

THE WESTERN
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Fulfilled and joyful

Sr. Consolata Ojemeh, OSF, works at Birthright in Owensboro on Jan. 26, 2018. She says her vocation has always made her feel "fulfilled," which "brings me joy." **Page 5**

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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC | Above photo by Tina Kasey/WKC

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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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.

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A Word from Bishop Medley

On Jan. 23, when the shooting at Marshall County High School occurred, I was in Florida attending an education conference for bishops. Though I would protest that I am not a social media addict, I do frequently check on news apps throughout the day. So I learned of the tragedy within the first hour. I asked the bishops and presenters gathered with me to pray for the victims and the community. Several commented to me that there had been “senseless gun violence” in their own dioceses.

In the hours after the shooting, I spoke with Fr. Anthony Ottagon, the pastor of St. Pius X in Calvert City and St. Anthony in Grand Rivers, and Fr. Greg Trawick, pastor of St. Stephen in Cadiz and St. Henry in Aurora. Both of these pastors had gone to the local hospital after the shooting to minister to the wounded and their families. They were surely joined by many other community pastors who sought to bring consolation.

As I reflected upon the pastoral outreach of all of these pastors and the many others who sought to bring consolation to the hurting, I thought of the story in John's Gospel of the death and resurrection of Lazarus. We recall that Lazarus was a brother to Martha and Mary and all were dear friends of Jesus. When taken to the tomb of Lazarus, who had been dead three days, the Gospel starkly says, “Jesus wept.”

That the human Jesus would weep at the death of a friend is not surprising. It caused those present to remark, “See how much he loved him.” When we are faced with some senseless tragedy, can we imagine that Jesus might still weep in the face of human loss?

In the days and weeks since the death of two students at Marshall County High School, I have followed the story. I have spoken again with both Fr. Ottagon and Fr. Trawick. I have met and spoken with some of our Catholic people in Marshall County, and have even met a couple of students who were in the school.

One remarkable dimension of this tragedy is the compassion of the community. Surely none of us can fathom what might have set off a teenage boy to commit so atrocious a crime. Yet the voices of the students and community affected have been kind even in the midst of loss. This is not always the profile one finds in a community.

As I sit to write for The Western Kentucky Catholic on the day after Ash

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR ● MARCH 2018

MARCH 3	Dedication of Cathedral in Knoxville
MARCH 6	9:30 a.m. ● Senior Conversations – Owensboro Catholic High School 6:30 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – St. Pius X, Owensboro
MARCH 8	6:00 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
MARCH 11	10:15 a.m. ● Mass for Youth 2000 – Brescia University 2:00 p.m. ● Mass for Scouts – St. Stephen Cathedral
MARCH 13	6:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – Sacred Heart, Waverly
MARCH 15	6:30 p.m. ● Confirmation – SS. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
MARCH 16	8:00 a.m. ● Mass and Classroom Visits – SS. Peter & Paul School, Hopkinsville
MARCH 17	4:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho 5:30 p.m. ● OCS Annual Dinner – Brescia University
MARCH 18	5:30 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
MARCH 19	10:00 a.m. ● Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) 12:05 p.m. ● Mass in Commemoration of the first anniversary of Bishop McRaith's death – St. Stephen Cathedral 1:30 p.m. ● Priest Council Meeting – MCC 6:00 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – Holy Name, Henderson
MARCH 20	10:00 a.m. ● Mass – St. Mary Middle School, Paducah
MARCH 21	8:30 a.m. ● Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC 6:30 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – St. Henry, Aurora
MARCH 22	9:00 a.m. ● Mass – Christ the King School, Madisonville 6:00 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
MARCH 25	2:00 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – St. Stephen Cathedral 6:00 p.m. ● Communal Reconciliation Service – SS. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
MARCH 27	6:30 p.m. ● Chrism Mass – Owensboro Sportscenter
MARCH 29	Holy Thursday – St. Stephen Cathedral
MARCH 30	Good Friday – St. Stephen Cathedral
MARCH 31	Easter Vigil – St. Stephen Cathedral

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Wednesday, the second day of Lent, the news is unfolding of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. On this morning after the shooting, 17 are dead.



The Scripture reading for this second day of Lent is from Deuteronomy, a most familiar passage: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. CHOOSE LIFE."

This passage has become so recognizable to us because it has been adopted as a theme

for our Respect Life campaigns, addressing grave wrongs in our American culture such as abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty. Yes, we must also call gun violence in America a pro-life issue and expect our nation to adopt some reasonable limits on the types of firearms available in our communities and where they may be carried.

Calling upon our nation to restrict guns in some manner in no way precludes reasonable gun sports. We restrict speed limits to save lives. We challenge pro-choice/pro-abortion voices because human life in the womb is created in God's image and is sacred. Yes, this does limit a woman's control over her body – but for the greater good of preserving human life.

The protection of human life extends beyond the womb through natural death. Standing by to allow children to be killed and wounded in their schools is in not natural. It is unthinkable. And we must ask, "Does Jesus weep?" ■

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro



Across the Diocese

Did you know Bishop Medley hosts a monthly video series called Across the Diocese? In these videos, the bishop discusses the various topics and issues pertaining to the Catholic faith in western Kentucky.

In his most recent video, released in February 2018, Bishop Medley meets with Charlie Hardesty, director of youth and young adult ministry for the diocese, to address the fact that more young adults are leaving the Church than joining. Watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/256644836>.

2018 Priest Assignments

Parish Pastor

Rev. Julio Barrera: Pastor, Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam and Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown.

Rev. Ryan Harpole: Pastor, St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

Rev. Brian Johnson: Pastor, St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City and St. Anthony Parish in Grand Rivers.

Rev. Tony Jones: Pastor, St. Romuald Parish in Hardinsburg.

Rev. Jean Rene Kalombo: Pastor, SS. Joseph & Paul Parish in Owensboro.

Rev. Carl McCarthy: Pastor, Christ the King Parish in Madisonville.

Rev. John Okoro: Pastor, St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis, St. William Parish in Marion, St. Ambrose Parish in Henshaw.

Rev. Anthoni Ottagon: Pastor, St. Alphonsus Parish in Owensboro and St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville.

Unless noted, all dates effective June 12, 2018

Rev. Shaiju Thomas: Continuing as pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.

Rev. Augusty Valomchalil: Pastor, St. William Parish in Knottsville and St. Lawrence Parish in Philpot.

Rev. John Vaughan: Pastor, Immaculate Parish in Owensboro.

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Joseph Schoettle: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro, effective February 8, 2018.

Other Assignments

Rev. Andrew Garner: With permission from Bishop Medley, Fr. Garner is accepting a temporary assignment in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky.

Beacon of light

Religious sisters reflect on vocation, bringing 'that peace of Christ' to society



Sr. Maria Carmelita Navarro, DCJ. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

God may call anyone, from any walk of life, at any age, and in any place – just ask the religious sisters serving in and around the Diocese of Owensboro.

Years ago, a little girl growing up in the Philippines was signing class yearbooks and talking with friends about what they wanted to be when they grew up.

“I remember saying, ‘I want to be a nun,’ and I even spelled it N-O-N-E,” she said with a laugh, telling her story to The Western Kentucky Catholic on Feb. 6.

That little girl is now Sr. Maria Carmelita Navar-

ro, DCJ, who works in social services at the Carmel Home, a long-term care facility in Owensboro.

Despite her story from childhood, “nobody was born in the convent,” she said.

In fact, prior to joining the Carmelites, she migrated to the United States with her father and later worked in casino marketing in Las Vegas for 10 years.

Her last job was in marketing at the Venetian, a luxury Vegas hotel – “which I also loved,” she added.

But throughout the adventures of her earlier life, “that love and that longing” kept returning.

“And then at Mass, during the consecration, it was not audible, it was just in my heart, but I heard Our Lord asking me, ‘So, what else? What else before you say yes?’” she said. “And then I thought, ‘I think that’s it, Lord.’”

She discovered the Carmelite community online, and when she visited their chapel in person, “I just knew.”

Sr. Navarro has now belonged to the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus for nearly 12 years.

“God calls you,” she said. “And when you’re in that place where God wants you, and you’re doing God’s will, there’s that peace, that joy.”

Burning zeal

Sr. Consolata Ojemeh, OSF, first felt a religious calling when she was a high school junior in Nigeria.

“I felt so attracted to the Franciscan sisters,” she said, explaining that a community of Franciscans



NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK

The Diocese of Owensboro is celebrating National Catholic Sisters Week from March 8-14. To learn more about this week, visit nationalcatholicsistersweek.org. To learn more about women’s vocations within the Diocese of Owensboro, visit owensborodiocese.org/women-religious.



Sr. Consolata Ojemeh, OSF. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

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had served in her home parish in Nigeria. “I felt the burning zeal in my heart.”

Today, she belongs to the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Glasgow, Scotland; Nigeria Province. Her order began in Scotland in 1847, which later expanded to many countries, including Nigeria.

Sr. Ojemeh’s current ministry is working for the Diocese of Owensboro’s Catholic Charities in the area of Birthright, which provides a home and resources for pregnant women with nowhere to go.

Several of her fellow Franciscan sisters serve in and around the diocese in other capacities, including healthcare and immigration work.

“Anybody can be a social worker, anybody can be a nurse, anybody can be a teacher, but as religious sisters, we are called to a different way of life,” said Sr. Ojemeh. “So the way I do my work... they should see Christ in me. They should be able to encounter Christ.”

She said her ministry “brings me so much joy” and that “I always feel that I am fulfilled.”

Offering hope

Sr. Darlene Presley, GHMS, is mother superior of the Home Mission Sisters of America, also known as the Glenmary Sisters.

Before entering the Glenmary Sisters 16 years ago, she had been an oncology nurse for 18 years.

Glenmary priests, brothers and sisters serve the poor and marginalized in the rural U.S., and this missionary spirit matched Sr. Presley’s own desire to “journey through life with (others), especially during their crisis times.”

“To offer them that hope,” she said. “To bring them that peace of Christ. And let them know that



Sr. Darlene Presley, GHMS. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

they’re loved.”

That is her “greatest joy” – “having that privilege to be present at that moment in somebody’s life when they are reaching out and just needing the love of Christ and the love of another person,” said Sr. Presley.

She always recalls hearing from one of her professors at Brescia University in Owensboro that, “as a missionary, you’re not bringing Christ to anybody. You’re helping them see that Christ is already there.”

Good example

Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU, who is the vocations director for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph in Maple Mount, began her journey to religious life

when she was in middle school.

Her family attended St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, and Sr. Margaret Ann Aull, OSU, was assigned to the parish.

“She invited me into ministry to be a catechist when I was a senior in high school,” said Sr. Seaton. “Just her way of living, her joy, spoke volumes to me.”

Her journey hit a “snag,” however – “because I didn’t really want to be a sister!” she said.

But Sr. Aull remained an example to her, and though “it was never in my game plan to become a sister,” Sr. Seaton knows now it was “unfolding, unknown to me.”

She joined the Ursulines in 2000, and before her final profession even had an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Brescia, Italy, where St. Angela Merici founded the Ursuline Sisters.

“To know that 400 years ago, she started this



Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

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Sr. Maria Faustina Carmichael, (left), and Sr. Cecilia Maria Wynn, (right) laugh while walking in the snow outside their monastery on Feb. 1. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

community, and it's still in existence today, and that I get to be a part of that, I think that's the most memorable experience so far of my religious life," said Sr. Seaton. "To encounter that small woman who did big things for God."

Community

While apostolic religious communities (those who actively serve in teaching, parish ministry, healthcare and more) are more commonly seen by the public, the contemplative religious vocation certainly pulls its own weight.

Just ask the cloistered Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville.

"We're here to intercede for the world and for the Church and all of her needs," said Sr. Maria Faustina Carmichael, CP.

She added that since contemplatives spend a lot of time in prayer, "the more time you spend with Jesus in prayer, you kind of have this overflow and it flows naturally into community life and love for neighbor."

Community is an essential part of their vocation. In fact, Sr. Cecilia Maria Wynn, CP, called the Passionists' communal life "a microcosm of the Church in many ways."

"Just as there are so many different people needed to make the whole Church... the monastery is very similar," she said, "and we really do strive to be that beacon of light in our diocese and our world; drawing people to Christ, showing them the way to hope, to love, to the life that he is yearning to give each one of us." ■



Vocation stories

To celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week, the Diocese of Owensboro will release a series of video interviews with these women religious to share their stories and learn more about their vocational journeys. Follow Facebook.com/DioceseOfOwensboro to watch these videos when they are released.

Join Us to Celebrate Vocations

VOCARE will take place on Friday, September 14, 2018 at the Owensboro Convention Center.
More details soon!

‘Something bigger than myself’

New Catholics reflect on community, blessings of Catholicism



Matt Litsey. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Joining the Catholic Church is a daunting experience for many, even – or especially – for those who had great faith experiences when growing up in non-Catholic churches.

“One thing that I do like about RCIA is that it’s not dismissive of Protestantism,” said Matt Litsey, currently going through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

RCIA is the process by which adults enter the Catholic Church. Litsey will enter the Church at the Easter Vigil on March 31.

Litsey appreciates that the RCIA process “is not saying that the faith that I had for the previous 30

years of my life was invalid.”

Litsey grew up in a Christian family; his parents even went to Africa as missionaries for three years. With his already-firm Christian foundation, he was grateful to learn that “we’re allies, not enemies. We’re allies in the same fight.”

Similarly, the Gaynor family joined the Catholic Church on Nov. 1, 2017 – but are quick to explain that this was not the beginning of their journey with Christ.

“We encountered Christ years ago,” said Wade Gaynor. He, his wife, Neena, and their two sons now belong to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Wade Gaynor credits his family for showing him the faith while he was growing up: “I have an incredible foundation laid (by) all of these Jesus-believing people in my life.”

Neena Gaynor agreed.

“I knew Christ,” she said. “But when I fully encountered him – he’s present, completely, at every Mass, every day, all across the world – it was impossible to turn away from.”

Wade Gaynor said that when they encountered Jesus “through the sacraments, and through the Eucharist specifically – and adoration, and confession – it’s just a beautiful thing.”

He said his original opinion of the Catholic Church was that it was “kind of scandalous, and stuff was hidden – but it’s an open book.”

“Be careful when you start asking questions,” he said with a grin, adding that a person might respond



Neena and Wade Gaynor. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

with, “wow, there’s a lot of truth in what I’m seeing here.”

Brandy Rothberger, a catechist at Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam, entered the Catholic Church last Easter.

Though her husband came from a “very large, Catholic family,” Rothberger, raised in the Assembly of God, had no intention of becoming Catholic herself.

Still, after she and her family returned to Ohio County after living in Louisville for a time, Rothberger felt “embraced” by the Catholic community. They joined Holy Redeemer, and planned to raise their children Catholic.

Rothberger attended Mass with her family, and after many conversations with a Catholic friend, she

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Brandy Rothgerber. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

began to realize that Catholicism is "being a part of something bigger than myself."

"The Catholic Church is about the whole world," she said. "You're hearing the same things in every church, and everybody's saying the same prayers... we are literally the Universal Church."

Her family's house tragically burned down in a fire in September 2017, and the flames were still being put out when members of the parish arrived.

"Can we help, what do we need to do, what do you need right now... it was an experience I'd never had before," said Rothgerber. "It was such a blessing."

Rothgerber said she found comfort in Catholicism that "not only are the people standing beside you, your family, but if you go anywhere - you could go to a Hispanic Mass, a Latin Mass, and it's all the same."

Preston Harrell, a sophomore music student at Western Kentucky University, became Catholic in 2016.



Preston Harrell. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

He said that "community" is vital for new Catholics, as well as for anyone in the Church.

In addition to singing in the choir and being an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, Harrell volunteers on the RCIA team at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

"We all have a duty to ourselves and to other people to do the favor of showing the kindness of the Lord and face of Christ to everyone," he said. "And I've come to find that it is through the ministries that I'm involved with, that it really shines through."■



Hear their stories

Throughout Lent and the Easter season, the Diocese of Owensboro's social media will share video interviews with Matt, Wade, Neena, Brandy and Preston. Follow [Facebook.com/DioceseOfOwensboro](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfOwensboro) to watch these videos when they are released.

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**



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2018 BULLETIN BOARD

■ **Missionary Discipleship from a Multicultural Perspective; Effective Inclusion**

Everyone is invited to the annual Black Catholic Day of Reflection on Saturday, April 21 at Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The keynote speaker, Sr. Desiré Anne-Marie Findlay, is a member of the Sisters of St. Felix (Felician Sisters). She became acquainted with the Sisters on a 100-mile pilgrimage for vocations while she was still in college. Shortly after graduation she entered their community and will take her final vows in 2019. Currently living in Pennsylvania, Sr. Desiré is actively involved in vocation outreach and working with elementary and middle school children at an after-school program founded by one of her Sisters in 2002. She brings a unique perspective to her audience through her Black and Hispanic heritage and her use of dance in her ministry. Join Bishop Medley and people of all races, cultures and faiths for a day of prayer, fellowship and Joy in Christ beginning with the celebration of Mass. Breakfast and lunch will be included. Registration will be available for adults and youth on owensborodiocese.org/black-catholic-ministry beginning March 15. Contact Veronica Wilhite, Director, Office of Black Catholic Ministry, (270) 683-1545 for information or to register by phone. Email: veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org

■ **Immaculate Conception in Hawesville to host Michael J. Cumbie**

The Lord invites us to follow him as disciples. Yet our daily lives are so full that we sometimes forget who we are and whose we are. A Parish Mission is a time of listening and reflection for those who wish to be more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Michael J. Cumbie, nationally renowned Catholic Lay Evangelist and Protestant clergy convert, will conduct a three-day Mission in our parish. 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 these inspirational and possibly life-changing talks. Please mark your calendars now for this graced moment in our parish life. Hosted at Immaculate Conception Church in Hawesville from March 18-20, 6-7 p.m. Refreshments to follow nightly.

■ **Actor Frank Runyeon speaking in Owensboro**

Blessed Mother Church's 2018 Speaker Series will fea-

ture 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 blessed-motherchurch.com, our Facebook page, or contact the office at 270-683-8444 for more information.

■ **Catholic Campaign for Human Development seeks 2018 applicants**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a national social justice program of the United States Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self-help organizations, and through transformative education of the non-poor. Each November, the Diocese of Owensboro participates in the CCHD collection. From that collection, a percentage of monies are retained to provide grant funding to local organizations which meet CCHD criteria. Catholic Charities administers and allocates the grant funding. Those interested in applying for the grant should contact Richard Murphy at 270/683-1545 or by email at richard.murphy@pastoral.org and an application form will be sent to you.

■ **'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. Please see owensborodiocese.org/scouting for more details.

■ **Evening with an Ursuline Dinner/Presentation**

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.
April 3: Sr. Marietta Wethington – Spirituality of Aging: Aging is the natural progression of life. We will explore ways to age in a healthy way, such as being grateful for each new day.

May 1: Sr. Amelia Stenger – St. Angela Merici- Stages of Her Life: Sr. Amelia will share experiences from the Ursulines Sisters' trip to Italy, where they walked in the footsteps of Angela.

June 5: Sr. Ann McGrew – Praying with the Ordinary: God is everywhere. All life is grace. Together we will recall ordinary moments that draw us to an awareness of God.

First Tuesday of each month from 5-6:30 p.m.

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. Please join us for these enlightening evenings.

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/KJH-REI>. All nominations should be submitted by March 15, 2018.

■ **Nominate someone for 2017-18 McRaith Catechetical award**

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced at the Appreciation Dinner for Catechetical and Youth Ministers on May 7 at the Fr. John Vaughan Center in Owensboro. Anyone from the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award. Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers working for a minimum of five years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. Contact elaine.robertson@pastoral.org or visit owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation for the digital nomination form. All paper nomination forms should be mailed to the Religious Education Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 or emailed to elaine.robertson@pastoral.org by April 23.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Retreat Day for Administrative Professionals



Saturday, April 25

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

*Retreat Director: Lisa Gulino,
Theologian from Brescia University*



A day for receptionists, secretaries, administrative or executive assistants, and anyone else who fits in this category. There will be quiet time following talks on the theology of work, scripture verses with reflection questions, and group participation.

"Happy Administrative Professionals Day!"

Fee: \$25 – includes lunch

To register, call 270-229-0206
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
Or go online: ursulinesmsj.org



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

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

MARCH

- 1-4 Men's Cursillo
- 3 Furniture Sale in MSJ Gymnasium
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: New Evangelization**
- 8 "Focus on Faith" Revelation Book Study**
- 8-11 Women's Cursillo
- 9-10 ICSC Confirmation Retreat
- 10 Perm. Deacon Candidates' Formation
- 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" Revelation Book Study**
- 14 Perm. Deacon Candidates' Formation
- 14-15 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 17-19 Chix with Stix
- 20-22 Gennesaret Retreat Weekend
- 20-22 Come and See Weekend (Vocations)
- 25 Administrative Professionals Day**
- 27-29 Cursillo Spring Encounter

MAY

- 1 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Angela Merici**
- 4-6 TOPS Retreat
- 8 OCS Prayer Day for 6th graders
- 10 "Focus on Faith" Revelation Book Study**
- 12 Perm. Deacon Candidates' Formation
- 19-20 MSJ Academy Alumnae 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

COME AND SEE WEEKEND

April 20-22, 2018

*Discover the Joy of being
an Ursuline Sister!*

Come and spend time with other young Catholic women, ages 18-40, interested in living their faith and discerning their call to be an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

The retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends at 1:00 p.m. Sunday. There is no fee. To reserve your spot, contact Sister Monica Seaton
monica.seaton@maplemount.org

270-229-4103
Ext. 218



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999
270-229-4103 • Fax 270-229-4953
www.ursulinesmsj.org • info.ms@maplemount.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued from page 10

■ Holy Week tours at the cathedral

On Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Owensboro Sportscenter, Bishop William F. Medley will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass, which provides all the sacred oils the diocese will use throughout the next year: the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the Sacred Chrism. St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro will host guided tours beginning at 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. on March 27. The cathedral will be open all day for visitors and pilgrims, so self-guided tours are always welcomed. Knowledgeable docents will be able to take groups or couples for a 20-minute view of the architecture, history and faith-filled symbols that are part of the worship space. There is no need to call ahead, all are welcomed!

■ Drive-thru meat sale in April

At St. Lawrence Parish picnic grounds, 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot. April 22 at 11 a.m. For more information call the parish office at (270) 281-4802.

■ Fr. John Thomas Silver Jubilee Pilgrimage

Join Fr. John M. Thomas for his Silver Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Normandy & Paris! October 1-11, 2018. Only 37 spots available. \$4,925 per person includes tour and round trip air from Nashville. To have your name put on the list please email: info@faithintravel.com or call 270-389-1002 and leave a message for Kenny.

■ MSJ Spiritual Direction Training Program

Applications are still being accepted for the next Spiritual Direction Training Program, which begins the week of Oct. 15, 2018, at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The two-year program consists of four weekly training sessions each year. This program prepares participants for the ministry of spiritual direction from a Catholic perspective and in the spirit of the Ursuline founder, St. Angela Merici. Participants will enter into study, reflection and prayer around a topic fundamental to the understanding and practice of spiritual direction. Under competent supervisors, participants receive intense training, practice and supervision by a coordinating team of religious sisters and educators. Attendance is required to receive certification as a spiritual director. Nearly 50 individuals from across the U.S. have completed the program. Contact Sr. Mary Matthias Ward at 270-229-0200 or mary.ward@maplemount.org. The registration deadline is Aug. 31. More info: ursulinesmsj.org.

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.

Retreat Day for Gardeners

Saturday, April 7

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Retreat Director: Emily A. DeMoor, Ph.D.

During this retreat, we will enter the sanctuary of the soil together to explore sacred agriculture.

We will put sacramental theology, as articulated by Pope Francis and others, in conversation with Wendell 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. And we will do some nature writing as we reflect upon our relationship with God and Creation.



Please wear casual clothes and comfortable walking shoes.

Fee: \$30 – includes lunch

To register, call 270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Or go online: ursulinesmsj.org



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

Join our new “Focus on Faith” Book Study on Revelation

“Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation and Applying its Lessons Today”



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

- March 8
- April 12 • May 10
- June 14 • Aug. 9
- Sept. 13 • Oct. 11
- Nov. 8 • Dec. 13

Classes led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU
\$20 per class includes lunch

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

2018 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Parish picnics and cooking teams are a longstanding tradition in the Diocese of Owensboro. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike gather to celebrate with food, games and fellowship during the warmest months of the year. All questions about the individual picnics may be directed to the parishes.

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
MAY 19	Serving at 11 a.m.	Carmel Home, Owensboro
MAY 27	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
JUNE 2	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Joseph, Leitchfield
JUNE 9	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Pius X, Owensboro
JUNE 13	Serving at 3 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
JUNE 16	Serving from 3-9 p.m.	St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
JULY 7	Serving 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 5-7:30 p.m.; 9 p.m. raffle drawing	St. Denis, Fancy Farm
JULY 7	Serving from 2-9 p.m. at St. Anthony location	St. Anthony, St. Benedict & St. Augustine, Grayson County
JULY 7	Serving from 3-9 p.m.	St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel
JULY 14	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
JULY 21	Serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; 4:30-7:30 p.m.; 9 p.m. raffle drawing	St. Charles, Bardwell
JULY 21	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
JULY 28	Serving from 4-9 p.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
JULY 28	Serving at 3 p.m.	St. Paul, Leitchfield
AUG 4	Serving from noon-3:30 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
AUG 7	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Martin, Rome
SEPT 8	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Agnes, Uniontown
SEPT 15	Serving at 4 p.m.	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
SEPT 22	Serving from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.	St. Pius X, Calvert City
SEPT 22	Drive-thru only; 1-3 p.m.	Immaculate, Owensboro
SEPT 29	Serving from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Honeyfest Dinner, Silent Auction, Raffle	St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
SEPT 30	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

St. Gerard Life Home

Providing housing and services to pregnant women and their babies

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

Considering Adoption?

Catholic Charities of Owensboro serves pregnant women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and couples who wish to adopt. To learn more, call 270-852-8328 or visit KyCaringConnection.org.

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.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro

March 23 from 5-7 p.m.

Christ the King, Scottsville

March 23. Serving at 5 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

March 2, 16, 23. Serving at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

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

Precious Blood, Owensboro

March 2, 9, 16, 23. Serving begins at 5:30 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. Ann, Morganfield

March 2, 16. Serving from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$12 for adults.

St. Charles, Bardwell

March 2. Serving from 5-7 p.m. Carry-outs available.

St. Columba, Lewisport

Every Friday of Lent from 4:30-7 p.m.

SS. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville

March 2 and 23. Serving at 5 p.m.

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

March 2 and 16. Serving at 6 p.m. in parish hall. Cost is \$10.

St. Pius X, Calvert City

March 2, 9, 16, 23. Serving from 4:30-7 p.m. Held in the parish hall. Adult and children's plates available.

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

March 2, 9, 16, 22. Serving from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$10 all-you-can-eat; reduced prices for children.

St. William, Knottsville

At Mary Carrico Memorial School gym. March 2, 9, 16, 23. Serving from 4:30-6 p.m. Dine-in or carry-out.

Four seminarians instituted into ministries on Feb. 10



Seminarian Stephen Van Lal Than, who is in second year theology at St. Meinrad Seminary, prepares to be instituted as Acolyte at the Feb. 10, 2018 Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral. Photo by Tina Kasey/WKC.

On Feb. 10, Bishop William F. Medley instituted four of our seminarians into the Ministries of Lector and Acolyte at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Prior to ordination to the priesthood, a man must be instituted first as a Lector, then as an Acolyte, and then as a Transitional Deacon. Instituted as Lectors were Corey Bruns, Chris Kight and Martin Ma Na Ling – all in first year theology at St. Meinrad Seminary. Stephen Van Lal Than, who is in second year theology at St. Meinrad Seminary, was instituted as Acolyte. The day coincided with Bishop Medley's eighth anniversary of his ordination as bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro.

'Encuentros' are always a blessing

BY DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC



More than 200 Hispanic adults sing praises during the Encuentro. Photo courtesy of Deacon Chris Gutiérrez.

Despite the rainy weather and driving distances, approximately 400 Hispanic/Latino Catholics from parishes and cities across the diocese joyfully gathered in the city of Hopkinsville on Jan. 27.

This was the sixth annual diocesan Encounter – “Encuentro” – of Hispanic families. Fr. Julio Palarino a native of Uruguay, and a priest of the Archdiocese of La Plata in Argentina challenged everyone to reflect upon one’s individual and collective call to “missionary discipleship.” Fr. Palarino with his unique skill and talent of scriptural knowledge was able to pull everyone into reflection and into discovering each one’s call to holiness. At a time when so many immigrant families are living their lives in a constant state of subtle fear and uncertainty, this was a day for fellowship and hope. When often the language used and actions taken by many are not that of compassion and welcoming, but rather hostility towards the stranger, this was a day to feel the unconditional Love of Christ and his Church.

The event included a couple of strong talks, sharing, adoration, song, praise and Mass. Families chipped in by bringing something to share at the

table. Hispanic Ministers worked very hard as well. Special thanks to Fr. Basilio Az Cuc, Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Fr. Al Bremer and Fr. Julio Barrera for hearing confessions throughout the morning. The event was also truly blessed by the assistance and hard work of Elaine Robertson, the diocesan director of faith formation and Charlie Hardesty, diocesan director of youth and young adults ministry. They each had their respective teams organized with evangelizing activities for the 175-plus kids all the way from K-12 grades.

The Hispanic community is also very grateful to Bishop William F. Medley. Not only because on this day he graciously accepted to come take lots of questions and be with us, but because he has shown himself to be a shepherd unafraid to speak up for the wellbeing of his flock, including the immigrant.

Hispanic families are a strong kind of breed. In the face of adversity and often limited space or even no voice; they will continue to stick together, grow in numbers and bless our diocese and country with their presence. Already the makeup of many of our parish faith formation programs, confirmation groups and ecclesial movements across the diocese are being transformed.

Latinos will continue to live out their Catholic faith, devotion to Jesus Christ, Mary and the saints. Thank God for their energy and rejuvenating presence.. ■

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez is the director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



You are invited to join
Bishop Medley
in prayer

Monday,
April 23, 2018
at 6:00 p.m.

SS. Peter & Paul Parish
902 E. 9th St.
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

**Pray for protection and
healing for all impacted
by child abuse.**



Several of the regular Bible study goers stayed afterwards to socialize with some of the Carmel Home residents. Photo courtesy of Diane Willis.

Immaculate Parish takes Bible study 'on the road,' visits Carmel Home

BY DIANE WILLIS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Immaculate Parish in Owensboro took their Thursday morning Bible study on the road. Feb. 15 was the first time for the group to meet at the Carmel Home in Owensboro for the group to study the upcoming Sunday's readings. Their first meeting included 11 regular Bible study goers from Immaculate plus 12 guests from the Carmel Home. Activities director Nancy Edge and facilitator Diane Willis were well pleased with the turnout. These Bible studies are open to all and will continue to be held on the third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Carmel Home.

Owensboro's Theology on Tap hosts three couples to discuss relationships

BY WKC STAFF

On Feb. 12, approximately 25 young adults in their 20s and 30s attended Theology on Tap at Fetta Specialty Pizza in Owensboro. The topic was "Love, Marriage, Baby Carriage, and Everything Else in Between" and featured three couples of various ages to lead a panel discussion about marriage and relationships. Couples Danny and Kelly May of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tom and Amy Payne of St. Stephen Cathedral, and Susana Solorza and John Shelman of Holy Name of Jesus Parish shared the ups and downs of married life, and offered practical advice from their own experiences.

The event was sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro's young adult ministry, which currently coordinates holy hours and Theology on Tap gatherings in the Owensboro area.

The Theology on Tap program began in the Archdiocese of Chicago as a way to reach Catholic young

adults in 1981, and has since spread across the country. It is held in restaurants and other public places to provide a casual atmosphere for young adults to explore faith and spiritual topics.

To learn more about diocesan young adult ministry, visit owensborodiocese.org/young-adult.



Susana Solorza smiles at her husband, John Shelman, during the Feb. 12 Theology on Tap gathering. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.



Kelly May, Danny May, Tom Payne and Amy Payne were two of the three couples to participate in a Feb. 12 panel about marriage and relationships at Theology on Tap, held at Fetta Specialty Pizza in Owensboro. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

Low-gluten hosts to be available at Chrism Mass

BY SR. JEANNE WIEST, OP, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This past summer the Vatican office of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (CDWDS) issued a letter to all of the world's bishops, reminding them that the bread and wine used at Mass be made of suitable materials. Despite the way the popular media interpreted the letter, there was no new information contained in it.

One of the areas causing the greatest concern was the requirement of gluten used in all of the bread used at Mass. It has been the tradition of the Church that the "bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat...." (GIRM 320). Therefore gluten-free hosts are not considered valid material for use. However low-gluten hosts may be used.

In our world today there appears to be an increasing number of people who are unable to receive Holy Communion by the traditional means of the communion wafer because it contains gluten and they have a gluten-related disorder. Gluten-related disorders include celiac disease, non-celiac gluten sensitivity, gluten ataxia, and wheat allergy. Some individuals may be able to eat just a little bit of a food containing gluten, such as a small corner of a regular consecrated host. For many others, they can eat food with very low levels of gluten, like a low-gluten

host. For the severest cases, no gluten can be tolerated, including drinking from a chalice into which the priest has dropped a piece of the consecrated host during the fractioning rite.

In light of the new evangelization efforts of the Diocese of Owensboro, the Office of Worship is inaugurating a program to offer low-gluten hosts at diocesan liturgies, beginning with the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Owensboro Sportcenter. Low-gluten hosts that contain less than 0.001 percent gluten are being obtained from the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, MO. These sisters have been making USCCB-approved low-gluten altar breads since 2004 and the low level of gluten seems to be tolerated by most with gluten-sensitivity. Those desiring to receive the Body of Christ with a low-gluten host are asked to come to the "Low-gluten hosts" sign in the back of the Sportscenter prior to the beginning of the Chrism Mass, so an appropriate number of hosts can be consecrated; directions for reception of Holy Communion will also be given at that time.

Sr. Jeanne Wiest, OP, is the Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Owensboro. She has experience implanting the use of low-gluten hosts in previous parish ministries.

Bishop Medley opens Lent with call to 'reset' with God



Bishop Medley traces a cross of ashes on the forehead of Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU, at the Feb. 14 noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

BY WKC STAFF

At the Feb. 14 noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley said this day is the start of a "40-day retreat."

The bishop referenced Pope Francis' 2018 Lenten reflection, explaining that Lent gives the opportunity to say "stop, this consumes me too much that I am not able to focus on Almighty God."

When praying, giving alms and fasting, the bishop said a person can "better understand spiritual

hunger and thirst for God."

Bishop Medley also recommended the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a good way to "reset" one's life.

"It's not too much to ask for a reset with Almighty God," he said of confession. "It's a good reset - it's a reset that works."

Individuals are encouraged to contact their parishes for information about special Lenten devotions and programs, as well as for information for Holy Week 2018, which includes the Easter Vigil on March 31.

Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

El 23 de enero cuando el tiroteo en la Escuela Preparatoria del Condado de Marshall ocurrió, yo estaba en Florida asistiendo a una conferencia educacional para obispos. Aunque yo diría que no soy adicto a las redes sociales, con frecuencia reviso las aplicaciones de noticias a través del día. Entonces en el lapso de una hora supe de la tragedia. Pedí a los obispos y los presentadores allí que rezaran conmigo por las víctimas y la comunidad. Varias personas me comentaron que ha habido “violencia de armas de fuego sin sentido” en sus propias diócesis también.

Pasadas unas horas del tiroteo, pude hablar con el P. Anthoni Ottagon, párroco de San Pío X en Calvert City y de San Antonio en Grand Rivers, y también con el P. Greg Trawick, párroco de San Esteban en Cadiz y San Enrique en Aurora. Los dos habían ya visitado el hospital local seguido del tiroteo para una visita pastoral a los heridos y sus familias. Seguramente hubo varios otros pastores de la comunidad que visitaron para llevar la consolación.

Cuando reflexiono sobre el cuidado pastoral de estos pastores y muchas otras personas que querían ofrecer consolación a los dolidos, me hace pensar en la historia en el Evangelio de Juan de la muerte y la resurrección de Lázaro. Recordamos que Lázaro fue hermano de Marta y María y todos fueron buenos amigos de Jesús. Cuando lo llevaron a la tumba de Lázaro, quien ya tenía tres días muerto, el Evangelio dice que, “Jesús lloró.”

No es de extrañarse que el Jesús humano hubiera llorado por la muerte de un amigo. Incluso causó a los presentes decir: “Mira cuánto lo amaba.” Cuando nos enfrentamos con una tragedia sin sentido, ¿podemos imaginar a Jesús todavía llorando por la pérdida humana?”

En los días y semanas desde la muerte de dos estudiantes en la Escuela Preparatoria del Condado de Marshall, he seguido la noticia. Hablé otra vez con el P. Ottagon y el P. Trawick. Me he encontrado y he hablado con algunas de las personas católicas en el Condado de Marshall, y hasta he conocido algunos estudiantes que estaban en ese momento, dentro de la escuela.

Una dimensión notable de esta tragedia es la compasión de la comunidad. Seguramente ninguno de nosotros podríamos imaginar lo que impulsaría a un adolescente cometer un crimen tan atroz. Sin embargo, las voces de los estudiantes y la comuni-

Continúa en página 19

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA MARZO 2018:

MARZO 3	Dedicación de la Catedral en Knoxville
MARZO 6	9:00 AM ● Conversaciones con los “Seniors” – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro 6:30 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – Parroquia San Pío X, Owensboro (para el Decanato del Este de Owensboro)
MARZO 8	6:00 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – Santa Isabel, Clarkson (para el Decanato del Este)
MARZO 11	10:15 AM ● Misa en Youth 2000 – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro 2:00 PM ● Misa para los Scouts – Catedral de San Esteban
MARZO 13	6:00 PM ● Confirmación – Sagrado Corazón, Waverly (para San Pedro, San Inés, Sagrado Corazón y Santa Ana)
MARZO 15	6:30 PM ● Confirmación – SS. José & Pablo, Owensboro
MARZO 16	8:00 AM ● Misa y visitas a salones de clase – Escuela de SS. Pedro & Pablo, Hopkinsville
MARZO 17	4:00 PM ● Confirmación – Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho 5:30 PM ● Cena Anual de las Escuelas Católicas de Owensboro – Universidad de Brescia
MARZO 18	5:30 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green (para el Decanato de Bowling Green)
MARZO 19	10:00 AM ● Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC) 12:05 PM ● Misa en la Catedral del primer aniversario de la muerte de del Obispo McRaith 1:30 PM ● Reunión del Consejo de Sacerdotal – MCC 6:00 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – Santo Nombre, Henderson (para el Decanato Central)
MARZO 20	10:00 AM ● Misa – Escuela Secundaria de Santa María, Paducah
MARZO 21	8:30 AM ● Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – MCC 6:30 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – San Enrique, Aurora (para el Decanato de los Lagos)
MARZO 22	9:00 AM ● Misa – Escuela de Cristo Rey, Madisonville 6:00 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – San Romualdo, Hardinsburg (para el Decanato del Este)
MARZO 25	2:00 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro, (para el Decanato del Oeste de Owensboro) 6:00 PM ● Servicio Comunitario de Reconciliación – SS. Pedro & Pablo, Hopkinsville (para el Decanato de Hopkinsville)
MARZO 27	6:30 PM ● Misa Crismal – Sportscenter de Owensboro
MARZO 29	Jueves Santo – Catedral de San Esteban
MARZO 30	Viernes Santo – Catedral de San Esteban
MARZO 31	Vigilia Pascual – Catedral de San Esteban

Continuado de la página 18

dad afectada han sido bondadosas aun en medio de la pérdida. No siempre es así en una comunidad.

Ahora estoy aquí escribiendo para el Católico de Kentucky Occidental el día después del Miércoles de Ceniza, el segundo día de la Cuaresma, y los noticieros están informando sobre el tiroteo en la Escuela Preparatoria de Marjory Stoneman Douglas en Parkland, Florida. Esta mañana después del tiroteo han muerto 17.

La lectura de la Escritura para este segundo día de Cuaresma es de Deuteronomio, un pasaje tan conocido: "Hoy pongo delante de ti la vida y el bien o la muerte y el mal." ESCOGAN LA VIDA.

Este pasaje se ha hecho conocido porque ha sido adoptado como el lema de nuestras campañas de Respetar la Vida, para oponerse a las injusticias graves en nuestra cultura americana como el aborto, la eutanasia y la pena de muerte. Sí, también debemos llamar la violencia de armas de fuego en América un asunto de vida y esperar que nuestra nación adopte algunos límites razonables de qué tipo de armas de fuego estén disponibles en nuestras comunidades y dónde se

pueden tener.

Pedir a nuestra nación que restrinja de alguna forma no excluye los deportes razonables de las armas. Tenemos restricciones de velocidad para salvar vidas. Nos oponemos a las voces proelección/proabortistas porque la vida humana en el seno es creada a la imagen de Dios y es sagrada. Sí, esto limita el control de una mujer sobre su cuerpo – pero por el bien mayor de preservar la vida humana.

La protección de la vida humana se extiende más allá del seno y hasta la muerte natural. No es natural ver que se asesinan y hieren a niños en sus escuelas. Es inconcebible. Y tenemos que preguntar, “¿Está llorando Jesús?” . ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Nombramientos Sacerdotales del 2018

Actualizado 2-12-2018

PÁRROCOS

P. Julio Barrera: Párroco, Parroquia Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam y Parroquia Santísima Trinidad en Morgantown.

P. Ryan Harpole: Párroco, Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.

P. Brian Johnson: Párroco, Parroquia San Pío X en Calvert City y Parroquia San Antonio en Grand Rivers.

P. Tony Jones: Párroco, Parroquia San Romualdo en Hardinsburg.

P. Juan René Kalombo: Párroco, Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro.

P. Carl McCarthy: Párroco, Parroquia Cristo Rey en Madisonville.

P. John Okoro: Párroco, Parroquia San Francisco en Sturgis, Parroquia San Guillermo en Marion, Parroquia San Ambrosio en Henshaw.

P. Anthoni Ottagon: Párroco, Parroquia San Alfonso en Owensboro y Parroquia Santa Isabel en Curdsville.

P. Shaiju Thomas: Sigue siendo párroco de la Parroquia Santa María Magdalena en Owensboro.

P. Augusty Valomchalil: Párroco, Parroquia San Guillermo en Knottsville y Parroquia San Lorenzo en San Lorenzo.

P. John Vaughan: Párroco, Parroquia Inmaculada en Owensboro.

VICARIO PARROQUIAL

P. Joseph Schoettle: Vicario Parroquial, Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en Owensboro, efectivo el 8 de febrero del 2018.

OTROS NOMBRAMIENTOS

P. Andy Garner: Con permiso del Obispo Medley, el P. Garner aceptará un nombramiento temporal en la Diócesis de Lexington, Kentucky.



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.

Picnic Parroquiales del 2018

2 Junio

Sirviendo a las 4 p.m.
San José, Leitchfield

9 Junio

Sirviendo a las 4 p.m.
San Pío X, Owensboro

14 Julio

Sirviendo a las 4 p.m.
San Alfonso, San José

4 Agosto

Sirviendo desde mediodía a 3:30 p.m.
Santísimo Sacramento, Owensboro

15 Septiembre

Sirviendo a las 4 p.m.
Santísima Madre, Owensboro

22 Septiembre

Solamente por carros; 1-3 p.m.
Inmaculada, Owensboro

‘María me trajo al seminario’ dice el seminarista de Aurora

POR MARTIN MIKULCIK, ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Soy Martin Mikulcik, y estoy en mi segundo año en el seminario llamado Obispo Simón Bruté en Indianápolis. Soy de la Parroquia San Enrique en Aurora cerca a los lagos, y partí al seminario justo después de terminar la escuela preparatoria.

Recuerdo la primera vez que me senté con mi párroco para conversar sobre el seminario. Por varios meses la idea de aplicar daba vuelta por mi mente y ya lo había considerado por años. Ya había llegado la hora de tomar mi decisión y estaba en su oficina diciéndole por primera vez que yo quería ir. Estaba nervioso y emocionado. Sentí en mi corazón el deseo de ser un sacerdote, y por fin estaba tomando un paso para lograrlo.

No estoy seguro por cuántos años llevaba yo ese deseo por dentro. Cuando tenía siete años ya estaba fascinado por el sacerdocio. El sacerdote se hace Cristo para la gente. Ofrece la Misa, convirtiendo lo ordinario de pan y vino en un regalo indescriptible – la Eucaristía. Él cumple el encargo que se le dio a San Pedro al final del Evangelio de Juan, “apacienta mis ovejas.” (Juan 25:16)

¡Qué increíble es la manera en que Cristo obra a través de sus sacerdotes! Lo que desatan en la tierra se desata en el cielo. ¡Qué conexión tan íntima con Cristo de obrar en Su Persona! Pensando en todo eso, obviamente me pregunto si Dios realmente podría estar llamándome a tal vocación. San Juan María Vianney, el patrono de sacerdotes de parroquia, dijo en su catecismo, “El sacerdote no

entenderá la enormidad de su oficio hasta que él esté en el Cielo. Si lo comprendiera en la tierra, se moriría, no de temor, sino de amor.” Es maravilloso pensar que Dios me podría estar llamando a eso, y recuerdo haber escuchado ese llamado por primera vez en el séptimo grado.

Recuerdo que estaba pensando en el futuro, en cómo sería mi vida después de la escuela, y sentí una atracción profunda al sacerdocio. Leí el libro, “Salvando Miles de Almas,” y me dio una idea sobre el discernimiento y el seminario, y lo más que pensaba en eso, más quería por lo menos hacer el intento. Luego cuando pensé en el matrimonio también fue atractivo, y tuve que enfrentar la lucha de escoger entre dos cosas buenas. Lo más que pensé en el matrimonio, más lo quería, pero con el tiempo los pensamientos en las dos vocaciones disminuyeron.

Recuerdo que, en la Confirmación, cuando estaba pensando sobre cuál santo escoger, tenía un interés fuerte en Juan Vianney, y lo hubiera escogido, pero mi hermano lo escogió primero. Pensé en otros y al final escogí a Santo Domingo de Guzmán, el santo reconocido por difundir el rosario. Después de eso, no recuerdo exactamente cuándo, recibí la devoción a María y comencé a rezar el rosario regularmente, especialmente después de leer “La Verdadera Devoción a la Virgen” por el San Luis María de Montfort.

Llevaba todas mis preocupaciones vocacionales a María. Recé pidiendo su dirección y cuando llegaba

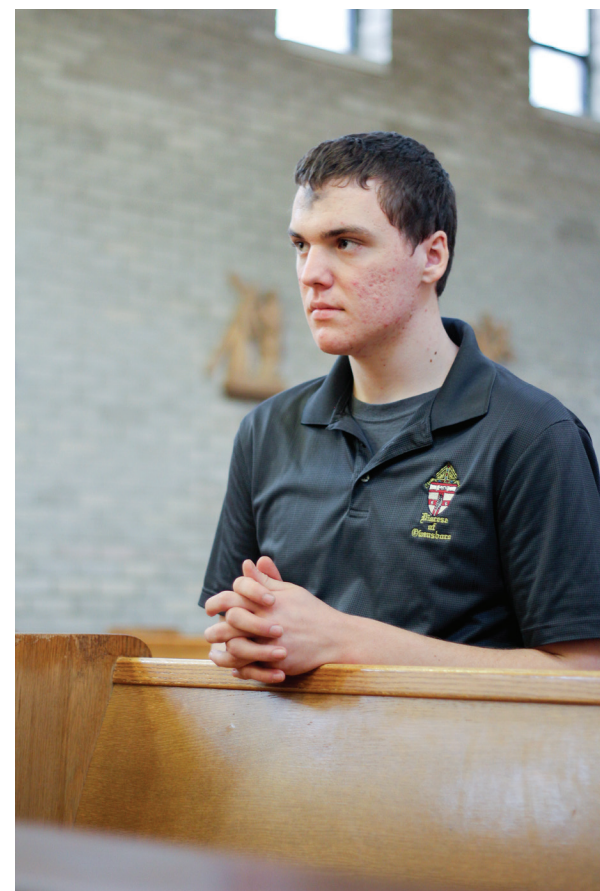


Foto por cortesía de Martin Mikulcik.

más cerca mi aplicación al seminario, incluí la Eucaristía como una gran parte de mi discernimiento. Le preguntaba a Jesús, justo después de recibirlo, si era su voluntad que entrara en el seminario y que fuera un sacerdote.

No pude ignorarlo más. Tenía que aplicar. Si Dios quería eso, yo tenía que hacer algo. Mandé mi aplicación y visité el seminario. Me parecía bien. Me parecía la voluntad de Dios.

Ahora que estoy aquí, no me arrepiento de nada. Muchas veces no es fácil, pero esto es probable. La cruz no fue fácil. La formación, la oración, la comunidad – ojalá todo esto me esté formando para que

Continúa en página 23

Celebrando las hermanas religiosas

La Semana Nacional de Hermanas Católicas se celebra cada año del 8 al 14 de marzo. Este año el Católico de Kentucky Occidental habló con varias hermanas quienes sirven en nuestra Diócesis para aprender sobre sus vocaciones y sus ministerios.



Hna. Consolata Ojemeh

Hermanas Franciscanas de la Inmaculada Concepción, Glasgow, Escocia; Provincia de Nigeria

"Como hermanas religiosas, somos llamadas a un estilo de vida diferente. La forma en que hago mi trabajo...la gente debe ver a Cristo en mí. Deben poder tener un encuentro con Cristo."



Hna. Darlene Presley

Hermanas de Misiones en los EEUU (Glenmary)

"Es como cuando alguien ve a una iglesia, automáticamente piensa en Dios. Si estamos viviendo nuestras vidas según nuestro llamado, esta es la reflexión que inspira a la gente detenerse y decir, 'Dios existe.'"



Hna. Cecilia María

Monjas Pasionistas del Monasterio de San José en Whitesville

"Realmente nos esforzamos para ser la luz de esperanza en nuestra diócesis y en nuestro mundo; atrayendo a la gente a Cristo, mostrándoles el camino a la esperanza, al amor, a la vida que Dios quiere dar a cada uno de nosotros."



Hna. María Faustina

Monjas Pasionistas del Monasterio de San José en Whitesville

"Cuando la gente viene a visitarnos, ellos comentan sobre la alegría que tiene la comunidad."



Hna. Mónica Seaton

Hermanas Ursulinas del Monte San José

"Si tenemos la experiencia y sabemos que somos amados por Dios, entonces esta alegría se desborda a todo lo que hacemos y a todas las personas a quienes conocemos."



Hna. María Carmelita

Hermanas Carmelitas del Corazón Divino de Jesús

"Dios te llama. Y cuando estás en el lugar donde Dios te quiere, y estás haciendo la voluntad de Dios, allí está la paz, la alegría."

Continuado de la página 21

si Dios quiere llegaré a ser un buen sacerdote. El seminario es una experiencia difícil de describir, y el discernimiento se hace plenamente allí.

Cualquier persona que siente la inquietud al sacerdocio necesita de rezar por esto. El mundo necesita sacerdotes y tal vez podrías tú ser uno de ellos. Es una cosa increíble. Dios trabaja a través de nuestra debilidad: “porque cuando soy débil, entonces soy fuerte.” (2 Cor 12:10)

María me trajo al seminario. Como dijo San Luis, “Por medio de la Santísima Virgen María vino Jesucristo al mundo y también por medio de Ella debe reinar en el mundo.”

Reza el rosario. Confía en Dios en el discernimiento. A veces tenemos que hacer un acto de fe, pero como rezamos en los salmos, “Aunque pase por el más oscuro de los valles, no temeré peligro alguno,” porque, “el Señor es mi pastor.” (Salmos 23)

El pasado 10 de febrero, cuatro seminaristas fueron instituidos a los ministerios



(de izquierda a derecha) Corey Bruns, Chris Kight, Martin Ma Na Ling y Stephen Van Lal Than se sientan juntos en la banca el 10 de febrero durante la Misa con la Institución de los Ministerios. Foto por Tina Kasey/WKC.

El 10 de febrero, el Obispo William F. Medley instituyó a cuatro de nuestros seminaristas a los Ministerios de Lectorado y Acólito en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro. Antes de la ordenación al sacerdocio, todo varón debe ser instituido primero como Lector, luego como Acólito y después como Diácono Transicional. Los que fueron instituidos como Lectores fueron Corey Bruns, Chris Kight y Martin Ma Na Ling – los que están en su primer año de teología en el Seminario de San Meinrad. Stephen Van Lal Than, quien está en su segundo año de teología en el Seminario de San Meinrad, fue instituido como Acólito. El día coincidió con el octavo aniversario de la ordenación del Obispo Medley como obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

El Obispo abre la Cuaresma con un llamado a ‘reiniciar’ con Dios

En la Misa del Miércoles de Ceniza al mediodía el 14 de febrero en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro, el Obispo William F. Medley dijo que este día es el comienzo de “un retiro de 40 días.” El obispo hizo referencia a la reflexión del Papa Francisco de Cuaresma del 2018, explicando que la Cuaresma nos da la oportunidad de decir “espera, esto me consume tanto que no puedo enfocarme en el Dios Todopoderoso.” Cuando uno reza, da limosna y ayuna, el obispo dijo que una persona “puede entender mejor el hambre espiritual y la sed de Dios.” El Obispo Medley también recomendó el Sacramento de la Reconciliación como una buena manera de “reiniciar” la vida de uno. “No es esperar demasiado pedir reiniciar con el Dios Todopoderoso,” dijo de la confesión. “Es una buena manera de reiniciar – y eso una que funciona.” Se animan a los individuos ponerse en contacto con sus parroquias para más información sobre devociones especiales y programas de la Cuaresma, y también para información sobre la Semana Santa 2018, la cual incluye la Vigilia Pascual el 31 de Marzo.



El Obispo Medley hace una cruz de cenizas en la frente de la Hna. Mónica Seaton, OSU, en la Misa del Miércoles de Ceniza al mediodía el 14 de febrero en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro. Foto por Laura Clarke/WKC.

¿Le interesa el sacerdocio o la vida religiosa?

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

Aprenda más en owensborodiocese.org/vocations

“ENCUENTROS” ... Siempre una Bendición

POR DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

A pesar de la lluvia y la distancia para manejar, aproximadamente 400 Católicos Hispanos/Latinos de distintas parroquias y ciudades de la diócesis, se congregaron en la ciudad de Hopkinsville.

El pasado 27 de enero se dio el Sexto Encuentro Anual Diocesano de Familias Hispanas. El Padre Julio Palarino, nativo de Uruguay y sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de La Plata en Argentina, desafió a todos reflexionar sobre el llamado individual y colectivo de ser ‘discípulos misioneros.’ El P. Palarino con su habilidad única y talento de conocer las Escrituras, pudo animar a todos a reflexionar y descubrir nuestro propio llamado de santidad. En un tiempo cuando muchas familias inmigrantes viven en un estado constante de miedo e incertidumbre, ese fue un día de convivio y esperanza. Cuando tantas veces el lenguaje y las acciones de mucha gente no son de compasión ni de bienvenida, sino de hostilidad hacia el extranjero. Este fue un día para sentir el amor incondicional de Cristo y su Iglesia.

El evento incluyó varias charlas fuertes, tiempo de compartir, adoración, cantos, alabanza y misa. Las familias aportaron comida para compartir en la mesa. Los Ministros Hispanos también trabajaron muy duro. Un agradecimiento especial a los sacerdotes, P. Basilio Az, P. Carmelo Jiménez, P. Al Bremer and P. Julio Barrera por escuchar confesiones toda la mañana. El evento también fue bendecido por la ayuda y el esfuerzo de Elaine Robertson, Directora Diocesana de Formación de Fe y Charlie Hardesty, Director Diocesano de Ministerio Juvenil. Los dos tenían sus respectivos equipos organizados con activ-

idades de evangelización para más de 175 niños del Kinder al 12vo grado.

La comunidad hispana también agradece al Obispo William Medley. No solamente porque ese día tuvo la gentileza de venir y estar con nosotros y aceptar muchas preguntas, sino también porque se ha mostrado ser un pastor sin miedo de hablar en favor o por el bien estar de su rebaño, incluyendo al inmigrante.

Las familias hispanas son fuertes. Enfrentando la adversidad y a veces con espacio limitado e incluso sin voz; siguen unidas, creciendo en número y bendiciendo a nuestra diócesis y a nuestro país con su presencia. Actualmente ya están transformando muchos de los programas parroquiales de formación de fe, grupos de la confirmación y los movimientos eclesiales a través de la diócesis.

Los Latinos seguirán viviendo su Fe Católica, su devoción a Jesucristo, María y los Santos. Gracias a Dios por su energía y su presencia rejuvenecedora.



Charlie Hardesty, Director Diocesano de Ministerio Juvenil, y su equipo, guiaron alrededor de 75 adolescentes por unas charlas y actividades sobre cómo ser discípulos misioneros.



Más de 200 adultos hispanos cantan alabanzas entre las charlas durante el Sexto Encuentro Diocesano de Familias Hispanas.



En el Encuentro del 27 de enero, casi 100 niños esperan la siguiente actividad dirigida por Elaine Robertson, Directora Diocesana de Formación de Fe y su equipo de voluntarios.



El coro hispano de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, Vencedores en Cristo, dirigieron la música durante todo el Encuentro.

Momentum building for School Choice bills



While Fr. John Vaughan and Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds stand by, students of St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville lead the Pledge of Allegiance during the Jan. 23, 2018 School Choice Rally in Madisonville. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

BY ANDREW VANDIVER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In the 2018 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, which runs through April, two separate bills have been introduced to address the issue of school choice. These bills, if passed by the legislature, would provide nearly \$25 million in tuition assistance to low and middle income families so that they can choose the school that best fits their children's needs. Kentucky would be the latest state in recent years to join this trend. First enacted in Arizona in 1997, scholarship tax credit programs have been

passed in 18 states and have yielded outstanding results. These programs provide more families with educational options, improve academic outcomes, and save taxpayers money.

While Kentucky's public schools provide important services, it must be acknowledged that a public school is not an ideal fit for every child. We all benefit when a child lives up to his or her full potential. Therefore, it is our obligation to ensure that all families, regardless of their financial status, are equipped to provide the best education possible for their children.

The time to pass a scholarship tax credit program

is now. If you want to see this program become a reality in the Commonwealth, contact your state senator and representative and leave them a message in support of scholarship tax credit bills, House Bill 134 and Senate Bill 36. You can leave a message by phone Monday through Friday by calling 1-800-372-7181. The operator on the line will assist you in getting the message to your elected officials. It takes less than five minutes to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Kentucky families. ■

Andrew Vandiver is associate director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky. Learn more at cck.org and follow at [Facebook.com/CatholicConferenceKY](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicConferenceKY).

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

Be a light and spread the Good News this Lent

BY AMANDA PAYNE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I was asked once what my favorite quote in the Bible was. Immediately, three came to mind. During my father's lengthy battle with lung disease, he would often remind me, "Be Not Afraid" as I contemplated our future and how my family would go on without him. Those words of courage resonated deeply with 18-year-old self when my father passed away at 47. And later, when my younger brother would take his life at 16, those words, ever-so-faintly resonated still. Be Not Afraid, I go before you always.

Yet another line impacts my life and my faith is shaped by it as well. It is another courageous response, this time it is Peter, responding to Jesus. In the Gospel of John, we are told that Jesus tells his followers that "His flesh is true food and his blood is true drink." After many disciples decidedly threw up their hands and left at that, Jesus asked his disciples if they too would be leaving him. At this, Simon Peter courageously says, "To whom would we go, You have the words of eternal life." I wonder what I would have done in that same situation. If I were there, would I have been one of those to walk away?

Each year, the season of Lent makes me wonder about my own faith and courage and I take a tough look at similar situations where I could have shown courage and defended my faith. Once, when I was 19 or so, a family member criticized Catholicism because a priest had refused her husband, a non-Catholic, Communion. I said nothing as she berated my faith in front of other people who also didn't know or understand the Eucharist. All the while I kept

thinking, "If you knew you were about to receive

Jesus' true body and true blood, wouldn't you want to be in a state of grace and reverence, not a state of ignorance of this gift?" I said nothing, though, and walked away feeling shameful and upset with my lack of tenacity. How many times in my life will I get the chance to publicly defend Jesus regardless of the rebuke and chastisement that will come along with it? How many more times will I pass the opportunity?

The third and perhaps my favorite is again by valiant Peter. Jesus has gathered his disciples and asks them, "Who do they say that I am?" The disciples respond that some have said prophet, some say John the Baptist. But Peter, in a moment of discernment, says, "I say that you are the Messiah, the son of the living God." Peter, the disciple who denied Christ three times, said those faithful, powerful words. With no ambiguity, he calls Christ who he is, the Messiah. That proves that even though we may miss chances to proclaim His righteousness and His Truth, like Peter, maybe something powerful can still come from our mouths to resonate forever within someone's heart. Remember the gifts that Peter was given for his wise and brave response as Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

This Lent, take more than a cursory glance at how you can defend our Lord during times of moral relativism. Look deep at how you can be the light of the world and spread the Good News. ■

Amanda Payne is a parishioner of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.



Marriage Retreat

April 13-15, 2018
Kenlake Resort Lodge
Hardin, KY

Register & Pay Online:
owensborodiocese.org/marriage-retreat



Office of Marriage & Family Life
 DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Via Dolorosa asks how we will respond to others' suffering

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

The Stations of the Cross are based upon the Via Dolorosa, literally “The Sorrowful Way,” a street in the Old City of Jerusalem where pilgrims follow the footsteps of Jesus in his final hours.

The various stations of the Via Dolorosa present the different ways in which people respond to Jesus and his suffering.

In the first Station Pilate, as governor, condemns Jesus to death. At other stations people, especially women, respond to Jesus with compassion as he carries the cross. Mary, his mother, meets him along the way. Simon bears the crossbeam for Jesus after Jesus falls upon the stones of the street. Veronica comes out of the comfort of her home and down its steep steps to wipe the face of Jesus. The example of Veronica challenges us to leave our comfortable ways to respond to the suffering of others.

In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre a mosaic above the eleventh station, where Jesus is nailed to the cross, pictures both the indifference of the man nailing Jesus to the cross and the compassion of Mary Magdalene, as she weeps over the crucified



A mosaic in the Calvary Chapel of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem depicts Jesus being nailed to the cross. Photo courtesy of Fr. Ray Clark.

Jesus. The Via Dolorosa asks each of us: How will I respond to the suffering of Jesus in those around me – with indifference or with compassion? ■

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

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.

Evangelization must feed both the physically and spiritually hungry

BY JOE BLAND, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I know I have touched on this in a prior issue but it is worth touching on this subject again. So, what is evangelization? "Evangelization is one hungry person showing another hungry person where to find good food." I heard this quote from two different sources; Bishop Robert Barron and Christopher West, so I will give credit to both men.

But let's look at that phrase closely because it has a couple of different meanings to it.

To show a hungry person where to find good food is meeting their needs for the day. This is a commandment of Jesus – feed the hungry – and it is right that we should do that. But if we give just what the body needs and feed the hungry, what makes us any different from any other secular non-profit or government charity/agency?

In a speech to the Swiss Bishops in 2014 Pope Francis stated, "The testimony of Christians and parish communities can truly enlighten their path and support their aspiration for happiness. In this way the Church in Switzerland can more clearly be herself, the Body of Christ and the People of God, and not just a fine organization, another NGO" (non-governmental organization).

Blessed Pope Paul VI said in his Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization (Evangelii Nuntiandi), "There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed."

So, when we show a hungry person where to find

good food it should be more than just nourishment for the body that day. We need to show them and tell them about the food of eternal life, the bread that has come down from heaven. We must invite them to the Supper of the Lord.

As Christians this is what makes us different, because yes, we can provide for the daily needs of someone but if that is all we are missing out on a relationship with someone, we are missing out on introducing this person to the most important person in their life: Jesus Christ.

I feel that there is a split in the Church today between a more social justice side and a more moral doctrine side. Who is causing this division? Certainly not Christ (see John 17:21).

The "social justice side" wants to focus on issues like poverty, the sick, the homeless and immigration (just to name a few) and that is all good – we need that in our Church.

Then you have the "moral doctrine side" that wants to focus on the sexual ethic and the loss of it in our society today with issues like abortion, pre-marital sex, and out-of-wedlock pregnancies (just to name a few) – and that is all good. We need that focus, too, in our Church.

There seems to be a contradiction here, but there is not. As a Catholic I can be and am called to be a supporter of both because the so-called social justice concerns and the so-called sexual morality concerns flow from the very same vision of the human person's dignity as a person made in the image and likeness of God called to live in a communion of persons.

And since the relationship of man and woman is the foundation of all society, one cannot have social justice without the full truth of the Christian sexual ethic. All of our social and sexual issues can be traced back to the lack of dignity for the human person.

At the end of each issue whether we are feeding a man for a day or feeding his soul for eternity there is a human person there that we need to be in relation with. We need to bring them to Jesus where he will heal and he will say, "My friend, your sins are forgiven, go, and sin no more."

That, my friend, is what evangelization is all about. ■

Joe Bland is director of the Office of Evangelization in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/evangelization.

A Year of Encounter

In March 2017, the diocese created an Office of Evangelization. That Advent, Bishop Medley launched a four-year plan entitled "Living as Missionary Disciples" to inspire and invigorate the diocese to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Year One, (2017-18) has a theme of "Encounter." To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/evangelization.

‘Mary brought me to seminary’ says Aurora seminarian

BY MARTIN MIKULCIK, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I'm Martin Mikulcik, and I'm in my second year of college seminary at Bishop Simon Bruté in Indianapolis. I'm from St. Henry's in Aurora by the lakes, and joined seminary right out of high school.

I remember the first time I sat down with my pastor and discussed seminary. I had been wrestling with the idea of applying for months and been considering it for years before. It had come time for me to make my decision, and I was in his office telling him for the first time I wanted to go. I was nervous and excited. I felt the desire in my heart to be a priest, and I was finally taking a step toward it.

I don't know how long I had had that desire. By the time I was seven, I was awestruck in the priesthood. The priest becomes Christ for the people. He offers the Mass, turning ordinary bread and wine into an indescribable gift – the Eucharist. He does what St. Peter was charged with at the end of John's Gospel, “Feed my sheep.”

How amazing the way Christ works through his priests! What they loose on earth is loosed in heaven. How intimately their connection to Christ that they stand in His very person! Thinking about all that, of course I wonder if God could possibly be calling me to such a vocation. St. Jean Vianney, the patron of parish priests, said in his catechism, “The priest will not understand the greatness of his office until he is in heaven. If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love.” It's wonderful to think that God could be calling me to that, and I first remember that call in seventh grade.

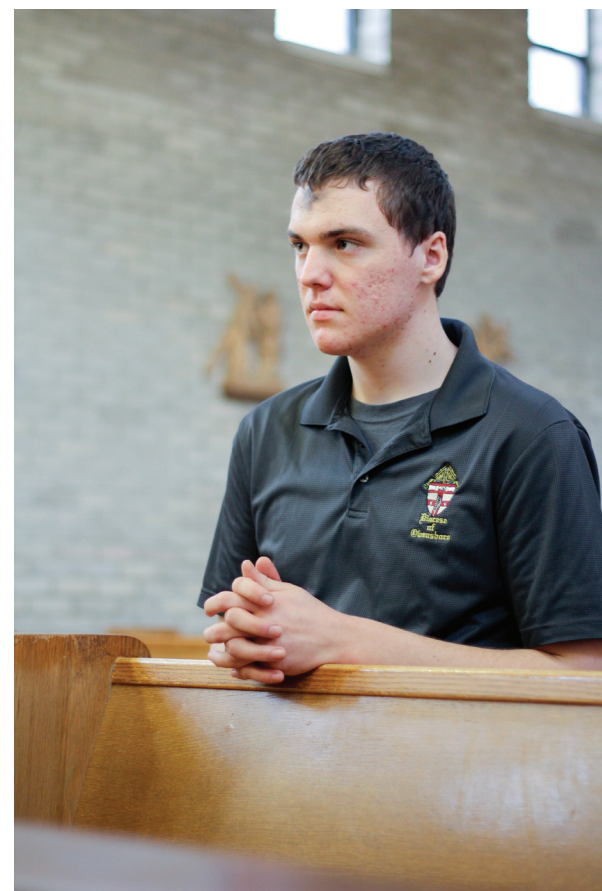
I remember thinking then about the future, what life would be like after school, and I felt a deep attraction for the priesthood. I read the book, “To Save a Thousand Souls,” and it gave me an idea of discernment and seminary, and the more I thought about it the more I wanted, at least, to give it a try. Then I thought of marriage, and that too was appealing, and I hit that struggle of choosing between two goods. The more I thought of marriage the more I wanted that, but eventually thoughts on both vocations subsided.

I remember at Confirmation, when I was thinking of saints to choose, I had a strong love for Jean Vianney, and I would have chosen him, but my brother did first. I gave others some thought and arrived at Dominic Guzman, the saint credited with spreading the rosary. After that, I really can't remember when, I gained devotion to Mary, and started praying the rosary regularly, especially after reading “True Devotion to Mary” by St. Louis de Montfort.

I took all my vocational concerns to Mary. I prayed to her for guidance, and when I came closer to applying for seminary, I made the Eucharist a great part of discernment. I would ask Jesus after just receiving him if it were his will that I enter seminary and become a priest.

I couldn't ignore it any longer. I had to apply. If God wanted this, I needed to do something. I sent in my application and visited the seminary. It seemed right. It seemed like it was God's will.

Now that I'm here, I haven't regretted any of it.



Martin Mikulcik kneels in prayer in the chapel at Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis on Feb. 14 (Ash Wednesday) 2018. Photo courtesy of Martin Mikulcik.

Many times it isn't easy, but that is to be expected. The cross wasn't easy. The formation, the prayer, the community – hopefully it's all forming me so that God-willing I become a good priest. Seminary is a hard experience to describe, and discernment is

Continues on page 30

Martin Mikulcik continued from page 29

most fully done there.

Anybody feeling a call to the priesthood needs to pray about it. The world needs priests and maybe you'll be one of them. It's an amazing thing. God works with our weakness: "For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Mary brought me to seminary. As St. Louis says, "It was through her that Jesus first entered the world, and it is through her that he must reign in it."

Pray the rosary. Trust God in discernment. Sometimes we have to take a leap of faith, but as we pray in the psalms, "If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear," for, "the Lord is my shepherd." ■



Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions

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Michael & Maria Overton, 50
Perry & Jan Hardesty, 40

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Paul & Nina Drury, 59
William & Charlotte Faulkner, 62
Robert & Liz Shea, 64
Jerry & Jewel Marie Williams, 59

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Maung Sing & Treasar Pai, 5
Dale & Kimberly Dumont, 25
Neftali Cabrera & Karina Gomez, 25
Lian Pau & Clinj Mang, 50

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Jeremy & Cate Coakley, 10
Marty & Becky Mitchell, 40
James & Marilyn Young, 50
David & Rita Hall, 40
Steven & Anna Smith, 10
Ryan Heath & Megan Boorman, 5
Larry & Betty Clark, 52
Carroll & Joyce Ferguson, 61
William & Sarah Kemper, Jr., 56
Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 56

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Chris L. & Heather Hagan, 10

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Paul & Doris Westerfield, 61

Sacred Heart, Waverly

John B. & Jean Hancock, 5

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Joe & Stephanie Thomas, 10
John & Donna Niana, 10

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Mike & Jackie McCarthy, 25

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Charles & Ann Hamilton, 50

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Robbie & Mary Moore, 61

St. Benedict, Wax

Damon & Reva Stasel, 51

St. Columba, Lewistown

Jimmie & Carol Harper, 56

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 52
Jack & Rose Riggs, 61

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Bill & Debbie Alvey, 25

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Tony & Lita Pfingston, 51

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Roy & Pam Springer, 40
Charles & Marie Riggs, 70

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John D. & Lynda Oldham, 53

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Rick & Ashley Stubblefield, 5
Michael & Monica Carrico, 40

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Jim & Mary Jane Nelson, 53
J. C. & Maggie Edge, 60

St. John, Sunfish

Jeffery & Francheska Parker, 5

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Thomas & Helen Ellington, 65

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Neftali Cabrera & Karina Gomez, 25
Bobby & Lisa Gilmer, 10
Jose & Karla Rosales, 10

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Leonard & Barbara Webb, 56
Howard & Imogene Riley, 70

St. Mark, Eddyville

Thomas & Nicole Rooyakkers, 25

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Logan & Melanie Beyke, 10
John & Angie Millay, 25

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

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St. Pius X, Owensboro

Jerome & Gail Hoesli, 61

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Perry & Elizabeth Adkins, 5

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Gerald & Maxine Corbey, 59

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Vincent & Leslie Scarpino, 5
Jason & Gabriela Acree, 10
Marcus & Opal Cooper, 61
Joe & Betty Falconite, 63

St. William, Knottsville

Ivan & Kathleen Hagan, 40

SS. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro


Steven & Santa Davis, 10
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"This is my commandment; love one another as I love you."
- John 15:12

Catholic Schools Week 2018

From Jan. 28-Feb. 2, Catholic schools across the Diocese of Owensboro celebrated Catholic Schools Week 2018. This annual week, sponsored by the National Catholic Educators Association, recalls the gift of Catholic education in the United States. Our diocesan schools celebrated this week with special programs, guest speakers, Mass and much more. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/catholic-schools.



In Paducah, St. Mary School System students prepare to celebrate Catholic Schools Week Mass with Bishop Medley on Jan. 30, 2018. Photo courtesy of Eleanor Spry.



In Henderson, Holy Name of Jesus School students dress in uniforms for service careers as they learn about service to the community. Photo courtesy of Holly Farina.



To celebrate Catholics Schools Week, Ursuline Sr. Stephany Nelson's first-grade class at the Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus made a video for the children's parents. Here, Sr. Nelson shares the iPad video with her students. It was posted on a website just for their parents. Photo courtesy of Mount St. Joseph.

The Office of Youth Ministry is on Instagram



Be sure to follow

[instagram.com/owensboro_diocese_ym](https://www.instagram.com/owensboro_diocese_ym)

to keep up with recent youth ministry

happenings around the

Diocese of Owensboro.