

THE WESTERN
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Following the call of Jesus

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Kathy Rasp holds a framed image of the Holy Family, given to her by the staff of the McRaith Catholic Center at her farewell Mass and reception on Oct. 31, 2016.

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To submit stories and articles

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. The Western Kentucky Catholic will take reader-submitted content into consideration but no submissions are guaranteed placement, due to space restrictions.

Article guidelines: The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider your articles within a 500-word limit pertaining to issues and events within our diocese. **Photo guidelines:** The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider your high-resolution digital photos showing special moments and memories from within our diocese. Photos must be a JPEG format (ending in ".jpg") and sent via email. A photo description, date, and name of photographer must be included. Please email your articles or photos to wkc.editor@pastoral.org by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.

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Please politely indicate any factual errors in this publication by emailing wkc.editor@pastoral.org.

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A Word from Bishop Medley

My dear people of God,

Many may remember “back in the day” when Christmas decorations were unlikely to be seen until at most just a few days before Christmas. The Thanksgiving Day Macy’s Christmas Parade marked the beginning of the holiday season.

Well, now of course our neighborhoods are ablaze with lights and wreaths and Santa Clauses and reindeer and snowmen by Thanksgiving weekend at the latest. Many wonder why our Catholic Churches have not caught on to this cultural phenomenon. Why are the wreaths not on the doors, the trees lighted and the manger all in place by the first of December?

I am not interested in scolding anyone about when they decorate their homes and businesses, but at the same time want to remind us that our church can still be the one oasis where we can wait for Christmas. Remember the Christmas packages that sometimes had a sticker: Do not open until December 25th?

Perhaps to best experience the marvelous gift of Christmas, there are still some things we should not open too soon. The Gospel of Luke presents most of the stories we associate with the Christmas scene: the census of the whole world that sent Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem even as “the time came for her to have her child,” no room in the inn, a baby in swaddling clothes, shepherds keeping watch, and angels singing on high.

All of these heartwarming visions (though giving birth where animals were kept was probably not so exciting the first time around) are told us in the second chapter of Luke’s Gospel. If we fast forward to chapter two, we have missed part of the good news and overlooked characters God chose to have unfold to us his mystery.

Luke begins by recalling the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist. Zechariah and Elizabeth were a couple well beyond the age that one would expect them to have a baby. Yet God surprised them and showed that all things are possible, yet not before Zechariah was left mute for his disbelief and Elizabeth probably a laughing stock of the village. Imagine a stooped old woman about to have a baby.

If we skip to where the story takes up in Bethlehem, we miss the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel came to Nazareth to tell a young girl that she would have a baby and his name would be Jesus. And if an old woman might be ridiculed for bearing a child, all the more for an unmarried teenager.

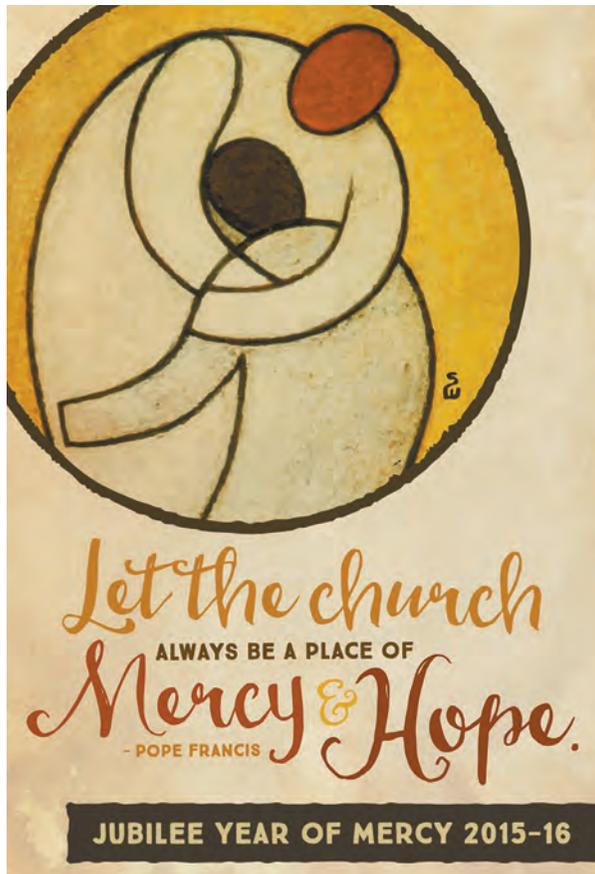
Imagine Mary fleeing Nazareth to go and be with her cousin, Elizabeth. Perhaps both were seeking comfort from scorn. One of my favorite lines and images from the meeting of Elizabeth and Mary is the detail that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting “the infant leaped in her womb for joy.” I can only guess that this image is far more vivid for any woman who has

BISHOP MEDLEY’S CALENDAR DECEMBER 2016

- DEC 4** 8:00 a.m. Mass with Cursillo Leadership Team – Mount St. Joseph
- DEC 5** 8:00 a.m. School Mass – St. Paul School, Grayson County
- DEC 7** 10:00 a.m. Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting – Louisville, KY
- DEC 8** 9:00 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus
1:30 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi Church Groundbreaking – Elkton
- DEC 12** 10:30 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic High School
- DEC 13** 9:00 a.m. Staff Mass – McRaith Catholic Center MCC
5:00 p.m. Dinner and Advent Lessons – Mount St. Joseph
- DEC 14** 8:45 a.m. Staff Mass and Meeting – MCC
- DEC 17** 11:00 a.m. Rite of Candidacy for the Permanent Deacons – St. Stephen Cathedral
- DEC 19** 10:00 a.m. Priest Personnel Board Meeting – MCC
1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – MCC
- DEC 20** 5:00 p.m. Gathering with Diocesan Seminarians
- DEC 21** 8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC
- DEC 24** 11:00 p.m. Christmas Midnight Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral
- DEC 27** 10-3:00 p.m. Paducah Office Hours

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Continued from page 3

ever born a child and experienced its movement within her. I would guess that sometimes such movement is reassuring, and at other times unsettling and even terrifying. Perhaps if we ponder these pre-Christmas Gospel stories we can even reinforce the message that any child in the womb is a child of God and a child that can experience the joy of love.

May I commend two biblical prayers for our Advent reflection? The first is the Magnificat, the Cantic of Mary (Luke 1:46 - 55), "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord..." and the second the Cantic of Zechariah (Luke 1: 67 - 79), also called the Benedictus, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited his people..."

Pray these ancient prayers several times during Advent and THEN be ready for chapter two in Luke.

Perhaps amidst our lighted trees, Santa Claus, elves and reindeer, our homes have a manger scene. Put it in a prominent place, especially visible to children and little ones. But maybe one figure can be held back. Maybe the Baby Jesus can come to the manger when the family comes home from Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass. Something still to open on December 25th.

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Beyond the Year of Mercy

Have you, your family, or parish committed to spreading God's mercy in a special way after the Year of Mercy has ended? The Western Kentucky Catholic would love to learn your story. Contact us at wkc.editor@pastoral.org.

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'More loved that day than any other'

Annual Guadalupe celebrations remember Mary's 1531 apparition

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Every year on December 12, in the frosty hours before dawn, Latino Catholics gather at church for a giant celebration that may include traditional dances, special Marian hymns called "Mañanitas," solemn Masses, processions, rosaries and fiestas.

December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and marks the 1531 apparitions of Mary to an indigenous man, and subsequent mass conversions to Catholicism in Mexico.

It is a significant feast day for Latinos everywhere, including those within the Diocese of Owensboro.

This annual feast "began with the tremendous privilege granted to the indigenous people when Mary appeared to Juan Diego," said Sister Fran Wilhelm, OSU, director of Centro Latino, an Owensboro-based resource center for local Hispanics and

Latinos.

Sister Wilhelm explained that Juan Diego – who was canonized a saint in 2002 – was a convert to Catholicism following the arrival of the Spanish missionaries to Mexico. This apparition was special to the indigenous people as Mary appeared as a "mestizo," or person of combined Mexican and Spanish ancestry.

Most notable in the Guadalupe narrative was Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, upon which miraculously appeared an image of Our Lady – and has remained preserved in the nearly 500 years since the events.

"As people heard of what happened at the hill of Tepeyac, they began to celebrate and make pilgrimages to where Mary stood on earth," said Sister Wilhelm, adding that this apparition formed the Mexican peoples' sense of Mary as their mother.

She said that starting the celebrations as early as possible, despite sleepiness or cold, connects to the deep love for Our Lady of Guadalupe: "There is something with the Latino person, that what is physically more difficult gives more spiritual honor."

"They seem to feel more loved that day than any other in the year," said Sister Wilhelm. She said it is traditional to decorate part of the church with the Guadalupe image, flowers and candles, and sing the beloved "Mañanitas" hymns.

Sister Wilhelm said that when participating in



A mariachi band member stands by the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam in this 2015 photo. WKC file photo.



Guadalupe celebrations

For this year's schedule of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations in the Diocese of Owensboro, see page 14.

the celebrations, "it's something that grabs your deep down sense of the sacred more than anything else."

"Mary's choice of Juan Diego, who was uneducated, emphasizes the fact that she came to one of the lowest as far as the eyes of society are concerned," said Sister Wilhelm. "It said to (us) that everyone is exceedingly important."

Sister Wilhelm added that her favorite phrase spoken by Our Lady to Juan Diego is, "Am I not here, I who am your mother?"

"It grabs my heart every time," said Sister Wilhelm.



A little boy is one of the many people celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson in this 2015 photo. Photo courtesy of Susana Solorza.

Helping, serving and showing Christ to everybody

Diocese says farewell to Kathy Rasp

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Oct. 31, 2016, staff of the McRaith Catholic Center said farewell to a good friend and coworker: Kathy Rasp, administrative assistant to Bishop William F. Medley.

Rasp will be joining her husband in Muskegon, Michigan, where he is the new president of Muskegon Catholic Central.

Bishop Medley celebrated a Mass thanking Kathy for her dedication, complete with a packed chapel and music led by diocese music director Mike Bogdan and seminarian Corey Bruns.

The day's Mass readings were Philippians 2:1-4, which included the advice to "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also everyone for those of others."

Bishop Medley said in his homily that "if there were a scripture passage that speaks to Kathy Rasp, this is it. I think all of us who worked with her would make this observation."

Running the bishop's office

When Rasp first learned of the opening for an administrative assistant to newly-installed Bishop William F. Medley in 2010, she thought, "I'd love to do that."

Then she received a call from diocese chancellor Kevin Kauffeld - suggesting that she apply to the position.

Rasp was uncertain, but her husband, Ken, encouraged her, "Kathy, you run our house; you can run the bishop's office."

"I arrived on April 12," Rasp told The Western Kentucky Catholic.

For more than six years she "ran" the Office of the Bishop, which included anything from accompanying the bishop to meetings, answering all calls to his office, scheduling his busy calendar, and helping plan and set up diocesan events both large and small.

"She put a very good face and voice on my office



Kathy Rasp and Bishop Medley at VOCARE 2016 back in September. Photo by Laura Clarke/Office of Communications.

because anyone who spoke to me, spoke to her first," said Bishop Medley. "She has a great sense of what the Church's mission is."

He said that he will miss her "witnessing kindness" the most.

VOCARE

Dr. Fred Litke, associate director of the diocese's Office of Vocations, credits Rasp for the launch and success of VOCARE, the diocese's annual celebration and fundraiser for vocations.

VOCARE's first year was 2014, and Dr. Litke knew the project required much work to get off the ground.

"I said, I'm going to need help, and (Bishop Medley) said, 'why don't you ask Kathy Rasp?'" said Dr. Litke.



Kathy Rasp rides the zipline at staff day at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center on Oct. 31, 2011. WKC file photo.

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Dr. Litke said that Rasp is very “efficient and organized.”

“Because of her phenomenal ability to organize and keep a schedule straight, she was instrumental in kicking it off that first year,” he said, adding that she was an “integral part” in VOCARE’s success.

A great friend

Louanne Payne, director of the tribunal in the Diocese of Owensboro, said that two words come to mind when thinking of Rasp: “an inspiration.”

“Her witness to our faith, her dedication to service and her love of family have inspired me to be a better person,” said Payne, who added that she and Rasp “became fast friends.”

“She will truly be missed by me personally as well as by the MCC family,” said Payne.

Rasp said she loved being able to serve everybody, and also gain “many, many good friendships.”

“I truly felt able to serve not just the bishop, but the priests and the diocesan offices,” she said. “Just to be able to help and serve and show Christ to everybody.”



Kathy Rasp hugs her son Sam Rasp at VOCARE 2016 as the participants applaud her for her dedication to the vocations celebration. Photo by Laura Clarke/Office of Communications.

Martha Hagan becomes vice-chancellor, administrative assistant to Bishop Medley

Over the summer it was announced that Martha Hagan, co-director of the Office of Worship in the Diocese of Owensboro, had accepted the twofold role of vice-chancellor and administrative assistant to Bishop William F. Medley.

Outgoing administrative assistant Kathy Rasp said, “Martha has a servant’s heart. She will do a beautiful job.”

Hagan said that while her title has changed, “I am blessed and very grateful to continue serving the people and parishes I served in my role as co-director of the Office of Worship. That is the beauty of working in Church ministry.”

Hagan’s Office of Worship position will be filled by Sister Jeanne M. Wiest, OP, in January. Sister Wiest comes from Minnesota and is an Adrian Dominican Sister.

GREECE

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SAINT PAUL”

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Marriage enrichment retreat to be held March 2017 at Lake Barkley Lodge

Retreat to be grounded in John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body'

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

God calls married people to holiness - "by being able to find it in everyday life," says Mario Sacasa, who will lead a Catholic, diocesan-based retreat for married couples at Lake Barkley Lodge on March 25-26, 2017.

The retreat, titled "Living the Gift of Marriage," will begin on Saturday, March 25, at 8:30 a.m. and conclude on Sunday, March 26 at 11 a.m. It is hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Family Life.

Sacasa is a licensed marriage and family therapist and director of counseling services at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, and will focus the weekend retreat on practical applications of Pope St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body."

He said he will start by talking about the late pope's vision for human love and sexuality, and will discuss "steps and suggestions for how to get there."

Sacasa told The Western Kentucky Catholic that the retreat is for all married couples - those newly married and those married for decades.

He hopes the retreat will enrich the marriages of all who attend, whether they are going through some struggles or are simply seeking a boost to their relationship.

Sacasa has presented these types of retreats for many years, and said he has been humbled especially by the participating couples married 50-plus years:

"They are still working on their relationship, still thirsting and wishing to learn more about one another."

"They bring that openness," to the retreats, he said. "They have that hunger and drive to still love one another. They never take each other for granted."

As a therapist and as a Catholic, Sacasa said he has always viewed his calling as "integrating my Catholic faith and modern counseling practices."

And he speaks from his own experience: he has been married for 14 years and has four children.

"I'm excited for this opportunity to come to Kentucky and lead this retreat," he said. "It will be fun and hopefully we'll also grow closer to the Lord."



Pope John Paul II in August 1999. Photo credit: © L'Osservatore Romano.



Reserve your spots today

Overnight retreat "Living the Gift of Marriage" will be held at Lake Barkley State Resort Lodge, 3500 State Park Rd., Cadiz, KY, 42211. For more information, including two options for registration and payment, visit owensborodiocese.org/marriage-retreat or call the Office of Family Life at (270) 683-1545.

December Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Lois Wedding, 54
Ron & Greta Beals, 61
Nicholas & Brittany Johnson, 5

Christ the King, Madisonville

Gary & Donna Phillips, 40
Jack & Jean Watson, 40
Robert & Floy Daughety, 63
Sherrell & Jeannie Calhoun, 58

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Gene & Ruth Hazelwood, 53

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

John & Vickie Bush, 40
Spencer & Ruby Chappell, 60
David & Juanita Cheaney, 57
Forrest & Mary Meuth, 55
Robert & Betty Pritchett, 61
Clyde & Janice Sutton, 54
Robert & Carlene Williams, 55

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Joseph & Bernice Jakub, 55
William & Lynda Svano, 54
Larry & Anita Willoughby, 53
William & Sharon McKay, 52
H. Leon & Jane Brasher, 51
Jesse & Carmen Gentile, 25
Luke & Lesley Crider, 10
James & Kristen Supulski, 5

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Ryan & Bethani Curry, 5
Jerry & Linda Atwood, 50
Ellis & Sharon Russelburg, 50

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

John K. & Kay Steele, 55

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Otis & Judy Hicks, 53
Michael & Mary O'Herron, 10
Charles & Elizabeth Phillips, 25
Greg & Denise Richardson, 25

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jerry & Ellen Blandford, 59
Jessie & Theresa Lowe, 53

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Timothy & Crissie Conklin, 5
Erasmio & Gloria Gomez, 55

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Steven & Brandy Gough, 10
Alvin & Betty Lou Borup, 58
Brown & Willie Mae Foster, 57

Jerry & Carole Gough, 56
George & Martha Greenwell, 63
Jerry & Jeanette Lee, 53

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Chris & Joyce Kormelink, 52

St. Ann, Morganfield

Steve & Sandy Dyer, 40
Larry & Gail Brown, 56
Justin & Wilma Jean Wolfe, 53
John F. & Madonna Wyatt, 57

St. Charles, Bardwell

Daniel & Wanda Hayden, 52

St. Charles, Livermore

George & Carol Rhodes, 51

St. Columba, Lewisport

John & Christie Taylor, 5
Robert & Patty Durbin, 50

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Billy Joe & Donna Sue Burgess, 56

St. Edward, Fulton

Don & Rachel Cox, 63

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Bernard & Stella Payne, 51
Austin & Haley Moser, 5

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

James Altus & Wanda Higdon, 60

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

David & Edith Keeney, 57

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Thomas "Larry" & Delores Wilson, 50
Laddie & Judy Thomas, 51
Joseph W. & Ruth Ann Higdon, 61

St. John the Evangelist Paducah

John & Rudina Durbin, 40

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Don & Imogene Poston, 66
William & Joanne Powell, 57
John & Rita Riley, 53

St. Joseph, Central City

Don & Marlene Monaghan, 40
Rick & Gail Davenport, 40

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Hector & Maria Avila, 5
Danny & Rose Cook, 40
Sanford & Ernestine Sumner, 70
Leroy & Betty Dowdy, 61

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Jerry & Shirley Powers, 54

St. Leo, Murray

Andrew & Prisca Murrell, 10
Victor & Norma Rojas, 25
Paul & Barbara Sachse, 54
Phillip & Sarah Bryan, 55

St. Mary, LaCenter

David & Gladys Fraser, 57
Butch & Janie Rainer, 52

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Patricia & Mary Ann Wright, 50
David & Judy Connor, 52
Bud & Mildred Boardman, 72
Charles & Linda Payne, 54
Raymond & Emma Whistle, 64

St. Michael, Sebree

Joaquin & Maria Lara Hernandez, 5
Larry & Bonnie Brasher, 25

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Jimmie & Helen Clemons, 54
William L. & Edna Drake, 70
Byron & Megan Darst, 5

St. Paul, Princeton

Lewis & Debra Wurtman, 25

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Brandon & Caroline Fleischmann, 10
William & Sylvia Hamilton, 57

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Randall & Doris Priest, 55
Don & Sue Ford, 52
Paul & Anne O'Reilly, 50
Rob & Robin Cox, 40
Jeff & Tammy Fuqua, 5
Derrick & Brittany Henning, 10

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

David & Betty Abrams, 57
Larry & Patricia Hardison, 52

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Dan & Sue Gray, 40
Salvador & Irene Jaso, 65
Raymond & Roberta Ward, 58
Robert & Connie Wigger, 25

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Ron & Cindy Bornander, 40

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Steve & Vickie Rich, 25

Kevin & Angie Shannon, 25
Jean & Maria Charlot, 40
Thomas & Janet Montgomery, 61
Robert & Carol Crane, 63

St. William, Knottsville

Paul & Brenda Clemons, 52
Joseph & Minnie Payne, 54

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Marvin & Auda Wink, 51
Patrick & Jessica Sowders, 10

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Edwin & Kathleen Roeder, 65
Bill & Linda Harkins, 58
Gene & Franki Durbin, 55
Edward & Billie Todd, 40
John & Robin Bell, 25
Phillip & Marsha Garnett, 25
Thomas & Patrice Winters, 25

An Advent Evening

Presented by
Bishop William Medley

Tuesday,
December 13

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

\$20 (includes dinner)



Spend an evening with our bishop to
prepare for the coming of Christ.

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

ursulinesmsj.org



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After seeing nearly 500 pilgrims over Year of Mercy, Works of Mercy Chapel welcomes final group

BY J. PATRICK KERR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

At the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy on Nov. 20, the Works of Mercy Chapel at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah had welcomed nearly 500 pilgrims over the course of the Holy Year.

Several pilgrims came in groups and bus tours from other parishes throughout the diocese, while many more came in groups of two and four on their own.

St. Thomas More parishioner, Eileen Segebarth volunteered to serve as a hostess to larger groups traveling to the chapel for pilgrimages during the Year of Mercy.

"It has been a pleasure," said Segebarth. "We have had people from all over. We usually see groups of about 20 or 30. They all seem to appreciate the quiet here. There is a real sense of peace, not only in the chapel, but also in the Rosary Garden and the entire campus really."

The first organized pilgrimage tour was from St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. More than 50 parishioners of St. Pius X traveled that day to visit designated pilgrimage locations throughout the diocese.

Several smaller groups from parishes such as St. Michael the Archangel in Oak Grove, and St. Jerome's Youth Group from Fancy Farm also made the trip. Throughout the year, the chapel continued to welcome individuals, including several from outside the Commonwealth. Individual visitors included a couple from Kenosha, Wis.; a young man from

Plain City, Ohio; a couple from Bellefonte, Pa.; and a woman from Council Bluffs, Iowa.

During the last week of the Year of Mercy, Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds traveled with a group of about 50 pilgrims from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro, where he currently serves as pastor. How fitting that the last organized pilgrimage group be led by Fr. Reynolds, who was instrumental in building the Works of Mercy Chapel during his time as pastor at St. Thomas More.

Fr. Brad Whistle, the current pastor at St. Thomas More, said it was great to have Lourdes parishioners there.

"Of course, I was pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes before coming to St. Thomas More, and it was nice to see so many familiar faces," he said. "It is a very real reminder that we are one community."

Sherry Ashby from Lourdes had never been on a pilgrimage before.

"I just realized the whole year had gone by and I really wanted the Year of Mercy to be part of my life," said Ashby. "Since my former pastor and my current pastor both had such a connection to St. Thomas More, and I admire them both so much, I thought 'now is the time' so I signed up to go."

She continued, "The church and grounds are just beautiful. This was such a perfect way to end the Year of Mercy. I hope that the spirit of the year goes on for years to come."



The first organized pilgrimage to the Works of Mercy Chapel was from St. Pius X parishioners from Owensboro. Photo courtesy of J. Patrick Kerr.



Owensboro pilgrims from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish visit the Works of Mercy Chapel at St. Thomas More in Paducah on Nov. 15. Photo courtesy of J. Patrick Kerr.

The Works of Mercy Chapel was completed in 2012. At that time, the parish began Perpetual Adoration in the chapel. Parishioners volunteer to fill one-hour shifts in the chapel to pray and be available to answer questions from those who visit.

Mass at Old St. Stephen's Church



Helen Krivan, parish historian at St. Anthony of Padua in Grand Rivers, recently shared this news piece with The Western Kentucky Catholic. On Oct. 16, the parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua in Grand Rivers and St. Pius X in Calvert City joined Bishop William F. Medley and Fr. Fr. Anthoni Ottagan for Mass at the historic Old St. Stephen's Church located in a remote area of the Land Between the Lakes. Following Mass, Bishop Medley, Fr. Ottagan and the attending parishioners enjoyed refreshments at the church grounds. Photo courtesy of Tom Fusco.

Bishop and friends celebrate Glenmary Sisters' 75th anniversary



On Oct. 15, Bishop William F. Medley presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy of the 75th Anniversary of the Glenmary Sisters. That evening, the sisters were honored to have Bishop Medley, Bishop John Stowe from the Lexington Diocese, along with several Glenmary priests and brothers, and many friends and donors from around the country as their guests at a dinner-buffet and celebration. Photo courtesy of the Glenmary Sisters.

St. Paul holds first annual Cancer Walk



St. Paul Parish in Grayson County held its first annual Cancer Walk on Saturday, Oct. 22. They had 57 participants and raised over \$1700. They plan on purchasing Scrip gas cards to help local cancer patients get to their appointments. The group walked out to St. Paul Cemetery and prayed for those who have already lost their lives to this awful disease and for people who are going through chemotherapy now. The church plans on hosting this event again next October. Photo courtesy of St. Paul Parish.

Fr. Brian Roby installed at Whitesville's St. Mary of the Woods



At Sunday Mass on Oct. 23, Bishop William F. Medley installed Fr. Brian Roby as pastor of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. Following the Mass, Fr. Roby was welcomed by the parishioners, parish council and parish staff.

Fr. Roby will also serve as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fordsville, which is a mission of St. Mary's. Photo courtesy of Anna McDaniel.

Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference 2016 draws 75 attendees



The Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference was held on Nov. 6-9 at Lake Barkley Lodge in Cadiz. This year drew 75 attendees to the conference, whose theme was "Catholic Leadership: Disciples of Mercy." Attendees included directors of religious education, catechists, deacons, youth ministers and principals. Speakers and presenters this year included Dr. Ray Guarendi; Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB; Sister Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN; Sister Dale McDoland, PBVM; Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler; Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv; Dr. Tim Hogan; and Arlene Webb. Next year's conference will take place Nov. 5-7, 2017. Photo of Bishop Stowe courtesy of Lauren Johnson.

St. Gerard Life Home

Providing housing and services to pregnant women and their babies

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

Office of Social Concerns names 2016 recipients of Sister Audrey Gold Award

BY RICHARD MURPHY, OFFICE OF SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Sister Audrey Gold Award is presented annually to a person or group who works to ensure that everyone who wants to serve their parish by taking an active role in their church community is welcomed, encouraged, and helped to participate in all aspects of the church as much as they are able.

The recipient works to eliminate barriers that would hinder this participation because of a disability.

The Disabilities Awareness Committee is proud to announce this year's recipients of the award are the communities of St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Sunfish, along with their then-pastor, Fr. Randy Howard. The pastor and parishioners of these two parishes encouraged the active participation, and then vocation to the priesthood of Fr. Jamie Dennis.

Jamie Dennis joined the Church and expressed an interest in serving at the altar despite being a person with a visual impairment. Fr. Randy Howard assisted in Jamie's



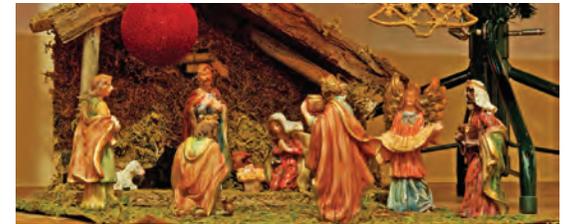
Fr. Jamie Dennis was present for the presentation of the award to representatives from St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield and St. John the Evangelist in Sunfish. Photo courtesy of Judy Kapelsohn.

efforts to learn how to serve at the altar. As his love for the liturgical life grew, Jamie developed an interest in becoming a priest. Fr. Howard and the two parish communities encouraged this vocation and assisted him in making the application to become a seminarian. They also supported him in many ways through his time in the seminary.

These communities, along with their pastor at the time, Fr. Randy Howard, beautifully exemplify this spirit of inclusion of all peoples to the degree possible in the life of the Church.

Learn more

The Office of Social Concerns in the Diocese of Owensboro oversees a number of ministries including the Social Justice Committee, Disabilities Awareness Committee, Gospel of Life Committee, Rural Life Committee and prison ministry. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/social-concerns or contact director Richard Murphy at (270) 683-1545 or richard.murphy@pastoral.org.



Taxes & Giving at Christmas & Year's End

Many people enjoy using Christmas and year's end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their federal and state income taxes. Christmas and year end giving provides many advantages to you, the donor.

- All gifts made on or before December 31 are tax deductible for the tax year in which your gift is made.
- The knowledge that your gift is assisting and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church here on earth.
- Celebrating the joy the of Christmas by giving in the true spirit of the season. A last reminder to make that special gift or increased gift that you've wanted to make during the year.
- If you are an itemizer, your Christmas gift may be just the right decision to allow you to itemize and lower your tax bill. (Check with your tax advisor)
- Most importantly, make a return to God of your blessings at Christmas and assist the church in striving to achieve its mission of serving God's people, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

For more information on how to give a financial gift, just contact Kevin Kauffeld with the Stewardship and Development Office at 270-570-4726.



Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Hurting from abortion? Know someone who is?

Rachel's Vineyard offers post-abortion healing retreats for women and men suffering from the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion.

Next retreat: January 13-15, 2017

**Location: Passionist Retreat House,
Whitesville, Kentucky**

**For more information, call Debbie: (270) 570-4717 or
email debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com**

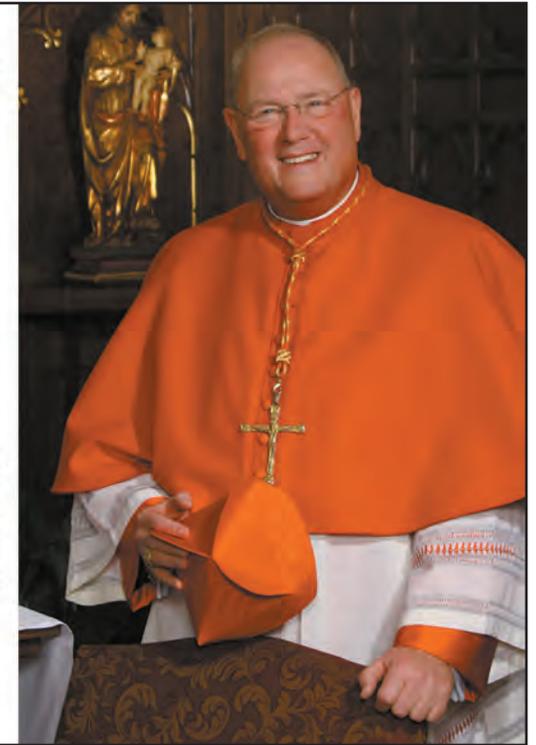
www.HopeAfterAbortionKY.com
[Facebook.com/hopeafterabortionKY](https://www.facebook.com/hopeafterabortionKY)

2017 Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky

February 11, 2017 | RiverPark Center, Owensboro, KY

The Diocese of Owensboro is pleased to welcome Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, along with Fr. Larry Richards and Robert Rogers to the upcoming men's conference.

Tickets available at kycatholic.com.



To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331). In addition, to report to the diocese abuse by church personnel (paid or volunteer) either past or present, please call the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator at this confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro revised its sexual abuse policy, effective July 1, 2014 and it is available at parishes and also on the diocesan website (owensborodiocese.org/safe). The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett (Chair), Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Rhonda Gillham, Ed Hodskins, Mary Beth Hurley, Tony Kraus, Mike Marsili, Leslie Phelps, Kelly Roe, Lanny Thomas, and Jennifer Hendricks-Wright. Richard Murphy serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Review Board. The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.



A Ministry of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky

Annual Collection January 14-15, 2017



Ready to make a Difference?

- Life Affirming Pregnancy Ministry
- Financial Support Needed
- Volunteers Needed

For more information,
call Opportunities for Life today.

1-888-496-3638

Donations can be made through your parish's Opportunities For Life Collection or mail to Opportunities For Life
• 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Schedules 2016

St. Joseph in Bowling Green, KY

December 11: Procession at 4 p.m., Dances at 5 p.m., Mass at 8 p.m. and "Mañanitas" (Marian Hymns) at 11 p.m.

December 12: Solemn Mass at 7 a.m.

Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro, KY

December 12: "Mañanitas" at 4 a.m., Solemn Mass at 7 p.m., followed by community "fiesta"

Holy Redeemer in Beaver Dam, KY

December 10: Solemn Mass at 5 p.m. with "Mariana," followed by community "fiesta"

St. Francis of Assisi in Todd County, KY

December 12: Mass with "Mañanitas" at 7 p.m.; held at Trenton Community Center, 250 S. Main St., Trenton, KY, 42286

St. Joseph in Mayfield, KY

December 11: Solemn Mass and Procession at 12:30 p.m.

December 12: "Mañanitas" and Rosary at 6 a.m.

St. Thomas More in Paducah, KY

December 11: Rosary, Procession and "Mañanitas" at 7 p.m.

December 12: Solemn Mass at 6 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus in Henderson, KY

December 12: "Mañanitas" at 6 a.m., Solemn Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by community "fiesta"

St. Michael in Sebree, KY

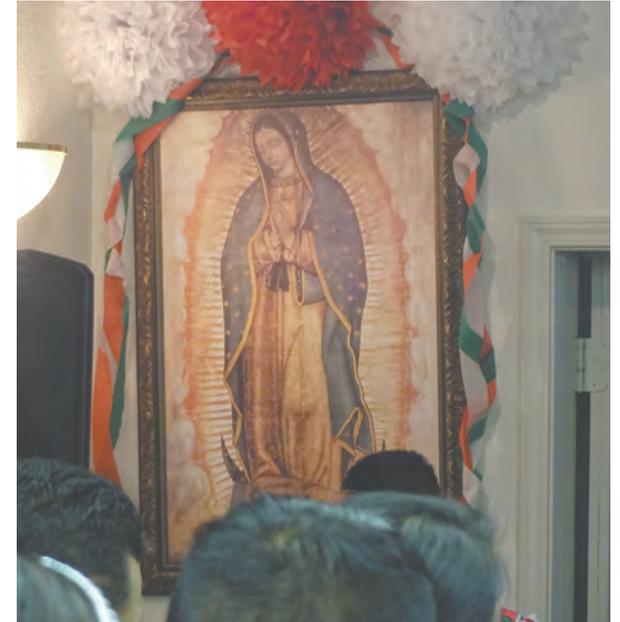
December 11: Novena at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

December 12: "Mañanitas" at 12 a.m., followed by Solemn Mass at 12:30 a.m. and community "fiesta"

Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, KY

December 12: "Mañanitas" at 5 a.m., Solemn Mass 5 p.m., followed by community "fiesta"

NOTE: All parishes have extensive schedules of more activity and celebrations around Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast Day including their "Novenas" starting December 3. For more detailed information please contact the parish.



NEW Book Study: The Joy of Love by Pope Francis

Begins Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017

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

Fee: \$20 per class (includes lunch)

"The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family" is an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis that was released in 2016 after two Synods on the Family. These classes will give us a chance to "Focus on Faith."

SCHEDULE: Jan. 19 • Feb. 16 • March 9 • April 13 • May 11 • June 8
• Aug. 10 • Sept. 14 • Oct. 12 • Nov. 9 • Dec. 14

Presented by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

Classes take place on **THURSDAYS** (there is no class in July). Feel free to attend any and all sessions.

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Find a flyer at ursulinesmsj.org under Conference & Retreat Center



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org

Events at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

To register for these sponsored events at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, or to schedule an event, contact Kathy McCarty at (270) 229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Evening with an Ursuline Dinner/Presentation First Tuesday of each month 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The \$20 fee includes dinner.

2016

Dec. 6 - Sister Pam Mueller - *Gift, A Theological Reflection*

2017

Jan. 3 - Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan - *Exploring Teilard de Chardin's Universal Vision of Life*

Feb. 7 - Sister Ruth Gehres - *Language: Gift and Mystery*

March 7 - Sister Vivian Bowles - *Belief and Expectations*

April 4 - Sister Amelia Stenger - *The Environment and Our Health*

May 2 - Sister Mary Matthias Ward - *Mary, The Mother of God...The Mother of the Church*

June 6 - Sister Ann McGrew - *Mandalas*

July 11 - Sister Marietta Wethington - *Centering Prayer*

Aug. 1 - Sister Ann McGrew- *Lectio Divina*

Eucharistic Adoration

Second Sunday of each month: Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9 (Note: *There is no Adoration on Sept. 11 – Picnic Day*) | **3 p.m.-5 p.m.** *The time has been extended to two hours during the Year of Mercy.*

Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel

Adoration will conclude with evening prayer. Adoration also takes place every Friday from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

"A Father Who Keeps His Promises"

Dec. 8 | 10:30 a.m. -12:30 a.m.

Presenter: Sr. Ann McGrew

Fee: \$10 (includes lunch)

"A Father Who Keeps His Promises" is a book by Scott Hahn on God's covenant Love in Scripture. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org.

Mount Saint Joseph Quilt Club

Sign up by Jan. 4 to get your name into the new Quilt of the Month Club drawings at Mount Saint Joseph. The drawings take place on the first Friday of each month. For a \$20 ticket, you get 9 chances to win a handmade quilt. Only 2,000 tickets are available, and most are already sold! (Note: *If you sign up by Feb. 2, you will get 8 chances to win a quilt.*) The proceeds support the retired Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Ky. To order your Quilt Club ticket(s), contact Kris Mango at (270) 229-2009 or kris.mango@maplemount.org. For more information, visit ursulinesmsj.org. Click on Help the Sisters, then Quilt Club.

Spiritual Direction Training Program 2017-2019

Oct. 16, 2017

Applications are now being accepted for the next Spiritual Direction Training Program, which will begin the week of Oct. 16, 2017 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount. The two-year program consists of four weekly training sessions each year. This program prepares participants for the ministry of spiritual direction from a Catholic perspective and in the spirit of the Ursuline founder,

Saint Angela Merici.

During each of the eight weeks, participants will enter into study, reflection and prayer around a topic fundamental to the understanding and practice of spiritual direction. Topics include spirituality, the inner journey, theology, prayer and scripture, ethics, supervision, and case studies. The last session ends with a three-day retreat. Each weekly session will offer daily opportunities for Eucharist, prayer and reflection in an atmosphere of contemplation. The sessions begin at noon Monday and end at 1 p.m. Friday.

Spiritual direction is the art of listening and companionship someone in an atmosphere of openness, honesty and prayer. Biographies of many saints, including Saint Angela, tell us that people were seeking guidance in their quest for a holy life. People today continue to search for competent directors who will walk with them on their faith journey.

The program is designed for both experienced directors and those who feel the call to this ministry. Under competent supervisors, all participants will have opportunities to learn and refine their skills. Participants receive intense training, practice, and supervision by a coordinating team of religious sisters and educators.

The fee includes tuition, meals and accommodations. Attendance is required to receive certification as a spiritual director. Close to 50 individuals from across the U.S. have completed the program at Mount Saint Joseph.

For more information, contact Sister Mary Matthias Ward at 270-229-0200 or mary.ward@maplemount.org. The registration deadline is Aug. 31, 2017.

More information can be found at www.ursulinesmsj.org

Gennesaret Retreat (for chronic or seriously ill) March 17-19

Those who have a chronic or serious health issue could be a candidate for the Gennesaret retreat, designed for persons whose medical conditions would otherwise hinder them from attending a weekend overnight retreat. To find out more, contact Tom or Amy Payne of Owensboro at 270-678-7739.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2016 BULLETIN BOARD



You could win this home for \$100!

Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish is raffling a brand-new Martin Custom Builders home located at 4135 Mayflower Dr., Owensboro. The home features 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, a 2 car garage, granite counter tops and soft close cabinets throughout! The raffle will be held on March 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the parish hall. You may purchase your tickets with cash or check at the following locations:

- Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish Office
 - Martin Custom Builders
 - Owensboro Catholic Schools- All locations
- If you would like to purchase your ticket with a credit card you may do so at:
- Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish Office
 - On our website www.stjpc.org
 - On Facebook page of: catholiceducationhomeraffle.com
 - By phone at 270-683-5641

Does your marriage need help?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even how to communicate this with their spouse. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the Jan. 13-15, 2017 program, (270)683-1545 ext. 346, email dpretrowsens@aol.com or visit the website at retrouvaille.com.

'A scout is reverent'

This upcoming year's Mass with the conferral of Religious Emblems with Bishop Medley presiding will take place on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral. At this Mass, scouts from

throughout the diocese will receive their religious emblems that they have earned throughout the year. For Cub Scouts, Webelos Boy Scouts and Venturing Crew Members that would be Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altari Dei, Pope Pius XII, and Light is Life for Eastern Catholics. Girl Scouts can receive the Family of God; I Live my Faith; Mary, the First Disciple; and The Spirit Alive emblems. Now is the time to begin in order to complete the requirements in time for the Mass with conferral of the Religious Emblems.

Alzheimer's Association education programs

Registration required for all programs; please call 1-800-272-3900 to register, for program description & location information.

Effective Communication Strategies: \$5 donation suggested. Designed for family caregivers; please no professionals.

Dec. 1, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Owensboro

Dec. 6, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Paducah

Dec. 15, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Hopkinsville

Memory Café: Dec. 14, 2–3:30 p.m., Evansville. This social engagement group is for people in early stage of dementia and their care partner. Please join us as U of E music therapy students engage attendees in holiday music and activities. Registration required; please call 1-800-272-3900 to register. Please no professionals. Sponsored by Oasis Dementia Care.

Mount hosts confirmation retreat

Sr. Michael Marie Freidman, OSU, will present a single day confirmation retreat on March 18, 2017. Together with others, you will talk about prayer, your relationship with God and the sacrament of Confirmation. All parishes are invited. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Register by Feb. 18 by contacting the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center at 270-229-0206

Immigrant and refugee prayer service

In light of National Migration Week Bishop Medley will preside over a prayer service at St. Stephen Cathedral on Jan. 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

DECEMBER

- 1-5 Cursillo Leaders Workshop
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Theological Reflection**
- 8 A Father Who Keeps His Promises**
- 10 Advent Day of Prayer w/Msgr. Powers**
- 13 Advent Evening with Bishop Medley**
- 16-17 Living and Learning with Love
- 16-18 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 25 Merry Christmas!

JANUARY 2017

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Teilhard de Chardin**
- 6-8 Yarn Spinners Weekend**
- 9-13 Spiritual Direction Training (Week 6)**
- 13-15 Retrouvaille Weekend
- 19 Joy of Love by Pope Francis Book Study**
- 21-27 St. Meinrad Retreat Week
- 27-29 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program

FEBRUARY 2017

- 4-5 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 7 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Language (Gift/Mystery)**
- 10 Early bird discount deadline for Sister Cheryl's March 10-12 Women's Retreat
- 16 Joy of Love by Pope Francis Book Study**
- 17-19 Winter Scrapbooking
- 24-26 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 25 Once More with Love
- 26-1 MSJ Quilter Friends

Center-sponsored programs are **BOLD**. Please call to register or to schedule an event. **270-229-0206**
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
ursulinesmsj.org

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Day of Prayer

Presented by
Monsignor Bernard Powers

**Saturday,
December 10**

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

\$25 (includes lunch)



This Advent Day will prepare us for this holy time of waiting.

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

Where Jesus walked... THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

May 29 - June 9, 2017
(Dates cannot be changed.)

Win Two VIP Bookings for a 13 day trip of a lifetime!

RAFFLE TICKETS - \$50 Each Limited to 300



Raffle benefits:

Glenmary Sisters

To order tickets by phone call: 270-686-8401

(VISA, MasterCard & Discover accepted.)

or mail checks to:

Glenmary Sisters - Attn: Raffle Tickets
PO Box 22264 - Owensboro, KY 42304

Drawing January 8, 2017

For full info & link to trip itinerary, visit our website:

glenmarysisters.org

Drawing: January 8, 2017.
Glenmary Center Conference Room
6:00pm (central)

Need not be present to win.
Must be 18 to participate.
Charitable Gaming No. 0001012

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

Called by Name: Jesus and the Unnamed Women of the Gospels

March 10-12, 2017

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Some women needed physical healing. Others needed spiritual healing and forgiveness. Still others wanted to give instead of receive, offering money, support, encouragement and understanding to Jesus and his male companions. The gospels indicate that many women were part of Jesus' life; however, most of them remained unnamed. Retreatants will be invited to walk along the dusty roads of Gospel lands, reflecting on the power and mystery of being named. They will be invited to listen for the voice of God calling their own name.



Sister Cheryl



Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch Sunday. Fee: \$180 for residents or \$130 for commuters.

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

A limited number of scholarships are available.

Contact Sister Mary Matthias Ward: 270-229-0200

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

Find a brochure at ursulinesmsj.org under Conference & Retreat Center



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Join our Spinning
Retreat Weekends!



January 6-8

Future Dates: March 3-5 and June 2-4

Whether you are an experienced yarn spinner, weaver, rug hooker, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the spinning retreats at Mount Saint Joseph. For information on room rates, meal costs, etc.,

contact Kathy: 270-229-0206
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org

Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Mi muy estimado Pueblo de Dios,

Muchos tal vez recuerden que “en los tiempos de antaño” cuando los adornos de Navidad no se veían hasta unos días antes de la Navidad. El desfile Navideño de Macy’s el Día de Acción de Gracias marcaba el inicio de la temporada de fiestas.

Bueno, ahora por supuesto nuestros vecindarios ya están alumbrados con luces y coronas de Navidad junto con las figuras de Papá Noel, renos y muñecos de nieve en el Día de Acción de Gracias si no es que antes. Muchos se preguntan, ¿Por qué la Iglesia Católica no se ha dejado llevar por este fenómeno cultural? ¿Por qué no hay coronas en las puertas, arbolitos con sus luces y el pesebre bien puesto ya para el primero de diciembre?

No quiero regañar a nadie por la fecha en que adornan sus casas y negocios, pero al mismo tiempo quiero recordarles a todos que nuestra iglesia puede ser que sea nuestro único refugio donde podemos aguardar hasta la Navidad. ¿Se acuerdan de los paquetes navideños que tenían una calcamónia que decía: No abrir hasta el 25 de diciembre?

Quizás para poder apreciar mejor el gran don de la Navidad, hay algunas cosas que no debemos abrir con demasiada anticipación. El Evangelio



lio de Lucas nos presenta la mayoría de las escenas que asociamos con el evento navideño: el censo de todo el mundo, lo cual los obligó a José y María a viajar hacia Belén aunque “se le acercaba el tiempo de dar la luz,” ningún lugar en la posada, un niño envuelto en pañales, pastores vigilando, y ángeles cantando en las alturas.

Todas estas visiones conmovedoras (aunque dar a luz donde se resguardan los animales tal vez no fue tan emocionante la primera vez) aparecen en el segundo capítulo del Evangelio de Lucas. Si nos saltamos al capítulo dos, hemos perdido una gran parte de la buena nueva y hemos pasado de alto a unos personajes que Dios escogió para revelarnos su misterio.

Lucas comienza recordando el anuncio del nacimiento de Juan el Bautista. Zacarías e Isabel formaban una pareja ya de mayores que nadie iba a pensar que tendrían una criatura. Sin embargo, Dios los sorprendió y mostrando que todo es posible, esto aunque Zacarías quedó mudo por dudar e Isabel tal vez fue el hazmerreír de todo el pueblo. Imagínense una mujer viejita y encorvada al punto de dar la luz.

Si nos brincamos hasta la parte de la historia que sucede en Belén, nos perderíamos la Anunciación cuando el Ángel Gabriel llega a Nazaret para comunicarle a una joven que iba a tener un bebé y su nombre sería Jesús. Y si se burlaban de una mujer viejita por tener un bebé, aún más fue así para una adolescente no casada.

Imagina a María huyendo de Nazaret para ir a estar con su prima, Isabel. Tal vez las dos buscaban consuelo al percibir desprecio. Una de mis líneas favoritas del encuentro entre Isabel y María es el detalle de cuando Isabel escuchó el saludo de María “el niño saltó de gozo en su seno.” Solo puedo

Continúa en página 20

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA DICIEMBRE 2016:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| DICIEMBRE 4 | 8:00 a.m. Misa con el Equipo de Lideres de Cursillo – Monte San José |
| DICIEMBRE 5 | 8:00 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela de San Pablo, Condado de Grayson |
| DICIEMBRE 7 | 10:00 a.m. Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky – Louisville, KY |
| DICIEMBRE 8 | 9:00 a.m. Misa Escolar – Campus de OCES 4-6
1:30 p.m. Inición de Obras de la Iglesia San Francisco de Asis – Elkton |
| DICIEMBRE 12 | 10:30 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro |
| DICIEMBRE 13 | 9:00 a.m. Misa con el Personal Diocesano
5:00 p.m. Cena y Plática de Adviento – Monte San José |
| DICIEMBRE 14 | 8:45 a.m. Misa y Reunión con el Personal del Centro Católic Mcraith |
| DICIEMBRE 17 | 11:00 a.m. Rito de la Candidatura al Diaconado Permanente – Catedral de San Esteban |
| DICIEMBRE 19 | 10:00 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – MCC
1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – MCC |
| DICIEMBRE 20 | 5:00 p.m. Reunión con los Seminaristas Diocesanos |
| DICIEMBRE 21 | 8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – MCC |
| DICIEMBRE 24 | 11:00 p.m. Misa de Medianoche de Navidad – Catedral de San Esteban |
| DICIEMBRE 27 | 10-3:00 p.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah – Hospital de Lourdes, Paducah |

‘Más amada ese día que cualquier otro’- Celebración anual Guadalupana recuerda la aparición de María en 1531

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Cada año el 12 de diciembre durante las heladas horas del amanecer, Hispanos Católicos se juntan en la iglesia para una formidable celebración que puede incluir bailables tradicionales, las mañanitas, misas solemnes, procesiones, rosarios y fiestas.

El 12 de diciembre es la fiesta de nuestra señora de Guadalupe y marca las apariciones de María a un hombre indígena seguido de conversiones en masa al catolicismo en México.

Es una fiesta significativa para los latinos en todos lados, incluyendo dentro de nuestra diócesis.

Esta fiesta anual “comenzó con el privilegio tremendo concedido a un pueblo indígena cuando María se le aparece a Juan Diego,” mencionó la Hna.



Un miembro del mariachi se para junto con la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam en esta foto de 2015. Foto de los archivos del WKC.

Panchita Wilhelm, OSU, directora del Centro Latino en Owensboro que atiende a las necesidades de los hispanos locales.

La hermana Panchita explicó que Juan Diego - quien fue canonizado en el 2002 - se convirtió al catolicismo seguido del arribo de misioneros españoles a México. Esta aparición fue especial para los indígenas ya que María se aparece como “mestiza” o como persona con unas combinaciones entre facciones ancestrales mexicanas y españolas.

Más notable en la narrativa Guadalupana fue la tilma de Juan Diego. Sobre la cual milagrosamente se impregna una imagen de Nuestra Señora. Y que ya por más de 500 años se conserva desde los eventos.

“Cuando el pueblo escuchó lo que había sucedido en el cerro de Tepeyac, comenzaron a celebrar y a peregrinar hacia donde María se había parado en la tierra,” comentó la hermana Panchita, añadiendo que esta aparición formó en los mexicanos el sentido de María como su Madre.

Dijo que el comenzar las celebraciones lo más temprano posible, a pesar de aun estar adormilados, con sueño y frío, conecta al profundo amor por Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. “Existe algo en la persona Hispana, que lo que físicamente resulta más difícil, concede más honor espiritual.”

“Parecen sentirse amados más ese día que cualquier otro día del año,” dijo la hermana Panchita. Citó que es tradición adornar parte de la iglesia con



Un niño pequeño entre muchos que celebran la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia de Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson en esta foto de 2015. Foto por cortesía de Susana Solorza.

la imagen de Guadalupe, flores y veladoras y cantar las queridas “mañanitas”.

Mencionó la Hermana Panchita que al participar en las celebraciones, “Es algo que atrapa el más profundo sentido de lo sagrado más que cualquier otra cosa”.

“La opción de María por Juan Diego, quien era alguien sin estudios, subraya el hecho de que ella vino a uno de los más sencillos y de un estatus social muy bajo según lo vería la sociedad,” mencionó la hermana Panchita. “Nos da entender que toda persona es excesivamente importante”.

La hermana añadió que su frase favorita dicho por Nuestra Señora a Juan Diego es: “¿No estoy aquí yo, que soy tu Madre?”

“Cada vez la escucho, toca mi corazón,” exclamó la hermana Panchita.

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imaginar que este evento es mucho más significativo para cualquier mujer que haya tenido un bebé en su vientre y experimentado sus movimientos en su seno. Supongo que a veces tal movimiento es reconfortante y otras veces perturba y da miedo. Quizás si nos ponemos a reflexionar sobre estas historias antes de la Navidad podríamos fortalecer el mensaje que cualquier niño en el vientre es un hijo de Dios y un niño que puede experimentar la alegría del amor.

¿Puedo encomendarles dos oraciones bíblicas para nuestra reflexión de Adviento? La primera es el Magnificat, el Cántico de María (Lucas 1:46-55), “Mi alma proclama la grandeza del Señor...” y el segundo es el Cántico de Zacarías (Lucas 1:67-79), también llamado el Benedictus, “Bendito sea el Señor, el Dios de Israel, porque ha visitado y redimido a su Pueblo...”

Recen estas antiguas oraciones varias veces a través del Adviento para LUEGO después estar listos para el segundo capítulo de Lucas.

Quizás en medio de nuestros arbolitos alumbrados, Papa Noel, duendes y renos; nuestros hogares también puedan tener un pesebre. Pónganlo en un lugar prominente, especialmente visible para los pequeños y niños. Tal vez pueden guardar una figura. Tal vez el Niño Jesús puede llegar al pesebre cuando la familia regresa a casa después de la misa de la Noche Buena o de Navidad. Algo que aguarda abrirse hasta el 25 de diciembre.



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Horarios de las Celebraciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe 2016

San José en Bowling Green, KY

- **11 de Diciembre:** Procesión a las 4 p.m., Bailables a las 5 p.m., Misa Solemne a las 8 p.m. y Mañanitas a las 11 p.m.
- **12 de Diciembre:** Misa Solemne a las 7 a.m.

Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, KY

- **12 de Diciembre:** Mañanitas a las 4 a.m., Misa Solemne a las 7 p.m., seguida de una fiesta comunitaria

Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam, KY

- **10 de Diciembre:** Misa Solemne a las 5 p.m. con Mariachi, seguida de una fiesta comunitaria

San Francisco de Asis en el Condado de Todd, KY

- **12 de Diciembre:** Misa con Mañanitas a las 7 p.m.; en el Centro Comunitario de Trenton, 250 S. Main St., Trenton, KY, 42286

San José en Mayfield, KY

- **11 de Diciembre:** Misa Solemne y Procesión a las 12:30 p.m.
- **12 de Diciembre:** Mañanitas y Rosario a las 6 a.m.

Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah, KY

- **11 de Diciembre:** Rosario, Procesión y Mañanitas a las 7 p.m.
- **12 de Diciembre:** Misa Solemne a las 6 p.m.

Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson, KY

- **12 de Diciembre:** Mañanitas a las 6 a.m., Misa Solemne a las 6:00 p.m., seguida de una fiesta comunitaria

San Miguel en Sebree, KY

- **11 de Diciembre:** Novena a las 6:30p.m., Misa de Vigilia a las 7:30p.m.
- **12 de Diciembre:** Mañanitas a las 12 a.m., Misa Solemne a las 12:30a.m. seguida de una fiesta comunitaria

San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, KY

- **12 de Diciembre:** Mañanitas a las 5 a.m., Misa Solemne a las 5 p.m., seguida de una fiesta comunitaria

NOTA: Todas las parroquias tienen horarios extensivos de más actividades y celebraciones en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, incluyendo sus novenas empezando el 3 de diciembre. Para más información por favor póngase en contacto con la parroquia.



El obispo y amigos conmemoran el 75 aniversario de las Hermanas de Glenmary

El 15 de octubre pasado el obispo William F. Medley presidió la liturgia eucarística del 75 aniversario de las Hermanas de Glenmary. Esa noche las hermanas fueron honradas con la presencia del Obispo Medley, el Obispo John Stowe de Lexington junto con varios sacerdotes y hermanos de Glenmary, muchos amigos y bienhechores de alrededor del país como sus invitados en una cena de buffet y celebración.



¡Usted podría ganar esta casa por \$100!

La Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo está rifando una casa nueva hecha por Martin Custom Builders. La dirección es 4135 Mayflower Drive, Owensboro. ¡La casa tiene 3 recamaras y 2 baños, un garage de dos carros, encimeras de la cocina hechos de granito y gabinetes que cierran sin ruido!

La rifa se llevará a cabo el 18 de Marzo 2017 a las 10 a.m. en el salón parroquial.

Usted puede comprar su boleto con efectivo o cheque en los siguientes lugares:

- La Oficina Parroquial de Santos José y Pablo
- Martin Custom Builders
- Todos los locales de las Escuelas Católicas de Owensboro

Si le gustaría comprar su boleto con una tarjeta de crédito también se puede en:

- La Oficina Parroquial de Santos José y Pablo
- En nuestra página web: www.stjpc.org
- En la página de Facebook catholiceducationhomeraffle.com
- Por teléfono a 270-683-5641

Año de la Misericordia

El Año de la Misericordia se concluyó el 20 de noviembre del 2016, pero nosotros los Católicos somos llamados a vivir siempre con misericordia y compasión para los que están a nuestro alrededor. ¡Si usted o su parroquia han sido inspirados a seguir las obras de misericordia de una manera especial después del Año de la Misericordia, el Católico de Kentucky Occidental quiere saber! Por favor comparte su historia con nosotros a wkc.editor@pastoral.org.



Asistiendo, sirviendo y mostrando a Cristo a todos: La diócesis le dice adiós a Kathy Rasp

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 31 de octubre 2016 el personal diocesana que trabaja en el Centro Católico McRaith despidió a una buena amiga y colega Kathy Rasp, asistente administrativa del Obispo William F. Medley.

El Obispo Medley celebró la Misa agradeciendo a Kathy por su completa dedicación. Con una capilla llena y con música dirigida por el director diocesano de música Mike Bogdan acompañado del seminarista Corey Bruns.

Las lecturas de la misa fueron de Filipenses 2:1-4 que incluye el consejo de: “No hagan nada por rivalidad o por orgullo, sino con humildad, y que cada uno considere a los demás como mejores que el mismo. Ninguno busque únicamente su propio bien, sino también el bien de los otros.”

El Obispo Medley mencionó en su homilía que “si hubiera un pasaje en la escritura que hablara de lo que es Kathy sería este. Creo que todos nosotros que hemos trabajado con ella haríamos esta observación”

Dirigiendo la oficina del obispo

Cuando Kathy primero supo de la posición abierta para asistente administrativa para el recién instalado Obispo William F. Medley en el 2010, pensó, “Me encantaría hacer eso”

Luego recibió una llamada del canciller diocesano Kevin Kauffeld sugiriéndole que aplicara para la posición.

Rasp titubeó un poco pero su esposo Ken le animo, “Kathy, si tú puedes con toda nuestra casa, tu puedes encargarte de la oficina del obispo”

“Llegue el 12 de Abril” mencionó Rasp al Católico de Kentucky Occidental

Por más de seis años ella administró la Oficina del Obispo, el cual incluye desde acompañando al obispo a reuniones, contestando todas las llamadas a su oficina, calendarizando su muy ocupada agenda y asistiendo en la planeación de eventos diocesanos grandes y pequeños.

“Ella muestra una muy buena voz y rostro a mi oficina porque cualquiera que hablaba conmigo primero hablaba con ella” mencionó el Obispo Medley. “Ella tiene un buen sentido de lo que es la misión de la iglesia”

El dijo que más que todo extrañará su “testimonio de amabilidad”

VOCARE

El Dr. Fred Litke, director asociado de la Oficina Diocesana de Vocaciones, da crédito a Rasp por el lanzamiento y éxito de VOCARE, la celebración anual diocesana de recaudación de fondos para vocaciones.

El primer año de VOCARE fue en el 2014 y el doctor Litke sabía que el proyecto requeriría de bastante trabajo para comenzar.

“Dije, voy a necesitar ayuda, a lo que el Obispo



Kathy Rasp y el Obispo Medley en VOCARE 2016 en Septiembre. Foto por Laura Clarke/Oficina de Comunicaciones.

Medley respondió, “¿Porque no le preguntas a Kathy Rasp?” mencionó el Dr. Litke.

El Dr. Litke dijo que Kathy es muy “eficiente y organizada.”

“Debido a su fenomenal habilidad de organizar y mantener el horario como se debe, ella fue instrumental en el lanzamiento del primer año,” dijo Litke, añadiendo que ella fue “parte integral” en el éxito de VOCARE.

Una gran amiga

Louanne Payne, directora del tribunal en la Diócesis de Owensboro mencionó que las palabras que le vienen a la mente cuando piensa en Kathy son: “una inspiración”

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Kathy Rasp se sube a la tirolina durante el día del personal en el Campamento Católico Juvenil y Centro de Retiros de Gasper River el 31 de Octubre del 2011. Foto de los archivos del WKC.

“Su testimonio de nuestra fe, su dedicación al servicio y su amor a la familia me han inspirado a ser una mejor persona” mencionó Payne quien añadió que ella y Kathy “nos hicimos amigas rápidamente.”

“Realmente será extrañada por mí personalmente como para la familia del Centro Católico McRaith.”

Kathy mencionó que amó el poder servir a todos y también el hacerse de “muchas, muchas buenas amistades.”

“En verdad sentí el poder servir no solo al obispo pero a los sacerdotes y oficinas diocesanas” mencionó. “El solo poder servir y ayudar a mostrar a Cristo a todos.”

Martha Hagan se convierte en vice-canciller y asistente administrativa del Obispo Medley

Durante el verano fue anunciado que Martha Hagan co-directora de la Oficina de la Liturgia de la Diócesis de Owensboro había aceptado el doble rol de vice-canciller y asistente administrativa del Obispo William F. Medley.

Kathy Rasp quien deja la posición de asistente administrativa dijo: “Martha tiene un corazón de servicio. Ella realizará un hermoso trabajo”

Por su parte Marta mencionó que aunque su posición ha cambiado dijo que: “Estoy bendecida y muy agradecida por poder continuar sirviendo a la gente y parroquias que serví en el rol de co-directora de la Oficina de la Liturgia. Esto es lo hermoso de servir en ministerio eclesial”

La posición de la Oficina de la Liturgia en que fungía Martha ahora será tomada por la Hermana Jeanne M. Wiest, OP quien viene de Minnesota y es de las Hermanas Adrián Dominicanas.

La oficina de Pastoral Social nombra a los recipientes del reconocimiento Hermana Audrey Gold 2016

POR RICARDO MURPHY, OFICINA DE PASTORAL SOCIAL

El premio Hermana Audrey Gold es dado anualmente a una persona o grupo quien trabaja para asegurar de que todos quienes quieran servir en su parroquia tomando un rol activo en su comunidad parroquial sea bienvenido, animado y asistido en participar en todos los aspectos de la iglesia cuanto les sea posible.

El recipiente del premio trabaja para eliminar barreras que podrían ser obstáculo a esta participación debido a discapacidad.

El comité de concientización de discapacidades tiene el orgullo este año de anunciar a los recipientes quienes son las comunidades de la Parroquia de San José en Leitchfield y San Juan Evangelista

en Sunfish junto con su entonces párroco el Padre Randy Howard. El párroco y los fieles de estas dos parroquias animaron a la activa participación y en ese entonces vocación al sacerdocio del Padre Jamie Dennis.

Jamie Dennis se integró a la Iglesia y expresó un interés en servir en el altar a pesar de ser una persona visualmente impedida. El Padre Randy Howard ayudó a Jamie en sus esfuerzos en aprender a servir en el altar.

Mientras que su amor por la vida litúrgica crecía, Jamie desarrolló un interés por convertirse en sacerdote. El Padre Randy y las dos comunidades parroquiales animaron esta vocación y le asistieron en hacer su aplicación a entrar al seminario. También lo apoyaron de distintas maneras durante su tiempo en el seminario.

Estas comunidades, junto con su párroco en ese tiempo, el Padre Randy Howard hermosamente ejemplificaron el espíritu de inclusión de toda persona al nivel posible en la vida de la Iglesia.

Parroquias con Misas en Español

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

Sábados – 5:00 p.m.

13th & Madison Streets, Beaver Dam, KY 42320
Contacto: Padre Juan René (270) 903-8070

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green

Jueves – 6:30 p.m.

Sábados – 7:00 p.m.

Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes (270) 777-5925

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Elkton

Domingos – 12:00 p.m.

Misa en Guthrie, KY - 6:00 p.m.

221 Allensville Street, Elkton, KY 42220
Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (302) 438-7335
o Roberto Cruz (270) 498-8559

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin

Domingos – 1:30 p.m.

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

Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson

Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420
Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville

Domingos – 2:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m.

Jueves – 5:30 p.m.

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Contacto: Padre Julio Barrera (270) 885-8522 o Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

Parroquia San José, Leitchfield

Cada 2do y 4to Domingos de Mes 10:30 p.m.

109 West Walnut Street, Leitchfield KY 42754
Contacto: Padre Steve Hohman (270) 784-1520

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

Domingos – 6:00 p.m.

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431
Contacto: Padre Juan Vaughan (270) 821-5494

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066
Contacto: Hermana Eloisa Torralba (270) 356-0339

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown

Domingos – 9:15 a.m.

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261
Contacto: Padre Juan René (270) 903-8070

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

Sábados – 5:30 p.m.

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071
Contacto: Padre Eugene Batungbacal (270) 753-3876

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m.

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303
Contacto: Hermana Pilar Hinojosa (706) 936-3525

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

3er. Jueves de Mes 8:30 a.m. (Capilla Hospital de Lourdes)

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001
Contacto: Hermana Celia Sanchez (423) 883-5757

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

Domingos – 2:00 p.m.

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276
Contacto: Hermana Patricia Sullivan, OP (270) 726-6963

Parroquia Cristo Rey, Scottsville

Cada Primer Martes de Mes – 7:00 p.m.

298 Bluegrass Drive, Scottsville, KY 42164
Contacto: Padre Daniel Dillard (270) 586-4515

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

Miércoles – 12:00 p.m.

Jueves – 12:00 p.m.

Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 7:30 p.m.

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455
Contacto: Patti Gutiérrez (270) 302-2782 o Padre Carmelo Jiménez (270) 881-7737

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Cualquier persona que sepa de un abuso de un menor de dieciocho años es obligado por ley informarles a las autoridades estatales apropiadas: policía local o la línea dedicada para el Abuso Infantil de Kentucky (gratis: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331).

Además, para informar a la Diócesis sobre el abuso por parte de algún personal (pagado o voluntario) de la Iglesia, en el pasado o presente, favor de llamar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral a

esta línea confidencial: 270-852-8380. La Diócesis de Owensboro acaba de revisar su reglamento sobre el abuso sexual, efectivo el 1 de Julio del 2014 y está disponible en todas las parroquias y también en el sitio web diocesano (www.rcdok.org/safe).

Los miembros de la junta que responden a las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Mr. Ken Bennett (Presidente), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen,

Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty, Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, Mr. Tony Kraus, Mr. Michael Marsili, Ms. Kelly Roe (Vice-Presidente), y Ms. Jennifer Hendricks-Wright. Richard Murphy sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y la Junta de Revisión Diocesano. La seguridad de nuestros niños es la responsabilidad de cada Cristiano.

Don't worry: They are good, God-loving people

BY CHRIS GUTIERREZ, OFFICE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY

For more than 12 years now, I have had the privilege and honor of being involved in serving in Hispanic/Latino Ministry in our diocese. When I left Mexico back in 2005, the idea of ministry with immigrants in the U.S. was burning deep in my heart and was my biggest motivator. Hearing stories over the years about my own Mexican father's journey coming to the U.S. in the mid-1970s really stirred something in me and I found myself wanting to be a missionary in the United States.

In all these years I've come to meet the most resilient, hardworking and wonderful people from various Latin American countries. The vast majority of them happen to be very devout Catholics as well. From farm workers around the Daviess County area, to Latinos in manufacturing jobs in Bowling Green or restaurant workers in Murray, there are an estimated 30,000 immigrants of recent decades residing in western Kentucky.

Unfortunately most of these Hispanic/Latino im-

migrant brothers and sisters are still undocumented. Some came on temporary visas that they weren't eligible to renew, some have spent years in limbo while in deportation proceedings in immigration court and many had no line to stand in and still don't have any way to get immigration papers. Unless you have close family who are U.S. citizens over the age of 21 or possibly Permanent Residents or higher education with a job lined up, it's nearly impossible in our current immigration system to come to the U.S. legally, raise your family here and become citizens.

My family and I have come to know, serve, learn from, and grow in deep friendships with immigrant families from all over western Kentucky. There are so many excellent faith-filled people – not just some of them, but 99.9% of them. We see them contributing to communities at all levels. Some small towns would be already dead economically if it wasn't for the presence of recent immigrants. They are the ones that make it possible for my kids to have some veg-

gies to dip in ranch dressing for supper. They are the ones that make sure houses get new roofs put on and don't leak. They are the people that make sure crops around Kentucky get harvested. They're the ones that in coming years will continue to enrich our parishes here and across the United States, keeping the Catholic Church alive and thriving.

Learn More

To learn more about the Office of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro, visit owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano, call (270) 683-1545 or email chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org.

These are not easy times for immigrants. Given the most recent promises of mass deportations and an increasing hostility towards immigrants and refugees, I worry about families and their children. Hispanic/Latinos themselves are currently extremely worried.

Leading up to the elections the Church encouraged each one of us to be faithful citizens and to vote. They also encourage each one of us as Catholics to be active throughout the political process at all levels, even after the election. We are asked to defend all life at all stages, to stand up against intrinsic evil which includes racism and to advocate for the least among us. Let's not be silent Catholics but rather people that stand firm against any attitude that alienates and hurts others.

Let us all pray for one another and remember that each one of us – regardless of nationality, language, skin color or religion – all of us are still made in the image and likeness of a loving God.

Chris Gutierrez is Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro.



Hispanic pilgrims from around western Kentucky fill the pews of St. Stephen Cathedral on Aug. 27, 2016, for a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage. WKC file photo.

A Jacket for a Veteran

BY SANDRA MCGRATH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Around the first of May 2016, the members of St. Denis Parish, Hickman County, decided to pay it forward. As one, we decided to try to raise enough money to buy a jacket for a veteran. We had three random collections to raise the money; we did not want to cause need for our parishioners.

The main criteria for a jacket was “need.” We left the money in the bank over the summer and around the first of October we set about finding a veteran.

As it turns out this was the difficult part. All the missions in our area had been closed and everything was being done through Paducah Missions. Well, we wanted someone from our area to benefit so I contacted the VA. Though they wanted to help, their hands were tied because of the HIPPA laws. As a last

resort I contacted the American Legion in our area and they were thrilled to hear we wanted to help a veteran. They already had a list of names of people they wanted to help and were grateful that St. Denis wanted to assist.

They gave me the name of two people because I was pretty sure we had enough money for two jackets. I went to Wal-Mart and purchased two jackets and realized there was enough money to buy a couple more. I came home and contacted the Legion again and I was given two more names. As it turned out I was able to buy four jackets, four pair of gloves, and four watch caps.

On Tuesday, Oct. 18, I presented Douglas Adams, US Navy; Jimmie Parham, US Army; James



Vincent, US Navy; and John Rodgers, US Army with a warm winter jacket, gloves, and watch cap. A couple of the men were very emotional and all of them wanted me to tell everyone at St. Denis thank you and assure everyone that when the cold weather arrived they would think of us each time they wore their jackets.

Sandra McGrath is a parishioner of St. Denis Parish in Hickman County and provided the above photo.

Dear Cursillistas: Christmas, weekends, and parish ambassador program

BY MARY HAGAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

May the love, joy, peace, and mercy of Advent be with you during this Advent and Christmas season. Christmas is almost upon us and may you receive the joy of Christ’s love for you every day. This is a special season of looking forward to going to confession, buying gifts, and being with our families. May we look back on our Cursillo weekend and remember how we felt and who was there with us as we recognized our Savior’s love for each of us.

We ask for your prayers and *palanca* (works of mercy and fasting sometimes) for our team and candidates. We will start our team formations on Jan. 22, 2017, with men and women team members at

Madisonville. Kelley Wheatley of Hawesville is our men’s coordinator and Julie Tiell of Hopkinsville is our women’s coordinator. Please, answer “yes” to God’s call when they call you to be on the team. The men’s weekend will be held on March 9-12, 2017 at Hawesville. The women’s weekend will be March 23-26, 2017, also at Hawesville.

Will you help us with prayer and *palanca*? Will you help us by sponsoring a candidate for our weekend? We need our Fourth Day Cursillistas to help us continue our mission of God’s work, make-a-friend, be-a-friend, and bring that friend to Christ. Even if it has been a while since your Cursillo Weekend, it

is not too late to help your friends come to Cursillo.

If you made a Cursillo and have a computer or phone, we would like you to help us by volunteering to be a parish ambassador. We need one person from each parish in our diocese to stay in touch by email or phone to let their parish know when to pray for weekends, and to put a notice in their parish bulletin two to three weeks before a weekend to share the information. If you can help Cursillo with this, please contact Teresa Westerfield at (270) 256-8864, or Mary Hagan at (270) 240-4778 or haganm95@yahoo.com with “Cursillo” in the subject line.

De Colores!

Fathers of Mercy honored to serve as a Diocese of Owensboro pilgrimage site during Year of Mercy

BY FR. ANDY CRAVALHO, CPM, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For the Fathers of Mercy, it has been an honor to be a pilgrimage site for the Diocese of Owensboro. We are very grateful to Bishop Medley for granting us the privilege of hosting so many pilgrims throughout this Jubilee Year. Over the course of the Year of Mercy, we have hosted many events. The "rough" count of people who have signed our guest book is close to 1,000 people from 29 different states, as well as the countries of Canada, Germany, Honduras, and Tasmania. We have had Dominican Sisters, Carmelite Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker, as well as Sisters of the Immaculata from Tasmania visit too. The first three communities are from the local area. The community from Tasmania had hosted us for a retreat and were visiting the Nashville Dominicans for the summer, and decided to come to the Chapel of Divine Mercy.

For our area of western Kentucky, we hosted a "Camino of Mercy" twice (once on April 3 and again on Oct. 13), in which pilgrims walked 16 miles from St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green to The Chapel of Divine Mercy. During these walks, Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green helped promote, participate, and give rides to the pilgrims back to St. Joseph once they reached our Chapel. In April, we had about 50 pilgrims participate and in October around 30 pilgrims.

Also in April, we had our annual Divine Mercy celebration. This year, for the Jubilee Year, we had over 400 people come to the Mass on Divine Mercy

Sunday, and over 350 stayed to participate in our Divine Mercy devotions that day. Both numbers were the most we have hosted for that event since we dedicated our Chapel of Divine Mercy in 2008. (For a Sunday Mass, we usually have about 150 people.)

Recently the Fathers of Mercy hosted Bishop Medley on Nov. 6, 2016. It was a beautiful day in which Bishop Medley preached about Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Light that will guide us on our journey to Heaven as we conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Bishop Medley stayed for a reception, and shared fellowship with the 200 people who attended the Mass of his visitation.

Even though it was after the end of the Year of Mercy locally, the Fathers of Mercy also hosted a free family-friendly conference called "The King of Mercy" on Nov. 19, 2016. Six religious communities attended as conference speakers. We had 650 people during the day and 600 stayed for the Vigil Mass. Confessions were heard throughout the day as well: a beautiful way to conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

On an overall level for the Year of Mercy, we have held an extra Holy Hour on Mondays and Fridays, as well as extra hours of the Sacrament of Confession available. We haven't seen a great attendance



Bishop Medley celebrates Mass at the Fathers of Mercy motherhouse chapel on Nov. 6. Photo by Laura Clarke/Office of Communications.

for these, but we've seen steady attendance from the local area, and visitors taking advantage of the extra time with the Lord in both Sacraments. As well, we have seen a steady increase in confessions before and after our Sunday Mass. We have hosted days of recollections on the topic of God's Mercy from schools in Owensboro and Louisville, as well as a teachers' retreat for St. Joseph School in Bowling Green. We've had many groups come through, individually or made appointments for tours, and had visitors from various Protestant denominations come through our Chapel of Divine Mercy during this year.

Fr. Andy Cravalho serves as director of novices for the Fathers of Mercy religious order in Auburn, Ky.

Advent and ‘call stories’

BY FR. JASON MCCLURE, OFFICE OF VOCATIONS



“I have called you by name, and you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1-5)

The liturgical readings during the Advent season include what might be two of the most well-known “call stories” in the New Testament, the Call of Mary and the Call of St. Joseph.

On Dec. 8, as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Church will meditate on the great Call of Mary by God through the angel Gabriel. It contains the usual elements of a call story. It begins not with a choice but with a call. The call comes from God and it comes somewhat unexpectedly and without warning. Like most “call stories” Jesus is the focal point and will ultimately lead the one being called to follow him. Little did Mary know that her little boy would one day lead her to a hill called Calvary. And as is common in other “call stories,” the one being called would never be the same again.

These same elements are seen in the Call of St. Joseph, which we will read on the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. A simple and humble man, Joseph is called by God to abandon his plans and

conform his will to the will of God. Joseph wasn’t being asked to simply change his schedule or even his profession. He was being called by God to do the unthinkable as he took Mary and eventually Jesus, into his home. His life, like Mary’s, would never be the same.

There are two features from these call stories which catch my attention with regards to vocational discernment. The first is that both Mary and Joseph are called by name. It implies a personal relationship with God, who knows us completely and who assures us that we are that we are precious in his eyes, that he honors us and that he loves us (Isaiah 43:4). The second feature is that both Mary and Joseph are encouraged to “be not afraid.”

If there is anything that keeps us from following God’s call and giving our lives to him in a complete act of surrender, it is fear. These call stories imply that both Mary and Joseph experienced it. But they both would abandon fear and surrender their lives to God and consequently participate in His divine plan of salvation in a very remarkable way.

May this Advent season be a time of peace and hope for you and your family.

Fr. Jason McClure serves as director of the Office of Vocations and vicar for clergy in the Diocese of Owensboro.

Office of Vocations to launch new program during Advent

Inspired by the “call stories” in the Sacred Scriptures, the Advent season will see the Office of Vocations begin preparations for the new “CALLED BY NAME” program.

It is a program that invites men and women to consider priesthood or consecrated life. At the heart of this program is the belief that all of us share a common calling through baptism, to which we are invited to respond in a variety of ways – marriage, single life, consecrated life, and priesthood.

CALLED BY NAME focuses on priesthood and consecrated life, and emphasizes the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider these vocations.

Soon, each parish, school, and campus ministry vocation representative will receive materials and a strategy for implementing CALLED BY NAME.

The faithful throughout the Diocese of Owensboro will be invited to consider who in our midst might serve well as a priest or religious by submitting their names to the vocations office, which in turn will follow up with these individuals by inviting them into opportunities for discerning their vocations.

During this great season of hope, the Office of Vocations asks that you begin praying about how you might very well be the one who is chosen by God to help amplify His

Contact our Office of Vocations

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

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Sister Helen Smith elected to Ursuline Council

BY COMMUNICATIONS STAFF, URSULINE SISTERS OF MOUNT ST. JOSEPH



Sister Helen Smith, OSU.

Sister Helen Smith, OSU, was elected as the newest member of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph Leadership Council on Nov. 5, 2016.

Sister Smith, who previously served as assistant superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kan., prior

to that community's 2008 merger with Mount St. Joseph, fills a Council position created by the Sept. 5, 2016, death of her longtime friend Sister Kathleen Condry.

Sister Condry took office as assistant congregational leader on July 17, 2016, but her health quickly failed. At the special election on Nov. 5, Sister Pat Lynch, who took office as a councilor on July 17, was approved as the new assistant congregational leader. Sister Smith will take Sister Lynch's spot as a councilor.

Since October 2010, Sister Smith has handled sacramental preparation work with children and teenagers at the Church of the Nativity in Leawood, Kan., a suburb of Kansas City. She plans to complete her ministry there in May 2017, and in the interim will meet with the other Council members via the Internet.

Sister Smith grew up in Bartlesville, Okla., just across the Kansas state line. She met the Ursuline Sisters when she attended St. John Catholic School, which the Ursulines of Paola started in Bartlesville.

Sister Smith joined the Ursulines in 1964, after graduating from Ursuline Academy in Paola. She became a novice in January 1965, and was scheduled to make her temporary vows in January 1967, but she suddenly felt uncertain, and decided to leave the community that month. She served as a lay teacher from 1972-79, before she felt the urge to return to the Ursuline Sisters, who welcomed her back. She will celebrate 40 years as an Ursuline Sister in 2017.

Sister Smith was a teacher or principal in Kansas until 2005. From 1990-98 she was an elected Council member in Paola, and was elected again in 2002 and 2006. The last time she served as assistant superior.

She joins a Council that includes Sister Amelia Stenger as congregational leader, Sister Lynch as assistant congregational leader, and Sisters Pam Mueller and Judith Nell Riney as councilors.

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call in the life of a young man or woman who you know.

As God continues to call men and women to service as priests and religious, the faithful have a responsibility to identify and invite those who are called.

Please pray for the success of this program and consider whom God might be calling to either of these extraordinary vocations.

To learn more about this program or the Office of Vocations, call (270) 683-1545, or email jason.mcclure@pastoral.org or fred.litke@pastoral.org.

Considering Adoption?

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

Vocations director helps students ‘follow the call of Jesus’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“We are made for more – we are made for heaven,” said Fr. Jason McClure to the packed room of 30 Owensboro Catholic High students the morning of Nov. 11.

Using bullet points and illustrations projected on a screen at the front of the classroom, Fr. McClure reiterated that a vocation will always be there, “but if we don’t respond to it, it’s not fulfilled.”

Fr. McClure had told The Western Kentucky Catholic in an interview several days prior that the new OCHS class, titled “Following the Call of Jesus,” is a ministry of the diocese’s Office of Vocations.

It’s also part of the bigger picture to incorporate vocations awareness and the subject of discernment in the diocese’s Catholic schools.

“I’m giving them a toolbox for discernment,” said Fr. McClure.

This class grew out of Fr. McClure’s research into the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ framework for Catholic schools, and his discovery that one of the USCCB’s elective options is a “discernment class.”

To plan the class, Fr. McClure worked with Ann Flaherty, assistant superintendent of the diocese’s Office of Catholic Schools, coordinated with OCHS faculty and staff, and also drew from his own time as a campus chaplain at Murray State University.

Fr. McClure said the two-semester class is not just for young people discerning the priesthood or religious life, nor is it meant to recruit for voca-



Fr. Jason McClure teaches class on Nov. 11. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

tions. Rather, it aims to help them understand the “why” and “how” to their Catholic faith, beyond the “what.”

Topics addressed in the class include proofs for the existence of God, refuting myths about the resurrection, and how the Church embraces, not condemns, philosophy and science.

The initial response to the class, which was open to juniors and seniors, was highly positive and even resulted in a waiting list after the 30 spots had been filled.

“It has been getting pretty good feedback,” said Fr. McClure, explaining that right now the class is more of an experiment, and time will tell if the course returns next year, “if Bishop Medley sees this as a good use of my time, and if I feel confident that this is beneficial for the school and the vocations office.”

Depending on how this class goes, Fr. McClure said the vocations office may be open to discussing

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similar classes at the other Catholic schools in the diocese.

OCHS students appear quite happy with the course.

“We’ve been learning about the universal call to holiness,” said Rose Schreiner, a senior.

Patrick Schepers, a junior, said that he signed up for the class because he “wanted to learn more about my religion, and expand on more about my faith.”

A junior, Anne Elizabeth Edge, said that she has learned a lot about the existence of God, and that the class “really deepened my faith in believing and trusting in God.”

Ethan Taylor, a senior, said that he took the class because he “wanted to learn more about our relationship with Christ.”

Grace Wright, a senior, said they learned that “when we’re in the workforce or in college, not everyone will believe the same things we do.”

“Fr. Jason gave us the tools to be strong in our faith,” she added.

Lauren Goodwin said she became more excited about her faith through this class.

“We learned ‘why’ you do it, and how there’s a meaning behind every single thing we do (in Catholicism),” said the senior.

Sarah Brown, also a senior, said the class “urges us to follow the call to become saints, which is ultimately getting to heaven.”

And Maxwell Maloney, a senior, said he thinks this course should be required at the school.

“It has a great message everyone should hear before they go off to college,” he said. “It gives you a great foundation for your faith, and it’s fun, too.” at my religion, and expand on more about my faith.”

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Fr. McClure leads a review session for his “Following the Call of Jesus” class at OCHS on Nov. 11. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

St. Paul School in Grayson County learns about fire safety

East Grayson County Volunteer Fire Department visited St. Paul School on Oct. 20. They talked to the students about fire safety and showed them the fire safety equipment they used. They let some of the students try on their coats to see how heavy they were. Each student had a chance to use the fire hose and some of the students had the opportunity to get onto the fire truck. Mrs. Kim Smith, the principal, also had the chance to spray with the hose. Each student received a plastic hat and a booklet. Photo courtesy of Joan Butterworth.



St. Jerome youth group visits the Works of Mercy Chapel

During the Year of Mercy, the youth group from St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm made a pilgrimage to the Works of Mercy Chapel at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. The chapel contains several works of art, most notable are stained glass representations of the Works of Mercy and a detailed constellation painting on the ceiling of the cupola that approximates the view St. Thomas More had from the Tower of London during his imprisonment. Construction of the Works of Mercy Chapel created a courtyard between the main church and the chapel that is now home to St. Thomas More's Rosary Garden. The Rosary Garden features a bronze statue of the Holy Family, a grotto fountain and bas-relief panels depicting the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Photo courtesy of J. Patrick Kerr.



Sister Mary Raymond Dieckman, OSU, served in education, Ursuline leadership

Sr. Mary Raymond Dieckman, OSU, 84, an Ursuline Sister of Mount St. Joseph, died Oct. 27, 2016, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 66th year of religious life. She was a native of Kansas City, Kan.

Sr. Raymond was an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan., prior to the merger of that community with Mount St. Joseph in 2008. She was a teacher and principal at schools in Kansas and Oklahoma, and served 22 years in leadership, including eight years as superior of the Ursulines of Paola (1974-82).

Survivors include her sister, Betty DuPont of Paola.

The funeral Mass was Oct. 31 at Mount St. Joseph, with burial in the Motherhouse cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

Gifts in memory of Sister Raymond may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.