desires God but often misdirects his desires to the things of this world. That desire is good in and of itself. Why? Because that desire was placed in us by God and as St. Augustine says, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you O Lord.” So what is it that we seek in these desires? It is communion; it is Jesus Christ whom our brothers and sisters really seek when they are searching for happiness, when they are looking for beauty. It is Jesus that stirs the desire to do something more, to make a difference in the world. It is up to us to show them that what they are looking for can be found right here in the Catholic Church.

How do we do this? It is through evangelization, more precisely the New Evangelization. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once wrote, “To evangelize means... to teach the art of living.” This is our goal and mission. But, what is evangelization and more precisely what is the New Evangelization? There is nothing “new” about it, not in the content of the message of the Gospel, however it has a new ardor, methods and expression, as St. John Paul II said. It is the 2000-year-old message, the Kerygma, the proclamation of the Life, Passion, Death, Resurrection and

Ascension of Jesus Christ that saved us all from final death. This is the “Good News!” The Good News is that Jesus loves us and wants to be a daily part of our lives, he wants to be in relation with us, in communion with us and he wants us to share that loving relation with others, to introduce Him to others. His ultimate desire is to be in intimate union with us.

So for the next four years we will be hearing a lot about this. We will be hearing words used like missionary discipleship, encounter, accompany, Kerygma and many others. On Dec. 3, 2017, the First Sunday of Advent, the Diocese of Owensboro launches a new four-year plan for Evangelization in the Diocese of Owensboro. It is called “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Year 1 is a year of prayer called “Encounter.” Before we can evangelize others we must first let ourselves be evangelized and that starts with prayer, a personal encounter with the risen Christ. Each and every one of us is called to be a person of prayer and action, to strive to live in a deep intimacy with God, and from this deep intimacy to respond to the message of the Gospel – by loving our neighbor and spreading the Good News of God’s mercy and love. This is a year of hearing the call to prayer and calling others to prayer and back to the Table of the Lord.

- Year 2 will be called “Accompany” and will be more intensely focused on Evangelization and walking with others (accompanying them) on their journey.

- Year 3 will be called “Community” and will



focus on discipleship. Discipleship literally means to be a student, to sit at the feet of the Master which for Christians is Jesus Christ.

- And finally Year 4 is called “Send” and takes its marching orders from the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

Why are we doing this? First, because we are called to do it; as baptized and confirmed Catholics it is our mission. We must respond to the secularization and materialism that have pulled so many of our families away from the Church. And second, it is the answer to what ails our society. As Pope Francis states in “The Joy of the Gospel,” “society has found a thousand ways to multiply occasions of pleasure, yet has found it very difficult to engender joy.” He adds later, in reference to Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical “Deus caritas est” (God is love), “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with... a person which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” That Person is Jesus Christ. Come and see! ■

*Joe Bland is director of the Office of Evangelization in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit [owensborodiocese.org/evangelization](http://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization).*

## December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation!

The Catholic Church teaches that Our Lady was conceived without the stain of Original Sin on her soul, in order that she would be the perfect Mother of God. Friday, December 8 celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, when she was conceived without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on this day, due to its importance in the life of the Church.

**Contact your parish to  
learn their Mass schedule  
for this day.**



Diocese of  
**OWENSBORO**

## St. Denis honors three Vietnam veteran parishioners with special ceremony



Deacon James Morgan, Jack Riggs and Walter Wallace Wilson receive Certificates of Recognition and commemorative pins on Sept. 24 at St. Denis Parish. Photo courtesy of Sandra McGrath.

BY SANDRA MCGRATH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

While in office President Barack Obama signed a proclamation designating the Department of Defense honor all the living veterans who were in the service during the Vietnam Era, 1955-1975. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of these veterans, a special commemorative pin, shaped like an eagle, was designed. This pin along with a Certificate of Recognition were to be presented during a pinning ceremony.

The Department of Defense in collaboration with the Daughters of the American Revolution have been holding these ceremonies throughout the United States. There have been several presenta-

tions in Kentucky.

St. Denis Parish in Hickman County counts three of these men among their parishioners. In a short ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, Deacon James Morgan, Jack Riggs and Walter Wallace Wilson were presented Certificates of Recognition, one from the Department of Defense and one from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Paducah Chapter, along with the commemorative pin. We thank them for their service. ■

*Sandra McGrath belongs to St. Denis Parish in Hickman County.*

# Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En nuestros días, y quizás en cualquier época a través de la historia; con frecuencia queremos resumir tanto el pensamiento como la filosofía de distintos líderes en tan solo un pequeño lema o pocas palabras. De hecho, en nuestro tiempo, un tiempo en donde los medios masivos de comunicación parecieran dominar la atención de todos; el cómo se define a personas puede reducirse a cortos anuncios publicitarios de los medios y por eslóganes. Y sea para bien o para mal estos eslóganes pueden definir a una persona o movimiento.

El Papa Francisco y otros Papas recientes, también han sido catalogados de una u otra forma pudiendo eso ser algo bueno. Al tiempo en que nuestra Diócesis de Owensboro inaugura una iniciativa pastoral de cuatro años, tomaremos prestados, algunos conceptos ya muy bien establecidos por el Papa Francisco. En los eslóganes del Papa Francisco también escucharemos ecos de San Juan XXIII, el beato Papa Pablo VI, San Juan Pablo II y el Papa Benedicto.

Nuestra nueva iniciativa será Viviendo como Discípulos Misioneros y comenzará con el nuevo año litúrgico el 3 de diciembre, primer domingo de adviento. Nuestro enfoque este primer año será la oración. En el evangelio, a Jesús se le ve orando antes de importantes eventos o acciones dándonos así un ejemplo a seguir. El término “Discípulos Misioneros” lo tomamos prestado de los escritos y pensamiento del Papa Francisco. Sin embargo, la articulación de tales palabras en el siglo XXI es simplemente una nueva articulación del mandato evangélico de Jesucristo: “Vayan pues y hagan discípulos a todos los pueblos, bautícenlos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo enseñándoles a poner por obra todo lo que les he mandado. Y sepan que yo estoy con ustedes todos los días hasta el final de los tiempos”.

Por lo tanto, si nuestra misión es tan antigua como Jesús, ¿Qué podemos nosotros traer a la mesa que posiblemente fuese nuevo y refrescante? Tal renovación ha sido el trabajo del Concilio Vaticano II y de todos nuestros pasados Papas a través de los últimos 50 años. Nuestro mundo no es el mundo de Galilea del primer siglo. O bien el quinto siglo en Europa o el “nuevo mundo” del siglo dieciséis. El mundo nuestro es muy distinto del tiempo de un siglo de dos guerras mundiales. En cada etapa de la historia, la Iglesia ha tenido que escuchar de manera renovada al mandato de Jesús y descubrir cómo ser fieles a su llamado.

Otra frase que el Papa Francisco ha popularizado es el llamado de la Iglesia Católi-

## EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA DICIEMBRE DEL 2017:

<b>DICIEMBRE 3</b>	8:30 a.m. ● Confirmación – Santa María, LaCenter 2:00 p.m. ● Hora Santa – Catedral
<b>DICIEMBRE 6</b>	10:00 a.m. ● Día del Discipulado con Sacerdotes y Líderes Parroquiales
<b>DICIEMBRE 8</b>	9:00 a.m. ● Misa Escolar– OCES Campus del 4-6, Owensboro 1:30 p.m. ● Profesión Religiosa – Monjas Pasionistas, Whitesville
<b>DICIEMBRE 9</b>	4:00 p.m. ● Dedicación de la Iglesia de San Francisco de Asís, Elkton
<b>DICIEMBRE 12</b>	7:00 p.m. ● Confirmación – San Francisco de Asís, Elkton
<b>DICIEMBRE 14</b>	5:00 p.m. ● Presentación del Adviento, Monte San José
<b>DICIEMBRE 15</b>	Instalación del Obispo José Siegel, Diócesis de Evansville 7:30 p.m. ● Conversaciones con los Estudiantes de L3 de Brescia – Monte San José
<b>DICIEMBRE 20</b>	11:30 a.m. ● Almuerzo con los Seminaristas Diocesanos
<b>DICIEMBRE 22</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Misa con el Personal Diocesano y Almuerzo de Navidad



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ca a estar enfocado en misión y no solo mantenimiento. Al visitar a las 78 parroquias de nuestra diócesis, encuentro hermosos lugares de culto, algunas de gran arquitectura, otros edificios sencillos y funcionales. Todas tienen un altar, un ambón (púlpito) y pila bautismal. Todas están muy limpias y bien mantenidas, reflejando el orgullo que tenemos en nuestras iglesias.

El Papa Francisco llama a la iglesia a moverse de ser iglesia de mantenimiento a Iglesia de Misión. Ciertamente como buenos corresponsables queremos siempre reparar, pintar y preservar nuestros templos. Sin embargo, incluso más, es que queremos extender la Misión del Evangelio entre aquellos que aún no lo han escuchado, o a quienes quizás han escuchado un mensaje devaluado por la vida y la cultura.

El reto nuestro de este siglo XXI no es tan distinto a otras épocas. El mandato de Jesús no ha cambiado, pero el cómo lograr ese mandato siempre está cambi-

ando. El Papa Francisco escribe: “Espero que todas las comunidades procuren poner los medios necesarios para avanzar en el camino de una conversión pastoral y misionera, que no puede dejar las cosas como están. Ya no nos sirve una <<simple administración>>. Constituyámonos en todas las regiones de la tierra en un «estado permanente de misión” (Evangelii Gaudium 25)

¿Dónde Comenzamos?

Oremos. ■



Obispo William F. Medley  
Diócesis de Owensboro

**El Obispo William F. Medley Anima  
a todas las 78 parroquias en la diócesis  
a participar en una**

*Hora Santa de Adviento*  
**3 DE DICIEMBRE, 2017  
2:00-3:00 PM**



Diocese of  
OWENSBORO



## La peregrinación del Obispo a Grecia incluyó una visita al primer sitio de bautizo de Europa



El Obispo Medley se para en el lugar donde Lidia de la Biblia fue bautizada por San Pablo. Foto por cortesía de Kevin Kauffeld.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El Obispo William F. Medley ha guiado a muchas peregrinaciones y ha visitado a muchos lugares increíbles, pero lo que ha resaltado durante su peregrinación reciente a Grecia fue el sitio del primer bautizo en el continente europeo.

El sitio, que muchas veces se le llaman el Bapisterio de Santa Lidia, afuera del pueblo griego de Kavala y al lado de las ruinas de la ciudad antigua de Filipos, es donde Lidia de la Biblia fue bautizada por San Pablo.

En Hechos de los Apóstoles 16:11-15 explica que Lidia, “una negociante en púrpura” – un negocio lucrativo en ese entonces – se convirtió al cristianismo cuando San Pablo visitó a su ciudad. Todos de la casa de Lidia fueron bautizados, y abrieron sus puertas de su casa a San Pablo y sus compañeros.

El Obispo Medley, quien celebró la Misa allí, dijo que fue sumamente conmovedor “pensar que Lidia fue la primera de muchos que trajeron la fe al continente europeo.”

El obispo dijo que la peregrinación del 25 de octubre al 4 de noviembre a Grecia se enfocó en “caminar los pasos de San Pablo,” y los llevó a él y sus 22 compañeros peregrinos estadounidenses a varios puntos de los viajes de San Pablo.

Incluyeron a Atenas, Corinto, Tesalónica, Filipo, y Éfeso – tradicionalmente conocido como la Casa de María donde la devoción popular mantiene que Nuestra Señora vivió al final de su vida.

El obispo explicó que algunos de los sitios fueron tan antiguos que su exactitud histórica no es tan precisa, pero eso no es lo importante.

“Lo que hace esta tierra santa es que peregrinos han recordado historias del Evangelio aquí y que sus oraciones han santificado esta tierra,” comentó. ■

## El 8 de diciembre es un Día de Obligación

La Iglesia Católica enseña que Nuestra Señora fue concebida sin la mancha del Pecado Original en su alma, para que sea la perfecta Madre de Dios. El viernes, 8 de diciembre celebra la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de María, cuando fue concebida sin pecado en el vientre de su madre, Santa Ana. Los católicos son obligados asistir Misa ese día debido a su importancia en la vida de la Iglesia.

**Contacta a su parroquia para preguntar su horario de Misa ese día.**



Diocese of  
OWENSBORO

## Filipenses 4:13 recuerda al seminarista ‘siempre confiar en Cristo’



Stephen Van Lal Than juega básquetbol con su compañero seminarista Flynn Mudd en el Campamento Hechos para Más del 2017, un campamento de discernimiento para jóvenes varones en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper en Bowling Green. Foto por cortesía de Corey Bruns.

POR STEPHEN VAN LAL THAN, ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

¡Hola! Mi nombre es Stephen Van Lal Than (Steve Lalte), y soy un seminarista de 24 años en mi segundo año de teología para la Diócesis de Owensboro, estudiando en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad en Indiana. Soy originario de Myanmar (también conocido como Birmania). Vine a los EEUU el 20 de enero del 2017. Mi parroquia hogar es Espíritu Santo en Bowling Green y mi párroco es el P. Juan M. Thomas.

He sido un seminarista por nueve años. Terminé la preparatoria en Falam, Estado de Chin, Myanmar. Estudié filosofía por tres años y recibí mi título de la Universidad de Kalay, Myanmar. Antes de venir a los Estados Unidos, tuve tres años de estudio en el Seminario Menor de la Asunción, Kalay; dos años más de filosofía en el Seminario Mayor Católico de San José, Pyin Oo Lwin; y un año de la espiritualidad en el Seminario Mayor de San Miguel, Taung-

gyi; y dos años de teología en el Seminario Mayor de San José, Yangon.

Soy ahora el hijo mayor de seis hijos de Timothy Hram Nei Sum y Agnes Ngun Cer Thluai. Tengo dos hermanos menores y dos hermanas menores. Mi hermana mayor murió cuando yo era un niño pequeño. Llegar a los EEUU para estudiar para el sacerdocio fue una de las decisiones más difíciles que he hecho jamás. Siendo el hijo mayor, siguiendo las tradiciones de mi cultura, soy el segundo padre y soy responsable por el bien estar de mi familia. Sin embargo, mis padres me han apoyado mucho a través de mi vida en el seminario, y me permitieron seguir con lo que había decidido.

La razón que estoy discerniendo el sacerdocio es que el sacerdocio es la mejor forma para mi amar y servir a Dios y su gente. Es también uno de mis sueños desde niñez. Después de terminar mis años de formación y discernimiento, he visto que el sacerdocio es a lo que me está llamando el Señor. Trabajando con personas de todo tipo de vida, he disfrutado la vida de servicio a los demás. Solamente en el sacerdocio está lo mejor de mí.

Mi santo favorito es San Pablo. Me gusta mucho porque no se avergonzó de sus debilidades y fracasos. En cambio, confió en Dios y encontró que Dios estaba trabajando en ellos. Como un hombre llamado al servicio de los demás y la misión de Dios, estoy realmente inspirado por San Pablo. Lo que también me encanta de San Pablo es que tenía un ardor incansable por la misión.

Mi versículo favorito de la Escritura es Filipenses 4:13 lo cual dice, “Todo lo puedo en Cristo que

*Continúa en página 19*



Stephen Van Lal Than (centro) habla con su compañero seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling (izquierda) y el Padre John Vaughan (derecha) en VOCARE, una cena anual para apoyar vocaciones diocesanas, el 22 de septiembre del 2017. Foto de los archivos de WKC.

*Continuado de la página 18*

me da la fuerza.” Este pasaje de la Escritura es muy significativo para mí en cada momento de mi vida. Me recuerda de mis propias debilidades, pero me asegura del poder de Dios que está trabajando en mi vida. También me recuerda siempre confiar en Cristo en vez de mis habilidades limitadas, especialmente cuando trabajo por él.

Antes de venir aquí, yo pensé que la comida sería un reto. Pero me encanta la comida americana. No soy muy especial para comer, solamente que no como la comida picante por cuestiones de salud. Me

gusta la comida asiática (como arroz y pollo y pescado). Mis padres me enseñaron nunca quejarme de la comida. Después de ver y vivir con personas que tienen menos que yo, estoy agradecido a Dios que tengo lo suficiente para comer.

Mis pasatiempos favoritos incluyen leer, tocar instrumentos musicales (piano, guitarra, teclado, órgano y el bajo), cantar, escribir canciones y escuchar música. También me gusta jugar fútbol, vóley, pelote de caña, ping-pong y basquetbol.

La parte más gratificante de la vida del seminarista es la fraternidad entre todos, la paz inmensa y la alegría que he encontrado, no solamente en mi vida

social pero más importante en mi vida espiritual. He sido bendecido con el apoyo increíble del personal de formación en San Meinrad y de la diócesis durante este tiempo de transición.

La parte más desafiante de la vida del seminarista es la cantidad de tarea, lo cual puede ser muy pesada a veces, o poder encontrar una vida balanceada y sana. A veces el lenguaje también puede ser un reto para un estudiante internacional. Sin embargo, los retos no se comparan con las recompensas.

Estoy feliz de ser un seminarista. Creo que seré un sacerdote, sirviendo a Dios y a su gente. Gracias por su apoyo y oraciones. Lo mejor que podemos hacer es rezar uno por el otro. Por favor manténganos en sus oraciones igual como nosotros. ¡Que Dios los bendiga! ■

## Conozca a los seminaristas

En los próximos meses el WKC va a presentar cada uno de los seminaristas de la Diócesis de Owensboro en la sección de vocaciones del periódico. Aquí es un resumen:

**Corey Bruns**

Su parroquia: Santa Ana, Morganfield

**Chris Kight**

Su parroquia: Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

**Stephen Van Lal Than**

Su parroquia: Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green

**Christopher Grief**

Su parroquia: San Juan Evangelista, Paducah

**Martin Ma Na Ling**

Su parroquia: Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green

**Martin Mikulcik**

Su parroquia: San Enrique, Aurora

**Doug Payne**

Su parroquia: Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

**Flynn Mudd**

Su parroquia: Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah



Eugenia Wylie y la Hna. Aida Badillo enseñan clases de catecismo para niños en la Parroquia Santa Trinidad en Morgantown. Foto por cortesía de Eugenia Wylie.

## Santa Trinidad en Morgantown lleva la fe, entusiasmo a las clases de catecismo

POR EUGENIA WYLIE, ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El otoño trae el comienzo de la escuela y el comienzo de las clases de catecismo para niños en la Parroquia Santa Trinidad. Aunque somos una parroquia pequeña acurrucada en Morgantown, KY, estamos creciendo y hemos tenido la bendición de muchos niños hispanos. Nos ha dado la oportunidad de tener cuatro clases de catecismo este año con las edades de siete a 18 años. Nuestros niños, quienes se están preparando para recibir los sacramentos, están llenos de entusiasmo para aprender y socializar cada dos sábados por la mañana. Juntos con la Hna. Aida Badillo, tenemos a seis maestros increíbles quienes están emocionados trabajar con los niños de la Parroquia Santa Trinidad. Estamos felices por tener esta oportunidad de ayudarles crecer en su fe católica. Ellos también son una gran bendición a cada uno de nosotros. ■

*Eugenia Wylie asiste a la Parroquia Santa Trinidad en Morgantown.*



**¿Le interesa el sacerdocio o la vida religiosa?**

Póngase en contacto con la Oficina de Vocaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro a [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org) o llamando (270) 683-1545 (oficina) o (270) 875-2868 (celular del P. Jason).

Aprenda más en [owensborodiocese.org/vocations](http://owensborodiocese.org/vocations)



## V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS  
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

**¡El proceso del V Encuentro ha empezado en la Diócesis de Owensboro!**

El quinto proceso de Encuentro en los Estados Unidos invita a los líderes diocesanos y parroquiales a tener un encuentro con los católicos hispanos, especialmente con los que viven en las periferias. La meta del V Encuentro es discernir maneras en que la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos pueda responder, servir e involucrar mejor a los hispanos como discípulos misioneros. Póngase en contacto con su parroquia para aprender cómo el proceso del V Encuentro se está implementando al nivel local y visita [vencuentro.org](http://vencuentro.org) para aprender más sobre el proceso al nivel nacional.

# El plan de evangelización de cuatro años empieza en Adviento; para promover un encuentro con Jesucristo

POR JOE BLAND, ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

“El deseo de Dios está inscrito en el corazón del hombre, porque el hombre ha sido creado por Dios y para Dios; y Dios no cesa de atraer al hombre hacia sí, y sólo en Dios encontrará el hombre la verdad y la dicha que no cesa de buscar...” Esta cita viene de uno de los primeros párrafos del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica. El hombre desea Dios, pero muchas veces dirige erróneamente sus deseos en las cosas de este mundo. Este deseo es bueno por sí solo. ¿Por qué? Porque este deseo fue colocado por Dios y como dice San Agustín: “Nuestros corazones están inquietos hasta que descansen en ti.” ¿Entonces qué es lo que buscamos en estos deseos? Es la comunión; es Jesucristo quien nuestros hermanos y hermanas buscan cuando buscan la felicidad, cuando buscan la belleza. Es Jesús quien mueve el corazón para hacer algo más, hacer una diferencia en el mundo. Es el deber de cada uno de nosotros mostrarlos que lo que buscan se puede encontrar aquí en la Iglesia Católica.

¿Cómo lo hacemos? Es a través de la Evangelización, más precisamente la Nueva Evangelización. El Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI escribió, “Evangelizar significa...enseñar el arte de vivir.” Esta es nuestra meta y misión. ¿Pero, qué es la Evangelización y más precisamente qué es la Nueva Evangelización? No hay nada “nuevo” de eso, no en el contenido del mensaje del Evangelio, sin embargo, tiene nuevo ardor, métodos y expresión, como lo dijo San Juan Pablo II. Es el mismo mensaje de hace 2,000 años,

el Kerigma, la proclamación de la Vida, Pasión, Muerte, Resurrección y Ascensión de Jesucristo que nos salvó de la muerte final. ¡Esta es la “Buena Nueva”! La Buena Nueva es que Jesús nos ama y quiere ser una parte de nuestra vida diaria, quiere tener una relación con nosotros, estar en comunión con nosotros y quiere que compartamos esta relación amorosa con otros, presentarle a otros. Su último deseo es estar en unión íntima con cada uno de nosotros.

Entonces durante los próximos cuatro años van a escuchar mucho sobre esto. Van a escuchar palabras como discípulo misionero, encuentro, acompañamiento, kerigma y muchas más. Empezando el 3 de diciembre del 2017, el Primer Domingo de Adviento, estamos lanzando un nuevo plan de cuatro años de la Evangelización en la Diócesis de Owensboro. El nombre del plan es “Viviendo como Discípulos Misioneros.” El 1er Año es un año de la oración llamado “Encuentro.” Antes de evangelizar a otros debemos primeramente dejarnos ser evangelizados y eso empieza con la oración, el encuentro personal con el Cristo resucitado. Cada uno de nosotros está llamado ser una persona de oración y acción, de esforzarnos para vivir una intimidad profunda con Dios, y desde esta intimidad responder al mensaje del Evangelio – amando nuestro prójimo y difundiendo la Buena Nueva de la misericordia y amor de Dios. Este es un año de escuchar el llamado a la oración y llamar a otros a la oración y de regresar a la Mesa del Señor.

- El 2do año será llamado “Acompañar” y se enfocará más intensamente en la Evangelización y caminar con otros (acompañarles) en su jornada

- El 3er año será llamado “Comunidad” y se enfocará en el discipulado. El Discipulado significa literalmente ser un estudiante, sentarse a los pies del Maestro, que para los cristianos es Jesucristo.

- Y finalmente el 4to año será llamado “Enviar” y viene del Evangelio de Mateo 28:19-20: “Vayan pues y hagan discípulos a todos los pueblos...”

¿Ahora por qué estamos haciendo eso? Primeramente, porque estamos llamados a esto, como católicos bautizados y confirmados es nuestra misión. Primero debemos responder a la secularización y materialismo que ha alejado de la Iglesia a tantas de nuestras familias. Y segundo, es la respuesta a las enfermedades de nuestra sociedad. Como dice el Papa Francisco en “La Alegría del Evangelio,” “la sociedad tecnológica ha logrado multiplicar las ocasiones de placer, pero encuentra muy difícil engendrar la alegría.” Después añade, refiriéndose al encíclico “Deus caritas est” (Dios es Amor) del Papa Benedicto XVI, “No se comienza a ser cristiano por una decisión ética o una gran idea, sino por el encuentro con...una Persona, que da un nuevo horizonte a la vida y, con ello, una orientación decisiva.” Esta Persona es Jesucristo. ¡Vengan y Verán! ■

*Joe Bland es el director de la Oficina de Evangelización en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Para aprender más, visita [owensborodiocese.org/evangelization](http://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization).*

## Parroquias con Misas en Español

### Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam Sábados – 5:00 p.m.

13th & Madison Streets, Beaver Dam, KY 42320  
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (270) 903-8070

### Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green Jueves – 6:30 p.m. Sábados – 7:00 p.m. Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes (270) 777-5925

### Parroquia de San José, Central City Cada Primer Domingo del Mes - 8:00 a.m.

113 South 3rd Street, Central City, KY 42330  
Contacto: Padre Josh McCarty (270) 754-1164

### Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Elkton Domingos – 12:00 p.m.

221 Allensville Street, Elkton, KY 42220  
Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (302) 438-7335

### Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin Domingos – 1:30 p.m.

403 North Main Street, Franklin, KY 42134  
Contacto: Padre Daniel Dillard (270) 586-4515

### Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420  
Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172

### Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville Domingos – 2:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m. Jueves – 5:30 p.m.

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240  
Contacto: Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 885-8522 o Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

### Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville Domingos – 6:00 p.m.

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431  
Contacto: Padre Juan Vaughan (270) 821-5494

### Parroquia de San José, Mayfield Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066  
Contacto: Hermana Eloisa Torralba (270) 356-0339

### Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown Domingos – 9:15 a.m.

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261  
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (270) 526-3723

### Parroquia de San Leo, Murray Sábados – 5:30 p.m.

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071  
Contacto: Hermana Esperanza Rivera (270) 753-3876

### Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 8:00 p.m.

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303  
Contacto: Padre Julio Barrera (270) 683-5641

### Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001  
Contacto: Hermana Celia Sanchez (423) 883-5757

### Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville Domingos – 2:00 p.m.

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276  
Contacto: Padre Ken Mikulcik (270) 726-6963

### Parroquia Cristo Rey, Scottsville Cada Primer Martes de Mes – 7:00 p.m.

298 Bluegrass Drive, Scottsville, KY 42164  
Contacto: Padre Daniel Dillard (270) 586-4515

### Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree Miércoles – 12:00 p.m. Jueves – 12:00 p.m. Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 7:30 p.m.

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455  
Contacto: Patti Gutiérrez (270) 302-2782 o Padre Carmelo Jiménez (270) 881-7737

## Horarios de las Celebraciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe 2017

### San Miguel en Sebree, KY

- 3-11 de Diciembre: Novena
- 11 de Diciembre: Novena final y procession a las 10:30 p.m.
- 12 de Diciembre: Mañanitas a las 12 a.m., Misa Solemne a las 12:30 a.m.

### San José en Bowling Green, KY

- 11 de Diciembre: Misa Solemne a las 8 p.m.
- 12 de Diciembre: Misa Solemne a las 9 a.m.

### San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, KY

- 3-11 de Diciembre: Novena
- 12 de Diciembre: Mañanitas a las 5 a.m. con Mariachi, Misa Solemne en ingles a las 8 a.m., Misa Solemne bilingüe a las 5:30 p.m., seguida de una fiesta comunitaria en el Meredith Hall

### Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en Russellville, KY

- 12 de Diciembre: Misa Solemne a las 6 p.m., seguido de una fiesta comunitaria en salón parroquial

NOTA: Todas las parroquias tienen horarios extensivos de más actividades y celebraciones en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, incluyendo sus novenas empezando el 3 de diciembre. Para más información por favor póngase en contacto con la parroquia.

### Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos 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; 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 (owensborodiocese.org/safe). La seguridad de nuestros niños es la responsabilidad de cada Cristiano.

# Tri Mission reflection: 'Everyone has much to offer'

*Note: Fr. John Judie, presenter at an Oct. 23-25 Tri Mission in Owensboro, focused on youth, family, and discipleship – three primary areas that make a vital difference in church attendance and growth. Using both word and music, Fr. Judie reached a large audience from many churches. Encouraging strong lay involvement at each hosting parish – St. Stephen Cathedral, Blessed Mother, and SS. Joseph and Paul – allowed varied lay roles, including offering a Reflection, focusing on the evening's theme and Scripture Reading. The following Reflection is a condensed version offered on "Family" night at Blessed Mother.*

BY JUDY COOMES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I may be the only one who faithfully “celebrates” October 23, 2005. A Sunday morning, with my rosary in hand, I began my morning walk. Anything else that I share is what others told me... because a car struck me from behind, knocked me to the other side of the street, and left my body lying against a mailbox.

Lacerations, a broken leg, a concussion, five months of rehab... recovery was difficult. Kept from a job I loved, I became dependent on others. Fear covered my face when I left the hospital, and a nurse whispered, “You are so fortunate. You don’t have to live with the guilt.” Emotions abounded, but I know that if I am at war with myself, I bring little peace to others. Through my experience, my eyes were opened to how large my family is, including my church, school, neighborhood, and community.

I never regretted my career choice, but teaching showed me that not all children are raised in a loving environment. When I said, “Talk to your parents during dinner tonight about your homework,” a student might say, “Parents? I don’t even know who my dad is” or “We never eat together.” My beautiful seventh-grade student stopped turning in her homework because she was busy, “getting ready for company.” Sadly, she was “expecting” a baby. I tried to be a role model, but it’s hard to undo in eight hours what

occurs in the other 16.

This summer I lost two of my strongest anchors: my wonderful godmother, Dorothy Fulkerson, and my precious dad, Sam Fulkerson. When I lamented life’s hardships, I was always told, “You’re paving your way to heaven. No crosses in life, no crown in heaven.”

Yesterday, I went to my dad’s grave, sat beside him, cried, and prayed the Rosary made from the roses on his casket. On his headstone are the words, “Precious Lord, take my hand,” and I could feel his hand reaching for mine. Dad’s Alzheimer’s made it difficult for our family, but “Honor Thy Father and Mother” is a lifelong Commandment.

We should begin each day thinking how to please the Lord. God calls us to be good stewards of our time and talents, so how can we better others’ lives, including our families’. Churches have too many needs for overworked priests to assume all the responsibilities, which is why stewardship and commitment are vital. Jesus died with open arms, still filled with love for His people. Jesus works through us as we are His hands and feet, and no stronger teacher exists than example!

Everyone has much to offer if we take time and patience to listen. Dad forgot a lot with Alzheimer’s, but he never forgot the Our Father. Asked to of-

fer the Blessing before Meals, Dad prayed what he could remember – the Our Father. Though my father could not call his own sons’ names, he never forgot the Lord’s Prayer. This reminds us where our strength lies, and God is a Father who never abandons His children. ■

*Judy Coomes belongs to Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro.*

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# Holy Trinity in Morgantown brings faith, enthusiasm to CCD classes

BY EUGENIA WYLIE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fall brings the beginning of school and the beginning of CCD, (also known as religious education), classes at Holy Trinity Parish. Even though we are a small parish nestled in Morgantown we are growing and have been blessed with so many Hispanic children. This allows us to have four CCD classes this year with ages from seven to 18 years old. Our children, who are working toward the sacraments, are filled with enthusiasm for learning and socializing every Saturday morning. Along with Sr. Aida Badillo, we have six wonderful teachers who are excited

to work with the children. We are happy to be given the opportunity to help them grow in their Catholic faith. They are also a great blessing to each one of us.

The acronym CCD stands for Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and was originally a Vatican association established in 1562 to assist in religious instruction. Today, the term is sometimes used to refer to parish religious education for children attending secular schools. ■

*Eugenia Wylie belongs to Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown.*



Eugenia Wylie and Sr. Aida Badillo teach CCD class at Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown. Photo courtesy of Eugenia Wylie.

Bishop William F. Medley invites  
all 78 parishes in the diocese  
to participate in an

*Advent Holy Hour*  
DECEMBER 3, 2017  
2-3 PM



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# Hope in a time of despair

BY FR. LARRY HOSTETTER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

After returning from a 10-day overseas trip I noticed that, while I was gone, the fall-colored trees had lost most of their leaves and the countryside had begun the turn to the greyish brown of winter. For many this time of the year can feel gloomy and melancholy especially on cold and rainy days. Winter is coming as they say on a popular television show, shorter days along with colder weather make this time of the year difficult. Despite this difficulty we typically don't fall into despair because we know that winter will not last and the new life of spring and summer are just around the corner. That knowledge and consolation of the coming spring are based on the knowledge provided us by science, specifically of the earth's rotation around the sun. In a non-technical sense this is a type of hope because even though we don't yet see spring we can be certain that it will happen based on knowledge and experience. Imagine if we didn't have that knowledge. Every fall and

winter would be filled with anxiety about the future. We would wonder if warmth and light would ever return.

Can this tell us anything about the hope we are called to have in God? Hope, along with Faith and Love, is one of the theological virtues. This hope, as a gift from God, is an attitude of anticipation and expectation that God is always faithful to his promises. It provides us with the courage to know that no matter how bad things might be, God's goodness will always triumph in the end. Just as scientific knowledge provides the evidence that we can expect warmer weather after a cold winter, so faith (as a valid form of human knowledge) provides fuel to our hope in God's goodness, love and mercy.

The Book of Hebrews references the importance of faith to hope: "Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen" (11:1 The Je-

rusalem Bible). In other words, faith gives meaning and context to our hope. Without faith we would have no reason to hope in the providence God's goodness and love. We hope because our faith confirms what we read in Sacred Scripture that God loves us like a mother who comforts her child and like a father who knows us so intimately that every hair of our head is counted (Isaiah 66:13; Luke 12:7). How can we not hope if we "know" with the knowledge of faith that God's love even exceeds that of the most loving parent?

If hope is then powered by faith, it is our faith that we need to strengthen when our hope flags. When we are experiencing difficulty or we are worried about the world around us; when things seem out of control and hope is elusive, that may be a good time to renew our faith. We can do so by spending time with Jesus in prayer, reading sacred scripture or simply reciting the words of the creed. When it all becomes too much turn to what is at the core of our being as Christians—our faith and with faith we can hope in all things. ■

*Fr. Larry Hostetter is president of Brescia University in Owensboro.*

# Fr. Clark: 'Advent is a time to let God transform the desert in our lives'

BY FR. RAY CLARK, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I am part of an international group that is taking a sabbatical in the Holy Land. This week we are touring the southern desert of Israel, the Negev. I would like to share with you this experience of the desert and what the desert means for the people of Israel

and what it can mean for us as Catholics.

The story of Israel begins in the desert. God called Abraham to leave his homeland, to wander through the desert and to settle there. God spoke to Abraham by means of the desert: God promised



Fr. Ray Clark visits the Negev during his sabbatical in the Holy Land. Photo courtesy of Fr. Ray Clark.

*Continues on page 26*



Pictured is Ein Avda in the Negev (southern desert of Israel). Photo courtesy of Br. Ciriaco Santiago, CSsR.

*Holy Land continued from page 25*

him that he would be the father of a people as plentiful as the dust of the desert and as innumerable as the stars in the desert night.

God brought the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt under the hand of Moses and entered into a covenant with them in the desert. God used the desert to teach them to rely on Him for all their needs.

Through the prophet Hosea, God said of Israel: “I will allure her and bring her into the wilderness.” The desert captivates a person with its grand vistas and its mountains, etched with lines that mark millions of years of erosion.

There is also the physical reality of the desert. The Negev forms 60 percent of the country of Israel.

Israel faces a two-fold challenge: to transform desert into arable, productive land and at the same time, to preserve the beauty of the desert.

The life of David Ben-Gurion, the founding father of the country of Israel, embodies this two-fold challenge. Ben-Gurion recognized the potential of the desert as a home for millions of Jews seeking to come to Israel. His signature phrase was: “The desert will blossom.”

Towards the end of his term as the first prime minister of Israel, he was driving on the desert road back to his home in Tel-Aviv. On the drive he saw a group of young people laboring in the desert. He stopped the car, walked out to them and inquired what they were doing. They responded that his vision of the desert had inspired them to begin a

community farm, or kibbutz, in the desert. Their response touched him so that when his term as prime minister ended, he asked to join them. He and his wife lived in a small home there. Each day he and his wife walked to a spot nearby that overlooks a mountain vista of incredible beauty. They are buried there. The desert transformed David Ben-Gurion.

Ben-Gurion’s vision that the desert shall blossom is becoming a reality. Israel leads the world in technologies that make desert lands productive. A university that bears his name is located in the desert and spearheads research to make the desert arable.

It is probable that Ben-Gurion adopted the phrase that the desert shall blossom from Isaiah the prophet, chapter 35. The Catholic Church uses Isaiah 35 as the first reading of the Mass on the second Monday of Advent. The reading begins: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom... it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing...”

However, Isaiah 35 goes beyond the transformation of the geographical desert. It envisions a transformation of the human person as well. “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God... will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy...”

Isaiah 35 and the entire Advent season invite us to allow God to transform the desert in our lives. Just as a few drops of water can transform the desert to blossom and grow crops, so the grace of God can transform our hearts and our lives to bear fruit. ■

*Fr. Ray Clark, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, writes from the Holy Land, where he is on sabbatical.*

# Philippians 4:13 reminds seminarian ‘always rely on Christ’

## *Stephen Van Lal Than shares his story of vocational discernment*



Stephen Van Lal Than (center) speaks with fellow seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling (left) and Fr. John Vaughan (right) at VOCARE, an annual diocesan vocations gala, on Sept. 22, 2017. WKC file photo.

BY STEPHEN VAN LAL THAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Hello! My name is Stephen Van Lal Than (Steve Lalte), and I am a 24-year old Second-Theology seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro, studying at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana. I am originally from Myanmar (also known as Burma). I came to the USA on January 20, 2017. My home parish is Holy Spirit in Bowling Green and my

pastor is Fr. John M. Thomas.

I have been a seminarian for nine years. I finished high school in Falam, Chin State, Myanmar. I specialized in philosophy for three years and got a degree from Kalay University, Myanmar. Before I came to the States, I had three years of study at Assumption Minor Seminary, Kalay; two more years of

philosophy at St. Joseph Catholic Major Seminary, Pyin Oo Lwin; one year of spirituality at St. Michael Major Seminary, Taunggyi; and two years of theology at St. Joseph Catholic Major Seminary, Yangon.

I am the oldest surviving child of six, born to Timothy Hram Nei Sum and Agnes Ngun Cer Thlu-ai. I have two younger brothers and two younger sisters. My older sister died when I was a small child. Coming to the USA to study for the priesthood is one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. Being the oldest son, according to my culture, I am second to the father and I am responsible for the welfare of my family. However, my parents have been super supportive of me throughout my seminary life, and let me stick with my decision.

The reason why I am discerning the priesthood is that priesthood is the best way for me to love and serve God and his people. It is also one of my childhood dreams. After having gone through years of formation and discernment, I have seen that priesthood is what the Lord is calling me to. Working with people of all different walks of life, I enjoyed the life of service to others. Only in this priesthood is the best of me.

My favorite saint is St. Paul. I really like him because he was not ashamed of his weaknesses and failures. Rather, he trusted and found God working in them. As a man called to the service of others and God's mission, I am really inspired by St. Paul. What I also love about St. Paul is that he had an undying zeal for the mission.

My favorite scripture verse is Philippians 4:13

*Continues on page 28*



Stephen Van Lal Than plays basketball with fellow seminarian Flynn Mudd at the 2017 Made for More Camp, a discernment camp for high school men at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green. Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

*Stephen Van Lal Than continued from page 27*

which reads, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” This scriptural passage means so much to me in every moment of my life. It reminds me of my own weakness but assures me of God’s power working in my life. It is also a reminder to always rely on Christ rather than my own limited abilities, especially when I work for him.

Before I came here, I thought that food would be a challenge. But I love American food. I am not a picky eater, except that I do not eat spicy food for health reasons. I like Asian food (like rice and chick-

en and fish). My parents taught me to never complain about food. After having seen and lived with those less fortunate than me, I am just grateful to God that I have enough to eat.

My favorite hobbies include reading, playing musical instruments (piano, guitar, keyboard, organ and bass), singing, composing songs and listening to music. I also enjoy playing soccer, volleyball, cane ball, Ping-Pong, and basketball.

The most rewarding aspect of seminary life is the fraternity among us, and the immense peace and joy I have found not only in my social life but more in my spiritual life. I have been blessed to receive the

incredible support from the formation staff at St. Meinrad and from the diocese during this period of transition.


The most challenging thing about seminary is the workload, which can be quite heavy at times, and being able to find a balanced and healthy way of life. Sometimes language can also be a challenge for an international student. However, the challenges are nothing compared to the rewards.

I am happy to be a seminarian. I believe I will be a priest, serving God and his people. Thank you for your support and prayers. The best thing we can do for each other is pray for one another. Please keep us in your continued prayers as we do. May God bless us! ■

## Contact our Office of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 [owensborovocations.com](http://owensborovocations.com)

 [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org)  
[fred.litke@pastoral.org](mailto:fred.litke@pastoral.org)

 [Facebook.com/owensborovocations](https://www.facebook.com/owensborovocations)



Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU, laughs as she shares her vocation story with the students and sisters present. Photo courtesy of Mount St. Joseph.

## Sister shares stories for National Vocations Awareness Week

A few Brescia University students joined 20 Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph for Evening Prayer in the Brescia Chapel on Nov. 7, and then listened to Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU, share her vocation story. The prayer experience was organized by Sr. Pam Mueller, OSU, (Brescia's director of Campus Ministry), as part of National Vocation Awareness Week. Sr. Mueller said the students told her they would like her to set up another similar prayer service in the future.

## Eucharistic Adoration at Mount St. Joseph

Second Sunday of each month: Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11. 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel. Adoration will conclude with evening prayer. Adoration also takes place every Friday from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions

*Wonder* what it's like being a Nun?  
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## St. Mary High School sophomore selected to participate in youth leadership program at Transylvania University



Ethan Barnett is a sophomore at St. Mary High School in Paducah. Photo courtesy of St. Mary High School.

St. Mary High School sophomore, Ethan Barnett, has been selected as a participant in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY). Founded in 1958, HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY programs provide the outstanding students selected by their schools a unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences. The 2018 HOBY Kentucky seminar will be held at Transylvania University from May 31-June 3. Students will participate in hands-on leadership activities, meet leaders from Kentucky, and explore their own personal leadership skills while learning how to lead others and make a positive impact in their community. In addition to being selected for HOBY, Barnett is a member of the varsity soccer and track teams as well as the academic team and robotics team. He is the son of Vanessa and John Barnett.



Students Madi Calhoun and Caleb Buckman thank Blake McMeans for spending the afternoon at OCHS. Photo courtesy of Owensboro Catholic High School.

## OCHS holds 'Teen Issues Week' to discuss mental health, drug issues

Owensboro Catholic High School celebrated Teen Issues Week in late October. Activities for the week focused on educating students regarding depression, eating disorders, anxiety and stress, and the importance of saying no to drug, alcohol, and e-cigarette use. A guest speaker spoke to the entire student body about the dangers of drinking and driving: Blake McMeans had a car accident due to drinking and driving when he was in high school, and he shared his story about how the accident changed his life.

### Office of Youth Ministry is on Instagram



Be sure to follow [instagram.com/owensboro\\_diocese\\_ym](https://www.instagram.com/owensboro_diocese_ym) to catch recent happenings around the diocese with our youth!

# December Wedding Anniversaries

5, 10, 25, 40, 50 and More Than 50 Years of Marriage

## **Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Thomas & Lois Wedding, 55  
Ron & Greta Beals, 62  
Russ & Vicki Hayden, 30  
David & Olivia Spears, 5

## **Christ the King, Madisonville**

Gary & Donna Phillips, 40  
Jack & Jean Watson, 40  
Robert & Floy Daugherty, 63  
Sherrell & Jeannie Calhoun, 58

## **Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington**

Gene & Ruth Hazelwood, 54

## **Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

David & Juanita Cheaney, 58  
Jason & Lauren Haynes, 10  
Lucio & Ramona Hernandez, 50  
Forrest & Mary Meuth, 56  
Robert & Betty Pritchett, 62  
Steven & Delores Sauer, 50  
Seth & Sheena Stanley, 10  
Terry & Mary Stone, 40  
Clyde & Janice Sutton, 55  
Robert & Carlene Williams, 56

## **Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

William & Lynda Svanoe, 55  
Larry & Anita Willoughby, 54  
William & Sharon McKay, 53  
H. Leon & Jane Brasher, 52  
Bud & Amy Agnew, 25  
Stephen & Betty Bowling, 5

## **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Jerry & Linda Atwood, 51  
Ellis & Sharon Russelburg, 51

## **Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

William & Cara Harvey III, 25  
James & Linda Warren, 50  
John K. & Kay Steele, 56

## **Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro**

Tony & Paula Bittel, Jr., 10  
Paul E. & Donna Munsey, 50  
Otis & Judy Hicks, 54

## **Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Jerry & Ellen Blandford, 60  
Jesse & Theresa Lowe, 54  
Joseph & Donna Osborne, 52

## **Resurrection, Dawson Springs**

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 65

## **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Erasmus & Gloria Gomez, 56  
Michael & Linda Slaughter, 50

## **St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Kenny & Linda Gough, 50  
Alvin & Betty Lou Borup, 59  
Brown & Willie Mae Foster, 58  
Jerry & Carol Gough, 57  
George & Martha Greenwell, 64

## **St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Jerry & Jeanette Lee, 54

## **St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Chris & Joyce Kormelink, 54

## **St. Ambrose, Henshaw**

Clay & Rachel Divine, 10

## **St. Ann, Morganfield**

Justin & Wilma Jean Wolfe, 54  
Larry & Gail Brown, 57  
John & Madonna Wyatt, 58

## **St. Anthony, Browns Valley**

Ron & Janice Tindall, 50

## **St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers**

Juan & Betty Gonzalez, 25

## **St. Augustine, Grayson Springs**

Leon & Mary Martha Hill, 50

## **St. Charles, Bardwell**

Daniel & Wanda Hayden, 53

## **St. Charles, Livermore**

George & Carol Rhodes, 52

## **St. Columba, Lewisport**

Anthony & Margaret Hall, 50  
Robert & Patty Durbin, 51

## **St. Denis, Fancy Farm**

Billy Joe & Donna Sue Burgess, 57

## **St. Edward, Fulton**

Don & Rachel Cox, 64

## **St. Elizabeth, Clarkson**

James Altus & Wanda Higdon, 61

## **St. Francis Borgia, Stugis**

Rick & Vicki Gilland, 50

## **St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

David & Edith, Keeney, 58  
Louis E. & Brenda Yopp, 25  
Rick & Debbie Sullivan 10  
Pat & Meghan Clark, 10

## **St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Chris & Shannon, McLeary, 10  
Laddie & Judy Thomas, 52  
Joseph W. & Ruth Ann Higdon, 62

## **Larry & Delores Wilson, 51**

Jamie & Anita Smith, 25

Jeremy & Heather Case, 25

Dale & Nancy Towery, 40

Donnie & Elizabeth Nelson, 50

Dennis & Peggy Tharp, 50

## **St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Travis & Pat Dawkins, 40

James & Phyllis Huggins, 50

Don & Imogene Poston, 67

William & Joanne Powell, 58

John & Rita Riley, 54

## **St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Leroy & Betty Dowdy, 62

## **St. Lawrence, Philpot**

James & Marie Brandle, 50

Jerry & Shirley Powers, 55

George W. & Carol Wilkerson, 55

## **St. Leo, Murray**

Paul & Barbara Sachse, 55

Ted & Joan King, 40

Ezequiel & Claudia Lopez, 10

## **St. Mark, Eddyville**

Bill & Marilyn Terry, 55

## **St. Mary, LaCenter**

Clyde & Mary Kay Riepe, 50

David & Gladys Fraser, 58

Roger & Linda Clark, 25

Butch & Janie Rainer, 53

Dan & Julie Thomas, 25

## **St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Jeff & Julie Garvin, 25

Tom & Tracy Settles, 25

## **St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady**

Louise & Elaine Hinton, 50

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

Gary L. & Jackie Howard, 25

Ronnie & Patsy Mayfield, 50

Bud & Mildred Boarman, 73

David & Judy Connor, 53

Charles & Linda Payne, 55

Raymond & Emma Whistle, 65

## **St. Michael, Sebree**

Darryl and Carmen Periard, 53

## **St. Paul, Leitchfield**

William L. & Edna Drake, 71

Jimmie & Helen Clemons, 55

## **St. Paul, Princeton**

James & Linda Herbek, 50

## **St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**

Jerome & Denise Walker, 5

## **St. Pius X, Owensboro**

Jason & Stacey Potts, 10

Donald & Sylvia Hamilton, 58

## **St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Gary & Rhonda Bevil, 10

Joe & Katie Flood, 5

Dean & Helen Claycomb, 40

Don & Sue Ford, 53

Paul & Anne O'Reilly, 51

Adam & Stephanie Basham, 5

Jerry & Marie Rose, 40

## **St. Sebastian, Calhoun**

Larry & Patricia Hardison, 53

David & Betty Abrams, 58

## **St. Stephen, Cadiz**

Salvador & Irene Jaso, 66

Raymond & Roberta Ward, 59

## **St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Jim & Linda Ivey, 40

## **St. William, Knottsville**

Paul & Jackie Collignon, 5

Paul & Brenda Clemons, 53

## **St. Thomas More, Paducah**

James & Priscilla Hollowell, 50

## **SS. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Nicholas & Barbie Boling, 10

Jeff & Denise Williams, 10

Charles A. & Billie Keller, 40

Marvin & Auda Wink, 52

## **SS. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Chris & Melissa Spurr, 5

Cirilo & Refugio Aguilera, 25

David & Aurora Lamirande, 40

Bill & Linda Harkins, 59

Edwin & Kathleen Roeder, 66

Lance & Ellicia Bramblett, 5

## Diocesan youth visit bishop at NCYC's 'Hollywood'



NCYC pilgrims from St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah have their picture taken with Bishop Medley.

On Nov. 9-11, 225 youth and 81 adult chaperones from the Diocese of Owensboro attended the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis. For three days, more than 20,000 teenagers attended workshops, adoration and Mass, and had the chance to meet fellow youth from across the country. One popular feature was 'Hollywood,' an opportunity for the participants to meet and mingle with the many visiting bishops. One of these bishops was none other than Bishop William F. Medley. Western Kentucky youth enjoyed meeting and taking pictures with their bishop. *Photos by Laura Clarke/WKC.*



A youth shows Bishop Medley a selfie he had just taken of the two of them at NCYC's 'Hollywood.'



Ava Priest, a parishioner of Holy Spirit in Bowling Green, talks and laughs with Bishop Medley while visiting him at 'Hollywood.'