

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY



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Fr. Timothy Khui Shing Ling, a Burmese priest serving in Bowling Green, prays during the diocesan Priests' Convocation held at St. Meinrad in January. In his February letter, Bishop Medley praises the 21 foreign-born priests who minister in the diocese. **Page 3**



Features

Page 8



Español

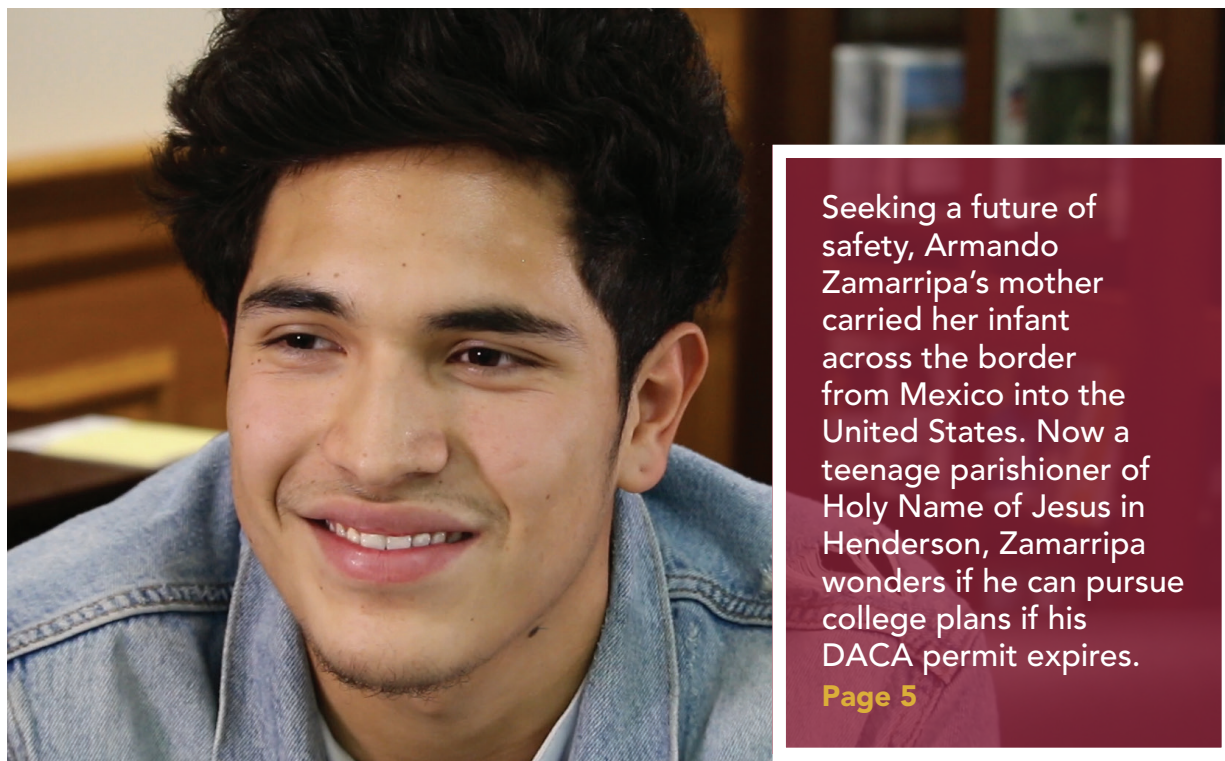
Página 22



Vocations

Page 26

CONTENTS



Seeking a future of safety, Armando Zamarripa's mother carried her infant across the border from Mexico into the United States. Now a teenage parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus in Henderson, Zamarripa wonders if he can pursue college plans if his DACA permit expires.

Page 5

- 7** 'White flags' in Owensboro signal warmth, safe places
Area homeless have meals, place to sleep during brutal winter weather
- 11** 2016-2017 Mass attendance numbers show trends
Numbers collected during September 2017 liturgies
- 23** African American legacy in military has long, diverse history
Black Catholic ministry director leads journey through history

Front page photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

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 by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.

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KENTUCKY  Catholic

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Telephone ● (270) 683-1545

Email ● wkc.editor@pastoral.org

Publisher ● Bishop William F. Medley

Editor ● Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

Contributors ● Laura Clarke, Tina Kasey

Send change of address requests to
cathy.hagan@pastoral.org

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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.

5 Features

9 Upcoming Events

11 Around the Diocese

16 Español

23 Opinion

26 Vocations

29 Anniversaries

30 Young Adult

A Word from Bishop Medley

The number of Catholic priests throughout the Western world has been in decline over the last four decades. Given that the Catholic population is growing steadily, the priest-to-people ratio is even less positive. However, this scenario in the Church is not across the entire world. African nations and India continue to see rapid growth in both Catholic population and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The most severe decline in priests and religious is found in the United States and most of Europe.

Today there are 84 priests in the Diocese of Owensboro to serve our 50,000 to 70,000 Catholics. That population number reflects such a wide spread largely because it is difficult to count at any time the number of immigrants and refugees who are a part of our Church.

Let me also clarify the 84 that "serve" our diocese. This includes our retired priests and priests serving outside the diocese at this time in chaplaincies and as students. But it is important to remember that those we serve will always be beyond our own borders. The number, likewise, does not include the Fathers of Mercy, a religious community of men who are based in Auburn, Kentucky. While very generous in assisting our parishes when needed, their apostolate is to preach parish missions and retreats around the world.

Of our 84 priests, eight are retired, seven serve in assignments apart from parish ministry and four others do not have assignments at present. That brings us to 57 priests.

Of these, 16 are not incardinated with the Diocese of Owensboro. This means that some belong to religious orders: five belong to the Heralds of Good News and two are Glenmary priests; one is a Redemptorist and one is a Missionary of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Seven more priests are diocesan priests of other dioceses whose bishops permit them to serve in western Kentucky.

There are 78 parishes in our diocese, and today 22 of these are pastored by priests born somewhere other than the United States. Twenty-one of our 84 priests are foreign-born. Numbers get confusing, but it is also important to remember that several of these foreign-born men are permanently affiliated with our diocese.

Continues on page 4

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR ● FEBRUARY 2018

FEB 1	9:00 a.m. ● Mass – John Paul II School, Morganfield
FEB 1-2	Ordination and Installation of Bishop of Nashville
FEB 4	4:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Martin, Rome
FEB 6	9:30 a.m. ● Mass – St. Joseph School, Bowling Green 6:00 p.m. ● Catholic Foundation Board Meeting
FEB 8	10:00 a.m. ● Visit with Passionist Nuns – Whitesville
FEB 10	9:00 a.m. ● Installation into Ministries for Diocesan Seminarians – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro 5:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
FEB 11	2:00 p.m. ● Rite of Election – St. Jerome, Fancy Farm 6:00 p.m. ● Mass with Newman Center – St. Leo, Murray
FEB 14	12:00 p.m. ● Ash Wednesday Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral
FEB 17	11:30 a.m. ● Reconciliation – Catholic Men's Conference – RiverPark Center, Owensboro 4:30 p.m. ● Mass – Catholic Men's Conference
FEB 18	2:00 p.m. ● Rite of Election – St. Stephen Cathedral 6:00 p.m. ● Rite of Election – St. Stephen Cathedral
FEB 19	10:00 a.m. ● Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) 1:30 p.m. ● Priest Council Meeting – MCC
FEB 20	10:00 a.m. ● Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting – Louisville
FEB 20-21	Bishop's Province Meeting, Louisville
FEB 22-24	Regional Encuentro, Miami
FEB 27	10:00 a.m. ● Paducah Office 5:30 p.m. ● Serra Club Charter Night – Owensboro



A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

Consider then what the situation in our diocese would be without the presence of foreign-born priests. It is clear that without them, next Sunday we could not offer the Mass in every parish across the diocese. If that situation were permanent, there would be little choice but to consider consolidating and closing some parishes.

We have five priests in their 90s, three in their 80s, eight in their 70s, 22 in their 60s, 19 in their

50s, 17 in their 40s, 10 in their 30s, and no priests in their 20s.

Now we can look at these statistics and ponder whether the glass is half empty or half full. Whatever our vision, we should be grateful for the men who have answered the call to a priestly vocation to preach the Gospel and call the Church to sacramental life.

And as the nation's conversation about immi-

grants continues, we should consider the gift that immigrants bring to our Church, not just as priests but as faithful parishioners. ■



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

A statement from Bishop Medley regarding the Jan. 23, 2018 shooting at Marshall County High School

When I learned of the violent tragedy at Marshall County High School, I was away from the diocese participating in a conference. As with everyone else, I was stunned that such an event had happened in our own state and area.

Distracted from my conference, I followed news accounts and, with each update, prayed for the children harmed and for their families. Within a couple of hours, I learned that two of our priests, Fr. Anthony Ottagan and Fr. Greg Trawick, had answered

calls to go to the local hospital. I found comfort in knowing that these priests, and surely other church ministers, were bearing the comfort of Jesus Christ into an unimaginable circumstance.

My heart is heavy for those young people who have died, their families, and for all the wounded. I realize, too, that serious emotional wounds for hundreds must be comforted and healed as well. As conflicted as we may be, we must pray for the young man who inflicted this terrible harm and for those

who love and cherish him.

In tragedy there are few places to turn but to faith in Jesus Christ, the one who was wounded for us. I join the prayers of the community for those who have been harmed.

I join others in the question and the plea: can this be the tragedy that leads us to seek lasting answers to senseless violence?

May the God of mercy lead us. ■

Join Us to Celebrate Vocations

VOCARE will take place on Friday, September 14, 2018 at the Owensboro Convention Center. More details will be forthcoming in the near future.

Futures in jeopardy

They arrived in U.S. as children; DACA recipients now fear changes



Armando Zamarripa, a senior at Henderson County High School and a DACA recipient, says he would like to attend college and study accounting. The president's announcement that DACA is ending has put future plans on hold for many people like Zamarripa. WKC file photo.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Armando Zamarripa was only a few months old when his mother faced a painful decision: choosing which of her two sons to take with her to the United States.

"She had to pick between bringing me or him... it's hard to take kids with you across the border," said Zamarripa in a Jan. 5, 2018 interview with The

Western Kentucky Catholic. "And she thought it would be easier with me."

He said his mother carried him across the border from Mexico to the U.S., where they then traveled to Kentucky: "My mom brought me here to give me the opportunity for a better life."

"So I've been living in the United States since I

was a baby," said Zamarripa, who is 17 and a senior at Henderson County High School. He belongs to Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson.

Zamarripa is one of approximately 800,000 individuals living in the U.S. who are covered by DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – a program announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security in 2012.

Recent changes, however, have made DACA recipients' situations precarious.

DACA was made available to certain undocumented individuals who were brought to the U.S. under the age of 16. After paying a fee, recipients received a permit that was renewable every two years, and could qualify for employment authorization, a Social Security number and a driver's license.

DACA did not create a pathway for citizenship; its purpose was merely to prevent recipients from deportation.

In September 2017, President Donald Trump's administration announced it would end DACA in March 2018 if Congress does not come up with its own solution.

While legislators debate immigration reform especially in light of DACA, people covered by DACA are now wondering what it means for their daily lives.

This impacts the family of Christian Rosas, who left Mexico at age 10 with his mother, hoping for a more secure future in the U.S.

"We came in 2004, crossed the desert, walked eight hours through the whole night," said Rosas,

Continues on page 6



Immigration and the Catholic Church

- To learn about the Catholic Church's stance on immigration issues, visit justiceforimmigrants.org.
- For legal assistance, contact the Catholic Legal Immigration Network at cliniclegal.org.

DACA Recipients continued from page 5

who also belongs to Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Now in his 20s, Rosas is the main provider for his household which includes himself, his mother, and two younger brothers.

His DACA work permit expires this November. This would mean he would no longer qualify for a driver's license, nor would he be able to continue his current job.

"First of all it would affect my mom because she doesn't know how to drive," said Rosas. "She would have difficulties going to work... she would have a hard time taking my brothers to school or to doctors' appointments or anywhere."

Rosas explained that by applying to DACA, the Department of Homeland Security "already has all of my information, and where I live, so I would be scared that they could just come in the door and say 'you have to go back.'"

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, managing attorney of Kentucky Legal Aid and a parishioner of SS. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, said that these situations "are all over our diocese."



At age 10, Christian Rosas and his mother – who was unaware of being five months pregnant at the time – walked across the desert from Mexico to the United States to start a better life. Today in his 20s and a DACA recipient, Rosas is the primary provider for his family. WKC file photo.

These young people "have Kentucky accents; they were baptized in our parishes; they made First Communion with our kids," she said.

Montalvo-Gesser said many people ask why these individuals cannot just apply for citizenship, since they clearly wish to remain and contribute to society.

"People think it's like getting a ticket to get into a baseball game," she said. "Right now, there's no path for them to apply for citizenship."

One option in the works is the Dream Act of 2017, a bipartisan bill which would provide DACA recipients with a direct route to citizenship by pursuing higher education, entering the U.S. workforce or enlisting in the military. It was introduced in July 2017.

Montalvo-Gesser said steps can be taken in local Catholic communities to welcome immigrants.

"Don't treat them differently," she said. "We worship the same God; we go to the same church."

She also advised paying attention to vocabulary that is in line with Catholic social teaching; for instance, though someone may be in the U.S. illegally, "no person is 'illegal,'" she said.

In offering legal aid clinics for the local immigrant community, Montalvo-Gesser said she has been inspired by "how much they love this place and want to be a part of it."

"Some of the best stories about America come from people who weren't even born in America," she said. ■



Watch the video

Listen to Armando and Christian tell their stories. Watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/251886825>.

Homeless find warmth, safety at ‘white flag’ locations



The white flag, along with the American flag, is displayed outside St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter on Jan. 12, 2018. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, The Western Kentucky Catholic.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When snowy weather projected to reach temperatures at or below 15 degrees from Jan. 12-18, 2018, St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter in Owensboro partnered with the nearby Daniel Pitino Homeless Shelter to provide extra space for those who had no place to go.

For Harry Pedigo, the director of St. Benedict's, "we try to lead by example; to be able to display Christ by welcoming everyone."

One way they do this is by offering their facility

as a warming shelter during the "white flag" events held when weather conditions threaten to reach or dip below 15 degrees – with or without wind chill.

The white flag event, named for a white flag that is placed in a prominent location outside the shelter, publically conveys that extra bed space is available when outdoor conditions become hazardous. The extra space is available to men, women and children, all of whom are housed in an area separate from the shelters' regular clients.

The Pitino Shelter was the white flag daytime shelter from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and served all three meals. In the evening, St. Benedict's served as the

white flag nighttime shelter from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

As of Jan. 17, St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter in Owensboro had hosted six women and 14 men every night, "and that's with us finding several (people) permanent shelter at local and regional shelters," Pedigo told The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Pedigo told the WKC on Jan. 12 that St. Benedict's, ordinarily a men's nighttime shelter only, started participating in the white flag events this winter.

Previously, the white flag locations had rotated among other facilities in the city, and had been funded by Daviess County.

This season, however, St. Benedict's completed the renovations needed to provide a separate section for white flag clients, "and took the financial burden off the county and the taxpayers," said Pedigo.

"It took a lot to make it happen, but in the end we were able to do it," he said.

Pedigo said that "for the most part" other shelters have openings for extra people in a pinch, so St. Benedict's and Pitino served as mostly overflow shelters. Furthermore, many of the people who come during white flag events are able to be resettled in permanent shelters.

Pedigo said he and the staff have witnessed Jesus in the people who come to the shelter.

"Jesus' greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, and to love your neighbor as yourself," he said. "We've seen Christ in some of these people as barriers get broken down." ■

Holy Name's lectio divina groups flourishing



(Left to right) Jennifer Pritchett, Dusti Benson, Tanya Massengale, Monica Krampe and Valerie Beckert are a few of the faculty and staff Holy Name of Jesus Parish and School participating in lectio divina prayer groups. Photo courtesy of Dusti Benson.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Though Dusti Benson does not encounter the fellow members of her lectio divina group on a daily basis, “it’s nice to be able to come together for a faith-based activity,” said Benson, who is a pre-K teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson.

“Interestingly, it brings together a group of staff from across the building,” said Benson, who said the group has five to six regular participants and meets every other Tuesday afternoon.

Lectio divina – Latin for “divine reading” – refers to an ancient prayer style that uses a slow, contemplative reading of the scriptures.

While lectio divina has many variations, a common method involves going through a particular

scripture passage in four “movements” – “lectio” (read), “meditatio” (reflect), “oratio” (respond) and “contemplatio” (rest).

Benson said Holy Name of Jesus’ associate pastor, Fr. Anthony Shonis, spoke about lectio divina at Mass one Sunday and asked those interested to sign up so that groups could be formed.

“The teachers at HNS had been introduced to this type of scripture reading last year during Lent,” said Benson. “So I was interested, but wasn’t sure about committing to a session in the evenings. I decided to open it up to the other teachers at school and meet right after dismissal.”

Benson said she feels blessed “to be able to do this type of thing at work.”

She said they began meeting in November 2017, a few weeks after Scripture Sunday, which was held

across the Diocese of Owensboro on Oct. 15, 2017.

Benson said they take turns choosing the scripture passage and facilitating the session, and that they usually choose the scripture from the weekly Mass readings.

“I personally love the time to make myself slow down and focus on God and what he is saying to me,” said Benson. “In our hectic world it’s hard quiet myself and listen. This time with scripture and our group has helped me to find that time.”

Holy Name parishioner Donald Speaks has benefited from the lectio divina group on the parish level.

“I am really enjoying it,” said Speaks, explaining that there are currently 15 people who meet on Saturday mornings to pray through the Sunday’s Gospel reading.

“Listening to 15 people who have something to say about (the scriptures) can give you a good, new idea about it,” he said.

Benson agrees: “I find myself thinking about the scripture other times throughout the week and hope to have it lead me in my life.” ■



Video tutorial

A video tutorial on lectio divina,

released by the Diocese of

Owensboro, may be found at

<https://vimeo.com/239194540>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Are you preparing for Confirmation?

Join us for a Confirmation Retreat Day

Saturday, March 17, 2018
9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Presenter: Sister Michael Marie Friedman, OSU



Sister Michael Marie

Plan your Confirmation retreat now at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Attend a day in preparation for Confirmation. 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.

The \$25 fee includes lunch.

To register, call (270) 229-0206
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
 Please register by Feb. 17.



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center

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

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Wouldn't you like to win a quilt for only \$20?



Sister Rosanne Spalding

Our annual Quilt of the Month Club tickets are still available!

This year, you can get even MORE chances to win a handmade quilt with our Quilt Club annual memberships, available for only \$20 each. We have extended our current Quilt Club year to March 2019. Sign up by March 1, 2018 to get 13 chances to win!

(If you already have your Quilt Club tickets, you will automatically be entered into our extra drawings.)

Quilt Club drawings are the first Friday of each month.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

We also have a limited number of quilts FOR SALE. Contact us for details.

270-229-2009

maggie.matsko@maplemount.org

Visit us online: ursulinesmsj.org.
 Click Help the Sisters, then Quilt Club



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 270-229-4103 • Fax 270-229-4953
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Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

FEBRUARY

- 3 Diocese of Owensboro Deacons Meeting
- 3-4 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Jesus the Bridegroom**
- 8 New Book Study on Book of Revelation**
- 9-11 New: A Contemplative Weekend**
- 16-18 Yarn Spinners Weekend Retreat**
- 17 Once More With Love
- 23-25 Scrapbooking Memories
- 25 Cursillo Team Formation
- 25-28 Quilting Friends

MARCH

- 1-4 Men's Cursillo
- 3 Yard Sale in MSJ Gymnasium
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: New Evangelization**
- 8 "Focus on Faith" Book Study**
- 8-11 Women's Cursillo
- 9-10 ICSC Confirmation Retreat
- 10 Diocese of Owensboro Deacons Meeting
- 16-18 "Martha and Mary" Women's Retreat**
- 17 Confirmation Retreat Day**
- 23-25 Yarn Spinners Weekend Retreat**

APRIL

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Spirituality of Aging**
- 6-8 Spiritual Directors Reunion Weekend**
- 7 Retreat for Gardeners**
- 12 "Focus on Faith" Book Study**
- 14 Diocese of Owensboro Deacons Meeting
- 14-15 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 17-19 Chix with Stix
- 20-22 Gennesaret Retreat Weekend

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2018 BULLETIN BOARD

■ St. Alphonsus hosting Taste of the Country competition

St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph will host "Taste of the Country" cooking competition with men cooking and/or serving on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each and include tastes of all your favorite chef's dishes, cocktails, music, raffle prizes and a 50/50 pot. If interested in entering the competition or in tickets, please contact the parish office at 270-315-3272 or any of the parish members.

■ Michael J. Cumbie coming to St. John the Evangelist

From the heart of the Deep South, steeped in Evangelical fundamentalist traditions and very anti-Catholic, Michael Cumbie underwent a dramatic conversion to Catholicism. He now travels the nation teaching and preaching the very truths that he despised. Many, many souls have come home to the Catholic Church and others have come back to the Catholic Church after hearing Michael's presentations. Dedicated to tearing down the walls that divide non-Catholic Christians from the Holy Catholic Church, Michael invites you to come and experience God's love and grace so all can be His people in word and deed. Called by many the most dynamic Catholic speaker since Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Location: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 6705 Old US Hwy. 45 S. Paducah, KY. Feb. 20-22, 2018 at 6:30-8 p.m. nightly, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. For more information, contact St. John's parish office at 270-554-3810.

■ Actor Frank Runyeon speaking in Owensboro

Blessed Mother Church's 2018 Speaker Series will feature Frank Runyeon, actor with a degree in religion from Princeton University. Frank Runyeon has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 25 years, but is still best known for his many roles on television. He was recently nominated for a Daytime Emmy for his guest-starring role as Angel on "The Young & the Restless." The first presentation, Thursday, March 15 @ 7 p.m. will be Signs: The Gospel of John. Friday, March 16 @ 7 p.m. will be the Sermon on the Mount. Saturday, March 17 will be Hollywood vs Faith. These different talks will include storytelling as well as audience participation. There will be fellowship in the Parish Hall to follow each evening. This event is free. Donations are welcome to help cover expenses. Tickets are not needed. Blessed Mother Church is located at 601 East 23rd Street, Owensboro, KY. Please check out our website at blessedmotherchurch.com, our Facebook page, or contact the office at 270-683-8444 for more information.

■ Gennesaret Retreat

Friday-Sunday, April 20-22, 2018 at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Those who have a chronic or serious health issue could be a candidate for the Gennesaret retreat, designed for persons whose medical conditions would otherwise hinder them from attending a weekend overnight retreat. To find out more, contact Tom or Amy Payne of Owensboro: 270-686-7739.

■ 'A scout is reverent'

The 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 for more details.

■ Evening with an Ursuline Dinner/Presentation

Feb. 6: Sr. Pat Rhoten – Jesus the Bridegroom: The concept that the coming Messiah would be a bridegroom is as ancient as the Old Testament itself.

March 6: Sr. Suzanne Sims – The New Evangelization--Why we Embrace it: "God's Word is unpredictable in its power." These words of Pope Francis help us realize that it is God who first loves us and calls us to go forth to bear lasting fruit.

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, followed by the presentation in a conference room. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org.

■ Catholic Charities now accepting nominations for 2018 award

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro established the John J. McRaith Providing Help, Creating Hope Award in 2013 to recognize individuals or groups in the diocese who show the virtue of charity in their work and deeds aligned with the mission of Catholic Charities, beyond typical parish involvement. Groups and persons who reside within the diocese are eligible, regardless of their religious preference or where their charitable assistance occurred. The award is named after Bishop John J. McRaith who died in 2017. The mission of Catholic Charities is: integrating and coordinating social and charitable works; providing spiritual, educational, financial, and emotional support to those in need; and engaging in works of charity. To nominate a group or individual, please visit <https://goo.gl/KJhREi>. All nominations should be submitted by March 15, 2018.

■ February Alzheimer's education programs

Registration required for all programs; call 1.800.272.3900 to register or at communityresourcefinder.org.

The Memory Café: Social Engagement group meets the second Wednesday of every month. Designed for people with memory loss and their care partners, please no professionals. Evansville.

Family Caregiver Workshop: Topics include Legal/Financial Planning & resources from The Area Agency on Aging. \$5 donation suggested. Designed for family caregivers and people with dementia; please no professionals. Feb. 22, 2018, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. PADD Office, Hopkinsville. Guest speakers include an elder law attorney & PADD representatives. Lunch will be provided by Morningside. Registration deadline Feb. 20th.

Legal and Financial Planning: Designed for family caregivers; please no professionals. \$5 donation suggested. Feb. 27, 2018, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Owensboro Healthpark, Lunch & program provided by a grant through OMHS. Registration deadline Feb. 25th.

■ Administrative Professionals Day

This is a day for receptionists, secretaries, administrative assistants and anyone who fits in this category. There will be quiet time after talks on the theology of work, along with scripture verses, followed by reflection questions. There will also be group participation. Wednesday, April 25, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Led by Lisa Gulino, a theologian from Brescia University. Fee: \$25 (includes meal and program). To register: 270-229-0206.

■ Holy Ground, Sacred Agriculture: A Retreat for Gardeners

In "The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture," Wendell Berry writes, "The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all." We will enter the sanctuary of the soil together. We will put sacramental theology in conversation with the work of Berry and Annie Dillard as we engage relational or systems thinking through the themes of soil and roots to uncover the Body of Christ in fresh new ways. Please wear casual clothes and comfortable walking shoes. Saturday, April 7, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Led by Emily A. DeMoor, Ph.D. Fee: \$30 (includes meal and program). To register: 270-229-0206.

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

Mass attendance numbers from 2016-2017 show trends

Editor's note: Numbers are provided by the Office of Stewardship from Mass counts done annually in all parishes during all weekends in September.

Parish, City	Registered Parishioners	Weekly Average	Mass Attendance 2017	2016	Difference
Blessed Mother, Owensboro	2136	897	41.99%	46.13%	-4.13%
Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro	86	57	66.28%	75.82%	-9.55%
Christ the King, Madisonville	535	289	54.02%	56.66%	-2.64%
Christ the King, Scottsville	184	118	64.13%	62.22%	1.91%
Holy Cross, Providence	15	13	86.67%	73.33%	13.33%
Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington	243	227	93.42%	83.91%	9.50%
Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson	3592	1228	34.19%	33.96%	0.23%
Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam	171	166	97.08%	127.27%	-30.20%
Holy Spirit, Bowling Green	4008	1565	39.05%	37.46%	1.58%
Holy Trinity, Morgantown	61	140	229.51%	184.48%	45.03%
Immaculate, Owensboro	1930	1317	68.24%	56.15%	12.09%
Immaculate Conception, Earlington	93	116	124.73%	94.62%	30.11%
Immaculate Conception, Hawesville	320	169	52.81%	48.99%	3.82%
Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro	1999	896	44.82%	45.58%	-0.76%
Precious Blood, Owensboro	736	463	62.91%	62.09%	0.81%
Resurrection, Dawson Springs	70	62	88.57%	89.55%	-0.98%
Rosary Chapel, Paducah	122	87	71.31%	54.07%	17.24%
Sacred Heart, Hickman	34	32	94.12%	84.21%	9.91%
Sacred Heart, Russellville	410	209	50.98%	50.25%	0.73%
Sacred Heart, Waverly	181	128	70.72%	57.42%	13.30%
Saint Agnes, Uniontown	773	346	44.76%	48.53%	-3.77%
Saint Alphonsus, Saint Joseph	487	226	46.41%	44.64%	1.76%
Saint Ambrose, Henshaw	70	53	75.71%	68.83%	6.88%
Saint Ann, Morganfield	947	395	41.71%	46.49%	-4.78%
Saint Anthony, Axtel	622	484	77.81%	64.63%	13.18%
Saint Anthony, Browns Valley	327	159	48.62%	41.85%	6.77%
Saint Anthony, Peonia	176	87	49.43%	56.41%	-6.98%
Saint Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers	76	119	156.58%	139.51%	17.07%
Saint Augustine, Grayson Springs	98	54	55.10%	51.00%	4.10%
Saint Augustine, Reed	78	57	73.08%	49.49%	23.58%
Saint Benedict, Wax	152	99	65.13%	59.35%	5.78%
Saint Charles, Bardwell	118	98	83.05%	60.33%	22.72%
Saint Charles Borromeo, Livermore	90	58	64.44%	56.25%	8.19%
Saint Columba, Lewisport	218	109	50.00%	54.09%	-4.09%
Saint Denis, Fancy Farm	105	59	56.19%	46.90%	9.29%
Saint Edward, Fulton	100	68	68.00%	72.48%	-4.48%
Saint Elizabeth, Curdsville	165	79	47.88%	43.89%	3.99%
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson	163	134	82.21%	78.05%	4.16%
Saint Francis Borgia, Sturgis	192	126	65.63%	64.58%	1.04%
Saint Francis de Sales, Paducah	1100	551	50.09%	48.91%	1.18%

Parish, City	Registered Parishioners	Weekly Average	Mass Attendance 2017	2016	Difference
Saint Francis of Assis, Todd County	315	258	81.90%	81.72%	0.18%
Saint Henry, Aurora	160	194	121.25%	121.11%	0.14%
Saint Jerome, Fancy Farm	1262	733	58.08%	55.91%	2.17%
Saint John The Baptist, Fordsville	75	46	61.33%	81.13%	-19.80%
Saint John the Evangelist, Paducah	746	416	55.76%	54.73%	1.03%
Saint John the Evangelist, Sunfish	83	51	61.45%	43.18%	18.26%
Saint Joseph, Bowling Green	2687	1202	44.73%	46.34%	-1.60%
Saint Joseph, Central City	285	148	51.93%	48.54%	3.39%
Saint Joseph, Leitchfield	631	330	52.30%	45.73%	6.56%
Saint Joseph, Mayfield	1365	825	60.44%	63.24%	-2.81%
Saints Joseph & Paul, Owensboro	1830	1091	59.62%	87.94%	-28.32%
Saint Jude, Clinton	46	31	67.39%	76.60%	-9.20%
Saint Lawrence, St. Lawrence	347	218	62.82%	67.95%	-5.12%
Saint Leo, Murray	1214	686	56.51%	57.68%	-1.17%
Saint Mark, Eddyville	127	140	110.24%	120.63%	-10.40%
Saint Martin, Rome	307	377	122.80%	144.70%	-21.90%
Saint Mary, Franklin	278	228	82.01%	82.17%	-0.16%
Saint Mary, LaCenter	166	89	53.61%	45.56%	8.05%
Saint Mary Magdalene, Sargo	689	357	51.81%	54.56%	-2.74%
Saint Mary of the Woods, McQuady	373	235	63.00%	65.83%	-2.82%
Saint Mary of the Woods, Whitesville	2538	2015	79.39%	56.87%	22.53%
Saint Michael, Sebree	295	215	72.88%	63.64%	9.24%
Saint Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove	866	356	41.11%	88.00%	-46.89%
Saint Paul, Princeton	87	85	97.70%	80.00%	17.70%
Saint Paul, St. Paul	428	254	59.35%	48.39%	10.95%
Saint Peter of Alcantara, Stanley	280	182	65.00%	71.11%	-6.11%
Saint Peter of Antioch, Waverly	499	256	51.30%	50.90%	0.40%
Saints Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville	1499	707	47.16%	48.77%	-1.60%
Saint Pius X, Calvert City	300	183	61.00%	53.16%	7.84%
Saint Pius X, Owensboro	1173	568	48.42%	49.68%	-1.25%
Saint Romuald, Hardinsburg	1600	628	39.25%	38.63%	0.63%
Saint Rose of Lima, Cloverport	263	156	59.32%	61.25%	-1.94%
Saint Sebastian, Calhoun	208	125	60.10%	50.63%	9.46%
Saint Stephen, Cadiz	262	190	72.52%	63.60%	8.91%
Saint Stephen Cathedral	1306	675	51.68%	47.94%	3.74%
Saint Thomas More, Paducah	1744	854	48.97%	59.37%	-10.40%
Saint William, Knottsville	1154	598	51.82%	64.17%	-12.35%
Saint William of Vercelli, Marion	98	71	72.45%	40.40%	32.05%
DIOCESAN TOTALS:	50,569	27,313	54.01%	53.62%	0.39%

2018 fish fry dates in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Canons 1250 and 1251 state that all Fridays are days of penance in the Catholic Church. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops requests that Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, and practice some form of penance on the other Fridays throughout the year. Due to fish being a popular Lenten Friday option in this part of the world, the tradition of Friday fish fries has become a common activity for many. Below is information for Lent 2018 fish fries held in the Diocese of Owensboro, provided by the parishes. Questions may be directed to the individual parishes.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Feb. 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23

Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. All you can eat catfish, beans, fries, hushpuppies, slaw, dessert and drink. Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Feb. 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23. Held in the parish hall, 4:30-7 p.m. Adult and children's plates available. Price to be determined.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro

March 23 from 5-7 p.m.

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

March 23 at 5:30, includes silent auction baskets and live auction which begins at 6:30 p.m.

St. Martin, Rome

Feb. 9 and 23 at 5 p.m.

St. Charles, Bardwell

Feb. 16, 23; March 2 from 5-7 p.m. Carryout available.

Christ the King, Scottsville

Feb. 23; March 23 at 5 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Feb. 16, 23; March 2, 16, 23 at 5:30 p.m. Note: March dates are contingent on February participation. Call the parish for confirmation.

Sebree holds triple wedding for Guatemalan couples



Together with Deacon Chris Gutiérrez and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas, the newly-married couples (left to right): Lorenza and Miguel, Rosenda and Domingo, Permina and Alonzo. Photo courtesy of Deacon Chris Gutiérrez.



Deacon Chris Gutiérrez (left) and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas (right) pray over one of the three couples getting married. Photo courtesy of Deacon Chris Gutiérrez.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, director of Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro, was ordained to the permanent diaconate in fall 2017. Deacon Gutiérrez also serves at St. Michael Parish in Sebree and in November 2017 he assisted at the wedding of three Catholic couples from Guatemala. He writes to the WKC: "While Fr. Carmelo presided at the Mass, this was my first wedding as a deacon presiding over the vows of these three wonderful couples at our parish. Memorable not only for being my first as deacon, but because of the witness in these couples of simplicity, focus on the sacrament and beauty in Christian marriage." ■

Burmese parishioners connect with local medical culture



(Back) Fr. Tom Buckman, Leigh Weathers, Andrea Wise, Mary Sumlut; (front) McKenzie Shulte, Sarah Hodge, and Melanie Stanishia and her son gather to celebrate the completed project. Photo courtesy of Joyce Yesier.

BY ANDREA WISE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Many Burmese refugees have been relocated to Owensboro from camps in Malaysia or Thailand. Their militia-led government separated from Great Britain in 1948, and the country of Burma, or Myanmar, resides in constant civil war. The most common

ethnic groups found in Daviess County are Karen, Karenni, Chinn, and Burma. The most difficult task for integration at this time is language barriers. In the Emergency Department (ED) at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, these barriers can lead to poor provision of healthcare.

St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro hosted a focused Civic Health Fair on Nov. 11, 2017 for the Burmese

parishioners. This community project began as an option for almsgiving during Lent. But as I am currently a masters of nursing student, this project expanded to a challenging, yet rewarding, school assignment for my nursing leadership class.

The project has now transformed into a profound mission, with boundless potential, to help the Burmese parishioners merge into American healthcare culture. Brought together by faith and vision for this community, Ursuline Sr. Suzanne Sims (St. Pius X staff member), and I (an ED nurse), began collaborating this summer for the first event.

Five nurses from the parish, five nurses from the ED, my devoted family and colleagues, and two brilliant Burmese interpreters, all gathered with dutiful hearts to help Sr. Suzanne and I put our vision into action.

The goal of the health fair was for the nurses to complete basic medical screening exams that the parishioners could take to any healthcare facility, and educate people on common healthcare topics: women's care, dosing for Tylenol and ibuprofen by weight, when to go the ED and when to seek care at the urgent treatment center, open clinic times for pediatric patients, dental care, and the importance of having a primary care physician.

Each adult received a folder to keep their medical screening exam and all the education materials discussed at the health fair. The medical screening exam was created to mirror the ED triage; parishioners were measured for height, weight, and blood pressure, and their medical histories were thoroughly documented by the nurses.

Continues on page 14

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Continued from page 13

This team provided care to 27 adult parishioners in three hours, and many needs of the Burmese community were discovered that will provide basis for future events.

A special blessing and thank-you to all the generous and supportive individuals that participated in this event: Michelle Jones, Mary Sumlut, Cindy Mattingly, Gene Boehman, Nettie Noel, Judy Payne, Brenda Thomson, Joyce Yeiser, Carol Payne, Steve Boarman, Leigh Weathers, McKenzie Shulte, Melanie Stanishia, Sarah Hodge, Robbin Shively, Janie Fenwick, Emily Touchstone, and Fr. Tom Buckman. ■

Andrea Wise is a nurse at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital and belongs to SS. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.



Andrea Wise, RN consults with Thwa Meh. Photo courtesy of Joyce Yesier.

— CALLED TO —
ACCOMPANY

FREE EVENT

Youth Ministry Volunteer Training Workshop
 Register at
owensborodiocese.org/called-to-accompany

Lunch Provided

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 9:30AM-3:00PM
ST. JEROME FANCY FARM

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 9:30AM-3:00PM
STS. JOSEPH AND PAUL OWENSBORO

A photograph of three people walking away from the camera on a paved path. The person on the left is a man wearing a dark shirt and pants, carrying a backpack. The person in the middle is a woman wearing a white shirt and jeans. The person on the right is a man wearing a white shirt and jeans, also carrying a backpack. They are walking on a path that leads through a grassy area with trees in the background.

OWENSBORO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

Registration is OPEN at:

www.owensborocatholicleague.com

Divisions:

Pee Wee Baseball (5 & 6 Yr Old Girls and Boys)

8U Softball (7 & 8 Yr Old Girls)

10U Softball (9 & 10 Yr Old Girls)

13U Softball (11, 12 & 13 Yr Old Girls)

Rookie Baseball (7 & 8 Yr Old)

Minor Baseball (9 & 10 Yr Old)

Major Baseball (11, 12 & 13 Yr Old)

Registration Fees:

\$85 = 1 Player

\$130 = 2 Players from same family

\$165 = 3 or more Players from same family

Additional Fees: \$15 per player concession stand buy-out

**** All games for all divisions are played at the OCL Complex behind St. Pius X in Owensboro**

End of an era: Diocese says farewell to TEC ministry

BY WKC STAFF

Teens Encounter Christ, or TEC, as it is commonly known, planted seeds for countless youth ministry opportunities to blossom in western Kentucky – making it all the more bittersweet that Western Kentucky TEC will cease its ministry in 2018.

Established in the Diocese of Owensboro in 1976, TEC made an outstanding impact on youth across western Kentucky. TEC retreats led young people on a weekend retreat by meditating on the death and resurrection of Jesus as a type of passage through youth and young adulthood.

For many years, TEC was the primary youth ministry experience for teens and young adults in the diocese.

However, in recent years TEC's numbers have dropped as interest decreased and volunteers dwindled.

The last Western Kentucky TEC was held in July 2016 – the 172nd in the diocese – and drew only 12 youth. This was a significantly low number for a retreat that in the past had drawn numbers close to 50.

"Countless people in the diocese have been impacted by TEC, and poured their dedication, energy and prayers into it," said Charlie Hardesty, diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry.

He explained that, unfortunately, the "pool of dedicated people has dried up" as time increased between each TEC retreat and even crowdsourcing-style promotion failed to garner new interest.

"This decision wasn't made lightly," said Hardesty. "I've spent months of conversations with countless youth ministry and past TEC volunteers, as well

as with our chancellor, Kevin Kauffeld, and Bishop Medley, to figure out the best route to take."

Fr. Daniel Dillard, spiritual director of Western Kentucky TEC, admitted this is a difficult time "to oversee its end."

"I will always love TEC," he said, "and I will be eternally grateful for the role TEC played in my vocation and in the lives of so many of our youth over the past 40 years. Now we must move on to find new ways to bring the youth of our Church to know and love God."

Hardesty said TEC's deep roots in the diocese have helped other youth-oriented programs bloom and flourish.

"Thanks to many people who experienced TEC as youth, we are now blessed to have lots of other youth ministry events for our young people, here in 2018," said Hardesty.

He listed Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green, the annual YOUTH 2000, Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference (which alternates biennially with the National Catholic Youth Conference), and Christian Leadership Institute.

"That's to name just a few," he said.

Furthermore, "parish youth ministry in our diocese continues to grow through intentional efforts," he said. "Parishes are adapting and learning more about serving the youth in their own communities, on a more personal level."

For anyone with questions or concerns, Hardesty said he can be contacted by phone or over email: (270) 683-1545 or charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org. ■



**"POPE FRANCIS:
ENVISIONING
A SOCIAL
REVOLUTION
DRIVE BY LOVE"**

**PRESENTED BY:
DR. GERARD
MANNION**

**BRESCHIA UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE BUILDING -
TAYLOR LECTURE
HALL**

**FEBRUARY 8TH
AT 7:00 PM**

CO-SPONSORED BY:



Diocese of
OWENSBORO



Brescia University L³
Youth Theology Institute

Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

El número de sacerdotes católicos a través del mundo occidental ha estado disminuyendo por los últimos cuatro décadas. Dado que la población católica sigue creciendo continuamente, hay todavía menos sacerdotes por persona católica. Sin embargo, esta situación de la Iglesia no existe en todo el mundo. En países de África e India siguen con un crecimiento rápido de la población católica y también las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa. La disminución más severa de sacerdotes y religiosos se encuentra en los Estados Unidos y en la mayoría de Europa.

Actualmente hay 84 sacerdotes en la Diócesis de Owensboro para servir a los 50,000 a 70,000 católicos. El número de población no es tan exacta porque ha sido difícil contar el número de inmigrantes y refugiados que forman parte de nuestra iglesia.

Déjenme aclarar que dije que 84 “sirven” a nuestra diócesis. Esto incluye a los sacerdotes jubilados y los que sirven afuera de la diócesis en este momento como capellanes y estudiantes. Pero es importante recordar que siempre serviremos a los que están afuera de nuestras fronteras. El número tampoco incluye a los Padres de la Misericordia, una comunidad religiosa de hombres basada en Auburn, Kentucky. Aunque han sido generosos en ayudar en nuestras parroquias cuando ha sido necesario, su apostolado es predicar en las misiones parroquiales y retiros a través del mundo.

De nuestros 84 sacerdotes, ocho están jubilados, siete sirven en ministerios afuera de una parroquia y otros cuatro no tienen una asignación en este momento. Esto nos lleva a 57 sacerdotes.

De estos, 16 no están incardinados con la Diócesis de Owensboro. Esto significa que pertenecen a alguna orden religiosa: cinco pertenecen a los Heraldos de la Buena Nueva y dos son sacerdotes de Glenmary; uno es Redentorista y uno es Misionero de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María. Siete más son sacerdotes diocesanos de otras diócesis donde sus obispos les han permitido servir en Kentucky occidental.

Hay 78 parroquias en nuestra diócesis, y hoy en día 22 de ellas tienen párrocos nacidos fuera de los Estados Unidos. Veintiuno de nuestros 84 sacerdotes nacieron en otro país. Los números pueden ser confusos, pero es importante recordar que varios de los que nacieron en otro país ya se han afiliado permanentemente con nuestra diócesis.

Continúa en página 17

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA FEBRERO 2018:

FEBRERO 1	9:00 AM ● Misa – Escuela Juan Pablo II, Morganfield
FEBRERO 1-2	Ordenación e Instalación del Obispo de Nashville
FEBRERO 4	10:00 AM ● Confirmación – Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
FEBRERO 6	9:30 AM ● Misa – Escuela San José, Bowling Green 6:00 PM ● Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Fundación Católica
FEBRERO 8	10:00 AM ● Visita con las Monjas Pasionistas, Whitesville
FEBRERO 10	9:00 AM ● Instalación de los Seminaristas Diocesanos a los Ministerios – Catedral de San Esteban 5:00 PM ● Confirmación – San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
FEBRERO 11	2:00 PM ● Rito de Elección – San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm 6:00 PM ● Misa con el Centro Newman – San Leo, Murray
FEBRERO 14	12:00 PM ● Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza – Catedral
FEBRERO 17	11:30 AM ● Reconciliación – Conferencia Católica de Hombres, Riverpark Center 4:30 PM ● Misa – Conferencia Católica de Hombres, Riverpark Center
FEBRERO 18	2:00 PM ● Rito de Elección – Catedral de San Esteban 6:00 PM ● Rito de Elección – Catedral de San Esteban
FEBRERO 19	10:00 AM ● Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal– Centro Católico McRaith 1:30 PM ● Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith
FEBRERO 20	10:00 AM ● Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky, Louisville
FEBRERO 20-21	Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia, Louisville
FEBRERO 22-24	Encuentro Regional, Miami
FEBRERO 27	10:00 AM ● Oficina en Paducah 5:30 PM ● Noche de la Fundación del Club Serra, Owensboro



Continuado de la página 16

Consideren entonces cómo sería la situación en nuestra diócesis sin la presencia de los sacerdotes nacidos fuera de los Estados Unidos. Es claro que, sin ellos, el próximo domingo no podríamos ofrecer la Misa en cada parroquia a través de la diócesis. Si esta situación fuera permanente, no tendríamos otra opción sino considerar consolidar y cerrar algunas parroquias.

Tenemos a cinco sacerdotes que están en la década de los noventa, tres en la década de los ochenta, ocho en la década de los setenta, 22 en la década de los sesenta, 19 en la década de los cincuenta, 17 en la década de los cuarenta, 10 en la década de los treinta y ninguno en la década de los veinte.

Ahora podríamos ver estas estadísticas y preguntarnos si el vaso está medio lleno o medio vacío. Lo que sea nuestra visión, debemos estar agradecidos por los hombres que han contestado al llamado a la vocación sacerdotal de predicar

el Evangelio y llamar a la Iglesia a la vida sacramental.

Y ahora mientras la nación sigue la conversación sobre la inmigración, debemos considerar el regalo que los inmigrantes han sido para nuestra Iglesia, no solamente como sacerdotes, sino como parroquianos fieles. ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Una declaración del Obispo Medley sobre el tiroteo en la Escuela Preparatoria del Condado de Marshall el 23 de enero del 2018

Cuando supe de la tragedia violenta en la Escuela Preparatoria del Condado de Marshall, yo estaba afuera de la diócesis participando en una conferencia. Como a todos, me dejó estupefacto que un evento así podría haber pasado en nuestro estado y en nuestra área.

Distraído de la conferencia, seguía cada informe de las noticias y con cada informe recé por los adolescentes heridos y por sus familias. Dentro de unas horas supe que dos de nuestros sacerdotes, el P. Anthoni Ottagan y el P. Greg Trawick, habían contestado llamadas para ir al hospital local. Me confortó saber que aquellos sacerdotes, y seguramente otros ministros eclesiales, estaban llevando la consolación de Jesucristo a una circunstancia inconcebible.

Mi corazón está pesado por los adolescentes que han muerto, por sus familias y por todos los heridos. Me doy cuenta, también, que las heridas emocionales profundas de cientos de personas también necesitan la consolación y sanación. Aunque tengamos conflictos internos, tenemos que rezar también por el adolescente quien infligió este daño terrible y por los que lo aman y lo estiman.

En la tragedia, solamente nos queda mirar hacia Jesucristo, el que fue herido por nosotros. Me uno a las oraciones de la comunidad por los que han sido lastimados.

Me uno a otros que cuestionan y suplican: ¿puede esta tragedia llevarnos a buscar respuestas duraderas a la violencia sin sentido?

Que el Dios de la misericordia nos guíe. ■

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

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.

Llegando a los EEUU siendo niños, el futuro de los recipientes de DACA está en peligro

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

“Tenía que escoger entre traerme a mí o a él... es difícil llevar niños para cruzar la frontera,” dijo Zamarripa en una entrevista el 5 de enero del 2018 con el Católico de Kentucky Occidental. “Y pensó que sería más fácil conmigo.”

Dijo que su madre lo cargó para cruzar a la frontera entre México y los EEUU, y entonces viajaron a Kentucky: “Mi madre me trajo aquí para darme la oportunidad de tener una vida mejor.”

“He estado viviendo en los Estados Unidos desde que fui un bebé,” dijo Zamarripa. Ahora tiene 17 años y está en su último año de estudios en la Escuela Preparatoria del Condado de Henderson. Pertenece a la Parroquia de Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson.

Zamarripa es uno de los aproximadamente 800,000 individuos quienes viven en los EEUU y están bajo el programa de DACA – Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia – un programa anunciado por la Secretaria de Seguridad Nacional en 2012.

Sin embargo, cambios recientes han hecho que la situación de los recipientes de DACA ahora está insegura.

DACA fue creado para ciertos individuos sin documentos quienes fueron traídos a los EEUU antes de cumplir 16 años. Después de pagar una multa, los recipientes recibían un permiso que podrían ren-



Armando Zamarripa es un estudiante en su último año de estudios en la Escuela Preparatoria del Condado de Henderson y es un recipiente de DACA. Él dice que le gustaría asistir a la universidad y estudiar la contabilidad. El anuncio del presidente que el programa de DACA terminará ha causado a muchas personas como Zamarripa suspender sus planes. Foto de los archivos de WKC.

ovar cada dos años, y podrían calificar para autorización de trabajo, un número de Seguro Social y una licencia de manejo.

DACA no creó ningún camino a la ciudadanía; su propósito simplemente fue prevenir la deportación de los recipientes.

En septiembre del 2017, la administración del Presidente Donald Trump anunció que terminarán el programa de DACA en marzo del 2018.

Esta decisión impacta a la familia de Christian Rosas, quien salió de México a la edad de 10 años

con su madre, esperando un futuro más seguro en los EEUU.

“Venimos en 2004, cruzando el desierto caminamos ocho horas toda la noche,” dijo Rosas, quien también pertenece a la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús.

Ahora tiene más de 20 años y Rosas es el proveedor principal para su familia, la cual incluye a él, su madre y sus dos hermanos menores.

Su permiso de trabajo de DACA se vence este noviembre. Esto significa que ya no podrá calificar

Continúa en página 20

Continuado de la página 19



A la edad de 10 años, Christian Rosas y su madre – quien tenía cinco meses de embarazo sin saberlo – caminaron el desierto entre México y los Estados Unidos para empezar una vida mejor. Ahora Rosas tiene más de 20 años, es un recipiente de DACA y se ha convertido en el proveedor principal para su familia. Foto de los archivos de WKC.

para una licencia de manejo, ni podrá seguir en su trabajo actual.

“Primeramente afectaría a mi madre porque ella no sabe manejar,” dijo Rosas. “Ella tendría dificultades en llegar al trabajo...tendría dificultad en llevar a mis hermanos a la escuela o a sus citas de doctor o a cualquier lado.”

Rosas explicó que al aplicar para DACA, el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, “ya tiene toda mi información, y dónde vivo, entonces tendría miedo que en cualquier momento podrían llegar a mi puerta y decirme ‘ya tienes que regresar.’”

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, abogada gerente de Kentucky Legal Aid y parroquiana de la Iglesia Santos

José y Pablo en Owensboro, dijo que estas situaciones “ocurren en toda nuestra diócesis.”

Estas personas jóvenes, “tienen acentos de Kentucky; fueron bautizados en nuestras parroquias; hicieron sus Primeras Comuniones con nuestros niños,” comentó ella.

Montalvo-Gesser dijo que muchas personas preguntan por qué estos individuos no pueden simplemente aplicar para la ciudadanía, porque es obvio que se quieren quedar y contribuir a la sociedad.

“La gente piensa que es como conseguir un boleto a un juego de beisbol,” dijo. “Ahorita no hay ninguna manera para ellos aplicar para la ciudadanía.”

Una opción que están trabajando es el Dream

Act de 2017, una propuesta de ley bipartidista que proveería a los recipientes de DACA un camino directo a la ciudadanía con estudios secundarios, entrando en la fuerza laboral de los EEUU o entrando en servicio militar. Fue propuesta en julio del 2017.

Montalvo-Gesser dijo que comunidades católicas locales pueden tomar pasos para dar la bienvenida a los inmigrantes.

“No los traten diferentes,” dijo. “Alabamos al mismo Dios; vamos a la misma iglesia.”

Ella también aconsejó que tengamos cuidado del vocabulario que usamos y que esté de acuerdo con la enseñanza social católica; por ejemplo, aunque alguien puede estar en los EEUU ilegalmente, “ninguna persona es ‘ilegal,’” comentó.

Montalvo-Gesser dice que en sus clínicas legales que ofrece para la comunidad local de inmigrantes, le han inspirado con “tanto amor que tienen a este lugar de lo cual quieren ser parte.”

“Algunas de las mejores historias de América vienen de personas que ni siquiera nacieron en América,” dijo. ■



La Inmigración y la Iglesia Católica

- Para aprender más sobre la posición de la Iglesia Católica sobre los asuntos de la inmigración, visita justiceforimmigrants.org.
- Para asistencia legal, contactar al Catholic Legal Immigration Network a clinicalegal.org.

Seminarista inspirado por el ejemplo de su padre, y su tocayo San Martín de Tours

POR MARTIN MA NA LING, ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL



El P. Jason McClure, director vocacional diocesano; seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling (en primer plano) y el seminarista Stephen Van Lal Than (en el fondo) en el campamento vocacional Hechos para Más del 2017 que se llevó a cabo en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper. Foto por cortesía de Corey Bruns.



Martin Ma Na Ling participa en la Fiesta Alrededor del Mundo del 2017 en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad. Los estudiantes tuvieron la oportunidad de compartir y probar comida de diferentes culturas. Fotos por cortesía de Corey Bruns.

Hola. Mi nombre es Martin Ma Na Ling y soy seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Estoy en mi primer año de teología en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad.

Desde mi niñez quería ser un sacerdote porque yo veía a los sacerdotes que venían a comer con nosotros y ofrecer la Misa en mi pueblo en Myanmar. Mi padre es catequista en nuestro pueblo, e inspira-

do por la forma que ha vivido su vida, decidí entrar al seminario después de terminar la escuela preparatoria.

Mi santo patrono es San Martín de Tours. Fue amable a los pobres, vistió al desnudo y ayudó a los pobres cuando fue general en el ejército. Me gusta su amabilidad, amor, generosidad, y disponibilidad de servir a Dios después de recibir un sueño de Dios.

Quiero seguir en sus pasos y creo que estoy bendecido por su intercesión.

Me encanta la música. Toco varios instrumentos musicales y disfruto cuando tengo la oportunidad de tocarlos. En mi tiempo libre me gusta escribir sobre la Iglesia y sus enseñanzas.

Mi pasaje favorito de la Biblia es Mateo 6:20: "Junten tesoros y reservas en el Cielo, donde no hay

Continúa en página 22

Continuado de la página 21

polilla ni óxido para hacer estragos, y donde no hay ladrones para romper el muro y robar.” Desde que entré en el seminario he usado este pasaje. Me recuerda no siempre estar interesado en las cosas de este mundo que son corrompibles y temporales.

Estoy tan feliz de ser seminarista en los Estados Unidos. Los seminaristas en San Meinrad me han ayudado mucho y me gusta vivir en la comunidad. Como un estudiante internacional, es un reto aprender algunas materias y escuchar a las lecciones en clase. Aparte de eso, todo está bien allí.

Finalmente, lo que quiero decir a la Diócesis de Owensboro y al Obispo Medley es: Muchísimas gracias. Siento que soy el más pequeño de los seminaristas de nuestra diócesis espiritualmente e intelectualmente. No soy perfecto. Pero doy gracias a Dios por traerme aquí a los Estados Unidos. He entregado mi vida a Dios, y él me cuidará toda mi vida. ■

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.

Sebree celebra una boda de tres parejas guatemaltecas



Las parejas recién casadas juntas con el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez y el P. Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (de la izquierda a la derecha): Lorenza y Miguel, Rosenda y Domingo, Permina y Alonzo. Foto por cortesía del Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez.



El diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez (izquierda) y el P. Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (derecha) rezan por las tres parejas en su boda. Foto por cortesía del Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez.

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Owensboro, fue ordenado al diaconado permanente en el otoño del 2017. El Diácono Cristóbal también sirve en la Parroquia de San Miguel en Sebree y en noviembre del 2017 participó en la boda de tres parejas católicas de Guatemala. Escribió al WKC: “Aunque el Padre Carmelo presidió la Misa, fue mi primera boda siendo diácono y presidiendo en los votos de estas tres parejas maravillosas en nuestra parroquia. Fue notable no solamente por ser mi primera boda siendo diácono, sino por el testimonio de estas parejas de sencillez, enfoque en el sacramento y la belleza del matrimonio Cristiano.” ■

African American legacy in military has long, diverse history

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As we celebrate Black History Month each February it gives us focus to address a theme, which this year is "African Americans in Times of War."

In the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)'s announcement of the 2018 Black History Month theme, it stated: "This is a theme filled with paradoxes of valor and defeat, of civil rights opportunities and setbacks, of struggles abroad and at home, of artistic creativity and repression, and of catastrophic loss of life and the righteous hope for peace."

We can all proudly begin with the Revolutionary War in which Blacks served proving their valor; patriotism and search for socioeconomic opportunity and freedom from oppression/slavery.

During the Civil War, Blacks were initially excluded from military service, but, as the Union death toll increased this ban was lifted and by the end of that war more than 186,000 Black men had enlisted in the Union Army and 20,000 joined the Union Navy. Sixteen of these soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor.

In her 2015 History.com article, "Who were the buffalo soldiers?", Elizabeth Nix wrote that, "Following the U.S. Civil War, regiments of African-American men known as buffalo soldiers served on the western frontier."

When the Indian wars ended in the 1890s, the buffalo soldiers fought in Cuba in the 1898 Spanish-American War. In 1948, President Harry Truman issued an executive order eliminating racial segregation and discrimination in America's armed

forces.

Those who serve in our military have not escaped the historical racist oppression of Blacks in America; in fact they have been targeted and persecuted most severely because they dared to don the uniform. When Reconstruction after the Civil War ended and Jim Crow began, Black veterans living in Southern states quickly became targets for white violence.

At the onset of WWI, Blacks debated the merits of signing up to fight for a country that functionally denied them full citizenship. 380,000 Black men heeded W. E. B. Du Bois' call to enlist in the segregated Army, many of them hoping that doing so would increase the standing of Blacks in America.

In a 2016 article for The New Yorker, Peter C. Baker writes that unfortunately, "After the Armistice, black veterans returning home were greeted not with recognition of their civil rights but, instead, with an intense wave of discrimination and hostility."

Despite the historical adversity, 1.2 million Black men enlisted during WWII—a display of commitment to, and faith in, America that was as moving as it was mind-boggling. This was the time that the historic Tuskegee Airmen were commissioned.

During the Korean War, Black soldiers distinguished themselves in combat on the ground and in the air. The Vietnam War is still a source of controversy for many, but Black troops served on the ground and as paratroopers. Many of us today lost loved ones in that war. Of the 275,000 Black troops in Vietnam, 7,241 were killed in combat.



Save the Date

■ **The Mountaintop:** "The Mountaintop" presented by the L.A. Theatre Workshop on Feb. 13 at the Preston Arts Center, 2660 US 60, Henderson, KY, at 7:30 p.m.; depicts Martin Luther King Jr.'s life the night before his assassination. The original Broadway show featured Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett. Join us in the auditorium after the show for a talk back with the actors! Be sure to come early to hear The Greater Norris Chapel Baptist choir sing at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and \$25. Please contact the Office of Black Catholic Ministry at (270) 316-7312 by Feb. 5 if you would like to attend from the Owensboro area.

■ **Black Catholic Gathering:** Saturday, April 21, at Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro. Details will be provided in the March issue of the WKC.

Continues on page 24

Continued from page 23

Almost 70 years after President Truman desegregated the military, senior Black officers are still rare, particularly among the highest ranks.

Historical Black heroes of note include Col. Charles Young, who made a career of breaking down barriers in the segregated U.S. Army, and had been born into slavery in Mays Lick, Ky., in 1864.

Gen. Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr. (1880-1970) was the first Black to rise to the rank of General in the U.S. Army. He was the father of USAF Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

Gen. Colin Powell was the first African American appointed as the U.S. Secretary of State, and the first, and so far the only, to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Colin Luther Powell is a U. S. statesman and a retired four-star general in the United States Army.

This Black History Month we honor our military service personnel past and present because it is to them that we owe our freedom. ■

F. Veronica Wilhite is the director of Black Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro.

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

Join us for the Spring Women's Retreat...

What Martha and Mary Can Teach Us

Weekend of March 16-18, 2018

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

While most discussions of these two gospel women focus on the frazzled worker Martha compared to her quiet prayerful sister Mary, retreat participants will be invited to consider these stories from a different approach. During presentations that peel back the layers of the gospel stories, quiet reflection, group sharing, and the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, we will explore the links between Mary and Martha and our own lives.

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

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

Get a 10% discount if paid in full by Feb. 16.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

Contact Sister Mary Matthias Ward: 270-229-0200

To register, call (270) 229-0206 • kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Sister Cheryl



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

21st Annual YOUTH 2000

A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat

March 9-11, 2018

**Brescia University
Campus Center**

John 6:51

**"I am the living bread that
has come down from heaven."**

Ages 13-30

(270) 683-1545
marianshrineky.org



Via Dolorosa walks the Way of the Cross in Jesus' footsteps

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

The Stations of the Cross, or the Way of the Cross as it is sometimes called, is a devotion which Catholic Christians practice in order to walk with Jesus in the last hours of his life. It is an ancient practice. The first witness to this devotion comes from the fourth century from the diary of the Spanish pilgrim Egeria, who followed the footsteps of Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the hill of Calvary.

The Stations of the Cross are based upon the Via Dolorosa, literally "The Sorrowful Way," a street that winds through the Old City of Jerusalem. Of the 14 stations that comprise the Way of the Cross, nine stations are located along the street of the Via Dolorosa itself; the last five stations are located within the church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Via Dolorosa is a public street. In the time of Jesus the estimated population of Jerusalem was 50,000 inhabitants. During the feast of Passover, 500,000 pilgrims flooded the city and stayed within the city walls, which is less than one square mile. As Jesus carried the cross along the Via Dolorosa, the street would have been packed with people.

And this is a lesson the Via Dolorosa can teach us: the Way of the Cross takes place in the streets of our lives – where we live and work and study. At several stations, chapels have been built to step back from the street and to reflect upon the meaning of that station. Our churches and chapels provide opportunities to step aside and reflect on our experience of carrying the cross with Jesus, but it is in our own lives and the lives of others that we experience the Passion of Jesus.

When we pray the Stations of the Cross we can be tempted to separate this devotion from our lives: we focus upon the suffering of Jesus in his last hours. But the Via Dolorosa teaches us to connect the slights and injuries we experience in our busy lives or in the lives of those we love, with the suffering

of Jesus. It is in our lives that we experience the Passion of Jesus – in the Stations we can step back to reflect upon how the Passion of Jesus takes place in our lives. ■

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



Placing their hands upon it, pilgrims typically venerate the rock on the far right of the photo, just above the triangular collection of stones, on this Fifth Station of the Cross: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross. Photo courtesy of Fr. Ray Clark.

Seminarian inspired by father figures' examples



Martin Ma Na Ling participates in the 2017 Around the World Party at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, in which students had the opportunity to share and sample dishes from different cultures. Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

BY MARTIN MA NA LING, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Hello, my name is Martin Ma Na Ling and I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro. I am in first-year theology at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Since my childhood I have wanted to be a priest because of seeing the priests who came and ate with us and offered Mass in my village in Myanmar. My father is a catechist in our home village, and by the

inspiration of how he lived his life, I decided to enter the seminary after finishing high school.

My patron saint is St. Martin of Tours. He was kind to the poor, he clothed the naked and helped the poor when he was a general in the army. I like his kindness, love, generosity, and his being ready to serve God after receiving a dream from God. I want to follow his footsteps and I believe that I am blessed through his intercession.

I love music. I play several musical instruments and I enjoy the opportunity to play them. In my free time, I like writing about the Church and its teach-



Fr. Jason McClure, diocesan vocations director; seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling (foreground); and seminarian Stephen Van Lal Than (background) at the 2017 Made for More vocations camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

ings.

My favorite Bible passage is Matthew 6:20: "But store up for yourself treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." I have been using this

Continues on page 27

VOCATIONS

Martin Ma Na Ling continued from page 26

passage since entering the seminary. This passage reminds me always not to be interested in worldly things which are corruptible and temporary.

I am so happy to be in the seminary in the United States. Seminarians at St. Meinrad are so helpful, and I like living with the community. As an international student, I am challenged by learning some subjects and listening to the lectures in class. Apart from these, all things are good there.

Finally, what I want to say the Diocese of Owensboro and Bishop Medley is: Thank you very much. I feel like I am the least of the seminarians in our diocese spiritually and intellectually. I am not perfect. But I thank God for bringing me here to the United States. I gave my life to God, and he will take care of my whole life. ■



Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions

Wonder what it's like being a Nun?
Interested in *Religious Life*?

Passionist *Vocation Retreats*

Open to Single, Catholic women ages 17-30

March 23-25, 2018

June 22-24, 2018

October 12-14, 2018


Interested? Contact us:

Vocation Director
Passionist Nuns
8564 Crisp Road
Whitesville, KY 42378-9782
(270) 233-4571
vocations@passionistnuns.org

Contact our Office of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 owensborovocations.com

 jason.mcclure@pastoral.org
fred.litke@pastoral.org

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

Spiritual Direction Training Program

Feeling called to companion others on their journey with God? Sign up for the 2018-2020 Spiritual Direction Training Program, sponsored by Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center and the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

Beginning Oct. 15, you will meet for a weekly training session eight times over a two-year period, entering into study, reflection and prayer around a topic fundamental to the understanding and practice of spiritual direction. You will receive intense training, practice and supervision by a coordinating team of religious sisters and educators.

The program, which leads to certification as a spiritual director, takes place on a quiet, rural campus in Maple Mount. Close to 50 individuals from across the U.S. have completed the program since 2004.

Limited scholarships are available. Please register by Aug. 31.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

To register or for more information,
contact Sister Mary Matthias Ward
270-229-0200

mary.ward@maplemount.org

A brochure can be found at ursulinesmsj.org

Ways to celebrate February's National Marriage Week

BY DANNY MAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

What have you done for your marriage lately?

The trend these days is for spouses and parents to be so busy caring for kids and performing at our jobs that we forget to care for ourselves and our spouses. As moms and dads, we can easily fall into doing whatever the kids want, taking them wherever they want to go, signing them up for everything under the sun. If we're not careful, we go, go, go, until there is nothing left to give our spouses. Or ourselves.

And sadly, divorce is also the trend these days. Though on a slight decline since the 80s, the divorce rate in the U.S. is still hovering between 40-50 percent, according to the American Psychological Association.

But thankfully, anyone who stays current on what Pope Francis and the U.S. bishops have to say about marriage and family life can clearly see that supporting marriages is an extremely high priority. That message was spoken loudly and clearly from the Synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015, which Pope Francis addressed head-on in *Amoris Laetitia* (the Joy of Love).

Fr. Richard Meredith, at a mentor couple training at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville on Jan. 6, summarized it this way: "For the New Evangelization to take root, it must be through the family. And it must come through strengthening marriages."

So again, I ask, what have you done for your marriage lately?

Now that we're past all the Christmas and New Year's Celebrations, our thoughts naturally turn to St. Valentine's Day, which is why National Marriage Week is Feb. 7-14, culminating with World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 11.

So in light of World Marriage Day and Nation-

al Marriage Week, I have a couple suggestions you could do for your marriage in the month of February.

Husbands, consider attending the Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky on Feb. 17. As the spiritual head of your household, feeding your own faith can greatly impact your spouse, kids, and grandkids. Not only will your faith grow, you will be setting an example for your family. (Women, you'll have your chance at the women's conference later this year.)

Couples, instead of buying chocolate this year, give each other the gift of a marriage retreat. Thirty couples enjoyed the Diocesan Marriage Retreat at Lake Barkley last year. This year, it will be April

13-15 at Kenlake Resort. What could be a better Valentine's gift than a weekend away in a beautiful, lakeside setting filled with good food, great company, adoration, Mass, and uplifting, encouraging reflections that will strengthen your relationship?

Lastly, here's a free idea. During the week of marriage, (Feb. 7-14) the Office of Marriage and Family Life will be posting each day a reflection on Chapter 4 from *Amoris Laetitia* on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you want to take it a step further, take the 28-day Joy of Love challenge. Email danny.may@pastoral.org and I will email a daily reflection directly to your inbox the entire month of February. ■

Danny May is the director of the Office of Family Life for the 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.



Christopher West



Doug Barry

February Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

John & Mary Medley, Jr., 57
Gary & Diane Miller, 40
Thomas & Janice Foster, 62
Vince & Joan Frey, 59

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 63
John & Carlene Gabe, 55
Darryl & Nancy Goolsby, 5
Fred & Michaelene Guillerma, 52
Kenneth & Harriett Hilte, 51
Richard & Doris Market, 55
Richard & Kathy Powell, 51
Ronnie & Vicki Thorp, 10
Mike & Bobbie Ann Willett, 55
Norman & Mary Anne Williams, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

David & Crystal Berger, 5
Christopher & Kelly Sterrie, 15
Ines & Cosme Duran, 10
Ken & Kathryn McKenney, 25
Donald & Janet Mott, 50
James & Patricia Signorello, 51
Carroll & Virginia Hughes, 52
Donald & Mary Jane Scarbeau, 58

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Fred & Rose Conti, 58

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Denis & Martha Wheatley, 58

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Quincy & Andrea Moorman, 5
Mike & Stephanie Houtchen, 25
George & Brenda Hardesty, 50
Larry & Linda Field, 56
Francis & Doreen Russell, 54
George & Martha Taylor, 62
Joseph & Jennifer Galloway, 52

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Benjamin Alan & Melissa Kamuf, 5
Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 63
Gary & Patricia Satterwhite, 58
William & Lyndel Maddox, 51
James & Patricia Krampe, 58
Robert E. & Mary Ramage, 53

Precious Blood, Owensboro

James & Rita Cecil, 57
Guy & Linda Connor, 57

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Guy & Patricia Fouse, 25
Johnny & Lauretta Hollis, 52

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Robert & Carolyn Mills, 51
Greg & Camille Greenwell, 25
Ronald & Mary Davis, 61
Donald & Becky Ervin, 50
Wayne & Loretta Nally, 57
Jimmy & Carolyn Duncan, 40
Mike & Carol Gough, 50
Jack & Sue Miller, 53

St. Ann, Morganfield

Franklin & Agnes Hancock, 70
Gilbert & Pat Rudd, 57
Willard & Joyce Greenwell, 65

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Dale & Flossie Walker, 40

St. Anthony, Peonia

Fred & Vida White, 56

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Homer & JoAnn Mattingly, 40

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Jon & Donna Gresham, 52

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

James & Shelia Clemons, 40
James & Faye Johnston, 56

St. Benedict, Wax

Ruel & Louise Patterson, 50
Tom & Judy Croghan, 51

St. Charles, Bardwell

Ron & Dawn Kupper, 53
Mike & Ruth Elder, 50
Pete & Patricia Thomas, 5

St. Columba, Lewisport

Robert & Ellen Edge, 59

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Carl & Paula Ball, 61

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Cletus & Peggy Russelburg, 51

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Paul & Terry House, 50
Patrick & Leslie Hannan, 25
Jack & Barbara Ballard, 10

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Derreck & Amanda Hendley, 4
Gene & Loretta Leeper, 10

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Jim & Dorothy Roberts, 50

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Chris & Lori Neihoff, 25
Larry & Norma Clark, 53

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

William Rivas & Patricia Henriquez, 10
Justin & Megan Hewitt, 10
Carroll & Sue Hughes, 52
Gerald & Norma Jenkins, 51
Tom & Pat Volk, 50

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Dennis & Brenda Poteet, 50
Bob & Joanne Deweese, 51

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Robert & Rose Coplen, 67
Charles & Dorothy Harris, 51
Jerry & Cathy Alexander, 25
Jerry & Norma Erwin, 52
Rex & Kay Alexander, 52
Randy & Sandy Gossum, 50

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James Mark & Frieda Payne, 60
Robert & Ellen Edge, Sr., 59

St. Leo, Murray

Jesus & Christine Bernal, 10

St. Martin, Rome

Bill & Jane Shelton, 67

St. Mary, Franklin

Lewis & Helen Garst, 57

St. Mary, LaCenter

Bobby & Florence Lanier, 54

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Charles & Angela Hill, 10
Marvin & Mary Ann Bickwermert, 50
Robert & Marian Davis, 50
James & Martha Johnson, 54

St. Michael, Sebree

Christopher & Patricia Gutierrez, 10

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Randall & Gail Murphy, 40

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Jerry Wayne & Beverly Duncan, 52

St. Pius X, Owensboro

David & Patricia Jones, 50
Vincent & Doris Millay, 51
Penny & James Howard, 58
Frankie & Betty Clark, 63
William & Martha Zoglmann, 64

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Tim & Deanna Simmons, 40

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Paul & Jeanie Burden, 5

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Eduardo & Lorna Pavon, 52
Jim & K. G. Ariagno, 53
Thomas & Patricia Fritsch, 53

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Anthony & Judy Hamilton, 25
Chris & Kim Searcy, 25
Bill & Rosemary Payne, 57
Thomas & Lucy Neal, 57
Robert & Vurble Mahoney, 61

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jim & Marie Funk, 51
Al & Mary McKeown, 55

St. William, Knottsville

Adam & JoBeth Grigsby, 5
Mike & Mary McBride, 40
James R. & Evelyn Cecil, 63
Edwin & Linda Payne, 53

SS. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

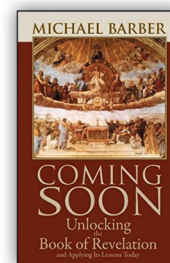
Joshua & Jessica Roberts, 10
John & Marla Storm, 40
Vincent & Linda Cecil, 50
Randall & Elizabeth Belcher, 51
William & Katherine Thomas, 67

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G. W. & Joan Brockman, 56
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Catholic Racers participate in FOCUS conference



Izel Leon, a Murray State senior, attended SLS for the first time this year. Photo courtesy of Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, C SSR.



(Left to right) Murray State students Garrett Land and James Sappington have some pizza with Fr. Brandon Williams, pastor of St. Leo Parish in Murray. Fr. Williams attended SLS 2018 with the Catholic Racers group. Photo courtesy of Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, C SSR.

BY FR. EUGENE BATUNGBACAL, CSSR,
SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY
CATHOLIC

The students of the Newman House in Murray State University braved the cold, harsh winter of Chicago at the beginning of 2018. Robed with thick jackets, gloves and earmuffs, the Catholic Racers of the Newman House participated in the Student Leadership Summit (SLS), hosted by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) from Jan. 2-6.

It was a gathering of Catholic college students around the country who came to the Windy City to learn about the New Evangelization and to have

a deeper relationship with God. This conference brought life-changing experiences to our students.

Senior nursing student Izel Leon is a first-time participant of SLS.

She said, "I always thought people who went to these kinds of things were 'weirdos' and crazy. This year I had the chance to attend my first ever Catholic conference... Jesus is so good. Praise to Him for making me weird and crazy; blessed to have such wonderful humans in my life that are pushing me to become who God calls me – and everyone – to be a saint!"

Another student, Garrett Land, who is also a first time participant to the SLS experience said, "my heart so desperately wants everyone to experience

God's love for them, so hopefully, by a simple invitation to one of these conferences, peoples' lives will be transformed just like mine."

Incidentally, both Izel Leon and Garrett Land have recently been accepted to be FOCUS missionaries for the coming school year. After they graduate they will be placed in any of the universities around the country where FOCUS missionaries are present. Truly the impact of Catholic conferences such as SLS transforms lives of our young people. The Newman House for Murray State University is blessed to be part of this event. ■

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, C SSR, is a Redemptorist priest who serves as director of the Newman House at Murray State University.

In first academic year, WKU's FOCUS ministry thrives

BY KARA BEKEBREDE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Western Kentucky University's Catholic campus ministry sent 40 students to the Jan. 2-6, 2018 Student Leadership Summit (SLS), hosted by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).

The conference was filled with the sacraments, fellowship, leadership and evangelization training, and many leading Catholic speakers. The conference drew more than 8,000 participants and 200 priests, and around 4,000 students received the sacrament of confession.

One WKU student, Megan, said about the conference, "It's not every day you get to hear priests and nuns rap, hear multiple inspirational speakers that move your faith, march in solitary brokenness with

thousands to be healed through the sacrament of reconciliation, fall to your knees with 8,000 people in awe of our Lord in adoration, join in the sacrament of Communion with so many members of the Body of Christ, and so much more."

Megan added that SLS brought her new friends and strengthened old friendships, and that she learned more about herself, others and Catholicism.

In other recent news, 13 WKU students went to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. The pilgrimage, held this year on Jan. 19, was filled with prayer and sacrifice as people marched for the sanctity of life. This was also a great opportunity for many of the students to grow in fellowship and see

the unity of the Catholic Church.

Gabrielle, a freshman, said it was "definitely an amazing event to witness and was really impactful to see the amount of people who showed up in support of life!"

This is FOCUS' first academic year serving at WKU. ■

Kara Bekebrede is the team director of the FOCUS chapter at Western Kentucky University. To learn more about the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, visit focus.org, call (303)962-5750 or email info@focus.org. FOCUS's website for college students may be accessed at focusoncampus.org.



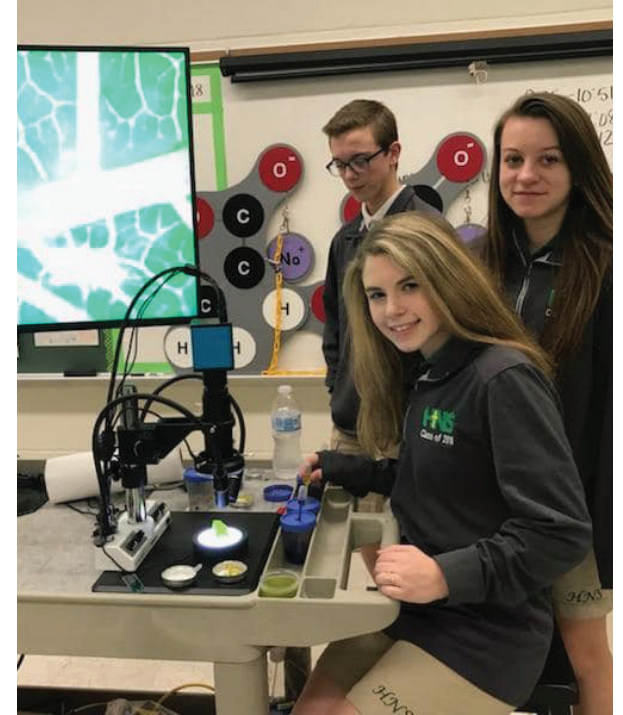
WKU students attend the SLS conference in Chicago on Jan. 2-6, 2018. Photo courtesy of Kara Bekebrede.



WKU students attending the Jan. 19, 2018 March for Life wave a WKU flag in sight of the Capitol. Photo courtesy of Kara Bekebrede.



Department of Agriculture workstation visits Catholic school students



On the left, seventh graders CJ Johnson, Sam Couch and Tania Arroyo work in the mobile science trailer. On the right, eighth graders Sydney Ranes, Kaylyn Blakley and Isaac Holland explore veins of poinsettia leaves. Photos courtesy of Holy Name of Jesus School.

BY JULIE EADENS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Jan. 11, Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson welcomed a visit by a Kentucky Department of Agriculture Mobile Science Activity Center (MSAC).

There are currently three MSAC trailers that travel the state. They have nine to 10 workstations and can hold up to 30 students per activity. The MSAC trailers are a great source of agricultural education and each activity connects with the core curriculum. The trailer that visited HNS stayed all day and held hands-on activities for students in fifth through eighth grade. Students learned about absorption capacity of corn, wheat, and sugar, and good lab practices of observation and recording results.

The HNS middle grades science department also saw a boost in equipment to include six new digital scales and six new stereo microscopes. The students are enjoying learning proper laboratory technique as they begin using the new equipment in their daily science classes. The visit of the MSAC trailer and addition of equipment to the science department were made possible by the Henderson Community College Agriculture Department and Robbie Williams. ■

Julie Eadens is president of Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson.