

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Mission during COVID Page 22

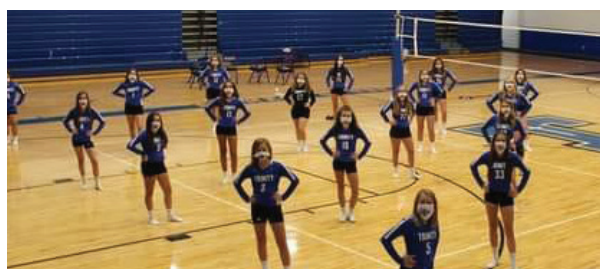
Camaraderie & perseverance

Seminarian Flynn Mudd reads from his breviary during a Sept. 13 Mass at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. **Page 8**

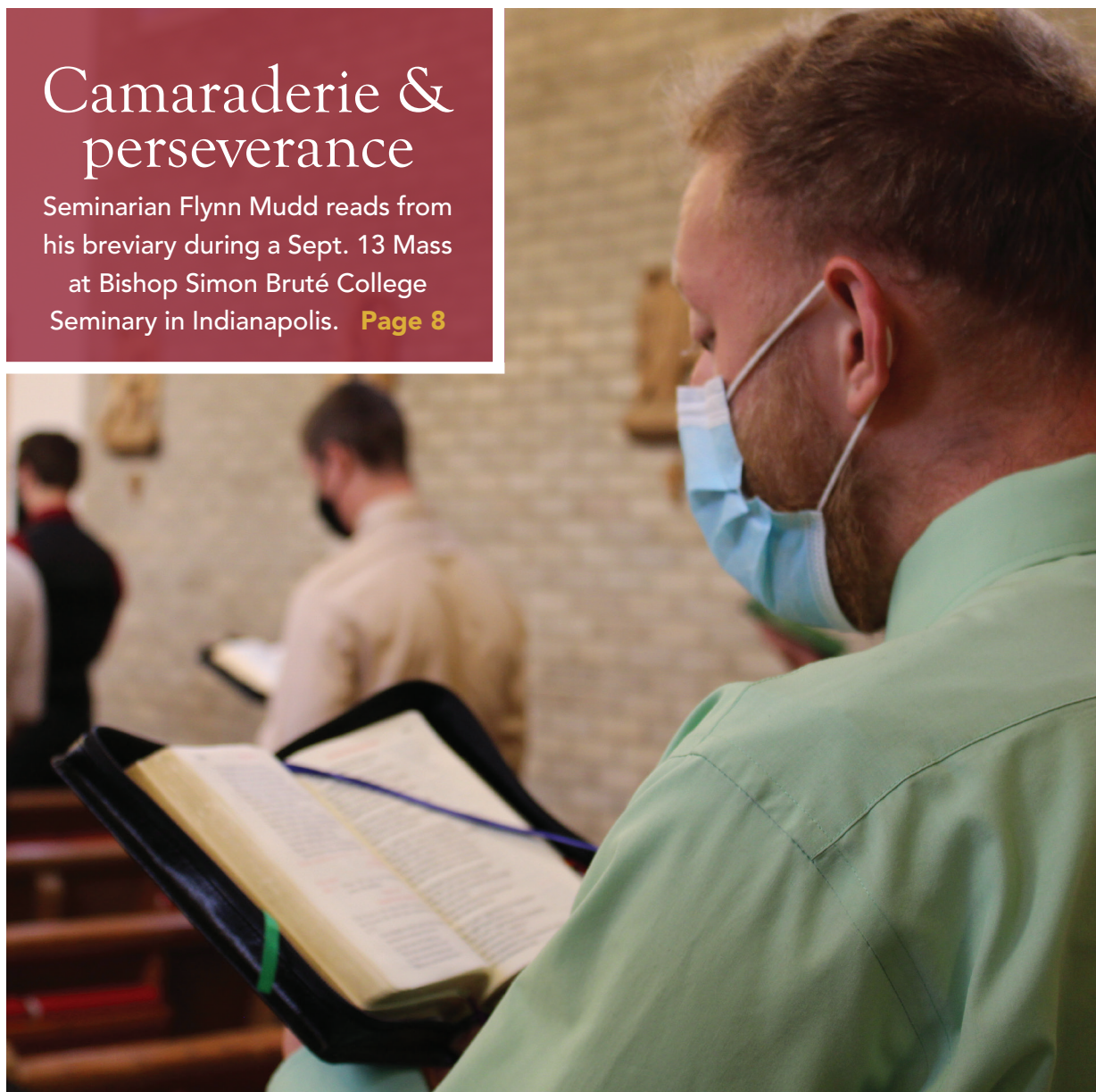


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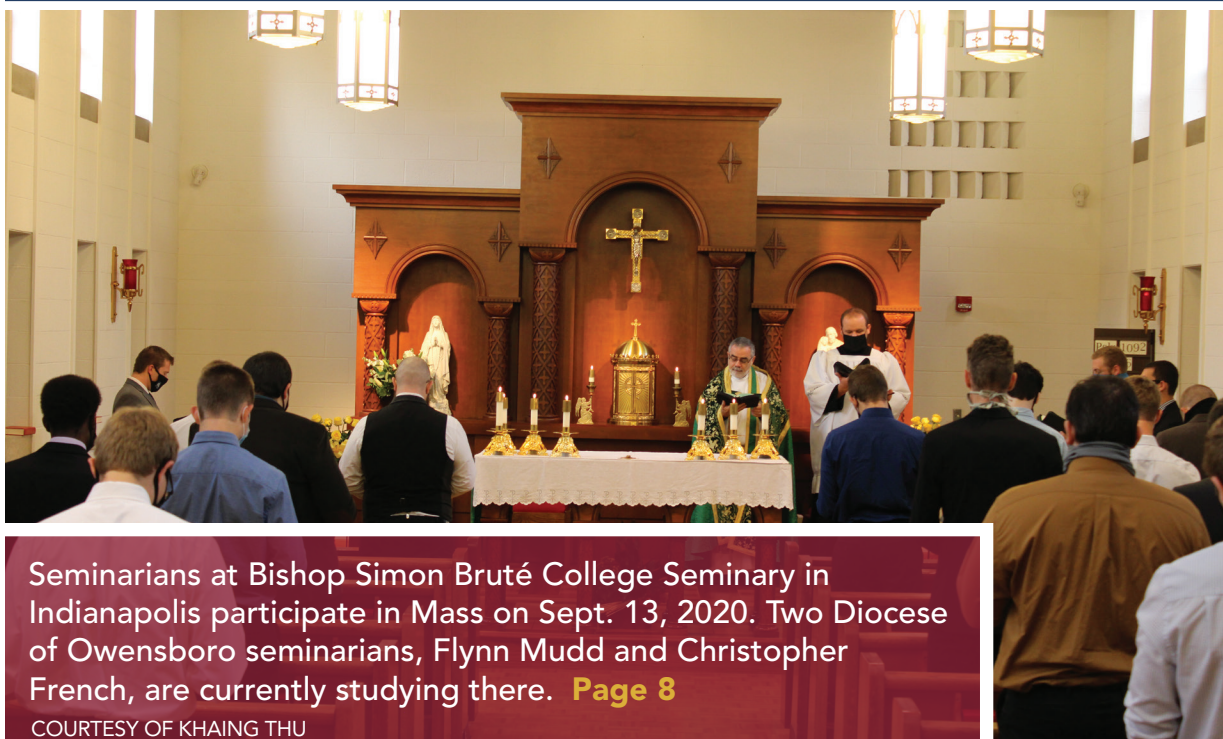
Página 27



Back to school, safely Page 4



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Seminarians at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis participate in Mass on Sept. 13, 2020. Two Diocese of Owensboro seminarians, Flynn Mudd and Christopher French, are currently studying there. **Page 8**

COURTESY OF KHAING THU

- 4** Catholic school faculty, staff and students 'ecstatic' to be back
With semester in full swing, safety is top priority for in-person classes
- 6** God had a 'different plan' for church musician
Matt Gray now celebrating 25 years at Immaculate Parish
- 10** Planning committee discusses current Hispanic/Latino ministry needs
Committee working to update pastoral plan, which expired in 2011

Front page photo courtesy of Khaing Thu.

Submissions

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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- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 Features | 20 Anniversaries |
| 12 Archives | 22 Young Adult |
| 13 Around the Diocese | 24 Evangelization |
| 16 Upcoming Events | 25 Vocations |
| 18 Opinion | 27 Español |

A Word from Bishop Medley

Apart from Mary, Mother of God, perhaps no other saint venerated by the Church is as well recognized as Francis of Assisi whose feast day is celebrated on October 4. In fact, given a tradition of blessing animals on this feast, you may find numerous Protestant churches adopting this practice as a celebration of all of God's creation.

Francis was born in 1182 in Assisi while his father, who was a prosperous cloth merchant, was travelling through France. As was the custom his devout mother took him to the church to be baptized within days and gave him the name Giovanni to honor St. John the Baptist. His father, though not a pagan, was not an especially religious man and subsequently changed his son's name to Francesco reflecting his love of France. In the day the name would have been the equivalent of Frenchman.

Francis enjoyed the good life as the son of a successful merchant. It seems he was blessed with a positive disposition and we might say he was the life of the party among his peers. For the most part this was reflected in his many friends and his generous spirit with them, but it also likely indicated a bit of mostly harmless foolishness.

Francis' conversion to the austere religious practice and lifestyle he embraced came slowly and in stages. One might say he would be an excellent patron saint for those discerning a calling in life. Few experience the sudden conversion of a St. Paul, struck down as he was thundering against early Christians. Most of us reflect upon our lives and recall the subtle signposts the Lord has provided along the way, as he did for Francis.

Among Francis' signs was the experience of being

a soldier and serving as a prisoner of war for a year. His encounter with a leper, feared and despised by most, represented a sign. Francis relates that though repulsed by the appearance and smell, he stopped to touch the leper but as he went on he turned back and no longer saw him. Francis saw this as a test from God.

As he matured, Francis did become more reflective and more intentionally a religious person. One day he stopped in an old and largely abandoned church to pray. The church was San Damiano and still had within it an image of the crucified Lord. While praying there he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him, "Francis repair my church." Acting impetuously Francis took cloth from his father's shop and sold it to physically repair the church. Needless to say his father considered this theft and took his son to the bishop for correction. The bishop treated him kindly, telling Francis to repay what he had taken and to trust that God would provide.

Through this experience Francis came to understand the admonition to repair the church did not mean the physical structure, but rather the Lord was calling up a prophet to live the Christian life radically.

Soon Francis began to preach. He never wanted to establish a religious order but his simplicity of life and message attracted others. His message was simple: live by the Gospel. The story is told that one day a thief stole a hood from one of his companions and Francis exhorted him to run after the thief to offer him his robe as well.

Francis came to appreciate God in all creation. It is said that he preached among the birds and rea-

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2020

Please note: The following dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 situation.

OCT 15	3 p.m. Video Conference with Priests of the Diocese of Owensboro
OCT 17	10 a.m. Video Conference with Permanent Deacon Candidates and their Wives 6:30 p.m. Mass – St. Stephen Parish, Cadiz
OCT 19	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – MCC 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – MCC
OCT 21	6 p.m. Diocesan Review Board Meeting – MCC
OCT 22	9 a.m. School Mass – St. Romuald School, Hardinsburg
OCT 24	3 p.m. Confirmation – St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie
OCT 25	10:30 a.m. Mass – St. Michael Parish, Sebree
OCT 27	9:30 a.m. Mass – St. Mary Elementary School, Paducah 12 noon - 2 p.m. Paducah Office
OCT 29	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Presbyteral Day – MCC 2 p.m. Brescia University Board Meeting
OCT 30	Brescia University Board Meeting
OCT 31	3 p.m. Confirmation – St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie

soned with a wolf terrorizing a village. Even in his lifetime scores of men chose to follow the way of life Francis had adopted. A dear friend of his, Clare, was inspired by his way and women joined her in a religious life.

Continues on page 4

A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

Francis is the patron saint of animals and environment. As young people study the saints many young men and women are inspired and choose Francis as a confirmation saint.

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, recounts the story of being in the conclave to elect a new pope, and it was becoming clear after several ballots that he was to be elected, that the cardinal next to him whispered to him, "Jorge, do not forget the poor."

A few minutes later Jorge told the College of Cardinals that he would accept the office entrusted to him and that he would take the name Francis. ■

+ William F. Medley

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Catholic school faculty, staff and students 'ecstatic' to be back

With semester in full swing, safety is top priority for in-person classes

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Perhaps the experiment didn't go as planned, but for Joan Butterworth, the science teacher at St. Paul School in Grayson County, not finding microscopic life forms in her students' petri dishes was a great sign.

"In our enrichment classes we're learning all about germs," said Butterworth in a Sept. 9 phone call with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

She said one of their enrichment projects involved swabbing around the school building to see if they could identify germs in petri dishes.

"It's been really hard to find germs because they've been cleaning so well," said Butterworth, who explained that her students had to redo two petri dishes to find any germs.

Across western Kentucky, the Diocese of Owensboro's 17 Catholic schools have been open in-person since late August. And while the safety, distancing and sanitizing guidelines are strict, the schools are willing to embrace it all if it means continuing in-person.

son since late August. And while the safety, distancing and sanitizing guidelines are strict, the schools are willing to embrace it all if it means continuing in-person.

Chris Reed, the principal of St. Paul School, told the WKC that their days have had a slower pace due to the time it takes to sanitize and line up the students.

Continues on page 5



COURTESY OF TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

(Left) Members of Trinity High School's cross country team pause for a picture with their masks. (Right) The Lady Raiders volleyball team at Trinity High School in Whitesville wear their masks inside the Horn Community Center.



Back to school continued from page 4

dents at safe distances between classes, and get them settled into their six-feet-apart desks.

“But we’re all happy to be here, so it works for us,” he said.

Reed said he is proud of St. Paul’s staff and faculty who have more work than ever before. He’s also proud of the students, whom he described as “ecstatic to be here.”

“They’re not even complaining about homework,” he said.

Emily Hernandez, the principal of St. Mary of the Woods School and Trinity High School in Whitesville, said she had spent most days from March through May in the building with no more than few other people sometimes.

“It was a very empty feeling,” she said of being inside the school during the period of NTI (non-traditional instruction). “It was a really lonely feeling without the teachers and students; a school is supposed to be full of people.”

Hernandez said that everyone coming back to school on Aug. 26, 2020 was “the greatest feeling.”

While following the diocesan and state guidelines for safety has changed the look of an average school day, Hernandez said what has remained the same is the “teachers’ willingness to educate the children in the faith, and the students’ eagerness to learn.”

“I believe things are going well,” she said, adding that the students and teachers have “adjusted really well.”

Lesley Mills, the principal of Christ the King School in Madisonville, said that their transition back to school was “pretty smooth.”

“We had non-traditional instruction for the first two weeks, with review, small group tutoring and MAP testing,” said Mills. “That helped us to ease back into the school rhythm.”



COURTESY OF CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

(Left) Heather Winstead at Christ the King School in Madisonville wears a mask while teaching students during the first week of school in August 2020. (Right) Dividers on the desks in the classrooms provide a way for students to safely learn at Christ the King School in Madisonville.



Mills added that one challenge has been figuring out what the students had lost, educationally, over the past six months and starting to work toward catching them up.

As has been the case with some of the other Catholic schools, Christ the King’s enrollment has increased this semester.

“We have increased enrollment because we have expanded our 3/4-year-old program and because parents in our community wanted an in-person school experience,” said Mills. “Our parents have been so grateful and have told us that they feel blessed to have their children in school. Things are better at home because they don’t have to worry about getting school work finished.”

From March to June, Christ the King operated a limited duration childcare center for the children of essential workers while statewide daycares were closed. The state allowed regular daycares to open

back up in the middle of June.

“We have been blessed, though, because we have added several of those children to our school family,” said Mills.

Erin Clark is the office manager at Christ the King, and her daughter, Emma, is in fourth grade at the school.

“The most reassuring thing about sending her to Christ the King right now is that she is in a small class size and she is in school five days a week,” said Clark.

Clark said she take comfort in knowing the families of her daughter’s classmates, and knowing “they have the same beliefs and values as I do.”

“I know they are staying healthy at home, just like we are so we can stay healthy at school!” said Clark. ■

To learn more about the Diocese of Owensboro’s Catholic schools, visit [owensborodiocese.org/catholic-schools](https://www.owensborodiocese.org/catholic-schools).

God had a ‘different plan’ for church musician now celebrating 25 years at parish

An interview with Matt Gray, music and liturgy director at Immaculate Parish

BY WKC STAFF

What brought you to Immaculate Parish?

My mother, Bonnie Gray, was very instrumental in getting me to play music from a young age. (I started playing keyboard at five years old, self-taught). She also sang in choirs my entire childhood and I was always there at choir practice!

Fr. Richard Powers called me around September 1995 in desperate need of a new music director at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro. Especially with Advent and Christmas approaching. I wasn't even finished with school yet (Western Kentucky University) and was due to graduate in December with a broadcasting degree in television and a music minor. I was studying to write music for television and movies. I was 23 years old and had zero experience as a director, but Fr. Powers knew of my abilities in Church ministry from the many years I was already working part-time in that capacity. (I've been playing music in church since I was seven years old). I had just quit my part-time job at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish where I worked for seven years, with anticipating moving to Nashville to pursue television and music. But God had a different plan.

My wife and I were expecting our first child and when Fr. Powers was practically begging me to take

the job, I figured I should stay here to raise our family. So I took the job and immediately began training the choir for Christmas when I came in on weekends. And here I am 25 years later.

What has been your greatest challenge in the past 25 years of leading music at Immaculate?

The biggest challenge is working in music ministry and balancing family life. Every weekend and most major “holidays” that are also holy days I'm in church for three to five (or more) Masses. Trying to schedule family time outside of church work is very challenging. Kids' birthday parties, family holiday gatherings, (Christmas morning, making the kids stay in their bedrooms until Dad gets back) all have to be scheduled around the Church liturgical calendar. I realize that many other professions are the same, but it has been a challenge. It takes a very understanding and supportive spouse, which Nicole is! Another challenge is always being on call for funerals. Understandably, the family is in great need at the time of the passing of a loved one, and of course it's not planned. So they can pop up at any time. Even if I have a day “off” and have made plans to be with my family, many, many times those plans were cancelled because of a funeral.

Personal spiritual and prayer life – it's challeng-



COURTESY OF MATT GRAY

Matt Gray has served as the music and liturgy director at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro for 25 years.

ing for me to pray as I should when I'm constantly “working” in the spiritual world. I'm always a step ahead of everyone else during Mass or other prayer services in order to make sure all goes well. At the end of the day, it can be very difficult to pray on my own when I've been leading everyone else all day and all week. It takes extra effort. I know many priests experience this as well.

Now today, a new challenge is dealing with COVID-19. Years of training and experience teaches us music ministers that our number-one priority is

Continues on page 7

Musician celebrates 25 years continued from page 6

to encourage the assembly to sing. We go to great lengths to make it as easy as possible to sing while praying. And now, with the COVID-19 restrictions, we are told to prevent the assembly from singing! It is a crazy thought and goes against every cell in our body! But I keep moving on trying to reinvent ways to keep the music going in some way. It seems at times that the “music has died.” It can be kind of depressing.

What has been your greatest blessing?

On the flipside of the same coin as the challenges I mentioned, the greatest blessing has been being connected to a second family – the parish family and my music ministry family. They have supported me all these years. Many of them have supported me on a personal level outside of parish ministry. Although it is a challenge to balance my family life with parish work, it is a blessing to have a support system outside of the home. My music ministry family not only supports me, but my wife and children as well. They “adopted” us from the first Mass I played at Immaculate. They are very dedicated both to the ministry and to me personally and give me reason to go to work every day.

I’ve done so many other things at Immaculate outside of music through the years. Too many to list, but a few interesting things are leading a church renovation project; leading the art and environment committee; training liturgical ministers; the newly-added video streaming ministry; and the parish strategic planning committee. I’ve even cleaned the restrooms and stocked the soda machines (before we had a maintenance person)!

Another blessing is being there for families at the most monumental events of their lives. Funerals,



COURTESY OF MATT GRAY
Matt Gray and the choir at Immaculate Parish during a spring 2005 concert.

weddings, all the other sacraments, when they are sick or suffering – to know that I can be of some comfort or joy at those times fills my heart and although it took me some years to fully understand, I now know that feeling helps me get through life’s challenges. I know that other people may not have that fulfillment in their jobs, and so it is truly a blessing.

What's some advice for your fellow church musicians/liturgy directors during these difficult times of pandemic?

Ah – well... not sure. Maybe just “hang in there”

for a little while longer. Do what you can to bring music to your people via technology or in social-distanced environments. And pray. Pray that when the restrictions are finally lifted that we can all bring the music back with all the elation it deserves! ■

Matt Gray will have been married to Nicole for 25 years in July 2021 and they have three sons: Nicholas, Andrew and Daniel. His music ministry program at Immaculate consists of adult choir, cantors, instrumentalists, youth music group, and a children’s choir. He also runs his own business, Gray Sky Music, in which he writes music for TV/radio advertising and produces music for songwriters and artists (grayskymusic.com).

Overcoming pandemic's 'hurdle' to become the best priests possible

Prayer, community help seminarians persevere

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Many aspects of day-to-day life have changed for the eight men currently studying and discerning the priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro, thanks to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

But without a doubt, what has remained the most consistent for these seminarians is “the community’s joyful spirit,” said Flynn Mudd, a Diocese of Owensboro seminarian in his junior year at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

“Although we have had to modify our lives greatly, the spirit of joy and camaraderie I believe has never been higher,” said Mudd in a Sept. 15 email interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Mudd explained that in order to maintain a healthy community at Bruté, seminarians are encouraged not to go out in public places except in cases of necessity. He said that while at seminary, they are required to wear masks and follow some protocols for social distancing within their own community.

Opportunities for ministry outside the seminary have also been nixed for the time being, in order to ensure the health of the community.

Conrad Jaconette, a seminarian in second philosophy at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind., said the protocols are similar there.

Continues on page 9



COURTESY OF OWENSBORO VOCATIONS FACEBOOK PAGE

On Sept. 14, 2020, the Diocese of Owensboro seminarians at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis (large screen) FaceTime with the Diocese of Owensboro seminarians at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in southern Indiana.

Seminarians persevere continued from page 8

“To keep socially distant, our community has been separated into different chapels and dining rooms,” said Jaconette in a Sept. 15 email interview. “Face masks must be worn at all times, and visitors are not permitted within the building.”

As at Bruté, Jaconette said ministry opportunities are not allowed for St. Meinrad seminarians this semester.

Jaconette said that fortunately, he has felt the support of both his seminary and the diocese for the seminarians’ continuing education.

“The seminary is willing to do whatever it takes to make our formation as seamless as possible,” he said. “The diocese is continuously reaching out with support and prayer.”

Mudd said that as opportunities for ministry have diminished, other areas of growth, “particularly in the areas of human, spiritual and academic” are being enhanced.

“I also believe that as our lives have been constricted in some sense, it allows us to deeply reflect on our daily call to holiness, and our commitment to Our Lord through the aspects of seminary formation,” said Mudd. “This is shown especially through prayer.”

Jaconette said all of his fellow seminarians have a “healthy mindset” and “desire to persevere.”

They all want to become priests – “more specifically, the best priests that we can be,” he said. “To do this requires sacrifice and overcoming hurdles.”

“This pandemic is a hurdle that we must get over in order to be the priest that God needs us to be,” Jaconette added.

Mudd agreed.

“For myself, my brother seminarians here at Bruté have been a source of encouragement, particularly in our return to school,” said Mudd. “No one



COURTESY OF KRISTA HALL

The Diocese of Owensboro seminarians at St. Meinrad shortly after arriving on campus for their fall semester; masks were briefly removed for this picture to be taken. (Back row, left to right) Joseph McGinnis, Deacon Corey Bruns; (front row, left to right) Conrad Jaconette, Martin Ma Na Ling, and Christopher Grief.

was certain of how things were going to play out this school year. Nevertheless, all of us can count on each other for guidance during peculiar times.”

Jaconette said his greatest inspiration during the pandemic has come from the people of the diocese.

“Their pure love for God and the sacraments is

inspiring,” he said. “This is true faith and is what our Church needs, especially now.” ■

To learn more, visit owensborovocations.com, and follow [Facebook.com/OwensboroVocations](https://www.facebook.com/OwensboroVocations) and [Instagram.com/owensborovocations](https://www.instagram.com/owensborovocations).

Planning committee members discuss current needs for Hispanic/Latino ministry



SCREENSHOT

On Sept. 1, 2020, members of the Diocese of Owensboro's committee for producing a new pastoral plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry meet via video conference.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Sept. 1, the Diocese of Owensboro's committee for producing a new pastoral plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry met via video conference.

This was the committee's third meeting so far, as they work to create a new pastoral plan (the last plan had expired in 2011).

Talking with The Western Kentucky Catholic a few weeks later, Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, director of the diocese's Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry said that creating a new pastoral plan is not just a project being done by the Diocese of Owensboro.

"In dioceses across the United States, offices of Hispanic Ministry have been asked to look at their

pastoral plans," he said on Sept. 14. "The purpose of this (Sept. 1) meeting was to start suggesting what we need."

Deacon Gutiérrez said this is one of the fruits of the V Encuentro, which is a four-year process seeking to learn how to better engage and serve the fast-growing Latino population in the United States, in the spirit of the New Evangelization.

According to the official website, vencuentro.org, the V Encuentro "starts at the grass-roots level and calls for the development of resources and initiatives to better serve the fast-growing Hispanic population in dioceses, parishes, ecclesial movements, and other Catholic organizations and institutions in light of its theme: Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God's

Love."

It is also a priority activity of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Strategic Plan for 2017-2020.

During the video conference meeting, Deacon Gutiérrez explained that he joined the diocese in 2014, continuing the work begun by others.

Deacon Gutiérrez added that his office exists to be a bridge between Hispanic/Latino ministry and other diocesan offices. During the meeting, he and Patti Gutiérrez, the planning process consultant, shared videos that had been provided by various diocesan office directors to discuss what they

currently offer and what they hope to offer in the future in English and Spanish.

Topics discussed at the meeting included what is desired for Hispanic/Latino Catholics, such as formation for catechists in Spanish. They also discussed what is currently being offered, like natural family planning in Spanish and the annual Encuentro Familiar held at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville.

Other themes of discussion included the need for committed Latino leaders in the parishes; greater care for Latino young people; more vocations promotion among Latinos; a focus on the New Evangelization; liturgical minister training needs; and more information about immigration. ■

Everyone is beautiful in God's eyes, Pope Francis tells children with autism spectrum disorder

Vatican City (CNA) - Pope Francis told children with autism spectrum disorder Sept. 21 that everyone is beautiful in God's eyes.

The pope welcomed the children from the Ambulatorium Sonnenschein in St. Pölten, Austria, to the Vatican Sept. 21.

He said: "God created the world with a wide variety of flowers of all kinds of colors. Each flower has its own beauty, which is unique. Also, each one of us is beautiful in the eyes of God, and He loves us. This makes us feel the need to say to God: thank you!"

The children were accompanied to the audience in the Vatican's Clementine Hall by their parents, as well as Johanna Mikl-Leitner, the governor of Lower Austria, and Bishop Alois Schwarz of St. Pölten. St. Pölten is the largest city and capital of Lower Austria, one of the country's nine states.

The Ambulatorium Sonnenschein, or Sunshine Outpatient Clinic, was established in 1995 to support children with the developmental disorder which affects communication and behavior. The center has treated more than 7,000 youngsters since its opening.

The pope told the children that saying "thank you" to God was "a beautiful prayer."

He said: "God likes this way of praying. Then you can also add a little question. For example: Good Jesus, could you help my mother and father in their work? Could you give some comfort to grandma who is sick? Could you provide for children around the world who have no food? Or: Jesus, please help the pope to lead the Church well."



COURTESY OF VATICAN MEDIA

In this undated photo, Pope Francis waves to a child at an audience with representatives of the Ambulatorium Sonnenschein in St. Pölten, Austria.

"If you ask in faith, the Lord will surely hear you," he said.

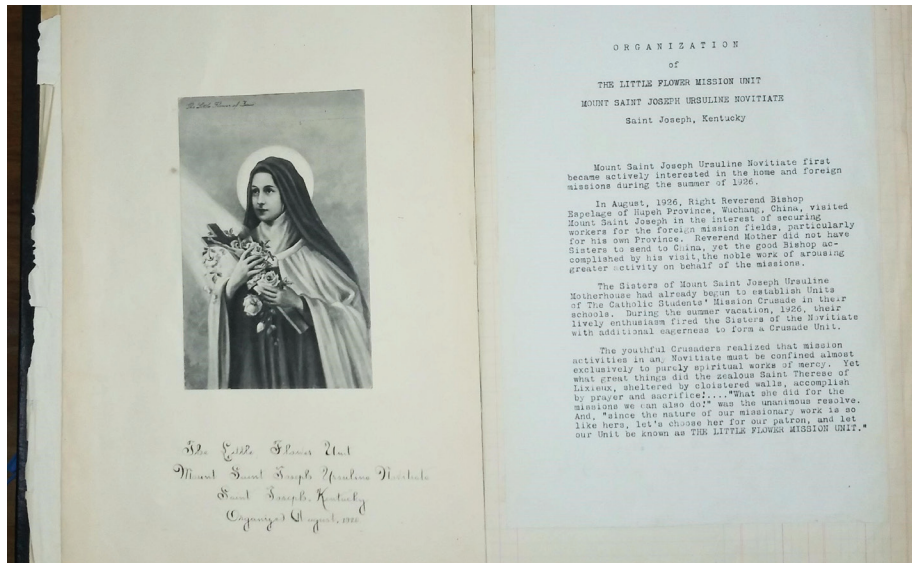
Pope Francis previously met with children with autism spectrum disorder in 2014. On that occasion, he said that by offering greater support "we can contribute to breaking down the isolation and, in many cases, the stigma burdening people with autism spec-

trum disorders, and just as often their families."

Promising to pray for all those associated with the Ambulatorium Sonnenschein, the pope concluded: "Thank you for this beautiful initiative and for your commitment to the little ones entrusted to you. Everything that you have done for one of these little ones, you have done it to Jesus!" ■

‘What she did for the missions we can also do!’

The story behind the minutes log of the Little Flower Mission Unit of the C.S.M.C.



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

The inside two pages of the minutes book of the Little Flower Mission Unit. The page to the left displays a picture of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Beneath the picture is inscribed “The Little Flower Unit, Mount Saint Joseph Ursuline Novitiate, Saint Joseph, Kentucky, Organized August, 1926.” The page on the right gives a brief history of the conception of the unit.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

It’s October, and it’s no secret that this month is loved by many for a very special day, that’s right, the feast day of St. Thérèse of Lisieux! To celebrate, this month’s artifact is a minutes book from a unit of the Catholic Students’ Mission Crusade (C.S.M.C.) named in St. Thérèse’s honor.

Firstly, some background information on the C.S.M.C. should be helpful. The C.S.M.C. was a nationwide youth movement that began in 1918. The group’s primary focus was foreign aid and spiritually aiding mission territories. Though its beginnings were humble, it became very successful and continued into the 1970s. In May 1925, Pope Pius XI issued several special indulgences for its members and appointed Cardinal Willem van Rossum as Cardinal Protector of the Crusade. It has been noted as being “arguably the most important popular public movement of United States Catholicism in the twentieth century.”

The story of this artifact starts when Mount Saint Joseph was visited by Bish-

op Joseph Sylvester Espelage. Bishop Espelage had missioned in Hupeh Province, Wuchang, China. He traveled to the Mount in 1926 to request Ursuline Sisters for mission assistance in Wuchang.

Although the request for Ursuline missionaries could not be accommodated, it stirred a spirit of international charity in the community. By the end of the summer of 1926, the young novices of the community (sisters who had not yet made their final vows) were inspired by a call to mission, much like St. Thérèse who had also desired to be a missionary. They met and discussed what was to come of their enthusiasm. The novices understood that they would not be able to physically mission but they were in no way discouraged.

In the cover of their minutes book they recorded their undeterred determination, “Yet what great things did the zealous St. Therese of Lisieux, sheltered by cloistered walls, accomplish by prayer and sacrifice!... ‘What she did for the missions we can also do!’”

Thus, the group decided to start a C.S.M.C. unit and take St. Thérèse as their patron and adopted the title “The Little Flower Mission Unit.” The group had their first meeting on August 19, 1926, the eve of the feast day of St. Bernard, the French abbot who preached the Second Crusade. The young novitiate took great delight in this as they too were embarking on their own crusade, albeit a much gentler one.

The young women then passionately dedicated much of their time to spiritually assisting mission territories, through prayer and intentions. The treasurer delivered a report on their spiritual works at each meeting. One entry shows that the treasurer reported 1,012 rosaries and 672 hours of silence, among 18 other categories, for the period of January 17 through January 31. The book covers the meeting of the group through 1938. It is filled with spiritual works from young women who, just like St. Thérèse, understood the tremendous power of prayer. The hundreds of thousands of prayers and spiritual works logged in the ledger is awe inspiring. May the love of the Little Flower Unit and St. Thérèse continue to inspire us this season. ■

Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Archives and the Archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. To learn more, visit owensboro-diocese.org/archives.

Whitesville teacher selected as 2020 Educator of the Year



BY WKC STAFF

Mary Haycraft, a middle school teacher at St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville is the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year Award, also known as the Educator of the Year Award.

Haycraft also reached another milestone in her teaching profession: this year she received recognition for 20 years of service to Catholic education.

The criteria for the Outstanding Catholic School Educator Award includes that they must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents.

Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the annual award. This award is sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Schools Office and the Principals Association. ■

COURTESY OF ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

Mary Haycraft is a middle school teacher at St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville.

Brescia University included in U.S. News & World Report 2021 Best Colleges

Brescia ranked on Best Value Schools and Best Regional Colleges in the South List

Brescia University has been named to the U.S. News & World Report "Best Value School" and "Best Regional Colleges in the South" list. The list seeks to help domestic and international students compare the academic quality of U.S.-based schools.

"To be consistently recognized for Best-Value in the regional colleges category by the U.S. News & World Report is demonstrative of the hard-work and dedication our faculty and staff have for living the mission of our institution," stated Brescia University President, Fr. Larry Hostetter. "This is an award the Brescia University accepts with gratitude and pride when so many students are going in to debilitating debt on their journey towards a college degree."

The U.S. News Report assess 1,452 U.S. bachelor's degree-granting institutions into 10 different ranking categories based on their academic missions, then uses 17 indicators of academic quality to determine each school's overall score, then overall ranking. Academic data from surveys and reliable third-party sources are vetted before being used to calculate rankings.

This year Brescia University ranked #12 on the Best Value Schools for Regional Colleges in the South. The Best Value Schools list measures schools' academic quality and the 2019-2020 net cost of attendance to determine the ranking. The Best Regional Colleges South ranking highlights schools who focus on undergraduate education with fewer than half of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. This year Brescia University ranked #33.

To see all rankings, visit <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges>.

Parish celebrates pastor's 25th anniversary of priesthood



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

(Left) A Sts. Joseph and Paul parishioner greets Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo on Aug. 22, 2020 during a drive-by parade in honor of Fr. Kalombo's 25th anniversary of priesthood ordination. (Right) Lavida and Hal Mischel wish Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo a happy 25th anniversary of priesthood ordination on Aug. 22, 2020.

Lavida Mischel, a parishioner of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, writes, "Even a little rain could not dampen the day for Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo, as Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish celebrated his 25-year anniversary to the priesthood with a festive tailgate party!" Fr. Kalombo was ordained a priest on August 19, 1995. ■

Editor's note: Read Fr. Kalombo's journey of finding his vocation on page 25.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Sr. Mary Timothy Bland, OSU, standing at left, helps check in participants and takes their temperature on Sept. 12 for the Trivia Night fundraiser sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

"The Conquerors" team gets ready to conquer at the Trivia Night fundraiser for the Ursuline Sisters in the Immaculate Parish Hall, Owensboro.

Eleven teams participate in MSJ's second annual Trivia Night

The second annual Trivia Night fundraiser sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph was held at Immaculate Parish Hall in Owensboro on Sept. 12 to allow for greater social distancing. Eleven teams had fun answering more than 100 trivia questions on a variety of topics. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams.

From Priests' Council

Priests' Council exists to assist bishop, promote pastoral welfare of God's people

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

My name is Fr. Larry McBride and I am the pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson. I also serve as the dean of the Central Deanery and chairperson of the Priests' Council.

It has been recommended to the Priests' Council that we place a regular article in The Western Kentucky Catholic letting the people of the diocese know of our purpose and our discussions. Canon law calls for the establishment of a Priests' Council in every diocese to assist the bishop and to promote the pastoral welfare of God's people. This article in The Western Kentucky Catholic is new – but the Priests' Council has been functioning in the diocese for many years.

The Council is comprised of elected priests from across the diocese. The diocese is divided into regions that we call deaneries. Each deanery has a dean elected by the priests of that deanery to call the deanery together for meetings and to represent the deanery on the Priests' Council. The priests of the diocese are also divided into what are called Age Groups. Each Age Group elects a representative to call together their Age Group and to represent them on the Priests' Council. Therefore the Council is made of these two groups of representatives along with a couple of Ex-Officio members and Bishop William F. Medley. We currently have 17 members including the bishop.

We meet monthly and our agenda is set by the bishop and recommendations from the deaneries. We met on August 17 and we discussed a proposed policy concerning the Public Acknowledgement of Priests who have been permanently removed from ministry under the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children. This proposal was sent to the deaneries for final discussion and approval.

On August 17 we also discussed the Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund which pays for our retired priests, salaries, housing and medical expenses. The trust is underfunded and information is being sent to the deaneries to discuss possible solutions.

We continued an ongoing discussion concerning the role of the Priests' Council focusing on the role of the Council in the Approval of Building and Renovation Projects in Parishes. Two members were selected to present criteria for the recommendation of the Priests' Council. ■

Ursuline Sisters announce raffle and trivia winners

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our sincere thanks goes out to everyone who supported this year's "Escape to the Mount" (quilt auction, trivia night, raffle). Your support helps the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) continue their important ministries of education and faith formation.

The Ursuline Sisters auctioned 30 unique and beautiful quilts from Aug. 24-Sept. 11 in their first-ever online quilt auction. The event was a smashing success. We wish to thank all who bid on and bought quilts.

The Sisters held their second annual Trivia Night fundraiser on Sept. 12 at Immaculate Parish Hall in Owensboro. Eleven teams (spaced out) enjoyed a fun evening. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams: Glenn Funeral Home (Go Rest High) – 1st Place, Lottery Losers (which included Fr. Pat Reynolds) – 2nd Place, and The IT Crowd – 3rd Place.

The Mount Saint Joseph 50th annual raffle drawing took place on Sept. 13, at Mount Saint Joseph. It was livestreamed on the Sisters' Facebook page. The following were our lucky winners: Susan Reiss of Louisville, Ky.~\$10,000; Anna Conn of Morganfield, Ky.~Diamond ring; Virginia Kerperien of Campbell, Mo.~Handmade quilt; Con and Diane Fecher of Aiken, S.C.~\$3,500; Jim Oestreichen of Princeton, Kan.~\$1,000; Tim Aull of Philpot~\$500; Sharon Olinger of St. Peter's, Mo.~\$250, and Carol O'Keefe of Overland Park, Kan.~\$100.

We appreciate the many individuals and families who bought raffle tickets, most of which were purchased on our website or through the mail because of this year's COVID-19 restrictions.

Blessings to all of you for your kindness and generosity! ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Exploring Illness as a Catalyst for Spiritual Growth



Saturday, Nov. 14

Online schedule: 9–11 a.m., lunch break, 1–3 p.m.

If illness is a cause of suffering in the human experience, why do saints and mystics have such a positive attitude about it? Join us in the comfort of your own home as we explore how illness can bring forth transformation and growth in our journey with God. Through presentation, storytelling, journal prompts, group sharing, poetry and music, you will be invited to reflect on surrender and trust, vulnerability and acceptance. This retreat could be a comfort and inspiration for anyone coping with serious or chronic illness.

**Fee: \$30 online Zoom
in your home**

Presenter Maryann Joyce, director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, brings her life experience in parish ministry, hospice work and mental health advocacy to her soul care for others. She enjoys offering opportunities for transformation. She shares an authentic wisdom as a cancer survivor, wife and mother in a contemplative Christian tradition.



To register, call 270-229-0206

Email retreatcenter@maplemount.org

Or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs>



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

Rachel's Vineyard

A Safe Haven

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential, and non-judgemental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortion emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

**Join us for a weekend of
Emotional Healing and
Spiritual Renewal**

October 23-25, 2020
Retreat Center near Owensboro, KY

Contact: Wendy
270.474.4707
wendyc@hopeafterabortionky.com

ALL conversations are held in strict confidence.

www.hopeafterabortionky.com

Family Retreats at Gasper River

FACILITIES

COME FOR THE DAY

Bosco Lodge or
Outdoor Only Use
(with restrooms available)

\$100 PER HOUSEHOLD

OR

SPEND THE NIGHT

Boone, McRaith,
and Bosco Lodges

\$125/NIGHT FOR FAMILY OF 4

**PLUS \$10 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL
IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER**

ACTIVITIES

COMPLIMENTARY

hiking, basketball, mini-golf, outdoor
games, board games, Rosary Walk, and
Stations of the Cross Trail
Fishing available, but gear not provided

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

Zipline: \$25/household

Vertical Playground:

\$25/household

Archery: \$25/household

Hayride: \$10/household

Campfire: \$5/campfire

S'mores: \$0.50/person

*All Adventure Activities will be led by a trained
Gasper River Staff member

MEALS

COOK YOUR OWN

You are welcome to bring or cook
your own meals. Each lodge is
equipped with a kitchenette that
has a fridge, stove, oven, sink,
and microwave.

OR

CATERING

Breakfast: \$5/person

Lunch: \$7/person

Dinner: \$8/person

All 3 meals: \$20/person

Gasper River can provide meals catering-style.
We can provide paper plates/utensils, but
not beverages and snacks.

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL 270-781-2466 OR EMAIL GASPERRIVER@HOTMAIL.COM



*Praying with
Mary through
Advent*

Saturday, Dec. 5
Online 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Join us as we contemplate Mary's pregnancy with
Jesus and our own spiritual journeys – honoring both
through the stages of struggle and celebration. The
online presentation will be led by Rebekah Wagner of
Owensboro, a chaplain and spiritual director.

Fee for online Zoom session: \$25

To register: 270-229-0206

retreatcenter@maplemount.org or online:
ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2020 BULLETIN BOARD

Please note: The following program dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Hope in a Time of Pandemic: The Book of Revelation

Saturday: Oct. 3 What John Saw: Rev. 4-5

Saturday: Oct. 17 The Woes to Come: Rev. 6-11

Saturday: Oct. 31 The Woman Clothed With the Sun: Rev. 12-19

Saturday: Nov. 14 The New Creation: Rev. 21-22

The Book of Revelation is the most misunderstood book in the Bible. Fr. Anthony Shonis in five sessions beginning on Sept. 17 at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson will guide us in reading the Book of Revelation both as a warning and a source of hope for Christians undergoing a crisis. This book carries a tremendous message for our time – you won't want to miss it! It is scheduled from 7:30-8:30 a.m. every other Saturday right after the morning Mass. It will be in the parish hall. It will also be recorded. You can find it at Holy Name of Jesus' webpage, <https://holynameparish.net/announcements>, and click on Announcements and Videos then scroll down to Fr. Shonis' link. For more information or purchase \$1.00 booklets

to go along with the presentation, contact Holy Name's parish office by calling 270-826-2096.

Join us for 40 Days for Life in Evansville

40 Days for Life is a 40-day prayer vigil where we walk in front of Planned Parenthood located at 125 N Weinbach Ave. in Evansville. We pray every day Monday-Sunday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. You can visit 40Daysforlife.com and choose the Evansville campaign and sign up there to pray for any particular hour – one-time or weekly. The campaign runs from Sept. 23-Nov. 1. We are planning a prayer vigil the night before it begins (Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.) at Memorial High School on Lincoln Ave. in Evansville and will walk with signs from the high school to Planned Parenthood. If you have more specific questions, please contact Evansville 40 Days for Life coordinator Jackie Fehrenbacher at ejfehrenbacher@yahoo.com.

Kindness Campaign: Sign up to share a little kindness

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, are continuing a unique fundraiser to support their ministries and spread a little kindness in

the world. The Kindness Campaign provides 12 personalized inspirational cards to be sent to the person of the donor's choice. You may wish to be kind to a health care or other essential worker, someone who is ill or homebound, a friend, a relative or a neighbor. This service will be provided for a contribution of \$50 to the Ursuline Sisters. You are both spreading kindness and helping the Ursuline Sisters continue their ministries. To request an order form, contact Carol Braden-Clarke at 270-229-2008, carol.braden-clark@maple-mount.org or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/kindness-campaign/>

30th Marian Congress

Oct. 17, 2020, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: St. Joseph Parish Center, 434 Church Ave. Bowling Green, KY 42101. (Phone: 270-842-2525)

Theme: To Jesus Through Mary, Presented by Father Lou Guardiola, CSP.

Program: Confession, Mass, Adoration and Holy Hour Talks on Our Lady by Fr. Guardiola.

Due to pandemic distancing guidelines, everyone will be dismissed to eat on their own.

Questions: Gwen Menestrina 270-320-3044

'Bluegrass on Beshear' organizers to fundraise during October for pro-life pregnancy care centers

BY JEFF AND LAURA SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During the last six years, "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear – Pickin' Life", a one-day charity fundraiser co-hosted by several Knights of Columbus councils, has raised \$57,394 for three western Kentucky pro-life pregnancy care centers.

2020 has been a tough year to raise operating funds for the life-affirming centers. Alpha PCC (Hopkinsville), Door of Hope (Madisonville) and H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton and Eddyville) all had to cancel their in-person fundraising events this year due to COVID-19. In addition, the centers lack gov-

ernment funding because, if they accepted it, they would have to refer clients for abortion. These faith-based charities will never do that.

Also due to COVID-19, October's annual "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear – Pickin' Life" music festival will not be held this year. Instead, organizers Jeff and Laura Smith and Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council will conduct an online fundraiser during the month of October.

A local supporter has agreed to match total donations up to \$10,000.

You can make a donation at www.bluegrasson-beshear.com by clicking on the "Donate" button

and using PayPal or a credit/debit card. If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to "K of C Council 15181" and write "Bluegrass on Beshear" on the memo line. Checks should be sent to:

K of C Council 15181 c/o Jeff Smith

307 Island Cove Ln

Dawson Springs, KY 42408

All donations are fully tax deductible and 100% of each donation goes to the pregnancy care centers.

The organizers promise that "Bluegrass on Beshear" will be back live and better than ever in October 2021. Together in Christ, we are Pickin' Life! ■

Kentucky Nutrition Education Program

BY MYRNA VÁZQUEZ, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Within the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, we are fortunate to house the Kentucky Nutrition Education Program, two U.S. Department of Agriculture programs that provide nutrition-related educational resources to limited-resource audiences. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) help Kentuckians live high quality lives, raise healthy families, and provide resources to be “healthy at home”.

NEP is in all 120 Kentucky counties. Cooperative Extension agents and NEP assistants deliver educational programs to help improve the health outcomes of some of the state’s most vulnerable residents. We

teach a variety of audiences how to improve their diets, stretch their food dollars, increase their physical activity and safely handle and store food. We also support community efforts that provide limited-resource audiences with better access to healthier foods and help community members increase their physical activity.

Our programs produce positive results. Here are some of the highlights from our 2019 survey of adult participants:

- 97% reported improvement in at least one aspect of their diet.
- 92% improved their food safety practices.
- 91% showed improvement in managing their food resources.
- 84% increased their physical activity.

To find out more about local Nutrition Education Program educational offerings, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office and visit www.planeatmove.com for healthy at home tips and recipes. ■

Myrna Vázquez is the Calloway County Nutrition Education Program Assistant (SNAP-Ed) and provides information and lessons in both Spanish and English, she can be contacted via email at Myrna.Vazquez@uky.edu or at Facebook www.facebook.com/CallowayNEP/

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Dear Cursillistas: Who can you invite to a Cursillo Weekend?

BY MARY HAGAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I hope you are well, safe, and happy. God’s Holy Spirit is in us to bring us joy. May God’s peace be with you always. I’d like to ask of you, how many of you are praying the Leader’s Prayer daily? It is on page 65 of your Leader’s Manuel and you can pick up a copy at the School of Leaders on the first Monday of the month at our Ultreys at 7 p.m. Are you meeting with your Friendship Group weekly, by phone, in person, or by mail or email? These are graces that we can feel that call us into the love of God for us. They can help us remember our joy, laughter, and friendships made at the Cursillo weekend.

Are you getting excited as our teams are that the

next Weekends are coming? Please, pray for God’s success in us. The next Men’s Cursillo Weekend is March 4-7, 2021. The next Women’s Cursillo Weekend is March 11-14, 2021.

Do you know someone who needs a little boost of God’s love, who is Catholic or fallen away for awhile who is eligible to receive the sacraments? Applications and help with sponsors are available at our meetings. All Cursillistas are invited to the meetings and anyone who wants to learn about our Catholic Cursillo Weekends are invited and welcome also. Team members should be attending these meetings in preparation for working the Weekends.

At Blessed Mother Parish Hall on Oct. 5, Fr. Tom Buckman is presenting materials on Conscience of

Catholics for Voting. On Oct. 26, we will have a facilitator and witness speaker.

Hawesville School of Leaders is on the second Wednesday of the month – 7 p.m. at the parish hall.

Hopkinsville (Sts. Peter and Paul Parish buildings) Ultreya is on the third Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Holy Family Room.

School of Leaders is on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the office annex.

We hope you will join us, if still necessary, using masks and keeping the correct distance. De Colores!

Mary Hagan belongs to Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro and attended the 42nd Women’s Cursillo Weekend in 1990. To learn more, contact Cursillo lay director Felicia Elliott at (270) 929-1524.

Converting to Catholicism in the time of COVID

BY EMILY HAGERMAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When I began my RCIA journey, it was the fall of 2019 and I had recently turned 31 years old.

At 31, I had already experienced a lot of life – growth, success, failure, heartbreak, and love.

Those life experiences, my background, and my education had shaped my views on religion, spirituality, and the concept of church. I attended Catholic high school, studied all sorts of organized religion in college, and visited different denominations of Christianity church services.

I had a strong relationship with Christ in my teens and into my early university days. However, by my junior year, my priorities switched. Having a successful career, a serious relationship, and an active social life seemed more important. God seemed like something I could always come back to. I thought having it all on paper would fill the void or give me the happy life I thought I needed – getting all those things in order first seemed like the best idea. But towards the end of my twenties, I still had an insatiable desire for more. My life had become a series of days that jumbled together, nights of constant insomnia, and a deep depression that loomed like the darkest night. I tried everything to find happiness – threw myself into more activities, made a geographic move, quit jobs, started jobs, trained for a marathon, changed my diet, and so much more. Some of my family members had recently converted to Catholicism through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program in recent years – and I found comfort in attending Mass with them. I also engaged in conversations with the priest and my in-

terest peaked. So having tried everything, why not try RCIA, too?

Begrudgingly, I entered into the RCIA journey with some reservations and skepticism. I had taken religion classes in the past and had conducted my own research on various topics – I felt pretty well-informed in regard to my views on God. In the beginning, I wasn't sure I agreed with everything but I enjoyed the sessions so much that I decided each week to keep coming back. I cannot remember the exact moment or the topic that changed my heart; but I remember the feeling very distinctly, that this is what I wanted. My unshakable desire was to be a part of the Church and live this life as it has been modeled for me by Jesus Christ.

Postponing my Confirmation and my entrance in the Church allowed me the opportunity to practice many of the things that I learned during my journey and to put them in direct application. It was my faith – I was created for Him by Him. I was humbled that God had brought me this far; I would have waited another year until God presented the right time. During COVID quarantine, I was able to call upon God when I was anxious, frustrated, lonely, scared, and unsettled. Those months allowed my faith to grow deeper and fostered a stronger hunger for the Church. What I learned about my faith was that if I continue to put my utmost trust in Him and do His will, then life is even more beautiful. I learned from St. Augustine that my heart will always be restless until it rests with Him. That's what happened – until I humbly surrendered that His will be done. And on May 31, 2020, I was able to join in Full Communion with the Church and I no longer hungered; for my



COURTESY OF EMILY HAGERMAN

(Left to right) Emily Hagerman, Fr. Carl McCarthy, and Hagerman's sponsor, Kenwyn Riddle, after Hagerman entered the Catholic Church on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020, at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville.

appetite was filled with the Eucharist. I believe my entrance was even more special – it felt intimate and my heart was so full of gratitude. It was even more meaningful because I waited. It reiterated that God's timing is always perfect and that where I was in my journey was exactly where I was meant to be.

Choosing to participate in RCIA and to continue my journey into the Catholic Church was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I'm so extremely passionate about RCIA and its purpose. So much so that I decided to join the RCIA team and assist in others in their journeys of faith. I am so grateful for the journey and cannot wait to uncover even more blessings through my growth in the Church. ■

Emily Hagerman belongs to Christ the King Parish in Madisonville.

October Wedding Anniversaries

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

Please send any anniversary updates or corrections to Charlotte Hedges, Office of Marriage & Family Life, at charlotte.hedges@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

John & Riley Hess, 50
John & Sylvia Morton, 54
Scott & Sabrina Johnson, 40
James & Lisa Gallagher, 40
Steve & Gloria Baker, 50
Paul & Debra Garner, 25
Tim & Donna West, 40
Ernie & Loueva Davis, 60
Jack & Doris Mills, 62

Christ the King, Madisonville

Jud & Karen Caldwell, 53
Brad & Hannah Myers, 25
Bill & Peggy Stagner, 40

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Larry & Phyllis Bumpus, 53
Harold & Bobbie Elpers, 25
Dwight & Diana Emerson, 56
Charles & Rosio Johnson, 5
Dean & Mary Ann Jorgensen, 55
Yianni & Elizabeth Marlas, 5
Ronald & Dretha Weddell, 53
Soap & Sandy Wilson, 51

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Leon & Sherry Volkert, 52
Charles & Mary Ann Wolfram, 51
John & Janet Haynes, 40
Robert & Lucy Campbell, 25
Gary & Holly Houchens, 25
Jamie & Jenna Aikins, 10

Jason & Amy Cabral, 5
Andrew & Katy Cusick, 5
Dustin & Jennifer Lightfood, 5
Jose & Sasha Zamilpa, 5

Holy Trinity, Morgantown

Melvin & Mary Ann Bowles, 52

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Scott & Samantha Mosby, 10

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Joseph & Mary Jane Clark, 58
David & Rosalyn Carter, 40
Jerry & Virginia Harper, 54
Charles & Linda Kamuf, 52
Clinton & Marsha Terry, 50
Kevin & Tina Ridenhour, 25
Jerry & Vickie Kennedy, 57
Josh & Bailey Bennett, 10
Anthony & Karen Jones, 25
Joe & Vicki Howard, 50

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

William & Meghan Libs, 10
Marc & Ashley Thomson, 10
David & Lori Baker, 40
James P & Sharon Reid, 50
Lester & Helen Schaick, 71
Joe & Ann Roth, 56
J. C. & Mildred Higdon, 66
George L., Jr. & Anna Weldon, 64

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Gerald & Lucy Geotz, 52
Larry & Patricia Murphy, 56
Brett & Julie Stallings, 25

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Kerry & Sharlet Beauregard, 57
Brian & Jessica Erickson, 10
Ryan & Sharon Fuller, 52
Richard & Mary Melton, 63
Billy & Teri Skipworth, 25

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 66

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Casey & Chelsea Pierson, 10

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Jamie & Nicole Murphy, 10
Bob & Janette Warren, 64

St. Ann, Morganfield

Joey & Amy Nelson, 25
Brian & Shawna Duckworth, 25
Michael Harold & Rebecca Greenwell, 52

Bobby & Mary Jane Watson, 52

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Randall & Deborah Goatee, 51

St. Augustine, Reed

Steve & Rita Haire, 50

St. Anthony, Peonia

Milburn & Bernetta Higdon, 50
James & Garnetta VanMeter, 50
Randolph & Judy White, 56
Ervin & Coreen Moore, 56

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Francis & Sue Henning, 59
Charles & Patricia Bissinger, 55
Perry & Patty Lee, 5

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Charles & Marcia Bradley, 10

St. Columba, Lewisport

Clyde & Anita Cambron, 52

Dan & Amy Allard, 10
Layman & Mary Hawkins, 55

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Brian & Karen Hayden, 10

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Jamie & Kayla Whelan, 10

St. Francis of Assisi, Elkton

Robert & Barbara Arms, 57
Ellis & Gail Settle, 50

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Steve & Carla Shaw, 25
Stuart & Lois Stephany, 60
James & Mary Scott, 55
Dent & Nancy Doyle, 52
Raymond & Rose Marie Smith, 56

Thomas & Janet Voigt, 5
Kenneth & Rita Turner, 54
P. E. & Therese Newman, 50
Paul & Catherine Floyd, 59

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

John & Judy Willett, 50
Clay & Karen Willett, 55
Jack & Mary Ann Purcell, 62
Billy & Pauline Gore, 56
Terry & Hettie Wilson, 57

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Junior & Mary Roby, 54
Joe & Eileen Fulkerson, 62

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Michael & Judy Kaufman, 53
Gerald & Pat Roof, 60
Paul Louis & Martha Wurth, 60
Charles & Margaret Ballard, 60

Continues on page 21

ANNIVERSARIES

Continued from page 20

Charles & Linda Hatton, 55

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Dennis & Sheila Durbin, 40

Randall & Mary Lou Wilson, 53

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Lionel & Suzanne Segura, 40

Brian & Patricia Bour, 54

St. Joseph, Mayfield

David & Barbara Koonce, 54

Harold & Barbara Hayden, 65

Nick & Sarah Darnell, 10

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Edward & Marcella Wethington, 55

Bernard & Kathleen Wright, 53

Claudie & Erma Millay, 68

Ralph & Catherine Mudd, 61

Leonard & Eva Howard, 51

St. Leo, Murray

Denis & Christine Anderson, 5

John & Marie Clark, 59

Michael & Kaye Kelly, 50

Alfred & Patricia Koehler, 63

St. Mark, Eddyville

David & Ann Harkins, 55

Joseph & Patricia Merimee, 55

St. Martin, Rome

Jerrold & Charyce Harper, 10

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

David & Sandi Boswell, 52

Larry & Ruth Oller, 52

Dennis & Karen Clouse, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Mike & Brenda Moorman, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Andrew & Amy Payne, 10

Robert & Jessica Wathen, 10

Ray & Vickie Harris, 40

Martin & Gwen Howard, 50

David & Rose Hamilton, 53

Shelby & Kay Howard, 54

Val & Bernadine Payne, 59

Donnie & Paula Ward, 52

David & Martha Jennings, 58

St. Michael, Sebree

John & Brenda Badertscher, 57

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Abraham J. & Coti A. Wolfe, 10

Wayne & Crystel Boudreaux, 10

St. Paul, Princeton

Thomas & Martha Stewart, 10

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Frank & Catherine Gawarecki, 61

Murrell & Ann Sims, 55

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Robert & Mary Ann Alvey, 50

Kenneth & Edie McKay, 53

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Thomas & Elizabeth Johnson, 55

Michael & Ashley Roach, 5

James & Karla Bell, 5

John & Darlene Hutton, 53

Gary & Deborah Daugherty, 40

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Shane & Tiffany Davenport, 5

Chance & Jaclan Anthony, 5

Alvin & Margie Mattingly, 58

Greg & Karen Sturgeon, 40

John & Marcia Simmons, 55

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

David & Tabitha Roach, 10

James & Gwan Bickett, 51

John & Libby Popham, 63

Joe & Marie Haycraft, 54

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Ross & Rachel Hudson, 5

Charles & Faye May, 54

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Robert & Helen Velmar, 57

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Mark & Rita Heinz, 40

Ronald & Cissy Sullivan, 60

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jody & Sharlott Higdon, 10

Craig & Brittany Beavers, 10

Robert & Georgia Kelm, 62

Kelly & Barbara Robinson, 62

Frank & Peggy Block, 40

Benjamin & Christine Thompson, 5

Bill & Margie Wurth, 57

St. William, Knottsville

Jesse & Katelyn Kaysinger, 5

Nicholas & Brittany Moorman, 10

Bill & Mary Lou Hamilton, 40

Martin & Clara Johnson, 50

Marvin & Josephine Boling, 56

Frankie & Priscillia Haynes, 53

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Larry & Patricia Marr, 5

Michael & Cathy Teasley, 5

Leo & Daphne Murphy, 10

Kevin & Christina Parsley, 10

Tom & Angela Maxwell, 53

Robert & Mary Helen Ward, 60

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Ronald & Beverly Todd, 57

Bob & Laura Waldron, 51

Jose & Maria Lopez Gonzalez, 5

Live the
Gospel of *Life*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2020

Despite COVID-19 challenges, FOCUS at WKU continues to creatively engage students

BY NATALIE LARKINS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Note: This fall is the fourth year the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is serving alongside the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University. Four FOCUS missionaries are serving on campus: Natalie Larkins, Justin Bausch, Nuala Kelly and Anthony Wegman.

Our team is excited to serve on campus as we continue to work closely with Fr. Mike Williams and the campus ministry team led by Courtney McGinnis. After the initial shutdown in the spring, we were blessed to still be able to encourage about 90 students to continue to participate in Bible studies. We've been able to keep in touch with them over the summer, so that has helped us as we transition into the new semester.

We've been meeting weekly to discuss creative ways to reach out to students in compliance with university, local and state guidelines. The campus ministry is providing more opportunities for prayer this year, through Adoration and community prayer. One benefit from having to be in small groups is that it gives students the opportunity to create solid friendships and help each other strive to live virtuous lives and grow even closer to Christ.

The biggest challenge has been meeting new people. We did meet many freshmen on campus the first week, but the current situation has changed how we continue to go out to meet new students as we navigate the proper guidelines. We have also been encouraging students who are already involved in



COURTESY OF FOCUS

The Western Kentucky University team: Justin Bausch, Nuala Kelly, Anthony Wegman, and Natalie Larkins.

campus ministry events to invite their peers to participate. Missionary Justin Bausch is reaching out to student-athletes through Varsity Catholic outreach, while our teammate Anthony Wegman and myself are doing FOCUS Greek outreach. Nuala Kelly is working with FOCUS' 153 outreach to encourage international student organizations on campus to get connected to the Catholic Center.

Despite the challenges, we're engaging students in creative ways, such as showing outdoor movies and playing a popular board game, "Codenames," by posting the game tiles on a large wall using sheets of paper. One missionary dressed up as popular TV painting instructor Bob Ross, and students sat in the

yard and followed his lead for a painting lesson.

Serving the local community is another way the campus ministry is bringing students together. After first doing training with Christ in the City, we now have about a dozen people who take lunch bags to those experiencing homelessness and spend time talking with them. One man we met was a fallen away Catholic. We spoke with him about the Gospel and parables such as the Prodigal Son. We invited a priest from St. Joseph's to come, and the Holy Spirit opened the man's heart to agree to have Confession with him. ■

Natalie Larkins is a FOCUS Missionary and the Team Director at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

At Murray State, FOCUS team explores what ‘mission looks like’ during COVID-19



COURTESY OF FOCUS

The Murray State team: Alli Hall, Lauren Hartman, Paul and Ashlyn McNeil, and Kayleigh and Felipe Anaya.

BY ALLI HALL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Note: This fall is the eighth year the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is serving alongside the Catholic Racers at the Newman House Catholic Campus Ministry at Murray State University, one of 171 campuses on which FOCUS teams serve. Six FOCUS missionaries are serving on campus: Alli Hall, Paul and Ashlyn McNeil, Lauren Hartman, and Felipe and Kayleigh Anaya.

In the spring semester, during the shutdown, the transition to digital evangelization was even more fruitful than expected and has prepared our team so

much for the changes this fall since our contact with them is more limited than usual. With everyone in quarantine earlier this year, the desire for that community (even virtually) increased drastically! We had students praying rosaries with us on Instagram live, along with virtual Mass and more than 60 students in Bible studies.

The FOCUS team has been working closely with the chaplain Fr. Brandon Williams and new campus ministry team led by Alex Kauffman to help students understand what mission looks like during COVID. We've made more opportunities for prayer, which

includes moving Adoration to a larger space so more people can attend while maintaining safety guidelines from our university. We see new faces every week, as the Holy Spirit continues to bear fruit by opening their hearts to Our Lord.

Despite the restrictions of events on campus, we are blessed to have a large outdoor space to encounter students in a safe environment. We've had Adoration on the lawn, as well as activities such as cookouts, tie-dyeing and playing games with students. Because of the restrictions on campus and the isolation students are feeling, now more than ever students are seeking community and seeking the truth, which is amazing. Many are interested in being involved with the campus ministry. Although it's a challenging time, we can already see the beautiful ways God is moving on this campus and in the hearts of these students. God is so good.

A big change this year is the FOCUS national event. Usually it's in a different city and we take a group of students. SEEK21 will be a live, immersive online experience Feb. 4-7, 2021. We can literally bring SEEK21 to our campus and reach even more students, helping them grow closer to one another and strive for holiness. We are excited to see how the Holy Spirit works through our students and deepens their conviction for their faith and prayer life. More than ever, students are leaning into God and putting their fears, hope, and trust in His hands. ■

Alli Hall is a FOCUS Missionary at Murray State University in Murray.

Evangelization is like a diamond!

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship.

The world's largest cut diamond is the Star of Africa. It is a pear-shaped diamond set in the English Scepter. It is 530.2 carats and is valued at \$400,000,000! Even a small diamond is a work of art and every angle reveals greater beauty. Our faith and life experience tells us that Jesus is the greatest gift to the human race. Every angle of his life reveals the love of God for all humanity. His death and resurrection invite us into communion with the Trinity. The diamond of this knowledge and our Catholic faith is priceless!

So why does the word evangelization seem to scare so many Catholics? It is time we let go of our fear, and perhaps, bad experiences with this word that may seem Protestant, and understand the meaning and mission behind it. It is time to let go of the negative images of a TV evangelist asking viewers to call in their prayers and financial contribution or someone standing on the street corner telling folks they are not saved unless they say this prayer. The reality is so much richer than these negative images.

What does the word evangelization actually mean? In the original Greek, evangelization means "announcing good news." It was not initially a religious word at all, but rather a word meaning to tell others some good news. For example, a woman might go to a friend and hold up her hand revealing a beautiful diamond ring; she is sharing her good news of marriage. The Latinized term used as the canonical title of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, is evangelium, again meaning "good news." The book of the Gospels is good news for the world.

Evangelization is like a diamond, because the "good news" of Jesus Christ is at work in all of our lives. Our stories of how God has worked in the past and is working now in our lives are as unique as a diamond. Evangelization is simply to proclaim the good news of God's love to others, by the way we live and in our words.

This begs the question, "Do I know and believe the good news of Jesus Christ?" As Pope Francis would say, "does your life reveal the Joy of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus?"

The new vision statement for the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship addresses our dream for the diocese stating, "In response to God's love for us, every person within the Diocese of Owensboro will come to know Jesus in a personal way, grow in maturity as a disciple, and be sent forth to joyfully employ our gifts to make present the reign of God."

These are strange times in our world, but the good news of God's love is a message each of us need to experience daily, so that we might be an instrument in God's hands bringing hope to all in these challenging times. ■

Peace in Christ,
Jeff

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. Please send comments to jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.



Crossing the ocean and becoming like Jesus for all peoples of the world

Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo first heard call at age 15

BY FR. JEAN RENE KALOMBO, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

I was born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, on June 29, 1963. I am the third child of 11 children. I grew up in the Catholic faith and served as an altar server, catechist, in youth group, etc.

My dream was to become a pilot so I studied industrial electric. I am an electrician.

As a child, my Catholic faith was a major part of my life. It was not until the age of 15 that I heard the call to become a priest. At the beginning I did not like the call to become a priest... because of my dream.

But, in the end, I said, "If God calls me, He is going to give me what I need to become a priest."

It was a particular homily that changed my spiritual trajectory. The priest preached about Jesus who came to save us and His mission to bring the good news to the poor and set free the captives. Then the priest showed us pictures of the poor in Congo but also around the world.

It is easy to love the people of your own country but Jesus came to save all and love all the peoples. That is why I gave my life - to become like Jesus - for all the peoples around the world.

I looked for an order that would fit my passion. And I found the order, "Immaculate Heart of Mary," whose charism is to be missionaries overseas (not in your own country). From that I started seriously thinking to be a priest. But then... there was still the dream of becoming a pilot weighing on me. I received an aviation scholarship in Belgium that made my decision even more difficult. On top of that, I felt additional pressure as my two older brothers had already moved away, one to France and the other to China. It was a dilemma for me - to become a pilot or to become a priest. After retreats to discern my vocation, I came to the conclusion that if I became a pilot, I would become famous with a lot of money, but I would not be happy.

If I became a priest and if I did the will of God, I would be happy.

Continues on page 26



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHER

A family wishes Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo a happy 25th anniversary of priesthood ordination during an outdoor tailgate party for him on Aug. 22, 2020.

Fr. Kalombo continued from page 25

From there, after one year of experience working and teaching in a high school in 1984, I entered in the novitiate (first year of seminary) of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Kinshasa, DRC. In October 1985 I took the first vows. Then from 1985 to 1988, I studied philosophy in Kinshasa, DRC. From 1988 to 1992 I studied theology in Cameroon. And in July 1992 I went to Guatemala as a seminarian. It was on August 19, 1995 that I was ordained a priest in Guatemala. I learned Q'eqchi (Mayan language in Guatemala.)

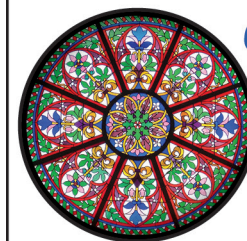
In 2007 I went to Mexico and finally in 2009, I came to the USA.

My first assignment was Sts. Joseph and Paul. In 2011 I was assigned to Holy Redeemer in Beaver Dam and in 2018 I came back to Sts. Joseph and Paul where I am today. I am happy to serve a thriving parish that includes a strong Hispanic community.

"If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I should salute the priest before I saluted the angel. The latter is the friend of God; but the priest holds his place... When you see a priest, you should say 'There is he who made me a child of God, and opened heaven to me by Holy Baptism; he who purified me after I had sinned; who gives nourishment to my soul'.... what joy did the Apostles feel after the Resurrection of Our Lord, at seeing the Master whom they had loved so much! The priest must feel the same joy at seeing Our Lord whom he holds in his hands... The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

(These thoughts from the "Little Catechism" of the Cure of Ars, St. John Vianney, the patron of parochial clergy.) ■

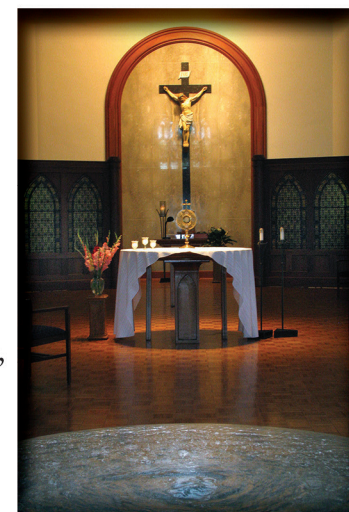
Note: Since 2015, I am incardinated in the Diocese of Owensboro.



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Charism?
Discover the
Joy of Being
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"Zoom and See" Virtual Gathering Saturday, November 7

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite single Catholic women ages 18-40 to a "Zoom and See" experience. Join us online from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CST to learn more about our creative, contemplative response to the needs of God's people.



For more information and to register, call Sister Monica Seaton: 270-229-0601 or email monica.seaton@maplemount.org



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Dwelling with Mary



Photos Courtesy of Deacon Corey Bruns



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Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Aparte de María, la Madre de Dios, quizás ningún otro santo venerado por la Iglesia sea tan reconocido como Francisco de Asís, cuya fiesta se celebra el 4 de octubre. De hecho, dada la tradición de bendecir animales en esta fiesta, es posible que numerosas iglesias protestantes adopten esta práctica como una celebración de toda la creación de Dios.

Francisco nació en el 1182 en Asís mientras su padre, que era un próspero comerciante de telas, viajaba por Francia. Como era costumbre, su devota madre lo llevó a la iglesia para ser bautizado unos días después y le dio el nombre de Giovanni en honor a San Juan Bautista. Su padre, aunque no era pagano, tampoco era un hombre especialmente religioso y posteriormente cambió el nombre de su hijo a Francesco, reflejando su amor por Francia. En aquel tiempo el nombre habría sido el equivalente de un francés.

Francisco disfrutó de la buena vida como hijo de un comerciante exitoso. Parece que fue bendecido con una actitud alegre, positiva y podríamos decir que fue el alma de la fiesta entre sus compañeros. En su mayor parte, esto se reflejó en sus muchos amigos y su espíritu generoso con ellos, pero también probablemente indicaba un poco de tonterías en su mayoría inofensivas.

La conversión de Francisco a la austera práctica religiosa y el estilo de vida que adoptó se produjo lentamente y por etapas. Se podría decir que sería un excelente santo patrón para aquellos que discernen su vocación en la vida. Pocos experimentan la conversión repentina como San Pablo, derribado cuando tronaba contra los primeros cristianos. La mayoría de nosotros reflexionamos sobre nuestras

vidas y nos vienen a la mente las señales sutiles que el Señor ha proporcionado a lo largo de nuestro camino, como lo hizo con Francisco.

Entre las señales de Francisco estaba la experiencia de ser soldado y servir como prisionero de guerra durante un año. Su encuentro con un leproso, temido y despreciado por la mayoría de la gente, representó una señal. Francis relata que, aunque le repugnaba la apariencia y el olor, se detuvo para tocar al leproso, pero al avanzar se volvió y ya no lo vio. Francisco vio esto como una prueba de Dios.

A medida que maduraba, Francisco se volvió más reflexivo y más intencionalmente una persona religiosa. Un día se detuvo en una iglesia vieja y en gran parte abandonada para orar. La iglesia era San Damián y todavía tenía en su interior una imagen del Señor crucificado. Mientras oraba allí, escuchó a Cristo en el crucifijo que le decía: "Francisco repare mi iglesia". Actuando impulsivamente, Francisco tomó una tela de la tienda de su padre y la vendió para reparar físicamente la iglesia. No hace falta decir que su padre consideró este un robo y llevó a su hijo al obispo para que lo corrigiera. El obispo lo trató con amabilidad, diciéndole a Francisco que le devolviera lo que había tomado y que confiara en que Dios proveería.

A través de esta experiencia, Francisco llegó a comprender que la exhortación de reparar la iglesia no se refería a la estructura física, sino que el Señor le estaba llamando a ser un profeta, a vivir la vida cristiana de manera radical.

Pronto Francisco comenzó a predicar. Nunca quiso establecer una orden religiosa, pero su sencillez de vida y su mensaje atrajeron a otros. Su mensaje

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY OCTUBRE DE 2020:

El siguiente calendario es tentativo debido a la incertidumbre sobre la duración de la pandemia del COVID-19.

15 DE OCT.	3 p.m. Videoconferencia con sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro
17 DE OCT.	10 a.m. Videoconferencia con candidatos a diácono permanente y sus esposas 6:30 p.m. Misa - Parroquia San Esteban, Cadiz
19 DE OCT.	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal - Centro Católico McRaith (MCC) 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal - MCC
21 DE OCT.	6 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana - MCC
22 DE OCT.	9 a.m. Misa Escolar - Escuela San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
24 DE OCT.	3 p.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Francisco de Asís, Guthrie
25 DE OCT.	10:30 a.m. Misa - Parroquia San Miguel, Seabee
27 DE OCT.	9:30 a.m. Misa escolar - Escuela Primaria Santa María, Paducah 12 del mediodía - 2 p.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Día del Presbiterio - MCC
29 DE OCT.	2 p.m. Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Universidad de Brescia
30 DE OCT.	Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Universidad de Brescia
31 DE OCT.	3 p.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Francisco de Asís, Guthrie

Continúa en la página 28

Continuado de la página 27

fue simple: vive el Evangelio. Se cuenta la historia de que un día un ladrón le robó una capucha a uno de sus compañeros y Francisco lo exhortó a que corriera tras el ladrón para ofrecerle también su túnica.

Francisco llegó a apreciar a Dios en toda la creación. Se dice que predicó entre los pájaros y razonó con un lobo que aterrorizaba a una aldea. Incluso durante su vida, decenas de hombres eligieron seguir el estilo de vida que Francisco había adoptado. Una querida amiga suya, Clara, se inspiró por

su forma de vivir y mujeres se unieron a ella en una vida religiosa.

Francisco es el santo patrono de los animales y el medio ambiente. Cuando los jóvenes estudian a los santos, muchos se inspiran y eligen a Francisco como su santo de la confirmación.

El cardenal Jorge Bergoglio, entonces arzobispo de Buenos Aires, relata la historia de estar en el cónclave para elegir un nuevo Papa, y después de varias votaciones quedó claro que él iba a ser elegido, y el

cardenal junto a él le susurró: "Jorge, no te olvides de los pobres".

Unos minutos después Jorge le dijo al Colegio Cardenalicio que aceptaría el cargo que se le había confiado y que tomaría el nombre de Francisco. ■

+ William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Los miembros del comité de planificación dialogan sobre las necesidades actuales del ministerio hispano/latino



SCREENSHOT

El 1 de septiembre de 2020, los miembros del comité para producir un nuevo plan pastoral para el ministerio hispano/latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reúnen por videoconferencia.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 1 de septiembre, el comité para producir un nuevo plan pastoral para el ministerio hispano/latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunió por vid-

eoconferencia.

Esta fue la tercera reunión del comité hasta ahora, mientras trabajan para crear un nuevo plan pastoral (el último plan había vencido en 2011).

Hablando con El Católico de Kentucky Occiden-

tal unas semanas después, el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la diócesis, mencionó que la creación de un nuevo plan pastoral no es solo un proyecto de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

"En las diócesis de los Estados Unidos, se ha pedido a las oficinas del Ministerio Hispano que analicen sus planes pastorales", dijo el 14 de septiembre. "El propósito de esta reunión (del 1 de septiembre) era comenzar a sugerir lo que necesitamos".

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que este es uno de los frutos del V Encuentro, que es un proceso de cuatro años que busca aprender cómo involucrar y servir mejor a la población latina de rápido crecimiento en los Estados Unidos, en el espíritu de la Nueva Evangelización.

Según el sitio web oficial, vencuentro.org, el V Encuentro "inicia al nivel de la base y promueve el desarrollo de recursos e iniciativas que mejor sirvan a la creciente población hispana en las diócesis,

Continúa en la página 29

Continuado de la página 28

parroquias, movimientos eclesiales, y otras organizaciones e instituciones católicas a la luz de su tema: Discípulos misioneros: Testigos del amor de Dios”.

También es una actividad prioritaria del Plan Estratégico de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU. para 2017-2020.

Durante la reunión de la videoconferencia, el Diácono Gutiérrez explicó que él se unió al personal diocesano en 2014, continuando el trabajo iniciado por otros.

El Diácono Gutiérrez agregó que su oficina existe para ser un puente entre el ministerio hispano/latino y otras oficinas diocesanas. Durante la reunión,

él y Patti Gutiérrez, asistente del proceso de planificación, compartieron videos que habían sido proporcionados por varios directores de oficinas diocesanas para compartir lo que se ofrece actualmente y lo que esperan ofrecer en el futuro, tanto en inglés como en español.

Los temas discutidos en la reunión incluyeron lo que se desea para los católicos hispanos/latinos, como la formación de catequistas en español. También hablaron sobre lo que se ofrece actualmente, como la planificación familiar natural en español y el Encuentro Familiar anual que se lleva a cabo en San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville.

Otros temas del diálogo incluyeron la necesidad de líderes latinos comprometidos en las parroquias; mayor atención a los jóvenes latinos; más promoción vocacional entre los latinos; un enfoque en la Nueva Evangelización; necesidades de formación de ministros litúrgicos; y más información sobre la inmigración. ■

Manténgase conectado visitando nuestro sitio web (owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano/) y únase a nuestro grupo de Facebook (facebook.com/groups/ministeriohispanoowensboro).

Parroquias con ministerio hispano/latino

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

107 13th Street, Beaver Dam, KY 42320
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-0996,
o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes (270) 777-5925 o
Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 842-2525

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie

7600 Russellville Road, P.O. Box 297, Guthrie, KY 42234
Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (270) 265-5263 o (302) 438-7335

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin

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

Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420

Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172 o
Padre Gary Clark (270) 826-2096

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Contacto: Sra. Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431
Contacto: Padre Carl McCarthy (270) 821-5494 o
Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066
Contacto: Hermana Maria Luisa Morales Solano
(270) 247-2843

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-0996,
o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

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

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

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

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001
Contacto: Padre Al Bremer (270) 534-9000

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

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

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455
Contacto: Alyssa Maty (815) 207-3208 o Padre
Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Programa de Educacion Nutricional de Kentucky

POR MYRNA VÁZQUEZ, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El Programa de Educación Nutricional (NEP) de Kentucky del Servicio de Extension Cooperativa de la Universidad de Kentucky, tiene dos programas del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos que ofrece recursos educativos relacionados con la nutrición a audiencias de recursos limitados. El Programa Ampliado de Educación Alimentaria y Nutricional (EFNEP, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Programa Suplementario de Asistencia Nutricional (SNAP-Ed, por sus siglas en inglés) ayudan a los Kentuckians a obtener una mejor calidad de vida, a desarrollar familias saludables y proporcionar recursos para ser "saludables en el hogar".

NEP está en los 120 condados de Kentucky. Los agentes del Servicio de Extension Cooperativa de la Universidad de Kentucky, y los asistentes de NEP ofrecen programas educativos para ayudar a mejorar la salud de los residentes más vulnerables del estado. Enseñamos a una variedad de audiencias; cómo mejorar sus dietas, rendir sus dólares de comida, aumentar su actividad física y manejar y almacenar alimentos de forma segura. También apoyamos los esfuerzos de la comunidad que proporcionan a las

audiencias de recursos limitados un mejor acceso a alimentos más saludables y ayudan a los miembros de la comunidad a aumentar su actividad física.

Nuestros programas producen resultados positivos. Estos son algunos de los aspectos más destacados de nuestra encuesta del 2019 de participantes adultos:

- El 97% reportó mejoría en al menos un aspecto de su dieta.
- El 92% mejoraron sus prácticas de seguridad alimenticia.
- El 91% mostró una mejoría en la gestión de sus recursos alimentarios.
- El 84% aumentó su actividad física.

Para obtener más información sobre los programas educativos locales del Programa de Educación Nutricional, comuníquese con la oficina del Servicio de Extension Cooperativa de la Universidad de Kentucky del condado donde reside y/o visite www.planeatmove.com para obtener consejos y recetas saludables en casa. ■

Myrna Vázquez es la asistente del Programa de Educación Nutricional SNAP-Ed (NEP/SNAP-Ed) del condado de Calloway (localizado al oeste de Kentucky) y se pueden comunicar por email Myrna.Vazquez@uky.edu o

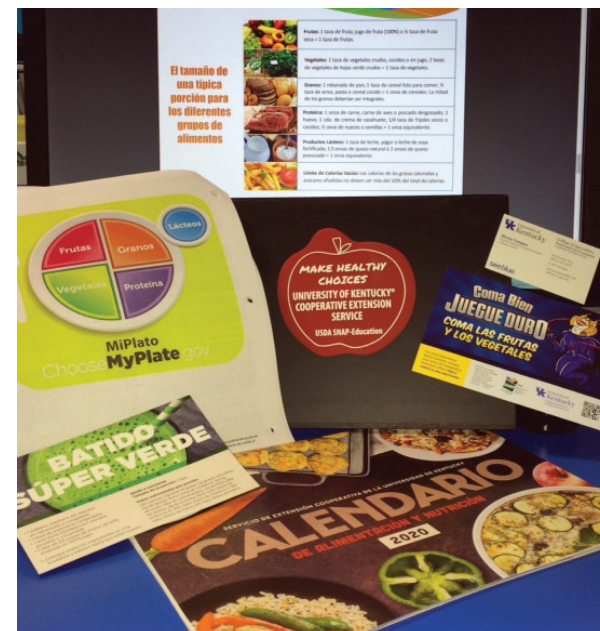


FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MYRNA VÁZQUEZ
Clases de nutrición se ofrecen por computadora o facebook. Aquí se demuestra algunos de los recursos que tenemos en español.

por Facebook www.facebook.com/CallowayNEP/ para atenderles en Español e informales de los programas gratuitos disponibles para la comunidad hispana.

Los programas educativos del Servicio de Extensión

Continúa en la página 31

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Louanne Payne, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información.

Continuado de la página 30

Cooperativa sirven a todas las personas independientemente de su condición económica o social y no discriminarán por motivos de raza, color, origen étnico, origen nacional, credo, religión, creencia política, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género, expresiones de género, embarazo, estado civil, información genética, edad, estado de veterano o discapacidad física o mental.



Las escuelas católicas están felices de estar aprendiendo en persona

Heather Winstead en la Escuela Cristo Rey en Madisonville enseña a los estudiantes durante la primera semana de clases en agosto de 2020. En el Kentucky occidental, las 17 escuelas católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro han estado abiertas en persona desde finales de agosto. Y aunque las pautas de seguridad, distanciamiento y desinfección son estrictas, las escuelas están dispuestas a aceptarlo todo si eso significa continuar en persona.

FOTO CORTESÍA DE LA ESCUELA CRISTO REY

Día de Formación en temas del Matrimonio Cristiano

Para parejas en preparación al matrimonio sacramental en sus Parroquias

**PARROQUIA DE CRISTO REY
EN MADISONVILLE KY**

1600 Kingsway Dr, Madisonville KY 42431

**¿Cuándo? Sábado 14 de Noviembre
8:30am-3:00pm**

**distanciamiento entre parejas y mascarillas
(cubrebocas) obligatorio**

CUPO LIMITADO/NO CUIDADO DE NIÑOS



Por registración solamente:
Dcn. Cristóbal Gutierrez
(270) 880-8018

P. Juan Rene Kalombo celebra 25 años de sacerdocio

POR EL P. JUAN RENE KALOMBO, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Nací en Kinshasa, República Democrática del Congo, el 29 de junio de 1963. Soy el tercer hijo de 11 hermanos. Crecí en la fe católica y serví como monaguillo, catequista, en un grupo de jóvenes, etc.

Mi sueño era ser piloto, así que estudié electricidad industrial.

Cuando era niño, mi fe católica era una parte importante de mi vida. No fue hasta los 15 años que escuché el llamado a ser sacerdote. Al principio no me gustó el llamado a ser sacerdote... por el sueño

que tenía.

Pero, al final, dije: "Si Dios me llama, me va a dar lo que necesito para convertirme en sacerdote".

Fue una homilía particular que cambió mi trayectoria espiritual. El sacerdote predicó acerca de Jesús que vino a salvarnos y su misión de llevar la Buena Nueva a los pobres y liberar a los cautivos. Luego, el sacerdote nos mostró fotografías de los pobres del Congo, pero también de todo el mundo.

Es fácil amar a la gente de tu propio país, pero Jesús vino a salvar a todos y a amar a todos los pueblos. Por eso di mi vida, para llegar a ser como Jesús, por todos los pueblos del mundo.

Continúa en la última página

Continuado de la página 31

Busqué una orden religiosa que encajara con mi pasión. Y encontré la orden, “Inmaculado Corazón de María”, cuyo carisma es ser misioneros en el extranjero (no en su propio país).

Para mí fue un dilema: convertirme en piloto o en sacerdote. Luego de retiros para discernir mi vocación, llegué a la conclusión de que si me convertía en piloto, me haría famoso con mucho dinero, pero no sería feliz.

Si me hiciera sacerdote y si realizara la voluntad de Dios, entonces sería feliz.

Desde allí, después de un año de experiencia trabajando y enseñando en una escuela secundaria en 1984, entré en el noviciado (primer año de seminario) del Inmaculado Corazón de María en Kinshasa, República Democrática del Congo. En octubre de 1985 hice los primeros votos. Luego, de 1985 a 1988, estudié filosofía en Kinshasa, República Democrática del Congo. De 1988 a 1992 estudié teología en Camerún. Y en julio de 1992 fui a Guatemala como seminarista. Fue el 19 de agosto de 1995 cuando fui ordenado sacerdote en Guatemala. Aprendí Q'eqchi (idioma maya en Guatemala).

Después en el 2007 fui a México y finalmente en 2009 vine a los Estados Unidos.

Mi primera asignación fue Santos José y Pablo. En 2011 me asignaron a Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam y en 2018 regresé a Santos José y Pablo donde estoy actualmente. Estoy feliz de servir a una parroquia próspera que incluye una fuerte comunidad hispana.

“...El sacerdocio es el amor del corazón de Jesús. Cuando veas al sacerdote, piensa en Nuestro Señor Jesucristo...” ■

(Estos pensamientos del “Pequeño Catecismo” del Cura de Ars, San Juan Vianney, el patrón del clero parroquial).



CORTESÍA DE LAVIDA MISCHER

Una familia desea al P. Juan Rene Kalombo, un feliz 25 aniversario de la ordenación al sacerdocio durante una fiesta al aire libre para él el 22 de agosto de 2020.