

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Called to bring Christ to the world

Bishop William F. Medley,
assisted by Owensboro
Catholic High School
student Miles Edge,
installs seminarian
Conrad Jaconette
(center) into the Ministry
of Acolyte during a
school Mass on March 1.

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New horizon

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A Bible verse from Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, Declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you" is seen written on the wall studs of the future home of the Hooper family in Dawson Springs in December 2022. The Hoopers lost their home to a tornado in December 2021, and their new home was officially completed and dedicated on March 2, 2023.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

For I know
the plans I
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Lord, "plans
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Jeremiah 29:11

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Front page main photo by Riley Greif | WKC

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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.

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Holy Thursday: Do this in memory of me

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As April begins we are within sight of the last days and hours of Lent. Palm Sunday is April 2, so Holy Week is here and Easter but days away. The heart of our observance of Holy Week is the Sacred Triduum, when the Church “solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.” (From the Roman Missal)

The 40 days of Lent conclude with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. But we are reminded that this is immediately followed by the Paschal Fast to be celebrated everywhere on the Friday of the Lord’s Passion. This day of fast and abstinence presents us with a way of coming, with spirit uplifted, to the joys of the Resurrection.

In the midst now of a three-year Revival of the Holy Eucharist, (eucharisticrevival.org) I want to write particularly of Holy Thursday. On this day we remember, as Eucharistic Prayer I illustrates, “On the day before he was to suffer for our salvation and the salvation of all, that is today, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples.”

The evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke all relate, very similarly, the story of the institution of the Holy Eucharist: “Take and eat, this is my body; take and drink, this is the cup of my blood. Do this in memory of me.”

Interestingly, however, the Church chooses on this night the Gospel account of the Last Supper as told by the evangelist John. John tells the story of Jesus washing

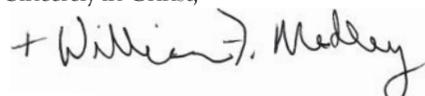
the feet of his disciples during the meal. Peter, always bent on saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, protested, “Never, you shall never wash my feet.” But Jesus persists and Peter consents.

Jesus then says to them all, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly, so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master have washed your feet, you should wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example, so that you may copy what I have done to you.”

At the Mass of the Lord’s Supper the priest washes the feet of selected members of the community to remind us of Jesus’ own action. This feels like an awkward expression to those in Western culture and like Peter many may be inclined to protest. But let this once-a-year gesture remind us that when we serve others, we are serving Jesus.

In other words, do this in memory of me. John’s Last Supper account thus ties together those of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Eucharist involves imitating the action of Jesus. Imitating the action of Jesus in eating bread and drinking wine that has become his Body and Blood, the Real Presence of Christ. But imitating Jesus in washing other’s feet, imitating Jesus in service to others. This too signifies a presence of Christ, distinct indeed from the sacramental presence, reminiscent of Jesus’ reminder that when we feed the hungry, comfort the sick, visit the imprisoned that we are in fact doing these acts for Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S APRIL 2023 CALENDAR	
APRIL 2	11 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 4	6:30 p.m. Chrism Mass – Owensboro Sportscenter, Owensboro
APRIL 6	7 p.m. Holy Thursday/Mass of the Lord’s Supper – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 7	3 p.m. Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 8	8 p.m. Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 11	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Rose Parish, Cloverport
APRIL 12	6 p.m. Prayer Service for Healing & Protection – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary
APRIL 16	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. Charles Parish, Livermore
APRIL 17	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Committee Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
APRIL 19	8 a.m. Senior Conversations – Trinity High School, Whitesville 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 20-21	Presbyteral Gathering
APRIL 22	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm

Calendar continues on page 4

Called to be a sacred vessel *Jaconette installed as acolyte*

BISHOP MEDLEY'S APRIL 2023 CALENDAR CONTINUED	
APRIL 23	2 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
APRIL 25	10 a.m. School Mass & Senior Conversations – St. Mary High School, Paducah 6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Blessed Mother Parish,
APRIL 27	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Lawrence Parish, Knottsville
APRIL 29	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ann
APRIL 30	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield 1:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield

Happy anniversary to our priests!

Msgr. Bernard Powers

Ordained 4/30/1952

Retired

Fr. Tony Shonis

Ordained 4/3/1971

Retired

Fr. Shaiju Thomas

Ordained 4/7/1999

Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Axtel; and St. Mary of the Woods Parish, McQuady

Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas

Ordained 4/25/1999

Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Sebree

BY CONRAD JACONETTE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Did you know it takes seven to eight years of seminary for a man to be ordained a priest? Seminary is not a “quick” process, but is necessary for a man to flourish in self-knowledge, self-acceptance, and self-gift. Around a man’s fifth or sixth year of seminary formation, he is installed as an acolyte (a fancy word for server). The acolyte installation is one of the final steps before the Sacrament of Holy Orders (diaconate and priesthood) and is a turning point in a seminarian’s formation.

On March 1, 2023, Bishop Medley installed me as an acolyte during Owensboro Catholic High School’s weekly school Mass.

I would like to take a moment to express the beauty behind the ministry of the acolyte. As an acolyte, the Church calls me to assist priests and deacons in the order of the Mass, especially in the setting of the altar, distributing Communion, and purifying the sacred vessels. At the root of it all, I am asked to be a server of the altar. I did not realize how powerful this ministry would be to my spirituality.

There is a strange effect that happens when one draws near to the altar. One begins to see the minor “imperfections” of the sacred vessels. These beautiful gold and silver chalices are covered in scratches, chips, dents, or even missing jewels. For some reason, these slight imperfections made me stop and think, what seems so beautiful and perfect



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley with seminarian Conrad Jaconette after Jaconette’s installation as acolyte during the March 1 school Mass at Owensboro Catholic High School.

from the pews are covered in wear and tear. At the core of our faith, this makes sense.

Yes, the vessels must be beautiful because they hold the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist; but they are also tools to bring Christ to his people. These imperfections are proof that the Church is bringing Christ to His people! I smile now when I see these imperfections because it gives me hope that we, as imperfect people, can be used as a tool to bring Christ to others. No matter how many scratches, chips, dents, or even missing jewels we have in our own life, we are called to be sacred vessels that bring Christ to the world. I am honored and blessed to be an acolyte, and I thank God for the gift of serving at His altar. ■

Conrad Jaconette is in second theology (fourth year of seminary formation) at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind. Learn more about vocations in the Diocese of Owensboro at owensborovocations.com.

A \$4 million gift: Parishes, others, receive ‘windfall’ from state’s nonprofit assistance fund



COURTESY OF FR. EMMANUEL UDOH
Fr. Emmanuel Udoh, pastor of Rosary Chapel in Paducah and St. Mary Parish in La Center, speaks during the Jan. 27, 2023 presentation of the Team Kentucky Nonprofit Assistance Fund award to his community.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Seventy-nine parishes and diocesan entities within the Diocese of Owensboro recently received a total of about \$4 million from the Team Kentucky Nonprofit Assistance Fund, which distributed monies leftover from COVID-19 pandemic assistance for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In fall 2022, Molly Thompson, a data system coordinator for the diocese, had learned of this program while routinely researching grants.

“Molly saw it looked promising, so she sent it to me,” said Ray Purk, the diocese’s chief financial officer.

In researching, Purk and his office found that the Kentucky General Assembly had set aside \$75

million to be distributed to non-profit organizations across the state. The \$75 million, called the Team Kentucky Nonprofit Assistance Fund, represented some funding still flowing from federal dollars appropriated during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michelle Roberts, the manager of internal audit and accounting systems for the diocese, told The Western Kentucky Catholic that the criteria for the program fit well into the mission of the diocese’s various ministries.

The applicants had to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth, and either had to be an arts organization or had to serve one of the following populations: people living at or below the federal poverty level; people experiencing homelessness; communities of color; minimum or low-wage employees displaced by business closures; older adults living at/below the federal poverty level; people who are immunocompromised or fragile; immigrant and refugee communities; people with limited English proficiency; people with disabilities; people without health insurance; victims of domestic violence or child abuse; children in need of services; or workers without access to paid sick leave.

The state would review applications on a first-come, first-served basis, so time was of the essence.

Purk reached out to the parishes and other entities, alerting them to the opportunity so that they could send necessary paperwork to the finance office. The decision was also made that despite filing on behalf of the parishes and entities, the diocese

would not assess any of these dollars.

After receiving the needed paperwork, the finance office finished filing for the program by the Oct. 1 deadline.

Bishop William F. Medley submitted a letter to accompany the applications, in which he wrote of the diocese’s mission “to continue the work begun by Jesus Christ: to preach the Gospel of love and mercy, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the immigrant, to ease suffering whenever possible and to provide for those who are most vulnerable.”

He went on to credit the selfless work of many, including that of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, and Resurrection Cemetery – whose services include assisting low-income families and those who have suffered the loss of an infant.

“I am proud to say that the services we provide are not limited by creed or color,” wrote the bishop. “Our goal is always to minister to those who are in the greatest need.”

A few months later, Purk’s team learned that their hard work had paid off.

On Dec. 9, 2022 – the anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1937 – Purk emailed the parish and diocesan entity leaders that their checks were in the mail.

The timing was a happy coincidence; Purk said he did not recall at the time that it was the diocese’s birthday.

“Given the small filing window of only two months, we knew we had to gather the information

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Nonprofits continued from page 5

in an organized and efficient manner,” he told the WKC. “After establishing a contact within the Public Protection Cabinet, the state entity charged with administering the program, we were able to submit all 79 applications and gain 100% approval before the funds ran out.”

In a letter to the pastors of parishes receiving a check, Bishop Medley wrote that “for all our parishes this represents an unexpected windfall. If your parish is still catching up from the effects of the pandemic, then I am pleased this can help you balance things.”

For parishes who were not financially struggling, the bishop offered some suggestions.

One recommendation was sharing their gift with Catholic Charities’ recovery work in rebuilding homes lost in the December 2021 tornadoes. Another suggestion was to work with other parishes to create a fund for future use when a parish might face an extraordinary need or declining demographics.

All of these choices, however, were left up to the recipients.

Roberts is pleased that these efforts have been able to help the people of the Diocese of Owensboro.

“Each of the 79 parishes and diocesan entities that we applied for received a check,” she said. “Twenty-nine percent of them received the highest amount available, which was \$100,000.” ■



COURTESY OF ST. MARY PARISH

Several parishes of the Bowling Green Deanery are represented during the Feb. 24, 2023 presentation of the Team Kentucky Nonprofit Assistance Fund award. (Left to right) Joann Franssen-Gilliam, a finance council member of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville; Fr. Ken Mikulcik, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville; Maria Molina, Hispanic/Latino minister for St. Mary Parish in Franklin; Fr. Tom Buckman, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Franklin and Christ the King Parish in Scottsville; and Kentucky governor Andy Beshear.



COURTESY OF STACEY MENSER

The exterior of the Hooper family’s home, which was dedicated on March 2, 2023.

‘A living fellowship’

Ecumenical partnership completes home for Dawson Springs family

BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro joined with Mennonite Disaster Service on March 2 for the first of many home dedications planned by the two organizations in Dawson Springs.

Eddie, Ladonna and Tori Hooper were surrounded by new and old friends as Deacon Mike Marsili offered a blessing over their home and Mennonite volunteers raised songs of praise and read scripture.

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COURTESY OF STACEY MENSER
Deacon Mike Marsili blesses the Hooper home and family during their home dedication on March 2, 2023.

“This home is a symbol of how successful partnerships can be when we work together,” said Jonathan Short of Mennonite Disaster Service from Ohio. “Home is not merely a dwelling, but a living fellowship.”

The Hoopers were like thousands of Kentuckians who lost their homes in the Dec. 10, 2021 tornado.

And like most tornado survivors, the Hoopers started down an unknown and often frustrating path to recovery.

Within days of the tornado, volunteers from

across the state and country arrived in Dawson Springs offering to help any way they could. It was during that time that the Hoopers were approached by a contractor who wanted to build them a house.

The family had some insurance money coming to them, but not enough to build a house. They were assured donated materials and volunteer labor could make up the difference and get them in a new home in no time.

The family put over \$40,000 toward building materials, hired a subcontractor to pour their foundation, and then they sat and waited.

By August 2022, no work had been done on their home.

It was August when the Hoopers decided to reach out to Catholic Charities for case management assistance. The number one need of every tornado survivor is a guide to walk beside them on the path to recovery. That is what Catholic Charities case managers do. They walk beside tornado survivors and match them up with the resources and assistance they need.

What the Hoopers needed was a house, and Catholic Charities was ready to make that happen. Josh Hipp, construction manager for the Pennyriple region, took charge of the Hooper home build. As he began ordering materials and coordinating labor, the Hoopers’ case manager, Stacey Menser, sought funding from various organizations – American Red Cross, Convoy of Hope, Lutheran Disaster Services, Knights of Columbus, private individuals and area churches, as well as Catholic Charities itself.

“God knows when you need things, and God puts people in your life right when you need them,” said Ladonna Hooper. “If it hadn’t been for the tornado and everything we went through, we never would have met these people and formed these relationships. And if it hadn’t been for Josh and Catholic Charities, we would not be in this home today.”

Hipp currently has five homes under construction with Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers and plans to complete up to 15 homes in the community within the next year as long as funding is available. The Hoopers are the first of many families whose lives will be blessed because of the collaboration.

“Life is amazing,” said Ladonna Hooper. “If you keep looking toward God, life does become amazing for you.” ■



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ursulinesmsj.org/associates.**

Contact Doreen Abbott, coordinator of
Ursuline Partnerships, if you have
questions or to begin your journey.
270-229-2006 • doreen.abbott@maplemount.org



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8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

Black Americans on the road to sainthood: From slave to priest



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER

Fr. Augustine Tolton, also known as Augustus, is pictured in a photo from an undated portrait card. Born into slavery in Missouri, he was ordained a priest April 24, 1886. He served as pastor at St. Joseph Church in Quincy, Ill., and later established St. Monica's Church in Chicago.

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

This month we remember the Venerable Fr. Augustine Tolton who was born a slave in Brush Creek, Mo., on April 1, 1854 and who overcame numerous obstacles to become the first Black American ordained to the priesthood. His father,

a Union Soldier, was killed in a Civil War battle when Augustus was seven years old – the same year that his family escaped through the Underground Railroad to Quincy, Ill. He and his siblings were enrolled in Catholic schools there, but experienced such intense hostility and racism that his mother withdrew them and Augustus went to work in a tobacco factory to help support the family.

By the time Augustus was 14, Sister M. Herlinde Sick, SSND – who later founded a school for Black children – began tutoring him and found him to be an apt student who also became an altar boy and expressed a deep commitment to the faith. It was at the time of receiving his First Communion at age 16 that he expressed his desire to serve as a priest. Because he displayed intellectual aptitude and spirituality, the parish priest recommended that Augustus enter the seminary and received the agreement of the diocese to fund his training. After numerous rejections and a long search for a seminary that would accept a Black student, he was finally enrolled in the Pontifical Urban College in Rome in 1880, which led to his ordination in 1886 and the celebration of his first Mass on Easter Vigil April 24, 1886 at St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome.

Though Fr. Tolton expected to serve as a missionary to Africa he was assigned to the United States. As noted by the cardinal who ordained him: “America has been called the most enlightened nation; we will see if it deserves that honor; we will see if it deserves that honor. If America has never seen a Black priest, it has to see one now.”

After his return to Illinois, diocesan records in-

dicate that Fr. Tolton built a thriving, integrated parish with 1,500 white and Black members, and his sermons drew parishioners from other dioceses – so many, in fact, that the diocese cut funds from the parish and declared that Fr. Tolton should no longer minister to white parishioners. After years of perseverance in the face of this discrimination, Fr. Tolton requested a transfer to Chicago, where he ministered to the growing Black Catholic community, pastoring the first Black parish in the city. St. Monica's congregation had grown from 100 to 600 members, drawing both white and Black parishioners, and Fr. Tolton made great efforts to minister to the poor and oppressed of Chicago.

On July 9, 1897, Fr. Tolton arrived in Chicago by train from a retreat for priests. On his way home he collapsed on the street and was taken to the hospital, where he died of a heat stroke. Prior to his death, his parishioners had taken notice of his fatigue that displayed itself in his hands when giving Holy Communion and his need to sit when celebrating Mass.

On July 12, Fr. Tolton's solemn Requiem Mass was offered at St. Monica Church. In 2010, Fr. Tolton's canonization was inaugurated by the late-Cardinal Francis E. George, OMI, of Chicago. On June 11, 2019, Pope Francis advanced the Cause for Sainthood of the Servant of God Augustus Tolton by signing a decree issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago – vice postulator of Tolton's canonization cause – defines his legacy: “His was a fundamental and pervasive struggle to be

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recognized, welcomed and accepted. He rises wonderfully as a Christ-figure, never uttering a harsh word about anyone or anything while being thrown one disappointment after another. He persevered among us when there was no logical reason to do so." Bishop Perry describes Fr. Tolton as a patron saint of inclusion.

Born this month and ordained in Rome during the Easter season, this holy person's life can spark thoughts of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. Fr. Tolton knew suffering and

rejection but he persevered through it all with a gentleness of spirit, an unrelenting faith and service to God's people. ■

More information is available from the Archdiocese of Chicago: <https://tolton.archchicago.org/about/tolton-canonization> and "From Slave to Priest" by Sister Caroline Hemesath, SSF.

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

National Black Catholic Congress

Registration is now open! The National Black Catholic Congress XIII will be held on July 20-23, 2023 at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, marking the third time that the Washington, D.C., area has hosted the gathering, and each of those times, key participants included noted figures in U.S. Catholic history. More information and how to register can be found at <https://owensborodiocese.org/black-catholic-ministry/> or by emailing nbcc@nbccongress.org.

Water With Blessings co-founder honored at social responsibility event

BY EPIPHANY PARISH STAFF

Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, was honored on Feb. 18 at Epiphany Catholic Church in Louisville at its annual Fr. James Flynn Social Responsibility Recognition event. Known to many in the Louisville community as the executive director of Water With Blessings, Sr. Lorraine has responded to the cries of the marginalized all over the world. Sister Lorraine's experience in helping people where they lived allowed her to see that marrying high technology with practical humanity could be highly effective. She also understood that mothers could be a key resource in providing clean water to entire villages. Through her leadership, Water With Blessings now partners with 115,000 mothers in 48 countries ensuring healthy water is available to their families and communities. Thanks to her work, people

in Haiti, Honduras, Uganda, and the Philippines enjoy clean water and healthier lives. Closer to home, Water With Blessings is now helping the Navajo nation provide clean water for its people. ■

The above is an excerpt from an article which originally ran on the website of Epiphany Parish in Louisville and has been reprinted with permission.



Want to win a handmade quilt?

The Ursuline Sisters' 2023-2024 Quilt Club tickets are now available!

For the purchase of one \$25 ticket, you get 12 chances to win a handmade quilt from April 2023-March 2024. Drawings take place at noon on the first Friday of each month. (The April drawing is on a Thursday, due to Good Friday.)

Watch the drawings live on our Facebook page!

Sign up by April 5 to be entered into all 12 drawings

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold, so don't delay!

Contact Carol Braden-Clarke: 270-229-2008

carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

Sign up online: ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club

NOTE: The quilts pictured are from LAST year's Quilt Club. We wanted you to see that there is a unique beauty in each quilt!



Ursuline Sisters
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Find your joy: An Easter challenge



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis greets women religious during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Jan. 11, 2023.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day” (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, paragraph 3). Each day of this Easter season, make a 10-minute appointment for prayer and be available for Jesus to show up.

It is not an accident that Lent is 40 days, and the Easter Season is 50 days. We are an Easter people!

The joy of the Resurrection is our birthright as Christians, and it grows in our lives by spending time with God daily. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, which is manifest in our lives in correlation to union with God.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how much joy do you have in your daily life?

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the polarization of our country and the reality of evil in our world. The stressors of our everyday lives are quite high. But “Easter people” remember that Jesus says “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your daily prayer life? When we carry our pain ourselves and allow the anxieties of life to choke our spiritual lives, we suffer. And we often look miserable too! Pope Francis says this, “An Evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come from a funeral”

(*The Joy of the Gospel*, paragraph 10).

As we hear the book of Acts proclaimed this Easter season and marvel at how the Holy Spirit was moving in the early Church, the challenge is to commit to a daily prayer life and invite Jesus to be Lord of your life. Ask God to renew your joy. Pour out your struggles, pain and concern to God and receive the Holy Spirit.

“Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7).

Lest you think, “I am not an evangelizer, so this message is not for me,” you need to know that every Catholic is called to be an evangelizer. Many of us think that is not my role, I could never do that. True! On our own, none of us can share the fruits of the Spirit with others, but when we are authentically touched by Jesus, we cannot say, “I have my salvation, go get your own.” Rather, we want to share the goodness of God with everyone we meet. Reread the first sentence from Pope Francis and do it unfailingly each day! ■

Peace,
Jeff

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. He wants to hear from you and maybe feature your questions in his column! Please email questions and comments to jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

The origin of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Divine Mercy image, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

BY DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE
OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Faustina:

To many in the 20th century, humankind began to experience what St. John Paul II called “an eclipse of the sense of God.” In failing to see God at work in the world, humankind failed to see God in each other. Consequently, people failed to see and understand the sanctity and inherent dignity in every human life. It was clear to John Paul II – there was an urgent need for the message of Divine Mercy. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. St. John Paul explains:

“This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of off-setting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy - the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt compelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church.” (St. Pope John Paul II, *Memory and Identity* (2005))

Divine Mercy Sunday:

St. Faustina’s Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed, for example:

“My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy

be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. ... It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.” (Diary, no 699)

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Image:

Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that “Jesus, I trust in You” be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish” (Diary, no. 48) and “By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls” (Diary, no. 742).

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

The Chaplet was also given to Saint Faustina with the promise: “Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you” (Diary, no. 1541). “Whoever



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ
An image of St. Faustina Kowalska is seen during the recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet on Divine Mercy Sunday April 11, 2021, at Holy Cross Church in the Queens borough of New York City.

will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know my infinite mercy” (Diary, no. 687). ■

Deacon Jay W. VanHoosier is the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Owensboro. For more information visit owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation, email jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org or call (270) 852-8324.

Church ‘young and alive in my own town’

BG Catholics group thrives while serving local young adults

BY ALLISON STEEN-BAKER AND SARAH BESSINGER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” - Matthew 18:20

In 2018, Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green embarked on a journey – a mission – to assist the Church at large with one question: *Why are churches losing young people?* This question is not one just on the minds of Catholic churches, but of all Christian denominations alike. In 2018, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology was awarded a grant from the Lilly Foundation to help answer that question. Their mission was, and still is, to respond to the challenge of connecting today’s young adults (ages 23-29) with Catholic parishes. Holy Spirit in Bowling Green was one of 12 parishes east of the Mississippi to be selected by Saint Meinrad for their Young Adult Initiative.

The primary goal for parishes involved in this initiative is to engage with young adults and design innovative ministries to effectively meet their spiritual needs. Over the course of the initiative, Holy Spirit Parish has received grant funding to facilitate this mission through different efforts, including hosting Bible studies, socials, brunches, Adoration services, praise and worship, coffee hours, and the like. Theology on Tap has brought many young people out to explore different topics and listen to an array of speakers at various restaurants and venues around Bowling Green. Some of our favorite social events have been celebrating Mardi Gras with traditional cuisine and

flair (thanks, Fr. Corey Bruns!), Galentine’s Day with a women’s brunch, and All Saints Day with a “Dress As Your Favorite Saint” costume party.

Our initial goal was to serve the needs of Holy Spirit Parish, but God had bigger plans.

“As someone who did not grow up in Bowling Green, it was challenging to find community,” said Allie Irons. “Not only that, I had moved into the area



COURTESY OF BG CATHOLICS
Fr. Corey Bruns, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, speaks at a BG Catholics event.

in the summer of 2020 – right in the midst of Covid! Things were shut down, people weren’t gathering like they used to, and it felt very isolating. Because I could not find community easily, I decided to go to Fr. Ryan at St. Joe’s and ask if we could start getting young adult Catholics together.”

Not long after, in 2021, Holy Spirit Young Adults merged with St. Joseph Parish’s young adult group to create BG Catholics. BG Catholics is a regional group that leads young adults ages 18-39 into relationship

with Jesus and equips them to become lifelong missionary disciples. BG Catholics serves the Bowling Green community along with people from Western Kentucky University (St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center), Glasgow, Russellville, Scottsville, Franklin, and more.

“I have really enjoyed being a part of BG Catholics,” said Christy Winn. “I have made some close friends from the group and have loved watching the community grow!”

“Having good Catholic community is so vital in living out the faith, to see and know that others are running this race with you,” said Gina Newberry. “BG Catholics also provides unique opportunities to share the Catholic faith with others. Just a simple invitation and learning to walk with the people God places in your life is one of the most powerful tools we have for evangelization and everything about the Catholic faith is worth sharing and sharing in.”

While we haven’t really “reinvented the wheel” in ministry, we have learned a lot about how to engage with young adults and what is important: community. At the end of the day, we all seek to nurture authentic relationships, to learn more about our faith, and most importantly, to deepen our relationship with Christ. We have found that creating space for young adults to simply be in community among like-minded peers can be the beginning of lifelong discipleship and commitment to Christ. While this goal is simple, it requires the commitment of a team of people who are dedicated to not only creating that space for young adults but personally inviting them into it and

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'A new horizon, a decisive direction'

Opportunities for youth to encounter Jesus Christ



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY Lazarus Retreat #5 took place on Feb. 17-19, 2023 at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

As I go around the diocese trying to aid parish youth ministry efforts, my message has become the need for 1) adults who care (as noted in the January issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*), 2) opportunities for the faith lives of youth to come alive, and 3) opportunities for youth to live out their faith as disciples. For this article, I want to look at number two.

The late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI stated, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." That person is Jesus Christ. Throughout scripture we see when people encounter Jesus, they are met with love, compassion, and a kind

of conviction that inspires a reorienting ("metanoia") of life to follow He who sets us free (Gal. 5:1). We can teach young people about the Catholic faith for their entire lives, but they also need (perhaps first) conversion: a life-altering encounter. St. Pope John Paul II shares, "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ:

only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

Opportunities to encounter Jesus need to be happening in every home and every parish as often as possible. Reflective prayer experiences, Eucharistic Adoration, parish retreats, mission trips, the sacraments, great conversations, and certainly the Mass are all ways of providing this kind of encounter. We are also blessed in this diocese to have gatherings and events for youth regularly in which the aim is a lifechanging encounter with Jesus. Here is a list of all the events in the next year that you could invite youth to experience.

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp (June and July 2023) – For third through twelfth grade youth: www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/camp-information

Holy Fire (Tentatively Oct. 21, 2023) – For

middle school youth: www.eqsaints.com/holyfire-nashville

National Catholic Youth Conference (Nov. 16-18, 2023) – For high school youth. Information about going to NCYC is available through each parish in the diocese. <https://ncyc.us/> for event details.

Christmas Camp at Gasper River (Dec. 29, 2023-Jan. 1, 2024) – For eighth-twelfth grade youth: www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/camp-information

Encuentro Youth Retreat (Tentatively January 2024) – For Hispanic youth who are attending the Encuentro gatherings held throughout the diocese with their families. More details to come.

Lazarus Retreat (Feb. 16-18, 2024) – A one-time retreat experience for high school youth at Gasper River: www.owensborodiocese.org/lazarus-retreat/

YOUTH 2000 (March 15-17, 2024) – For ages 13-30: www.owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000.

I am inviting all who are reading this article to think "relentless invitation." We need your help to invite young people and to not take "no" for an answer when it comes to building up their faith. I often witness to being the product of a "nagging mother" when it comes to my own faith. I am grateful she never stopped inviting me to Mass. Please join me in relentlessly inviting young people to encounter Jesus. ■

Charlie Hardesty is the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry and email him at charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org.

YOUTH 2000: March 17-19, 2023



RACHEL HALL | WKC
(Far left photo) Teens pray the rosary on March 4, 2023, during YOUTH 2000, which took place at Brescia University in Owensboro. (Right photo) Young people clap their hands and sing praise and worship songs on March 4, 2023, at YOUTH 2000.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
(Left photo) Fr. Corey Bruns leads Eucharistic Adoration on March 4, 2023, during YOUTH 2000, which took place at Brescia University in Owensboro. This annual youth retreat features prayer, Mass, Confession, talks, and fellowship with other Catholic youth.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Deacon Chris Kight genuflects during the procession for March 4, 2023 Mass at YOUTH 2000, which took place at Brescia University.

'Young and alive' continued from page 12

allowing Christ to encounter his people where they are gathered.

“Attending the Marti Gras party was a great way for me to see the Church being young and alive in my own town,” said Joseph McGinnis. “I think that an important and commonly overlooked aspect of our faith is community, and that’s precisely why I appreciate BG Catholics so much for opening the window of opportunity to encounter other young adults and opening the door to get involved in the Catholic com-

munity here in Bowling Green.”

BG Catholics was selected to continue into the second phase of Saint Meinrad’s Young Adult Initiative, and we look forward to sharing our experience with others and creating space for young adults to encounter Christ through community in other areas of our diocese. ■

If your parish is interested in expanding your young adult efforts and looking for guidance, please feel free to contact Allison Steen-Baker at allison@holyspiritcatholic.org.



COURTESY OF BG CATHOLICS
Two young adults enjoy this year’s BG Catholics Mardi Gras party.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley traces a cross of ashes on the forehead of Fr. Fr. Santhosh Thomas during the noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 22, 2023.

At Ash Wednesday liturgy, bishop encourages all to find ‘inner place’ for prayer

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In his homily at the Feb. 22, 2023 noon Mass for Ash Wednesday at St. Stephen Cathedral, Bishop William F. Medley spoke on Jesus’ instruction to go to an inner room to pray so that “your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

“All of us should find that inner room within ourselves,” said the bishop.

He acknowledged those whose lives are busy, especially young mothers, and encouraged them that even if they do not have a physical space for quiet, that they could pause for a quiet moment in their hearts.

“Go to that inner space and seek a peace that may be found in that place,” he said. “Find that inner room, celebrate it, and thank God.” ■



COURTESY OF DEACON MIKE MARSILI

The sign on the property of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs.

Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs continues to look to the future

BY WKC STAFF

After a tornado during the Dec. 10, 2021 storms destroyed Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, the building was deemed a total loss and the property was cleared to build a brand-new church from the ground up. The plans for the new church were recently finalized and a sign was put up with a representation of what Resurrection’s new home will look like.

To date, the parishioners continue to worship in the metal outbuilding of parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills, who opened their home to the community after the tornado devastated their church. On Christmas Eve 2021, just days after the storms, Bishop William F. Medley visited the Mills’ property to celebrate Mass with Resurrection’s parishioners. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Martha Keller, left, and Rosanne Spalding check in attendees at the Feb. 25 Introduction to Centering Prayer program and give them name tags and brochures. Sister Rosanne is the pastoral associate and Director of Religious Education for Precious Blood, where she has ministered for 30 years.

Ursuline Sisters organize Centering Prayer event

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

A diverse group of about 35 people came to Precious Blood Parish Hall in Owensboro to learn more about Centering Prayer on Feb. 27. Ursuline Sisters Rosanne Spalding and Martha Keller, as well as Ursuline Associate Maryann Joyce, helped organize the free event. The program presenters, Judy Sharer and Gina Di Girolamo, were trained representatives of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. Attendees learned and experienced the process of Centering Prayer, also called Prayer of Consent ~ a simple prayer of quiet and consenting to God’s presence within. The method of Centering Prayer came from Fr. Thomas Keating. ■

Catechumens and candidates enter final phase of preparation before joining Church

BY WKC STAFF

This time of year, it is common for those who are undergoing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) to enter the final phase of catechetical and spiritual formation as they prepare to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

In February, the Diocese of Owensboro hosted several celebrations of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion across the region. Due to the vast size of the diocese and the need to make these celebrations accessible to the faithful, this took place three times at different locations: Feb. 19 at St. Leo Parish in Murray, and on Feb. 26 at both 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

The Rite of Election portion was for catechumens – those who have never been baptized – and the Call to Continuing Conversion portion was for candidates – those who have already been validly baptized and who are experiencing the call on their hearts to enter into full communion of the Catholic Church.

Please keep all catechumens and candidates in your prayers as they continue their journeys of seeking a deeper relationship with God. ■

To learn more, contact Deacon Ken Bennett, co-coordinator for the diocese’s Office of Worship, at ken.bennett@pastoral.org.



COURTESY OF ROSE WHEELER

A group from Holy Name of Jesus Parish attends one of the Feb. 26, 2023 Rite of Election celebrations at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF ZACH AULT

Bishop William F. Medley welcomes a member of the elect during the Feb. 19, 2023 Rite of Election celebration at St. Leo Parish in Murray.



COURTESY OF LAUREN JOHNSON

Fr. Brandon Williams, co-coordinator for the Diocese of Owensboro’s Office of Worship, assists people in signing the Book of the Elect during one of the Feb. 26, 2023 Rite of Election celebrations held at St. Stephen Cathedral.

Owensboro Catholic students stand up for kids

BY WKC STAFF

On March 13, the SCRUBS club of Owensboro Catholic High School set up a display in front of the school recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month, which would take place in April. SCRUBS, which stands for Students Creating Respect Using Better Solutions, put up a large banner, several small yard signs, and multiple blue pinwheels, which are associated with child abuse prevention.

Learn more about this month at pcaky.org and learn more about protecting children and other vulnerable people at owensborodiocese.org/safe-environment. ■



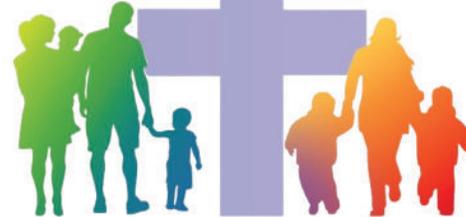
COURTESY OF BRETT DOWNING On March 13, SCRUBS members stand around a display they set up for Child Abuse Prevention Month, which takes place in April. Pictured are Mollie Pride, Patrick Hauke, Spencer Roberts, Anna Katherine Wathen and Karis Colbert.



COURTESY OF BRETT DOWNING On March 13, SCRUBS members place blue pinwheels on the front lawn of Owensboro Catholic High School in recognition of upcoming Child Abuse Prevention Month, which takes place in April.

Save the Date to Join Bishop Medley for Evening Prayer

PROMISE TO PROTECT PLEDGE TO HEAL



April 12, 2023 | 6 PM at St. Stephen Cathedral

610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY

Prayer service will be livestreamed at ststephencathedral.org/live

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

St. Martin's annual Birthright drive again exceeds expectations

BY NICOLE GRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Birthright began in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in 1968 when Louise Summerhill, a busy housewife and mother of seven, felt something should be done to help women facing unplanned pregnancies. By offering love, hope, support and resources, Birthright has grown to become a pregnancy support service with hundreds of centers throughout Canada, the United States and Africa.

From the first time Debi Hopkins, director of religious education at St. Martin Parish in Rome, visited Birthright of Owensboro, she knew it was a worthy cause. Birthright's current location is 512 W. 7th St. in Owensboro, Ky., 42301. (It was once owned by Michael Atherton, who happens to be my father!) Operated by a director and volunteers, it is open 9 a.m.-12 noon, Monday-Thursday. In just a short visit, you might see a young couple, a single parent, or a grandmother all there to get provisions for one or more infants or small children in their care. Often, donated items seem to fly out the door as soon as they come in. This is basic help to people who need it right then, to care for precious children that might otherwise go without.

January is Respect Life Month, and this January St. Martin Parish had its fifth annual drive for Birthright. The drive has its kickoff on Epiphany. According to Hopkins, St. Martin had not had an annual drive for Birthright since before 2019. She said that the St. Martin Quilting Club has made quilts and donated throughout the years however: "I brought the idea with me from a former parish I worked for, St. Mary

Magdalene in Sorgho."

This year, one of St. Martin Parish's Confirmation students decided she wanted to help during the annual drive. Katie St. Clair, daughter of Kathleen and Greg St. Clair, said that in her Confirmation class they were asked to do something for church.

"I wanted to do some sort of basket in church, so I asked my parents and Mrs. Hopkins," said Katie. "They told me if I wanted to have a donation drive, I would need to have a place to donate and I thought Birthright would be a fitting organization."

Katie was happy to jump in and help with this year's drive. She and her mother put up a playpen near the entrance of the church and made signs to direct St. Martin parishioners to the drop-off area.

"The items in most need are all sizes of diapers and all types of formula," said Hopkins. "Also needed are anything baby, toddler, children up to age 6, like clothing, shoes, and bedding. The condition does not have to be new, but should be clean and in good condition."

When Katie started this project, she said was freaking out a little bit because she is young and can't drive. She had to make phone calls that she usually saw her mom make, so it scared her because she'd never done anything like it before.

"If a young person wants to try something like this it's going to be a little scary and you'll feel like you can't do it because you're 'just a kid' and can't drive, but you can do it and it'll all be worth it, and you will feel so good because you know it is for a good cause," said Katie. She said that when you have an idea, to talk to an adult or ask if they know something you can do, because there will always be something that



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

Katie St. Clair holding a onesie sign used for St. Martin Parish's annual drive for Birthright. In the background is St. Martin Parish's pro-life billboard.

you can do to help someone else.

Hopkins echoed that, and said young and older people alike can help in simple ways such as:

Ask Birthright what they currently need, and then be mindful of sales and bargains to gather what you can. When you have filled a box or bag, take it to them.

Donate your time. Older people can volunteer to help people who come in and to answer calls that come in. Young and old can help put away donations and keep things organized.

Continues on page 19

Brescia University awards Larry Hostetter Scholarship

PRESS RELEASE

OWENSBORO, KY (March 7, 2023) - Brescia University awarded the first Larry Hostetter Scholarship this past semester. This scholarship was created by generous donors Ron and Cathy Tisch to serve as a perpetual legacy to Brescia University President, Fr. Larry Hostetter, and to aid in the financial assistance to deserving students. The student awarded this scholarship was Zakirullah Ahmadzai, a refugee from Afghanistan who is living in Owensboro.

The goal of this award is to provide aid in financial assistance to deserving students to increase the socioeconomic diversity on campus. The recipients will be encouraged to participate in social projects while

attending Brescia. The original principal endowment was \$250,000 and will be used to provide a renewable scholarship for up to four years at Brescia University.

“I was very humbled when I learned of this gift to create a scholarship in my name,” stated Hostetter, “It is designed to help students who have a financial need while encouraging the recipients to use their education in the spirit of servant leadership. I am grateful to Ron and Cathy Tisch for this opportunity to help our students.”

Ahmadzai worked with the USA forces in Afghanistan for 12 years before having to evacuate due to country being captured by the Taliban. He is currently working towards his master’s degree. “I graduated in December 2013 in Afghanistan and

planned to get my master’s degree there but was busy working with the United States Army and couldn’t find time. When I arrived in Owensboro, I met with Fr. Larry and asked about master’s degrees at Brescia. Brescia University is one of the best universities in Kentucky, even in the United States and I am happy to choose Brescia for my master’s.”

Ron and Cathy Tisch said of the scholarship, “We hope other individuals or families will contribute to this scholarship endowment to honor Fr. Larry’s tireless commitment to Brescia over the years.” ■

For more information on this scholarship, please contact Rachel Whelan, Director of Public Relations and Marketing at rachel.whelan@brescia.edu or 270.686.2110.

Birthright drive continued from page 18

If you are financially able to help, any donation goes a long way when Birthright needs to fill specific needs, such as prescriptions and special formulas.

A new mother once told Hopkins this story. She had gone into Target to get a pack of diapers. When she picked the package up, she noticed the package had been previously opened, and very carefully and neatly closed. Maybe 4-5 diapers were missing. She said her heart sank when she envisioned someone, a mom most likely, carefully taking out those few diapers to perhaps get through one day. They were risking detection; it was theft, after all. The image she related to me is one I have often recalled when I think of Birthright. It is an image that, in fact, says it all. ■

Nicole Gray is the director of communications for St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky.



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY
Katie St. Clair with some of the items donated to Birthright from St. Martin Parish’s annual drive. Another truckload full was also donated.

Having a Eucharistic Spirituality

CATECHIST RETREAT



Sr. Cheryl Clemons,
O.S.U. - Retreat master

Gasper River
April 28-30, 2023

Retreat will begin with
arrival at 6:30pm on April
28 and end at 12:30pm on
April 30th

Cost: \$50 per person

To Register go to
<https://owensborodiocese.org/catechist-retreat-2/>
Please register by April 10, 2023

Questions? Contact Robin at robin.tomes@pastoral.org



Meeting Jesus in the Eucharist at St. Mary Magdalene Parish's first of three National Eucharistic Revival listening sessions



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

The crucifix is seen through the monstrance at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho. On March 12, the parish held its first of three Eucharistic Listening Sessions.

BY LAVIDA MISCHEL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

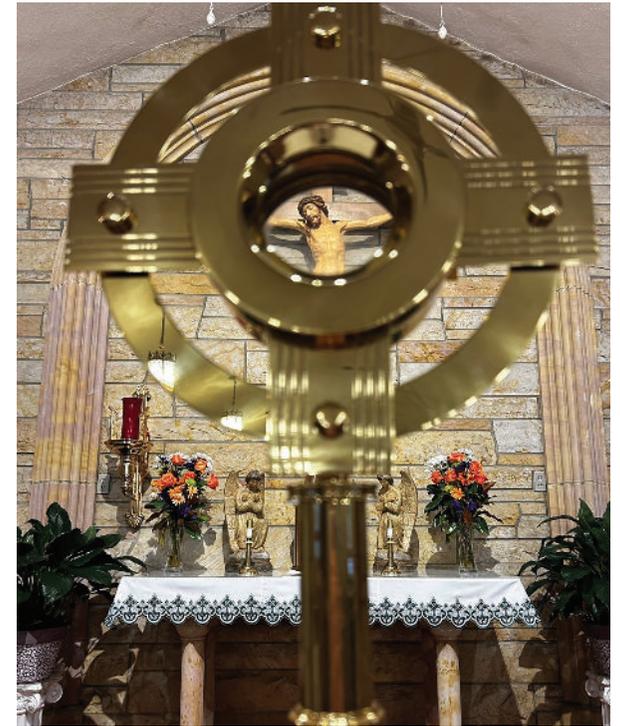
“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” – John 6:51

Jesus Christ invites us to return to the Source and Summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement

to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. As requested by Bishop Medley, nearly 50 parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene Parish gathered on Sunday, March 12 for the first of three Eucharistic listening sessions. Draped by a beautiful Sorgho sunset, the gathering

took place on the Knott Family Farm near the church. There, parishioners shared prayer through Adoration, witness talks, food and fellowship. The participation was spirit-filled. Topics discussed included the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, quarantined without the Eucharist, personal transformation through the Eucharist, how to share one's faith in the Source and Summit of the Church, and more. ■

Learn more about the National Eucharistic Revival at eucharisticrevival.org.



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, leads the community in Eucharistic Adoration as part of their Eucharistic listening session, which was held March 12.

Tri-parish community surprises pastor for his birthday

BY REBECCA WOODALL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. John Okoro wants our churches, St. Francis Borgia in Sturgis, St. Ambrose in Henshaw, and St. William of Vercelli in Marion, to do more together as a tri-parish. His birthday seemed like the

perfect time to start. Initially, the plan was to have a tri-parish welcome back party for him when he returned from visiting his home in Nigeria the first week in February. However, those plans changed due to the unexpected death of a beloved member of St. Ambrose.

All three parishes typically celebrate his birthday in a small way each year. Still, it seemed fitting this

year that we gave him the gift for all three parishes to join and throw him a surprise celebration. The party occurred at St. Ambrose, following their Saturday night Mass on Feb. 25 (his birthday is Feb. 24). Members from each church worked together to plan, decorate, cook, and create a slideshow of pictures of him from activities at each church.

A couple of weeks before his birthday, while

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Tri-parish continued from page 21

looking at the calendar to schedule meetings and parish activities, someone pointed out a date to him and asked about its significance. His response was, “The first Friday of Lent.” It did not register to him that the date was his birthday. That kind of humbleness he shows daily makes him loved by the parishioners at all three parishes. His actions are always to honor God and help others, not himself.

Tri-parish staff celebrated his birthday during a staff meeting on Fat Tuesday. The mini celebration was also a surprise and kept him from thinking we might be planning anything else.

After Mass on Saturday, St. Ambrose parishioners got him to their parish hall, where the members of St. Francis Borgia and St. William were waiting to

surprise him along with the other members of St. Ambrose, who he thought had already left for the night.

Fr. Okoro was visibly surprised and pleased with the celebration. He spoke to the crowd, saying it was his “top birthday of 57 years.” He also expressed that it helped to calm him down as he has been tense worrying about the presidential elections in Nigeria, his country of birth.

Everyone had a great night of fellowship, hopefully, the first of many celebrations the tri-parish celebrates together. ■

Rebecca Woodall is the secretary for St. William of Vercelli Parish in Marion.



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE DOSSETT

Fr. John Okoro smiles for a picture with Bobbie Mackey, a parishioner of St. Ambrose in Henshaw, during his Feb. 25 surprise birthday party.

Doty family moves into new home with help from SVDP's House in a Box

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

While life has moved on for many since that fateful day in December 2021 when tornadoes devastated western Kentucky, some families are still putting their lives back together.

This February, Colin Doty and two of his eight children loaded up their pickup and a trailer with their House in a Box necessities. Those household necessities included: mattresses/box springs/frames for each child and their parents, two dinette sets, couches, kitchenware, bath towels, dressers, and everything anyone would need to set up housekeeping.

Doty told us their family of 10 had been living in a small camper for months.

“Tonight everyone will have a bed to sleep in,” said Doty. “We are so grateful to St. Vincent de Paul

and Catholic Charities for the help we have received. We wouldn't have been able to rebuild our home and furnish it without you.”

The Dotys are just one family that your donations and grants have helped return to a normal daily life. It is our hope to help between 350-500 western Kentucky families affected by the December 2021 storms. So far, we've served more than 80 families. While that may not seem like a lot, to those served it means everything. Many factors come into play – the availability of building supplies, availability of building contractors, FEMA, individual home insurers, etc. We'll keep you posted on how it's going. Please continue to pray for the families as it may be years before things return to normal. ■

Belinda Abell is the marketing coordinator for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc.



COURTESY OF COLIN DOTY

Knox Doty prepares to take a nap in his new bed, which was provided through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's House in a Box program.

Did German prisoners of war work on the farm at Mount Saint Joseph?



COURTESY OF MSJ ARCHIVES

Workers on the MSJ Farm: Leo Merimee Henry Blandford and one unidentified individual, in October 1940.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

It will never cease to amaze me how badly history wants her stories to be discovered. I often imagine her as she was personified by the painter Will Hicok Low, benevolent and loving. She sits with a chest of treasures, more than happy to place them in the hands of those who come with arms earnestly outstretched. As could probably be presumed by this saccharine introduction, I got a big treasure from the chest.

A few months ago, while looking for something mundane in the mother superior files at Mount Saint Joseph, I ran across a letter that caught my eye. It was post marked Rennerod and the introductory paragraph spoke of “the proud feeling to have friends in America.” Hmm, German? This shouldn’t come as too big of a surprise. The Ursulines have deep German ties. Then another line, “Who does the season-works on your farm, after the prisoners of war have

all gone?” Could this be? Did the Mount have German POWs working on their farm?

When I was young my grandmother had told me about visiting a museum, not too far from where my family lived in Madisonville, that had once served as a holding camp for German prisoners of war during World War II. So, the Mount having POW workers was a real possibility.

The letter was dated 1947. Two years after the end of the war. That was a good sign. The letter continued and the story only got more interesting.

The document was in Mother Laurine Sheeran’s files. The author was writing to thank Mother Laurine for being such a kind friend and sending several items that were unattainable to him in the post-war country. The items he thanked her for were religious in nature. He also had one request, a *Missale Romanum*. The author seemed to be a devout and gracious man. It was also interesting that he had made such an impression on the humble MSJ community. Who was he? Were there really German POWs on the MSJ farm? Was he one of them? There were so many questions but the short letter was finished. However, to my great surprise, the next document in the file was another letter from the same author marked 21 days later. The next letter held many answers and many surprises.

This story, being too large for one article, will be finished in the next issue of the WKC. The contents of the next letter will be discussed, as well as who the young man writing to Mother Laurine was. Also, just as a disclaimer, as will be abundantly clear when his identity is revealed, the

author was not a supporter of the Nazi party. He actually worked in opposition of it. Until next issue, auf Wiedersehen! ■

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



COURTESY OF MSJ ARCHIVES
Mother Laurine Sheeran, OSU.

April Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Bobby & Patricia Rafferty, 60
 Danny & Patty Merimee, 55
 Darrell & Sharon Payne, 51
 Louis & Mary Aull, 62
 Robert & Pat Risch, 56
 Tony & Carolyn Clark, 54

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Frank & Gloria Adams, 58

Christ the King, Madisonville

John & Diane Clark, 54
 William & Rebecca Markham, 57

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Albert & Nadine Schwallier, 71
 Carl & Reba Grossman, 50
 Clifford & Helen Romain, 54
 Codie & Erin Comer, 5
 David & Bonnie Bartley, 52
 Dick & Sheila Beaven, 51
 Jack & Reiko Adams, 52
 Ronald & Brenda Sauer, 56
 Tom & Peg Lewis, 55

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Andrew Sithu & Chit Htwe, 10
 Barry & Joy Howard, 25
 Casmiro Po Reh & Deanna Di Meh, 25
 Cin Khup & Cing Kim, 10
 Everett & Mary Leasor, 57
 James & Helen Bailey, 67
 James & Kathy Adams, 55
 John & Rebecca May, 10
 Lian Kham & Monica Lian Nu, 10
 Michael & Darlene Fuqua, 52

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

John & Velma Davis, 55

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Clayton & Gloria Gray, 61
 John & Marlene Wheatley, 50

Immaculate, Owensboro

Charles & Mary Lois Payne, 62
 David & Mary Jane Strehl, 54
 Don & Mary Weaver, 59
 Rex & Peggy Robinson, 59
 Ryan & Veronica McCauley, 10
 Steve & Lucy Kaelin, 40
 Todd & Pat Stelmach, 54
 Zack & Courtney Clark, 10

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Bill & Deborah Glenn, 53
 Brad & Beverly Hamilton, 63
 Gregory & Deborah Arnold, 53
 Joe & Karen Ballard, 40
 John & Linda Stavarakis, 25
 Ryan & Sabrina Ison, 10

Tony & Eileen Mattingly, 51

Precious Blood, Owensboro

James & Anna Marie Roberts, 52
 Michael & Brenda Swift, 55
 Philip & Brenda Phelps, 54

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Mike & Barbara Davis, 54

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Benny & Rita French, 69
 Bill & Charlene Hite, 54
 Dickie & Cheryl Berry, 51
 Harold & Diane Lynn, 52
 Kyle & Morgan Mattingly, 5
 Lark & Sharon Buckman, 53
 Larry & Vickie Rhodes, 55

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Bruce & Sheila Blandford, 52
 Donald & Ginny Peters, 61
 Kenny & Kathy Blandford, 40

St. Ann, Morganfield

Jimmy & Virginia Mills, 53
 Mike & Cathy Greenwell, 54
 Roger & Cindy Wells, 50
 Ronald & Ellen Mattingly, 57
 Sean & Jessica Sheffer, 5

St. Anthony, Axtel

Pat & Wilma Lenhart, 59

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Joseph & Sharon Wink, 54
 Mike & Donna Koger, 53

St. Anthony, Peonia

Ralph & Joyce Pierce, 56
 Tom & Bonnie Osbourne, 54

St. Augustine, Reed

Hershel & Barbara Smith, 54

St. Charles, Bardwell

Bennie & Brenda Stigall, 40
 Steve & Julie Draper, 25

St. Charles, Livermore

John & Marsha Logsdon, 55
 Ron & Patty Humphrey, 51

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Lester & Betty Gibson, 51

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Roger & Irene Price, 55

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

David & Andrea Berschied, 51
 James & Velda Carbonel, 59
 Larry & LaDonna Roberts, 53
 Philip & Marilyn Wright, 51
 Richard & Stephanie Kuehn, 40

St. Francis of Assisi, Todd County

Albert & Joanne Fargnoli, 59

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

David & Deborah Cissell, 40
 Jamie & Lori Willett, 10
 Jimmy & Lindsey Farris, 5
 Joseph E & Joyce Toon, 54
 Robert & Marilyn Thompson, 51
 Tony & April Barnett, 25
 William & Patti Dossett, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Robert & Dolores Rudzinski, 57

St. Joseph, Central City

Robert & Karen Caskey, 54

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Joe & Evelyn Jolley, 59
 Larry & Helen Sullivan, 55
 Mario & Amalia Medina, 56
 Tony & Lindsay Luciano, 57

St. Jude, Clinton

David & Anita Burton, 53

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Pat & Gail Lanham, 40
 Shane & Jenny Hamilton, 25

St. Leo, Murray

Douglas & Vicky Lambert, 57
 Ed & Marilyn Wolf, 60

St. Mark, Eddyville

Greg & Lynn Aldridge, 40

St. Martin, Rome

Richard & Anita Dixon, 60

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Gerald & Betty Bartley, 60

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Barry & Sara Howard, 5
 Frankie & Laura Fulkerson, 40
 Gerald & Cindy Mattingly, 40
 Robert & Norma Ward, 55
 Ray & Patty Hamilton, 57
 Rob & Sarah Park, 25
 Roger & Brenda Hagan, 54
 Tom & Donna Hardesty, 25
 Tommy & Joyce Higdon, 58
 Wayne & Doris Rhodes, 53

St. Mary, Franklin

Tom & Regina Cozzy, 71

St. Mary, LaCenter

Bob & Mary Ann Noe, 59

St. Michael, Sebree

Tommy & Pamela McCarty, 52

St. Paul, Princeton

Herman & Beth Berton, 62
 Thomas & Lisamarie Maki, 10

Continues on page 24

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anniversaries continued from page 23

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly
Billy Steve & Connie Peak, 53
Fred & Phyllis Crowds, 53

St. Pius X, Calvert City
Jim & Rose Drury, 64

St. Pius X, Owensboro
Alan & Shirley Howard, 64
Bernard & Elsie Galloway, 59
Charles & Lois Hoskins, 59

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Carl & Thelma Jarboe, 62
Charlie & Rachel Flood, 25
Davy & Sue Duggins, 40
Jerry & Pat Sturgeon, 55
Jimmy & Dorothy Payne, 53
John & Helen O'Reilly, 64
Kenneth & Georgina Garrett, 25
Larry & Martha Severs, 51

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport
Tommy & Barbara Smith, 54

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Ralph & Judy Ward, 62
Tommy & Brenda England, 61

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Archie & Angela Clark, 68
Charles & Mary Ann Medley, 53
Ronald & Phyllis Calvert, 50
Wathen & Jeanette Medley, 40

St. Stephen, Cadiz
John & Paula Hall, 58
Kenneth & Barbara Powers, 58
Paul & Dawn Cunningham, 63
Robert & Alyce Chmielewski, 60

St. Thomas More, Paducah
Jim & Mary Bumpous, 59
Joshua & Colleen Moore, 10
Louis & Dianna Durbin, 52
Steve & Earline Wurth, 59

St. William, Knottsville
Bruce & Sandy Whitehouse, 53
Paul & Theresa Crowe, 61
Robert & Clara Brown, 58
Roger & Mary Ann Adams, 60

Ronnie & Rebecca Howard, 51
Tony & Mary Helen Rhodes, 62

St. William, Marion
Jack & Debbye Mason, 55

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Chad & Laura Thomas, 10
Darrell & Lois Hood, 63
David & Mary Patton, 57
Jan & Lee Etta McCorkle, 40
Jim & Sharon Embry, 51
Joe & Beverly Maxwell, 51
John & Esther Blandford, 53
Joseph & Brenda Bean, 51
Michael & Megan Wathen, 5
Nick & Whitney Payne, 10
Paul & Joyce Lambert, 59
Stephen & Diane Lindsey, 50

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Bill & Harriette Hancock, 68
Clifford & Carol Simpson, 62
Michael & Marilyn Stocker, 58

APRIL 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

Did you know you can view Mass times on the diocese's website? Visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish/> for a list of parishes, Mass times and more. As confession times are subject to change, visitors are encouraged to contact the parishes directly for their most up-to-date confession schedule.

All invited to celebrate St. Francis de Sales Parish anniversary

St. Francis de Sales in Paducah will celebrate our 175th anniversary with a year of celebrations. A quilt/wall hanging is being made with signatures of present members and deceased members. For more information contact Patti Sanders at pattisanders50@gmail.com.

April 22: 8-10 a.m. 5k fun run at Noble Park. Registration required.

June 7: 5 p.m. homecoming Mass and dinner for former pastors and associate pastors with Bishop Medley.

July 9: 6 p.m. patriotic music concert from choir members followed by finger foods.

August 4: 6 p.m. family movie night with burgers, hot dogs, popcorn and snacks.

Sept. 17: Parish family picnic

Oct. 28: Truck and Treat after 5 p.m. Mass. Chili cookoff will be held.

Nov. 18: History trivia; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 17: Christmas caroling to nursing homes and cookie exchange.

Jan. 24, 2024: Closing Mass on feast day

Come and See weekends for men interested in a priestly vocation

The Office of Vocations will be holding a Come and See weekend for men who are interested in a priestly vocation. They will spend a weekend visiting the seminary so that they can get a sense of what the life of a seminarian is like. For men who are juniors in college or older there will be a visit to St. Meinrad on April 20-23. For more information or to sign up contact vocations director, Fr. Daniel Dillard, at daniel.dillard@pastoral.org or (270) 421-7868.

One Earth, One Love symposium at Brescia

On April 26th the Brescia University Caritas Center will be joining The Project for the Study of Love in Religion at the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, the Laudato Si Research Institute at Oxford, and the Lane Center at the University of San Francisco in hosting "One Earth, One Love," a symposium of Jewish, Christian and Muslim scholars. This event will mark the publication of *Loving the Planet: Interfaith Essays on Ecology, Love and Theology*, to which Dr. Emily

DeMoor, Director of the Caritas Center, contributed the first chapter. Join multiple scholars from around the world starting at 8 AM CT. You need not attend all of the sessions. Attendance for this event is free. For more information on the schedule or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/OneEarthOneLove>.

Brescia concert April 27

Brescia University in Owensboro will host its spring concert on April 27 at 7 p.m. in the Taylor Lecture Hall. The concert is free and open to the public. Questions may be directed to Brett Ballard at brett.ballard@brescia.edu.

Mark your calendar for Sacred Heart's 150th anniversary celebrations

For the 150th anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville, plans are underway for a few special days. The first date is April 27, the actual date of our anniversary. Some former priests will try to be present, Fr. Jojoy, Fr. Masi, Fr. Peter, and Fr. Drury. There will be Mass at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 with a light meal following in the parish hall catered by Melanie Abney and her class at school. We will have a sign-up sheet at the back so we can have a good count. Invite members, past members, and friends by giving them a call to remind them. The next date to remember is Sunday, May 7, with Bishop Medley here to celebrate a bilingual Mass at 10 a.m.; only one Mass on this Sunday. Following will be a potluck, again with a sign-up sheet.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Bulletin Board continued from page 24

APRIL 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

To learn more contact the parish office at (270) 726-6963.

Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year 2023

Attention parents and students of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Owensboro: has a teacher changed you or your child's life for the better? If so, nominate this teacher for the Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year! Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the diocesan schools. The Outstanding Catholic School Educator must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2023. The winner will be announced at the 2022 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. For the nomination form, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/educator-award/>.

The Ursuline Sisters' prayers are a source of strength year round

We could all use prayers. The Ursuline Sisters want everyone to know that they take your requests for prayers seriously. Prayer cards are completed and put in a basket in the Mount Saint Joseph Chapel, then prayed with throughout the year. The Sisters pray for the intentions during daily Mass, and some Sisters will take a stack of cards to sit and pray with. The Ursuline Sisters consider it an honor to be entrusted with these prayers. To submit a prayer request, visit ursulinesmsj.org and click on Prayer Requests.

Need a meeting space? Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium is available

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? The Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium, located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus (8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56), is available for renting. The Auditorium is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting receptions, parties, reunions, etc. It was built to serve Mount Saint Joseph Academy as a

place to hold plays and recitals, and for athletic activities. Both the stage and the basketball court remain. There are two rental options, a partial rental for up to four hours (\$100) and a full rental which allows use for a full day (\$200). The use of 8-foot tables and chairs is included in the rental fee (user is responsible for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve the Auditorium, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: ap@maplemount.org or call the switchboard at 270-229-4103 and ask to speak to the Finance Office about renting the Auditorium. Business hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You can find out more on this webpage: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/renting-the-auditorium>.

How to Stay in Touch with the Ursuline Sisters

There are several ways you can stay in touch with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) The Sisters have a website: ursulinesmsj.org. They publish a magazine three times a year. To sign up to receive "Ursulines Alive," visit the website, click Contact Us, and send a message. You can also ask to receive our Quilt Club, raffle, and annual appeal letters. If you would like to get our monthly Pilgrimage emails, visit our website and click Subscribe. You can sign up in the same place to receive prayer requests. Every day there is a new Facebook post, so be sure to like the Ursuline Sisters (facebook.com/ursulinesmsj). The Sisters also post occasionally on Twitter ([ursulinesmsj](https://twitter.com/ursulinesmsj)), Instagram ([ursulinesistersofmsj](https://instagram.com/ursulinesistersofmsj)) and YouTube ([UrsulineSistersMSJ](https://youtube.com/ursulinesistersofmsj)). You can reach the Sisters by phone (270-229-4103), email (info.msj@maplemount.org) or their mailing address is 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. The Ursulines look forward to hearing from you!

Support groups for victims/survivors of clergy abuse

The Diocese of Owensboro would like to share some support group opportunities made available through the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These groups are open to all victims/survivors in the United States. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/support-group/> and <https://owensborodiocese.org/safe/>.

Business manager at St. Agnes Parish in Louisville

St. Agnes Parish is dynamic community started in 1873 by the Sisters of Mercy in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1892, the Passionists were granted parochial rights to the parish, and continue to support the faith ministry

today. Currently, the parish consists of a growing school and faith-based worship and service. The parish is looking for someone who can lead the business aspects of the parish, focusing on financial administration while leading the parish office staff. Strong organizational skills, financial savviness, ability to handle high volume and time sensitive requests, empathy and awareness of self and others will allow for success in this position. The position is designed to be fully in person, but a hybrid work schedule may be considered for the right candidate. The position is a regular full-time job, exempt from any overtime. Offered benefits include: 13 holidays, 2 personal days, sick time, vacation, health benefits, retirement savings opportunities. Job description at: <https://bit.ly/AgnesManager>. Please review the attached job description. Resumes should be sent to Pam Slagle at pslagle@stagneslouisville.org.

Principal at St. Agnes School in Louisville

The St. Agnes Catholic Community is presently conducting a search for a principal for the 2023-2024 school year. The mission of St. Agnes School is to educate students in a Catholic community, empowering them to lead faith-based lives. Candidates should be Roman Catholics active within their own parish and strongly committed to the mission of Catholic education. Excellent communication skills and proven administrative abilities are also essential requirements necessary to continue the strong academic program and Catholic tradition of our school. St. Agnes School is a four-time Blue Ribbon school and a 2019 recipient of the United States Department of Education's Green Ribbon Award. St. Agnes has a current enrollment of 507 students, comprising two classes of each grade Pre-K-8th. The new principal will lead a dynamic staff that includes a counselor, resource teachers for elementary and middle school, an admissions coordinator, and special area teachers in Art, Music, PE, Spanish, Information Technology, and Library. Applicants must have both strong classroom and administrative experience and must meet the Archdiocese of Louisville requirements for principalship. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience and Archdiocesan guidelines. Please send to: Principal Search Committee, St. Agnes Catholic Community, 1800 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205, or email to: apply@stagneslouisville.org. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 Parish Picnics Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
MAY 20	Serving at 11:00 a.m.	Carmel Home, Owensboro
MAY 28	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
JUNE 3	Serving from 5-8p.m.	St. Joseph, Leitchfield
JUNE 3	Serving at 3 p.m.	Precious Blood, Owensboro
JUNE 10	Serving and drive-thru at 3:30 p.m.	St. Pius X, Owensboro
JUNE 10	Serving 4-7 p.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
JUNE 17	Serving at 3 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
JULY 1	Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; supper 5-7 p.m.	St. Denis, Fancy Farm
JULY 1	Fried chicken dinner and silent auction at 3 p.m.	Grayson County Tri-Parish (Knights of Columbus Hall, 1219 St Anthony Church Rd., Clarkson)
JULY 1	Serving from 4-7 p.m.	St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel
JULY 1	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
JULY 8	Drive-thru only; serving at 4 p.m.	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
JULY 15	Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; supper 4:30-7 p.m.	St. Charles, Bardwell
JULY 15	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
JULY 29	Serving at 3 p.m.	St. Paul, Grayson County
AUGUST 1	Drive-thru only; serving at 4 p.m.	St. Martin, Rome
AUGUST 5	Serving from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
AUGUST 5	Serving noon-2 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro
AUGUST 12	Serving at 5 p.m., after 4 p.m. Mass	St. Ann, Morganfield
AUGUST 26	Serving from 3-6:45 p.m. Eastern Time	Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington
SEPTEMBER 9	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Agnes, Untiontown
SEPTEMBER 9	Serving from 10 a.m. - 6p.m.	Christ the King, Scottsville
SEPTEMBER 10	Serving 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	St. Joseph, Central City
SEPTEMBER 16	Drive Thru only; serving at 4 p.m.	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 16	Serving from 4-8 p.m.; Mass at 8 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville

Continues on page 27

You're invited...



**Registration is now open
for the 10th National
Eucharistic Congress in
the United States!**

WHEN

July 17-21, 2024

WHERE

Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis, Indiana

WHO

80,000+ Catholics!

Learn more:

eucharisticcongress.org

Picnics continued from page 26

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
SEPTEMBER 17	Serving at 11 a.m.	Mary Carrico Catholic School Picnic, St. Lawrence picnic grounds, 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot
SEPTEMBER 23	Serving from noon-2 p.m., drive-thru only	Immaculate, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 24	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
SEPTEMBER 30	Serving 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m.	Honeyfest Dinner at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Kentucky friends help Birdhouse Foundation build home for family in Guatemala

BY ROBERT KNOTT, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

My friend Greg Gee from Hopkinsville contacted me last October, to go to Guatemala and build a house. Right away I wanted to go, but it took till December to make that commitment. And with Steve Currant from Texas a team of three was formed. On our first day we met Tulio Molina, who had a dream to build houses for the poor in his community. His dream is called the Birdhouse Foundation, and we built his 26th home.

At the worksite I was astonished by the poverty this family lived in. Their dirt-floor home was made of sticks wrapped in baling wire that held rusty pieces of tin for the walls and roof. The kitchen sink was outside, and family had access to water once a week. They had no fridge, no showers, no hot water unless heated on a wood stove, and no toiletries. The home was on a mountain, so when it rained, water ran through the house. The family had four boys and the father worked the coffee fields, earning about \$7 a day. Their new home was made of rough lumber which cost \$3,500 and was funded by us and other donations. We built a 20 x 20 structure on a concrete

foundation with two rooms and moved the kitchen sink to the porch, so the mother wouldn't have to wash the clothes and dishes in the rain anymore. The family gave us a presentation on our last day. It was a tearful and moving experience for us. Our group came to Guatemala to give this family our blessings from our work, but the overwhelming outpouring of appreciation and love, gave us even more blessings in return.

People ask, why go out of America to work, when there is plenty of need here? But there are agencies in America to help the needy. In Guatemala, they don't have any of that. I was amazed how happy and content the family was. We in America are so caught up in all the stuff in our lives. They didn't have many necessities, but did not blame God for their misfortune. They praised and worshiped the same God we do; we are all Children of God. At the site I noticed a simple painting on a piece of tin, which was the family's original kitchen wall. The son had painted a cross and Church. The moment we saw this, we knew God meant us to be there in this village. That painting from that little boy inspired us. This family had the love of Christ in their hearts and hope



COURTESY OF ROBERT KNOTT
The wall painting by the family's six-year-old son that inspired the building crew.



COURTESY OF ROBERT KNOTT
The Birdhouse Foundation crew that worked to build a new house for these homeowners in Guatemala in January 2023.

for the future. They told us our team from America was their hope. And as you go about your day, when you turn that faucet on, and the water flows freely, or when you go to bed tonight, you have a warm place to lay your head. Say a prayer of thanks to God for your blessings.

We all left a little piece of our heart there in Guatemala, we didn't just build a home, we built a relationship. We gave our time, talent, and treasure, and we used that to glorify His holy name, Jesus. For He said if you did it for the least of these, you did it for Me. ■

Robert Knott belongs to St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville.

With ‘joy, laughter, and holiness,’ five friends plan women’s retreat



COURTESY OF BETH HENDRICKSON

The five friends who organized the Feb. 4 women’s retreat in Union County: Lisa Burke, Jill Utley, Linda Baird, Beth Hendrickson, and Kelly Joiner.

BY BETH HENDRICKSON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

With the change of colors in fall 2022, you could feel the Holy Spirit moving and touching lives as the wind blew. Five friends gathered in October and felt the grace of the Holy Spirit sweeping through Union County. The friends could feel God’s call; they could feel the need to share their love of God with others in the Diocese of Owensboro. So the friends set out to plan an event to gather women together, to bring friends and fellowship into one space for one day in February 2023.

Linda Baird, Lisa Burke, Beth Hendrickson, Kelly Joiner, and Jill Utley began to gather at Linda’s grandmama’s home to begin planning the event. The retreat theme was to be “Joy, Laughter, & Holiness.” The friends met throughout the fall and winter making final plans. The team not only wanted to share the story of a keynote speaker, but their desire was to also share the faith stories of people in our community and throughout the diocese. When

one hears the faith story of a neighbor, it is easy to know that we are all alike in some way: we all have a story to tell. The team reached out to people in our community to share their stories. The beauty of it all is that among the friends, two of our own said yes to sharing their story as well.

The retreat day was set for Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 and hosted at St. Ann Parish in Morganfield. The morning started with women from all over the diocese and beyond gathering to share God’s word, faith stories of five different women, and music. Attendees ranged from women ages 14-90. It was a perfect day.

The event began with keynote speaker, Joelle Maryn, sharing her story. Joelle is an award-winning actress, speaker, and TV host who has been featured on various TV shows including “The Journey Home” on EWTN. Several years ago, she had a miraculous encounter with Jesus and shared her message of God’s healing love with those at the retreat.

Speakers and local friends – Linda Baird, Lisa Burke, Madison Turner, and Laura Young Shoulders – also shared their personal faith stories. Michelle Crider and Ethan Martin graced our event with beautiful music and song as all guests sang along.

Guests were served a luncheon by several John Paul II Catholic School eighth-grade girls, who later led the ladies in a rosary. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available throughout the day provided by Fr. Freddie Byrd and Fr. Tony Bickett, and Adoration was also available all day. Gift bags were given to all attendees, and the day ended with Mass at St. Ann Catholic Church.

Event surveys indicated that the women of our

diocese are yearning for more opportunities like this women’s retreat. Hopefully there will be more to come in the future!

The team of friends would like to thank everyone who attended the event; the Diocese of Owensboro for providing a Disciples Response Fund grant; the Durbin Knights of Columbus and the Uniontown Knights of Columbus; the Earle C. Clements Job Corp Center Culinary department for providing desserts; all of our speakers; Michelle and Ethan; Fr. Freddie; Fr. Tony; the staff of St. Ann Catholic Church; St. Agnes Catholic Church; and all who helped make the event a success.

But most of all thanks be to God for planting the seed in our hearts and cultivating the soil to make the event fruitful. God is so very good and the Holy Spirit is alive and well throughout our beautiful Diocese of Owensboro. ■

Beth Hendrickson belongs to St. Ann Parish in Morganfield.



COURTESY OF BETH HENDRICKSON

Joelle Maryn speaks at the Feb. 4 women’s retreat in Union County.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Jueves Santo: Hagan esto en memoria mía

Al comenzar abril, estamos a la vista de los últimos días y horas de la Cuaresma. El Domingo de Ramos es el 2 de abril, por lo que Semana Santa ya está aquí y la Pascua vendrá en unos días. El punto central de nuestra observancia de la Semana Santa es el Triduo Sacro, cuando la Iglesia “celebra solemnemente los misterios más grandes de nuestra redención, con celebraciones especiales, haciendo memoria de su Señor crucificado, sepultado y resucitado”. (Del Misal Romano)

Los 40 días de la Cuaresma concluyen con la Misa de la Cena del Señor el Jueves Santo. Pero se nos recuerda que esto es seguido inmediatamente por el Ayuno Pascual que se celebrará en todas partes el Viernes de la Pasión del Señor. Este día de ayuno y abstinencia nos presenta un camino para llegar, con el espíritu en alto, a los gozos de la Resurrección.

Dado que estamos en medio de un Avivamiento de la Sagrada Eucaristía de tres años, (es.eucharisticrevival.org) quiero escribir particularmente sobre el Jueves Santo. En este día recordamos, como ilustra la Plegaria Eucarística I, “El cual, hoy, la víspera de padecer por nuestra salvación y la de todos los hombres, tomó pan en sus santas y venerables manos, y elevando los ojos al cielo, hacia ti, Dios, Padre suyo todopoderoso, dando gracias te bendijo, lo partió, y lo dio a sus discípulos.”

Los evangelistas Mateo, Marcos y Lucas relatan, de manera muy similar, la historia de la institución de la Sagrada Eucaristía: “Tomen y coman, esto es

mi cuerpo; tomen y beban, porque este es mi sangre. Hagan esto en memoria mía”.

Curiosamente, sin embargo, la Iglesia elige en esta noche el relato evangélico de la Última Cena narrada por el evangelista Juan. Juan cuenta la historia de Jesús lavando los pies de sus discípulos durante la cena. Pedro, siempre propenso a decir algo inapropiado en el momento inoportuno, protestó: “Tú no me lavarás los pies jamás”. Pero Jesús persiste y Pedro consiente.

Entonces Jesús les dice a todos: “¿Comprenden lo que acabo de hacer con ustedes? Ustedes me llaman Maestro y Señor, y dicen bien, porque lo soy. Pues si yo, que soy el Maestro y el Señor, les he lavado los pies, también ustedes deben lavarse los pies los unos a los otros. Les he dado ejemplo, para que lo que yo he hecho con ustedes, también ustedes lo hagan”.

En la Misa de la Cena del Señor, el sacerdote lava los pies de miembros seleccionados de la comunidad para recordarnos la propia acción de Jesús. Esto se siente como una expresión incómoda para aquellos en la cultura occidental y, como Pedro, muchos pueden sentirse inclinados a protestar. Pero dejemos que este gesto de una vez al año nos recuerde que cuando servimos a los demás, estamos sirviendo a Jesús.

En otras palabras, hagan esto en memoria mía. El relato de la Última Cena de Juan une así los de Mateo, Marcos y Lucas. La Eucaristía implica imitar la acción de Jesús. Imitando la acción de Jesús al comer el pan y beber el vino que se ha convertido en su Cuerpo y Sangre, la Presencia Real de Cristo.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ABRIL DE 2023

2 DE ABRIL	11 a.m. Misa de Domingo de Ramos – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
4 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Misa Crismal – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter], Owensboro
6 DE ABRIL	7 p.m. Jueves Santo/Misa de la Cena del Señor – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
7 DE ABRIL	3 p.m. Viernes Santo de la Pasión del Señor – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
8 DE ABRIL	8 p.m. Vigilia Pascual en la Noche Santa – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
11 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Rosa, Cloverport
12 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Servicio de Oración para la Sanación y Protección – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
15 DE	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia
16 DE ABRIL	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Carlos, Livermore
17 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
19 DE ABRIL	8 a.m. Conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
20-21 DE ABRIL	Encuentro del Presbiterio
22 DE ABRIL	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm

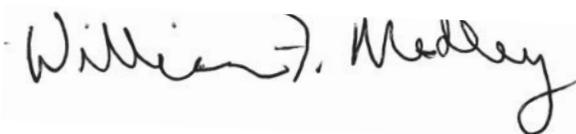
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CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ABRIL DE 2023	
23 DE ABRIL	2 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
25 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Misa escolar y conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah 6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santísima Madre, Owensboro
27 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Lorenzo, Knottsville
29 DE ABRIL	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Ana,
30 DE ABRIL	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Mayfield 1:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Mayfield

Pero imitando a Jesús en el lavado de los pies de los demás, imitando a Jesús en el servicio a los demás. Esto también significa una presencia de Cristo, distinta de la presencia sacramental, que recuerda a la afirmación de Jesús de que cuando damos de comer al hambriento, consolamos al enfermo, visitamos al encarcelado, de hecho, estamos haciendo estos actos por Jesús mismo.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Parroquias con misa en Español



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El Obispo William F. Medley con el seminarista Conrad Jaconette después de la instalación de Jaconette como acólito durante la Misa escolar del 1 de marzo en la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro.

Seminarista instalado como acólito

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 1 de marzo, Conrad Jaconette, un seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro, fue instalado como acólito, lo cual es uno de los pasos finales antes del Sacramento del Orden Sagrado y es un punto de inflexión en la formación de un seminarista. El Obispo Medley lo instaló como acólito durante la Misa semanal de la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro. ■



Día de retiro para ministros hispanos/latinos en el Monasterio Pasionista

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Los días 2 y 3 de marzo de 2023, ministros hispanos/latinos de toda la Diócesis de Owensboro participaron en un retiro de formación realizado en el Monasterio de San José, hogar de las Monjas Pasionistas en Whitesville. El retiro estuvo dirigido por el P. Mike Tobin, párroco de la Parroquia Santa Rita en Louisville.

Las reflexiones de este año giraron en torno a la imagen de Jesús dormido en la barca en Marcos 4, 39-41. El Papa Francisco, en una Plaza de San Pedro completamente vacía, había utilizado esta imagen en pleno apogeo de la pandemia del COVID-19 el 27 de marzo de 2020 durante su momento de oración y bendición “Urbi et Orbi” para el mundo entero.

Los ministros hispanos/latinos de la diócesis reflexionaron sobre la bendición “Urbi et Orbi” parte por parte durante el retiro. Reflexionaron sobre el mensaje del Papa para ayudarlos a avanzar en su ministerio, sabiendo la necesidad de reajustar siempre las prioridades mientras se enfocan en lo que es y no es lo más importante.

Las reflexiones incluyeron “¿Cuál es nuestra ancla? ¿Quién es el timón de nuestro barco? ¿Cuál es nuestra esperanza?”

El retiro también incluyó comidas, rosario, Misa, reflexión en silencio, pequeños grupos, Adoración con Vísperas y tiempo social ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIERREZ

Los ministros hispanos/latinos de la Diócesis de Owensboro que asistieron al retiro del 2 al 3 de marzo de 2023 realizado en el Monasterio de San José en Whitesville.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIERREZ

Los participantes escriben en una pizarra durante el retiro de ministros hispanos/latinos que se llevó a cabo en el Monasterio San José en Whitesville.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIERREZ

El P. Basilio Az Cuc de la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah, el P. Mike Tobin de la Parroquia Santa Rita en Louisville, y el Padre Carmelo Jiménez de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree celebran la Misa para el retiro de ministros hispanos/latinos del 2 al 3 de marzo de 2023.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El 25 de febrero, La Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro organizó un Banquete de Bodas, que es un retiro católico de un día para parejas casadas. Más de 30 parejas asistieron al retiro, que fue dirigido por el Padre Lustein Blanco Grajales, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree.

Banquete *de bodas*

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 25 de febrero, La Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro organizó un Banquete de Bodas, que es un retiro católico de un día para parejas casadas. Más de 30 parejas asistieron al retiro, que fue dirigido por el Padre Lustein Blanco Grajales, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree. n