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## Addressing the crisis

Bishop William F. Medley, Archbishop Charles Thompson of Indianapolis and Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Nashville talk on Nov. 13, 2018 during the U.S. bishops' fall meeting. **Page 3**



**Around the Diocese** Page 14



**Español**

Página 18



**Vocations**

Page 24

# A Word from Bishop Medley

My dear people of God,

In August and September, the Catholic Church in the United States was sent reeling by three successive scandals. First, there was a shameful report in Pennsylvania that revealed the Church had failed to protect children from child sexual abuse for decades. It was small comfort that the evidence demonstrated the problem was virtually eradicated after the 2002 actions of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Secondly, the appalling story of the misconduct of the retired Archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, was revealed and questions were legitimately posed as to how this man advanced in the Church hierarchy while seemingly exploiting both youth and young adults. The third and final scandal involved allegations from the former Vatican nuncio that high ranking officials within the Church had been aware of McCarrick's be-

havior and not acted.

In response to these scandals, I set out to listen to the people of our diocese, scheduling four listening sessions across the diocese. I have had very positive experiences in listening sessions held before the 2015 Synod on the Family and the 2018 Synod on Youth and Vocational Discernment. Approximately 330 people attended these recent sessions held in Owensboro, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, and Paducah.

The conversations in these sessions largely mirrored what we are following in the national media. Catholics are angry, saddened, and confused by the unthinkable sin of priests abusing children and by the failure for so long of our nation's bishops to adequately confront the problem and effectively offer healing to victims.

In the October 2018 issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, we published a statistical profile of the history of this scandal in our diocese. This publication has

understandably helped many victims who had not previously reported their experiences to come forward. In some cases, these victims only wanted to be acknowledged. In other cases, they were asking for counseling assistance to further their healing. In all cases, they wanted to be assured that the Church is acting responsibly now and that we do everything we can to prevent anyone else

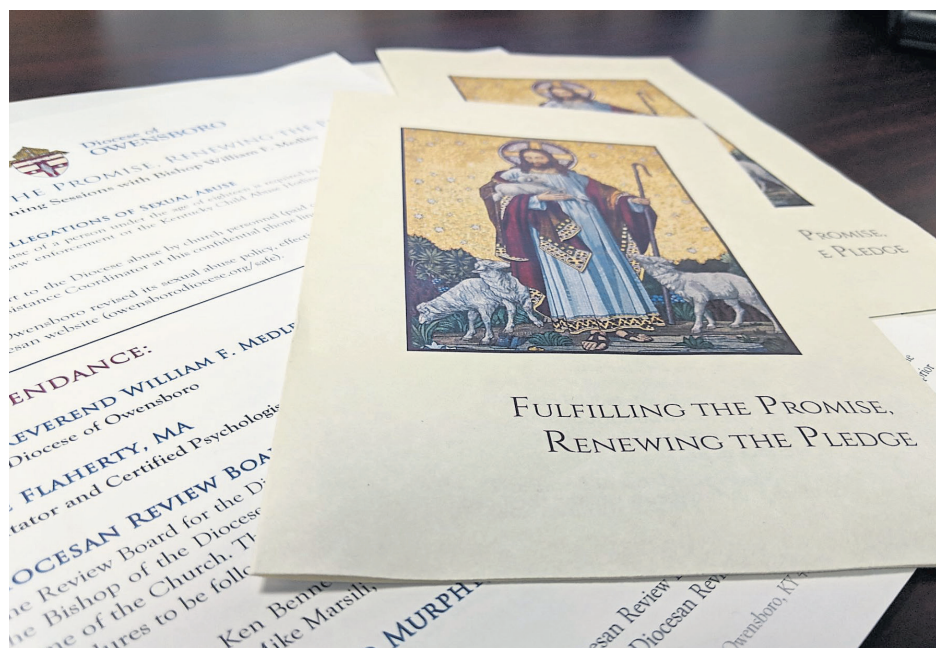
from being harmed.

The statistics published are humiliating to us all. As bishop, I can review again and again some of the decisions made, certainly prior to 1980, and must admit that I will never understand how, in some cases, the abuse continued even after being identified. Yes, there were often testimonies from psychologists and mental health professionals attesting that an offender had been adequately treated and could therefore safely resume public ministry. Yes, it is true that most cases ever reported have been reported decades after the abuse and oftentimes after the abuser was deceased. No matter how you look at the story, it is a story of terrible sin.

The participants in the listening sessions were good and faithful Catholics who want their Church to be authentically the People of God witnessing to the saving deeds of Jesus Christ. Though angry and disillusioned, they were not people giving up on the Catholic faith or the Catholic Church. Many assumed that because most priest abusers were never prosecuted, the Church continues to cover up allegations. While that may have been valid in decades past, since 2002 the Diocese of Owensboro reports every report of abuse – even those dating back to the 1940s and those where the accused priests are long dead.

While we still receive historic cases of sexual abuse reported long after the victim is an adult, we have received reports from four victims since 2002 where the victims were reporting as a child or underage youth. All four of these were reported to child welfare enforcement authorities, and the two priests identified have been permanently suspended from any public ministry and will not again have any priestly assignment. One important point made to me is that even in these cases

**Continues on page 4**



# Cardinal DiNardo hopeful for Church in U.S.

BY CHRISTINE ROUSSELLE, CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Baltimore, Md. (CNA/EWTN News) - Acknowledging that he was disappointed by the Vatican's decision to block a vote on sex abuse reform measures, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said Wednesday he nonetheless sees a hopeful future for the Church in the United States.

In the closing statement of the USCCB's Fall General Assembly Nov. 14, the president of the conference focused on the upcoming meeting of bishops' conference presidents in Rome, and hopes that the discussions there among representatives of the global Church will assist with the continued "eradication" of sexual abuse in the Church.

DiNardo offered praise for the various abuse victim testimony and abuse experts throughout the week, saying that they had given him direction and "such good counsel in these last few days."

In the wake of the allegations against Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, DiNardo reiterated how over the summer, the bishops committed themselves to three goals: an investigation of the claims against McCarrick, developing an easier way to report abuse, and developing a means of holding bishops accountable.

"We are on course to accomplish these goals," DiNardo told the crowd of bishops.

"That is the direction you and the survivors of abuse have given me."

DiNardo then proceeded to outline some of the "action steps" the bishops hope to take in the coming future. These include the creation of a process for complaints that are reported to a third-party com-



BOB ROLLER | CNS

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston addresses the USCCB autumn General Assembly in Baltimore, Nov. 12, 2018.

pliance hotline, the completion of a proposal for a lay commission, and the creation of a national network of diocesan review boards and lay experts that will oversee metropolitans.

These steps represented a combination of some of the proposals that came up over the course of the week's general assembly.

DiNardo also said that the bishops will look to finalize protocol and standards, and will be creating new guidelines for the release of list of names of priests who have substantiated claims of abuse. He also called for a "fair and timely" investigation of McCarrick and a publication of the results.

The bishops will be "committed to take the stron-

gest possible action at the earliest possible moment," he said. He looks forward to the February meeting, as he believes that working with the global Church will serve to make the Church in the United States even stronger.

"We must thus as bishops recommit to holiness and mission of the Church," he said. He said that he is "confident" that along with Pope Francis, the Church will move forward "decisively" after this February's meeting.

And despite Monday's initial frustration, DiNardo said that the past three days were "a sign of hope for me, not a disappointment." ■

# Bound by charity, Oratorians serve the needs of Jamaican community



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Brad Smith, CO, lives and works in the Archdiocese of Kingston, Jamaica in the Oratory of Port Antonio, a congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For Fr. Brad Smith, CO, one of the biggest challenges of his ministry is “getting people to realize what it means to radically embrace the Gospel.”

“Catholicism in Jamaica is not very widespread – about 2-3 percent only,” Fr. Smith told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in an Oct. 12, 2018 interview.

Fr. Smith lives and works in Portland, Jamaica, as a member of the Oratory of Port Antonio, which is a congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. He

is a son of St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph, and was ordained a priest of the Oratory on Dec. 1, 2013.

Fr. Smith explained that the Oratory is not actually a religious community, since the priests and lay brother members take no formal vows. Instead, in following the guidelines of their founder St. Philip Neri, they live and serve the community together through the bond of charity. Various Oratories are located around the globe.

“Our particular Oratory has three churches entrusted to us,” said Fr. Smith. This includes churches in Port Antonio, Buff Bay and the Blue Mountains. Their ministry focuses heavily on assisting the needs of the impoverished local community.

The Oratorians also help with a school, visit the sick and work with the youth, explained Fr. Smith, who is a youth commissioner with the Archdiocese of Kingston. Fr. Smith, who plays the keyboard, also teaches music, since music is a standard part of the Oratorian tradition.

Fr. Smith said members of his community will sometimes travel around the United States and give appeals for Food for the Poor, an international charity organization, “showing the First World what Third World needs are.”

Fr. Smith said perhaps the greatest challenge is the lack of family life among the people. He said many men have no intention of raising a family, despite often having children with various women. And as a result of the deficient family life, there is a shortage of vocations.

The Oratorians also witness a lot of influences from negative aspects of American culture through social media and the ongoing secularization of society.

Despite the tough days and uphill battles, Fr. Smith said he takes encouragement from the good that is happening. This includes seeing a youth he had taught now becoming a doctor, and witnessing couples getting married.

“This past Easter we baptized 15 young people between the ages of 15-20,” he said.

The Oratory community is small and close-knit, said Fr. Smith: “Five of us live and work there; four of us travel around.”

It may be different, but it is home.

Indeed, in the words of his community’s founder, “The true servant of God recognizes no other country but Heaven.”

To learn more about the Oratory of Port Antonio, visit [www.oratoryofportantonio.org](http://www.oratoryofportantonio.org). ■

# Sr. Joseph Angela Boone remembered for sense of humor, work ethic, and ‘giving her all’



ARCHIVES/FILE PHOTO  
An undated, early photo of Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU.

Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Nov. 11, 2018, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 71st year of religious life and at 90 years of age.

She was born Mary Bernice Boone on Sept. 20, 1928 in New Haven, Ky., to William Joseph and Mary Josephine Greenwell Boone.

Sr. Joseph Angela was a teacher for 19 years, serving at SS. Joseph and Paul School, Owensboro (1949-51, 1959-61), in Louisville and as a math pro-



DONNA FERGUSON | FILE PHOTO  
Sr. Mary Irene Cecil, OSU; Bishop John J. McRaith; Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU; and Mary Margaret Drury during a meeting at the Catholic Pastoral Center on May 4, 1995.

fessor at Brescia College (1963-70), where she was named a Distinguished Alumna in 2009. She served as treasurer and business administrator for the Ursuline Sisters from 1970-89, which included starting the retirement fund and the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic.

Sr. Joseph Angela served as chancellor and director of administration for the Diocese of Owensboro from 1989-2011, and following that remained at the diocese in an advisory role to the Office of Administration until 2014.

“I loved working with Sr. Joseph Angela,” said Tom Lilly, president of Owensboro Catholic Schools and former director of staff for the Diocese of Ow-

ensboro. “She taught my oldest sister algebra in 1968, and then had to mentor me in the ways of church finance 30 years later.”

Lilly added that Sr. Joseph Angela – known affectionately as “Sr. J.A.” or simply “J.A.” – also had a “wonderful sense of humor” and that “she will be missed.”

Mary Margaret Drury, bookkeeper for the diocese, said Sr. Joseph Angela “worked hard and played hard... she was just respected by everybody.”

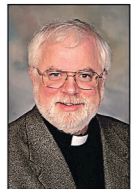
“She had a good work ethic,” said Drury, but also emphasized “her sense of humor, her one-liners... and when it was time for a party, she was the life of the party.”

*Continues on page 10*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TWILIGHT TALKS...

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are offering a new monthly dinner program in 2019 that will be presented by a priest or a deacon. Relax after your day at work and join us for a meal and a presentation on a spiritual theme. It's a time to learn... It's a time to pray... All are welcome!



**Wednesday, Jan. 9**  
**Father Ray Goetz**  
 will present  
**Abandonment and  
 Presence in the  
 Gospel of Mark**

**Dinner: 6 p.m.**  
 Followed by presentation  
 which will end about 7:30 p.m.  
**Cost: \$20**

To register, call 270-229-0206  
[retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org)

*Want to register online?*  
[ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center/retreats-and-programs](http://ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center/retreats-and-programs)

**Save these Dates (Second Wednesday)**  
 • Jan. 9 • Feb. 13 • March 13 • April 10  
 • May 8 • June 12 • Aug. 14 • Sept. 11  
 • Oct. 9 • Nov. 13 • Dec. 11



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
 Conference and Retreat Center

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

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

*Come on out and shop!*  
 8001 Cummings Road

**Mount Saint  
 Joseph Gift Shop  
 Christmas Bazaar!**  
**Friday, Dec. 7**  
**Saturday, Dec. 8**  
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Christmas items on sale, Advent items,  
 Handmade gifts from the Ursuline Sisters, Books,  
 Cards, Quilts and more! Door Prizes!



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
 Conference and Retreat Center

270-229-0206 • [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
 Stained Glass Series

*Essence in Harmony*



C. Kenneth Stein, Organ

*Essence in Harmony*  
 Vocal Ensemble  
 Selections include:  
 In the Bleak MidWinter  
 Hodie Christus Natus Est  
 Gloria

Tuesday December 18, 2018  
 6:30 PM

*Free and open to the public*  
 434 Church Avenue, Bowling Green  
 270-843-5511



Mike Michalak



Kevin Reilly



Dr. Edward Sri

**Save the Date:**  
**February 2, 2019**

*8th Annual*  
**Catholic Men's Conference  
 of Western Kentucky**  
 RiverPark Center, Owensboro, KY

For more information and tickets,  
 please visit <http://kycatholic.com/>.



# St. Leo Parish fills Boxes of Joy for poor around the world



COURTESY OF ST. LEO PARISH  
St. Leo Parish children fill "Boxes of Joy" for Cross Catholic Outreach on Nov. 4.



COURTESY OF ST. LEO PARISH  
Adults and youth assemble boxes for the Cross Catholic Outreach "Boxes of Joy" program on Nov. 4.

BY JOSH STEWART, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, students in St. Leo's Parish School of Religion (PSR) classes joined together to fill boxes as part of Cross Catholic Outreach's "Boxes of Joy" program. Parishioners at St. Leo had been donating various items for about four months, such as school supplies, small toys, and basic toiletries. These items were collected and put into multiple boxes by the PSR children to be shipped overseas. Cross Catholic Outreach is a Catholic relief and development ministry that provides food, shelter, medical care, water, education, self-help programs, care for orphans, and emergency relief to the poorest of the poor in dioceses around the world in the name of Christ. In everything CCO does, they remain focused on the Lord, serving with humility, fervor, and love, and advancing Catholic evangelization. They work in partnership with church-based ministries and other faith-based organizations, creating an ideal synergy for the greatest impact. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

## Ursulines, MSJ graduates remember the deceased

Ursuline Sisters and graduates of Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Maple Mount joined together on Nov. 4 for the Alumnae Memorial Mass, which honors and remembers students and faculty who have gone to heaven. Those named during Mass are those whose passing has been learned since Nov. 1, 2017.

In this picture, Brenda Dant McIntire, Academy Class of '73, and Dorothy Ford Riggs, Academy Class of '72, present the offertory gifts to Fr. Ray Goetz during the Alumnae Memorial Mass.

## Musicians learn how to bring cultures together through worship



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Hispanic choir members and presenter, Santiago Fernández (far right, holding guitar), at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville on Oct. 27.

BY WKC STAFF

On Oct. 27, members of Hispanic choirs from across the Diocese of Owensboro gathered at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville for a workshop lead by Santiago Fernández of Novi, Mich. The workshop was titled “Nuestras voces para Dios” (Our Voices for God). Fernández is one of the top composers and singers of Spanish Catholic and liturgical music in the United States.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, diocesan director of Hispanic/Latino ministry, said he was particularly grateful to Mike Bogdan, diocesan music director, “for his support and presence on this day.”

“We were also blessed with the presence of several Hispanic ministers but most noticeably delighted for the presence of Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU,” said Deacon Gutiérrez. “Sr. Fran directed Hispanic

choirs and liturgical music for decades.”

The day included a review of the different Church documents on music and liturgy, as well as practical suggestions for improving the ministry of music in the Mass.

“But most importantly, choir members left inspired and encouraged knowing that their ministry is very important and valued in the Church,” said Deacon Gutiérrez.

The following day, at the McRaith Catholic Center in Owensboro, Fernández gave a presentation to English-speaking parish musicians from around the diocese. His topic was “Bringing Cultures Together Through Worship,” and through presentations and songs, explained how to work with multicultural communities to provide bilingual music and liturgies. ■



COURTESY OF ZACH AULT

## Remembering All Souls at St. Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah held an All Souls Remembrance Service on Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. in the church. A candle-lighting ceremony took place, and pictures of parishioners’ deceased loved ones were displayed on the reredos. Family and friends of the deceased were invited up during the service to light a candle in memory of their lost loved ones. The pictures stayed up throughout November in celebration of the month of remembrance.



## The Mount honors veterans



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

The Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center honored military veterans on Nov. 14 with a free program led by Brigadier General Father Patrick J. Dolan, the Army National Guard Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains. Fr. Dolan has been deployed around the world as a chaplain through his long career, including four trips to Iraq. He is also pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Fairdale, Ky. Dolan talked about his military career and invited the veterans in attendance to talk about their experiences and ask questions. Everyone was served a free lunch in appreciation of their service to our country.



COURTESY OF LARENA LAWSON

## Seminarian takes next step in journey toward priesthood

On Sunday, Nov. 18, at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley presided at the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for seminarian Stephen Van Lal Than, who is in third-year theology at St. Meinrad Seminary. This rite is a seminarian's next step toward becoming a transitional deacon, eventually followed by ordination to the priesthood.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations 2018

### St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green

Dec. 11: 6 p.m. procession, 7 p.m. rosary, 8 p.m. Mass, and "Mañanitas" continuous until 11 p.m.

Dec. 12: 7 a.m. Mass

### St. Leo Parish, Murray

Dec. 12: Rosary and prayers at 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. with Mass at 7 p.m.

### SS. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro

Dec. 12: 7 p.m. Mass

Beginning Dec. 3 through Dec. 11 (except Dec. 9) the parish is having a novena at 6:30 p.m. every evening followed by Mass. On Dec. 9, the novena and Mass will begin at 7:30 p.m.

*Note: This list is not exhaustive, as the above information is what the WKC received before going to press. If they are not listed above, please contact your parish to find out if they will be hosting celebrations in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe this year.*

## 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 Michael Charles Abiero (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 Carl McCarthy (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 Basilio Az Cuc o Padre Jean Rene Kalombo (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: Alyssa Maty (815) 207-3208 o Padre Carmelo Jiménez (270) 881-7737



## ¿Tu parroquia podría salir en el Católico de Kentucky Occidental!

¿Están pasando cosas emocionantes en tu parroquia? ¿Quieren compartir las buenas noticias con otras personas católicas en Kentucky occidental? Si quieres compartir, favor de mandar las fotos y la información por correo electrónico a la editora, Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, al [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org).

## Ser sacerdote me da alegría y paz.



El P. Daniel Dillard sostiene al bebé William, a quien bautizó.

POR EL P. DANIEL DILLARD

Muchos sacerdotes hablan de cómo desde que eran niños pequeños querían ser sacerdotes. Ese no fui yo. Una vez que se me ocurrió, pasé los siguientes años peleando con Dios sobre su llamado. Sin embargo, cuando cedí ante Dios y acepté que su voluntad era lo mejor para mí, conocí una alegría y una paz como ninguna otra en mi vida. Esa alegría nunca me ha dejado. Amo al pueblo de Dios y ser su sacerdote me ha permitido compartir el gozo de la vida en Cristo.

## Santificado Sea tu Nombre

POR JOE BLAND, OFICINA DE  
EVANGELIZACIÓN

Oramos para que el nombre de Dios sea "santificado", lo que significa que es santo y merece reverencia. Me he dado cuenta de que si voy darle a Dios la reverencia debida, hacer que su nombre sea santo,

tengo que hacer lo que María y todos los santos hicieron y eso fue decir "sí" a Dios, lo que significa que tengo que estar abierto a su voluntad. La santidad es dejarme amar por el Padre y, a su vez, el amor del Padre me llenará y me completará, y lo que quiero decir con eso es que me vuelvo más completo, me vuelvo más humano. Les dejo con esta gran cita de San Ireneo que resume toda esta reflexión: "La gloria de Dios es el hombre plenamente vivo."

## ODYC atrae 450 al Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro



Del 9 al 10 de noviembre de 2018, 450 jóvenes de todo el oeste de Kentucky se reunieron en el Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro para la Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro (ODYC), que se celebra cada dos años cuando no se celebra la Conferencia Nacional Católica para Adolescentes (NCYC). Este año, los oradores principales de ODYC fueron Joel Stepanek del programa internacional Life Teen y la hermana Josephine Garrett,

CFSN, del Centro de Retiros Nazaret en Texas. La música fue dirigida por PJ Anderson de Nashville, Tn. La conferencia incluyó Misa, talleres, confesiones y la oportunidad de convivir o conocer a otros adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro. En esta foto, el orador principal Joel Stepanek de Life Teen habla a los 450 jóvenes asistentes a la Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro durante la noche del 9 de noviembre de 2018.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE RICK MUSACCHIO.

## El Obispo Medley asiste a la reunión de los obispos de Estados Unidos en noviembre

El Obispo William Medley de Owensboro, KY, a la izquierda, el Arzobispo Charles Thompson de Indianápolis y el Obispo J. Mark Spalding de Nashville hablan el segundo día de la reunión de otoño de US-CCB en el Hotel Marriott Waterfront en Baltimore el martes 13 de noviembre de 2018. En la reunión los obispos discutieron las posibles respuestas a la crisis de abuso sexual en la Iglesia.

# In following God's will for his vocation, Fr. Daniel Dillard feels joy and peace



COURTESY OF FR. DANIEL DILLARD  
Fr. Daniel Dillard smiles at baby William Babbs after baptizing him in 2010.

BY FR. DANIEL DILLARD, SPECIAL TO THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I believe in always being honest, and so I am going to begin this article about why I love being a priest by saying, I did not want to be a priest. Many priests talk about how from the time they were small children they wanted to be a priest. That was not me. To be honest it never really occurred to me. I had my ideas of where life would take me and my plans for my future, and the thought that I might be called to be a priest never even occurred to me. Once it did

occur to me I spent the next several years fighting with God about his call. However, when I gave in to God and accepted that his will was best for me, I knew a joy and a peace unlike any other in my life. That joy has never left me.

Since May 30, 2009 I have been serving the people of western Kentucky as a priest. First at St. Thomas More, Sts. Peter and Paul, and Holy Spirit as an associate pastor and now at St. Mary in Franklin and Christ the King in Scottsville as pastor. In that time I have been able to share in people's great-

## Why I Love the Priesthood

Priests are often asked, "Why did you become a priest?" Or sometimes the question is phrased, "What do you like most about being a priest?" Although the contemporary image of the priesthood has been no doubt affected by these difficult times in which the Church finds itself, many priests respond to these questions by speaking about what gives us joy or satisfies us in our pastoral ministry. Most priests will tell you that the priesthood is a joyful life and a worthwhile vocation for a young man to consider. Over the next few months, the WKC will introduce priests from the Diocese of Owensboro who will share with you their story and why they love being a priest. May their stories inspire the local Church to pray for our priests and for vocations to priesthood.

– Fr. Jason McClure, Office of Vocations

*Continues on page 25*

*Fr. Daniel Dillard continued from page 24*



COURTESY OF FR. DANIEL DILLARD

Deacon Matthew Keyser, Fr. Daniel Dillard and Fr. John Thomas visit a member of Holy Spirit Parish in the hospital in June 2013.



COURTESY OF FR. DANIEL DILLARD

Fr. Daniel Dillard and Fr. Josh McCarty prepare to give their first blessing to Bishop John J. McRaith at the end of their 2009 ordination Mass.

est joys and deepest sorrows. I have held the hands of families as their loved one died and held their newborn children. I have been given the honor of baptizing hundreds of children, and been given the honor of burying many people. I have had the privilege of hearing thousands of confessions and giving the Body and Blood of Jesus to tens of thousands. I have preached and taught, counseled and consoled, and for everything that I have done the People of God have been my lodestone walking with me and teaching me just as I teach them. Showing me how to be a holier priest as they strive to be holier husbands and wives and single men and women.

I am not saying that I like every moment of being a priest. From time to time everyone has bad days, and I have spent many sleepless nights worrying about the problems of my people. However, even on those days where I am totally exhausted and I feel like nothing has gone right and it seems like if one more thing happens I'm going to lose it, I think of the people who God has entrusted to me and I find the energy to go on.

In the end why do I love being a priest? Because I love God and I want nothing in this world so much as to help people see that love, and being his priest has allowed me to share that love in ways that I would never have dreamed possible. I love God's people and being their priest has allowed me to share the joy of life in Christ. If I had followed my own plans I believe that I would be in a lab somewhere doing research, and I would probably be content. However, I would have never have known the joy that comes from both sharing God with his people and sharing their lives with them. ■

*Fr. Daniel Dillard serves as the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Franklin and Christ the King Parish in Scottsville.*

## Youth prepare for All Souls Day with cemetery cleanup at Mount Carmel

BY GING SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Each class from pre-K through 12th at Paducah Faith Formation chooses a class project for their Power of One or community service. For this school year the fourth-grade class of Deanna Burnett partnered with the seventh-grade class of Ben Teer to do a cleanup at Mount Carmel Cemetery on Oct. 27. (This project had been done for seven years by the seventh-grade class of Glynn Smith, former catechist). It was a great turnout with some parents participating, and some members of the Hispanic community at St. Thomas More Parish. Special thanks to Jim Sanders for his helpful information on the history of the cemetery and its different areas. The group concentrated on cleaning and putting mulch at the Garden of Angels, a particular area in the cemetery for newborns and babies. What a great preparation for All Souls Day! ■



COURTESY OF GING SMITH

On Oct. 27, in anticipation of All Souls Day (Nov. 2), volunteers clean up the Garden of Angels area of Mount Carmel Cemetery in Paducah.



COURTESY OF GING SMITH

The Garden of Angels area at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Paducah is a special place of remembrance for newborns and babies.



LAURA CLARKE | WKC

Keynote speaker, Joel Stepanek, talks to the 450 youth attendees of the Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference during the evening of Nov. 9, 2018.

## ODYC draws 450 to Owensboro Convention Center

BY WKC STAFF

On Nov. 9-10, 2018, 450 youth from all over western Kentucky gathered at the Owensboro Convention Center for the biennial Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference (ODYC), which is held opposite the years that the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) takes place. This year, ODYC hosted keynote speakers Joel Stepanek of the international Life Teen program and Sr. Josephine Garrett, CFSN, of the Nazareth Retreat Center in Texas. Music was led by PJ Anderson of Nashville, Tn.

The conference included Mass, workshops, confessions, and the opportunity for youth to socialize and meet fellow teens from around the Diocese of Owensboro. ■

# Who's that guy on the altar?



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

The attendees of the Diocese of Owensboro's Nov. 9-11, 2018 permanent diaconate retreat, held at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The wives of many of the married deacons attended as well.

BY DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

You don't frequently hear much about us, but most of you have probably seen one of us.

We stand next to the priests or the bishop and assist at Mass with our stoles worn "sideways." At times you might have heard us proclaim the Gospel and preach. It's possible you've seen us baptize a baby, witness marriage vows or officiate at funerals. We are the permanent deacons.

Yes, the ones with a collar in the grey shirts. As permanent deacons we have been chosen to assist the bishop and the priests. We are called permanent because unlike transitional deacons who in their formation journey continue on to becoming priests; we happily remain deacons.

Some of you are more used to seeing us and working with us, some of you still might wonder "who's that guy and what's he doing up there," but don't worry, it's still something pretty new for our dio-



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

A deacon receives the chalice from a fellow deacon at the Nov. 9-11, 2018 permanent diaconate retreat.

cese. We are men, clerics that range in age, experience and professional backgrounds. Some of us are retired, others still work. Most of us wear different hats involving in a diverse number of ministries in the Church and in society. Some of us are celibate; many more of us are married and have children and grandchildren. But one common denominator about us all is that God at one point or another in our lives called each one of us to this particular vocation of service and charity in the Church through

*Continues on page 31*

# Tri Parish Mission 2018: ‘What does it mean to be Catholic today?’

BY JUDY COOMES, SPECIAL TO THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As I searched for a seat in Blessed Mother Parish on the first night of the fourth annual Tri Parish Mission, I stood amazed at the crowd. Barely seated, I spotted my invited, but breathless, Baptist neighbor. Had her last round of radiation taken its toll? Instead, she had to park several blocks away and rushed to arrive on time. Repeatedly sharing how excited I was about the crowd, my neighbor said, “Judy, it’s the topic!” Suddenly, I felt on a pedestal and realized Catholics – both lay and religious – are under a microscope. Has the recent eruption of sex scandals, denials, and cover-ups in our Church weakened our faith or made us more determined to rise above the wrongs of Church leaders while remembering that we are all tainted with sin?

At St. Stephen Cathedral and SS. Joseph and Paul Parish, host churches who also saw record-breaking crowds, mission presenter, Fr. Tom McCarthy, again reminded us, “It’s tough to be Catholic, but, boy, is it worth it!” We must love our way to heaven, and we aren’t loving when we befriend only those who never disagree with or challenge us. Fr. Tom reminded us that we teach by the way we handle situations. How are we making Jesus the center of our lives? Arriving late and leaving Mass at Communion are sad reflections on our love for God. “Sunday Mass should never be an obligation but an opportunity.”

Special attention was given to our youth and their reaction was encouraging because they are the future of our Church. Fr. Tom made a point too of sharing inspiring points in conversations with our youth.

Proud parents beamed.

At each of the three mission nights we were reminded, “A saint is a sinner who keeps on trying.” We all have moments that we don’t want to end, and this is exactly how I would describe this beautiful three-day mission experience. ■

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



COURTESY OF JUDY COOMES  
“What does it mean to be Catholic today?” reads a sign welcoming mission attendees during the Nov. 5-7, 2018 Tri Parish Mission in Owensboro.