

THE WESTERN
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Catholic

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Family first

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Strong and steadfast in Christ

Bishop William F. Medley lays his hands upon the head of seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling during the March 20, 2021 Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. **Page 5**

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Submissions

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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. Visit westernkycatholic.com/submissions for more information.

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A Word From Bishop Medley

The pandemic is not over – but we know the Good News of the ending!

Everyone can probably answer the question as to what was the greatest sacrifice they have experienced in the past year of pandemic.

There have been challenging financial crises and stresses as the economy virtually collapsed and tens of millions sought unemployment benefits. While unemployment levels have now returned to more normative levels, even those who went back to work had often seen debt rise and bills go unpaid. Owners of businesses that were temporarily shuttered saw income cease while expenses remained.

The months-long suspension of schools left administrators, teachers, parents and students scrambling to create new possibilities for remote online learning. Many good things emerged through collaboration and partnership but it may take a generation to assess how quarantines and restrictions have affected learning. I suspect we will discover both good and bad.

One thing is clear however: human relationships have been altered for everyone.

Some grandparents and extended family have not gathered for months out of genuine concern for the welfare of one another. Precious and formative family experiences have been lost. Certainly these can and are being restored even now – but you don't get back a fourth birthday party; you don't get back the wedding of your dreams; you don't get back the comfort of being with a dying family member or friend; you don't get back the support and interaction a family feels when they come together in bereavement.

I have heard many speak of the loss of presence at Mass as a critical sacrifice. It is unimaginable that

some people who had never missed Mass on Sundays in their lives have now gone a year without being able to be in church. Oh yes, thank goodness for livestreamed Masses. But it's not the same. And for those who have come back to Mass, the necessary restrictions of distancing, wearing masks, and limiting social interactions with other church-goers has stolen some of the blessings from us.

I think I speak for most priests in acknowledging the void we felt in celebrating Masses privately – an experience intended to be communal. Oh yes, the Mass and the graces it provides are constant and not dependent on how large the assembly might be. But we are human and the very important elements of interpersonal reaction impact our experiences.

Last year, our first forays into livestreaming at St. Stephen Cathedral came during Holy Week. To look out into an empty church where a single camera operator was present to say "And with your spirit" was unsettling. As time went on and we received feedback that people appreciated the livestreamed Masses, there was more meaning in our actions. Sure, we all knew the Mass was valid and proper, but it was radically different from what we were accustomed to and what it ought to be.

Even with reduced occupancy, the ability to again worship in-person makes all the difference in the world for both the priests and the congregation. Though, the protocols have changed our experiences: the Mass is surely not a chat-fest but just think of what it means not having seen a friend's or neighbor's smile for a year.

As we celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR APRIL 2021

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

APRIL 15	9:25 a.m. Senior Conversations – Trinity High School, Whitesville 3 p.m. Zoom Meeting with Priests of the Diocese
APRIL 17	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm
APRIL 18	2 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
APRIL 19	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting 6 p.m. Child Abuse Prevention Prayer Service – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 20	6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 21	6 p.m. Diocesan Review Board Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
APRIL 22	6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 24	4:00 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ann Parish, Morganfield 10:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
APRIL 25	4 p.m. Dedication of Altar and Blessing of Renovated Church – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 27	10 a.m. Mass & Senior Conversations – St. Mary High School, Paducah 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Peter of Antioch Parish, Waverly
APRIL 29	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes, Knottsville

the Lord we are reminded of the profound truth of our faith: Our God brings good things out of evil. The crucifixion and death of Jesus was evil, as is the death of any innocent. Yet when Christ was raised from the dead the Good News (the Gospel) of all time was exemplified. Sin and evil and sickness and suffering and death cannot ever be the last word.

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The triumph of God in Jesus Christ and our salvation will be the last chapter of our lives and of all history.

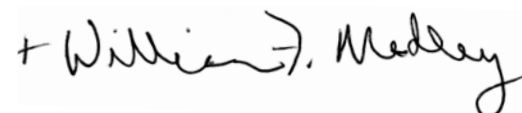
The pandemic is not over. There are still sacrifices and losses to be experienced and counted. But like a book we might have read time and again or a movie we have watched umpteen times, we know the ending.

Even now perhaps we can look deeply at these

last months and begin to name some of the blessings that have come. Maybe families appreciate one another more. Perhaps we can appreciate our financial security – or appreciate how others have helped us through our financial insecurity. I have heard students say they will not complain about going to school again. (That one might not always last!)

In a spirit of faith and trust, might we even now consider some post-pandemic resolutions that af-

firm our belief in the Resurrection and the promise that God can bring good things out of evil? ■



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Diocese of Owensboro Priest Assignments for 2021

Effective June 8, 2021

Parish Pastor

Buckman, Rev. Thomas: Pastor, St. Mary Parish in Franklin and Christ the King Parish in Scottsville.

Kulathumkal, Rev. Babu: Pastor, St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. Effective June 8, 2021.

McCarty, Rev. Joshua: Pastor, St. Leo Parish in Murray. Chaplain and Director of Catholic Newman Center, Murray State University.

Thomas, Rev. Shaiju: Pastor, St. Anthony Parish in Axtel and St. Mary of the Woods Parish in McQuady.

Thompson, Rev. William: Pastor, St. Joseph Parish in Central City. Continuing with ministry in the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

Vadakumkara, Rev. Shijo: Pastor, St. William Parish in Knottsville and St. Lawrence parish in Saint Lawrence.

Valomchalil, Rev. Augusty: Pastor, St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.

Williams, Rev. Brandon: Pastor, St. Anthony Parish in Peonia, St. Augustine Parish in Grayson Springs and St. Benedict Parish in Wax. Continuing as Co-Director of Office of Worship.

Parochial Vicar

Abiero, Rev. Michael Charles: Parochial Vicar, St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Az Cuc, Rev. Basilio: Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.

Bremer, Rev. Al: Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville and Sacramental Minister at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Guthrie.

Bruns, Deacon Corey: Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

Dillard, Rev. Daniel: Parochial Vicar, Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish in Owensboro, Chaplain at Owensboro Catholic High School, and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Owensboro.

Pynadath, Rev. Sinoj: Parochial Vicar, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Hopkinsville.

Williams, Rev. Mike: Parochial Vicar, Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish in Owensboro, Chaplain at Brescia University.

Other

McClure, Rev. Jason: Chaplain and Director of St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Bowling Green, Kentucky and ministry to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center while continuing as Vicar for Clergy.

Happy anniversary to our priests!

This month we celebrate the anniversaries of:

Msgr. Bernard Powers | Ordained 4/30/1952 | Retired

Fr. Tony Shonis | Ordained 4/3/1971 | Retired

Fr. Shaiju Thomas, HGN | Ordained 4/7/1999 | Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho

Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas | Ordained 4/25/1999 | Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Sebree

‘God brings good’

Diocese celebrates diaconate ordination of Martin Ma Na Ling



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling bows his head in prayer during his March 20, 2021 Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On March 20, 2021, Martin Ma Na Ling, a seminarian of the Diocese of Owensboro, was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop William F. Medley at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.

The Mass was by invitation-only due to COVID-19 pandemic guidelines – resulting in a small and socially-distanced congregation – but it was livestreamed on Holy Spirit’s Facebook page for others to celebrate in spirit.

To the diocese’s knowledge, Deacon Ma Na Ling is only the second Myanmar-born seminarian to be ordained in the United States.

In 2017, Deacon Ma Na Ling had arrived to study for the priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro with Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, who was ordained a

priest in 2020. They had been sent by Bishop Lucius Hre Kung of the Diocese of Hakha, Myanmar (also known as Burma), in order to serve the growing Burmese population in western Kentucky.

The celebration was bittersweet, as Deacon Ma Na Ling’s family in Myanmar could not travel for his ordination due to pandemic travel restrictions. Myanmar itself has been in political and social upheaval following a Feb. 1, 2021 military coup, resulting in protests and civil disobedience from citizens and violent retaliation by the military. Deacon Ma Na Ling’s family was unable to watch the livestream in real-time, due to the country’s mobile network being shut down by security forces.

During his homily, Bishop William F. Medley collaborated with Fr. Van Lal Than, who translated the bishop’s English homily into Burmese.

The bishop said that this was a great day for both the Diocese of Owensboro and for the small Catholic community in Myanmar – but amid the joy, “our hearts are burdened that the nation of Myanmar is suffering again.”

“Some of you may have family in harm’s way,” said Bishop Medley. “This present crisis is not the first... The very fact that in Kentucky, we have had Myanmar people come because suffering and persecution in the land are not new to its people.”

But Bishop Medley explained that just like Christ’s Passion and Resurrection, which would be celebrated during the Triduum in just a few weeks, “God brings good things even out of bad things.”

“Were it not for the tragic upheaval in Myanmar, many of you would never have come here, and if you had not come, then Martin Ma Na Ling, and Fr. Stephen, would never have come here either,” said the bishop.

The bishop specifically addressed Deacon Ma Na Ling’s family in Myanmar – though acknowledging that he did not know when they would be able to watch the video recording – saying, “Thank you for the gift of this good man. He came to the United States with courage and trust in God; thank you his family for allowing him to answer God’s radical call.”

The Mass itself looked different from ordination liturgies pre-pandemic: singing was limited to the cantors and masks were required to be worn by all attendees.

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And yet, as Deacon Ma Na Ling wrote in a later email to his fellow seminarians, the vocations office team and others of the diocese, “it was amazing and wonderful.”

“I would like to thank God and praise him for all his blessings upon me and for our Mother Diocese of Owensboro,” he added, affirming the hard work and sacrifices of those who planned his pandemic-era ordination. “But I would like to say again that I thank all of you for your participation from the bottom of my heart and I really thank the cantors, the musical instrumental players and the servers of the Mass.”

“I thank Bishop William Medley and the Diocese of Owensboro for all he did for me,” said Deacon Ma Na Ling. ■

Watch the recorded livestream of Deacon Martin Ma Na Ling’s ordination at <https://bit.ly/3u0ePFp>.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

While fellow seminarian Conrad Jaconette, (left), looks on, newly-ordained Deacon Martin Ma Na Ling incenses the faithful during his March 20, 2021 Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

To the Diocese of Owensboro’s knowledge, Deacon Martin Ma Na Ling is only the second Myanmar-born seminarian to be ordained in the United States.

Prayers asked for those impacted by Myanmar military coup



COURTESY OF SAINT MEINRAD SEMINARY
(Left to right) Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than and Dcn. Martin Ma Na Ling.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Following the Feb. 1, 2021 military coup in Myanmar, (also known as Burma), two Burmese clergy in the Diocese of Owensboro are urging Catholics and all of good will to pray for the suffering country.

Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, who is a parochial vicar at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, said no one has been untouched by the coup.

“The country’s economy is decreasing rapidly since the current situation has forced many businesses to stop functioning,” he said, “and many are going out to protest the military dictatorship.”

As of this story’s deadline, at least 275 people are

known to have been killed by the military’s violent crackdown on Myanmar’s citizens.

Fr. Van Lal Than, who was ordained by Bishop William F. Medley in 2020, after being sent to study for the priesthood in the diocese in 2017, said this is not the first time the country has encountered “such a heartless suppression, manipulation and violence by the military on the innocent people.”

Fr. Van Lal Than urged others to educate themselves about the situation in Myanmar, to pray, and to offer support to the people of Myanmar in the diocese.

He also emphasized “an action of love,” explaining that “Jesus teaches us all to even love our enemies. Love is not a mere emotion; it is an act of

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the will – willing the good for others. Hence, it is important to will the good for all people.”

Deacon Martin Ma Na Ling, who arrived in the diocese with Fr. Van Lal Than in 2017 and was ordained to the transitional diaconate on March 20, 2021, said the military has cut mobile networks “to stop the news to the world,” which means he also cannot communicate with his family right now.

He said that right now, the people of Myanmar need “your encouragement, prayers and standing with them.”

Pope Francis has made several appeals for an end

to the brutality, including in his March 17 general audience in which he said, “I too kneel on the streets of Myanmar and say: stop the violence! I too extend my arms and say: let dialogue prevail!” in reference to Sr. Ann Rosa Nu Tawng, who knelt before security forces on Feb. 28 and successfully dissuaded them from harming peaceful protestors.

Bishop Medley issued a March 5 statement on the crisis, saying that in solidarity with the people of Myanmar, “Let us all assure our brothers and sisters of our prayers for an end to the violence and the beginning of a lasting peace.” ■

Good Shepherd Sunday

World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed on Sunday, April 25, 2021 also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord’s call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Learn more at www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-prayer-vocations.

Webinar discusses special year, ‘true fatherhood’ of St. Joseph

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Feb. 24, 2021, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, gave a webinar for the Diocese of Owensboro about the Year of St. Joseph, which Pope Francis declared from Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021.

Fr. Calloway is the author of 14 books, the latest being “Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father.”

“I believe that the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church, through the pope and through the bishops, that now is the time of St. Joseph,” said Fr. Calloway during the webinar, which was sponsored by the diocese’s Office of Worship and discussed the significance of an entire year dedicated to Jesus’s foster father.

“He was modeling manhood for the Messiah, for Jesus, as he grew up,” he said.

The multiple webinar viewers spoke highly of the experience.

Maria Korte, the youth minister and director

of sacramental preparations at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, was glad she had tuned into the webinar.

“I’m looking forward to this year of St. Joseph and learning more about Joseph and becoming even closer to Christ through this year of prayer,” said Korte. “I always need to remember to say ‘Yes’ like Joseph did when God gave him a mission.”

Deacon Paul Bachi of St. Mark Parish in Eddyville said Fr. Calloway’s “enthusiasm for St. Joseph the man” inspired Deacon Bachi to read Pope Francis’s apostolic letter, “Patris Corde,” which he said “has brought several blessings to myself and others with whom I have shared it.”

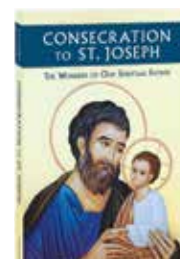
Kara Bekebrede, director of religious education at St. William and Lawrence Parishes in Daviess County, said she appreciated the work Fr. Calloway had put into promoting “true fatherhood in St. Joseph.”

“I daily renew my consecration to St. Joseph and find much comfort that he is always protecting and

leading me closer to heaven,” said Bekebrede.

Several residents of the Carmel Home in Owensboro watched the webinar as well. Patti Wink said she loves to learn about the Bible and the saints, adding that “I bought the book and can’t wait to start reading it,” and Joan Englert said she had previously learned about Fr. Calloway from her daughter-in-law, so she “really enjoyed getting to hear him.”

Fellow resident Dolores Murphy said the webinar helped her “to still feel connected with the Church and the Catholic community during this pandemic,” while Margie Hardesty shared that she had “learned so much history and different aspects we didn’t know about St. Joseph.” ■



Purchase the book at www.consecrationtostjoseph.org. Watch Fr. Donald Calloway’s Feb. 24 webinar for the Diocese of Owensboro at owensborodiocese.org/year-of-st-joseph.

Owensboro couple featured in first responder marriage series

'Your job is to help people, so use that same mentality in your marriage'



COURTESY OF FREELS FAMILY

(Left to right) Larry, Caleb, Ella Grace, Lucas, Magdalene, and Stacey Freels.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unique demands on married couples everywhere, but for couples who are emergency service workers, it has been particularly challenging.

Challenging, but not impossible, say an Owensboro husband and wife recently featured in a virtual date night series for married and engaged couples who are first responders and hospital workers.

Larry and Stacey Freels, along with their four children, belong to St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. They were among four Catholic couples from around the United States featured in Witness to Love's first responder series, which focuses on the power of resilience; prayer; living the virtues; and community and parish support during these stressful times.

Witness to Love is a national Catholic marriage renewal and preparation program.

"If you are a first responder profession, you obviously want to help people,"

said Larry, a lieutenant at Owensboro Fire Department. He recommended that emergency services couples "use that same mentality for your marriage and do what you can to make it better."

Stacey, a special education teacher with Daviess County Public Schools, explained that the pandemic has presented many challenges to their marriage and family life. And they don't sugarcoat the reality of living in these circumstances.

"There has been a lot of overtime which requires Larry to be gone longer than his usual 24-hour shift," she said in a Feb. 25 email interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic. "This leaves me to be a 'single parent' for longer amounts of time."

She said that once, when an entire crew of firefighters was exposed to COVID-19 and had to quarantine, Larry had to work a 72-hour shift.

"This was especially difficult trying to teach from home and also be there for our own children who were having to do some digital learning as well," she said.

Larry said he experiences the "added worry of bringing home sickness to the rest of the family, even with the extra precautions I take."

"It is a constant thought in the back of my mind," said Larry. "I feel bad leaving my family during longer shifts."

Still, the Freels have experienced unexpected blessings to life during a pandemic. They have had a lot of extra family time, which they have used to watch all of their home videos, held a family Nerf war, gone hiking, and played indoor games.

"As a couple, we've dedicated more time to intentional spiritual growth," said Stacey. This has included a consecration to St. Joseph, listening to the Bible in a Year podcast, and participating in Grace Marriage, a local marriage renewal program.

And while their children's activities are starting to pick back up, "we are not giving up our nightly walks with just the two of us after dinner," she added. "It may only be for 10 minutes, but it is 10 minutes of uninterrupted couple time."

Even though Larry and Stacey – who have been married for almost 15 years – may not get to go on as many "date nights" during this time, they have worked to find other ways to grow in their relationship.

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First responder couple continued from page 8



COURTESY OF FREELS FAMILY
Stacey and Larry Freels belong to St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro.

They said one way has been through participating in Witness to Love's virtual date night opportunities, which include Be More: A Marriage Formation Retreat, to help couples gain community, identity and an understanding of their mission.

"While this pandemic has been stressful, I don't want to give the devil control and let worries snowball in my brain," said Stacey. "We can only do the best we can and take as many precautions as we can, but at the end of the day, God is in control and I need to trust He knows what is best."

Larry echoed this, emphasizing that couples must "make the time to talk."

"Even in my line of work, I can share about my day, but I also need to hear about my spouse's day and what her stresses were," he said. "We don't need to keep things bottled up inside."

He also recommended ways to make one's spouse's life easier.

"Learn his/her love language and do your best to make home a safe and enjoyable place to come home to," said Larry. ■

Virtual Date Night Series for First Responders and Hospital Workers

Join First Responder Marriage Champions from around the country for a marriage enrichment and renewal date night series. We were made to be in community with each other. Join us as we build up church communities and support marriages. During this time of social isolation, our Domestic Church is in even greater need of relationships with God and others. To find out more or to register for free, visit witnessstolove.org/datenight.

More marriage resources!

- Learn about Witness to Love at <https://witnessstolove.org>.
- Learn about Grace Marriage at www.gracemarriage.com
- Learn about the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Marriage and Family Life at <https://owensborodiocese.org/marriage-enrichment>.

Mary Carrico teacher celebrates 25 years: 'I love what I do'

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Many families have contacted Jenny Lashbrook to thank her for the "blessing" of teaching their children over her 25-year career at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville – but Lashbrook insists it's the other way around.

"It's crazy because I'm the one who is so blessed," said Lashbrook, who celebrates her 25th anniversary of teaching at Mary Carrico this year. "They welcomed me with open arms."

Lashbrook, who spoke on the phone with The Western Kentucky Catholic on Feb. 26, said that when she was looking for her first teaching position 25 years ago, she had learned about an opening for a long-term substitute when teacher Donna Howard went on maternity leave at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School in Whitesville.

While still on maternity leave, Howard, who had grown up in Knottsville and previously worked at Mary Carrico, connected Lashbrook with Mary Carrico's principal. It just so happened that a Mary Carrico teacher was about to go on maternity leave, so Lashbrook became a substitute in Knottsville after her Whitesville position concluded.

"I substituted at Mary Carrico off and on for the remainder of that year and was hired fulltime the following year, 1996, for the second grade teaching position at Mary Carrico," said Lashbrook.

And the rest was history.

"I really believe it was God saying 'Hey, this is what I want you to do,'" said Lashbrook. "Now, I can't imagine being anywhere else!"

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Mary Carrico teacher continued from page 9



COURTESY OF JENNY LASHBROOK

Jenny Lashbrook with this year's kindergarten class at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville.

Besides the second-grade level that she taught in the beginning, Lashbrook has also taught first grade and kindergarten, which is what she currently teaches.

She chuckled that it sounded a little cliché, but Lashbrook said her favorite thing about teaching has always been “helping kids learn.”

“Seeing their faces when they are struggling with something and then when they get it,” she said. “It’s the greatest feeling in the world, helping them make those connections.”

Lashbrook is originally from Owensboro and had never been to Knottsville before becoming a teacher at Mary Carrico. Yet, the full welcome she has received by the community over the quarter-decade “feels like an extension of their families,” she said.

She is now teaching her second generation of students, having previously taught their parents: “How lucky am I that I taught you, and now you’re sending your kids here,” Lashbrook has reflected.

Over this time of global pandemic, she credits her fellow teachers and the support of students’ parents for the fortitude to keep going.

Of course, she said, nothing feels normal right now, with social distancing and frequent sanitizing – “Lysol has become my best friend” she joked – but “it is so stressful for the kids right now and I feel like they have a lot of anxiety.”

“We tried to focus on – for the kids’ sake – making the school feel as normal as possible so they can feel like they can be normal,” said Lashbrook.

Lashbrook said she is grateful to be teaching in a Catholic school because specifically, “we get to educate the whole child because we’re allowed to talk about God, about Jesus.”

When, for instance, a student pipes up during class that their “Granddaddy is sick” Lashbrook appreciates the freedom to pause in class and say “Ok, let’s pray for so-and-so’s Granddaddy.”

“When you can explain through the Gospel teachings why these things are happening in the world, it helps them understand in a clearer way,” said Lashbrook. “Helping them relate it all to Jesus and the Gospel can give them a lot of peace.”

“I love what I do and I can’t see myself anywhere else,” she said. ■



COURTESY OF JENNY LASHBROOK

Jenny Lashbrook with her kindergarten class of 2014-2015, dressed as their favorite book characters. “That was such an incredible year because I got to teach my own daughter Emma,” says Lashbrook. “So that will always stand out as one of my favorite years of teaching.” Emma is seen in front of her mother in this photo.



COURTESY OF JENNY LASHBROOK

Jenny Lashbrook with a class of second-graders at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville in 1996 – her first class as a fulltime teacher. Jenny has actually taught a few of these students’ children, and one girl in the picture, Katie Scott Ford (who was not in school at the time; just a sibling at the party and became a student several years later) is now a teacher with Lashbrook at Mary Carrico.

Retiring after 26 years, Weafer hands Preschool Cathedral reins to Pfeifer

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Pam Weafer has worked at Cathedral Preschool in Owensboro for 26 years, and served as the preschool's third director for 16 of those years.

She retires at the end of the school year and will be succeeded by Holly Pfeifer. The two sat down with The Western Kentucky Catholic on March 10 to discuss the bittersweet transition.

Weafer said her favorite part of working at Cathedral Preschool has been "teaching the religion classes."

"It's the very basics; simple concepts," said Weafer, but added that "I love to see how they can understand the concepts. Today, for example, we talked about forgiveness."

She said she will miss the familial community of the preschool families and the preschool staff: "It just feels like a happy place to be."

Weafer has countless fond memories from her more than two decades of serving at the preschool, which is a ministry of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

She said the three-year-old students always put on an Easter parade for the rest of the school, which includes making paper plate "Easter bonnets."

Weafer chuckled and recalled that one year, a parent told her that her daughter insisted on wearing the "bonnet" for Easter Mass.

Some of her other favorite memories have included celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the students, and teaching the children about the National Day of Prayer, which takes place annually on the first Thursday of May. For that day, they traditionally decorate the school with red, white and blue streamers, and have even taught the kids "God Bless America" – in sign language.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a huge challenge, but Weafer is thankful for the "cooperation of the families."

"They were very trusting of us," said Weafer, of reopening the preschool after the initial shutdown in 2020. "They want the same thing, to be healthy and safe. And there has been no spread of COVID, the flu, or strep throat this year at all!"

Pfeifer, who is currently training to prepare for taking over as director, said



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Pam Weafer (left) is retiring from serving as director of Cathedral Preschool in Owensboro after 16 years in that position, and will be succeeded by Holly Pfeifer (right).

she is thankful to be inheriting "such a well-oiled machine" from Weafer.

"So much care has been given to the structure, processes and expertise of the staff," said Pfeifer, who is also a teacher at the preschool. "I am set up for success."

Pfeifer said five of her seven children attended Cathedral Preschool, "so I am very familiar with and pleased with the program. Pam taught two of my kids!"

She said her twofold expertise of being a preschool parent and also a teacher will be helpful in guiding Cathedral Preschool.

"I grew up in the Catholic community here in Owensboro, and I have a commitment to this mission," said Pfeifer. ■

'Seeking help is a sign of being strong'

Therapists help people build hope and succeed in life



LIGHTSTOCK

A sad teenage girl sits alone.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Iris Gutierrez, a Spanish-speaking Catholic counselor in Lexington, Ky., recently joined the Counseling Assistance Program (CAP) offered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. Iris recently spoke with The Western Kentucky Catholic about the benefits of counseling to take care of one's mental health.

The following is edited from an email and phone interview.

Why should people not be ashamed to see a therapist?

Gutierrez: In the Catholic Church's perspective, we need to take care of our body and our mind. People should not be afraid of seeing a therapist. Seeking help is a sign of being strong and positively impacts

self-care by learning the tools to improve the quality of life. Professional help helps you to take better care of yourself and your relationship with loved ones.

What mental health challenges commonly affect the Latino community?

Gutierrez: Latino communities in general may be more prone to experience these mental health challenges: Adjustment to a different culture, changes in the family dynamic, poor social support – those things could increase stress levels to impact functioning. Isolation and a language barrier could impact that too.

There could be increased anxiety, depression and alcohol dependence (to cope with stress) which could lead to legal/financial problems. And sometimes changes in socioeconomic status. It doesn't mean everyone will experience these, but it can increase the risk of mental illness. I emigrated from Argentina, so I can understand the issues and values experienced by the Latino community.

If someone makes an appointment to see a therapist, what should they expect in the experience?

Gutierrez: When someone makes an appointment to see a therapist, they should expect a non-judgmental, respectful and confidential conversation to build rapport, trust and engage in treatment that could address their own needs based on their abilities and interest. I have been a therapist for 30 years and serving in Kentucky for 21 years. I do have some clients in English, but since I have seen few mental health resources for Latinos in this region, the majority of

my clients speak Spanish because of the human connection in their native language.

How can we help a loved one who suffers from mental illness?

Gutierrez: We can help a loved one with mental illness by an honest and open dialogue about your concerns and helping that person to make an appointment. Never disregard their opinions and pay close attention about changes that may occur in different areas from, school, work, and relationships, to financial and legal issues. Mental illness could lead to bodily illnesses, according to the Mayo Clinic. If someone is at risk of self-harm or others, call 911 immediately. ■

Learn More

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro offers a program called CAP (Counseling Assistance Program). Through CAP, Catholic Charities collaborates with several counselors across western Kentucky who offer their services at a reduced rate for parishioners of the diocese. Each therapist in the CAP program agrees to practice within the teachings of the Catholic Church and is qualified to offer counseling for individuals, couples, and/or family issues. English-speaking counselors may be accessed via owensborodiocese.org/counseling. Spanish-speaking CAP counselors may be accessed via owensborodiocese.org/servicios-de-consejeria.

‘Keep up a good spiritual life...’

102-year-old priest advises clergy, other Church ministers



COURTESY OF CARMEL HOME

Msgr. George Hancock celebrates a private Easter Sunday Mass 2020 in the oratory (convent chapel) of the Carmelite Sisters in Owensboro. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public Masses were suspended at the time, so the Mass was only for those inside the convent.

BY SR. MARIA CARMELITA NAVARRO, DCJ, AND ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

It's been a whole year since Msgr. George Hancock celebrated a private Easter Sunday Mass on April 12, 2020, in the oratory (convent chapel) of the Carmelite Sisters in Owensboro.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public worship was suspended at the time, so the Mass was only for those inside the convent, a ministry Msgr. Hancock provided from April 3-June 20.

The small, private Mass was a powerful moment not unlike other varied experiences that Msgr. Hancock – who turned 102 on Feb. 2, 2021 – has encountered throughout his more than seven decades of priesthood.

In light of his recent birthday, Msgr. Hancock recently shared some of his favorite memories with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Finding the keys

Many, many years ago, Msgr. Hancock, who was working in the Owensboro chancery at the time, received a Saturday night phone call that the pastor of St. Romuald Parish in Hardinsburg had been rushed to the hospital in Louisville for a heart attack.

The bishop told then-Fr. Hancock that he would need to fill in at the Masses the following morning. The young priest obliged, but then encountered a problem.

“In those days it was hard to get into the church because the priest had all the keys” and the lay staff did not, said Msgr. Hancock, who today resides at the Carmel Home in Owensboro.

He drove to see the pastor of nearby St. Mary of the Woods Parish in McQuady – obviously, no one had cell phones in those days – to see if the pastor knew of any secret outdoor hiding spots for spare keys at St. Romuald.

“And he said yes, there's one right above the front door, and if you see it, you can get it,” remembered Msgr. Hancock. “And that's how I got in!”

Of course, it's much different now: “Somebody's always got the keys and can unlock it for you,” he said.

The priesthood is “interesting; you have to be open to whatever comes,” said Msgr. Hancock.

High school teacher

Msgr. Hancock's multiple roles in the Diocese of Owensboro have included serving as diocesan chancellor, pastor of many parishes, and teacher at St. Francis Academy in Owensboro – today known as Owensboro Catholic High School.

In fact, one could say that every day is a class reunion for Msgr. Hancock

Continues on page 14

Msgr. Hancock continued from page 13



COURTESY OF DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
St. Francis Academy before its name changed to Owensboro Catholic High School.

and nine of his former students – the class of 1951 – who also live at the Carmel Home. This class was the last to graduate before St. Francis Academy changed names.

“I taught four years at St. Francis, and then one year after it became Owensboro Catholic in 1952,” said Msgr. Hancock. “I started teaching in fall of ’47. So, ’47, ’48, ’49 and ’50.”

Then-Fr. Hancock taught Latin, health and physical fitness, economics, and English. He intended to study biology so that he could teach that as well – and then Bishop Francis R. Cotton sent him to the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome to study canon law and ultimately become a canon lawyer.

The bishop told the young priest that he would be paying for his own tuition, but it wasn’t a great sacrifice: at the time, it only cost \$5 a year for priests and seminarians to study there.



COURTESY OF CARMEL HOME

Msgr. George Hancock (teacher), Joan Englert, DB Blanford, Marjorie Howard, Tom Englert, Lucille Rose, Martin Bumm, Margerie Hardesty, and Juanita Clark. (Not pictured is Anna Scheidegger; also not pictured is Bettie Hall who recently passed away).

Change of roles

Several years later, in 1963, when Fr. Hancock was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield, Fr. Robert Connor, the diocesan chancellor at the time, died suddenly. The bishop at the time, Bishop Henry J. Soenneker, was in Rome attending the Second Vatican Council, but returned home for Fr. Connor’s funeral.

“On his way back, he wrote me a letter that said ‘It’s four o’clock in the morning, and I’m writing you this letter to make you chancellor of the diocese,’” said Msgr. Hancock.

The date is seared in his mind. He arrived for his first day of work as the chancellor on Monday, Nov. 18, 1963. And Friday of that first week, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

The chancellor role was a hefty one, but Bishop Soenneker knew it would be in good hands.

“When you’re the chancellor you’re dealing with the priests and the laypeople primarily,” said Msgr. Hancock. “There are 32 counties in western Kentucky and you’re dealing with all of those people. And the priests have their own problems, their own things that they’re concerned about, and they come to chancery to get instructions, get help with whatever they need.”

Msgr. Hancock said he perfected the art of “listening” when people would come to him with their concerns.

“That’s a really important thing,” he said. “And they see that you accept them; you pay attention to them. And in that way you’re able to make contact with them and help them. You just listen to what they have to say.”

Msgr. Hancock also said that anyone who works for the Church, especially the clergy, should “be sure you keep up a good spiritual life.”

For instance, in handling the diocese’s money matters, “it’s easy to get involved in all that business stuff and forget that you’re a priest and forget that you’ve got an obligation to the good Lord and to his Church and to the people, to be a good Catholic priest who really loves and serves God,” said Msgr. Hancock.

“That’s a really important thing to develop,” he said. “It’s important as a pastor too because when you become a pastor, there are a lot of obligations with taking care of people.”

Overall, Msgr. Hancock does not think a whole lot about reaching the age of 102.

“The Lord’s let me for whatever reason,” he said. ■

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Editor's note: April has been established as Child Abuse Prevention Month since the 1980s. Each year, this provides an opportunity for U.S. dioceses and parishes to educate their communities on preventing abuse and working toward healing for survivors of abuse. Below is information taken from a bulletin insert provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Effects of Abuse

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

Steps to Prevent Abuse

Communicate with Your Children

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and

to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

Holding Offenders Accountable

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused. In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry. ■



COURTESY OF MARIA KORTE

A display for Child Abuse Prevention Month 2021 is shown at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.



COURTESY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
Blue pinwheels are displayed on the front lawn of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville for Child Abuse Prevention Month 2021. Blue pinwheels are a symbol of child abuse prevention awareness.

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Catholic Charities continues to press on, engage the community, provide assistance

BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro has as an agency been able to devote \$308,600 in services to people hurting across western Kentucky.

Much of that help has been possible because of generous parishioners and grants. And while funds are currently running low for unrestricted grant funding for housing and utility assistance, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro recently received a \$10,000 CCUSA Francis Fund for Eviction Prevention grant to help renters avoid eviction in local rural counties (including the entire diocese except for Daviess and Warren Counties, due to the population being over 100,000). Rural residents at risk for eviction can call (270) 852-8335 to see if Catholic Charities can assist.

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is available for utility assistance (the first stop for any utility help) in various agencies across the diocese (www.Audubon-Area.com for Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster Counties; www.CKCAC.org for Breckenridge and Grayson Counties; www.CasoKy.org for Allen, Butler, Edmonson, Logan, Simpson, and Warren Counties; www.PACS-Ky.org for Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd and Trigg Counties; and www.wkas-ky.org for Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall and McCracken Counties). For rental assistance, Governor Andy

Beshear's office has set up a program to pay up to nine months of back rent and three months of future rent for those under 80% of median income who have experienced income loss during the pandemic. To apply for that assistance people can go to <https://teamkyhherf.ky.gov/>.

Several big things have occurred in immigration:

1. DACA update: USCIS will now process new DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) applications – children who arrived on or before June 15, 2007 before their 16th birthday are eligible to apply but they have to be 15 years old or older to apply. These applicants had been barred from making an application for the last four years, so all youth who turned 15 since around 2016 hadn't been able to apply and now they can, and should, apply.
2. TPS update: Venezuelans have been added to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and they have between March 9 and Sept. 5 to enroll by application. Persons enrolled in TPS are given work permits and social security cards. For those who already have green cards or who are citizens, TPS is not needed, but it can be helpful for people whose temporary status is expiring, those out-of-status, or the like.

Catholic Charities can assist with both DACA and TPS applications: please call (270) 852-8328. ■

Thank you all for your assistance and donations to Catholic Charities. If you see someone who needs help, please don't hesitate to refer them to us. Even if we cannot financially assist them with their need, we can likely accompany them in finding a solution. Learn more by visiting <https://owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities> or by contacting director Susan Montalvo-Gesser at (270) 852-8328 or susan.gesser@pastoral.org.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



You are invited to join
Bishop William Medley in prayer

April 19, 2021 | 6:00 p.m.

St. Stephen Cathedral
610 Locust St. Owensboro, KY

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

Live-streamed at ststephencathedral.org/live

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2021 BULLETIN BOARD

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

"Belonging to Love: Conversations on Living Prayer in the Spirit of Saint Angela" online April 8

In a time of disconnection and division, many of us are experiencing a sense of separation from one another and even from our God. We turn to the prophetic wisdom of Saint Angela Merici whose foundational invitation to her community was to lead a life of contemplative presence. What is this way of abiding in God? How do we see and love God in all things? How are the Ursuline Sisters living this out? Come join us for a deep and lively conversation including prayer and story each month that will help you explore how to always abide in an awareness of God's presence. These are free online Zoom presentations, but donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Thursday, April 8, from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. It will be led by an Ursuline Sister as well as Maryann Joyce, director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount, Ky. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Note: Save these dates for future programs: May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9.

"A Day of Serenity and Solitude" online April 16

Join others online for "A Day of Serenity and Solitude" on Friday, April 16. Experience the gift of connection to the sacred with others who are intentionally spending a day of quiet reflection. We will begin the day together on Zoom for shared prayer, inspiration and suggestions for reflection. At the end of the day, we will gather again to share our experience and a closing blessing. An individual remote spiritual direction session is an optional part of the day. The event takes place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The retreat leader is Maryann Joyce, a trained spiritual director

and director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount, Ky. The fee is \$25 for an online Zoom in your home. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or go online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/>

Ave Give-Back Fundraising Program benefits Catholic parishes, schools, groups

Ave Maria Press is offering a free, easy, and safe give-back opportunity for Catholic parishes, schools, and groups. Supporters shop online at AveMariaPress.com with a unique code and their parish or school will receive 30 percent of the proceeds of their purchase. Shoppers will also receive free shipping on their order. It's that simple. A representative from each parish, school, or group that wants to participate in this special fundraising program must contact Erin Pierce, parish and curriculum marketing specialist, at epierce@nd.edu for a code that is unique to your organization. Share the code with supporters as often as possible. Ave can provide sample bulletin and newsletter copy, social media language, and customizable graphics so you can easily spread the word. Stock up for personal spiritual enrichment, Lent and Easter, and gifts for birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, weddings, sacramental celebrations, and staff, teachers, and RCIA candidates. The exclusive code is good between March 1 and May 31, 2021. Parishes and schools will receive their fundraising check by June 30, 2021. This offer does not include Together for Life, textbooks, Joined by Grace, everyday volume discounts or other discount codes, the Parish Book Program, and other usual exclusions. For more information, parishes and schools should contact Erin Pierce at epierce@nd.edu, or check out AveMariaPress.com.

Diocese of Evansville Director of Catechesis

The Diocese of Evansville seeks an energetic and inspiring Director of Catechesis. The Director of the Office of Catechesis is responsible for continuing the mission of Jesus Christ through catechesis

and evangelization throughout the diocese. This includes supporting a vision that encourages parishes to provide quality catechetical programs for all parishioners in keeping with the latest church documents, norms and directives. Qualifications include, but are not limited to: Fully participating and practicing Catholic; Advanced degree in theology, religious education or related field; Five years of successful experience in Parish Catechetical Ministry and an awareness of diocesan needs and objectives; Strong organizational, managerial and interpersonal skills that inspire confidence among Ordained, Religious, Catechetical Leaders, and other diocesan groups. A complete position description can be found in the Employment Opportunities tab on the diocese's website <http://www.evdio.org>. Those interested should send a cover letter and resume to hr-catechesis@evdio.org.

Nominate a catechetical leader today!

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced sometime in the spring. Anyone in the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award. Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers working for a minimum of five years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. The deadline for nominations is April 23, 2021. Visit owensborodiocese.org/catechetical-leader-award for the digital nomination form or email robin.tomes@pastoral.org to have a form emailed to you. All nomination forms should be mailed to the Youth Ministry Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 or emailed to robin.tomes@pastoral.org by April 23, 2021.

Nominate a teacher for 2021 Educator of the Year

Attention parents and students of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Owensboro: has a teacher changed you or your child's life for the better? If so, nominate this teacher for the Outstanding Catholic School

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued from page 17

Educator of the Year! Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the Diocesan Schools. The Outstanding Catholic School Educator 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. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2021. A committee will serve as judges. The winner will be announced at the 2021 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. This award is sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Schools Office and the Principals Association. Access the nomination form at owensborodiocese.org/educator-award.

Register now for Gasper River

Registration for summer camps are now open at www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org. Space will be limited this summer so please do not hesitate and get signed up early to reserve your spot! Applications for volunteers and staff in training are open until April 30.

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 inspirational cards to be sent monthly 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. The new cards will begin in June, but we can accept

2021 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Parish picnics and cooking teams are a longstanding tradition in the parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike gather to celebrate with food, games and community during the warmest months of the year. All questions about the individual picnics should be directed to the parishes; contact information may be accessed via owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish.

Please note that the following schedule is tentative due to the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
MAY 23	Serving at 11 a.m.	Mary Carrico Catholic School Picnic, St. Lawrence picnic grounds, Philpot
MAY 30	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
JUNE 5	Serving from 5-7 p.m. in parish hall; food court serving sandwiches 11 a.m.	St. Joseph, Leitchfield
JUNE 26	Serving at 4 p.m.; drive-thru only	St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
JULY 10	Serving at 3 p.m.; drive-thru only	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
JULY 17	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
JULY 31	Serving from 3-7 p.m.	St. Paul, Grayson County
AUGUST 3	Serving at 4 p.m., drive-thru only	St. Martin, Rome
AUGUST 7	BBQ meat served via drive-thru at 11:30 a.m.	Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
AUGUST 7	Serving from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
SEPTEMBER 11	Serving time TBD	St. Agnes, Uniontown
SEPTEMBER 18	Serving from 4-8 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
SEPTEMBER 18	Serving at 4 p.m.; drive-thru only	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 19	Serving at 11 a.m.	Mary Carrico Catholic School Picnic, St. Lawrence picnic grounds, Philpot
SEPTEMBER 25	Serving from 1-3 p.m., drive-thru only	Immaculate, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 26	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

signups later. To request an order form, contact Carol Braden-Clarke at 270-229-2008, carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/kindness-campaign/>

Book for trauma survivors

A message from the Office of Safe Environment: Liturgical Press has a book titled *You Have Set Us Free: Scriptural Reflections for Trauma Survivors*, by Kenneth W. Schmidt. It is a well-written book of spiritual reflections for trauma survivors. It pulls together Jesus's suffering, the pain of trauma survivors and the scriptures in a wonderful way. To learn more, contact the Office of Safe Environment at owensborodiocese.org/safe, or email Janice

Hendricks at jance.hendricks@pastoral.org. The book may be purchased at <https://litpress.org/Products/4712/You-Have-Set-Us-Free>.

Free Natural Family Planning opportunity

Thanks to a partnership with the St. Augustine Institute, the Diocese of Owensboro is now offering FREE instruction in the Billings Method of NFP throughout 2021! This offer includes 5 sessions with one of our trained instructors and any Catholic married or engaged couple in our Diocese (where at least one spouse is a practicing Catholic) is eligible. Contact Martha Winn to begin today! 270-796-2972 or 270-791-9434.

Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, died on Feb. 19, 2021, following a brave battle with cancer.

Sr. Dianna Ortiz, 62, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph for 43 years, died Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, in Washington, D.C. after a brave battle with cancer. She was raised in Grants, N.M.

Sr. Dianna called on God to help her survive a traumatic event in her life to become an advocate for torture victims worldwide.

She taught at Immaculate Conception School, Hawesville, Ky., (1983-85) and Blessed Mother

School, Owensboro, Ky. (1985-87) before doing mission work with Mayan children in Guatemala. While there in 1989 she was abducted by government forces and tortured. After much prayer and counseling, she became a grassroots organizer for the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission in Washington, D.C. (1994-2000). In 1998, she founded the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) International in Washington, to advocate for the abolition of torture and to support its victims. Her book, "The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth," was published in 2002. She testified before Congress concerning human rights and torture and received numerous honors for her work from peace and victims advocate organizations.

She served as deputy director of Pax Christi USA in Washington from 2010-2012. She served with the Center of Concern on its Education for Justice Project in Washington from 2012-18. In 2020, she returned to Pax Christi USA as deputy director, where she was serving at the time of her death.

Survivors include the members of her religious community; her mother Amby Ortiz of Grants; sisters Barbara Murrietta of Grants and Michelle Salazar of San Mateo, N.M.; brothers Ronald Ortiz, Pilar Ortiz Jr., John Ortiz and Joshua Ortiz, all of Grants; nieces and nephews.

Due to health and safety concerns, the wake service on Feb. 28 and the funeral on March 1 were private. They were both livestreamed to the public on Facebook. Burial was in the convent cemetery.

Donations in honor of Sr. Dianna may be made to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. ■

Honoring Earth



Celebrating the Sacred Outside and Within

CONFERENCE & RETREAT

Saturday, June 19

Join us for a day full of inspiration and practical information as we contemplate the sacredness of our common home – the Earth.

- Conference keynote by Kyle Kramer, Executive Director of the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center: **"Our New Sacred Story: Finding our Place in an Unfolding Universe"**
- Workshops (choose one): **Gardening and Your Health, Backyard Wildflowers, or Solar Energy**
- Join Dr. Emily DeMoor from Brescia University: **"Sacred Spaces and Moments of Grace"**

Time: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Morning Conference only: \$30

Conference, Lunch and Afternoon Retreat: \$55
(Groups of 10 or more receive a 10% discount on full day.)

To register or for more information: 270-229-0206
retreatcenter@maplemount.org
ursulinesmsj.org/retreat-center



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

*Event may be subject to change due to Covid protocols.

Climate change: Why Catholics should care

BY GARY VERST, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Visit www.usccb.org/news/2019/us-bishops-domestic-chairman-reacts-bipartisan-carbon-pricing-bill to read a statement on climate change from the USCCB.

The earth has been warming up since the industrial age began. The probability of this happening secondary to the CO2 released from fossil fuel combustion was theorized in the 1880s but not reliably documented by serial atmospheric measurements until the 1950s. We have been struggling with what to do about it ever since. Some, with vested financial interests in the status quo, have rigorously diverted attention from the matter as professional deniers, and others have diligently attempted to get the world to address it as the extremely important matter that they have felt it to be without laudable success. Despite the issue no longer being as controversial as it once was, we have as a global people, been minimally effective in addressing it to date.

This was the setting for 'Laudato Si' by Pope Francis in 2015, the first papal encyclical ever published on the environment, focused on climate change. He wrote that "the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, was among the most maltreated of our poor" and that "never have we hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 200 years." Citing "a very solid scientific consensus" he beseeched Catholics and Catholic institutions to abandon our "endless cycle of consumerism" in favor of a lifestyle and philosophy of sustainability. He acknowledged the social justice issues inherent with a changing climate as alterations of weather patterns were expected to progressively compromise food production, shelter stability, biodiversity, and disease vector distributions

that would disproportionately affect those least capable of adapting to such change. It was also noted that these same climatic changes could displace large numbers of the most vulnerable from their homes resulting in a loss of human dignity and respect.

In 2019, after the earth, our home, recorded in the last decade nine of the 10 hottest years recorded since 1880, and a bevy of billion-dollar weather disasters, he called on Catholics to divest themselves from fossil fuel companies and doubled down on the need to reduce the production of carbon exhausts in our daily activities. Admitting that "carbon pricing" can be quite disruptive and that manufacturers made to pay for the CO2 release in the manufacturing of their product would pass on that cost to the consumer, has resulted in the president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, in support of Pope Francis's position, to endorse a "carbon dividend." Additionally, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development welcomed the legislation as an important step forward in addressing climate change. Such a proposal, in effect, would see that such carbon tax funds would be distributed back to individual Americans, not the government, in such a manner that those with lower to medium incomes would not likely be adversely financially affected. Technical innovations would be stimulated and, consequently, new types of employment would evolve.

The question is, can we as Catholics change our hearts and behavior to do what is best for our world and fellow man, or to be put another way, is it Christian of us not to? ■

Gary Verst belongs to Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.



Spring Women's Retreat...
Renewing Our Hearts:
Hope and Healing with
Julian of Norwich
Saturday, May 22

English mystic Julian of Norwich offers contemporary seekers much insight and hope for these troubled times. Join us as we compare similarities between our own lives and that of Julian and Jesus.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Retreat Center
 Optional: Sunday vigil Mass at 4 p.m.
Retreat Leader: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU
 Fee is \$40 and includes lunch. To register: 270-229-0206
retreatcenter@maplemount.org
ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center
 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

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

April 23-25, 2021
 Retreat Center near Owensboro, KY
 Safety guidelines will be in place.
 Contact: Constance
 270-474-4707
constance@hopeafterabortionky.com

All conversations are held in strict confidence.
www.hopeafterabortionky.com

We are an Easter people

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Welcome to the joy of the Easter Season. We travel the desert road of Lent for 40 days, knowing that our lives are filled with selfishness and reflecting on the Passion of our Lord. We come into Holy Week and celebrate the Triduum: the three-day "Great Feast" of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, which culminates at the Easter Vigil as we proclaim and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We then enter the 50-day Easter Season to focus on the hope and joy that is only found in relationship with our great God!

This is the Paschal Mystery, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Like the early followers of Jesus after his death, we too can find ourselves burdened and lacking hope. As we reflect on the division and challenges of our world today, we can easily be overwhelmed and begin to question, "Where is our God?" The answer of Easter is our rallying cry. He is here in the midst of our daily lives and we can experience his love and joy and be transformed!

On the road to Emmaus following the crucifixion, two disciples were walking along and Jesus approached them asking, "Why do you look so downcast." They responded, "Are you the only one in all Jerusalem to not know about what has happened to Jesus?" As they walked along, in the presence of Jesus, he spoke to them and they found a new and unexpected hope. They invited Jesus to stay and recognized him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:13-25).

To live as an Easter People, we too need to spend time with Jesus and time with other disciples on the journey. We need to take time to read the stories of

Jesus and time to encounter the love of the Father and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It begins and ends with our encounter with Jesus in the celebration of the Mass. Here we encounter Jesus in the Word, in the assembly, in the priest and in the breaking of the bread and our reception of Jesus, body, blood, soul and divinity. We encounter Jesus and are sent forth to share the love of God with the world.

To be an Easter People is to be rooted in the message of Easter, that you and I are invited into the communion of the Trinity! We are invited into daily relationship with God, who is with us in every reality of our daily lives as individuals, as a Church and the entire world. The love of God changes everything and we need to encounter this personally each day and share it with other followers of Jesus and learn to embody God's love to all we meet.

Are you ready to celebrate the Easter Season and be inspired to live as a joy and hope-filled disciple of Jesus? Take 10 minutes every day to sit with Jesus and be filled with God's love. Find others that you can meet with and share faith regularly and when the pandemic is over, may we all experience the power of God's love in our reception of Jesus at Mass.

You are invited to join others from across our diocese on Wednesday evenings during the Easter Season, via Zoom, for a one-hour session celebrating the faith of the early Church and hearing stories from current Catholics about their faith journeys. Join us as we witness to our Easter Faith! Learn more or register here: owensborodiocese.org/stories-of-faith. ■

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



STORIES OF FAITH: CHURCH WITNESSES THEN AND NOW

Celebrate the Easter Season

April 7-May 19

Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM

Join us to pray, read, share, listen and learn about the importance of sharing our faith stories with others.

Special guests, in this respective order, will be: Dcn. Corey D. Bruns, Lauren Johnson, Sr. Suzanne Sims, Fr. Larry McBride, John Knight, Zach Ault, and Lori Lewis. Hosted by Dr. Jeff Andrini, the Director of Evangelization and Discipleship for the Diocese of Owensboro.

owensborodiocese.org/stories-of-faith





St. Joseph Catholic Church
HOLY COW RAFFLE-\$10/ticket
 Sunday, Apr. 25th, 2021
 at the Renew Celebration
 434 Church Ave.
 Bowling Green, KY 42101
Do not need to be present to win - tickets available in the parish office (270) 842-2525

Win a Black Angus Steer
(Processing not included)

Tamales will be for Sale between
ALL Sunday Masses on April 25th
Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph Restoration



Iglesia Católica San José
¡TORO BENDITO! RIFA - \$10/boleto
 Domingo, 25 de abril, 2021
 En la Celebración de Renovación
 434 Church Ave.
 Bowling Green, KY 42101
No tiene que estar presente para ganar - boletos disponibles en la oficina Parroquial

Novillo Negro Angus
(No costo de procesamiento)
 Tamales para venta entre
TODAS las Misas del Domingo el 25 de abril
Ganancias a beneficio de la Restauración de San José




April 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

Robert & Pat Risch, 54
Thomas & Shirley Coomes, 61
Bobby & Patricia Rafferty, 57
Louis & Mary Aull, 59
Joseph & Sharon Wink, 51
Michael & Donna Koger, 50
Danny & Patty Merimee, 52
Carl & Mildred Spurrier, 67
Tony & Carolyn Clark, 51
Kenneth & Elaine Williams, 57

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Frank & Gloria Adams, 56

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Jack & Hiromi Adams, 50
C. David & Bonnie Bartley, 50
Rick & Robin Beck, 40
Rusty & Candice Justice, 10
Thomas & Peg Lewis, 53
Joseph & LeeAnne Meuth, 25
Daniel & Bonnie Pierson, 25
Odell & Karen Rhoades, 5
Ronald & Brenda Sauer, 54
Albert & Nadine Schwallier, 69
Isac & Ashton Vaughan, 5
David & Cheryl Zehner, 40

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Trinh Truong & Thien Nguyen, 5
David & Karen Lewis, 5
Joseph & Melissa Meyer, 25
Peter & Jennifer Larkin, 25
Michael & Darlene Fuqua, 50
Everett & Mary Leasor, 55
James & Helen Bailey, 65

Holy Trinity, Morgantown

Robert & Kathy Coomes, 5

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

John & Velma Davis, 53

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Clayton & Gloria Gray, 59

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Tyler & Trina Smith, 5
Ralph & Judy Thomas, 62
Maurice & Shirley Wink, 62
Brad L. & Beverly Hamilton, 61
Philip & Brenda Phelps, 52
Gregory & Deborah Arnold, 51
Bill & Deborah Glenn, 51

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Joel & Kaitlyn Blankendaal, 5
Kevin & Kristin Boothe, 10
Charles A. & Mary Lois Payne, 60
Rex & Pegg Robinson, 57
Todd & Pat Stelmach, 52
David & Mary Jane Strehl, 52
Mike & Janice Sweeney, 40
Samuel & Lisa VanBussum, 40
Donald E. & Mary J. Weaver, 57

Precious Blood, Owensboro

James & Anna Marie Roberts, 50
Michael & Brenda Swift, 53

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Jim & Linda Prevallet, 10

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Norberto & Ashley Fernandez, 10

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Richard & Nancy Mayes, 63
Mike & Barbara Davis, 52

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Larry & Vickie Rhodes, 53
Bill & Charlene Hite, 52

Billy Joe & Beverly Buckman, 52

Harold & Diane Lynn, 50

Lark & Sharon Buckman, 51

Benny & Rita French, 67

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Chris & Jessica McCarthy, 10
Bruce & Sheila Blandford, 50
Marshall & Vicki Graham, 40
Donald & Ginny Peters, 58

St. Ann, Morganfield

Jimmy & Virginia Mills, 51
Ronald & Ellen Mattingly, 55
Mike & Cathy Greenwell, 52

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Joseph & Sharon Wink, 52

St. Anthony, Peonia

Ralph & Joyce Pierce, 54
Thomas & Bonnie Osbourne, 52

St. Anthony the Abbot, Hardinsburg

Carl & Joyce Eskridge, 58
Pat & Wilma Lenhart, 57

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Bob & Lois Tashjian, 65

St. Augustine, Reed

Hershel & Barbara Smith, 52

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Rickey & Amanda Taylor, 10

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Ryan & Kassie Miller, 10
Roger & Irene Price, 53

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Jonathan & Staci Bachuss, 5
Joe & Carol Anne Mikez, 66
Ken & Michelle Merges, 25
James J. & Velda Carbonel, 57
Larry & LaDonna Roberts, 51
Charles & Vicki Ross, 40
William J. & Sandra Moore, 52

David & Courtney Burkeen, 5

Phillip & Whitney Baxter, 5

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Darren & Lacy Hobbs, 10
Joseph & Joyce Toon, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

James & Tammie Langston, 40

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Robert & Dolores Rudzinski, 55

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Mario & Amalia Medina, 54
Tony & Lindsay Luciano, 55
Larry & Helen Sullivan, 53
Joe & Evelyn Jolley, 57
Cristobal & Mercedes Sanchez, 5
Luis & Genie Amador, 10

St. Jude, Clinton

David & Anita Burton, 51

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Martin & Rhonda Carrico, 10

St. Leo, Murray

Douglas & Vicky Lambert, 55
Edward & Marilyn Wolf, 58

St. Mark, Eddyville

Jim & Olga Dunning, 40

St. Martin, Rome

Richard & Anita Dixon, 58

St. Mary, LaCenter

Jim & Mary Virginia Bumpous, 57
Bob & Mary Ann Noe, 57

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Gerald & Betty Bartley, 57
Walker & Michaeline Chandler, 5

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

James & Betty Poole, 58
Tommy & Joyce Higdon, 56
Robert & Norma Ward, 53

Continues on page 23

Two seminarians move forward on their path to priesthood

BY WKC STAFF

On Feb. 18, 2021, Diocese of Owensboro seminarian Christopher Grief, second year theology, was instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte at a Mass held at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind. In this role, he will now be charged with assisting at Mass, bringing Holy Communion to the sick, and assisting in the purification of vessels at Mass. This is his next step on his journey toward being ordained a priest for the Diocese of Owensboro. Grief belongs to St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah. On March 11, 2021, Diocese of Owensboro seminarian, Deacon Corey D. Bruns, made his priesthood promises with 15 other fourth theology seminarians at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Deacon Bruns, who belongs to St. Ann Parish in Morganfield, will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro on May 22, 2021. ■



COURTESY OF DEACON COREY D. BRUNS
Christopher E. Grief and Zachary Halloran (a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Mobile) are instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on Feb. 19, 2021, at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.



COURTESY OF KRISTA HALL
Deacon Corey D. Bruns makes his priesthood promises on March 11, 2021 at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Continued from page 22

Ray & Patty Hamilton, 55
B. L. & Betty Coomes, 53
Roger & Brenda Hagan, 52
Wayne & Doris Rhodes, 51
Emett & Melissa Barnett, 25
Mark & Christine Westerfield, 25
Shawn & Debbie Aud, 10
Jesse & Ashley Roberts, 5

St. Michael, Sebree

Thomas & Pamela McCarty, 50

St. Paul, Princeton

Herman & Beth Berton, 60

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Johnny & Teresa Wolfe, 5
Fred & Phyllis Crowdus, 51

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Jim & Rose Drury, 62
Brandon & Nicki Doughty, 10

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Bernard & Elsie Galloway, 57
John & Wanda Williams, 65
Charles & Lois Hoskins, 57
Alan & Shirley Howard, 62

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

John & Helen O'Reilly, 62
Jimmy & Dorothy Payne, 51
Carl & Thelma Jarboe, 60
Jerry & Pat Sturgeon, 52
Michael & Tracy Flood, 25

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Tommy & Barbara Smith, 52

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Ralph & Judy Ward, 60

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Kenneth & Barbra Powers, 56
Richard & Judith Strubin, 54
John & Paula Hall, 56
Paul & Dawn Cunningham, 61

Clifford & Helen Romain, 52
Robert & Alyce Chmielewski, 58

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Fred & Faye Whelan, 66
Archie, Jr. & Angela Clark, 66
Anthony & Mary Alice Higdon, 69
Charles W. & Mary Ann Medley, 51

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Will & Lana Edwards, 10
Joseph & Joyce Sabo, 40
Louis & Diana Durbin, 50
Jim & Mary Bumpous, 57
Steve & Earline Wurth, 57
Bill & Linda Adams, 56
Martin & Valerie Amundson, 51

St. William, Knottsville

Kenneth & Carolyn Berry, 10
Ralph & Donna Scott, 40
Bruce & Sandy Whitehouse, 51
Robert & Clara Brown, 56

Tony & Mary Helen Rhodes, 60
Paul & Theresa Crowe, 59
Philip & Mary Ann Adams, 58

St. William of Vercelli, Marion

Jack & Debbie Mason, 53
Aaron & Dawn Summers, 25

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Charles & Carolyn Spurr, 10
James & Kelly King, 25
Michael & Marilyn Stocker, 56
Clifford & Carol Simpson, 60
Billy & Harriette Hancock, 66

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Ben & Amanda Howard, 5
Jesse & Katie Scott, 10
Joe & Dianne Birkhead, 25
John & Esther Blandford, 51
Darrell & Lois Hood, 61
Paul & Joyce Lambert, 57

24th Annual
YOUTH 2000
 A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat
 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY
 CAMPUS CENTER
July 17-18, 2021
 Ages 13-30
 (270) 683-1545
owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000

John 6:51
**"I am the living bread
 that has come down
 from heaven."**



Diocesan youth ministry office will not lead a NCYC 2021 delegation

BY WKC STAFF

After much conversation and discernment with Bishop William F. Medley and other diocesan leadership, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has decided not to lead a diocesan delegation to NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) 2021 in Indianapolis on Nov. 18-20.

"There are too many unknowns regarding guidelines for travel and lodging at this time for us to begin making financial commitments for charter buses and hotels," said Charlie Hardesty, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, in a Feb. 23 announcement.

However, the Diocese of Owensboro plans to lead a delegation and travel for NCYC 2023 and to host the local ODYC (Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference) 2022.

Hardesty said that he and Robin Tomes, administrative assistant for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, can be contacted at charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org or robin.tomes@pastoral.org with any questions or concerns. The full statement from Hardesty may be accessed at <https://owensborodiocese.org/2021/02/23/ncyc-2021-announcement>.

More information about NCYC 2021 may also be found at <https://nfcym.org/featured-events/ncyc>. ■



Curious?
Discover the Joy of Being Loved by God!

"Come and See" Virtual Gathering
Saturday, April 10, 2021

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite single Catholic women ages 18-40 to a virtual "Come and See" experience. Join us online from **6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CDT** to learn more about our creative, contemplative response to the needs of God's people. A Zoom link will be sent to you after you register.

For more information or to sign up, contact Sister Monica Seaton
 270-229-0601 or monica.seaton@maplemount.org



Ursuline Sisters
 of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road,
 Maple Mount, KY
www.ursulinesmsj.org



A glimpse of holy ground: Brochures of Mount Saint Joseph

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

Mount Saint Joseph is one of the most cherished institutions in the Diocese of Owensboro. With generations of Catholic children being taught by Ursuline Sisters and numerous schools being raised by them, one would be hard pressed to find a Catholic in the area that has not been affected by the reach of the Ursuline Motherhouse. So, with access to the Mount becoming more available, and with the year of its namesake, St. Joseph, being declared, let us turn our attention to some archived items from the Mount.

These brochures are the first look that many young women had at Mount Saint Joseph. They were designed with visual appeal in mind and their primary function was to help prospective young ladies discern a call to a religious vocation.

The pamphlets make no effort to deceive the reader. It is made quite clear that the life of an Ursuline is rigorous. The vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as well as a focus on instruction of the youth, are stated to be at the very core of what it is to live as an Ursuline Sister. Though the brochures do assure the young women that a deep sense of community is to be found at the Mount, it stresses the importance of prayer, work, and study.

The pamphlets, once used to assist in the discernment of a religious vocation, now stand as a testament to the truly awe-inspiring faith and sense of service of the women that entered the convent and went on to earn the title of Ursuline. Included in one of the brochures is a schedule that details the daily activities of a sister, novice or postulant at the Mount. The schedule has a detailed hour by hour description of the young woman's duties throughout the day, starting with rising at 5 a.m. and finishing with lights out at 10 p.m. One section of the booklet goes into detail about the true extent of the vows of poverty, obedience, and chastity that the sisters take. The section notes all of a sister's temporary possessions are subject to disposal, if deemed by a lawful superior. Stating that "even a box of candy from home," is not to be had unless permitted by a superior.

The brochures are not dated but it can be assumed that they are pre-Vatican II, or shortly thereafter, based on the style of the habits, as well as the depiction of ceremonies that ceased to be practiced in the years following



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Pictured are four brochures of Mount Saint Joseph. These were designed to help perspective young women attain a deeper understanding of the Ursuline order and discern a calling to religious life.

the Second Vatican Council.

There is a wealth of information in these brochures. But perhaps the most valuable thing that can be gleaned from them is the deep appreciation that we, as a diocese, should have for the Ursuline Sisters. Each woman who has the honor of that title has endeavored to totally dedicate her life to Christ and his flock. May we truly appreciate the great blessing that God has bestowed upon us in that holy place located in Maple Mount, Kentucky. ■

Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Archives and the Archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Comments and questions may be sent to edward.wilson@pastoral.org.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

La pandemia no ha terminado, ¡pero conocemos la Buena Nueva que tiene la última palabra!

Todos probablemente puedan responder a la pregunta de cuál fue el mayor sacrificio que han experimentado en el último año de la pandemia.

Ha habido crisis económicas desafiantes y tensiones cuando la economía prácticamente colapsó y decenas de millones buscaron subsidios por desempleo. Aunque los niveles de desempleo han vuelto ahora a niveles más normativos, incluso muchos de aquellos que volvieron a trabajar han experimentado un aumento de la deuda y facturas no pagadas. Los propietarios de negocios que fueron cerrados temporalmente vieron cesar los ingresos mientras se mantuvieron los gastos.

La suspensión de las escuelas durante meses dejó a los administradores, maestros, padres y estudiantes luchando por crear nuevas posibilidades para el aprendizaje remoto en línea. Muchas cosas buenas surgieron a través de la colaboración y el trabajo en conjunto, pero puede tomar un tiempo largo para evaluar cómo las cuarentenas y restricciones han afectado el aprendizaje. Sospecho que descubriremos tanto el bien como el mal.

Sin embargo, una cosa está clara: se han alterado las relaciones humanas.

Las relaciones humanas se han alterado para todos. Algunos abuelos y familiares no se han reunido durante meses debido a una preocupación genuina por el bienestar mutuo. Se han perdido experiencias familiares preciosas y formativas. Ciertamente, estos pueden y se están restaurando incluso ahora, pero no se puede recuperar una fiesta de cumplir cuatro

años; no se puede recuperar la boda de sus sueños; no se puede recuperar el consuelo de estar con un familiar o amigo moribundo; no se puede recuperar el apoyo y la interacción que siente una familia cuando se reúnen en el duelo.

He escuchado a muchos hablar de la pérdida de presencia en la Misa como un sacrificio crítico. Es inimaginable que algunas personas que nunca habían faltado a Misa los domingos en sus vidas ahora hayan pasado un año sin poder estar en la iglesia. Oh, sí, gracias a Dios por las Misas transmitidas en vivo. Pero es igual. Y para aquellos que han regresado a la Misa, las restricciones necesarias de distanciamiento, uso de mascarillas y limitación de las interacciones sociales con otros asistentes a la iglesia nos han robado algunas de nuestras bendiciones.

Creo que hablo en nombre de la mayoría de los sacerdotes al reconocer el vacío que sentimos al celebrar las Misas en privado, una experiencia destinada a ser comunitaria. Oh, sí, la Misa y las gracias que proporciona son constantes y no dependen de cuán grande sea la asamblea. Pero somos humanos y los elementos muy importantes de la reacción interpersonal impactan nuestras experiencias.

El año pasado, nuestras primeras experiencias con la transmisión en vivo en la Catedral de San Esteban se produjeron durante la Semana Santa. Mirar hacia una iglesia vacía donde un solo operador de cámara estaba presente para decir "Y con tu espíritu" fue inquietante. A medida que pasaba el tiempo y recibíamos comentarios de que la gente apreciaba las

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ABRIL DE 2021:

Tengan en cuenta: El siguiente calendario es tentativo debido a las circunstancias de la pandemia del COVID-19.

	9:25 a.m. Conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
15 DE ABRIL	3 p.m. Reunión por Zoom con sacerdotes de la Diócesis
17 DE ABRIL	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm
18 DE ABRIL	2 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal
19 DE ABRIL	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal
	6 p.m. Servicio de oración para la prevención del abuso infantil – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
20 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santísima Madre, Owensboro
21 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana – Centro Católico McRaith
22 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
24 DE ABRIL	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Ana, Morganfield
	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
25 DE ABRIL	4 p.m. Dedicación del Altar y Bendición de la Iglesia Renovada – Parroquia San Pío X, Owensboro
	10 a.m. Misa & Conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah
27 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pedro de Antioquía, Waverly
29 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquias San Guillermo y San Lorenzo, Knottsville

Misas transmitidas en vivo, nuestras acciones tenían más sentido. Claro, todos sabíamos que la Misa era válida y apropiada, pero era radicalmente diferente de lo que estábamos acostumbrados y de lo que debería ser.

Continúa en la página 27

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Incluso con una ocupación reducida, la capacidad de volver a dar culto en persona marca la diferencia en el mundo tanto para los sacerdotes como para la congregación. Sin embargo, los protocolos han cambiado nuestras experiencias: la Misa ciertamente no es un festival para ir a platicar, pero imagínense lo que significa no haber visto la sonrisa de un amigo o vecino durante un año.

Al celebrar la Pascua y la Resurrección del Señor, recordamos la profunda verdad de nuestra fe: Nuestro Dios saca cosas buenas del mal. La crucifixión y la muerte de Jesús fueron malas, como lo es la muerte de cualquier inocente. Sin embargo, cuando Cristo resucitó de entre los muertos, se ejemplificó la Buena Nueva (el Evangelio) de todos los tiempos.

El pecado, la maldad, la enfermedad, el sufrimiento y la muerte nunca pueden tener la última palabra. El triunfo de Dios en Jesucristo y nuestra salvación será el último capítulo de nuestra vida y de toda la historia.

La pandemia no ha terminado. Todavía quedan sacrificios y pérdidas por experimentar y contar. Pero como un libro que podríamos haber leído una y otra vez o una película que hemos visto incontables veces, ya conocemos el final.

Incluso ahora, tal vez podamos mirar profundamente estos últimos meses y comenzar a nombrar algunas de las bendiciones que han llegado. Quizás las familias se aprecien más unas a otras. Quizás podamos apreciar nuestra seguridad económica, o apre-

ciar cómo otros nos han ayudado a superar nuestra inseguridad económica. He escuchado a estudiantes decir que no se quejarán de ir a la escuela nuevamente. (¡Ese a lo mejor no durará!)

Con un espíritu de fe y confianza, ¿podríamos considerar ahora algunas resoluciones pospandémicas que afirmen nuestra fe en la resurrección y la promesa de que Dios puede sacar cosas buenas del mal? ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Nombramientos Sacerdotales de la Diócesis de Owensboro para 2021

Efectivo el 8 de junio de 2021

Párroco

Buckman, Rev. Thomas: Párroco, Parroquia Santa María en Franklin y la Parroquia Cristo Rey en Scottsville.

Kulathumkal, Rev. Babu: Párroco, Parroquia San Pío X en Owensboro.

McCarty, Rev. Joshua: Párroco, Parroquia San Leo en Murray. Capellán y Director del Centro Católico Newman, Murray State University.

Thomas, Rev. Shaiju: Párroco, Parroquia San Antonio en Axtel y Parroquia Santa María del Bosque en McQuady.

Thompson, Rev. William: Párroco, Parroquia San José en Central City. Continuando con el ministerio en el Tribunal Matrimonial Diocesano.

Vadakumkara, Rev. Shijo: Párroco, Parroquia San Guillermo en Knottsville y Parroquia San Lorenzo en Philpot.

Valomchalil, Rev. Augusty: Párroco, Parroquia Santa María Magdalena en Sorgho.

Williams, Rev. Brandon: Párroco, Parroquia San Antonio en Peonia, Parroquia San Agustín en Grayson Springs y Parroquia San Benito en Wax. Continuando como Co-Director de la Oficina de Culto.

Vicario parroquial

Abiero, Rev. Michael Charles: Vicario parroquial, Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro.

Az Cuc, Rev. Basilio: Vicario parroquial, Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah.

Bremer, Rev. Al: Vicario parroquial, Parroquia Sagrado Corazón en Russellville y ministro sacramental en la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís en Guthrie.

Bruns, Deacon Corey: Vicario parroquial, Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.

Dillard, Rev. Daniel: Vicario parroquial, Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, capellán de la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro y Director de vocaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Pynadath, Rev. Sinoj: Vicario parroquial, Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo en Hopkinsville.

Williams, Rev. Mike: Vicario parroquial, Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, Capellán de la Universidad de Brescia.

Otros

McClure, Rev. Jason: Capellán y Director del Centro Newman de Santo Tomás Aquino, Bowling Green, Kentucky y ministerio en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper mientras continúa como Vicario del Clero

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

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. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor de edad o conducta inapropiada relacionada por parte de algún obispo, visite <https://reportbishopabuse.org/?lang=es> o llame al 1-800-276-1562.

Christopher Grief instituido en el Ministerio de Acólito



POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 18 de febrero de 2021, el seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro, Christopher Grief, de segundo año de teología, fue instituido en el Ministerio de Acólito en una Misa celebrada en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad en St. Meinrad, Indiana. Ahora se encargará de ayudar en la Misa, llevar la Sagrada Comunión a los enfermos y ayudar en la purificación de los vasos sagrados en la Misa. Este es su próximo paso en su camino hacia la ordenación sacerdotal de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Grief pertenece a la Parroquia San Juan Evangelista en Paducah. ■

FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO COREY D. BRUNS

Christopher E. Grief y Zachary Halloran (un seminarista de la Arquidiócesis de Mobile) son instituidos en el Ministerio de Acólito por el P. Denis Robinson, OSB, el 19 de febrero de 2021, en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad.

El Diácono Corey D. Bruns hace promesas sacerdotales

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 11 de marzo de 2021, el seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro, Diácono Corey D. Bruns, hizo sus promesas sacerdotales con otros 15 seminaristas del cuarto año de teología en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad en St. Meinrad, Indiana. El Diácono Bruns será ordenado sacerdote de la Diócesis de Owensboro el 22 de mayo de 2021. ■

FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE KRISTA HALL
El Diácono Corey D. Bruns toma sus promesas del sacerdocio el 11 de marzo de 2021.



Varias actualizaciones importantes sobre la inmigración

1. Actualización de DACA: USCIS ahora procesará nuevas solicitudes de DACA (Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia): los niños que llegaron el 15 de junio de 2007 o antes y que llegaron antes de cumplir los 16 años son elegibles para presentar una solicitud, pero deben tener 15 años o más para presentar la solicitud. A estos solicitantes se les había prohibido presentar una solicitud durante los últimos cuatro años, por lo que todos los adolescentes que cumplieron 15 años desde aproximadamente 2016 no habían podido presentar una solicitud y ahora pueden, y deben, presentar una solicitud.
2. 2) Actualización de TPS: Los venezolanos han sido agregados al Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS por sus siglas en inglés) y tienen entre el 9 de marzo y el 5 de septiembre para inscribirse mediante una solicitud. Las personas inscritas en TPS reciben permisos de trabajo y tarjetas de seguridad social. Para aquellos que ya tienen tarjetas de residencia o que son ciudadanos, el TPS no es necesario, pero puede ser útil para las personas cuyo estatus temporal está por vencer, aquellos que no tienen estatus o algo similar.

¡Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro pueden ayudar con las solicitudes de DACA y TPS! Comuníquense con Susan Montalvo-Gesser al (270) 852-8328 o susan.gesser@pastoral.org.

'Buscar ayuda es una señal de ser fuerte'

Los terapeutas ayudan a las personas a tener esperanza y éxito en la vida

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE IRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Iris Gutiérrez, MSW, LCSW, es una terapeuta católica de Lexington, originaria de Argentina, que ahora ofrece servicios de terapia a los hispanohablantes en la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Iris Gutiérrez, consejera católica de habla hispana en Lexington, Kentucky, se unió recientemente al Programa de Asistencia de Consejería (CAP por sus siglas en inglés) que ofrece Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro. A través de este programa, Caridades Católicas colabora con varios consejeros

en todo el oeste de Kentucky que ofrecen sus servicios a un precio reducido para los feligreses de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Iris habló recientemente con El Católico de Kentucky Occidental sobre los beneficios del asesoramiento para cuidar la salud mental.

Lo siguiente es una versión editada de un correo electrónico y una entrevista telefónica.

¿Por qué la gente no debería avergonzarse de acudir a un terapeuta?

Iris: Desde la perspectiva de la Iglesia Católica, debemos cuidar nuestro cuerpo y nuestra mente. La

gente no debe tener miedo de acudir a un terapeuta. Buscar ayuda es una señal de fortaleza y tiene un impacto positivo en el autocuidado al aprender las herramientas para mejorar la calidad de vida. La ayuda profesional ayuda a cuidar mejor de uno mismo y de la relación con los seres queridos.

Si alguien tiene problemas con su salud mental, ¿significa eso que no confía lo suficiente en Dios?

Iris: No se trata de no confiar en Dios, sino de que uno puede necesitar ayuda profesional. La ayuda espiritual y la ayuda profesional son dos cosas diferentes, pero pueden ir de la mano. Es una persona completa.

¿Qué problemas de salud mental afectan habitualmente a la comunidad latina?

Iris: Las comunidades latinas en general pueden ser más propensas a experimentar estos problemas de salud mental: La adaptación a una cultura diferente, los cambios en la dinámica familiar y el escaso apoyo social. Todo ello podría aumentar los niveles de estrés y afectar al funcionamiento. El aislamiento y la barrera del idioma también podrían afectar. Podría haber un aumento de la ansiedad, la depresión y la dependencia del alcohol (para hacer frente al estrés), lo que podría dar lugar a problemas legales/financieros. Y, a veces, cambios en la situación socioeconómica. No significa que todo el mundo vaya a sufrírselos, pero puede aumentar el riesgo de sufrir enfermedades mentales. Yo inmigré de Argentina, así que puedo entender los problemas y los valores que experimenta la comunidad latina.

Si alguien pide cita para ver a un terapeuta, ¿qué debe esperar de la experiencia?

Iris: Cuando alguien pide una cita para ver a un terapeuta, debe esperar una conversación sin prejuicios, respetuosa y confidencial para crear una relación, confianza y comprometerse con un tratamiento que podría abordar sus propias necesidades en función de sus capacidades e intereses. El propósito de la terapia es sanar a la persona utilizando un tratamiento basado en la evidencia, a veces con medica-



LIGHTSTOCK

Una adolescente triste sentada sola.

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mentos. El objetivo principal debe ser construir la esperanza y tener éxito en la vida. Soy terapeuta desde hace 30 años y sirvo en Kentucky desde hace 21 años. Tengo algunos clientes que hablan inglés, pero como he visto pocos recursos de salud mental para los latinos en esta región, la mayoría de mis clientes hablan español debido a la conexión humana en su lengua materna.

¿Cómo podemos ayudar a un ser querido que sufre una enfermedad mental?

Iris: Podemos ayudar a un ser querido con una enfermedad mental mediante un diálogo honesto y abierto sobre sus preocupaciones y ayudando a esa persona a hacer una cita. Nunca hay que despreciar sus opiniones y prestar mucha atención a los cambios que puedan producirse en diferentes ámbitos, desde la escuela, el trabajo y las relaciones, hasta las cuestiones financieras y legales. Según Mayo Clinic [la Clínica Mayo], las enfermedades mentales pueden provocar enfermedades corporales. Si alguien corre el riesgo de autolesionarse o de dañar a otros, llame inmediatamente al 911. ■

Terapeutas de habla hispana

Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro ofrece un programa único de asistencia de consejería llamado CAP (por sus siglas en inglés). A través del programa CAP, Caridades Católicas colabora con varios consejeros en todo el oeste de Kentucky que ofrecen sus servicios a una tarifa reducida para los feligreses de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Caridades Católicas y muchas parroquias complementan esta tasa de descuento para un máximo de 6 sesiones de asesoramiento. Cada terapeuta en el programa CAP se compromete a practicar dentro de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia Católica y está calificado para ofrecer asesoramiento para los individuos, parejas y/o problemas de la familia. Aprendan más en owensborodiocese.org/servicios-de-consejeria/.

Henderson

Rogelio Silva, M.D.
(Habla inglés y español)
Psicólogo con licencia
Dr. Silva & Associates PSC
1413 N. Elm St., Suite 205
Henderson, KY 42420
270-827-5469

Lexington

Iris Gutiérrez, MSW, LCSW
(Habla inglés y español)
Especialista en Salud Mental
Disponible a través de teleterapia
y terapia presencial.
859-469-0133
gutierreztherapy@gmail.com

Murray

Joy Navan, M.A., LPA
(Habla inglés y español)
Amend Psychological Services, PSC
877-732-8683 o 859-269-6465
*Sólo disponible a través de teleterapia.

Oraciones ofrecidas por el pueblo de Myanmar/Birmania durante la inestabilidad política

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 5 de marzo de 2021, el Obispo William F. Medley emitió una declaración sobre la inestabilidad política y social en el país de Myanmar, también conocido como Birmania. El país ha estado en crisis desde el golpe militar del 1 de febrero que derrocó al gobierno electo y arrestó a su líder, Aung San Suu Kyi. Desde entonces, decenas de manifestantes antigolpistas han muerto en una violenta

represión por las fuerzas de seguridad.

El Obispo Medley dijo que la Diócesis de Owensboro está “enriquecida por la presencia” de los inmigrantes y refugiados de este país y extendió su oración de consuelo por aquellos que temen por la seguridad de sus seres queridos en Myanmar.

“En solidaridad con el pueblo de Myanmar, deseo unir mi voz a las del Santo Padre y los obispos locales para asegurar oraciones por una resolución pacífica del conflicto”, dijo el Obispo Medley.

El P. Stephen Van Lal Than, un sacerdote de la Diócesis de Owensboro y el primer sacerdote nacido en Myanmar en ser ordenado al sacerdocio en los Estados Unidos, instó a los católicos a orar por la “seguridad de la gente en Myanmar y por la conversión de estos dictadores obsesionados por el poder”.

“Hay poder en la oración; es tan poderoso cuando estamos unidos en oración y nos apoyamos unos a otros”, comentó. ■

Seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling ordenado al diaconado el 20 de marzo

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 20 de marzo de 2021, Martin Ma Na Ling, el seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro, fue ordenado al diaconado transitorio por el Obispo William F. Medley en la Parroquia Santo Espíritu en Bowling Green.

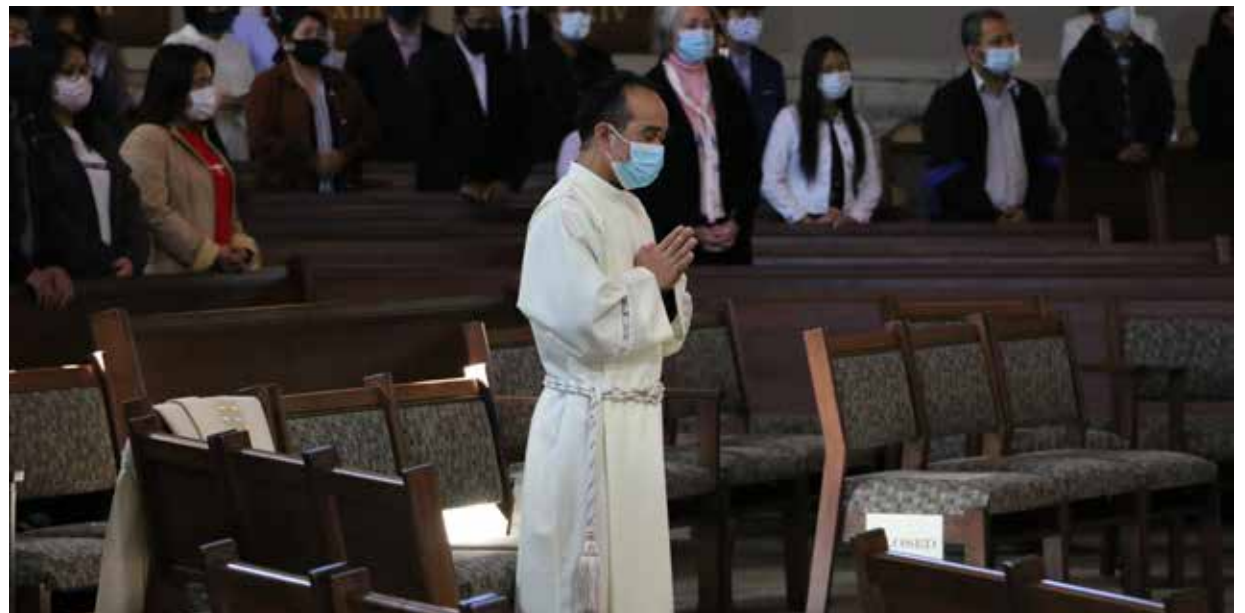
La Misa fue solo por invitación debido a las pausas de la pandemia del COVID-19, pero se transmitió en vivo en la página de Facebook de la Parroquia Espíritu Santo.

En 2017, el Diácono Ling llegó a estudiar para el sacerdocio en la Diócesis de Owensboro con el P. Stephen Van Lal Than, quien fue ordenado sacerdote en 2020. Fueron enviados por el Obispo Lucius Hre Kung de la Diócesis de Hakha, Myanmar (Birmania), para servir a la creciente población de ciudadanos de Myanmar que viven en el oeste de Kentucky.

Según el conocimiento de la diócesis, el Diácono Ling es solo el segundo seminarista nacido en Myanmar en ser ordenado en los Estados Unidos. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
El Diácono Martin Ma Na Ling.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling inclina la cabeza en oración durante su misa de ordenación al diaconado del 20 de marzo de 2021 en la parroquia del Espíritu Santo en Bowling Green.